

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3357, Highway Trust Fund Act.

The House passed H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8501–S8618

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1540–1552, and S. Res. 231–233. **Page S8557**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 774, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46–02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the “Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building”.

H.R. 987, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the “John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office”.

H.R. 1271, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the “Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1397, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 41 Purdy Avenue in Rye, New York, as the “Caroline O’Day Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2090, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg, New York, as the “Frederic Remington Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the “Herbert A Littleton Postal Station”.

H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “Laredo Veterans Post Office”.

H.R. 2422, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, as the “Kile G. West Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2470, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the “Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building”.

S. 748, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Logan Avenue in San Diego, California, as the “Cesar E. Chavez Post Office”.

S. 1211, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 School Street, Orchard Park, New York, as the “Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building”.

S. 1314, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, as the “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office”.

Pages S8556–57

Measures Passed:

Highway Trust Fund Act: By 79 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. 254), Senate passed H.R. 3357, to restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto, clearing the measure for the President:

Pages S8508–32

Rejected:

By 42 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 249), Vitter Modified Amendment No. 1907, to temporarily protect the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Pages S8508–14, S8528–29

By 41 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 250), Ensign Modified Amendment No. 1905, to offset the appropriation of funds to replenish the Unemployment Trust Fund with unobligated non-veterans funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Pages S8514–16, S8518–25, S8529

By 40 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 252), Sessions Amendment No. 2223, to restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund.

Pages S8528, S8530

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

By 34 yeas to 63 nays (Vote No. 251), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive pursuant to section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Bond Amendment No. 1904, to repeal a certain provision of the SAFETEA-LU. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment would increase mandatory spending, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell.

Pages S8516–18, S8529–30

By 71 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 253), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive pursuant to section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the bill would provide spending in excess of the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation was not sustained.

Page S8531

Bishop Museum 120th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 195, recognizing Bishop Museum, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasions of its 120th anniversary and the restoration and renovation of its Historic Hall, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S8618

Measures Considered:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act: Senate began consideration of H.R. 2997, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, taking action on the following amendments proposed there-to:

Pages S8534–37

Pending:

Kohl/Brownback Amendment No. 1908, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S8534–36

Kohl (for Tester) Amendment No. 2230 (to Amendment No. 1908), to clarify a provision relating to funding for a National Animal Identification Program.

Pages S8536–37

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, July 31, 2009.

Page S8618

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 continuation of the national emergency with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic proc-

esses and institutions; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–28)

Page S8551

Messages from the House: Pages S8551–52

Measures Referred: Page S8552

Measures Read the First Time: Page S8552

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S8552

Executive Communications: Pages S8552–53

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S8553–56

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S8557–58

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S8558–67

Additional Statements: Pages S8550–51

Amendments Submitted: Pages S8567–S8608

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S8608

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S8608

Privileges of the Floor: Pages S8608–09

Text of H.R. 3183 as Previously Passed: Pages S8609–18

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—254) Pages S8528–29, S8529, S8530, S8531, S8532

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:12 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8618.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

H.R. 3293, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John M.

McHugh, of New York, to be Secretary of the Army, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, Joseph W. Westphal, of New York, to be Under Secretary of the Army, who was introduced by Senator Collins, and Juan M. Garcia III, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON IRAN

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine minimizing potential threats from Iran, focusing on assessing economic sanctions and other United States policy options, after receiving testimony from Senator Lieberman; Nicholas Burns, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Matthew Levitt, Washington Institution for Near East Policy, Suzanne Maloney, Brookings Institution, and Danielle Pletka, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

CLIMATE SERVICES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate services, focusing on solutions from commerce to communities, after receiving testimony from Gary F. Locke, Secretary of Commerce; and John P. Holdren, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate change and national security, after receiving testimony from former Senator John Warner; Vice Admi-

ral Dennis McGinn, USN (Ret.), CNA Military Advisory Board, Alexandria, VA; Jonathan Powers, Truman National Security Project, and David B. Rivkin, Jr., Baker & Hostetler LLP, both of Washington, D.C.

