

McConnell Amendment No. 3061, to provide funding for maritime security, including the Container Security Initiative, improved data for targeted cargo searches, and full background checks and security threat assessments of personnel at our nation's seaports. **Page S2107**

Byrd Amendment No. 3062, to provide \$184 million over five years for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to hire additional mine safety inspectors, paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes. **Pages S2107-09**

Chambliss (for Dayton) Amendment No. 3018, to restore funding for the Byrne/JAG grant program to the FY 2003 level of \$900 million, offset with an across the board cut to administrative expenses, travel and consulting services. **Pages S2109-11**

Murray Amendment No. 3063, to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program to the fiscal 2004 level by closing tax loopholes previously slated for elimination in Senate-passed legislation. **Pages S2111-13, S2113**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, Senate begin consideration of certain amendments for specific periods of debate; that following the use, or yielding back of time, Senate vote on, or in relation to the amendments, with no second-degree amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes; that the time used during the votes count equally against the resolution. **Page S2096**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, March 15, 2006. **Page S2143**

Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that a list of nominations in the Coast Guard (Executive Calendar No. 428) be recommitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. **Page S2143**

Messages From the House: **Page S2121**

Executive Communications: **Page S2121**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2122**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2122-24**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2124-28**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2120-21**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2128-42**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2142**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2142-43**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2143**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—42) **Pages S2091-96**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 7:59 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Wednesday, March 15, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2143.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Boyd Kevin Rutherford, of Maryland, and Linda Avery Strachan, of Virginia, each to be an Assistant Secretary, Gale A. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, and Marc L. Kesselman, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Agriculture, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

APPROPRIATIONS: FDA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Food and Drug Administration, after receiving testimony from Andrew C. von Eschenbach, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: D.C. AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Eric T. Washington, Chief Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Chair, Joint Committee on Judicial Administration; Rufus G. King III, Chief Judge, District of Columbia Superior Court; Paul Quander, Jr., Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; Avis E. Buchanan, Director, Public Defender Service; and Reverend Donald Isassc, East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on combatant commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, after

receiving testimony from General Bantz J. Craddock, USA, Commander, U.S. Southern Command; and Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN, Commander, U.S. Northern Command.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the Joint Strike Fighter F-136 Alternate Engine Program, after receiving testimony from Lord Peter Drayson, Minister for Defence Procurement, and Sir Jock Stirrup, Chief of the Air Staff, both of London, England; Air Commodore John Harvey, Director General New Air Combat Capability, Canberra, Australia; Rear Admiral Raydon W. Gates AO, CSM, Head of the Australian Defence Staff, and Major General Pasquale Preziosa, Defense and Defense Cooperation Attache, Embassy of Italy, both of Washington, D.C.; and Lieutenant General Giuseppe Bernardis, Chief, Department for Armament Programs, Secretariate for Defence and National Armaments, Rome, Italy.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007, focusing on health benefits and programs, after receiving testimony from Tanna Schmidli, National Military Family Association, and Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, and Edgar M. Zerr, Fleet Reserve Association, on behalf of the Military Coalition, all of Alexandria, Virginia; and Lieutenant General Dennis M. McCarthy, USMC (Ret.), Reserve Officers Association of the United States, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James S. Simpson, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, who was introduced by Senator Schumer and former Senator Cleland, and Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

WIRELESS ISSUES AND SPECTRUM REFORM

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine wireless issues relating to spectrum reform, focusing on the Federal Communications Commission's spectrum and

other regulatory policies for wireless services, including efforts to implement these policies to license and manage the non-Federal spectrum resources and wireless services, after receiving testimony from Catherine W. Seidel, Acting Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; John M.R. Kneuer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; JayEtta Z. Hecker, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; Thomas F. Walsh, Illinois Valley Cellular, Marseilles, on behalf of Rural Cellular Association; Kevin C. Kahn, Intel Corporation, Thomas J. Sugrue, T-Mobile USA, Inc., and Jeanine Kenney, Consumers Union, all of Washington, D.C.; Robert W. Hubbard, Hubbard Television Group, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Lawrence J. White, New York University Stern School of Business, New York, New York.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Wall Street perspective on telecommunications, focusing on investment sentiment and viewpoints of valuation, including key investment considerations, after receiving testimony from Luke T. Szymczak, JP Morgan Asset Management, Aryeh B. Bourkoff, UBS Investment Research, and Craig E. Moffett, Bernstein Research, all of New York, New York; and Kevin M. Moore, Wachovia Securities, Baltimore, Maryland.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for National Park Service, Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Fran Mainella, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine administrative challenges facing the Social Security Administration (SSA), focusing on the Human Capital Plan of the SSA, the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, new enumeration procedures, and the funding and productivity of the SSA, receiving testimony from Jo Anne B. Barnhart, Commissioner, and Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General, both of the Social Security Administration; Richard E. Warsinskey, National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio; Eileen P. Sweeney, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C., on

