Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3080, United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

Senate passed H.R. 3079, United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

Senate passed H.R. 3078, United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6397–S6471

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1682–1699, and S. Res. 291–292. **Page S6461**

Measures Passed:

United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act: By 83 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 161), Senate passed H.R. 3080, to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement. **Pages S6399–S6418, S6418–51**

United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: By 77 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 162), Senate passed H.R. 3079, to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement. **Pages S6399–S6418, S6418–51**

United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: By 66 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. 163), Senate passed H.R. 3078, to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. **Pages S6399–S6418, S6418–52**

National Life Insurance Awareness Month: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 270, supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Life Insurance Awareness Month'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6470**

National Character Counts Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 292, designating the week beginning October 16, 2011, as ''National Character Counts Week''. **Pages S6470–71**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12 p.m., on Thursday, October 13, 2011, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Susan Owens Hickey, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, and Katherine B. Forrest, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, under the previous order of September 26, 2011. **Page S6471**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Paul W. Hodes, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016.

Robert L. Sumwalt III, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2016.

Elizabeth M. Cousens, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Elizabeth M. Cousens, of Washington, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Routine lists in the Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, and Navy. **Page S6471**

Messages from the House: **Page S6457**

Measures Referred: **Page S6457**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S6397, S6457

Executive Communications: Pages S6457–59

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S6459–61

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6461–63

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6463–69

Additional Statements: Pages S6456–57

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S6469

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6469–70

Privileges of the Floor: Page S6470

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—163) Pages S6451–52

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:41 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6471.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FEDERAL ROLE IN DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESPONSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine the Federal role in disaster recovery and response, after receiving testimony from Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant of the Army for Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense; Bruce Nelson, Administrator, Farm Service Agency, and Homer Wilkes, Acting Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, both of the Department of Agriculture; James Rivera, Associate Administrator, Small Business Administration; Gregory G. Nadeau, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation; and Fred Tombar, Senior Advisor for Disaster Programs, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving the congressional budget process, after receiving testimony from Louis Fisher, Constitution Project, Washington, D.C.; Philip G. Joyce, University of Maryland School of Public Policy, College Park; and Paul L. Posner, George Mason University Centers on the Public Service, Fairfax, Virginia.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine universal service reform, focusing on bringing broadband to all Americans, after receiving testimony from Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Frontier Communications, and Michael K. Powell, National Cable and Telecommunications Association, both of Washington, D.C.; Mary N. Dillon, United States Cellular Corporation, Chicago, Illinois; Shirley Bloomfield, National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Arlington, Virginia; and Philip B. Jones, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Olympia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Joyce A. Barr, of Washington, to be Assistant Secretary for Administration, Robert A. Mandell, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, Thomas Charles Krajeski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dan W. Mozena, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Michael A. Hammer, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Susan Denise Page, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Adrienne S. O'Neal, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde, Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, and Mark Francis Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Sweden, all of the Department of State, Anne Terman Wedner, of Illinois, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Katherine M. Gehl, of Wisconsin, and Terry Lewis, of Michigan, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Russ Carnahan, of Missouri, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael Anthony McFaul, of California, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Department of State, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ten years after 9/11, focusing on a status report on information sharing, after receiving testimony from Cathy L. Lanier, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia Chief of Police, John McLaughlin, Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Thomas E. McNamara, George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs, and Jeffrey H. Smith, Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, all of Washington, D.C.; and Ronald E. Brooks, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, San Francisco, on behalf of the National Fusion Center Association.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of chronic disease prevention, after receiving testimony from Howard K. Koh, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health; Nancy Brown, American Heart Association, Dallas, Texas; John R. Seffrin, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, Georgia; John Griffin, American Diabetes Association, Victoria, Texas; and Tevi Troy, Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Winslow Lorenzo Sargeant, of Wisconsin, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

