

Thursday, September 5, 1996

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed VA/HUD Appropriations.

Senate agreed to Military Construction and District of Columbia Appropriations Conference Reports.

House passed the Armed Forces Protection Act.

House passed the Small Business Programs Improvement Act.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S9869–S9983*

**Measures Introduced:** Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2055–2057, and S. Res. 288. **Page S9967**

#### Measures Passed:

*Condemning Iraq:* By 96 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 277), Senate agreed to S. Res. 288, regarding the United States response to Iraqi aggression.

**Pages S9935–38, S9955–56**

*National Museum of the American Indian Act:* Senate passed S. 1970, to amend the National Museum of the American Indian Act to make improvements in the Act. **Pages S9981–82**

*Older Americans—Indians:* Senate passed S. 1972, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve the provisions relating to Indians. **Page S9982**

*U.S. Armed Forces in Panama:* Senate passed S. Con. Res. 14, urging the President to negotiate a new base rights agreement with the Government of Panama to permit United States Armed Forces to remain in Panama beyond December 31, 1999, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S9982–83**

Frist (for Helms) Amendment No. 5202, to require consultation with Congress regarding any bilateral negotiations. **Pages S9982–83**

*VA/HUD Appropriations:* By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 278), Senate passed H.R. 3666, making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions,

corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, taking action on further amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

**Pages S9875–S9934, S9938–57**

#### Adopted:

Bond (for Hollings) Amendment No. 5187, to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to permit Charleston County and the City of North Charleston, South Carolina, to improve conditions and to increase their capacity in building a more viable urban community.

**Pages S9875–76**

Bond (for Bennett) Amendment No. 5188, to provide funds to the Utah Housing Finance Agency.

**Pages S9876–77**

Subsequently, the amendment was modified.

**Page S9939**

Bond (for Faircloth) Amendment No. 5189, to prohibit the use of amounts made available under this Act to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Pages S9877–78**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 271), Helms Modified Amendment No. 5191, to increase funding for drug elimination grants.

**Pages S9899–S9903**

Bradley/Kassebaum/Frist Amendment No. 5192, to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for a mother and child following the birth of the child.

**Pages S9903–15**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 272), Frist Amendment No. 5193 (to Amendment No. 5192), of a clarifying nature.

**Pages S9903–15**

By 82 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 274), Domenici/Wellstone Amendment No. 5194, to provide health plan protections for individuals with a mental illness.

Pages S9915–27, S9953

Gramm Amendment No. 5196 (to Amendment No. 5194), to provide that if the provisions result in a one percent or greater increase in the cost of a group health plan's premiums, the purchaser is exempt from the provisions.

Pages S9926–27

Daschle Amendment No. 5190, to provide benefits for certain children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida, and to offset the cost of such benefits by requiring that there be an element of fault as a precondition for entitlement to compensation for a disability or death resulting from health care or certain other services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Pages S9932–34, S9955

Bond (for Bingaman) Amendment No. 5198, to revise the name of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission.

Pages S9938–39

Bond (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 5199, to require the conveyance to the City of Downey, California, of certain real property under the jurisdiction of NASA.

Page S9939

Bond (for McCain) Amendment No. 5200, to revise provisions relating to mortgage insurance.

Pages S9939–40

Bond Amendment No. 5201, to provide supplemental appropriations for veterans compensation and pensions for fiscal year 1996.

Page S9940

Rejected:

Brown Amendment No. 5195 (to Amendment No. 5194), to provide that consumers shall retain the freedoms to choose a group health plan with coverage limitations of their choice. (By 75 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 273), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S9920–26

Harkin/Moynihan/Specter Amendment No. 5197, to provide that VA funding for a state shall not be reduced. (By 60 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 275), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S9927–32, S9953–55

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

By 62 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 276), Senate failed to sustain a point of order that Amendment No. 5190, listed above, was not germane.

Page S9955

Senate insisted on its amendments, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair appointed the following conferees: Senators Bond, Burns, Stevens, Shelby, Bennett, Campbell, Hatfield, Mikulski, Leahy, Johnston, Lautenberg, Kerrey, and Byrd.

Page S9957

**Military Construction Appropriations—Conference Report:** By 92 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. 269), Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R.

