

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House Committees ordered reported seven sundry measures.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at 11 a.m.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INTERNET SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary concluded

hearing on internet security issues, focusing on criminal behavior and significant threats to our national security and economic security, after receiving testimony from Janet Reno, Attorney General, and Louis J. Freeh, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of the Department of Justice; Bill Reinsch, Under Secretary of Commerce; Robert Chestnut, eBay, Inc., San Jose, California; Jeff B. Richards, Internet Alliance, Washington, D.C.; and Mark D. Rasch, Global Integrity Corporation, Reston, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 3669–3698, and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 252–255, were introduced. **Pages H508–10**

Reports Filed: No Reports were filed today.

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of February 15 by a yeas and nays vote of 354 yeas to 46 nays, Roll No. 22. **Pages H457–58**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Ronald F. Christian of Fairfax, Virginia. **Page H457**

Millennium Digital Commerce Act—E—SIGN: The House passed S. 761, to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, after amending it to contain the text of H. R. 1714, Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. The House insisted on its amendments and requested a conference. **Pages H486–89**

Appointed as conferees: Chairman Bliley and Representatives Tauzin, Oxley, Dingel, and Markey. **Page H489**

Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2000: The House passed H.R. 2366, to provide small businesses certain protections from litigation excesses and to limit the product liability of nonmanufacturer product sellers by a recorded vote of 221 yeas to 193 noes, Roll No. 25. **Pages H463–86**

Agreed to:

Hutchinson amendment that allows the court to exceed punitive damage caps if it finds clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with specific intent to cause harm; **Pages H476–77**

Moran of Virginia amendment that defines punitive damage as those awarded to punish or deter others from engaging in similar behavior and does not include any civil penalties, fines, or treble damages assessed by a State or Federal government agency; and **Pages H478–79**

Watt of North Carolina amendment that strikes language to preclude Federal court jurisdiction over

claims dealing with the interference in interstate commerce and antitrust. **Page H479**

Rejected:

Conyers amendment that sought to change the definition of small business to those with revenues, in each of the last two years, of \$5 million or less; apply product liability protections to small retailers only; limits cap on punitive damages to product liability; define hate crime as those where a defendant selects a victim or victim's property based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation; and allows States to opt out of the Federal damages cap through legislation or voter initiative (rejected by a recorded vote of 178 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 24). **Pages H479–85**

Agreed to H. Res. 423, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by a yea and nay vote of 223 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 23. **Pages H461–63**

Resignations—Appointments: Agreed that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, February 29, 2000, the Speaker, Majority leader and Minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments. **Page H489**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that the Calendar Wednesday business be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 1, 2000. **Page H489**

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Houghton, as Chairman, to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group. **Pages H489–90**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Morella to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 29, 2000. **Page H489**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea and nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House and appear on pages H457–58, H463, H484–85, and H485. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and pursuant to S. Con. Res. 80, the House adjourned at 5:19 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, for morning-hour debate.

Committee Meetings

RURAL LOCAL BROADCAST SIGNAL ACT; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Agriculture: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3615, Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act.

The Committee also approved the Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies began appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Military Readiness. Testimony was heard from the following officials from the Department of Defense: Adm. D.L. Pilling, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. John Keane, USA, Vice Chief of Staff; Gen. Terrence Dake, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Gen. Lester Lyles, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held an oversight hearing on the Forest Service Managerial Accountability. Testimony was heard from Barry T. Hill, Associate Director, Energy and Natural Resources Division, GAO; the following officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture: Mike Dombeck, Chief; Vincette Goerl, Chief Financial Officer; and Randle Phillips, Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation; and public witnesses.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on the National Institute on Aging, the National Center for Research Resources, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Richard J. Hodes, Director, National Institute on Aging; Judith Vaitukaitis, Director, National Center for Research Resources; Duane Alexander, M.D., Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and James F. Battey Jr., M.D., National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction held a hearing on the Quality of

Life. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert E. Hall, Sgt. Maj. U.S. Army; James Herdt, Master Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy; Alfred L. McMichael, Sgt. Maj., U.S. Marine Corps; and Frederick J. Finch, Chief Master Sgt, U.S. Air Force.

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Procurement and the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development held a joint hearing on ballistic missile defense programs. Testimony was heard from Lt. Gen. Robert T. Kadish, U.S. Air Force, Director, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Department of Defense.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

MERGING THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUNDS

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing on Merging the Deposit Insurance Funds. Testimony was heard from Donna Tanoue, Chairman, FDIC; Gregory Baer, Assistant Secretary, Financial Institutions, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET—PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Preliminary Analysis of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget. Testimony was heard from Dan L. Crippen, Director, CBO.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS—SENIORS' ACCESS

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on Seniors' Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs: Models for Reform. Testimony was heard from Bonnie Washington, Director, Office of Legislation, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; William J. Scanlon, Director, Health Financing and Public Health Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

VIDEO ON THE INTERNET

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection held a hearing on Video on the Internet: iCraveTV.com and Other Recent Developments in Webcasting. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT; IMPACT AID REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3222, Literacy Involves Families Together Act; and H.R. 3616, Impact Aid Reauthorization Act of 2000.

