Thursday, September 3, 1998

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed Treasury/Postal Service Appropriations, 1999.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9901-S9945

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2436-2439, and S. Res. 271. Pages S9939-40

Treasury/Postal Service Appropriations, 1999:
By 91 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. 260), Senate passed H.R. 4101, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, after striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the text of S. 2312, Senate companion measure, as amended, and after taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

Pages S9912-16

Adopted:

McConnell Amendment No. 3379, to provide for appointment and term length for the staff director and general counsel of the Federal Election Commission.

Glenn Amendment No. 3380, to provide additional funding for enforcement activities of the Federal Election Commission.

Campbell (for Grassley) Amendment No. 3386, to protect Federal law enforcement officers who intervene in certain situations to protect life or prevent bodily injury.

Withdrawn:

Graham/Mack Amendment No. 3381, to provide funding for the Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Harkin Amendment No. 3387, to provide additional funding to reduce methamphetamine usage in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

Kohl (for Kerry) Amendment No. 3389, to express the sense of the Senate regarding payroll tax relief.

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

Amendment No. 3356, to require the Administrator of General Services to acquire a lease for the Department of Transportation headquarters and to provide additional funding for security for the Capitol complex, agreed to on July 28, 1998, was modified.

Senate insisted on its amendment, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair appointed the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Campbell, Shelby, Faircloth, Stevens, Kohl, Mikulski, and Byrd.

Subsequently, S. 2312 was indefinitely postponed.

American Missile Protection Act—Cloture Filed:
A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1873, to state the policy of the United States regarding the deployment of a missile defense system capable of defending the United States against limited ballistic missile attack, and by unanimous-consent agreement, the vote on the cloture motion will occur on Wednesday, September 9, 1998.

Pages S9916-17

Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act—Cloture Filed:
A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1301, to amend title 11 United States Code, to provide for consumer bankruptcy protection, with a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and by unanimous-consent agreement, the vote on the cloture motion will occur on Wednesday, September 9, 1998.

Pages S9917

Appointments:

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 93-415, as amended by Public Law 102-586, announced the appointment of Robert H. Maxwell, of Mississippi,
to serve a one-year term on the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

- Joseph Swerdzewski, of Colorado, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years.
- Pamela A. Ferguson, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2004.
- Anita K. Jones, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2004.
- Robert C. Richardson, of New York, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2004.
- 5 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard.

Communications:

Petitions:

Statements on Introduced Bills:

Additional Cosponsors:

Amendments Submitted:

Notices of Hearings:

Authority for Committees:

Additional Statements:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today.

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 6:24 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Friday, September 4, 1998, for a pro forma session.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill making appropriations for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

IRAQ INSPECTION SITES

Committee on Armed Services/Committee on Foreign Relations: Committees held joint hearings to examine United States policy with regard to United Nations inspections of Iraqi chemical sites, receiving testimony from William S. Ritter, Jr., former member of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) Inspection Team.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL


NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Susan G. Esserman, of Maryland, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Graham, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for the United States Customs Service, focusing on its role in the protection of U.S. borders and the facilitation of trade, after receiving testimony from James E. Johnson, Under Secretary for Enforcement, and Raymond W. Kelly, Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service, both of the Department of the Treasury; George J. Weise, Washington, D.C., former Commissioner of Customs; Jerry Cook, Sara Lee Knit Products, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; James D. Phillips, Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance, Lewiston, New York; and Ronald D. Schoof, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, Illinois, on behalf of the Joint Industry Group.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Patricia A. Broderick, Natalia Combs Greene, and Neal E. Kravitz, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf. Mr. Kravitz was introduced by Senator Sarbanes.
COUNTER-TERRORISM
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded hearings to examine the United States Government’s response to the threat of international terrorism, after receiving testimony from Louis J. Freeh, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and R. James Woolsey, Shea & Gardner, former Director of Central Intelligence, and Jeane Kirkpatrick, American Enterprise Institute, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
The House was not in session today. The House will next meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 9.

Committee Meetings
No Committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998
Senate
No meetings are scheduled.

House
No Committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of September 7 through 12, 1998

Senate Chamber
On Monday, Senate will not be in session.
On Tuesday, Senate will consider any available appropriations bills or conference reports, or any legislative or executive items cleared for action.
On Wednesday, Senate will vote on motions to close further debate on the motions to proceed to consideration of S. 1301, Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act, and S. 1873, American Missile Protection Act.
During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any further legislative or executive items cleared for action.

