

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to H. Res. 557, Relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces.

House Committees ordered reported 12 sundry measures, including the following: the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2005; the Spending Control Act of 2004; and the Highway Reauthorization Tax Act of 2004.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 12 noon, on Monday, March 22, 2004.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 3980–3992; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 387–389, and H. Res. 564–565, 567–570 were introduced. **Page H1229**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1229–30**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 566, providing for consideration of H.R. 1375, to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 108–439). **Pages H1228–29**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bass to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H1119**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Hastings of Florida motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 36 yeas to 377 nays, Roll No. 61. **Page H1129**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Debated on March 16,

H.J. Res. 87, Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 398 yeas to 5 nays with 6 voting “present”, Roll No. 65. **Page H1202**

Suspensions Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measures to suspend the rules. Further proceedings were postponed until Thursday, March 18.

Counter-Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program Act: H.R. 3782, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to increase the maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program, to expand the eligibility criteria to receive an award, to authorize nonmonetary awards, to publicize the existence of the rewards program; and **Pages H1133–35**

Recognizing more than five decades of strategic partnership between the U.S. and the people of the Marshall Islands: H. Con. Res. 364, to recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between

the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security. **Pages H1135–42**

Recess: The House recessed at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m. **Page H1142**

Liberation of the Iraqi people and the service of the U.S. Armed Forces and Coalition forces: The House agreed to H. Res. 557, relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces, by a recorded vote of 327 ayes to 93 noes with 7 voting “present”, Roll No. 64.

Pages H1122–29, H1130–33, H1142–H1202

H. Res. 561, the rule providing for consideration of the measure was agreed to by a recorded vote of 228 ayes to 195 noes, Roll No. 63, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 62

Pages H11332–33, H1133

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls.

Pages H1129, H1132–33, H1133, H1201–02, H1202

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12 midnight.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies held a hearing on Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: J.B. Penn, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; James R. Little, Administrator, Farm Service Agency; A. Ellen Terpstra, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service; Ross J. Davidson, Jr., Administrator, Risk Management Agency; and Stephen B. Dewhurst, Budget Officer.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Supreme Court. Testimony was heard from U.S. Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the FBI. Testimony was heard from Robert S. Mueller, III, Director, FBI, Department of Justice.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on the Navy/Marine Corps Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Gordon R. England, Secretary; ADM. Vernon E. Clark, USNm Chief, Naval Operations; and GEN Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Research, Development and Acquisition; and VADM John B. Nathan, Deputy Chief, Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Science, Nuclear Energy and Renewable Energy. Testimony was heard from Robert Card, Under Secretary, Energy, Science and Environment, Department of Energy.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Testimony was heard from Michael Garcia, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the U.S. Geological Survey. Testimony was heard from Charles G. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Older American Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary, Aging; Richard Hodes, M.D., Director, National Institute on Aging; and David Dye, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training; and David Eisner, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the FAA. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Marion C. Blakey, Administrator, FAA; and Kenneth M. Mead, Inspector General.

VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Testimony was heard from Judge Donald Ivers, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The Subcommittee held a hearing on Community Development Financial Institutions. Testimony was heard from Wayne Abernathy, Assistant Secretary, Financial Institutions, Department of the Treasury.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Testimony was heard from Phillip Mangano, Executive Director, Interagency Council on Homelessness.

COMBATING PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Committee on Armed Services: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 3966, amended, To amend title 10, United States Code, and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the ability of the Department of Defense to establish and maintain Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps units at institutions of higher education, to improve the ability of students to participate in Senior ROTC programs, and to ensure that institutions of higher education provide military recruiters entry to campuses and access to students that is at least equal in quality and scope to that provided to any other employer; S. 2057, To require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses by the members in connection with leave under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program before the program was expanded to include domestic travel; H.R. 3104, To provide for the establishment of campaign medals to be awarded to members of the Armed Forces who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom; and H. Con. Res. 374, amended, Expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense, Federal banking agencies, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission should work to mitigate the financial hardships experienced by members of the reserve component as a result of being called to active duty.

The Committee also held a hearing on Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—TRANSPORTATION COMMAND'S AIRLIFT AND SEALIFT PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Projection Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—the U.S. Transportation Command's (USTRANSCOM) Airlift and Sealift Programs. Testimony was heard from GEN John W. Handy, USAF, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command, Department of Defense.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—UNMANNED COMBAT AIR VEHICLE AND UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Department of Defense Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Glen Lamartin, Director, Defense Systems, Office of the Secretary; MG James D. Thurman, USA, Director, Army Aviation Task Force; and LTG Walter E. Buchanan, III, USAF, Commander, Central Command Air Forces and Commander, 9th Air Force; and the following officials of the GAO: Neal Curtin, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management; and Paul L. Francis, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management.

CONCURRENT BUDGET RESOLUTION; SPENDING CONTROL ACT

Committee on the Budget: Ordered reported the following measures: the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2005; and H.R. 3973, amended, Spending Control Act of 2004.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND FEDERAL CONSOLIDATION LOANS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing entitled "Fiscal Responsibility and Federal Consolidation Loans: Examining Cost Implications for Taxpayers, Students, and Borrowers." Testimony was heard from Cornelia M. Ashby, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, GAO; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 27, amended, Small Public

Housing Authority Act; H.R. 1914, Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act of 2003; H.R. 2131, To award a congressional gold medal to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; H.R. 2768, John Marshall Commemorative Coin Act; and H.R. 3277, Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 3737, Administrative Law Judges Pay Reform Act of 2004; and H.R. 3751, To require that the Office of Personnel Management study and present options under which dental and vision benefits could be made available to Federal employees and retirees and other appropriate classes of individuals.

