

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 1321–1340; 1 private bill, H.R. 1341; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 71 and H. Con. Res. 61–62, were introduced.

Pages H1541–42

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 noon.

Page H1459

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

Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act: H.R. 1226, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information (passed by a yeas-and-nay vote of 412 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 76);

Pages H1461–67, H1490

Family Tax Relief: H. Res. 109, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American families deserve tax relief (agreed to by a yeas-and-nay vote of 412 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 77);

Pages H1467–71, H1490–91

Terms of Health Care Commissions: H.R. 1001, to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission; and

Page H1471

Lawsuits Against Terrorist States: H.R. 1225, to make a technical correction to title 28, United States Code, relating to jurisdiction for lawsuits against terrorist states.

Page H1472

Presidential Message—Argentina: Read a message from the President wherein he transmits his determination that Argentina fails to provide effective means under its laws for foreign nationals to secure, exercise, and enforce exclusive rights in intellectual property; and his resultant determination to withdraw benefits for 50 percent (approximately \$260 million) of Argentina’s exports under the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) program—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–66).

Pages H1472–73

Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment: By a yeas-and-nay vote of 233 yeas to 190 nays with two-thirds required for passage, Roll No. 78, the House

failed to pass H.J. Res. 62, as amended pursuant to the rule, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to tax limitations.

Pages H1480–90, H1491–H1506

H. Res. 113, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote. The rule provided that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in H.J. Res. 62 (H. Rept. 105–50) and modified by the amendment specified in the report (H. Rept. 105–54) of the Committee on Rules accompanying H. Res. 113 shall be considered as adopted.

Pages H1473–80

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Jones wherein he resigns from the Committee on Small Business.

Page H1506

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1490, H1490–91, and H1506. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENTS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops held a hearing on reform of the Commodity Exchange Act and provisions of H.R. 467, Commodity Exchange Act Amendments of 1997. Testimony was heard from Brooksley Born, Chair, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Roger Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Federal Finance, Department of the Treasury; Richard Lindsey, Director, Division of Market Regulation, SEC; Susan M. Phillips, member, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary held a hearing on the Office of Justice Programs, the Office of Community Oriented Policing and on the Office of

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General, Justice Programs; Joseph E. Brann, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services; and Sheay Bilchek, Administrator, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Special Trustee. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Ada E. Deer, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs; and Paul M. Homan, Special Trustee for American Indians.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior approved for full Committee action Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the EPA. Testimony was heard from Carol M. Browner, Administrator, EPA.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Began markup of H.R. 2, Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act of 1997.

Will continue tomorrow.

TRANSFER OF SUPERCOMPUTERS—IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Committee on National Security: Subcommittee on Military Procurement held a hearing on the sale or transfer of supercomputers to foreign entities or governments engaged in nuclear weapons research and its impact on the national security interests of the United States. Testimony was heard from Harold Johnson, Associate Director, International Relations and Trade Issues, GAO; William A. Reinsch, Under Sec-

retary, Export Administration, Department of Commerce; the following officials of the Department of Energy: Victor H. Reis, Assistant Secretary, Defense Programs; and Kenneth E. Baker, Acting Director, Office of Nonproliferation and National Security; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—IMPLEMENTATION OF WILDERNESS ACT ON BLM AND FOREST SERVICE LANDS

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a joint oversight hearing on implementation of the 1964 Wilderness Act on BLM and Forest Service lands. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT—FEDERAL AGENCY COMPLIANCE

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Government Programs and Oversight and Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction held a joint hearing on Federal Agency Compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act: Are Federal Agencies Using "Good Science" In Their Making? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Hearings continue April 17.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX REPLACEMENT—IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Committee on Ways and Means: Held a hearing on the Impact on Individuals and Families of Replacing the Federal Income Tax. Testimony was heard from Representative Arney; and public witnesses.

INTELLIGENCE BUDGET—PERSONNEL AND LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a Budget hearing on Personnel and Legislative Issues. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D294)

H.R. 412, to approve a settlement agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District. Signed April 14, 1997. (P.L.105-9)