behalf of the Social Security Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities; and Erwin Hathaway, Trego, Montana.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Bangladesh for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Dhaka on September 26, 2004 with an exchange of notes enclosed (Treaty Doc. 109–5);

Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 31, 1994 (Treaty Doc. 109–4);

Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Estates, Inheritances, and Gifts signed at Washington on November 24, 1978 (Treaty Doc. 109–7);

Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Washington on September 30, 2005 (Treaty Doc. 109–8);

Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 thereto (hereinafter the “Protocol of 1997”), the Protocol of 1997, which would add Annex VI, Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution From Ships, to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 (hereinafter the “MARPOL Convention”), was signed by the United States on December 22, 1998 (Treaty Doc. 108–7);

Treaty Between the United States of America and Japan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on August 5, 2003; including a related exchange of notes (Treaty Doc. 108–12);

Treaty Between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on October 14, 2003, and a related exchange of notes (Treaty Doc. 108–27);

The nominations of Randall L. Tobias, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Mark D. Wallace, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, Richard T. Miller, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, John A. Simon, of Maryland, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, certain Foreign Service Officer promotion lists; and

An original bill to implement the obligations of the United States under the Protocol Additional to the Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America (Treaty Doc. 107–7)

GSA CONTRACTORS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine Federal contractors with unpaid tax debt, focusing on the extent to which contractors are tax-delinquent and what can be done about it, after receiving testimony from Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, and John J. Ryan, Assistant Director, both of the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, and Steven J. Sebastian, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, all of the Government Accountability Office; Mark Everson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Kathleen M. Turco, Acting Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine consolidation in the oil and gas industry, and its impact on the price of gasoline, after receiving testimony from Wisconsin Attorney General Peggy A. Lautenschlager, Madison; Joseph M. Alioto, Alioto Law Firm, San Francisco, California; Thomas Greene, California Department of Justice, Sacramento; Severin Borenstein, University

of California Haas School of Business, Berkeley; David Boies, Boies, Schiller and Flexner, Armonk, New York; Rex W. Tillerson, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Irving, Texas; James J. Mulva, ConocoPhillips, and John Hofmeister, Shell Oil Company, both of Houston, Texas; David J. O'Reilly, Chevron Corporation, San Ramon, California; William R. Klesse, Valero Energy Corporation, San Antonio, Texas; and Ross J. Pillari, BP America, Inc., Chicago, Illinois.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael A. Chagares, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, Gray Hampton

Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, and Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, who was introduced by Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, and Sharee M. Freeman, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, both of the Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4941–4959; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 357, and H. Res. 722–724, 726–727, were introduced.

Pages H971–73

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H973–74

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4057, to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code (H. Rept. 109–390);

H. Res. 725, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 109–391); and

H.R. 3127, to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, to support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations, and to support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 109–392, Pt. 1).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bradley of New Hampshire to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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Recess: The House recessed at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H876

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

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 South Bill Street in Francesville, Indiana, as the Malcolm Melville “Mac” Lawrence Post Office: S. 2064, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 South Bill Street in Francesville, Indiana, as the Malcolm Melville “Mac” Lawrence Post Office—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H878–79

Amending the Ojito Wilderness Act to make a technical correction: H.R. 4841, to amend the Ojito Wilderness Act to make a technical correction;

Pages H879–80

Higher Education Extension Act of 2006: H.R. 4911, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965;

Pages H880–81

Extending the educational flexibility program under section 4 of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999: S. 2363, to extend the educational flexibility program under section 4 of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H881–82

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad: H. Res. 698, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad;

Pages H882–84