

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, February 14, 2008.

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Intelligence Authorization Act—Conference Report: By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No.22), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2082, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, clearing the measure for the President.

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

By 92 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 21), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill.

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Appointments:

U.S.-Japan Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 5 of Title I of Division H of Public Law 110–161, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the U.S.-Japan Interparliamentary Group conference for the 110th Congress: Senator Stevens.

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Errata Sheet—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that an errata sheet be printed with respect to Senate Report 110–259.

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Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an Executive Order blocking the property and interests in property of persons determined to have been involved in the corruption of senior officials of the Government of Syria; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–38)

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Messages from the House: Page S966

Measures Referred: Pages S966–67

Measures Read the First Time: Page S967

Executive Communications: Pages S967–69

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S969–70

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S971–85

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Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S989

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S989

Privileges of the Floor: Page S990

Text of S. 2248, as Previously Passed:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—23) Pages S937, S957, S960

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:01 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S992.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

WOUNDED AND ILL SERVICE MEMBERS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improvements implemented and planned by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the care, management, and transition of wounded and ill military service members, after receiving testimony from Preston M. Geren, III, Secretary of the Army, David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, and Lieutenant General Eric B. Schoomaker, USA, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, all of the Department of Defense; and Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary, and Rear Admiral Patrick W. Dunne, USN (Ret.), Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled "Industrial Bank Holding Company Act of 2008".

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from former Senator Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior.

MEDICARE PRIVATE PLANS (PART II)

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings to examine selling to seniors, focusing on the need for accountability and oversight of marketing and sales by Medicare private plans, after receiving testimony from Kerry Weems, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2009 for foreign affairs, after receiving testimony from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

H.R. 1469, to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, with amendments;

H.R. 2798, to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1418, to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2433, to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day, with amendments;

S. Res. 439, expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine; and

The nominations of James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy with the rank of Ambassador, Goli Ameri, of Oregon, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, David J. Kramer, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, James Francis Moriarty, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Margaret Scobey, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Deborah K. Jones, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Hector E. Morales, of Texas, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, Larry Woodrow Walther, of Arkansas, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, Jeffrey J. Grieco, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, John E. Osborn, of Delaware, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Elizabeth F. Bagley, of the District of Columbia, to be a Mem-

ber of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, William J. Hybl, of Colorado, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Mark McKinnon, of Texas, Joaquin F. Blaya, of Florida, Edward E. Kaufman, of Delaware, Susan M. McCue, of Virginia, Dennis M. Mulhaupt, of California, and Steven J. Simmons, of Connecticut, each to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and Ana M. Guevara, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOMELAND SECURITY ROLE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of the Department of Defense in homeland security, focusing on ways the military can and will contribute, after receiving testimony from Major General Arnold L. Punaro, USMCR (Ret.), Chairman, and Lieutenant General James E. Sherrard III, USAFR (Ret.), and Major General E. Gordon Stump, ANG (Ret.), both Commissioners, all of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Children and Families concluded a hearing to examine the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)(P.L. 103-3), focusing on a fifteen year history of support for workers, after receiving testimony from Victoria A. Lipnic, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment Standards Administration; Debra Ness, National Partnership for Women and Families, Marcel Reid, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Kristen Grimm, Spitfire Strategies, all of Washington, D.C.; and Katheryn Elliott, Central Michigan University Employee Relations, Mount Pleasant, on behalf of the Society for Human Resource Management (SPHR).

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: On Tuesday, February 12, committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, who was introduced by Senators Chambliss and Isakson, Richard H. Honaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, who was introduced by Senators Enzi and Barrasso, Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, who was introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker, and Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas,

who was introduced by Senators Lincoln and Pryor, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FEDERAL COCAINE SENTENCING LAWS

Committee on the Judiciary: On Tuesday, February 12, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs concluded a hearing to examine federal cocaine sentencing laws, focusing on reforming the 100-to-1 crack/powder disparity, including S. 1383, to reduce the disparity in punishment between crack and powder cocaine offenses, to more broadly focus the punishment for drug offenders on the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, S. 1685, to reduce the sentencing disparity between powder and crack cocaine violations, and to provide increased emphasis on aggravating factors relating to the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, and S. 1711, to target cocaine kingpins and address sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, after receiving testimony from Gretchen C. Shappert, United States Attorney, Western District of North Carolina, Department of Justice; Ricardo H. Hinojosa, Chair, United States Sentencing Commission; Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Reggie B. Walton, Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and James E. Felman, American Bar Association, Washington, D.C.

STATE SECRETS PRIVILEGE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state secrets privilege, focusing on protecting national security while preserving accountability, including S. 2533, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, after receiving testimony from Carl J. Nichols, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, Depart-

ment of Justice; Patricia M. Wald, former Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Washington, D.C.; Louis Fisher, Specialist in Constitutional Law, Law Library, Library of Congress; Robert M. Chesney, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Michael A. Vatis, Steptoe and Johnson LLP, New York, New York.

VETERANS PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for veterans programs, after receiving testimony from James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Carl Blake, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Fredericksburg, Virginia; Raymond C. Kelley, American Veterans (AMVETS), Lanham, Maryland; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Middle Village, New York; and Kerry Baker, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Christopher Needham, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), and Peter S. Gaytan, American Legion, all of Washington, D.C.

FORECLOSURE AFTERMATH

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the housing foreclosure aftermath, focusing on concerns for elderly homeowners, after receiving testimony from Peggy Twohig, Associate Director, Division of Financial Practices, Federal Trade Commission; Thomas E. Perez, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Registration, Baltimore; Walter Malone, Malone and Malone Construction, Washington, D.C.; Catherine M. Doyle, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; John W. Anderson, Twin Oaks Realty, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on behalf of the National Association of Realtors; and Rachel M. Dollar, Smith Dollar, PC, Santa Rosa, California, on behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 5404–5435; 1 private bill, H.R. 5436; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 293–296; and H. Res. 979–981, 984–985 were introduced.

Pages H942–43

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H943–44

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 982, providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 979) recommending that the House of Representatives find Harriet Miers and Joshua Bolten, Chief of Staff, White House, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with subpoenas duly issued by the Committee on the Judiciary and for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 980) authorizing the Committee on the Judiciary to