Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3181–S3242

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3188–3195, and S. Res. 462–465. **Page 3234**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 2415, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Dock Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, as the ''Trooper Joshua D. Miller Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3220, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Evergreen Square SW in Pine City, Minnesota, as the ''Master Sergeant Daniel L. Fedder Post Office''.

H.R. 3413, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the ''Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office''. **Page S3233**

Measures Passed:

National Kids to Parks Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 463, designating May 19, 2012, as ''National Kids to Parks Day''. **Page S3241**

70th Anniversary of Ellsworth Air Force Base: Senate agreed to S. Res. 464, commemorating the 70th anniversary of Ellsworth Air Force Base. **Page S3241**

Year of Water: Senate agreed to S. Res. 465, recognizing that the Governor of the State of Colorado has proclaimed 2012 as the ''Year of Water''. **Page S3241**

Measures Considered:

Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans. **Pages S3181–82, S3222–26**

Budget Resolution: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 41, setting forth the President's budget request for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022. **Pages S3183–3220**

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

By a unanimous vote of 99 nays (Vote No. 97), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Page S3220**

Budget Resolution: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 112, establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022. **Pages S3220–21**

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

By 41 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 98), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Pages S3220–21**

Budget Resolution: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 37, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022. **Page S3221**

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

By 42 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 99), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Page S3221**

Budget Resolution: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 42, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2012, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2022. **Pages S3221–22**

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

By 16 yeas to 83 nays (Vote No. 100), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Pages S3221–22**

Budget Resolution: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 44, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022. **Page S3222**

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

By 17 yeas to 82 nays (Vote No. 101), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the resolution. **Page S3222**

Cook County Airport Land—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2947, to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land conveyed by the United States in 1950 for the establishment of an airport in Cook County, Minnesota, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. **Page S3241**

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order with respect to blocking the property of persons threatening the peace, security, or stability of Yemen; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–48) **Page S3233**

Stein and Powell Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, May 17, 2012, Senate resume consideration of the nominations of Jeremy C. Stein, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; that there be 90 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form to run concurrently, on both nominations, en bloc; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that the nominations be subject to a 60 vote threshold; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; provided further, that the cloture votes with respect to the nominations be withdrawn. **Page S3239**

Messages from the House: **Page S3233**

Measures Referred: **Page S3233**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S3181, S3233**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S3234**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3234–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3235–39**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3230–32**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3239**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3239**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—101) **Pages S3220, S3220–21, S3221, S3222**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:56 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3242.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, and Barbara J. Bennett, Chief Financial Officer, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND AND U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense received a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Northern Command and Southern Command Programs from General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., USA, Commander United States Northern Command, and General Douglas M. Fraser, USAF, Commander, United States Southern Command, both of the Department of Defense.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Julius Genachowski, Chairman, and Robert M. McDowell, Mignon L. Clyburn, Jessica Rosenworcel, and Ajit Pai, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INNOVATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility concluded a hearing to examine growing long-term value, focusing on corporate environmental responsibility and innovation, after receiving testimony from Todd Brady, Intel Corporation, Washington, D.C.; Len Sauers, The Procter and Gamble Company, Cincinnati, Ohio; Parker J. Smith, Eastman Chemical Company, Memphis, Tennessee; and D. Mitchell Jackson, FedEx Corporation, Kingsport, Tennessee.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Piper Anne Wind Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Mongolia, who was introduced by Representative Hochul, and Dorothea-Maria Rosen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1910, to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1515, to permit certain members of the United States Secret Service and certain members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division who were appointed in 1984, 1985, or 1986 to elect to be covered under the District of Columbia Police and Firefighter Retirement and Disability System in the same manner as members appointed prior to 1984, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2218, to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration;

S. 1100, to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a condition of receiving a Federal contract, with an amendment;

H.R. 2415, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Dock Street in Pittston, Pennsylvania, as the ''Trooper Joshua D. Miller Post Office Building'';

H.R. 3220, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Evergreen Square SW in Pine City, Minnesota, as the ''Master Sergeant Daniel L. Fedder Post Office'';

H.R. 3413, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the ''Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office''; and

The nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine identifying opportunities for health care delivery system reform, focusing on lessons from the front line, after receiving testimony from G. Al Kurose, Coastal Medical, Inc., Providence, Rhode Island; Marcia Guida James, Humana Inc., Louisville, Kentucky; and James C. Capretta, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Robert S. Mueller, III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

DRUG THREATS IN WEST AFRICA

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded a hearing to examine drug threats in West Africa, focusing on drug trafficking and United States efforts to counter emerging narcotics-related threats, after receiving testimony from Thomas Harrigan, Deputy Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, both of the Department of State; and William F. Wechsler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 5781–5792; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 659–660 were introduced. **Pages H2811–12**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2813–14**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1840, to improve consideration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders (H. Rept. 112–482);

H.R. 373, to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to ensure that actions taken by regulatory agencies are subject to that Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–483, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3433, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide transparency and require certain standards in the award of Federal grants, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 112–484); and

H. Res. 611, providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–485). **Page H2811**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Barton (TX) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2717**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2722**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Tom Ellsworth, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, Bloomington, Indiana. **Page H2722**

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012: The House passed H.R. 4970, to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 205 noes, Roll No. 258. **Pages H2726–44, H2745–81**

Rejected the Moore motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 187 yeas to 236 nays, Roll No. 257. **Pages H2779–81**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 112–481, shall be considered as adopted. **Page H2726**

H. Res. 656, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4970 and H.R. 4310), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 186 nays with 1 answering "present," Roll No. 255, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 254. **Pages H2726–44**

A point of order was raised against the consideration of H. Res. 656 and it was agreed to proceed with consideration of the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 253. **Pages H2726–31**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of all law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. **Page H2743**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated yesterday, May 15th:

Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2012: H.R. 4119, amended, to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 256; **Pages H2744–45**

Amending the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 to facilitate implementation of a multispecies habitat conservation plan: H.R. 2745, amended, to amend the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 to facilitate implementation of a multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River in Clark County, Nevada; and **Page H2745**

Chimney Rock National Monument Establishment Act: H.R. 2621, amended, to establish the Chimney Rock National Monument in the State of Colorado. **Pages H2781–82**

Committee Filing Authority: Agreed that the Committee on Appropriations have until 6 p.m. on May 25, 2012 to file four privileged reports on bills making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security; military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies; the Department of Defense; and the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs. **Page H2745**

Notice of Intent to Offer Motion: Representative Rahall announced his intent to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4348. **Page H2745**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act: H.R. 5740, to extend the National Flood Insurance Program. **Pages H2782–87**

Notice of Intent to Offer Motion: Representative Barrow announced his intent to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4348. **Page H2787**

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013: The House began consideration of H.R. 4310, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H2787–96**

H. Res. 656, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4970 and H.R. 4310), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 186 nays with 1 answering ''present,'' Roll No. 255, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 254. **Pages H2726–44**

A point of order was raised against the consideration of H. Res. 656 and it was agreed to proceed with consideration of the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 253. **Pages H2726–31**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:45 p.m. and reconvened at 2:28 a.m. on Thursday, May 17th. **Page H2810**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he submitted to the Congress an Executive Order he has issued with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–109). **Page H2782**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2731, H2743, H2743–44, H2744, H2780–81, H2781. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:29 a.m. on Thursday, May 17th.

Committee Meetings

FORMULATION OF THE 2012 FARM BILL: COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND CROP INSURANCE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing entitled ''Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Commodity Programs and Crop Insurance''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS; AND MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a meeting to consider Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2013; Full Committee held a markup Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2013; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY 2013. The Revised Suballocation of the Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2012 was agreed to. The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2013; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY 2013 were ordered reported, as amended.