WORLD RADIO CONFERENCES—U.S. PREPARATION

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing on U.S. Preparation for the World Radio Conferences: Too little, too late? Testimony was heard from Jeffrey N. Shane, Under Secretary, Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation; William Readdy, Associate Administrator, Space Flight, NASA; Michael Gallagher, Acting Assistant Secretary, Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; Kathleen Abernathy, Commission, FCC; Ambassador David Gross, U.S. Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy, Department of State; Lin Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary, NII (Networks and Information Integration), Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

U.S. AND ASIA: CONTINUITY, INSTABILITY AND TRANSITION

Committee International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on the United States and Asia: Continuity, Instability, and Transition, Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; CURRENT SITUATION IN SERBIA

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe approved for full Committee action the following measures: H. Res. 543, House Commission For Assisting Democratic Parliaments Resolution; and H. Res. 558, amended, Welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Current Situation in Serbia. Testimony was heard from D. Kathleen Stephens, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; Daniel Serwer, Director, Balkans Initiative, U.S. Institute of Peace; and a public witness.

DESIGNATION OF FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS REFORM ACT

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Humans Rights approved for full Committee action H.R. 3978, Designation of Foreign Terrorist Organizations Reform Act.

EXAMINE NEW APPRAISAL OFFICER

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands held a hearing to examine how the Department of Interior's new Appraisal Officer is functioning and how land exchanges are being evaluated. Testimony was heard from Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of the Interior.

FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice, vote, a structured rule providing one hour of general debate on H.R. 1375, Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2003, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill (except those arising under provisions of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 other than section 302(f), prohibiting consideration of legislation providing new budget authority in excess of a committee's 302(a) allocation of such authority). The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute (except those arising under provisions of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 other than section 302(f), prohibiting consideration of legislation providing new budget authority in excess of a committee's 302(a) allocation of such authority). The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments printed in the report may be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by

a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommend with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Oxley, and Representatives Leach, Kelly, Gillmor, Frank of Massachusetts, Waters, Jackson-Lee of Texas and Weiner.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Committee on Science: Held a hearing on H.R. 3970, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from Arden Bement, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce and Acting Director, NSF; Paul Gilman, Assistant Administrator, Research and Development, EPA; and public witnesses.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED PASSENGER PRESCREENING SYSTEM STATUS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held an oversight hearing on the Status of the Computer-Assisted Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPS II). Testimony was heard from David M. Stone, Acting Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; Norman J. Rabkin, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice Division, GAO; and public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology program. Testimony was heard from Linda Koontz Director, Information Management Issues, GAO; James C. Reardon, Chief Information Officer, Military Health System, Office of the Assistant Secretary (Health Affairs), Department of Defense; Robert N. McFarland, Assistant Secretary, Information and Technology; Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

HIGHWAY REAUTHORIZATION TAX ACT

Committee on Ways and Means: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3971, Highway Reauthorization Tax Act of 2004.

NATIONAL GEO-SPATIAL AGENCY PROGRAM BUDGET; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on National Geo-spatial Agency Program Budget. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

The Committee also met in executive session to consider Committee business.

BORDER AND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY BUDGET PROPOSAL

Select Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security held a hearing entitled "The Department of Homeland Security's Border and Transportation Security (BTS) Budget Proposal." Testimony was heard from Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary, Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and the Fleet Reserve Association, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Agency and Related Agencies, on Food Safety and Inspection Service, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies, on Patent and Trademark Office, 10 a.m., and on State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, on International HIV/AIDS Assistance Request, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Office of Domestic Preparedness, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, on Oversight: Presidio Trust, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Department of Education, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on H.R. 1741, To redesignate the position of the Secretary of the Navy as the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps, 8 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, joint hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Training Transformation—

Examination of the Joint National Training Capability, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the Department of Energy's Atomic Energy Defense Activities Budget, 10 a.m., 2216 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Total Force, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Budget Request on Defense Health Programs—Current and Future Issues, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, hearing entitled "Reforming and Strengthening Defined Benefit Plans: Examining the Health of the Multiemployer Pension System," 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Inter-governmental Transfers: Violations of the Federal-State Medicaid Partnership or Legitimate State Budget Tool?" 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled "Successful Homeownership and Renting through Housing Counseling," 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "The Hunt for Saddam's Money: U.S. and Foreign Efforts to Recover Iraq's Stolen Money," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following; H.R. 3917, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 695 Marconi Boulevard in Copiague, New York, as the "Maxine S. Postal United States Post Office;" and pending Committee business; followed by a hearing on A Prescription for Safety: The need for H.R. 3880, Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, hearing on U.S.-Russia Relations in Putin's Second Term, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, oversight hearing on US VISIT: A Down Payment on Homeland Security, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 3883, To reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, hearing on The Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching: A Lesson Plan for Success, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on NASA-Department of Defense Cooperation in Space Transportation, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs, hearing entitled "The Benefits of Health Savings Accounts," 10:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, and First Responder Funding, 1 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Health Quality Initiatives, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on the SSA's Management of the Ticket to Work Program, 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Select Committee on Homeland Security, to mark up H.R. 3266, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003, 10:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Meetings: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and the Fleet Reserve Association, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Monday, March 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 2 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Postponed votes on suspensions: H.R. 3782, Counter-Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program Act; and

H. Con. Res. 364, to recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security.

Consideration of H.R. 1375, Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act (subject to a rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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