

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AGRIBUSINESS CONCENTRATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to examine economic concentration in agriculture and agribusiness with an emphasis on changes in the pork industry and other areas of livestock farming, focusing on Cargill, Incorporated's proposed acquisition of Continental Grain Company's grain merchandising business, and S.101, to promote trade in United States agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products, and to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, after receiving testimony from Senator Dorgan; Keith Collins, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture; Mark Drabenstott, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and Steve D. Hunt, U.S. Premium Beef Ltd., both of Kansas City, Missouri; C. Robert Taylor, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama; Dean Kleckner, American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, D.C.; Leland Swenson, National Farmers Union, Washington, D.C.; Donna Reifschneider, Smithton, Illinois, on behalf of the National Pork Producers Council; Paul Hitch, Hitch Enterprises, Guyman, Oklahoma, on behalf of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; Frank Sims, Cargill, Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and J. Patrick Boyle, American Meat Institute, Arlington, Virginia.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Committee on Appropriations: Committee concluded hearings on the ethical, scientific, and legal implications of the recent decision of the Department of Health and Human Services to allow federally funded stem cell research, after receiving testimony from Harold Varmus, Director, National Institutes of Health, and Harriet Rabb, General Counsel, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Eric M. Meslin, National Bioethics Advisory Commission, Rockville, Maryland; and Richard M. Doerflinger, Committee for Pro-Life Activities/National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

TRADE POLICY

Committee on Finance: Committee held hearings on trade policy issues, including trade negotiating agenda, international economic agenda, including export promotion programs, trade adjustment assistance program, and administration of unfair trade laws, receiving testimony from Robert E. Rubin, Secretary of the Treasury; Lawrence H. Summers, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; William M. Daley, Secretary of Commerce; and Charlene Barshefsky, United States Trade Representative.

Hearings continue on Wednesday, January 27.

IMPROVING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded hearings on S. 277, to improve elementary and secondary education programs, after receiving testimony from Senators Bond, Hutchison, and Lautenberg.