STRATEGY FOR SUDAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a comprehensive strategy for Sudan, after receiving testimony Major General Jonathan S. Gration, USAF (Ret.), The President's Special Envoy to Sudan, Department of State; Earl Gast, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, United States Agency for International Development; and David H. Shinn, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Mohammed Ahmed Eisa, Sudan Organization for Rights and Peace-Building, and Susan D. Page, National Democratic Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1507, to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to reform Postal Service retiree health benefits funding, with amendments.

GANG ACTIVITY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the increase of gang activity in Indian country, after receiving testimony from John Mousseau, Paul Forney, and Paul Iron Cloud, all of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Pine Ridge, South Dakota; Brian Nissen, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, Washington; Sampson Cowboy, Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Window Rock, Arizona; Chief Carmen Smith, and William Elliott, both of the Warm Springs Tribal Police Department, Warm Springs, Oregon.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 3399–3434; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 172–173; and H.Res. 696, 698–702 were introduced. **Pages H9204–06**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9206–08**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
H.R. 3269, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory

vote on executive compensation and to prevent perverse incentives in the compensation practices of financial institutions, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–236);

H. Res. 697, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3269) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation and to prevent perverse incentives in the compensation practices of financial institutions (H. Rept. 111–237);

Report on the Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2010 (H. Rept. 111–238); and

H.R. 2392, to improve the effectiveness of the Government's collection, analysis, and dissemination of business information by using modern interactive data technologies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–239). **Page H9204**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Blumenauer to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9059**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Broun (GA) announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Page H9062**

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010: The House passed H.R. 3326, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 400 yeas to 30 nays, Roll No. 675. Consideration of the measure began on Wednesday, July 29th. **Pages H9062–H9131**

Rejected the Frelinghuysen motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 169 yeas to 261 noes, Roll No. 674. **Pages H9129–31**

Agreed to:

Conaway amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–233) that increases and then decreases the Navy Operations & Maintenance account by \$1 million with the intent of entertaining a discussion regarding the importance of providing additional funds from operation and maintenance for the Department of the Navy, Financial Improvement Program (FIP) to accelerate the transformation of financial management processes and internal controls; **Page H9082**

Sessions amendment (No. 4 printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–233) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress on the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) within the Department of Defense; and **Pages H9083–84**

Murtha manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–233) that (1) provides that funds be made available for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting from within the funds available; (2) increases the amount available for transfer to the Fisher House and Suites; (3) redirects funds otherwise available for advance procurement of additional F–22 aircraft, and provides for spare and repair parts including engines for the F–22 and C–17, aircraft defensive systems, and aircraft weapon systems; (4) includes a technical revision in the Defense Health Program and shifts \$26,000,000 from operation and maintenance funding to research, development, test

and evaluation; (5) prohibits further outsourcing of utility functions at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; (6) makes additional funds available for Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense; (7) prohibits conversion of government-owned ammunition plants; and (8) allows for funds to be transferred to the Coast Guard for operating expenses (by a recorded vote of 269 yeas to 165 noes, Roll No. 661). **Pages H9080–82, H9120–21**

Rejected:

Flake amendment (No. 315 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for Body Armor Improved Ballistic Protection, Research and Development; **Pages H9087–88**

Flake amendment (No. 3 printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for the "Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense" account by \$160,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 48 yeas to 373 noes, Roll No. 662); **Pages H9082–83, H9121**

Tierney amendment (No. 5 printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to strike \$80 million for the Kinetic Energy Interceptor program (by a recorded vote of 124 yeas to 307 noes, Roll No. 663); **Pages H9084–85, H9122**

Flake amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for Enhanced Navy Shore Readiness Integration (by a recorded vote of 77 yeas to 347 noes with 10 voting "present", Roll No. 664); **Pages H9085–86, H9122–23**

