

p.m. on Tuesday, March 4th for morning hour debate. **Page H1178**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1157.

**Senate Referrals:** S. 1200 was referred to the Committees on Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means; S. 2450 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Page H1178**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1166, H1167 and H1167–68. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Inspector General. Testimony was heard from Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, USDA.

### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Defense Health Program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: S. Ward Casscells, Under Secretary, Health Affairs; LTG Eric Schoomaker, M.D., USA, Surgeon General/Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command; VADM Adam M. Robinson, Jr., USN, Chief of the Navy Medical Corps and LTG James Roudebush, M.D., USAF, Surgeon General of the Air Force.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on National Guard and Reserve issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG Steven Blum, USA, Chief, National Guard; LTG Clyde Vaughn, USA, Vice Chief, Army National Guard; LTG Craig McKinley, USAF, Vice Chief, Air National Guard; LTG Jack Stultz, USA, Chief, Army Reserve; VADM John Cotton, USN, Chief, Navy Reserve; LTG John Bergman, USMC, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve; and LTG John Bradley, USAF, Chief, Air Force Reserve.

### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Energy. Testimony was heard from Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy.

### FINANCIAL SERVICES, GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Consumer Protection in Financial Services. Testimony was heard from Donna Gambrell, Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury; and Lydia Parnes, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC.

### HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Improving the Efficiency of the Aviation Security System-TSA, GAO, American Airlines, and Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority. Testimony was heard from Kip Hawley, Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration Administrator, Department of Homeland Security; Cathleen Berrick, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

### INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Mark D. Myers, Director, U.S. Geological Survey.

### LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Reducing the Disability Backlog at the Social Security Administration/Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the SSA: Michael Astrue, Commissioner; and Patrick O'Carroll, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General; and public witnesses.

### STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget-State Operations, Embassy Bagdad. Testimony was heard from Patrick F. Kennedy, Under Secretary, Management, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

### TRANSPORTATION, HUD APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and

Related Agencies held a hearing on Housing Needs of Special Populations (Elderly; Disabled; Homeless; HOPWA). Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department Housing and Urban Development: Mark Johnston, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Need Assistance Programs; and John Garvin, Advisor, Housing Programs.

### ARMY BUDGET

*Committee on Armed Services:* Held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Army. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Pete Geren, Secretary; and GEN George W. Casey, Jr., USA, Chief of Staff.

### MILITARY BUDGET

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request on military construction. Testimony was heard from the Department of Defense: Wayne Army, Deputy Under Secretary, Installations and Environment; Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Installations and Environment, Army; B.J. Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Environment; and William C. Anderson, Assistant Secretary, Air Force, Installations, Environment and Logistics.

### MEMBERS' DAY

*Committee on the Budget:* Held a hearing on Members' Day. Testimony was heard from Representatives Murphy of California, Castor, Giffords, Poe, Loeb sack, McCarthy of New York; Altmire, Braley, Ehlers, Shea-Porter, Hold Sutton, Davis of Illinois, Courtney; Hirono, Rodriguez, Honda; Welch of Vermont; Filner, Carney, Lewis of Georgia, Klein of Florida, Higgins, Kagen, Larsen of Washington, Christensen, Waltz of Minnesota, Wolf, and Fossella.

### HHS BUDGET

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Held a hearing entitled "A Review of the Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2009 Budget." Testimony was heard from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

### BAN ASBESTOS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on S. 742, Ban Asbestos in America Act of 2007 and on other proposals to Ban Asbestos in Products. Testimony was heard from the following officials of EPA: James B. Gulliford, Assistant Administrator, Office for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances; and Aubrey Miller, Senior Medical Officer and Toxicologist; and Christopher Weis, Senior Tox-

icologist, Region 8; Gregory P. Meeker, Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; public witnesses.

### BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

*Committee on Financial Services:* Approved, as amended, Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

### U.N. MANDATES AND FORCE AGREEMENTS

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight held a hearing on Status of Forces in Agreements and U.N. Mandates: What Authorities and Protections Do They Provide to U.S. Personnel? Testimony was heard from following officials of the CRS, Library of Congress: Jennifer K. Elsea, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division; and R. Chuck Mason, Legislative Attorney; and public witnesses.

### CYBER INITIATIVE

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Held a hearing entitled "The Cyber Initiative." Testimony was heard from Karen Evans, Administrator, Electronic Government and Information Technology, OMB; and following officials of the National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security: Robert Jamison, Under Secretary; and Scott Charbo, Deputy Under Secretary.

### ENERGY/MINERAL RESOURCES BUDGET

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Budget for the Minerals Management Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Energy and Minerals programs, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Minerals programs, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Minerals and Geology Program of the Forest Service, and the United States Geological Survey, except for the activities and programs of the Water Resources Division. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Randall Luthi, Director, Minerals Management Service; Robert Doyle, Deputy Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Henri Bisson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management; and Brent Wahlquist, Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; and Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, Forest Service, National Forest System, USDA.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on the

following bills: H.R. 3223, Keep Our Waterfronts Working Act of 2007; H.R. 5451, Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act of 2009; H.R. 5452, Coastal State Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2008; and H.R. 5453, Coastal State Climate Change Planning Act of 2008. Testimony was heard from Representative Allen; David M. Kennedy, Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

#### OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Insular Affairs held an oversight hearing on the fiscal Year 2009 budget request for the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Testimony was heard from Nikolao Pula, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior.

#### TELEWORK IMPROVEMENTS ACT; IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

*Committee on Oversight:* Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 4106, Telework Improvements Act of 2007.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Implementation of the Postal Accountability Enhancement Act of 2006. Testimony was heard from Katherine A. Siggerud, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; the following officials of the U.S. Postal Service: John E. Potter, Postmaster General/CEO; and James H. Bilbray, member, Board of Governors; Dan G. Blair, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission; and a public witness.

#### PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT IMPROVEMENT

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing entitled "Improving the Paperwork Reduction Act for Small Businesses." Testimony was heard from Susan E. Dudley, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; and public witnesses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; GSA RESOLUTION; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 5492, To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland; H. Res. 936, amended, Honoring the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals, celebrating the national unity the Gallatin Report engendered, and recognizing the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the

United States; and H. Res. 964, amended, To promote the safe operation of 15 passenger vans.

The Committee also approved the following: GSA Section 11(b) Resolution; and Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

The Committee also approved Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2009 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

#### VETERANS SUBPRIME MORTGAGES

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on Subprime Mortgage Crisis and America's Veterans, Testimony was heard from Judith Caden, Director, Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses

#### FAMILIES' MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Mental Health Treatment for Families: Supporting Those Who Support our Veterans. Testimony was heard from Kristin Day, Chief Consultant, Care and Management and Social Work, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Linda Spoonster Schwartz, R.N., Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, State of Connecticut; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

#### MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Medicare Advantage. Testimony was heard from Kerry Weems, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; James C. Cosgrove, Acting Director, Health Care Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

#### BRIEFING—FISA

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on FISA. The Committee was briefed by public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

#### ECONOMIC COSTS OF THE WAR

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the total economic costs of the Iraq war beyond the federal budget, after receiving testimony from Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University, and Robert D. Hormats, Goldman Sachs (International), both of New York, New York; and Rand Beers, National Security Network, and Scott Wallsten, iGrowthGlobal, both of Washington, D.C.