3517, making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base alignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages S9869–73, S9874

**D.C. Appropriations—Conference Report:** By 83 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 270), Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3845, making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages S9873–74

**Department of Defense Authorizations Conference Report—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent time-agreement was reached providing for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 3230, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, on Monday, September 9, 1996, with a vote on the conference report to occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, September 10, 1996.

Page S9874

**Employment Nondiscrimination Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent time-agreement was reached providing for the consideration of S. 2056, to prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation, on Friday, September 6, and Tuesday, September 10, 1996, with a vote to occur thereon.

Page S9983

**Defense of Marriage Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of H.R. 3396, to define and protect the institution of marriage, on Tuesday, September 10, 1996, with a vote to occur thereon.

Page S9954

Prior to this agreement, a motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Page S9926

Subsequently, the cloture motion was vitiated.

Page S9954

**Treasury/Postal Service Appropriations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of H.R. 3756, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, on Tuesday, September 10, 1996.

Page S9954

**Messages From the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report concerning emigration laws and policies of Mongolia; to Committee on Finance. (PM-167).

Page S9965

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations: Donald M. Middlebrooks, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

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**Messages From the President:**

Page S9965

**Messages From the House:**

Pages S9965-66

**Measures Referred:**

Page S9966

**Measures Placed on Calendar:**

Page S9966

**Communications:**

Pages S9966-67

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

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**Statements on Introduced Bills:**

Pages S9967-68

**Additional Cosponsors:**

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**Amendments Submitted:**

Pages S9968-77

**Notices of Hearings:**

Page S9977

**Authority for Committees:**

Page S9977

**Additional Statements:**

Pages S9977-81

**Record Votes:** Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—278)

Pages S9874, S9902-03, S9915, S9926, S9953, S9954-57

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 11:17 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, September 6, 1996. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9983.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Armed Services:** Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN, for reappointment to the grade of vice admiral in the United States Navy, Vice Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, for appointment to the grade of Admiral in the United States Navy, and Maj. Gen. David J. McCloud, for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Air Force.

### WATER RESOURCES AND RECLAMATION PROJECTS

**Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:** Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management concluded hearings on S. 931, to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corpora-

tion, for the planning and construction of a water supply system, S. 1564, to provide loan guarantees for water supply, conservation, quality and transmission projects, S. 1565, to supplement the Small Reclamation Projects Act and the Federal reclamation laws by providing for Federal cooperation in non-Federal projects and for participation by non-Federal agencies in Federal projects, S. 1649, to extend contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation districts in Kansas and Nebraska, S. 1719, to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer to sell to certain public agencies the indebtedness representing the remaining repayment balance of certain Bureau of Reclamation projects in Texas, S. 1921, to transfer certain facilities at the Minidoka project to the Burley Irrigation District, S. 1986, to provide for the completion of the Umatilla Basin Project, and S. 2015, to convey certain real property located within the Carlsbad Project in New Mexico to the Carlsbad Irrigation District, after receiving testimony from Senators Daschle, Pressler, Grassley, Hutchison, and Kerrey; Representatives Cooley, Tim Johnson, and Ortiz; Eluid L. Martinez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Mayor Mary Rhodes, Corpus Christi, Texas, on behalf of the Choke Canyon Reservoir System; Mayor Gary Hanson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Mayor William Weber, Luverne, Minnesota; Roger Ling and Randy Bingham, both representing the Burley Irrigation District, Burley, Idaho; Larry Libeu, Municipal Eastern Water District, Jacinto, California, on behalf of the Eastern and National Water Resources Associations; Dave McCullum, O'Livenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, California; John Williams, Canadian River Authority/Lake Meredith Reservoir; Ken Choffel, HDR Engineering, Inc., Austin, Texas; Kenneth Nelson, Kansas Bostick Irrigation District, Courtland, on behalf of the Irrigation Project Reauthorization Council; Reed Marbut, Oregon Water Resources Department, Salem; Donald G. Sampson, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Pete Wells, both of Pendleton, Oregon; Chester Prior, Westland Irrigation District, Stanfield, Oregon; Pamela Bonrud, Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Randy Van Dyke, Clay County Rural Water, Spencer, Iowa.

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Foreign Relations:** Committee on Foreign Relations concluded hearings on the nominations of John Francis Maisto, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Venezuela, Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, Genta Hawkins Holmes, of California, to be Ambassador to Australia, Arma Jane