

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 3474, 3503–3527; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 247, were introduced. Pages H1335–37

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 3113, to reauthorize the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (H. Rept. 105–455). Page H1335

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Fossella to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1301

Journal: By a recorded vote of 359 ayes to 49 noes, Roll No. 60, the House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, March 18. Pages H1301, H1306

Tropical Forest Conservation Act: The House passed H.R. 2870, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests, by a recorded vote of 356 ayes to 61 noes, Roll No. 63. Pages H1307–19

Agreed To:

The Gilman amendment that requires the President to notify congressional committees at least 15 days in advance of each reduction of debt to the United States as a result of loans under the Foreign Assistance Act; credits extended under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act; and specified loans and credits eligible for sale, reduction, or cancellation under the authority to engage in debt-for-nature swaps and debt buyback; and Pages H1314, H1317–18

The Vento en bloc amendment that makes eligible grants for the research and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest plant life to treat human diseases; and requires consultation with indigenous leaders by the Enterprise for the Americas Board with respect to a tropical forest fund in the beneficiary country and region as appropriate. Pages H1314–19

H. Res. 388, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea and nay vote of 411 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 59. Pages H1304–06

Legislative Program: The Majority Leader announced the legislative program for the week of March 23. Page H1320

Meeting Hour—Monday, March 23: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 23. Page H1320

Meeting Hour—Tuesday, March 24: Agreed that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 23, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, for Morning-Hour debate. Page H1320

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 25. Pages H1320–21

Presidential Message—Legislative Proposal: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted his legislative proposal entitled the "National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998"—referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–231). Page H1321

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1301.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H1337–74.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea and nay vote and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1305–06, H1306, H1317–18, H1318–19, and H1319. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary held a hearing on the DEA, and on NOAA. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Thomas A. Constantine, Administrator, DEA; Donna Bucella, Director, Executive Office, U.S. Attorneys; and Mary Lee Warren, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division; and D. James Baker, Under Secretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on the Power Marketing Administrations. Testimony was heard from the following Administrators of the

Power Administrations, Department of Energy: Rodney L. Adelman, Alaska; John S. Robertson, Acting, Bonneville Power Administration; Charles A. Borchardt, Southeastern; Michael A. Deihl, Administrator, Southwestern; and Michael S. HacsKaylo, Acting, Western Area.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the Secretary of Agriculture and the Forest Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Agriculture: Dan Glickman, Secretary; and James Lyons, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Aging. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Alan I. Leshner, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse; Enoch Gordis, M.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Steven E. Hyman, M.D., Director, National Institute of Mental Health; and Richard J. Hodes, M.D., Director, National Institute on Aging.

NATIONAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on National Security continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress and public witnesses.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held a hearing on the FEC and the U.S. Postal Service. Testimony was heard from Scott E. Thomas, Vice Chairman, FEC, and Chairman, Finance Committee; and Marvin T. Runyon, Postmaster General and CEO, U.S. Postal Service.

VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, held a hearing on American Battle Monuments Commission, and the Office of Inspector General, FDIC. Testimony was heard from Gen. Fred Worner, Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission; and Gaston Gianni, Jr., Inspector General, FDIC.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment continued hearings on the Tobacco Settlement, with emphasis on views of the public. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GAO FINDING—ALLEGED MEDICARE IMPROPRIETIES

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on GAO's Investigative Findings of Alleged Medicare Improprieties by a Home Health Agency. Testimony was heard from Eljay B. Bowron, Assistant Comptroller General, Office of Special Investigations, GAO; and the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Linda Ruiz, Director, Program Integrity, Health Care Financing Administration; and George F. Grob, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Evaluations and Inspections.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported amended H.R. 6, Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Ordered reported amended H.R. 3310, Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act Amendments of 1998.

