

States Transportation Command, Department of Defense.

U.S.-EU COVERED AGREEMENT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States-European Union covered agreement, after receiving testimony from Michael T. McRaith, former Director, Federal Insurance Office, Department of Treasury, Chicago, Illinois; Julie Mix McPeak, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner, Nashville, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; Michael C. Sapnar, Transatlantic Reinsurance Company, New York, New York; Stuart Henderson, Western National Mutual Insurance Company, Excelsior, Minnesota, on behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; and David Zaring, The Wharton School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF DETERMINATION ACT AND THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine federal payments to local governments provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and the need to provide greater fiscal certainty for resource-dependent communities with tax-exempt federal lands, after receiving testimony from Olivia Barton Ferriter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition; Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of

Agriculture; Mayor David Landis, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska; Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County, McCall, Idaho, and Mark Whitney, Beaver County, Milford, Utah, both on behalf of the National Association of Counties; Mike Manus, Pend Oreille County, Newport, Washington; and Mark Haggerty, Headwaters Economics, Bozeman, Montana.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Terry Branstad, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Department of State, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Grassley and Ernst, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

RELIGIOUS HATE CRIMES

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine responses to the increase in religious hate crimes, including S. 662, to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, a Federal private right of action for victims of hate crimes, and additional penalties for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, after receiving testimony from Eric Treene, Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice; Jonathan A. Greenblatt, Anti-Defamation League, and Prabhjot Singh, Mount Sinai Health System, both of New York, New York; Vanita Gupta, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Washington, D.C.; and Will D. Johnson, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Arlington, Texas.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 2281–2302 and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 51–52; and H. Res. 303–304, 306 were introduced. **Pages H3066–68**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3068–69**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 1679, to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's current efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant ac-

cessibility and transparency, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–107); and

H. Res. 305, providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 244) to encourage effective, voluntary investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–108). **Page H3066**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3005**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:31 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3008**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Ric Metzgar, Sr., The Church of God, Essex, MD. **Page H3009**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a recorded vote of 237 ayes to 176 noes with 3 answering "present", Roll No. 245. **Pages H3050–51**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Russell wherein he resigned from the Committee on Education and the Workforce. **Pages H3012–13**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 303, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H3013**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Federal Emergency Management Agency Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017: H.R. 1679, to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's current efforts to modernize its grant management system includes applicant accessibility and transparency, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 419 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 242. **Pages H3022, H3026–38**

Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017: The House passed H.R. 1180, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector, by a recorded vote of 229 yeas to 197 noes, Roll No. 244. **Pages H3013–19, H3024–26, H3038–50**

Rejected the Scott (VA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 192 yeas to 234 nays, Roll No. 243. **Pages H3048–49**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–15 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. **Page H3038**

H. Res. 299, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1180) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 231 yeas to 193 noes, Roll No. 241, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 233 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 240. **Pages H3024–26**

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

Disaster Declaration Improvement Act: H.R. 1665, amended, to ensure that Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency considers severe local impact in making a recommendation to the President for a major disaster declaration; **Pages H3019–22**

Amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments: H.R. 1678, amended, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments; and **Pages H3023–24**

Korean Interdiction and Modernization of Sanctions Act: H.R. 1644, amended, to enhance sanctions with respect to transactions relating to North Korea. **Pages H3026–38**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3019.

Senate Referral: S. 371 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H3064**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3024–25, H3025–26, H3026, H3049, H3049–50 and H3050–51. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THREE DECADES LATER: A REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF OUR SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES 30-YEARS AFTER THE CREATION OF U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled "Three Decades Later: A Review and Assessment of Our Special Operations Forces 30-Years After the Creation of U.S. Special Operations Command". Testimony was heard from General Raymond A. Thomas, U.S. Army, Commander, Special Operations Command; and Theresa Whelan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict.