Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page S9165.

Senate Referrals: S. 1391, S. 1392, and S. 1393 were held at the desk. **Page H9165**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and 17 recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9120–21, H9121, H9122, H9122–23, H9123–24, H9124, H9124–25, H9125–26, H9126, H9126–27, H9127–28, H9128, H9128–29, H9130–31, H9131, H9137–38, H9138, H9139, H9164, H9164–65, H9165–66. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

WATERSHED PROPOSALS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research held a hearing to review PL 83–566 watershed proposals for the Dunloup Creek Watershed and the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project. Testimony was heard from Representative Delahunt; and Dave White, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

U.S. SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA AND ITS IMPACT ON TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the U.S. security relationship with Russia and its impact on transatlantic security. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Alexander Vershbow, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs; and VADM James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Philip H. Gordon, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SHIPBUILDING EFFECTIVENESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces held a hearing on efforts to improve shipbuilding effectiveness. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary, Research, Development, and Acquisition; VADM Kevin McCoy, USN, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command; and public witnesses.

AMERICA'S AFFORDABLE HEALTH CHOICES ACT OF 2009

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Continued mark up H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FOR 2009 SEASON

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response met in executive session to receive a briefing on Hurricane Preparedness for the 2009 Hurricane Season. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

BEYOND ISE IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment held a hearing entitled "Beyond ISE Implementation: Exploring the Way Forward for Information Sharing." Testimony was heard from Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; COL Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent, State Police, New Jersey; and a public witness.

FAIR ELECTIONS NOW ACT AND PUBLIC FINANCING OF CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Committee on House Administration: Held a hearing on H.R. 1826, Fair Elections Now Act, and the Public Financing of Congressional Campaigns. Testimony was heard from Representatives: John B. Larson, Connecticut, Pingree, and Jones; Hannah Pingree, Speaker of the House, State of Maine; Jeffrey Garfield, Executive Director and General Counsel, State Elections Enforcement Commission, Connecticut; and public witnesses

PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS SYSTEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing on Proposals for Reform of the Military Commissions System. Testimony was heard from David Kris, Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Jeb Charles Johnson, General Counsel; COL Peter R. Masciola, USAFG, Chief Defense Counsel; and MAJ David J. R. Frakt, USAFR, Lead Defense Counsel, both with the Office of Military Commissions; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 3190, Discount Pricing Consumer Protection Act of 2009; H.R. 569, Equal Justice for Our Military Act of 2009; and H.R. 233, Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009.

UNCONVENTIONAL FUELS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources continued hearings entitled ''Unconventional Fuels, Part II: The Promise of Methane Hydrates.'' Testimony was heard from Timothy S. Collett, Research Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Ray Boswell, Senior Management and Technology Advisor, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 2802, To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy; H.R. 2806, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness; and H.R. 3113, Upper Elk River Wild and Scenic Study Act. Testimony was heard from Daniel N. Wenk, Acting Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, USDA; Linda Evans Parlette, Senator, State of Washington; Doug England, Commissioner, Chelan County, State of Washington; and public witnesses.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS; USPS'S STATION AND BRANCH INITIATIVE AND DELIVERY ROUTE ADJUSTMENTS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R 2517, Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing entitled ''Making Sense of It All: An Examination of USPS's Station and Branch Optimization Initiative and Delivery Route Adjustments.'' Testimony was heard from Representative Sires; Jordan Small, Acting Vice President, Network Operations, U.S. Postal Service; John Waller, Director, Office of Accountability and Compliance, Postal Rate Commission; Phillip Herr, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives held a hearing entitled ''National Archives and Records Administration Organizational Issues.'' Testimony was heard from the following officials of the National Archives and Records Administration: Adrienne C. Thomas, Acting Archivist; and Paul Brachfeld, Inspector General.

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION COMPENSATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3269, the ''Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act of 2009,'' with one hour of general debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended. The rule provides that the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Rep. Frank or his designee, which shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule also makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report, if offered by Representative Garrett or his designee, which shall be separately debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled b the proponent and an opponent.

The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule also provides that during consideration of an amendment printed in the report, the Chair may postpone the question of adoption as though under clause 8 of rule XX. Finally the rule provides that in the engrossment of the bill, the Clerk is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to amendatory instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank, Representatives Bachus and Sessions.

SYSTEMS APPROACH TO IMPROVING K–12 STEM EDUCATION

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing on A Systems Approach to Improving K–12 STEM Education. Testimony was heard from Wanda Ward, Acting Assistant Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, NSF; and public witnesses.

FUTURE OF SPECIALTY CROPS FOR SMALL FAMILY FARMERS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade held a hearing entitled ''The Future of Specialty Crops for Small Family Farmers.'' Testimony was heard from Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary, USDA; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 3371, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009; H.R. 3376, United States Mariner and Vessel Protection Act of 2009; H.R. 3360, Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2009; H.R. 3224, To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design and construct a vehicle maintenance building at the vehicle maintenance branch of the Smithsonian Institution located in Suitland, Maryland; H.R. 2121, amended, To provide for the transfer of certain Federal Property to the Galveston Historical Foundation; H.R. 2423, amended, To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ''George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse,'' and to designate the jury room in the Federal building and United States courthouse as the ''Marcel C. Notzon II Jury Room;'' H.R. 2913, To designate the United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the ''Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse;'' H.R. 3193, To designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''Alto Lee Adams, Sr. United States Courthouse;'' H. Con. Res. 136, Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of Citizenship Day.

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

VRE CONTRACTS—VETERANS COUNSELING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on VRE Contracts for Veteran Counseling. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Ruth Fanning, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service; and Philip S. Kauffman, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel; and representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

IMPLICATIONS OF VA'S LIMITED SCOPE OF GULF WAR ILLNESS RESEARCH

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the Implications of VA's Limited Scope of Gulf War Illness Research. Testimony was heard from Douglas E. Dembling, Associate Chief Officer, Program Coordination, Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

NSA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY COMPLIANCE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on NSA Surveillance Authority Compliance. The Committee was briefed by LTG Keith Alexander, Director, NSA, Department of Energy.

BRIEFING—RUSSIA COLLECTION STRATEGY

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence met in executive session to receive a briefing on Russia Collection Strategy. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, to continue mark up H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary. Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, to mark up H.R. 1425, Wartime Treatment Study Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, hearing on the Recovery Act: 160–Day Progress Report for Transportation and Infrastructure Programs, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.