

Committee Meetings

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on or before the legislative day of January 31, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following:

(A) A bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, or any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon; or

(B) A bill or joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon.

CONVENING DAY FOR 2ND SESSION OF THE 108TH CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House on H. J. Res. 464, appointing the day for the Convening of the Second Session of the One Hundred Eight Congress, equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit.

CONFERENCE REPORT—MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 4, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard Chairmen Thomas and Tauzin; Representatives Johnson of Connecticut, Rangel, Dingell, Pelosi, Jones of Ohio, Brown of Ohio, Pallone, Schakowsky, and Jackson-Lee of Texas.

BRIEFING—INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Intelligence Update on Iraq. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Conferees on Thursday, November 20, 2003, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 1904, to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT

Conferees on Thursday, November 20, 2003, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 1, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary prescription drug coverage program under the Medicare program, to modernize, strengthen, and improve the Medicare program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to individuals for amounts contributed to health savings accounts, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to abbreviated applications for the approval of new drugs and the importation of prescription drugs.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Conferees agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2800, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 24 through November 29, 2003

Senate Chamber

Senate's program is uncertain.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on the Judiciary: November 24, business meeting to consider H.R. 1437, to improve the United States Code, S. 1129, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, S. 1602, to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 to extend the