EXPLORING STATE SUCCESS IN EXPANDING PARENT AND STUDENT OPTIONS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled ''Exploring State Success in Expanding Parent and Student Options''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BROADBAND LOANS AND GRANTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Broadband Loans and Grants''. Testimony was heard from Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information & Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce; Jonathan Adelstein, Administrator, Rural Utility Service (RUS), Department of Agriculture; Todd Zinser, Inspector General, Department of Commerce; and David Gray, Deputy Inspector, General, Department of Agriculture.

WHERE THE JOBS ARE: PROMOTING TOURISM TO AMERICA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Where the Jobs Are: Promoting Tourism to America''. Testimony was heard from Representative Mazie K. Hirono; Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale, Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began a markup of H.R. 4471, the ''Gasoline Regulations Act of 2012''; and H.R. 4480, the ''Strategic Energy Production Act of 2012''.

THE IMPACT OF THE DODD–FRANK ACT: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled ''The Impact of the Dodd-Frank Act: What It Means to be a Systemically Important Financial Institution''. Testimony was heard from Lance Auer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, Department of Commerce; Michael Gibson, Director, Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION'S STRUCTURED TRANSACTION PROGRAM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Structured Transaction Program''. Testimony was heard from Bret D. Edwards, Director, Division of Resolutions and Receiverships, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Jon T. Rymer, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and public witnesses.

INCREASING MARKET ACCESS FOR U.S. FINANCIAL FIRMS IN CHINA

Committee on Financial Institutions: Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Increasing Market Access for U.S. Financial Firms in China: Update on Progress of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES AND NEEDS AMIDST ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN SOUTH ASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia held a hearing entitled ''Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities and Needs Amidst Economic Challenges in South Asia''. Testimony was heard from Robert O. Blake, Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State; Nisha Desai Biswal, Assistant Administrator for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development; Daniel Feldman, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; and Alexander Thier, Assistant to the, Administrator and Director, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development.

STATUS OF THE PROCESSING OF THE CAMP ASHRAF RESIDENTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Status of the Processing of the Camp Ashraf Residents''. Testimony was heard from Daniel Fried, Special Advisor on Ashraf, Department of State.

ACCESS CONTROL POINT BREACHES AT OUR NATION'S AIRPORTS: ANOMALIES OR SYSTEMIC FAILURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security held a hearing entitled ''Access Control Point Breaches at Our Nation's Airports: Anomalies or Systemic Failures?''. Testimony was heard from John P. Sammon Assistant Administrator, Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, Transportation Security Administration; Charles K. Edwards, Acting Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEAHY–SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Implementation of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act''. Testimony was heard from David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup of H.R. 5512, ''Divisional Realignment Act of 2012''. H.R. 5512 was ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup of the following measures: H.R. 1192, the ''Soda Ash Royalty Extension, Job Creation, and Export Enhancement Act of 2011''; H.R. 3973, the ''Native American Energy Act''; H.R. 4043, the ''Military Readiness and Southern Sea Otter Conservation Act''; H.R. 4381, the ''Planning for American Energy Act of 2012''; H.R. 4382, the ''Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2012''; H.R. 4383, the ''Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2012''; and H.R. 4402, the ''National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012''. The following measures were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1192, H.R. 3973, H.R. 4043, H.R. 4381, H.R. 4382, H.R. 4383, and H.R. 4402.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S GREEN ENERGY GAMBLE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus and Government Spending held a hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Green Energy Gamble: What Have All the Taxpayer Subsidies Achieved?''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HATCH ACT: OPTIONS FOR REFORM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy held a hearing entitled ''Hatch Act: Options for Reform''. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; Irvin Nathan, Attorney General, District of Columbia; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4310, the ''National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2013'' (amendment testimony). The Committee granted, by a record vote, a rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 4310 under a structured rule. The rule provides no additional general debate. The rule makes in order as original text for purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of Rules Committee Print 112–22 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points against the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments printed in the report 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 or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. Section 3 of the resolution provides that it shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendment en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bartlett, Smith (WA), Franks (AZ), Langevin, Wittman, Bordallo, Coffman (CO), Speier, Garamendi, McGovern, Polis, Young (AK), Markey, Gingrey (GA), Jackson Lee (TX), Murphy (PA), Lee (CA), Gohmert, Schiff, Mulvaney, Welch, Pearce, Yarmuth, Rivera, Tonko, Chu, and Amash.