Flake amendment (No. 258 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for Reduced Manning Situation Awareness (by a recorded vote of 69 yeas to 351 noes with 10 voting "present", Roll No. 665); **Pages H9086–87, H9123–24**

Flake amendment (No. 389 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for a Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability (by a recorded vote of 76 yeas to 350 noes with 10 voting "present", Roll No. 666); **Pages H9088–90, H9124**

Flake amendment (No. 432 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for an Ultra Low Profile EARS Gunshot Localization System (by a recorded vote of 82 yeas to 341 noes with 11 voting "present", Roll No. 667); **Pages H9090–91, H9124–25**

Flake amendment (No. 439 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for AARGM Counter Air Defense Future Capabilities (by a recorded vote of 78 yeas to 348 noes with 10 voting "present", Roll No. 668); **Pages H9091–92, H9125–26**

Flake amendment (No. 449 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for AN/SLQ–25D Integration (by a recorded vote of

83 ayes to 338 noes with 11 voting “present”, Roll No. 669);
Pages H9092–93, H9126

Flake amendment (No. 553 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit funding for various earmarked projects in the bill (by a recorded vote of 118 ayes to 304 noes with 11 voting “present”, Roll No. 670);
Pages H9093–95, H9126–27

Flake en bloc amendment consisting of all the amendments printed in Part B of House Report 111–233 (by a recorded vote of 82 ayes to 342 noes with 11 voting “present”, Roll No. 671);
Pages H9095–H9117, H9127–28

Campbell amendment (No. 1 printed in part C of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to prohibit the \$3 million in funding for the MGPTS Type III or Rapid Deployable Shelter project and reduce the overall cost of the bill by \$3 million (by a recorded vote of 81 ayes to 353 noes, Roll No. 672) and
Pages H9118–19, H9128

Campbell amendment (No. 8 printed in part C of H. Rept. 111–233) that sought to strike \$1,500,000 for the Model for Green Laboratories and Clean Rooms project and reduce the overall cost of the bill by a commensurate amount (by a recorded vote of 99 ayes to 338 noes, Roll No. 673).
Pages H9119–20, H9128–29

H. Res. 685, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on Wednesday, July 29th.

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 172, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 231 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 676.
Pages H9137–38

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, July 28th:

William Orton Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act: H.R. 2728, amended, to provide financial support for the operation of the law library of the Library of Congress, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ recorded vote of 383 ayes to 44 noes, Roll No. 678;
Pages H9138–39

Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act: H.R. 2510, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to reimburse States for the costs incurred in establishing a program to track and confirm the receipt of voted absentee ballots in elections for Federal office and make information on the receipt of such ballots available by means of online access;
Page H9139

Commending the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding:

H. Res. 535, amended, to commend the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding; and
Page H9166

Recognizing the “Day of the African Child” on June 16, 2009: H. Res. 550, to recognize the “Day of the African Child” on June 16, 2009, devoted to the theme of child survival and to emphasize the importance of reducing maternal, newborn, and child deaths in Africa.
Page H9166

United States Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors— Designation: Read a letter from Representative Oberstar, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in which he designated the following Members of the House of Representatives to serve on the United States Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors: Representatives Michaud, Hirono, and Mica.
Page H9139

Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009: The House passed H.R. 2749, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety of food in the global market, by a recorded vote of 283 ayes to 142 noes, Roll No. 680.
Pages H9131–37, H9138, H9140–65

Rejected the Lucas motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 186 yeas to 240 nays, Roll No. 679.
Pages H9161–64

H. Res. 691, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 249 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 677, after the previous question was ordered without objection.
Page H9138

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, July 28th:

Providing that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration: H.R. 1752, amended, to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ recorded vote of 282 ayes to 144 noes, Roll No. 681.
Pages H9165–66

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2009—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–59).
Page H9183

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 by 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.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, July 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 2997, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, July 31

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 3269—Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act of 2009 (Subject to a Rule).



Congressional Record

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