(Senate will recess on Tuesday, September 8, 1998, from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for respective party conferences.)

Senate Committees
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 9, to resume hearings on S. 625, to provide for competition between forms of motor vehicle insurance, to permit an owner of a motor vehicle to choose the most appropriate form of insurance for that person, to guarantee affordable premiums, and to provide for more adequate and timely compensation for accident victims, 9:30 a.m., SR–253.
September 9, Subcommittee on Aviation, to hold hearings to examine enforcement activities of the Federal Aviation Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.
September 10, Subcommittee on Communications, to hold hearings on S. 2365, to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, 9:30 a.m., SR–253.
September 10, Subcommittee on Communications, to hold hearings to examine international satellite reform proposals, 9:30 a.m., SR–253.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 10, Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, to hold hearings on S. 2385, to establish the San Rafael Swell National Heritage Area and the San Rafael National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, 2 p.m., SD–366.
Committee on Governmental Affairs: September 9, to hold hearings on the implementation of the Inspectors General Act of 1978, 10 a.m., SD–342.
September 9, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to resume hearings to examine the safety of food imports, focusing on certain fraud and deceptive techniques used by individuals to import food products illegally into the United States, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.
Committee on the Judiciary: September 9, Subcommittee on Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights, to hold hearings to examine the impeachment or indictment process of a sitting President, 10 a.m., SD–226.
September 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings on pending nominations, 2 p.m., SD–226.
September 10, Full Committee, business meeting, to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

September 10, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, business meeting, to consider pending calendar business, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Labor and Human Resources: September 9, business meeting, to mark up S. 2432, to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, proposed Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998, and to consider pending nominations, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 9, to hold closed hearings on intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: September 10, to hold hearings to examine how to strengthen and increase programs for family caregivers, 9:30 a.m., SD-628.

Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: September 10, to hold hearings to examine the Year 2000 computer conversion as related to the transportation industry, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

**House Chamber**

To be announced.

**House Committees**

Committee on Appropriations, September 10, to mark up the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs appropriations for fiscal year 1999, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, September 10, Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations, hearing to examine the Russian Economic Crisis and the IMF Aid Package, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


September 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to continue hearings on the circumstances surrounding the FCC's planned relocation to the Portals, including the efforts of Franklin L. Haney and his representatives with respect to this matter and the circumstances surrounding the payments of fees to those representatives, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 11, Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on legislative proposals to Protect Children from Inappropriate Materials on the Internet, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, September 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on American Worker Project: Regulatory Affairs at the Department of Labor—Garment Industry Trendsetters, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, September 9, Subcommittee on Human Resources, oversight hearing on the Blood Safety: Minimizing Plasma Product Risks, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, September 9, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, to mark up H. Res. 505, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the importance of diplomatic relations with the Pacific Island nations, 4 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

September 10, full Committee, to mark up the following: a measure to provide authorities with respect to the transfer of excess defense articles and the transfer of naval vessels under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act; H. Con. Res. 304, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia; H. Con. Res. 315, expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against Albanians in Kosovo and urging that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosovo for losses suffered through Serbian police and military action; H. Res. 381, expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should renegotiate the extradition treaty with Mexico so that the possibility of capital punishment will not interfere with the timely extradition of criminal suspects from Mexico to the United States; and H. Res. 505, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the importance of diplomatic relations with the Pacific Island nations, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


September 10, to hold a hearing on proposals to amend the standing rules of the House, 12 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, September 10, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, oversight hearing on Delays in NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 10, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on issues of concern to the Travel Agent Community, focusing on the following: H.R. 3704, Consumer Access to Travel Information Act of 1998; changes to the preemption provision in Section 10 of H.R. 3160, Airline Competition and Lower Fares Act; the contention that airlines have engaged in an unfair competitive practice by lowering their standard commission rates for all travel agents except for the Scheduled Airline Traffic Office (SATO); and Commission overrides, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure September 10, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on issues of concern to the Travel Agent Community, focusing on the following: H.R. 3704, Consumer Access to Travel Information Act of 1998; changes to the preemption provision in Section 10 of H.R. 3160, Airline Competition and Lower Fares Act; the contention that airlines have engaged in an unfair competitive practice by lowering their standard commission rates for all travel agents except for the Scheduled Airline Traffic Office (SATO); and Commission overrides, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 10, executive, briefing on Embassy Bombings in Africa, 2 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China, September 11, executive, to continue to receive briefings on pending business, 8 a.m., room to be announced.