

A motion was filed to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a cloture vote will occur on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

Pages S11237–38

Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for consideration of the nomination of Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

Page S11238

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jill E. Sommers, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2009.

Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2008 (Recess Appointment).

Stanley Davis Phillips, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

Sam Fox, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Belgium.

Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

Heidi M. Pasichow, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Frederick J. Kapala, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

Page S11238

Messages From the House: Page S11189

Measures Discharged: Page S11189

Measures Read First Time: Pages S11189, S11238

Executive Communications: Pages S11189–93

Petitions and Memorials: Page S11193

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S11193–94

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S11194–96

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S11196–S11200

Additional Statements: Pages S11181–89

Amendments Submitted: Pages S11200–19

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S11219

Privileges of the Floor: Page S11219

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—271) Page S11156

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon, and adjourned at 8:16 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday,

December 6, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S11238.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense.

Prior to this action, committee concluded open and closed hearings on the nomination of Mr. Gates, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Senators Dole and Boren, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Scott Wallace Stucky, of Maryland, and Margaret A. Ryan, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and 1,023 routine military nominations.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing on the nominations of Steven R. Chealander, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Charles E. Dorkey III, of New York, to be a Member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HIGHER EDUCATION TAX EXEMPTIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a report card on tax exemptions and incentives for higher education, including whether any changes should be made in the government's overall strategy for providing such assistance or to the individual programs and tax provisions that provide the assistance, after receiving testimony from Michael Brostek, Director, Tax Issues, Strategic Issues Team, Government Accountability Office; Daniel Golden, Wall Street Journal, Boston, Massachusetts; Bridget Terry Long, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Susan M. Dynarski, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and National Bureau of Economics, both of Cambridge, Massachusetts; James J. Duderstadt, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Patricia A. McGuire, Trinity (Washington) University, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Anthony W. Ryan, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets, Phillip L. Swagel, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, Dean A. Pinkert, of Virginia, who was introduced by Representative Rangel, and Irving A. Williamson, of New York, both to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, and Mark Warshawsky, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, Social Security Administration, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management and Accountability concluded a hearing to examine the successes and shortcomings of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, focusing on the progress agencies have made in their improper payment reporting, the challenges that re-

main, and the total amount of improper payments recouped through recovery auditing, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Clay Johnson III, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

MARKETPLACE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine enforcement of criminal insider trading and hedge fund activity, after receiving testimony from Gary J. Aguirre, former Investigator, Walter J. Stachnik, Inspector General, Robert B. Hanson, Branch Chief, Mark Kreitman, Assistant Director, Paul R. Berger, former Associate Director, and Linda C. Thomsen, Director, each of the Division of Enforcement, Eric Ribelin, Branch Chief, Office of Market Surveillance, all of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; Ronald J. Tenpas, Associate Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice; and Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut Attorney General, Hartford.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 6338–6376; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 497–498; and H. Res. 1088–1091 were introduced. **Pages H8742–44**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8744–45**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on Wednesday, November 15, as follows:

H.R. 4591, to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–714);

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4997, to permanently authorize amendments made by the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 for the purpose of permitting waivers of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to certain international medical graduates, with amendments (H. Rept. 109–715);

H.R. 3248, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to assist family caregivers

in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–716);

H.R. 5782, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–717, Pt. 1 and Pt. 2);

H. Res. 1092, providing for consideration of H.R. 6346, to extend certain trade preference programs, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Vietnam, to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws (H. Rept. 109–718); and

H. Res. 1093, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to the same day consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 109–719).

Page H8742

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bishop of Utah to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8675**