

motion to recommit which may not contain instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Oxley and Representative Frank of Massachusetts.

HIGH NATURAL GAS PRICE EFFECTS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports held a hearing entitled “The Effects of the High Cost of Natural Gas on Small Businesses and Future Energy Technologies.” Testimony was heard from James Kendell, Director, Natural Gas Division, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director, Minerals Management Service; and Tom Lonnie, Assistant Director, Bureau of Land Management, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection Directorate; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SURVEY RESOLUTIONS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: S. 362, Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act; H.R. 4650, National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005; and H.R. 5681, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006.

The Committee also approved U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Survey Resolutions.

VA OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on What VA IT Organizational Structure would have best prevented VA's “Meltdown” in Information Management. Testimony was heard from MG Robert Howard, USA (Ret.), Acting Assistant Secretary, Information and Technology and Acting Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; and the following former Assistant Secretaries, Information Technology and Former Chief Information Officers, Department of Veterans Affairs: Robert McFarland and John A. Gauss; and public witnesses.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Committee on Ways and Means: Held a hearing on Health Savings Accounts. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REPORT: AL QAEDA

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session and approved the following: “Report: ‘al Qaeda: The Many Faces of an Islamic Extremist Threat.’”

Joint Meetings

BUSINESS MEETING

Joint Committee on the Library: Committee met and agreed to certain committee procedural matters.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): Commission concluded a hearing to examine Belgium's Chairmanship of the OSCE, focusing on developments in Central Asia and neighboring Afghanistan, the emergence of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the political situation in the Caucasus, and human rights trends in the Russian Federation, after receiving testimony from Karel De Gucht, Foreign Minister of Belgium, Brussels.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to mark up H.R. 5427, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5441, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5522, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and H.R. 5386, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of James S. Simpson, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Subcommittee on Long-term Growth and Debt Reduction, to hold hearings to examine how to increase worker coverage relating to small business pension plans, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Russia, 9 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider Protocol between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel, signed at Jerusalem on July 6, 2005 (Treaty Doc. 109-3), an original bill, to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 U.S. exports to India of nuclear materials, equipment and technology to India, and to implement the U.S. Additional Protocol, S. Res. 460, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should

increase its support to the people of Somalia in their efforts to end decades of violence, establish lasting peace, form a democratically elected and stable central government, and become an effective partner in eradicating radicalism and terrorism from their country and the region, S. Con. Res. 105, commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan, and the nominations of Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Argentina, Gaddi H. Vasquez, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, John Clint Williamson, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, Michael E. Ranneberger, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, Eric M. Bost, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, W. Stuart Symington IV, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Gayleatha Beatrice Brown, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Robert D. McCallum, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Australia, Leslie V. Rowe, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Clifford M. Sobel, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, Peter R. Coneway, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and Thomas C. Foley, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to Ireland, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine proposed legislation relating to enhancing employee performance, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine the case for reform regarding community development block grants, focusing on issues surrounding program formulas, recipient communities, and management of grants within the Community Development Block program, including aspects of the reform package, the "CDBG Reform Act of 2006", 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, and Jerome A. Holmes, of Oklahoma, each to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Gustavo Antonio Gelpi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Daniel Porter Jordan III, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, R. Alexander Acosta, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Martin J. Jackley, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota, and Brett L. Tolman, to be United States

Attorney for the District of Utah, S. 2453, to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs, S. 2455, to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded, S. 2468, to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, S. 3001, to ensure that all electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes is conducted pursuant to individualized court-issued orders, to streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, S. 2831, to guarantee the free flow of information to the public through a free and active press while protecting the right of the public to effective law enforcement and the fair administration of justice, H.R. 1036, to amend title 17, United States Code, to make technical corrections relating to Copyright Royalty Judges, S. 155, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to reform and facilitate prosecution of juvenile gang members who commit violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 2703, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, S. 1845, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into 2 circuits, S. 2679, to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other committee matters, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine H.R. 1038, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider the nomination of Steven C. Preston, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

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

House

Committee on Agriculture, hearing to review Agriculture's Role in the Renewable Fuels Market, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on reports of weapons of mass destruction findings in Iraq, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on assessing United States Special Operations Command's missions and roles, 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protection, to mark up H.R. 2561, Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing on Growth, Opportunity, Competition—America Goes to Work, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in the Financial Services Sector," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following: H.R. 3329, Civilian Prisoner-of-War Medal Act of 2005; the Federal Wildland Firefighter Classification Act; H.R. 4962, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building; H.R. 5626, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 South Carrier Parkway in Rand Prairie, Texas, as the "Alexander McRae Dechman Post Office Building;" H. Res. 189, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons; H. Res. 533, Supporting the goals and ideals of Cambodian-American Freedom day; H.R. 721, Supporting the goals and ideals of a Salvadoran-American Day (El Dia del Salvadoreno) in recognition of all Salvadoran-Americans for their hard work, dedication, and contribution to the stability and well-being of the United States; and H. Res. 823, Commending the outstanding efforts by members of faith-based and community organizations in response to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; and to hold a hearing entitled "What Price Free Speech?: Whistleblowers and the Ceballos Decision," 11 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and

Cybersecurity, hearing on H.R. 5695, Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, joint hearing on Somalia: Expanding Crisis in the Horn of Africa, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on North Korean Brinkmanship: Is U.S. Policy Up to the Challenge? 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary: to mark up the following bills: H.R. 2389, Pledge Protection Act of 2005; and H.R. 5323, Proud to Be an American Citizen Act, 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 5219, Judiciary Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006, 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 5539, North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, oversight hearing on Healthy Forests: Targets and Accomplishments, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Airline Passenger Baggage Screening: Technology and Airport Deployment Update, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, oversight hearing on VA's current status of mitigating the nation's second largest data breach, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, to consider the following: H.R. 5640, Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006; and H.R. 5684, United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on Integrated Collection Architecture, 10 a.m., and executive, briefing on Global Updates/Hotspots, 3:30 p.m., H-405 Capitol.