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Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—83)	Pages S2575–76

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:49 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 31, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2675.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from P. Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, R. Thomas Weimer, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, and Pamela K. Haze, Co-Director, Office of Budget, all of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Energy's Supply and Conservation account, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability account, Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Environmental Management, Office of Fossil Energy Research and Development, and Office of Science, after receiving testimony from David K. Garman, Under Secretary for Energy, Science, and Environment, and Raymond L. Orbach, Director, Office of Science, both of the Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies

concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Keith Collins, Chief Economist, J.B. Penn, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Richard A. Raymond, Under Secretary for Food Safety, and Charles Lambert, Acting Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, all of the Department of Agriculture.

FLAT FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the potential effects of a flat Federal income tax in the District of Columbia, after receiving testimony from Natwar M. Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer for the Government of the District of Columbia; and Terence C. Golden, Federal City Council, Washington, D.C.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, focusing on reserve component personnel policies, after receiving testimony from Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, USA, Chief National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, USA, Director, Army National Guard; Lieutenant General Daniel James III, USAF, Director, Air National Guard; Lieutenant General James R. Helmly, USA, Chief, Army Reserve; Vice Admiral John G. Cotton, USN, Chief, Navy Reserve; Lieutenant General John W. Bergman, USMC, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve; and Lieutenant General John A. Bradley, USAF, Chief, Air Force Reserve.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950, to strengthen Government review and oversight of foreign investment in the United States, to provide for enhanced Congressional oversight with respect thereto.

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation concluded a hearing to examine S. 1801, to amend the

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and provide for consolidation of HUD's homeless programs, after receiving testimony from Roy A. Bernardi, Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Philip F. Mangano, Executive Director, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; Gail Dorfman, County Commissioner, Hennepin County, Minnesota; Steven R. Berg, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Washington, D.C.; Charles W. Gould, Volunteers of America, Alexandria, Virginia; Anthony Love, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, Inc., Houston, Texas; and Dennis P. Culhane, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 2389, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the unlawful acquisition and use of confidential customer proprietary network information, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

POLAR-ORBITING OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction concluded an oversight hearing to examine National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, which provide data and imagery that are used by weather forecasters, climatologists, and the military to map and monitor changes in weather, climate, the oceans, and the environment, after receiving testimony from Gary E. Payton, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space Programs; David A. Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Gregory W. Withee, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; David L. Ryan, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Redondo Beach, California.

COMPETITION AND CONVERGENCE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of competition and convergence in the telecommunications industry, after receiving testimony from Kyle McSarrow, National Cable and Telecommunications Association, Earl Comstock, COMPTel, Walter McCormick, US Telecom, Steve Largent, CTIA-The Wireless Association, and Mark Cooper, on behalf of Consumer Federation of America, Free Press, and Consumers Union, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jerry Ellig, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia.

WATER PROJECTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 1577, to facilitate the transfer of Spearfish Hydroelectric Plant Number 1 to the city of Spearfish, South Dakota, S. 1962, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No. 4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, S. 2028, to provide for the reinstatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project, S. 2035, to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Idaho, S. 2054, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of Vermont, S. 2205, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal features of the initial stage of the Oahe Unit, James Division, South Dakota, to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks of the State of South Dakota for the purpose of mitigating lost wildlife habitat, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission, and H.R. 3812, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a feasibility study with respect to the Mokelumne River, after receiving testimony from Senator Thune; John Keys III, Commissioner of Reclamation, and Catherine L. Hill, Northeast Regional Hydrologist, U.S. Geologist Survey, both of the Department of the Interior; J. Mark Robinson, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; Mayor Jerry Krambeck, Spearfish, South Dakota; Laurence R. Becker, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waterbury; C. Mel Lytle, San Joaquin County, Stockton, California, on behalf of the Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority; and Darla Pollman Rogers, Riter, Rogers, Wattier and Brown, LLP, on behalf of Preferential Leaseholders with the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal.

COST OF OIL

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the hidden cost of oil, focusing on the externality costs of U.S. dependence on fossil fuels, after receiving testimony from Milton R. Copulos, National Defense Council Foundation, Alexandria, Virginia; Hillard Huntington, Stanford

University Energy Modeling Forum, Stanford, California; and Gary W. Yohe, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL THREAT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations resumed hearings to examine securing the global supply chain relating to neutralizing the nuclear and radiological threat, focusing on programs that form the defense against nuclear terrorism including the Container Security Initiative, the Megaports Initiative, the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, and the role of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, a new office created within DHS to coordinate global nuclear detection architecture, receiving testimony from Senators Graham and Schumer; Michael P. Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; Christopher L. Koch, World Shipping Council, Washington, D.C.; Gary D. Gilbert, Hutchison Port Holdings, Oakton, Virginia; and John P. Clancey, Maersk, Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina.

Hearings recessed subject to the call.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VETERANS' PREFERENCE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Government's implementation of veterans' preference in the hiring of employees, including an evaluation of the laws designed to protect and promote the employment of veterans, the impact of workforce flexibilities on veterans, and how veterans' redress mechanisms are working, after receiving testimony from Dan G. Blair, Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management; Charles S. Ciccolella, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; James McVay, Deputy

Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; Richard Weidman, Vietnam Veterans of America, Silver Spring, Maryland; and Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr., The American Legion, and Brian E. Lawrence, Disabled American Veterans, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1768, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings;

S. 829, to allow media coverage of court proceedings; and

The nominations of Michael A. Chagares, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Patrick Joseph Schiltz, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Gray Hampton Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Sharee M. Freeman, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, and Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, both of the Department of Justice.

VETERANS' LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine legislative presentations of certain veterans' organizations, after receiving testimony from George Basher, National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs, Albany, New York; Gerald S. Harvey, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Arlington, Texas; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America, Silver Spring, Maryland; and Edward W. Kemp, AMVETS, Lanham, Maryland.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 5050–5072; and 12 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 371–375; and H. Res. 746–752 were introduced.

Pages H1388–90

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1390–91

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 746, relating to a question of the privileges of the House, by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 193 noes with 7 voting “present”, Roll No. 76.

Pages H1334–35

College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005: The House passed H.R. 609, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965 by a recorded