

Testimony was heard from Chairman Spence and Representatives Dellums and Spratt.

#### REPEAL FUEL TAX INCREASE

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule waiving all points of order against H.R. 3415, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent increase in the transportation motor fuels excise tax rates enacted by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and dedicated to the general fund of the Treasury, and against its consideration. The rule provides for the adoption of the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules. The rule provides 1 hour of debate. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Archer and Representatives Seastrand, Gibbons, Dingell, Markey and Bentsen.

#### INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a modified open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 3259, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997. The rule waives section 302(f) (prohibiting consideration of legislation which exceeds a committee's allocation of new entitlement authority), section 308(a) (requiring a cost estimate in the committee report on new entitlement authority), and section 401(a) (prohibiting consideration of legislation containing contract authority not previously subject to appropriation) of the Budget Act against consideration of the bill.

The rule makes in order for consideration for amendment under the five minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill, which shall be considered by title and as read. The rule waives clause 7 of rule XVI (germaneness), clause 5(b) of rule XXI (prohibition of consideration of legislation containing revenue provisions if not considered by the Committee on Ways and Means), and section 302(f) (providing consideration of legislation which exceeds a committee's allocation of new entitlement authority) and section 401(a) (prohibiting consideration of legislation containing contract authority not previously subject to appropriation) of the Budget Act against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The rule makes in order only those amendments to the substitute which are pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce votes to five minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a fifteen minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Combest and Representative Dicks.

#### METRIC SYSTEM CONVERSION ACT AMENDMENTS

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing on proposed amendments to the Met-

ric System Conversion Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Cox of California; Mark Bohannon, Chief Counsel for Technology, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

#### ISTEA REAUTHORIZATION

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Surface Transportation continued hearings on ISTEA Reauthorization: Transportation Finance in an Era of Scarce Resources: the Highway Trust Fund. Testimony was heard from Phyllis F. Scheinberg, Associate Director, Transportation and Telecommunications Issues, GAO; Robert Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director, Budget Analysis Division, CBO; the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Marty Washburn, National Director, Specialty Taxes; and Edward L. Federico, Director, National Operations for Criminal Investigations; the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Anthony Kane, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration; and Jack Basso, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget and Program; and public witnesses.

Hearings continue May 30.

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#### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST p. D472)

H.R. 2243, to amend the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1984, to extend for three years the availability of moneys for the restoration of fish and wildlife in the Trinity River. Signed May 15, 1996. (P.L. 104-143)

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1996

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

##### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Corporation for National and Community Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

*Committee on Foreign Relations,* to hold hearings on the nominations of Avis T. Bohlen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, and Marisa R. Lino, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, 10 a.m., SD-419.

*Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters,* to continue hearings to examine certain issues relative to the Whitewater Development Corporation, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

##### House

No committee meetings are scheduled.