

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Timothy Fields, Jr., of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

MEDICARE REFORM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings on Medicare reform issues, focusing on the financial outlook for the Medicare program, including implications of Medicare financing for the Federal budget and the United States economy, and the role of Medicare in meeting the health needs of the elderly and disabled Americans, after receiving testimony from Dan L. Crippen, Director, Congressional Budget Office; Richard Foster, Chief Actuary, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Massachusetts Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci, Boston, on behalf of the National Governors' Association; H.E. Frech III, University of California, Santa Barbara; and Diane Rowland, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation/Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Washington, D.C.

ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee resumed hearings on issues relating to the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, focusing on the United States strategic and arms control objectives, receiving testimony from Ronald F. Lehman, former Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; R. James Woolsey, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Keith B. Payne, National Institute for Public Policy/Georgetown University School of

Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.; and Gen. Eugene E. Habiger, Omaha, Nebraska, former Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Strategic Command.

Hearings recessed subject to call.

STATE OF FEDERALISM

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded hearings on the current state of Federal and State relations, after receiving testimony from Utah Governor Michael O. Leavitt, Salt Lake City, on behalf of the National Governors' Association; Wisconsin Governor Tommy G. Thompson, Madison, on behalf of the Council of State Governments; Mayor Clarence E. Anthony, South Bay, Florida, on behalf of the National League of Cities; North Carolina State Representative Daniel T. Blue, Jr., Raleigh, on behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures; William A. Galston, University of Maryland at College Park; and John O. McGinnis, Yeshiva University Cardozo School of Law, New York, New York.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded oversight hearings on activities of the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Janet Reno, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

AUTHORIZATION—INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 1684–1713; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 51, H. Con. Res. 96–99, and H. Res. 160, were introduced.

Pages H2809–10

Reports Filed: One report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 159, providing for consideration of H.R. 1664, making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest

Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999 (H.Rept. 106–127).

Page H2809

Journal Vote: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Tuesday, May 4, by a yea and nay vote of 356 yeas to 39 nays, Roll No. 108.

Pages H2639, H2643–44

Late Report: Committee on the Judiciary received permission to have until midnight on Friday, May 7, to file a report on H.R. 775, to establish certain procedures for civil actions brought for damages relating to the failure of any device or system to process or

otherwise deal with the transition from the year 1999 to the year 2000. Page H2654

Bankruptcy Reform Act: The House passed H.R. 833, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, by a yeas and nays vote of 313 yeas to 108 nays, Roll No. 115. Pages H2655–H2771

Agreed to the Conyers motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with an amendment that excludes Social Security and Medicare payments from the definition of monthly income. Pages H2769–70

Agreed to the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order by the rule. Page H2769

Agreed to:

The Gekas amendment that makes technical changes and allows the states to opt out of the homestead exemption prior to enactment; Pages H2701–02

The Moran amendment that modifies the Truth in Lending Act to require credit card issuers to make disclosures regarding interest rates, monthly payment information, and late fees, and subjects worldwide web-based credit card solicitations to the same disclosures as other credit card solicitations; Pages H2703–05

The Moran amendment that requires debt relief agencies to make certain disclosures to debtors and includes a “debtor’s bill of rights” (agreed to by a recorded vote of 373 yeas to 47 noes, Roll No. 111); Pages H2705–09, H2724–25

The Velázquez amendment that expands the credit committee membership under chapter 11 bankruptcies to include a small business when it is determined that the small business’ claims are disproportionately large to its gross revenues; Pages H2709–10

The Graham amendment, as modified, that prohibits the discharge of all qualified education loans, rather than just federally made, guaranteed or insured education loans, and includes an exception for undue hardships; Pages H2710–11

The Dooley amendment that requires the Federal Trade Commission to set standards for the United States Trustees in approving credit counseling agencies, counselors, and related programs and courses of instruction; and Pages H2711–12

The Whitfield amendment that provides for the compensation of bankruptcy trustees when they transfer cases from chapter 7 to chapter 11. Pages H2716–17

Rejected:

The Hyde amendment that sought to strike the provisions that apply the Internal Revenue Service expense allowances for determining permissible living expenses of debtors and their families, adopt a standard of reasonably necessary expenses, and direct the Executive Office of United States Trustees to issue guidelines that will assist in assessing these expenses (rejected by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 238 noes, Roll No. 110); Pages H2717–24

The Conyers amendment that sought to waive the provisions of title 11 relating to small business debtors or to single asset real estate where the application of those provisions could result in the loss of 5 or more jobs (rejected by a recorded vote of 143 yeas to 278 noes, Roll No. 112); Pages H2712–14, H2725

The Watt of North Carolina amendment that sought to require bankruptcy filers to provide their tax returns to the court only at the request of a party of interest (rejected by a recorded vote of 192 yeas to 230 noes, Roll No. 113); and Pages H2714–16, H2725–26

The Nadler amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, that sought to include various consumer bankruptcy revisions; provide a means test that uses the debtor’s income and expenses instead of IRS allowances for living expenses; eliminate provisions to make credit card debt non-dischargeable; and specify that family support has priority over state and local governments child support enforcement payments (rejected by a recorded vote of 149 yeas to 272 noes, Roll No. 114). Pages H2726–69

The Clerk was authorized in the engrossment of H.R. 833 to correct section numbers, cross-references, and punctuation, and to make technical, conforming, and other changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending the bill. Page H2771

H. Res. 158, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to earlier by voice vote. Pages H2644–54

Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by a yeas and nays vote of 227 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 109. Page H2654

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H2811–13.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas and nays votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H2643–44, H2654, H2723–24, H2724–25, H2725, H2725–26, H2769, and H2771. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER REFORM—USDA'S FINAL DECISION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture held a hearing on the USDA's Final Decision for the Reform of Federal Milk Marketing Orders. Testimony was heard from Senator Kohl; Representatives Obey, Klink and Kind; Enrique E. Figueroa, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; Ben Brancel, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, State of Wisconsin; Gene Hugoson, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, State of Minnesota; and public witnesses.

FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials continued hearings on H.R. 10, Financial Services Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Representatives Baker and Roukema; Robert E. Rubin, Secretary of the Treasury; Arthur Levitt, Jr., Chairman, SEC; and public witnesses.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AUDIT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Fiscal Year 1998 Audit of the Corporation for National Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Corporation for National Service: Harris Wofford, CEO; and Luise Jordan, Inspector General; and a public witness.

HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning held a hearing on Flexibility for Quality Programs and Innovative Ideas for High Quality Teachers. Testimony was heard from Marnie S. Shaul, Associate Director, Education and Employment Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT—ANTITRUST ASPECTS

Committee on the Judiciary: Held an oversight hearing on Antitrust Aspects of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Federal Maritime Commission: Harold J. Creel, Jr., Chairman; and Delmond J.H. Won, Commissioner; John Nannes, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—FIRST AMENDMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held an oversight hearing on First Amend-

ment and Restrictions on Political Speech. Testimony was heard from David M. Mason, Commissioner, FEC; and public witnesses.

TRADEMARK AMENDMENTS ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 1565, Trademark Amendments Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Todd Dickinson, Acting Assistant Secretary, and Acting Commissioner, Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NONIMMIGRANT VISA FRAUD

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held an oversight hearing on nonimmigrant visa fraud. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Michael Bromwich, Inspector General; William A. Yates, Director, Immigration Services and Gary Bradford, Assistant Director, Texas Service Center, both with the Immigration and Naturalization Service; the following officials of the Department of State: Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers, Inspector General; Nancy Sambaiew, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Visa Services; and Jill Esposito, Post Liaison Division, Visa Office, both with the Bureau of Consular Affairs; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 359, Emigrant Wilderness Preservation Act of 1999; H.R. 747, Arizona Statehood and Enabling Act Amendments of 1999; H.R. 883, American Land Sovereignty Protection Act; H.R. 898, Spanish Peaks Wilderness; H.R. 1104, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site to the Archivist of the United States for the construction of a visitor center; and H.R. 1523, amended, Forests Roads—Community Right-To-Know Act.

KOSOVO EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Rules: The Committee granted, by voice vote, an open rule providing one hour of general debate on H.R. 1664, making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999 to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives points of order against