DEFENSE SECURITY SERVICE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans' Affairs, and International Relations held a hearing on Defense Security Service Oversight. Testimony was heard from Carol R. Schuster, Associate Director, National Security International Affairs Division, GAO; Gen. Charles Cunningham, Director, Defense Security Service, Department of Defense; and Gen. Larry D. Welch, Chairman, Joint Security Commission.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET REQUEST; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on the Administration's Fiscal Year 2001 International Affairs Budget Request. Testimony was heard from Madeleine K. Albright, Secretary of State.

The Committee also approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

INDONESIA

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on Indonesia: Confronting the Political and Economic Crises. Testimony was heard from Timothy F. Geithner, Under Secretary, International Affairs, Department of the Treasury; Stanley Roth, Assistant Secretary, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on the Judiciary: Continued consideration of Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: S. 613, Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act of 1999; H.R. 1680, amended, to provide for the conveyance of Forest Service property in Kern County, California, in exchange for county lands suitable for inclusion in Sequoia National Forest; H.R. 1749, amended, to designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems; and H.R.

2484, to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING

Committee on Rules: Held a hearing on Biennial Budgeting: A Tool for Improving Government Fiscal Management and Oversight. Testimony was heard from Speaker Hastert; and Representatives Young of Florida, Obey, Regula, Price of North Carolina, Knollenberg, Smith of Michigan, Bass, Barton of Texas, McCarthy of Missouri, Stearns, Ney and Whitfield.

NSF BUDGET AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Basic Research held a hearing on National Science Foundation Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Authorization Request, Part I: Research and Related Activities and Major Research Equipment. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the NSF: Rita Colwell, Director; and Ramon Kelly, Chairman, National Science Board.

NASA AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2001 NASA Authorization, NASA Posture. Testimony was heard from Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator, NASA.

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on Association Health Plans. Testimony was heard from James R. Baumgardner, Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Health Policy, CBO; and public witnesses.

The Committee also approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Approved the following: Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget; and several water survey resolutions.

FLOOD WATER RESCUE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Emergency Management held a hearing on Flood Water Rescue. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bilbray and Morella; Bruce Baughman, Director, Operations and Planning Division, FEMA; and public witnesses.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; U.S.-CHINA BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT—ACCESSION OF CHINA TO THE WTO

Committee on Ways and Means: Approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

The Committee also held a hearing on the U.S.-China Bilateral Trade Agreement and the Accession of China to the WTO. Testimony was heard from Representatives Smith of New Jersey, Pelosi, Dooley of California, Moran of Virginia, Knollenberg, Blumenauer and Walden of Oregon; Charlene Barshefsky, U.S. Trade Representative; and public witnesses.

SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security approved for full Committee, as amended, H.R. 5, Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—STATE OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Held a hearing on the State of Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy and Its Three Key Nuclear Weapons Laboratories. Testimony was heard from Paul Redmond, Consultant to the Committee.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

S. 1733, to establish a program to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, and construct facilities to mitigate impacts associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in the Pacific Ocean drainage of the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho. Signed February 11, 2000. (P.L. 106-171)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2000

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on the Inspector General, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, on the Legal Services Corporation, 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, on Defense Medical Programs, 9:30 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 10 a.m., and on the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, to continue hearings on the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Budget Request, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, hearing on the Conduct of Monetary Policy (Humphrey-Hawkins), 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on "Oversight of 'High-Risk' Government Programs," 210 Cannon.

Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on the FCC's Low-power FM: A Review of the FCC's Spectrum Management Responsibilities in addition to H.R. 3439, Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act of 1999, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on 21st Century Worker Shortages, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing on HHS Drug Treatment Support: Is SAMHSA Optimizing Resources? 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3058, Anti-Atrocity Alien Deportation Act; and H.R. 2883, Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act, 9:30 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2001 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the Confidentiality of Patient Records, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing on Child Protection Review System, 9 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings on the current status of religious liberty in Russia, 2:30 p.m., B-318, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Tuesday, February 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 29

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senator Moynihan will read Washington's Farewell Address; following which, there will be a period of morning business (not to extend beyond 12:30 p.m.).

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will consider any cleared executive or legislative business.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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