MEDICARE REFORM DEBATE

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine finding consensus in the Medicare reform debate, after receiving testimony from Maya MacGuineas, New America Foundation, Joseph R. Antos, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, John Holahan, Urban Institute, and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 3154–3175, and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 432–433, were introduced. **Pages H6852–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6854–55**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 430, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 358) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to modify special rules relating to coverage of abortion services under such Act (H. Rept. 112–243) and

H. Res. 431, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2273) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels (H. Rept. 112–244). **Page H6852**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Marchant to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6783**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6791**

United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: The House passed H.R. 3078, to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, by a recorded vote of 262 ayes to 167 noes, Roll No. 781. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, October 11th. **Pages H6796–H6804, H6836–39**

Rejected the Levin motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yea-and-nay vote of 192 yeas to 236 nays, Roll No. 780. **Pages H6836–38**

H. Res. 425, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) and providing for the consideration of the bills (H.R. 3078), (H.R. 3079), and (H.R. 3080) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: The House passed H.R. 3079, to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement, by a yea-and-nay vote of 300 yeas to 129 nays, Roll No. 782. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, October 11th. **Pages H6804–12, H6839**

H. Res. 425, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832)

and providing for the consideration of the bills (H.R. 3078), (H.R. 3079), and (H.R. 3080) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act: The House passed H.R. 3080, to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, by a yea-and-nay vote of 278 yeas to 151 nays, Roll No. 783. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, October 11th.

Pages H6812–32, H6839–40

H. Res. 425, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) and providing for the consideration of the bills (H.R. 3078), (H.R. 3079), and (H.R. 3080) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

Extending the Generalized System of Preferences: The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2832, to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, by a yea-and-nay vote of 307 yeas to 122 nays, Roll No. 784. Consideration of the Senate amendment began yesterday, October 11th.

Pages H6832–36, H6840

H. Res. 425, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) and providing for the consideration of the bills (H.R. 3078), (H.R. 3079), and (H.R. 3080) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, October 11th:

Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011: H.R. 2433, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the employment and training of veterans, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 418 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 785. **Page H6841**

United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011: The House agreed by unanimous consent to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2944, to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission. **Page H6841**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow for morning hour debate and 11:30 a.m. for legislative business. **Page H6841**

EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011: The House resumed consideration of H.R. 2250, to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators. Consideration of the measure began on October 6th.

Pages H6841–42

Proceedings Postponed:

Cohen amendment (No. 22 printed in the Congressional Record of October 4, 2011) that seeks to insert a subparagraph relating to potential reductions in the number of illness-related absences from work due to respiratory or other illnesses. **Page H6842**

H. Res. 419, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2681) and (H.R. 2250) was agreed to on October 4th.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H6795–96.

Senate Referrals: S. 1619 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6737–38, H6838–39, H6839, H6839–40, H6840, and H6841. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AMENDING TITLE VII OF THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing to review legislative proposals amending Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, including the following bills: H.R. 1840, to improve consideration by the Commodity Futures trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders; H.R. 2682, Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2011; H.R. 2779, to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; H.R. 2586, Swap Execution Facility Clarification Act; and three discussion drafts. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE U.S. MILITARY TEN YEARS AFTER 9/11

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Future of National Defense and the U.S. Military Ten Years After 9/11: Perspectives of Former Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services." Testimony was heard from former Representative John Warner, Representative Duncan Hunter, and Representative Ike Skeleton.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENT ACQUISITION AND MODERNIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on National Guard and Reserve component acquisition and modernization. The following officials of the Department of Defense testified: LTG Harry M. Wyatt III, USAF, Director, Air National Guard; MG Raymond W. Carpenter, USA, Acting Director of the Army National Guard; LTG Jack C. Stultz, USA, Chief, U.S. Army Reserve; LTG Charles E. Stenner, Jr., USAF, Chief, U.S. Air Force Reserve.

WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3094 ''Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FOOD MARKETING: CAN 'VOLUNTARY' GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, and the Subcommittee on Health held a joint hearing entitled ''Food Marketing: Can 'Voluntary' Government Restrictions Improve Children's Health?'' Testimony was heard from William Dietz MD, Director, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Robert Post, Deputy Director, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, U.S. Department of Agriculture, David C. Vladeck, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, and public witnesses.

CUTTING EPA SPENDING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Cutting EPA Spending.'' Testimony was heard from Barbara Bennett, Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

MARKUP OF LEGISLATION ON SUPPORTING ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY BY MAINTAINING U.S. LEADERSHIP IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS ACT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, ordered reported as amended, legislation Supporting Economic and National Security by Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Multilateral Development Banks Act.''

OVERSIGHT FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Home Loan Bank System.'' Testimony was heard from Bruce Morrison, former Member of Congress, and public witnesses.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled H.R. 1418, the ''Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 2011.'' Testimony was heard from Deborah Matz, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXPLOITATION OF DRUG WARS AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''The International Exploitation of Drug Wars and What We Can Do about It.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NARCOTERRORISM AND THE LONG REACH OF U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Narcoterrorism and the Long Reach of U.S. Law Enforcement.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Committee on Homeland Security: Began markup of H.R. 3116, the ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.''

THE STATUS OF FEDERAL SENTENCING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crimes, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled ''Uncertain Justice: The Status of Federal Sentencing and the U.S. Sentencing Commission Six Years after U.S. v. Booker.'' Testimony was heard from Patti B. Saris, Chair, United States Sentencing Commission.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Priorities and the Rule of Law.'' Testimony was heard from John Morton, Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE LINGERING IMPACTS ON JOBS, ENERGY PRODUCTION AND LOCAL ECONOMIES ONE YEAR AFTER OFFICIAL GULF OF MEXICO MORATORIUM LIFTED –

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''One Year after President Obama's Gulf of Mexico 6-Month Moratorium Officially Lifted: Examining the Lingering Impacts on Jobs, Energy Production and Local Economies.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STATUS REPORT ON THE TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN-LED MISSION IN IRAQ

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations held a hearing entitled ''Status Report on the Transition to a Civilian-Led Mission in Iraq.'' Testimony was heard from Patrick F. Kennedy, Under Secretary for Management, U.S. Department of State; Alexander Vershbow, Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense; Alan F. Estevez, Assistant Secretary for Logistics & Material Readiness, U.S. Department of Defense.

HOW GREEN ENERGY POLICY WILL IMPACT SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending held a hearing entitled ''Running on Empty: How the Obama Administration's Green Energy Gamble Will Impact Small Business and Consumers.'' Testimony was heard from David Strickland, Administrator, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration; Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; Margo Oge, Director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Environmental Protection Agency and public witnesses.

COAL RESIDUALS REUSE AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Committee on Rules: Held a hearing on H.R. 2273 ''Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act''. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 5 to 2, a structured rule providing one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, Rep. McDermott.

PROTECT LIFE ACT

Committee on Rules: Held a hearing on H.R. 358 ''Protect Life Act.'' The Committee granted by a record vote of 5 to 2 a closed rule providing one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Rep. John Shimkus, Rep. Henry Waxman and Rep. Terri Sewell.

STEM EDUCATION APPROACHES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing entitled ''What Makes for Successful K–12 STEM Education: A Closer Look at Effective STEM Education Approaches.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled ''The International Space Station: Lessons from the Soyuz Rocket Failure and Return to Flight.'' Testimony was heard from William H. Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; LTG Thomas P. Stafford, USAF (Ret.), Chairman, International Space Station Advisory Committee; Vice

Admiral Joseph W. Dyer, USN (Ret.), Chairman, Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.

