

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies, and Education concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the National Institutes of Health, after receiving testimony from Elias Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, who was accompanied by several of his associates.

APPROPRIATIONS: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Charles W. Grim, Assistant Surgeon General, and Director, Indian Health Service, and Gary J. Hartz, Assistant Surgeon General, Acting Director, Office of Public Health, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from John Weicher, Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration, Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Roy A. Benardi, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and General Government held a hearing to examine future challenges facing the United States Postal Service, focusing on the Transformation Plan of both the near-term and long-term efforts that will result in a continued ability to fulfill the mission of the Postal Service—to deliver business and personal mail affordably to everyone, everywhere, receiving testimony from John E. Potter, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service.

APPROPRIATIONS: AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for certain programs under its jurisdiction, after receiving testimony from Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary for Food Nutrition and Consumer Services, Elsa A. Murano, Under Secretary for Food Safety, and William T. Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, all of the Department of Agriculture; and Lester M. Crawford, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on the military strategy and operational requirements of the unified and regional commands, after receiving testimony from Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Navy; General Leon J. LaPorte, USA, Commander, United Nations Command and Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea, U.S. Army; and General James T. Hill, USA, Commander, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Army.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on military installation programs, after receiving testimony from Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment; Major General Larry J. Lust, USA, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, U.S. Army; Rear Admiral Christopher Weaver, USN, Commander, Navy Installations Command; Brigadier General Willie J. Williams, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), U.S. Marine Corps; and Major General L. Dean Fox, USAF, Air Force Civil Engineer.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1508, to address regulation of secondary mortgage market enterprises, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NASA'S BUDGET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the

President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), focusing on goals set forth in the new U.S. space exploration policy, major implementation elements and associated budget details, implications for NASA's organization, and what the Nation's future in exploration and discovery will look like in the coming years, after receiving testimony from Sean O'Keefe, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety concluded an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone, focusing on Federal and State governments meeting standards to improve air quality, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Robert A. Eckels, County Judge, Harris County, Texas; Michael Fisher, Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, Ohio; and George D. Thurston, New York University School of Medicine, New York.

ECONOMIC TREATIES

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and Protocol to Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment, concluded at Cape Town, South Africa, on November 16, 2001 (Treaty Doc. 108-10), Additional Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Romania Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment of May 28, 1992, signed at Brussels on September 22, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-13), Additional Protocol Between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria Amending the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Bulgaria Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment of September 23, 1992, signed at Brussels on September 22, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-15), Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Estonia to the Treaty for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment of April 19, 1994, signed at Brussels on October 24, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-17), Additional Protocol Between the United States of America and the Czech Republic to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment of October 22, 1991, signed

at Brussels on December 10, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-18), Additional Protocol Between the United States of America and the Slovak Republic to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment of October 22, 1991, signed at Brussels on September 22, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-19), Additional Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia to the Treaty for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment of January 13, 1995, signed at Brussels on September 22, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-20), Additional Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to the Treaty for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment of January 14, 1998, signed at Brussels on September 22, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-21), and the Additional Protocol Between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland Concerning Business and Economic Relations of March 21, 1990, signed at Brussels on January 12, 2004 (Treaty Doc. 108-22), after receiving testimony from Shaun E. Donnelly, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs; and Jeffrey Rosen, General Counsel, Department of Transportation.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Peter W. Hall, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Roger T. Benitez, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jane J. Boyle, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Marcia G. Cooke, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Paul S. Diamond, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Walter D. Kelley, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Matthew G. Whitaker, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, Department of Justice.

TEMPORARY GUEST WORKER PROPOSAL

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security concluded a hearing to examine the security of this nation's borders under the proposed temporary guest worker program, after receiving testimony from Robert Bonner, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and C.

Stewart Verdery, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Policy, Border and Transportation Security Directorate, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Donna Bucella, Director, Terrorist Screening Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Daniel Griswald, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Margaret D. Stock, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Robert N. Davis, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who was introduced by Senators Cochran and Lott; and Pamela M. Iovino, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs, who was introduced by Representative Murphy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 4101–4126 and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 403, and H. Res. 594, were introduced. **Pages H2018–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2019**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Conference report on H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions (H. Rept. 108–457). **Page H2018**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Monsignor James C. Kidder, Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Dorado, California. **Page H1793**

Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users: The House began consideration of H.R. 3550, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Further proceedings will resume in Friday, April 2.

Pages H1796–H1997, H2021–36

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 108–456 was considered as adopted and that the bill as amended shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment. **Page H2034**

Consideration began today on the Bradley amendment No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that increases the allowable weight of vehicles permitted to travel on interstate highways 93 and 89, in New Hampshire, from 80,000 to 99,000 pounds and instructs the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to conduct a study to discern the eco-

nomics, safety and infrastructure impact to the exemption. Further proceedings on the amendment will continue on Friday, April 2. **Pages H2034–36**

Agreed to:

Young of Alaska manager's amendment No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that makes various substantive and technical changes; **Page H1983**

Eddie Bernice Johnson amendment No. 2 printed in Part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that requires the Transportation Department to make its report on how federal surface transportation funds are allocated available to the public via the Internet in a user-friendly format; **Pages H1983–84**

Schiff amendment No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that strikes the toll requirement placed on hybrid gasoline-electric car users regarding the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes; **Pages H1990–91**

Baird amendment No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that expresses the Sense of Congress to clarify that the Buy America Act applies to overall projects, and not their component parts; **Pages H1995–96**

LoBiondo amendment No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that provides states eligibility to receive Section 410, Alcohol-Impaired Countermeasures grant funding to cover the costs of DWI vehicle impoundment programs; **Pages H2023–24**

Wu amendment No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that exempts projects, for which the Secretary of Transportation has received an application for final design, from the small start provisions of the bill and allows recommended new start projects, which have applied for final design, to move forward on their original timeline and avoid unnecessary delay; **Pages H2024–25**