

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:37 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Friday, June 23, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6442.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for the government of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2007, after receiving testimony from Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Linda W. Cropp, Chairman, Council, Natwar M. Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer, and Clifford B. Janey, Superintendent, Public Schools, all of the District of Columbia.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Appropriations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

H.R. 5521, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Also, Committee adopted the 302(b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority for fiscal year 2007.

### IRAN AND LIBYA SANCTIONS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the policy of the United States toward Iran, focusing on S. 2657, to extend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, after receiving testimony from R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and Patrick O'Brien, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes.

### TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development concluded a hearing to examine the state of the U.S. tourism industry, including challenges from the impact of 9/11, international pandemics such as SARS, and the continuing economic uncertainty of

the airline industry, after receiving testimony from Franklin L. Lavin, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Wanda L. Nesbitt, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs; Robert M. Jacksta, Executive Director, Traveler Security and Facilitation, Office of Field Operations U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; James W. LeDuc, Coordinator for Influenza, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; Todd Davidson, Oregon Tourism Commission, Salem, on behalf of the National Council of State Tourism Directors and the Western States Tourism Policy Council; Jay Rasulo, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Burbank, California, on behalf of the Travel Industry Association and U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board; Jonathan M. Tisch, Loews Hotels, New York, New York, on behalf of the Travel Business Roundtable; and Virginia Pressler, Hawaii Pacific Health, Honolulu.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee began markup of H.R. 5252, to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Tuesday, June 27.

### ENHANCED ENERGY SECURITY ACT

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2747, to enhance energy efficiency and conserve oil and natural gas, after receiving testimony from Senators Bayh and Coleman; Alexander Karsner, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Daniel A. Lashof, Natural Resources Defense Council, Kateri Callahan, Alliance to Save Energy, and Steven Nadel, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, all of Washington, D.C.

### HERITAGE AREAS

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 574, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act, S. 1387, to provide for an update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the undertaking of a special resource study of sites and landscape features within the Corridor, and to authorize additional appropriations for the Corridor,

S. 1721, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, S. 2037, to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and S. 2645, to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, after receiving testimony from Donald W. Murphy, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; W. Michael Sullivan, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Providence; Ann Marie Velasquez, Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway, Antonito, Colorado; Cate Magennis Wyatt, The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Waterford, Virginia; Daniel M. Rice, Ohio and Erie Canal Way Coalition, Akron; and Charlene Perkins Cutler, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., Putnam, Connecticut.

### NUCLEAR PLANT REGULATION

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety concluded an oversight hearing to examine the regulatory processes for new and existing nuclear plants, including progress on implementing the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, programs for new reactor regulation, and the current state of the Reactor Oversight Process, after receiving testimony from Nils J. Diaz, Chairman, and Edward McGaffigan, Jr., Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Gregory B. Jaczko, and Peter B. Lyons, each a Commissioner, all of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; J. Bernie Beasley, Jr., Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Birmingham, Alabama; David A. Lochbaum, Nuclear Safety Project, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists; and Kevin Book, Friedman, Billings, Ramsey and Company, Inc., Arlington, Virginia.

### ENERGY SECURITY

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine energy security in Latin America, including S. 2435, to increase cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and foreign governments and entities in order to secure the strategic and economic interests of the United States, after receiving testimony from Senators Craig and Salazar; Domingo Cavallo, DFC Associates LLC, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Luis E. Giusti, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and David L. Goldwyn, Goldwyn International Strategies LLC, both of Washington, D.C.; and Eduardo Pereira de Carvalho, Brazilian Association of Sugar Cane and Ethanol Producers, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Clifford M. Sobel, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Frist and Lautenberg, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine efforts to assure healthy initiatives in health information technology, after receiving testimony from Jodi G. Daniel, Director, Policy and Research, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services; Linda D. Koontz, Director, Information Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Carl E. Hendricks, Chief Information Officer for the Military Health System, Department of Defense; and Michael Kussman, Deputy Under Secretary for Health, and Robert Howard, Supervisor, Office of Information and Technology, and Ross Fletcher, Chief of Staff, VA Medical Center Wilmington, all of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

### MEDICAL LIABILITY

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee held a hearing to examine alternatives to improve the medical liability system work better for patients, focusing on S. 1337, to restore fairness and reliability to the medical justice system and promote patient safety by fostering alternatives to current medical tort litigation, receiving testimony from David M. Studdert, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts; Philip K. Howard, Common Good, and William M. Sage, Columbia Law School, both of New York, New York; Richard C. Boothman, University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor; Susan E. Sheridan, Consumers Advancing Patient Safety, Boise, Idaho; Cheryl Niro, American Bar Association, Chicago, Illinois; and Neil Vidmar, Duke University Law School, Durham, North Carolina.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2464, to revise a provision relating to a repayment obligation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation under the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990;

S. 3501, to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement

Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program;

S. 3526, to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to modify certain requirements under that Act.

Also, Committee approved the report on Tribal Lobbying Matters and Recommendations.

## VA LEGISLATION

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 2562, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

S. 3421, to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, with an amendment; and

S. 2694, to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitation on attorney representation of claimants for veterans benefits in administrative proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session and ordered favorably reported the nomination of Kenneth L. Wainstein, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 8 public bills, H.R. 5669–5671, 5673–77; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 90; H. Con. Res. 432–434; and H. Res. 887–889 were introduced. **Pages H4519–20**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H4520–21**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5316, to reestablish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level independent establishment in the executive branch that is responsible for the Nation's preparedness for, response to, recovery from, and mitigation against disasters, with amendments (H. Rept. 109–519, Pt. 1);

H.R. 5672, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007 (H. Rept. 109–520);

H.R. 4843, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, with amendments (H. Rept. 109–521);

H.R. 5318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to better assure cyber-security, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–522);

H.R. 5337, to ensure national security while promotion foreign investment and the creation and

maintenance of jobs, to reform the process by which such investments are examined for any effect they may have on national security, to establish the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–523, Part I);

H.R. 5358, to authorize programs relating to science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–524); and

H.R. 5356, to authorize the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science to provide grants to early career researchers to establish innovative research programs and integrate education and research, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 109–525). **Page H4519**

**Question of Consideration:** The House agreed to consider H.R. 5638, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, by a recorded vote of 238 ayes to 188 noes, Roll No. 312.

**Pages H4427–33, H4444**

**Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006:** The House passed H.R. 5638, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit