

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed Alexis Herman as Secretary of Labor.

The House passed H.R. 867 to promote the adoption of children in foster care.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3809–S3859*

**Measures Introduced:** Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 667–674 and S. Res. 80 and 81. Pages S3843–44

**Measures Reported:** Reports were made as follows:  
S. 7, to establish a United States policy for the deployment of a national missile defense system. (S. Rept. No. 105–15)

S. 672, making supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997. (S. Rept. No. 105–16) Page S3843

#### Measures Passed:

**National Erase the Hate and Eliminate Racism Day:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 78, to designate April 30, 1997, as “National Erase the Hate and Eliminate Racism Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. Pages S3813–14

**Nurse Aide Training Correction:** Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 968, to amend titles XVII and XIX of the Social Security Act to permit a waiver of the prohibition of offering nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs in certain nursing facilities, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. Pages S3858–59

**Term Extensions:** Senate passed H.R. 1001, to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission, clearing the measure for the President. Page S3859

**Volunteer Protection Act:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration

of S. 543, to provide certain protections to volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers. Pages S3810–19, S3824–31, S3833–36

During consideration of this measure today, Senate took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 53), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to agree to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. Page S3818

By unanimous-consent agreement, Senate will begin consideration of the bill on Thursday, May 1, 1997. Page S3859

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 85 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 54 EX), Alexis M. Herman, of Alabama, to be Secretary of Labor. Page S3841

**Messages From the House:** Page S3843

**Measures Referred:** Page S3843

**Communications:** Page S3843

**Statements on Introduced Bills:** Pages S3844–51

**Additional Cosponsors:** Page S3851

**Authority for Committees:** Page S3854

**Additional Statements:** Page S3854

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—54) Pages S3818, S3841

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 5:42 p.m., until 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, May 1, 1997. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3859.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 672) making supplemental appropriations and rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997.

### APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL GUARD

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the structure and modernization of the National Guard, receiving testimony from Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. William A. Navas, Jr., Director, Army National Guard; Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, Director, Air National Guard; Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, Ohio National Guard; Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon National Guard; Maj. Gen. Jacob Lestenkof, Alaska National Guard; and Brig. Gen. Daniel James, III, Texas National Guard.

Subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, May 7.

### SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Subcommittee on Securities concluded hearings on proposals to reform the Social Security system, focusing on the impact of a proposal to privatize the Social Security trust fund on the stock market, the securities industry and the United States economy, after receiving testimony from Roger W. Mehle, Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board; D.K. Kebodeaux, First Financial Capital Corporation, Houston, Texas; and Marc E. Lackritz, Securities Industry Association, and Michael Tanner, Cato Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Andrew J. Pincus, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### U.S. TRADE POLICY

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee held hearings to examine how the United States is using international trade to promote economic prosperity and stability in the 21st century, receiving testimony from William M. Daley, Sec-

retary of Commerce; and Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

### TELEPRESENCE

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space concluded hearings to examine the use of "Telepresence", the enabling technology for telemedicine and distance learning, after receiving testimony from Arnauld E. Nicogossian, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Nat Durlach, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; S.K. Ganapathy, Bell Labs/Lucent Technology, Murray Hill, New Jersey; Henry Fuchs, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Ken Gabriel, DARPA/ETO, Arlington, Virginia; James E. Brick, West Virginia University School of Medicine, Morgantown; and Kate Stetzner, Margaret Leary Elementary School, Butte, Montana.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Kevin L. Thurm, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Richard J. Tarplin, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Prior to this action, committee concluded hearings on the nominations (listed above), after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### CHILDREN'S HEALTH

*Committee on Finance:* Committee held hearings on proposals to improve children's access to health care, including S. 13, to provide access to health insurance coverage for uninsured children and pregnant women, S. 511, to require that the health and safety of a child be considered in any foster care or adoption placement, to eliminate barriers to the termination of parental rights in appropriate cases, and to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and S. 526, to increase the excise taxes on tobacco products for the purpose of offsetting the Federal budgetary costs associated with the Child Health Insurance and Lower Deficit Act, receiving testimony from Senators Daschle, Kennedy, and Frist; Barbara A. DeBuono, New York State Department of Public Health, Albany; Christine Ferguson, Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Cranston; Donald W. Herman, Iowa Division of Medical Services, Des Moines; Michael J. Koch, California Kids Healthcare Foundation, Woodland Hills; and Rose M. Naff, Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, Tallahassee.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.