

## Committee Meetings

### FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION—PROVIDE RELIEF FROM UNFAIR PENALTIES ON REFUNDS

*Committee on Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing on H.R. 1117, to provide relief from unfair interest and penalties on refunds retroactively ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Testimony was heard from Representative Moran of Kansas; Carla Stovall, Attorney General, State of Kansas; and a public witness.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Commerce:* Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection approved for full Committee action, amended, the following bills: H.R. 1714, Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act; H.R. 1858, Consumer and Investor Access to Information Act of 1999; H.R. 486, Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999; and H.R. 2630, NTIA Reauthorization Act of 1999.

### TRUTH IN EMPLOYMENT ACT; FAIR ACCESS TO INDEMNITY AND REIMBURSEMENT ACT

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 1441, Truth in Employment Act of 1999; and H.R. 1987, amended, Fair Access to Indemnity and Reimbursement Act.

### BEIJING-U.S. EMBASSY—STATE DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF ALLEGATIONS OF VISA FRAUD

*Committee on Government Reform:* Held a hearing on the State Department's Handling of Allegations of Visa Fraud and Other Irregularities at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers, Inspector General; Peter Bergin, Deputy Director, Diplomatic Security; and Bonnie Cohen, Under Secretary, Management; and Don Schurman, former Regional Security Officer, U.S. Embassy, Beijing.

In refusing to answer questions, Charles M. Parish, Jr., former First Consul and Secretary, U.S. Embassy, Beijing, invoked Fifth Amendment privileges.

### FEDERALISM ACT

*Committee on Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs approved for full Committee action, amended, H.R. 2245, Federalism Act of 1999.

### PANAMA-U.S. SECURITY AND COUNTER-DRUG INTERESTS

*Committee on International Relations:* Held a hearing on Post-1999 U.S. Security and Counter-Drug Interests in Panama. Testimony was heard from Thomas E. McNamara, former U.S. Chief Negotiator in Panama and Gen. George A. Joulwan, USA, (Ret.), former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and former Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command.

### OVERSIGHT—REINVENTED TAXATION AND THE TAXPAYERS DEFENSE ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held an oversight hearing on Reinvented Taxation and The Taxpayers Defense Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hayworth and Terry; and public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law approved for full Committee action the following measures: H.J. Res. 54, granting the consent of Congress to the Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact; H.J. Res. 62, to grant the consent of Congress to the boundary change between Georgia and South Carolina; and H.R. 1604, amended, Dairy Consumers and Producers Protection Act.

Prior to this action, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.J. Res. 54 and H.J. Res. 62. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bereuter, Danner and Kingston; Charles W. Challstrom, Acting Director, National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, Department of Commerce; and a public witness.

### OVERSIGHT—DEA

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Crime held an oversight hearing on the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice. Testimony was heard from Norman J. Rabkin, Director, Administration of Justice Issue Area, GAO; Donnie R. Marshall, Acting Administrator, DEA, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

### IMMIGRATION REORGANIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held a hearing on H.R. 2528, Immigration Reorganization and Improvement Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Representatives Rogers and Reyes; from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Michael Bromwich, Inspector General; and Doris Meissner, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Richard M. Stana, Associate Director, Administration of Justice Issues, General Government Division, GAO; and public witnesses.

**WARNER CREEK TIMBER SALE**

*Committee on Resources:* Task Force on Warner Creek Timber Sale and Related Matters met in executive session and approved a report regarding the Warner Creek Timber Sale and Related Matters.

**PRIBILOF ISLANDS TRANSITION ACT**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on the Pribilof Islands Transition Act. Testimony was heard from David Kennedy, Director, Office of Response and Restoration, National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce; Jennifer Roberts, Environmental Manager, Department of Environmental Conservation, State of Alaska; and representatives of Municipal Governments, Village Corporations, and Tribal Councils from St. Paul and St. George Islands, Alaska.

**OVERSIGHT—RURAL WATER PROJECT FINANCING**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Water and Power held an oversight hearing on Rural Water Project Financing. Testimony was heard from Eluid Martinez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; John Romano, Deputy Administrator, Rural Utility Service, USDA; Cynthia C. Dougherty, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, EPA; Susan Kladiva, Associate Director, Resources, Community and Economic Development Division, GAO; and public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT WAIVER**

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for consideration in the House of a concurrent resolution waiving the requirement in section 132 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 that Congress adjourn sine die not later than July 31, 1999. The rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall be considered as read and shall not be debatable. All points of order against the concurrent resolution are waived.

**MATH AND SCIENCE—ATTRACTING A NEW GENERATION**

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Basic Research held a hearing on Attracting a New Generation to Math and Science: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Education and H.R. 1265, Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Jane Kahle, Division Director, Division of Elementary, Secondary and Informal Education, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, NSF; and public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics approved for full Committee action the following measures: H.R. 356, to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to Stanislaus County, California; H.R. 2607, Commercial Space Transportation Competitiveness Act of 1999; and H.R. 1883, amended, Iran Nonproliferation Act of 1999.

**SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS; CLEAN ACT AMENDMENTS—EPA'S INCLUSION OF PROPANE**

*Committee on Small Business:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 2614, Certified Development Company Program Improvements Act of 1999; and H.R. 2615, to amend the Small Business Act to make improvements to the general business loan program.

The Committee also held a hearing to discuss the EPA's inclusion of propane within the Clean Act Amendments. Testimony was heard from Representative Blunt; James Makris, Director, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, EPA; and public witnesses.

**VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICE PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to evaluate the Veterans Education and Training Service (VETS) program effectiveness and strategic planning. Testimony was heard from Carlotta C. Joyner, Director, Operations, Health, Education, and Human Services Division, GAO; Espiridion A. Borrego, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training, Department of Labor; and representatives of veterans organizations; and a public witness.

**Y2K AND OTHER SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ISSUES**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on Y2K and Other Social Security Information Technology Issues. Testimony was heard from Kenneth S. Apfel, Commissioner, SSA; and Joel C. Willemsen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, Accounting and Information Management Division, GAO.

**Joint Meetings****WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT**

*Conferees* met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of S. 507 and H.R.1480, bills making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the

fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to call.

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### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D867)

H.R. 2035, to correct errors in the authorizations of certain programs administered by the National Highway Traffic Administration. Signed July 28, 1999. (P.L. 106-39)

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1999

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings on the nomination of Harry J. Bowie, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank; the nomination of Armando Falcon, Jr., of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, Department of Housing and Urban Development; the nomination of Robert Z. Lawrence, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers; the nomination of Martin Baily, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Council Economic Advisors; and the nomination of Dorian Vanessa Weaver, of Arkansas, to be a member of

the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank, 11:30 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on International Operations, to hold hearings on United States policy toward victims of torture, 10 a.m., SD-419.

#### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* to consider H.R. 2559, Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 1999, 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations,* to consider the following appropriations for fiscal year 2000: VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies; and Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Banking and Financial Services,* hearing on H.R. 21, Homeowners' Insurance Availability Act of 1999, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Commerce.* Subcommittee on Health and Environment, hearing on the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 1999, 9 a.m., 2323 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Drugstores on the Net: The Benefits and Risks of Online Pharmacies, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on the Constitution, to mark up H.R. 2436, Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 1999, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Rules,* to consider H.R. 2031, Twenty-first Amendment Enforcement Act, 1 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, hearing on "The Rescissions Process After the Line Item Veto: Tools for Controlling Spending", 9:30 a.m., H-313 Capitol.