

to limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit insurance carriers, health maintenance organizations, and other health coverage entities from denying coverage to employers with two or more employees; prevents employment-based health plans from excluding any employee from coverage based on the employee's health status; require health plans to renew coverage for groups and individuals as long as premiums are paid and there is no fraud or misrepresentation on the part of the policyholder; preempt State laws that prohibit the formation of private voluntary coalitions to purchase and negotiate health insurance plans; and guarantees the availability of individual health coverage to individuals who have had employment-based coverage of at least 18 months and who are ineligible for or have exhausted COBRA coverage (reject by a yea-and-nay vote of 192 yeas to 226 nays, Roll No. 104). **Pages H3112–38**

H. Res. 392, the rule under which the bill was considered, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote. Agreed to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 103.

Pages H3029–45

Conferee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Stokes wherein he resigns as a conferee in the Conference on H.R. 3019, the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1996. Subsequently, the Chair announced the appointment of Representative Hoyer to fill the vacancy among the primary panel of conferees.

Page H3147

Agriculture Reform: By a recorded vote of 318 ayes to 89 noes, Roll No. 107, the House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2854, to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs—clearing the measure for the President.

Pages H3147–69

H. Res. 393, the rule which waived all points of order against consideration of the conference report and provides for the adoption of S. Con. Res. 49, providing for certain corrections to be made in the enrollment of H.R. 2854, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote.

Pages H3147–50

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate appear on pages H2967 and H3045.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H2985–86, H2986, H3022, H3025, H3027–28, H3028, H3045, H3137–38, H3146, H3146–47, and H3168–69. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:42 a.m. on Friday, March 29.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Departmental Administration/Office of Chief Financial Officer and on Rural Economic and Community Development. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Wardell C. Townsend, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Administration; Irwin T. David, Acting Chief Financial Officer; Jill Long-Thompson, Under Secretary, Rural Economic and Community Development Service; Wally B. Beyer, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service; Maureen Kennedy, Administrator, Rural Housing Service; Dayton J. Watkins, Administrator, Rural Business Cooperative Services; and Bruce Crain, Director, Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary held a hearing on the Supreme Court. Testimony was heard from the following Associate Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Anthony M. Kennedy; and David H. Souter.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on the Appalachian Regional Commission and on the TVA. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Appalachian Regional Commission: Jesse L. White, Jr., Federal Co-Chairman and Gaston Caperton, States Co-Chairman and Governor, State of West Virginia; and Craven Crowell, Chairman, TVA.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Naval Reactors and on the Department of Energy Atomic Energy Defense Activities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Adm. Bruce DeMars, USN, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion; and Jerry Freedman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Nuclear Matters; and the following officials of the Department of Energy: Victor H. Reis, Assistant Secretary, Defense Programs; and Joan B. Rohlfing, Director, Office of Nonproliferation and National Security.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and on the Trade and Development Agency. Testimony was heard from Martin A. Kamarck, Acting President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank; Ruth R. Harkin, President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency; and J. Joseph Grandmison, Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency.'

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction held a hearing on Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from John J. Hamre, Under Secretary (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense.

NATIONAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing on fiscal year 1997 Army Posture and on Army Acquisition Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary; Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, USA, Chief of Staff; Gilbert F. Decker, Assistant Secretary, RD&A; Lt. Gen. Ronald V. Hite, USA, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary RD&A; Lt. Gen. Otto J. Guenther, USA, Director, Information Systems for C4; Maj. Gen. Edward G. Anderson III, USA, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans for Force Development; and Fenner Milton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Research and Technology, Office of the Assistant Secretary, RD&A.

TREASURY, POSTAL OPERATIONS, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held a hearing on Council of Economic Advisors and on Overall Treasury Operations. Testimony was heard from Joseph E. Stiglitz, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors; and the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Robert E. Rubin, Secretary; and George Munoz, Assistant Secretary for Management/Chief Financial Officer.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE BANK ACT OF 1996

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities and Government Sponsored Enterprises approved for full Committee action amended H.R. 3167, Enterprise Resource Bank Act of 1996.

TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS OFF-BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on the Implications of Taking the Transportation Trust Funds Off-Budget. Testimony was heard from Representatives Shuster, Oberstar, Livingston, Wolf, and Coleman; and public witnesses.

COMPETITIVE ELECTRICITY MARKETS

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held an oversight hearing on Technological, Environmental, and Financial Issues Raised by Increasingly Competitive Electricity Markets. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FCC REFORM

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance concluded hearings on FCC Reform. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families held a hearing on reviewing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Testimony was heard from Linda O'Neal, Executive Director, Commission on Children and Youth, State of Tennessee; Jerry W. Kilgore, Secretary of Public Safety, State of Virginia; and public witnesses.

