

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CROP INSURANCE REFORM

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to examine the Federal Crop and Revenue Insurance program of the Department of Agriculture, focusing on the adequacy of the administrative expense reimbursement paid by the Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to participating insurance companies for selling and servicing crop insurance and the comparative cost to the government of delivering catastrophic crop insurance through the Department of Agriculture and the private sector, and to discuss alternative means to reimburse companies' administrative expenses for delivering crop insurance, after receiving testimony Robert A. Robinson, Director, Food and Agriculture Issues, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, General Accounting Office; Kenneth D. Ackerman, Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture; John Joyce, National Crop Insurance Services, West Des Moines, Iowa, on behalf of the American Association of Crop Insurers; Richard C. Gibson, American Agrisure, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Robert E. Fulwider, West Liberty, Iowa, on behalf of the Independent Insurance Agents of America; Alan S. Walter, Agricultural Risk Management North America, Inc., Overland Park, Kansas; Frank Beurskens, Frank Beurskens Consulting, Inc., Bloomington, Illinois, on behalf of the National Grain and Feed Association; and David Lehman, Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago, Illinois.

APPROPRIATIONS—SUPREME COURT/JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Supreme Court of the United States and the Judiciary, receiving testimony from Anthony M. Kennedy, and David H. Souter, each an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; and John G. Heyburn II, United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, April 24.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on Korea, Burma, and Hong Kong,

receiving testimony from Charles Cartman, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, May 6.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Forest Service, receiving testimony from James R. Lyons, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and Michael P. Dombeck, Chief, Forest Service, both of the Department of Agriculture.

Subcommittee will meet again on Thursday, April 24.

APPROPRIATIONS—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for law enforcement programs of the Department of the Treasury, receiving testimony from Raymond W. Kelly, Under Secretary for Enforcement, George Weise, Commissioner, United States Customs Service, John W. Magaw, Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Charles F. Rinkevich, Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Stanley E. Morris, Director, Office of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Eljay B. Bowron, Director, United States Secret Service, and Valerie Lau, Inspector General, all of the Department of the Treasury.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness resumed hearings on S. 450, authorizing funds for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, focusing on the status of operational readiness of United States military forces, receiving testimony from Gen. Ronald H. Griffith, USA, Vice Chief of the Army; Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, USAF, Vice Chief of the Air Force; Gen. Richard I. Neal, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Schwartz, USA, Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood; Vice Adm. Herbert A. Browne, Jr., USN, Commanding Admiral, III Fleet; Lt. Gen. Carl E. Franklin, USAF, Commanding General, 9th Air Force; and Lt. Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC, Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

REVENUE RAISING PROPOSALS

Committee on Finance: Committee held hearings to examine certain revenue raising provisions of the Administration's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998, receiving testimony from Donald C. Lubick, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy; Martin D. Ginsburg, Georgetown University Law Center, Fred T. Goldberg, Jr., Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, Gary C. Hufbauer, Institute for International Economics, and C. Ellen MacNeil, Arthur Andersen, all of Washington, D.C.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings on the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, opened for signature and signed by the United States at Paris on January 13, 1993 (Treaty Doc. 103-21), after receiving testimony from Representative Goss; Ronald F. Lehman, former Director, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Edward J. O'Malley, former Assistant Director of Counterintelligence, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Gen. William Odom, former Director, National Security Agency, Department of Defense.

IRAN WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs held hearings to examine United States policy with regard to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile programs in Iran, receiving testimony from Senator D'Amato; David Welch, Acting Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and Robert J. Einhorn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, both of the Department of State; R. James Woolsey, former Director of Central Intelligence; and Leonard S. Spector, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

CHINESE ARMS PROLIFERATION

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services concluded hearings in closed session to examine China's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related technologies, missile delivery systems, and advanced conventional weapons, after receiving testimony from Gordon Oehler, Special Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence for Nonproliferation and Director, DCI's Nonproliferation Center.