U.S. TRADE STRATEGY: WHAT'S NEXT FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Trade Strategy: What's Next for Small Business Exporters?''. Testimony was heard from Miriam Sapiro, Deputy United States Trade Representative, Office of the United States Trade Representative; and public witnesses.

CREATING AMERICAN JOBS AND ASSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF AMERICA'S WATERWAYS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Creating American Jobs and Assuring the Safety and Security of America's Waterways: A Review of the Coast Guard's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan''. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral John Currier, Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, United States Coast Guard.

OPTIMIZING CARE FOR VETERANS WITH PROSTHETICS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Optimizing Care for Veterans with Prosthetics''. Testimony was heard from Linda A. Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lucille Beck, Acting Chief Consultant, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING OPERATIONS AND OVERSIGHT OF TAX–EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Examining Operations and Oversight of Tax-Exempt Organizations''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

TAXATION OF LABOR AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how the taxation of labor and transfer payments affect growth and employment, after receiving testimony from Richard Rogerson, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey; Andrew G. Biggs, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for European Command and Special Operations Command Programs, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine the United States response to tsunami generated marine debris, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the Social Security Administration, focusing on saving taxpayer dollars and serving the public, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Edward M. Alford, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Mark L. Asquino, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Douglas M. Griffiths, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, and David J. Lane, of Florida, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of the government-to-government relationship, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2076, to improve security at State and local courthouses, S. 2370, to amend title 11, United States Code, to make bankruptcy organization more efficient for small business debtors, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing entitled "Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Commodity Programs and Crop Insurance" public witness day, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup of Defense Appropriations Bill for FY 2013, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 2013, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, continue markup of H.R. 4471, the "Gasoline Regulations Act of 2012"; and H.R. 4480, the "Strategic Energy Production Act of 2012", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Settlement Practices of U.S. Financial Regulators", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled "U.S. Insurance Sector: International Competitiveness and Jobs", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Iran Sanctions: Strategy, Implementation, and Enforcement", 10 a.m., 2127 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, joint hearing entitled "The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Challenges and Potential", 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled "Cuba's Global Network of Terrorism, Intelligence, and Warfare", 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management, hearing entitled "Department of Homeland Security: An Examination of Ethical Standards", 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 2168, the "Geolocational Privacy and Surveillance Act", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, hearing on H.R. 3039, the "Welcoming Business Travelers and Tourists to America Act of 2011", 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing on H.R. 3803, the ''District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act'', 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 3065, the ''Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act''; and H.R. 3706, to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 1103, the ''American Memorial Park Tinian Annex Act''; H.R. 3100, the ''San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act''; H.R. 3365, the ''Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2011''; H.R. 4400, the ''Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center''; and S. 270, the ''La Pine Land Conveyance Act'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing entitled ''Working for a Fire Safe America: Examining United States Fire Administration Priorities'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Supporting Economic Growth and Job Creation Through Customs Trade Modernization, Facilitation, and Enforcement'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing entitled ''State TANF Spending and Its Impact on Work Requirements'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013''; and ''Committee Report: Performance Audit of Defense Intelligence Surveillance, and Reconnaissance'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. Portions of this hearing will be closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on Ukraine's upcoming elections, focusing on political parties, civil society and domestic observers ahead of the elections, the electoral framework, as well as the broader political context, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. The Majority Leader intends to begin consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3187, FDA User Fee.

At 10:30 a.m., Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Jeremy C. Stein, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 12 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, May 17

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Resume consideration of H.R. 4310—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

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