

Measures Referred: Page S3179
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 Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S3182–92
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 Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—63) Page S3151, S3164, S3167

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 26, 2004. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3198.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Gale A. Norton, Secretary, and Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, both of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: EPA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of State, after receiving testimony from Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State.

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APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on the role of U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in defending the homeland and in the global war on terrorism, after receiving testimony from Thomas W. O’Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict; Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense; General Ralph E. Eberhart, USAF, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, U.S. Air Force; General Bryan D. Brown, USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, U.S. Army.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on national security space programs and management, after receiving testimony from Peter B. Teets, Under Secretary of the Air Force, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Admiral James O. Ellis, Jr., USN, Commander, United States Strategic Command, U.S. Navy; General Lance W. Lord, USAF, Commander, Air Force Space Command, U.S. Air Force; and Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski, USN (Ret.), Director, Office of Force Transformation, U.S. Navy.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on certain measures to address repetitive loss properties, after receiving testimony from Senator Mikulski; Representatives Bereuter and Blumenauer; Anthony Lowe, Federal Insurance Administrator and Mitigation Division Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; William O. Jenkins, Jr., Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, General Accounting Office; William Stiglitz III, Hyland,

Block, Hyland Insurance, Louisville, Kentucky, on behalf of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America and the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents; Steven M. Feldmann, The Fischer Group, Crestview Hills, Kentucky, on behalf of the National Association of Home Builders; Chad Berginnis, Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc., Columbus, Ohio; and Greg Kosse, Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, Louisville, on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2005 for the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, after receiving testimony from Jennifer L. Dorn, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation; Timothy W. Martin, Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield, on behalf of American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and William Millar, American Public Transportation Association, Dale J. Marsico, Community Transportation Association of America, and Rolf Th. Lundberg, Jr., United States Chamber of Commerce, all of Washington, D.C.

CABLE RATES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine causes and potential solutions regarding escalating cable rates, after receiving testimony from Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Amy Abramowitz, Assistant Director, and Michael Clements, Senior Analyst, all of Physical Infrastructure Issues, General Accounting Office; James O. Robbins, Cox Communications, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia; George Bodenheimer, ESPN, Inc. and ABC Sports, New York, New York; Gene Kimmelman, Consumers Union, Washington, D.C.; Marilyn Praisner, Montgomery County Council, Rockville, Maryland, on behalf of National Association of Counties and Telecommunity; and Rodger L. Johnson, Knology, Inc., West Point, Georgia, on behalf of Broadband Service Providers Association.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 1085, to provide for a Bureau of Reclamation program to assist states and local communities in evaluating and developing rural and small community water supply systems, S. 1732, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide

a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents, S. 2218, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States for the purpose of providing a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents and for other purposes, to authorize the Secretary to conduct appraisal and feasibility studies for rural water projects, and to establish the guidelines for any projects authorized under this program, S. 1727, to authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978, and S. 1791, to amend the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 to provide that the amounts received by the United States under that Act shall be deposited in the reclamation fund, after receiving testimony from John W. Keys III, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Mike Keegan, National Rural Water Association, Duncan, Oklahoma; and David J. Koland, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, Carrington, North Dakota.

UNITED STATES-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to expand certain trade benefits to eligible sub-Saharan African countries, after receiving testimony from Alan P. Larson, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs; Florizelle B. Liser, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Africa; and Constance B. Newman, Assistant Administrator for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Miles T. Bivins, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Sweden, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn; Michael Christian Polt, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, Thomas Bolling Robertson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Slovenia, John M. Ordway, of California, to be Ambassador to Kazakhstan, and Earle I. Mack, of New York, to be Ambassador to Finland, who was introduced by Senators Schumer and Lautenberg, after each nominee testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training concluded a hearing to examine hazard communication in the 21st Century workplace, focusing on

steps that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is taking to improve implementation of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, after receiving testimony from John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; Thomas G. Grumbles, American Industrial Hygiene Association, Fairfax, Virginia; Jon Hanson, Wyoming Medical Center, Casper; Anne Jackson, Pepperidge Farm, Denver, Pennsylvania, on behalf of American Bakers Association; Michele R. Sullivan, MRS Associates, Cherry

Hill, New Jersey, on behalf of Society for Chemical Hazard Communications; and Michael J. Wright, United Steelworkers of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4030–4048; 1 private bill, H.R. 4049; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 91; H. Con. Res. 396–399, and H. Res. 577–579, were introduced. **Pages H1592–93**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1593–94**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2523, to designate the United States courthouse located at 125 Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the "Tomochichi United States Courthouse" (H. Rept. 108–447);

H.R. 2538, to designate the United States courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse" (H. Rept. 108–448);

H.R. 3147, to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the "James V. Hansen Federal Building", amended (H. Rept. 108–449); and

H.R. 3713, to designate the Federal building located at 250 West Cherry Street in Carbondale, Illinois the "Senator Paul Simon Federal Building" (H. Rept. 108–450). **Page H1592**

Budget Resolution for FY 2005: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 393, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2004 and 2006 through 2009, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 92. The measure was also considered on Wednesday, March 24. **Pages H1495–H1565**

Rejected:

Cummings amendment in the nature of a substitute (Congressional Black Caucus) printed in H. Rept. 108–446 that provides for \$43.3 billion in additional spending and \$5 billion for deficit reduction

in FY 2005 (rejected by a recorded vote of 119 yeas to 302 noes, Roll No. 88); **Pages H1499–H1508**

Stenholm amendment in the nature of a substitute (Blue Dog Coalition) printed in H. Rept. 108–446 that balances the budget by 2012 and cuts the deficit in half in the next two years (rejected by a recorded vote of 183 yeas to 243 noes, Roll No. 89); **Pages H1508–22**

Hensarling amendment in the nature of a substitute (Republican Study Committee) printed in H. Rept. 108–446 that calls for more tax cuts and less discretionary spending and would cut the deficit in half in three years (rejected by a recorded vote of 116 yeas to 309 noes, Roll No. 90); and **Pages H1522–34**

Spratt amendment in the nature of a substitute (Democratic substitute) printed in H. Rept. 108–446 that projects a balanced budget in FY 2012, with \$1.5 trillion less public debt than the resolution (rejected by a recorded vote of 194 yeas to 232 noes, Roll No. 91). **Pages H1535–53**

Agreed by unanimous consent to the modification of the amendment offered by Representative Spratt that is printed in H. Rept. 108–446. **Page H1547**

H. Res. 574, the rule providing for further consideration of the concurrent resolution was agreed to by a voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 84. **Pages H1487–93**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Wednesday, March 24:

Community Recognition Act of 2003: H.R. 3095, amended, to amend title 4, United States Code, to make sure the rules of etiquette for flying the flag of the United States do not preclude the flying of flags at half mast when ordered by city and