

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1035-S1132

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1681-1690 and S. Res. 184 and 185. Page S1070

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:

H.R. 1534, to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Res. 181, expressing the sense of the Senate that on March 2nd, every child in America should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her.

S. 1244, to amend title 11, United States Code, to protect certain charitable contributions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1605, to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers, with an amendment. Pages S1068-69

Measures Passed:

Read Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 181, expressing the sense of the Senate that on March 2nd, every child in America should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her.

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Onate Cuartocentenario: Senate agreed to S. Res. 148, designating 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario", the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico. Pages S1130-31

Campaign Finance Reform: Senate continued consideration of S. 1663, to protect individuals from having their money involuntarily collected and used for politics by a corporation or labor organization, taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows: Page S1045

Pending:

McCain Amendment No. 1646, in the nature of a substitute.

Lott Amendment No. 1649, to prohibit the use of funds by the Federal Communications Commission to impose or enforce requirements with respect to electioneering communications.

Lott Amendment No. 1650 (to Amendment No. 1649), of a perfecting nature.

Lott Amendment No. 1674 (to Amendment No. 1646), to prohibit the use of funds by the Federal Communications Commission to impose or enforce requirements with respect to electioneering communications.

Lott Amendment No. 1675 (to Amendment No. 1674), of a perfecting nature.

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

By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 16), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to close further debate on Amendment No. 1646, listed above. Page S1045

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 17), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to close further debate on the bill. Page S1045

Subsequently, the bill, with certain of the pending amendments, was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ISTEA Authorization: Senate resumed consideration of S. 1173, to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, with a modified committee amendment. Pages S1055-64

By unanimous-consent agreement, the following pending amendments and the motion to recommit were withdrawn:

Chafee/Warner Amendment No. 1312, to provide for a continuing designation of a metropolitan planning organization. **Page S1055**

Chafee/Warner Amendment No. 1313, (to language proposed to be stricken by the committee, as modified), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1055**

Chafee/Warner Amendment No. 1314 (to Amendment No. 1313), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1055**

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with instructions. **Page S1055**

Lott Amendment No. 1317 (to instructions of the motion to recommit), to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs. **Page S1055**

Lott Amendment No. 1318 (to Amendment No. 1317), to strike the limitation on obligations for administrative expenses. **Page S1055**

Subsequently, the modified committee amendment was further modified to reflect it as an amendment in the nature of a substitute (Amendment No. 1676), and subject to further amendments. **Pages S1055–56**

Measure Returned to Senate Calendar:

Reciprocal Trade Agreement/Fast Track: S. 1269, to establish objectives for negotiating and procedures for implementing certain trade agreements, was displaced upon the adoption of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1173, ISTEPA Authorization, and was returned to the Senate calendar. **Page S1055**

Appointments:

National Council on the Arts: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–83, announced the appointment of Senators Sessions and Collins to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts. **Page S1130**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Hiram Arthur Contreras, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Beverly Baldwin Martin, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Robert A. Miller, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2000.

Randall Dean Anderson, of Utah, to be United States Marshal for the District of Utah for the term of four years. **Pages S1131–32**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Edward A. Powell, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

Q. Todd Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. **Page S1132**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of the withdrawal of the following nomination: George Donohue, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, which was sent to the Senate on June 26, 1997. **Page S1132**

Messages From the House: **Page S1068**

Measures Referred: **Page S1068**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S1069–70**

Statements on Introduced Bills: **Pages S1070–81**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1081–82**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1082–S1125**

Notices of Hearings: **Page S1125**

Authority for Committees: **Pages S1125–26**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1126–30**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total–17) **Page S1045**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 6:14 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, February 27, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record, on Page S1132.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS—AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, receiving testimony from James R. Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and Thomas A. Weber, Acting Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, both of the Department of Agriculture, who were accompanied by several of his associates.

Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, March 3.

APPROPRIATIONS—STATE DEPARTMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates