

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Daily Digest

Highlights

The House passed H.R. 3534, Mandates Information Act of 1998.

The House passed 13 measures under Suspension of the Rules including H. Res. 440, Sense of Congress Re Conferring Immunity from Prosecution for Testimony Concerning Illegal Foreign Fundraising Activities.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5031–S5148

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2091–2093, and S. Res. 232. Page S5129

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows: S. 8, to reauthorize and amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act of 1980, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 105–192)

S. Res. 172, congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence.

S. Res. 188, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group. Page S5129

Measures Passed:

Commemorative Coin Program: Senate passed H.R. 3301, to amend chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of the Treasury greater discretion with regard to the placement of the required inscriptions on quarter dollars issued under the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program, clearing the measure for the President. Page S5128

Universal Tobacco Settlement Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 1415, to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, and to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, with a modified committee amendment in the nature of a substitute (Amendment No. 2420), taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

Pages S5034–28, S5145–48

Rejected:

Faircloth Amendment No. 2421 (to Amendment No. 2420), to establish a limitation on attorney's fees. (By 58 yeas to 39 nays, two responding present (Vote No. 142), Senate tabled the amendment.) Pages S5095–S5114

Pending:

Kennedy/Lautenberg Amendment No. 2422 (to Amendment No. 2420), to modify those provisions relating to revenues from payments made by participating tobacco companies. Pages S5116–28

Ashcroft Amendment No. 2427 (to Amendment No. 2422), to strike those provisions relating to consumer taxes. Pages S5119–22

Senate will continue consideration of the bill and the amendments pending thereto on Wednesday, May 20, 1998.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Carl J. Barbier, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Page S5148

Messages From the House: Page S5129

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S5129

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S5129–34

Additional Cosponsors: Page S5134

Amendments Submitted: Pages S5135–41

Authority for Committees: Page S5141

Additional Statements: Pages S5141–44

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—142) Page S5114

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:23 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 20, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the

remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5145.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded hearings to examine the state of advanced nuclear technologies, focusing on the disposal of spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power reactors, the future strategic direction for nuclear energy and nuclear regulation, and the development of the Gas Turbine-Modular Helium Reactor, after receiving testimony from Hank C. Jenkins-Smith, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Joe F. Colvin, Jr., Nuclear Energy Institute, Washington, D.C.; Corbin A. McNeill, Jr., PECO Energy Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richard Wilson, Harvard University, and Alan B. Smith, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Stan O. Schriber, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; Linden Blue, General Atomics, San Diego, California; and Charles E. Till, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois.

FCC

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications resumed oversight hearings to examine the Federal Communications Commission, focusing on activities of the Mass Media Bureau, receiving testimony from Roy Stewart, Chief, Mass Media Bureau, FCC.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

PUERTO RICO

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee held oversight hearings to examine fiscal and economic implications of a change in the political status of Puerto Rico, receiving testimony from James R. White, Associate Director, Tax Policy and Administration Issues, General Accounting Office; J. Thomas Hexner, International Institute for Advanced Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Ivar A. Pietri, Peregrine Development Company, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; and Marcos Rodriguez-Ema, Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico, Fernando Martin-Garcia, Puerto Rican Independence Party, and Santos Negron Diaz, Puerto Rico Development Bank, all of San Juan.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1758, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests, with amendments;

S. Res. 172, congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence;

S. Res. 188, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group;

An original bill to amend section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act to require information on foreign government officials responsible for human rights abuses;

S. Con. Res. 30, expressing the sense of Congress that the Republic of China on Taiwan should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions including the IMF and IBRD;

H.R. 2232, to provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China, with amendments;

The International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Treaty Doc. 104-17), with 1 reservation, 2 declarations, and 1 proviso;

The International Grains Agreement (Treaty Doc. 105-4), with 1 declaration and 1 proviso;

Amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization (Treaty Doc. 104-36), with 1 declaration and 1 proviso;

The Trademark Law Treaty (Treaty Doc. 105-35), with 2 declarations and 1 proviso; and

The nominations of William Joseph Burns, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ryan Clark Crocker, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, Charles H. Dolan, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, and three Foreign Service Officer promotion lists, with an exception, received in the Senate on March 26, 1998 and April 2, 1998.

GOVERNMENT COMPUTER SECURITY

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Committee held hearings to examine the state of computer security within Federal, State and local agencies, focusing on certain risks related to computer-communication technology and efforts to reduce them, receiving testimony from Peter G. Neumann, SRI International, Menlo Park, California; and representatives from LOph Heavy Industries.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

TELEPHONE INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition concluded hearings to examine the state of competition in the