LIGHTSQUARED: THE IMPACT TO SMALL BUSINESS GPS USERS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''LightSquared: The Impact to Small Business GPS Users.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK: MORE BUREAUCRACY AND MORE RED TAPE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled ''National Infrastructure Bank: More Bureaucracy and More Red Tape.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FAILURES AT MIAMI VAMC: WINDOW TO A NATIONAL PROBLEM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Failures at Miami VAMC: Window to a National Problem.'' Testimony was heard from William Schoenhard, FACHE, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations Management, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

MONGOLIA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Commission received a briefing on Mongolia, focusing on its intention to seek status as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, from Khasbazaryn Bekhbat, Ambassador of Mongolia to the United States, Terrence Hopmann, John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and John Tkacik, China Business Intelligence, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine addressing potential threats from Iran, focusing on Administration perspectives on implementing new economic sanctions one year later, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New Economy, to hold hearings to examine innovative practices to create jobs and reduce pollution, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1262, to improve Indian education; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Carcieri crisis, focusing on the ripple effect on jobs, economic development and public safety in native communities, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1301, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in person, H.R. 368, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, S. 1636, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, H.R. 394, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, S. 1637, to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties, H.R. 2633, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties, S. 1014, to provide for additional Federal district judgeships, and the nominations of Adalberto Jose Jordan, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John M. Gerrard, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Thomas Owen Rice, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, David Nuffer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Steven R. Frank, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Martin J. Pane, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and David Blake Webb, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine arbitration, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Future of National Defense and the U.S. Military Ten Years After 9/11: Perspectives of Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.'' 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on an update on KC–46A and legacy aerial refueling aircraft programs, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled ''Regulations, Costs, and Uncertainty in Employer Provided Health Care.'' 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Understanding Consumer Attitudes About Privacy.'' 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on The American Energy Initiative: Electric Transmission Issues,

Including Topics Related to the Sitting, Planning, and Allocation of Costs for Electricity Transmission Infrastructure, 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The U.S. Housing Finance System in the Global Context: Structure, Capital Sources, and Housing Dynamics.'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''The Section 8 Savings Act of 2011: Proposals to Promote Economic Independence for Assisted Families.'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Emerging Threats and Security in the Western Hemisphere: Next Steps for U.S. Policy.'' 10 a.m., and, to mark up H.R. 2829 to promote transparency, accountability, and reform within the United Nations system, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, continue markup of H.R. 3116, the ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.'' 311 Cannon, time to be announced.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''TSA Reform: Exploring Innovations in Technology Procurement to Stimulate Job Growth, Part II.'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, mark up the following bills: H.R. 2870, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2011''; H.R. 1254, the ''Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011''; H.R. 10, the ''Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2011''; H.R. 822, the ''National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011''; and H.R. 3012, the ''Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.''

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''BOEMRE/U.S. Coast Guard Joint Investigation Team Report.'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 2309 Postal Reform Act of 2011, 10:30 a.m., 2154 RHOB.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Endangered Species Act: Reviewing the Nexus of Science and Policy.'' 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing entitled ''Advancing Coal Research and Development for a Secure Energy Future.'' 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Streamlining Emergency Management: Improving Preparedness, Response, and Cutting Costs.'' 8:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Full Committee, mark up the following bills: H.R. 2668, ''Brian A. Terry Memorial Act''; H.R. 2919, ''Community Shelter Protection Act of 2011''; H.R. 1734, ''Civilian Property Realignment Act''; and H.R. 2840, ''Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2011''. 11:15 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup of the following bills: H.R. 674, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, H.R. 2576, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs. 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: To receive a briefing on elections and political transition in Tunisia, focusing on Tunisia's mass popular uprising, known as the ''Jasmine Revolution'', 9:30 a.m., B318, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, October 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Susan Owens Hickey, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, and Katherine B. Forrest, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, with votes on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 2 p.m.

(At 3:40 p.m., Senators will meet in the Senate Chamber to proceed to the House of Representatives for a Joint Meeting of Congress, to begin at 4 p.m., to receive an address from His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 13

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Joint Session with the Senate to Receive His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea.

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