

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6879–S6946

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3278–3287, S.J. Res. 44, and S. Res. 615. **Pages S6936–37**

Measures Reported:

S. 2507, to address the digital television transition in border states, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–424) **Page S6936**

Measures Passed:

Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 35, to amend Public Law 108–331 to provide for the construction and related activities in support of the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project in Arizona, and the resolution was then passed. **Page S6946**

Measures Considered:

Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities.

Pages S6880, S6918

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, July 17, 2008, a vote on cloture will occur one hour after convening on Tuesday, July 22, 2008. **Page S6918**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, the hour prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees. **Page S6946**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, July 21, 2008. **Page S6946**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Kiyo A. Matsumoto, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Paul G. Gardephe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Pages S6892–95, S6946**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John A. Simon, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Anthony John Trenga, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. **Page S6946**

Messages from the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Measures Placed on the Calendar:

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Executive Communications:

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Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

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Authorities for Committees to Meet:

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Privileges of the Floor:

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Recess: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 7:29 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 21, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6946.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

An original bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related

programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009;

An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009; and

An original bill making appropriations for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

An original bill entitled, "The Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2008".

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ways to make the nation's highways safer for travelers, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey F. Paniati, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation; Katherine A. Siggerud, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; Susan Martinovich, Nevada Department of Transportation, Carson City, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Jacqueline S. Gillan, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, Washington, D.C.; and Robert C. Johns, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, Minneapolis.

HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine leveraging innovation to improve health care quality for all Americans, focusing on the federal government's long-term fiscal challenges with the rising costs of health care, after receiving testimony from Peter R. Orszag, Director, Congressional Budget Office; Richard Hillestad, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California; George C. Halvorson, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Oakland, California; and Gail R. Wilensky, Project HOPE, Bethesda, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Mimi Alemayehou, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, Kenneth L. Peel, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Miguel R. San Juan, of Texas, to be United States Executive Director of the

Inter-American Development Bank, and Patrick J. Durkin, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

OFFSHORE TAX HAVENS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing to examine financial institutions located in tax haven countries, focusing on ways to strengthen United States domestic and international tax enforcement efforts, receiving testimony from Douglas Shulman, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Kevin J. O'Connor, Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice; Martin Liechti and Mark Branson, both of UBS, Zurich, Switzerland; Shannon Marsh, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and William Wu, Forest Hills, New York.

Hearing recessed until Friday, July 25, 2008.

FEMA

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery concluded a hearing to examine major disaster recovery and assessing the performance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since October 2007, after receiving testimony from Harvey E. Johnson, Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security; Major General Tod M. Bunting, Kansas Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Topeka; Stephen Sellers, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mather, California; David Maxwell, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, North Little Rock; and James H. Bassham, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Nashville.

TRIBAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ADAM WALSH ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine tracking sex offenders in Indian country, focusing on tribal implementation of the Adam Walsh Act (Public Law 109-248), after receiving testimony from Ron Suppah, Sr., Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Warm Springs; Isidro B. Lopez, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, Arizona; Robert Moore, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Mission, South Dakota; William Gregory, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Harbor Springs, Michigan, on behalf of the 12 federally recognized Michigan tribes; and Jacqueline Johnson, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, D.C.