D.C. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on the District of Columbia continued hearings on implementation of Public Law 104-8, district of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the District of Columbia: Marion S. Barry, Mayor; David A. Clarke, Chairman, Council; Anthony Williams, Chief Financial Officer; Angela Avant, Inspector General; and Andrew Brimmer, Chairman, Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority; and a public witness.

PERSIAN GULF WAR SYNDROME

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations continued hearings on the Status of Efforts to Identify Persian Gulf War Syndrome, Part 11. Testimony was heard from Thomas Garthwaite, M.D., Deputy Under Secretary, Health, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Hearings continue May 2.

DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on Developments in Iraq. Testimony was heard from Madeleine Albright, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Department of State; and public witnesses.

REORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIARY ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 1802, Reorganization of the Federal Administrative Judiciary Act. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth A. Moler, Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; the following officials of the NLRB: William B. Gould, IV, Chairman; and David S. Davidson, Chief Administrative Law Judge; the following officials of the SSA: Rita Geier, Deputy Associate Commissioner; Ron Bernoski and Seymour Fier, both Administrative Law Judges; and Stephen Calkins, General Counsel, FTC.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on National Security: Continued hearings on the fiscal year 1997 national defense authorization. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Gen. George A. Joulwan, USA, Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command; Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III, USA, Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command; Adm. Joseph W. Prueher, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command; Gen. Gary E. Luck, USA, Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, Commander in Chief, ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea; and VAdm. Harold Gehman, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 3034, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend for two months the authority for promulgating regulations under the Act; H.R. 2107, amended, Visitor Services Improvement and Outdoor Legacy Act of 1995; H.R. 1129, amended, to amend the National

Trails Systems Act to designate the route from Selma to Montgomery as a National Historic Trail; H.R. 1772, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex; H.R. 1836, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 2660, to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 2679, to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge; and H.R. 1975, amended, Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1995.

NASA POSTURE

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on NASA Posture. Testimony was heard from Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator, NASA.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development approved for full Committee action the following: 10 pending prospectuses; H. Con. Res. 150, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event sponsored by the Specialty Equipment Market Association; H. Con. Res. 153, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; H.R. 3134, to designate the U.S. Courthouse under construction at 1030 Southwest 3d Avenue, Portland, OR, as the "Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse;" and H.R. 3029, to designate the United States courthouse in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse."

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation held a hearing on the Importance of Transportation Infrastructure Investments to the Nation's Future. Testimony was heard from T.R. Lakshmanan, Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

DEEPWATER PORT MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a joint hearing on H.R. 2940, Deepwater Port Modernization Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Hayes; Joseph Canny,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

IRS BUDGET AND TAX RETURN FILING SEASON

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the IRS budget for Fiscal Year 1997 and the 1996 Tax Return Filing Season. Testimony was heard from Margaret Milner Richardson, Commissioner, IRS, Department of the Treasury; Lynda D. Willis, Director, Tax Policy and Administration issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

U.S. TRADE POLICY—STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade continued hearings on the status and future direction of U.S. trade policy, with emphasis on United States-Japan trade relations. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dreier and Levin; Ira Shapiro, Senior Counsel and Negotiator, office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Joint Meetings

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Conferees continued in evening session to resolve the differences between the Senate- and House-passed versions of H.R. 3019, making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D280)

S. 1494, to provide for an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture. Signed March 28, 1996. (P.L. 104-120)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1996

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Airland Forces, to resume hearings on proposed legislation author-

izing funds for fiscal year 1997 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on Army modernization programs, 9 a.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1997 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on cooperative threat reduction program, arms control, and chemical demilitarization, 11 a.m., SR-232A.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, on the Helsinki Commission and on Members of Congress, 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water, on Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, to mark up H.R. 842, Truth in Budgeting Act, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials, hearing on reauthorization of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on Government Management, Information Technology, hearing on Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, to mark up H.R. 361, Omnibus Export Administration Act of 1995, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3166, Government Accountability Act of 1996; and H.R. 2650, Mandatory Federal Prison Drug Treatment Act of 1995, 9:30 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on National Security, Subcommittee on Procurement and the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development, to continue joint hearings on the fiscal year 1997 national defense authorization, with emphasis on Navy modernization, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: H.J. Res. 159, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for bills increasing taxes; and H.R. 842, Truth in Budgeting Act, 10 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3158, Pilot Small Business Technology Transfer Program Extension Act of 1996; and H.R. 2715, Paperwork Elimination Act of 1995, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, hearing on fiscal year 1997 budget request, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.