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring, and the District of Columbia concluded hearings to discuss improvement opportunities for public education in the District of Columbia, after receiving testimony from Julius W. Becton, Jr., Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools; Bruce K. MacLaury, Chairman, District of Columbia Emergency Transitional Education Board of Trustees; Kevin P. Chavous, Chairman/Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation, District of Columbia City Council; A. Lamar Alexander, Jr., former Secretary of Education; former Mayor Edward I. Koch, New York, New York; Jay P. Greene, University of Houston, Houston, Texas; and Jeanne Allen, Center for Education Reform, Kathleen Sylvester, Progressive Policy Institute, and Mark E.P. Roberts, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 506, to clarify and make technical corrections to certain copyright provisions;

S. 568, to make a technical correction to title 28, United States Code, relating to jurisdiction for lawsuits against terrorist states; and

The nominations of Donald M. Middlebrooks, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Jeffrey T. Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Robert W. Pratt, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa.

JOB TRAINING

Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Subcommittee on Employment and Training concluded hearings to examine innovations in youth job training, focusing on Federal programs to assist at-risk youth improve their preparation for a career, after receiving testimony from Mary H. Silva, National Director, Office of Job Corps, Department of Labor; Allyson Peerman, Advanced Mirco Devices, and Richard Halpin, American Institute for Learning, both of Austin, Texas; Ralph DiBattista, Vinnell Corporation, St. Paul, Minnesota; Carmen Placido, Center for Employment Training, San Jose, California; Lorenzo D. Harrison, East Harlem Employment Service/STRIVE, New York, New York; and Jerome Ryan, Boston Alternative Education Alliance, Boston, Massachusetts.

SENATE ELECTION INVESTIGATION

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution authorizing an investigation into alleged illegal and

improper activities affecting the outcome of a United States Senate election held in the State of Louisiana in November 1996.

GULF WAR ILLNESSES

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded hearings to examine the United States Government's response with regard to the disclosure of information on the possible exposure of United States and allied troops to chemical and biological weapons during

the Persian Gulf War and the handling of health care concerns of U.S. veterans, after receiving testimony from Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.).

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee will meet again on Wednesday, April 23.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 47 public bills, H.R. 1358–1404; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 64 and H. Res. 120–123, were introduced. **Pages H1703–06**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 688, to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require at least 85 percent of funds appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund to be distributed to States for cooperative agreements for undertaking corrective action and for enforcement of subtitle I of such Act (H. Rept. 105–58 Part I).

Page H1703

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Kolbe to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1621**

Journal: By a recorded vote of 317 ayes to 100 noes, Roll No. 84, the House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, April 16.

Page H1626

Words Stricken From the Record—Proceed in Order: Objection was heard to the proposal of the Chair that certain words of Representative Lewis of Georgia be stricken from the record by unanimous consent. By a recorded vote of 227 ayes to 190 noes with 3 voting "present", Roll No. 82, the House voted to strike the words from the record. Subsequently, by a recorded vote of 223 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 83, the House agreed to table a motion that Representative Lewis of Georgia be allowed to proceed in order.

Pages H1624–26

Member Sworn: Representative-elect *Ciro D. Rodriguez* presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the oath of office by the Speaker.

Pages H1626–27

Personal Privilege: Representative *Gingrich* rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized for one hour. **Pages H1627–29**

21st Century Patent System Improvement Act: The House completed all general debate and began consideration of amendments to H.R. 400, to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents, and began consideration of amendments. Consideration of amendments will resume on Wednesday, April 23. **Pages H1629–55**

Agreed to the *Coble* amendment that includes technical changes; delays the publication of patent applications from small business concerns or independent inventors until 3 months after a second notification on the merits is made by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO); retains the practice of charging small business and independent inventors a reduced application fee; separates operational and policy functions of PTO and creates an Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property Policy to develop patent and trademark policy; establishes an incentive program to train patent and trademark examiners; and strikes authority to accept gifts or donations of services. **Page H1669**

Rejected the *Rohrabacher* amendment in the nature of a substitute that sought to establish a 17-year patent term from the date the patent is granted or 20 years from the date the patent application is filed; provide that patent applications can be published only if the information is in the public domain in other countries at the time it is filed in the United States, the application has been filed with PTO for five years or longer and PTO determines that the public interest served by publication, or the inventor deliberately withholds publication of the patent; provide for patent examiner training; require that user fees be used only for the Patent and Trademark Office; and specify that contracts between marketing companies and inventors contain standardized