

be performed within the United States by U.S. citizens who are employees of the U.S. Government; require patent examiners to spend five percent of their duty time per annum in examiner training, establishes an incentive program to retain examiners, and exempts PTO from administrative or statutory limits on full-time employee positions or personnel (rejected by a recorded vote of 133 ayes to 280 noes, Roll No. 89).

Pages H1737-38, H1741-42

The Clerk was authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending H.R. 400.

Page H1742

H. Res. 116, the rule that provided for the consideration of the bill was agreed to on April 17.

**Suspensions:** The House voted to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Coral Reef Ecosystems:** H. Con. Res. 8, amended, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems. Agreed to amend the title;

Pages H1742-44

**African Elephant Conservation:** H.R. 39, to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act;

Pages H1744-46

**Southern Nevada Public Land:** H.R. 449, amended, to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal lands in Clark County, Nevada, and to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the State of Nevada;

Pages H1746-50

**Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund:** H.R. 688, amended, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require at least 85 percent of funds appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to be distributed to States for cooperative agreements for undertaking corrective action and for enforcement of subtitle I of such Act; and

Pages H1750-53

**Fire Administration Authorization:** H.R. 1272, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the United States Fire Administration;

Pages H1753-57

**Bipartisan Task Force on Reform of the Ethics Process:** Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of February 12, 1997 be extended through May 7, 1997 with the following modification: After "Minority Leader": insert ", or a member designated from the floor by the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader at the time of notice pursuant to clause 2(A)(1) of Rule IX,"

The order of the House on February 12, in furtherance of the understanding concerning the estab-

lishment of the ethics task force, made in order during the period beginning immediately and ending on April 11, 1997: (1) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may not receive, renew, initiate, or investigate a complaint against the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House; (2) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may issue advisory opinions and perform other non-investigative functions; and (3) a resolution addressing the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House that is proposed to be offered from the floor by a member other than the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House shall once noticed pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of Rule IX, have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn only at a time or place designated by the chair in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after April 11, 1997.

Page H1757

**Amendments:** Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H1795-96.

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1717.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1739-40, H1740, H1740-41, and H1741-42. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** Met at 2:00 p.m. and adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### AIR QUALITY ISSUES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research held a hearing on air quality issues relating to the agricultural industry. Testimony was heard from Paul Johnson, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA; and public witnesses.

### LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

### HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

*Committee on Banking and Financial Services:* Ordered Reported Amended H.R. 2, Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act of 1997.

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE ACT REAUTHORIZATION

*Committee on Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on Reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and FDA Reform. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the FDA, Department of Health and Human Services: Michael A. Friedman, M.D., Lead Deputy Commissioner; William Schultz, Deputy Commissioner, Policy; and Robert Byrd, Deputy Commissioner, Management and Systems; and public witnesses.

### COLLEGE EDUCATION—RISING COST

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Life-Long Learning held a hearing on the Rising Price of a College Education. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### CENSUS 2000

*Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:* Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a hearing on "Census 2000: How Should the Federal Government Measure Race and Ethnicity". Testimony was heard from Representatives Meek of Florida, Petri and Sawyer; Sally Katzen, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; Martha Farnsworth Riche, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce; Norma Cantu, Assistant Secretary, Civil Rights, Department of Education; Edward Sondik, Director, National Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Human Services; and Bernard Ungar, Associate Director, Federal Management and Workforce Issues, GAO.

### PARTICULAR MATTER AND OZONE—EPA'S PROPOSED STANDARDS

*Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:* Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, National Resources, and Regulatory Affairs concluded hearings on "EPA's Particulate Matter and Ozone Rule-making: Is EPA Above the Law". Testimony was heard from Carol Browner, Administrator, EPA; Sally Katzen, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; and Jere Glover, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, SBA.

### CAMBODIA—TERRORIST GRENADE ATTACK; SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

*Committee on International Relations:* Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific approved for full Committee action H. Res. 121, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack in Cambodia.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Sino-American Relations and U.S. Policy Options. Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Bader, Deputy Assistant Secretary, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; Winston Lord, former Assistant Secretary, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

### VOLUNTARY LIABILITY MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 911, Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 and H.R. 1167, Volunteer Protection Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from Senators Coverdell, McConnell Ashcroft and Santorum; Speaker Gingrich and Representative Porter; and public witnesses.

### OVERSIGHT—BORDER SECURITY AND DETERRING ILLEGAL ENTRY

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held an oversight hearing on regarding border security and deterring illegal entry into the United States. Testimony was heard from Representative Reyes; the following officials of the Department of Justice: Alan Bersin, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of California; and George Regan, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Enforcement, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Samuel H. Banks, Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Custom Service, Department of the Treasury; Jonathan M. Winer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Narcotics Matters and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State; Richard Gallo, Senior Special Agent, USDA; and public witnesses.

### FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT

*Committee on Rules:* Granted by voice vote an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 1271, FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1997. The rule waives section 306 (prohibiting consideration of legislation within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction unless the Budget Committee reports it) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order the Committee on Science amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for amendment purposes, with each section considered as read. Section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is waived against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule

authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed the amendments in the Congressional Record. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Sensenbrenner, Representatives Morella and Brown of California.

#### **NSF AUTHORIZATION ACT**

*Committee on Rules:* The Committee granted by voice vote an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 1273, National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1997. The rule makes in order the Committee on Science amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for amendment purposes, with each title considered as read. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in the recognition to members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Sensenbrenner, Representatives Morella and Brown of California.

#### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORIZATION**

*Committee on Rules:* The Committee granted by voice vote an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 1274, National Institute of Standards and Technology Authorization Act of 1997. The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI (3 day availability of committee reports). The rule makes in order the Committee on Science amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for amendment purposes, with each section considered as read. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Sensenbrenner, Representatives Morella and Brown of California.

#### **CIVILIAN SPACE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

*Committee on Rules:* Granted by voice vote an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 1275, Civilian Space Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999. The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI (3 day availability of committee reports). The rule makes in order the Committee on Science amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for amendment purposes. The rule further provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered by title, with each title being considered as read. The

rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Sensenbrenner, Representatives Morella and Brown of California.

#### **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH**

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Technology concluded hearings on Surface Transportation Research and Development, Research Needs for the Next Century. Part II. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS FAMILIES TAX BURDEN**

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing on Tax Burden on Small Business Families. Testimony was heard from Senator Bond; and public witnesses.

#### **CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on Meeting Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs. Testimony was heard from Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator, EPA; Robert McManus, Mayor, Lynn, Massachusetts; Bruce Tobey, Mayor, Gloucester, Massachusetts; and public witnesses.

#### **ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT; WELFARE REFORM TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Ordered reported amended the following bills: H.R. 867, Adoption Promotion Act of 1997, and H.R. 1048, Welfare Reform Technical Corrections Act of 1997.

#### **LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the low-income housing tax credit. Testimony was heard from James K. White, Associate Director, Tax Policy and Administration, GAO; Thomas Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Examination, IRS, Department of the Treasury; and a public witness.

Hearings continue May 1.

#### **DEA BRIEFING REGARDING MEXICO**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on DEA regarding Mexico. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.