Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3163–S3236

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 696–712, and S. Res. 95–96.

Measures Passed:

Death of Pope: By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 82), Senate agreed to S. Res. 95, relating to the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

State Department Authorization: Senate began consideration of S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Lugar Amendment No. 268, to permit grants to be used for broadcasting outside the Middle East region.

Lugar Amendment No. 269, to limit the compensation paid to employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.

Lugar Amendment No. 270, to require payments from the Broadcasting Board of Governors for costs resulting from the creditable service of employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.

Lugar Amendment No. 271, to extend the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy until 2008.

Lugar Amendment No. 272, to clarify Foreign Service Grievance Board procedures in the case of an alleged payment of an annuity.

Lugar Amendment No. 273, to limit the availability of funds authorized for contributions for international peacekeeping activities. Subsequently, the Amendment was modified.

Lugar Amendment No. 275, to require a determination to provide assistance for destruction of small arms and related ammunition.

Lugar Amendment No. 276, to require a determination to provide assistance for the safeguarding, removal, or elimination of conventional weapons and related ammunition.

Lugar (for Biden) Amendment No. 277, to waive the passport fees for a relative of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member.

Lugar Amendment No. 279, to strike section 207, entitled Transfer Authority For Buying Power Maintenance Account.

Lugar (for Schumer) Amendment No. 280, to impose an economic sanction on foreign countries that owe parking fines and penalties or property taxes to Washington, D.C. or New York City.

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 83), Boxer Amendment No. 278, to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Pending:

Lugar Amendment No. 266, to strike the amendment to the limitation on the United States share of assessments for the United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

McCain/DeWine Amendment No. 267, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.

Baucus Amendment No. 281, to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

Craig/Roberts Amendment No. 282 (to Amendment No. 281), to clarify the payment terms under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

Dodd Amendment No. 283, to express the sense of the Senate concerning recent provocative actions by the People’s Republic of China.

Dorgan/Wyden Amendment No. 284, to prohibit funds from being used for television broadcasting to Cuba.
Biden Amendment No. 286 (in lieu of the language proposed to be stricken by Lugar Amendment No. 266), relative to the United States' share of assessment for United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

Lugar Amendment No. 274, to provide a short title, previously agreed to, which was then subsequently vitiated and withdrawn. Page S3185

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of Biden Amendment No. 286 (listed above) with a vote to occur thereon at 10 a.m. Page S3227

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, and the time until 10 a.m. be equally divided. Page S3227

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, in to the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2005. Page S3227

Appointments:

Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h–276k, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chair of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group during the 109th Congress: Senator Cornyn. Page S3195

Executive Communications: Pages S3199–S3200

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3201–03

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S3203–21

Additional Statements: Pages S3197–99

Amendments Submitted: Pages S3221–26

Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S3226–27

Privilege of the Floor: Page S3227

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—83) Pages S3189, S3190

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m., and adjourned at 7:50 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, p.m. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3227.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Lieutenant General Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, United States Army; Vice Admiral Gerald L. Hoewing, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel, United States Navy; Lieutenant General H.P. Osman, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Roger A. Brady, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, United States Air Force; Colonel Steven P. Strobridge, USAF (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, on behalf of the Military Coalition, and Joyce Wessel Raezer, National Military Family Association, both of Alexandria, Virginia; and Deirder Parke Holleman, National Military and Veterans Alliance, Springfield, Virginia.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine concluded a hearing to examine the reauthorization of the safety programs in the Transportation Equity Act for 21st Century (TEA–21), focusing on highway, motor carrier and hazardous materials transportation safety, and transportation of household goods, after receiving testimony from Kenneth M. Mead, Inspector General, Jeffrey W. Runge, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Annette Sandberg, Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Stacey L. Gerard, Acting Assistant Administrator/Chief Safety Officer, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, all of the Department of Transportation.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine proposals for reform regarding charities and charitable giving, receiving testimony from George K. Yin, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; Jane G. Gravelle, Senior Specialist in Economic Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of Internal
Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch, St. Paul; Richard Johnson, Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis, PLLC, Nashville, Tennessee; David Kuo, Beliefnet.com, New York, New York; Brian A. Gallagher, United Way of America, Alexandria, Virginia; and Diana Aviv, Independent Sector, Washington, D.C., and Leon E. Panetta, California State University Panetta Institute, Long Beach, both on behalf of the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services implementation of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, focusing on new Medicare Advantage (MA) plan options and voluntary Medicare prescription drug coverage, after receiving testimony from Mark B. McClellan, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Ann Womer Benjamin, Director, Ohio Department of Insurance, Columbus; and Marcia Marsh, Partnership for Public Service, Washington, D.C.

HEAD START
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development held a hearing to examine Head Start, focusing on ensuring dollars benefit children relating to the effectiveness of the oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families in identifying and resolving financial management weaknesses in Head Start grantees, after receiving testimony from Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Administration for Children and Families; Marnie Shaul, Director, Educating and Protecting Children, Government Accountability Office; A.C. Wharton, Mayor of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee; Yvonne Gates, Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, Clark County, Nevada; Jim Caccamo, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning, Kansas City, Missouri; and Olivia Golden, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

LYTTON RANCHERIA TRIBAL LANDS STATUS
Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee held a hearing to examine S. 113, to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust, receiving testimony from Senator Feinstein; Representative George Miller; George T. Skibine, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy and Economic Development for Indian Affairs; California State Assemblymember Loni Hancock, Sacramento; Sharon J. Brown and Brock Arner, both of the City of San Pablo, San Pablo, California; Margie Mejia, Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, Santa Rosa, California; and Mark Macarro, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, Temecula, California.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

USA PATRIOT ACT
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, focusing on renewing key provisions in the USA PATRIOT ACT that have been integral in the Federal Government’s prosecution of the war on terrorism, after receiving testimony from Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General, and Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of the Department of Justice.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action


Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 136, directing the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of those officials relating to the security investigations and background checks relating to granting access to the White House of James D. Guckert (also known as Jeff Gannon), adversely (H. Rept. 109–30).

Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine:

Agreed that it be in order at any time on Wednesday, April 6, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

Suspensions:


2. Commending the outstanding efforts of U.S. military and civilian workers in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004: H. Res. 120, commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 92; and

3. Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan: H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas with none voting “nay” and one voting “present”, Roll No. 93.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Consideration of resolution honoring His Holiness Pope John Paul II—Order of Business: Agreed that it be in order at any time to consider a resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death; that the resolution shall be considered as read; that the resolution be debatable for one hour; and that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1737.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1746, H1746–47, and H1747. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Employee Benefits Security Administration, on Employment Standards Administration, and on International Labor Affairs Bureau. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Labor: Ann Combs, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration; Victoria Lipnic, Assistant Secretary, Employee Safety Administration; and Arnold Levine, Deputy Under Secretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

HEAD START FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing entitled “Financial Accountability in the Head Start Early Childhood Program.” Testimony was heard from Marnie S. Shaul, Director, Education Issues, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, GAO; Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.
ENERGY POLICY ACT

Will continue tomorrow.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled “Yucca Mountain Project: Have Federal Employees Falsified Documents?” Testimony was heard from Senators Reid and Ensign; the following officials of the State of Nevada: Kenny C. Guinn, Governor; and Brian Sandoval, Attorney General; the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Charles G. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey; and Earl E. Devaney, Inspector General; the following officials of the Department of Energy: Ted Garrish, Deputy Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; and Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General; B. John Garrick, Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board; and public witnesses.

BROWNFIELD SITES REDEVELOPMENT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census held a hearing entitled “Lands of Lost Opportunity: What Can Be Done to Spur Re-Development at America’s Brownfield Sites.” Testimony was heard from Thomas Dunne, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA; John Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING ANTHRAX DETECTION METHODS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing entitled “Assessing Anthrax Detection Methods.” Testimony was heard from Keith Rhodes, Chief Technologist, Center for Technology and Engineering, Applied Research and Methods, GAO; Tanja Popovic, Associate Director, Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Klaus Schafer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Chemical and Biological Defense; and John Jester, Director, Pentagon Force Protection Agency; Dana Talis, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management, EPA; Thomas G. Day, Vice President, Engineering, U.S. Postal Service; from the following officials of the State of Virginia: James H. Schwartz, Chief, Arlington County Fire Department; and Michael P. Neuhard, Chief, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; and public witnesses.

CRIME DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles F. Conner, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, 9:15 a.m., SR–336.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Institutes of Health, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Air Force, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Full Committee, business meeting to mark up the Emergency Supplemental bill for fiscal year 2005, 2 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine military installation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SR–323A.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006, 2:30 p.m., SR–323A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine regulatory reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David Garman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen L. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Luis Luna, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Administration and Resource Management, John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Major General Don T. Riley, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, United States Army, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, D. Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, to be a Member of the
Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, and Michael Butler, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, 9:15 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine health care provided to non-ambulatory persons, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Natural Resources and Environment, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Army Acquisition, 9:30 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Kennedy Center, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans’ Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Defense Health Program, 10 a.m., on United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 1:30 p.m., on American Battle Monuments Commission, 2 p.m., on Arlington National Cemetery, 2:30 p.m., and on Armed Forces Retirement Home, 3 p.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Iraq’s past, present and future, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Destruction of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile—Program Status and Issues, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, to mark up H. Res. 134, Requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives certain information relating to plan assets and liabilities of single-employer pension plans, 1:15 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.


Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled “Strengthening America’s Communities: A Review of the Administration’s FY 2006 Budget Initiative,” 1 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, oversight hearing on China’s Anti-Secession Law and Developments across the Taiwan Strait, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, oversight hearing on Bosnia-Herzegovina: Unfinished Business, 12 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, oversight hearing on China’s Influence in the Western Hemisphere, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, oversight hearing on the USA PATRIOT Act: A Review for the Purpose of its Reauthorization, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, The Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on Digital Music Interoperability and Availability, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing on the Implementation of the National Park Service Concessions Act of 1998, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, to mark up the following resolutions: H. Res. 130, Recognizing the contributions of environmental systems and the technicians who install and maintain them to the quality of life of all Americans and supporting the goals and ideals of National Indoor Comfort Week; and H. Res. 22, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights, 2 p.m., followed by a hearing on the commitment of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im) to assist small business exporters, 3 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Efforts to Prevent Pandemics by Air Travel, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, Briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the efforts of the Chabad community and the U.S. Government to recover the “Schneerson Collection” of Jewish books and manuscripts from the Russian Government, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.
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