

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DC STRUCTURAL IMBALANCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the structural imbalance of the District of Columbia, focusing on the gap between the ability of the government of the District of Columbia to raise revenue at reasonable tax rates and its ability to provide services of reasonable quality to its residents, after receiving testimony from Representative Tom Davis; District of Columbia Delegate Norton; former Senator Fred Thompson, on behalf of the Federal City Council, Patricia Dalton, Associate Director, General Accounting Office; Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Alice Rivlin, Brookings Institution, Ted Trabue, Greater Washington Board of Trade, and Stephen Trachtenberg, D.C. Chamber of Commerce, all of Washington, D.C.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 2559), making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense approved for full Committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005.

REGULATORY REFORM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine regulatory reform proposals, after receiving testimony from Senators Landrieu and Lincoln; Donald L. Kohn, Member, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; John M. Reich, Vice Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; JoAnn Johnson, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration; Julie L. Williams, First Senior Deputy Comptroller and Chief Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, John E. Bowman, Chief Counsel, Office of Thrift Supervision, both of the Department of the Treasury; John S. Allison, Mississippi Commissioner of Banking and Consumer Finance, Jackson, on behalf of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors; Roger W. Little, Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services, Lansing, on behalf of the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors; Mark E. Macomber, Litchfield Bancorp,

Litchfield, Connecticut, on behalf of America's Community Bankers; Edward Pinto, Lenders Residential Asset Company, LLC, Bethesda, Maryland, on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business; Dale L. Leighty, First National Bank of Las Animas, Las Animas, Colorado, on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Bradley E. Rock, Bank of Smithtown, Smithtown, New York, on behalf of the American Bankers Association; Eugene F. Maloney, Federated Investors, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Marilyn F. James, NEPCO Federal Credit Union, Pueblo, Colorado, on behalf of the Credit Union National Association; Margot Saunders, National Consumer Law Center, and Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, both of Washington, D.C., both on behalf of sundry organizations; William Cheney, Xerox Federal Credit Union, El Segundo, California, on behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions; and William A. Longbrake, Washington Mutual Incorporated, Seattle, Washington, on behalf of the Financial Services Roundtable.

AVIATION SECURITY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine aviation security, focusing on Border and Transportation Security Directorate efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of passenger aviation security operations, after receiving testimony from Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security; Thomas J. Kinton, Jr., Massachusetts Port Authority, Boston; and James May, Air Transport Association of America, Inc., and Patricia Friend, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, both of Washington, D.C.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy's High Performance Computing research and development activities in both the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Science, and S. 2176, to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program of research and development to advance high-end computing through the Office of Science, after receiving testimony from James F. Decker, Principal Deputy Director, Office of Science, Jeffrey Wadsworth, Director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Dimitri Kusnezov, Director, Office of Advanced Simulation and Computing, National Nuclear Security Administration, all of the Department of Energy; David Turek, IBM Corporation, Poughkeepsie, New York; Daniel A. Reed, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Renaissance Computing Institute; and Vincent Scarafino, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan.

CHARITY OVERSIGHT

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the governance and accountability of tax-exempt organizations, focusing on best practices of charities, charities accommodating tax shelters, and current problems and issues in the charitable community, after receiving testimony from Mark W. Everson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; New York Assistant Attorney General-in-Charge William Josephson, New York; Mark Pacella, National Association of State Charity Officials, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Jay D. Adkisson, Quatloos.com and Select Portfolio Management, Inc., Aliso Viejo, California; J. J. MacNab, Insurance Barometer, LLC, Bethesda, Maryland; Diana Aviv, Independent Sector, and Rick Cohen, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, both of Washington, D.C.; Derek Bok, Harvard University Hauser Center on Non-profits and Philanthropy, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Willard L. Boyd, University of Iowa, Iowa City, on behalf of the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center, and the Iowa Governor's Task Force on the Role of Nonprofit Organizations in Iowa; H. Art Taylor, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Arlington, Virginia; Rock Ringling, Montana Land Reliance, Helena; and certain confidential witnesses.

PEACE CORPS SAFETY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the safety and security framework that has been designed to protect Peace Corps volunteers around the world, focusing on trends in crime against volunteers and the Peace Corps' system for generating information, the agency's field implementation of its safety and security framework, and the underlying factors contributing to the quality of these practices, after receiving testimony from Gaddi H. Vasquez, Director, and Cynthia Threlkeld, Guatemala Country Director, both of The Peace Corps; Jess T. Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade, General Accounting Office; and Kevin Quigley, National Peace Corps Association, and Gladys M. Maloy, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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); and

The nominations of John Marshall Evans, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Re-

public of Armenia, Tom C. Korologos, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Belgium, Charles P. Ries, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Greece, James B. Cunningham, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and U.S. Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be a U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations, and to be U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Deputy Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, John C. Danforth, of Missouri, to be a U.S. Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Joseph D. Stafford III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Lewis W. Lucke, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland, R. Niels Marquardt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Ann M. Corkery, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Benjamin A. Gilman, of New York, to be a U.S. Representative to the Fifty-Eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Walid Maalouf, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, John D. Rood, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, William R. Brownfield, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Thomas Fingar, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, Suzanne Hale, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Micronesia, Ralph Leo Boyce, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Thailand, James R. Kunder, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator of the USAID for Asia and the Near East, Edward Brehm, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the African Development Foundation Board of Directors, Adam M. Lindemann, of New York, to be a Member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting, a Foreign Service Officer Promotion List, Charles Graves Untermeyer, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Qatar, William T. Monroe, of

Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Douglas L. McElhane, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Aldona Wos, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine issues relative to preserving traditional marriage, focusing on States' perspective, after receiving testimony from Representative Musgrave; former Representative Barr; and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Boston.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine the use of subpoena authority and pretrial detention of terrorists in fighting terrorism, focusing on providing law enforcement with important new counter-terrorism tools that could make a critical difference in certain cases, after receiving testimony from Rachel Brand, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, and Michael A. Battle, United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, Buffalo, and James K. Robinson, former Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, all of the Department of Justice.

VETERANS BENEFITS

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 50, relating to funding of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care; S. 1014, requiring VA to place certain low-income veterans in a higher health care priority category; S. 1153, the "Veterans Prescription Drugs Assistance Act;" S. 1509, the "Eric and Brian Simon Act of 2003;" S. 1745, the "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Memorial Act;" S. 2063, proposed demonstration project on priorities in the scheduling of appointments for veterans health care; S. 2099, relating to educational assistance benefits for certain members of the Selected Reserve; S. 2133, to name the Bronx VA Medical Center the James T. Peters VA Medical Center; S. 2296, relating to the conveyance, lease or disposal of the Louisville VA Medical

Center; S. 2327, the proposed coordination of VA per diem and Medicaid payments for care of veterans in State homes; S. 2417, care for newborn children of veterans receiving maternity care; S. 2483, the "Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004;" S. 2484, the "Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2003;" S. 2485, the "Department of Veterans Affairs Real Property and Facilities Management Improvement Act of 2004;" S. 2486, the Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2004;" S. 2522, to increase the maximum amount of VA home loan guaranty benefits; S. 2524, relating to Blast Injury Research and Clinical Care Centers (BIRECCs); and S. 2534, relating to various education and home loan benefits, after receiving testimony from Senators Conrad and Corzine; Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Donald L. Mooney, American Legion, Paul A. Hayden, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Adrian M. Atizado, Disabled American Veterans, and Carl Blake, Paralyzed Veterans of America, all of Washington, D.C.; and Richard Jones, AMVETS, Lanham, Maryland.

LONG-TERM CARE

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine long-term care services as provided for under the Medicaid programs, focusing on related provisions of S. 2077, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit additional States to enter into long-term care partnerships under the Medicaid Program in order to promote the use of long-term care insurance, after receiving testimony from Michael O'Grady, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation; Raymond Scheppach, National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.; Mark R. Meiners, University of Maryland Center on Aging, College Park; Melanie M. Bella, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Indianapolis; Kevin P. Corcoran, National Association of Health Underwriters, Arlington, Virginia; Steven Chies, Benedictine Health Systems, Cambridge, Minnesota, on behalf of the American Health Care Association; and Robert Bishop, Carmel, Indiana.