

Policy Research, and Candice J. Nelson, American University, both of Washington, D.C.; and Frederick Schauer, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Hearings continue on Wednesday, May 15.

VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded hearings on proposals to reform eligibility rules for Department of Veterans Affairs' health care benefits, focusing on the effects of veterans' health care eligibility priorities which govern all veterans' access to VA care and programs, including related measures S. 1345, S. 1359, S. 1563, and provisions of H.R. 1385, after receiving testimony from Kenneth W. Kizer, Under Secretary for Health, and Mary Lou Keener, General Counsel, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael A. Miller, Unit Chief, Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs

Cost Estimates Unit, Budget Analysis Division, Congressional Budget Office.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider certain intelligence matters.

Committee will meet again on Friday, May 10.

WHITEWATER

Special Committee to Investigate the Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters: Committee resumed hearings to examine certain matters relative to the Whitewater Development Corporation, receiving testimony from Ron Proctor, Vernon Dewey, Don Denton, Robert Ritter, James Patterson, and Frank Burge, all of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 3411–3421, were introduced. **Page H4646**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 1129, to amend the National Trails Systems Act to designate the route from Selma to Montgomery as a National Historic Trail, amended (H. Rept. 104–567); and

H.R. 2982, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Carbon Hill National Fish Hatchery to the State of Alabama (H. Rept. 104–568). **Page H4646**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designates Representative Hansen to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4533**

Permission to Sit: The following committees and their subcommittees received permission to sit today during proceedings of the House under the 5-minute rule: Committees on Agriculture, Commerce, Economic and Educational Opportunities, Government Reform and Oversight, International Relations, Resources, Science, Small Business, and Veterans' Affairs. **Page H4536**

Iranian Arms Transfers: By a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 187 noes, Roll No. 151, the House agreed to H. Res. 416, establishing a select subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations to investigate the United States Role in Iranian Arms

Transfers to Croatia and Bosnia. Agreed to order the previous question on the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 150. **Pages H4536–50**

Expenses of Select Subcommittee: By a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 152, the House agreed to H. Res. 417, providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Subcommittee on the United States Role in Iranian Arms Transfers to Croatia and Bosnia of the Committee on International Relations in the Second Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress. **Pages H4550–59**

Agreed to the Dreier amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Housing Act: The House completed all general debate and began consideration of amendments on H.R. 2406, to repeal the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs. Consideration of amendments will resume on Thursday, May 9. **Pages H4569–H4643**

H. Res. 426, the rule under which the bill is being considered, was agreed to earlier by a voice vote. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question on the rule by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 153. **Pages H4559–69**

Agreed To:

The Lazio amendment that includes technical and clarifying changes; replaces the single block grant for

federally assisted housing with two block grants, one for capital needs and the other for operating expenses; increases to 30 percent the portion of public housing units reserved for families with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income; requires that 50 percent of assistance provided under the new tenant-based rental assistance voucher program be received for families making 60 percent or less of area median income; caps at 30 percent of income the maximum rent that may be charged to current residents earning 30 percent or less of area median income; establishes a 30 percent rent cap for all current elderly and disabled tenants; provides for the deregulation of 300 housing authorities; allows public housing authorities to convert their housing assistance to tenant-based vouchers under certain circumstances; establishes a commission to analyze the costs of public housing to facilitate cost comparisons; requires housing authority board members who are residents of public housing to be elected by their neighbors; allows a housing authority to enter into contracts with tenants to facilitate a movement from housing assistance into self-sufficiency; and establishes a demonstration program to allow 100 housing authorities to design programs that move tenants from public housing into the private home ownership markets;

Pages H4592-94

The Watt amendment that includes the statement that it is the goal of the nation that all citizens have decent and affordable housing;

Page H4607

The Watt amendment that provides a provision that housing management plans comply with Federal law;

Page H4617

The Gilchrest amendment that stipulates the use of trespass laws by housing authorities to keep evicted tenants or criminals out of public housing;

Pages H4617-18

The Maloney amendment that allows elderly and disabled residents living in federally-assisted housing be allowed to keep a common household pet;

Pages H4618-27

The Solomon amendment that prohibits admission and occupancy to public housing units by any person who has been convicted of illegal possession with intent to sell any controlled substance; and

Page H4628

The Fields amendment that strikes reference to eligibility of residents to public housing boards who have been convicted of a misdemeanor.