The Committee also approved Fiscal Year 1999 Budget views and estimates for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY ISSUES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Laws concluded hearings on the consumer bankruptcy issues in H.R. 3150, Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1998, H.R. 2500, Responsible Borrower Protection Bankruptcy Act; and H.R. 3146, Consumer Lenders and Borrowers Bankruptcy Accountability Act of 1998. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the U.S. Trustees: Patricia A. Staiano, Region 3 and Kevyn, Orr, Deputy Director, Executive Office; Robert F. Hershner, Jr., Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Middle District of Georgia; Michael J. Kaplan, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Western District of New York; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

Testimony was heard from Bruce A. Lehman, Assistant Secretary, Commerce and Commissioner, Patent and Trademarks, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime held a hearing on H.R. 1524, Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hutchinson and Baldacci; Hobart Henson, Director, Office of State, Local and International Training, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NATURALIZATION APPLICATIONS CASELOAD

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held an oversight hearing on the pending and anticipated caseload of naturalization applications. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice: James S. Angus, Acting Executive Director, Office of Naturalization Operations; and Edward J. Murphy, Deputy Director, Office of Naturalization Operations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on National Security: Subcommittee on Military Procurement held a hearing on the Department of Energy fiscal year 1999 authorization request and related matters. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Federico F. Pena, Secretary; Victor H. Reis, Assistant Secretary, Defense Programs; James M. Owendoff, Acting Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management; and Rose E. Gottemoeller, Director, Office of Nonproliferation and National Security.

RUSSIAN NUCLEAR SECURITY ISSUES

Committee on National Security: Subcommittee on Military Research and Development held a hearing on Russian nuclear security issues. Testimony was heard from Gen. Alexander Lebed, (Rtd.) former Secretary Russian Security Council.

ROYALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3334, Royal Enhancement Act of 1998. Testimony was heard from Cynthia Quarterman, Director, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior; Jim Geringer, Governor, State of Wyoming, and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on the following: S. 1213 and H.R. 2547, Oceans Act of 1997, and the Ocean Commission Act. Testimony was heard from D. James Baker, Under Secretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce; and Kenneth Brink, Chairman, Ocean Studies Board, National Academy of Sciences; and public witnesses.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL—IMPACT ON NATIONAL FORESTS

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held an oversight hearing on Impact and Status of Northern Spotted Owl on National Forests. Testimony was heard from Representative Hergert; James Lyons, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; Gerry Jackson, Assistant Director, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held an oversight hearing on FY 99 Budget Request: Human Space Flight. Testimony was heard from the following officials of NASA: Joe Rothenberg, Associate Administrator, Office of Space Flight; Brig. Gen. (Select) Kevin Chilton, USAF, Deputy Program Manager, Space Station Program Office and Tommy Holloway, Program Manager, Space Shuttle Program Office, both at the Johnson Space Center.

SBA BUDGET

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on SBA Budget. Testimony was heard from Aida Alvarez, Administrator, SBA; Jack Lew, Deputy Director, OMB; and public witnesses.

CHARITABLE GIVING PARTNERSHIP ACT

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Empowerment held a hearing on H.R. 3241, Charitable Giving Partnership Act. Testimony was heard from Senator Coats; Representatives Myrick and Salmon; David Long, member, Senate, State of Indiana; and public witnesses.

FAA AND AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation continued hearings on reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and Airport Improvement Program. Testimony was heard from Gerald L. Dillingham, Associate Director, Transportation Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

Hearings continue March 25.

VETERANS LEGISLATION; VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health approved for full Committee action Fiscal Year 1999 Construction Authorization legislation.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on quality management at the Veterans Health Administration. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Thomas Garthwaite, M.D., Deputy Under Secretary, Health; and John Mather, M.D., Assistant Inspector General, Health Care Inspections; and public witnesses.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BLOCK GRANT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held an oversight hearing on implementation of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Olivia A. Golden, Assistant Secretary, Children and Families; and Howard Rolston, Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families; Daniel Weinberg, Division Chief, Housing and Household Economic Statistics, Bureau of the Cen-

sus, Department of Commerce; J. Jean Rogers, Administrator, Division of Economic Support, Department of Health and Social Services, State of Wisconsin; Don Winstead, Welfare Reform Administrator, Department of Children and Families, State of Florida; and public witnesses.

OVERHEAD SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE STUDY

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a briefing on Overhead Signals Intelligence Study. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1998

Senate

No committee meetings are scheduled.

House

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on Overhead Acquisition Issues, 9 a.m., executive, hearing on Imagery Intelligence Issues, 12:30 p.m., and, executive, hearing on Signals Intelligence Issues, 3 p.m., H-405 Capitol.