

Personnel System, focusing on the proposed regulations jointly published by the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management for the National Security Personnel System regarding management of the department and for civil service reform across the Federal government, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office; Charles S. Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; George Nesterczuk, Senior Advisor to the Director on Department of Defense, Office of Personnel Management; Richard Oppedisano, Federal Managers Association, Alexandria, Virginia; and John Gage, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, Washington, D.C., and Gregory J. Junemann, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, AFL-CIO and CLC, Silver Spring, Maryland, both on behalf of the United DOD Workers' Coalition.

#### OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine S. 394, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (the OPEN Government Act), and S. 589, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, after receiving testimony from Katherine M. "Missy" Cary, Office of the Texas Attorney General, Austin; Mark Tapscott, The Heritage Foundation, Lisa Graves, American

Civil Liberties Union, Meredith Fuchs, George Washington University National Security Archive, and Thomas M. Susman, Ropes and Gray LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; and Walter Mears, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY MERGERS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the SBC/ATT and Verizon/MCI mergers relating to remaking the telecommunications industry, after receiving testimony from Edward E. Whitacre, Jr., SBC Communications Inc., San Antonio, Texas; Ivan G. Seidenberg, Verizon Communications, Inc., New York, New York; David Dorman, AT&T Corporation, Bedminster, New Jersey; and Michael D. Capellas, MCI, Inc., Ashburn, Virginia.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

#### RETIREMENT

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the economics of retirement, focusing on the aging population, after receiving testimony from Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Measures Introduced:** 37 public bills, H.R. 1291–1327; 1 private bill, H.R. 1328; and 11 resolutions, H.J. Res. 37; H. Con. Res. 96–99, and H. Res. 153–158, were introduced. **Pages H1506–09**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H1509–10**

**Reports Filed:** Report were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 154, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010 (H. Rept. 109–19). **Page H1506**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Porter to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1423**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered today by Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery, Bishop, Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma. **Page H1425**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 9:17 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m. **Page H1425**

**Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act:** The House began consideration of H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. Further consideration of the bill will resume tomorrow, March 16. **Pages H1436–90, H1490–H1500**

Agreed by unanimous consent to limit further amendments offered and the time for debate on such amendments. **Page H1490**

Agreed to:

Moran of Virginia amendment that reduces and then increases by the same amount, the funding for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide;

**Page H1458**

Jackson of Illinois en bloc amendment that increases funding for International Disaster & Famine Assistance and Migration & Refugee Assistance;

**Page H1467**

Maloney amendment that increases funding for the Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund; and

**Pages H1467-71**

Upton of Michigan amendment that prohibits the use of funds for embassy security, construction, and maintenance (by a recorded vote of 258 ayes to 170 noes, Roll No. 73). **Pages H1482-84, H1486-87**

Rejected:

Tancredo amendment that sought to prohibit the use of funds in Title IV, Chapter 1 to provide emergency relief, rehabilitation or reconstruction aid;

**Pages H1479-81**

Tierney amendment that sought to increase the funding for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 72); **Pages H1455-57, H1486**

Weiner amendment that sought to prohibit the use of funds to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia (agreed to limit time for debate on the amendment) (by a recorded vote of 196 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 74); and **Pages H1484-86, H1487-88**

Weiner amendment that sought to prohibit the use of funds for assistance to the Palestinian Authority or for programs, projects, and activities in the West Bank or Gaza. **Pages H1497-H1500**

Withdrawn:

Woolsey amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for reserve personnel in all branches of the Armed Forces, and for the Army and Air Force National Guard; **Pages H1457-58**

Garrett of New Jersey amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have inserted a new section at the end of the bill regarding Offsetting Government-Wide Rescission;

**Pages H1476-77**

Kelly amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to provide assistance to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; **Pages H1489-90**

Lantos amendment (No. 4 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and sub-

sequently withdrawn that would have added a title VII to the measure, entitled Hope at Home Act; and

**Pages H1491-95**

Markey amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to implement any regulation reducing the total amount of monthly military pay for a member of the Armed Forces who is wounded or otherwise injured while assigned to duty in an area for which special pay is available. **Pages H1495-96**

Point of Order sustained against:

Tierney amendment that sought to establish a select committee to investigate reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan; **Pages H1452-55**

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that sought to increase funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; **Pages H1472-73**

Filner amendment that sought to provide funding for the Veterans' Health Administration (agreed to sustain the ruling of the chair by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 71); and

**Pages H1477-78**

Reyes en bloc amendment that sought to provide funding for veterans' health-care programs, and adds a Title VII to the bill regarding the Department of Homeland Security. **Pages H1481-82**

H. Res. 151, the rule, providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote.

**Pages H1427-35**

Agreed to the Cole amendment by voice vote.

**Pages H1433-35**

Earlier it was agreed to order the previous question on the resolution the amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 69.

**Pages H1434-35**

**Privileged Resolution:** The House agreed to table H. Res. 153, relating to a question of privileges of the House, by a recorded vote of 223 ayes to 194 noes, Roll No. 70. **Pages H1435-36**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One yea-and-nay vote and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1434-35, H1435-36, H1478, H1486, H1486-87, and H1487-88. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on Customs and Border Protection. Testimony was