Pages H4628-29

Rejected:

The Fields amendment that sought to require housing authorities to include at least 25 percent of residents as members of the Board of Directors (re-

jected by a recorded vote of 158 yeas to 254 nays, Roll No. 154);

Pages H4613-17, H4627-28

The Fields amendment that sought to establish housing advisory boards to include at least 60 percent of tenants as members; and

Pages H4629-30

The Jackson-Lee amendment that sought to establish a regional appeals board that includes tenant representation.

Pages H4630-32

Withdrawn: The following amendments were offered, but subsequently withdrawn:

The Watt amendment that sought to modify the declaration of policy by eliminating the section stating that the Federal government cannot provide for the housing of every American;

Pages H4595-H4607

The Vento amendment that sought to replace the authority's finding with the Secretary's finding;

Pages H4611-12

The Fields amendment that sought to require that board membership of housing authorities include at least 25 percent of residents as members; and

Pages H4612-13

The Ehrlich amendment that sought to prohibit the relocation of public housing from Baltimore, Maryland to other jurisdictions in the state of Maryland, if the relocation is connected to a legal action brought by the residents of Baltimore housing units.

Pages H4632-33

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group:

The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House as delegates to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Dreier, Upton, Gibbons, de la Garza, Oberstar, Johnston of Florida, Peterson of Minnesota, Danner, Underwood, and Frazer.

Page H4643

Referral: One Senate-passed measure was referred to the appropriate House committee.

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Amendments Ordered Printed: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H4647-54.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H4533.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H4549, H4549-50, H4559, H4569, and H4627-28. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

USDA—FEDERAL FUNDS TO OBTAIN SERVICES FROM PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to investigate the use, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, of federal funds authorized under Section 17 of the Food Stamp Act to obtain services from private contractors. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, GAO: Keith Fultz, Assistant Comptroller General; Martin J. Fitzgerald, Associate General Counsel; and Mary L. Dietrich, Senior Evaluator; Ellen Haas, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, USDA; and public witnesses.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND THE JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary held a hearing on Trade Promotion and Enforcement and on Immigration and Border Security. Testimony was heard from Charlene Barshefsky, Acting U.S. Trade Representative; the following officials of the Department of Commerce: Stuart Eizenstat, Under Secretary, International Trade; and William S. Reinsch, Under Secretary, Export Administration; Peter S. Watson, Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission; Joan Edelman Spero, Under Secretary, Economics, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, Department of State; the following officials of the Department of Justice: Doris Meissner, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Anthony C. Moscato, Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review; and Ruth A. Davis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Consular Affairs, Department of State.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on all other Department of Labor (except OSHA) and on Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Testimony was heard from Joseph A. Dear, Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor; and Stuart E. Weisberg, Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

VETERANS AFFAIRS-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies continued appropriation hear-

ings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held an oversight hearing on the Future of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: C. Kyle Simpson, Associate Deputy Secretary, Energy Programs; and Jay E. Hakes, Administrator, Energy Information Administration; Jan Paul Acton, Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Commerce Division, CBO; and public witnesses.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families held a hearing on Prevention Programs under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOWNSIZING—PERSONNEL ISSUES

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Civil Service held a hearing on Personnel Issues in Downsizing. Testimony was heard from Representatives Wolf, Morella, and Hoyer; and public witnesses.

SUPERFUND

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing on Superfund: A Badly Broken Program in Urgent Need of Reform. Testimony was heard from Representative Mica; Stanley Czerwinski, Associate Director, Environmental Protection Issues, GAO; John C. Martin, Inspector General, EPA; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice held an oversight hearing on the 1996 National Drug Control Strategy. Testimony was heard from Gen. Barry McCaffrey, USA, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; SUBPOENAS

Committee on International Relations: Favorably considered the following resolutions and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that they be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Con. Res. 160, congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the success of their recent democratic multiparty elections; H. Con. Res. 165, saluting and congratulating Polish people around the world as, on