Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1757, Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act and


Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2587-S2692

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1864-1872, and S. Res. 200.

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:

H.R. 927, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.


Adopted:

Enzi Amendment No. 2133, to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating certain regulations relating to Indian gaming activities.

Stevens (for McCain) Amendment No. 2136, to clarify that unmarried adult children of Vietnamese reeducation camp internees are eligible for refugee status under the Orderly Departure Program.

Stevens (for Murkowski/Stevens) Amendment No. 2137, to make technical corrections to the Michigan Indian Lands Claims Settlement Act to provide certain health care services for Alaska natives.

Stevens (for Murkowski/Stevens) Amendment No. 2138, to make technical corrections to the Fiscal Year 1998 Department of Interior Appropriations Act (P.L. 105-83).

Stevens (for Bond/Stevens) Amendment No. 2139, to make emergency funds available for the purchase of F/A-18 aircraft.

Stevens (for Chafee) Amendment No. 2140, to modify the Energy and Water Development section of the bill.

Stevens (for Wyden) Amendment No. 2141, to eliminate secrecy in international financial and trade organizations.

Stevens (for Bond) Amendment No. 2142, to make technical corrections to Economic Development Grant program funded in 1992 as part of the Empowerment Zone Act.

Stevens (for Craig) Amendment No. 2143, to make technical corrections to Section 405 of the bill regarding Forest Service transportation system moratorium.

Pages S2587-S2631

Mexico Drug Decertification: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 42, to disapprove the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during the fiscal year 1998 and, by 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 47), the resolution was rejected.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations: Senate concluded consideration of S. 1768, making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, after taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:
By unanimous consent, Amendment No. 2062, to establish an emergency commission to study the trade deficit, agreed to on March 23, 1998, was modified. 

Stevens (for Cochran/Bumpers) Amendment No. 2144, to make a technical correction in the language of the Livestock Disaster Assistance Program. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Wellstone/Conrad/Dorgan) Amendment No. 2145, to subsidize the cost of additional farm operating and emergency loans. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Jeffords/Leahy) Amendment No. 2146, to make funds available for emergency construction to repair the Mackville Dam, Hardwick, Vermont. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Lott) Amendment No. 2147 (to Amendment No. 2100), to make a technical correction. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Daschle) Amendment No. 2148, to provide funds for humanitarian demining activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Gregg) Amendment No. 2149, to make a technical correction to the Patent and Trademark section of the bill. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Levin) Amendment No. 2150 (to Amendment No. 2100), dealing with the consultation by the Secretary of the Treasury with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative regarding prospective IMF borrower countries. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Grassley/Stevens) Amendment No. 2151, to make funds available for construction of a P3-AEW hangar in Corpus Christie, Texas. 

Pages S2594, S2596

Stevens (for Hutchison) Amendment No. 2152, to provide funds to rectify damages caused by windstorms in Texas. 

Pages S2598–99

Stevens (for Boxer) Amendment No. 2153, to provide additional funds for construction programs of the Department of the Interior to repair damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. 

Pages S2598–99

Stevens (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 2154, to provide emergency Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) remediation in schools and other facilities at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. 

Pages S2598–99

Robb Amendment No. 2135, to reform agricultural credit programs of the Department of Agriculture. 

Pages S2603, S2605

By 84 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. 44), McConnell Modified Amendment No. 2100, to provide supplemental appropriations for the International Monetary Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998. 

Pages S2596, S2599–S2607

Stevens (for Lautenberg) Amendment No. 2156, to allocate certain funds to the State of New Jersey to carry out housing opportunities for persons with AIDS. 

Pages S2608–09

Murkowski Amendment No. 2157, to cancel the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. 

Pages S2610–11

Stevens (for Byrd) Amendment No. 2159, to provide assistance to employees of the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture. 

Page S2612

Bingaman/Hollings Amendment No. 2160, to provide for school security training and technology, and for local school security programs. 

Pages S2612–14

Cochran Amendment No. 2161, to make certain technical corrections. 

Page S2614

Stevens (for D'Amato) Amendment No. 2163, relating to the use of Floyd Bennett Field in New York City by the New York City Police Department. 

Pages S2625–26

Stevens (for Nickles) Amendment No. 2120, to strike certain funding for the Health Care Financing Administration. 

Rejected:

Kennedy Amendment No. 2164 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2120), in the nature of a substitute. (By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 45), Senate tabled the amendment.) 

Pages S2627–29

Withdrawn:

Bumpers Amendment No. 2134, to express the sense of the Senate that of the rescissions, if any, which Congress makes to offset appropriations made for emergency items in the Fiscal Year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill, defense spending should be rescinded to offset increases in spending for defense programs. 

Page S2600

Torricelli/Lautenberg Amendment No. 2155, to express the sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should not accept a settlement in proceedings to recover costs incurred in the cleanup of the Wayne Interim Storage Site, Wayne, New Jersey, unless the settlement recaptures a substantial portion of the costs incurred by the taxpayer. 

Pages S2607–08

Cleland Amendment No. 2158, to authorize the establishment of a disaster mitigation pilot program in the Small Business Administration. 

Pages S2611–12

Baucus/Burns Amendment No. 2162, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the term of a marketing assistance loan made to producers on a farm for any loan commodity until September 30, 1998. 

Pages S2615–18

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate receives the House companion measure, all after the enacting clause be
stricken and the text of S. 1768, as amended, be substituted in lieu thereof and, after passage, the Senate insist on its amendment and request a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

Also, a further consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate receives the House companion measure making supplemental appropriations for the International Monetary Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of the IMF Title of S. 1768 be substituted in lieu thereof and, after passage, the Senate insist on its amendment and request a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

Subsequently, S. 1728 was returned to the Senate Calendar.

Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools—Cloture Vote: By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 46), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to close further debate on H.R. 2646, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, and to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts.

A fifth motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on the cloture motion would occur on Monday, March 30, 1998.

Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of the nomination of M. Margaret McKown, of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, on Friday, March 27, 1998, with a vote to occur thereon.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.
1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Appendix: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—47)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:08 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Friday, March 27, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record, on pages S2690–91.)

Committee Meetings

(Apps not listed did not meet)

Appropriations—Bureau of Reclamation/Corps of Engineers
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for the Bureau of Reclamation from Patricia J. Beneke, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and Eluid L. Martinez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, both of the Department of the Interior; and in behalf of funds for the Army Corps of Engineers from John H. Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); Lt. Gen. Joe N. Ballard, Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers; and Maj. Gen. Russell L. Fuhrman, Director of Civil Works, United States Army.

Appropriations—National Endowment for the Arts/Humanities
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Interior and Related Agencies held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999, receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from Kathryn O'Leary Higgins, Acting Chairman, and Scott Shanklin-Peterson, Senior Deputy Chairman, both of the National Endowment for the Arts; and Bill Ferris, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities. Subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, April 1.

Appropriations—National Drug Control Policy
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Treasury and General Government held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for
the Office of National Drug Control Policy, receiving testimony from Barry R. McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

**AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE**

Committee on Armed Services: Committee resumed hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for national defense and the future years defense program, focusing on Department of Energy atomic energy defense activities, receiving testimony from Federico F. Peña, Secretary of Energy.

Committee recessed subject to call.

**AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE**

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces resumed hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on the domestic emergency response program and support to the interagency preparedness efforts, including the federal response plan and the city training program, receiving testimony from H. Allen Holmes, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict; Maj. Gen. Edward Soriano, USA, Director, Military Support Headquarters, and Maj. Gen. George E. Friel, USA, Commander, Chemical and Biological Defense Command, both of the Department of the Army; and Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, Director, Office of Emergency Response, Department of Energy.

Subcommittee will meet again on Tuesday, March 31.

**CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP**

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee held hearings to examine the implications of the recent Supreme Court decision concerning credit union membership, and proposed legislation to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to clarify existing law and ratify the longstanding policy of the National Credit Union Administration Board with regard to field of membership of Federal credit unions, receiving testimony from John D. Hawke, Jr., Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, and Richard S. Carnell, Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, both of the Department of the Treasury; Norman E. D’Amours, Chairman, and Yolanda Townsend Wheat and Dennis Dollar, both Board Members, all of the National Credit Union Administration; and Bruce O. Jolly, Jr., Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Washington, D.C.

Hearings continue on Thursday, April 2.

**AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries concluded hearings on S. 1221, to amend title 46 of the United States Code to prevent foreign ownership and control of United States flag vessels employed in the fisheries in the navigable waters and exclusive economic zone of the United States, and to prevent the issuance of fishery endorsements to certain vessels, after receiving testimony from Senator Murkowski; David Evans, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; Rear Adm. Robert C. North, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, United States Coast Guard, Department of Commerce; Daniel J. Whittle, Environmental Defense Fund, Raleigh, North Carolina; Niaz Dorry, Greenpeace, and Alfred G. King, Jr., King Sons, Inc., both of Gloucester, Massachusetts; Jim Kendall, New Bedford Seafood Coalition, New Bedford, Massachusetts; Michael Love, Atlantic Star, North Yarmouth, Maine; Charles H. Bundrant, Trident Seafoods Corporation, Cary Swasdan, Aleutian Spray Fisheries, Alec Brindle, Alyeska Seafoods Inc., and Paul McGregor, At-Sea Processors Association, all of Seattle, Washington; Frank Bohannon, United Catcher Boats, Sun River, Oregon; and Jeff Hendricks, Alaska Ocean Seafood Limited Partnership, Anacortes, Washington.

**AUTHORIZATION—SUPERFUND**

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 8, authorizing funds for programs of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act (Superfund), with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

* H.R. 927, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for appointment of United States marshals by the Attorney General, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Kermit Lopez, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Robert T. Dawson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Garr M. King, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Johnnie B. Rawlinson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, and Gregory Moneta Sleet, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.
INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Bills Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 3558–3570; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 251–253, and H. Res. 398–399, were introduced.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:
H.R. 2786, to authorize additional appropriations for the Department of Defense for ballistic missile defenses and other measures to counter the emerging threat posed to the United States and its allies in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region by the development and deployment of ballistic missiles by Iran (H. Rept. 105–468 Part 1).

Personal Privilege: Representative Shuster rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized for 1 hour.

Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act: The House passed H.R. 3310, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses by a recorded vote of 267 ayes to 140 noes, Roll No. 74. Agreed to amend the title.

Agreed to the McIntosh amendment that requires the States, in the enforcement of a Federal program, to comply with provisions that allow the suspension of a civil fine for a first-time violation of a paperwork requirement by a small business (agreed to by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 179 noes, Roll No. 73).

Rejected the Kucinich amendment that sought to establish a policy or program for eliminating, delaying, and reducing civil fines for first-time violations by small entities (rejected by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 221 noes, Roll No. 72).

Earlier, agreed to H. Res. 396, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by a voice vote.

Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act: The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1757, to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States and Russia, and to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements. Earlier, agreed to H. Res. 385, the rule that waived points of order against the conference report bill by a yea and nay vote of 234 yeas to 172 nays, Roll No. 75.

Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act: The House passed H.R. 3246, to assist small businesses and labor organizations in defending themselves against government bureaucracy; to ensure that employees entitled to reinstatement get their jobs back quickly; to protect the right of employers to have a hearing to present their case in certain representation cases; and to prevent the use of the National Labor Relations Act for the purpose of disrupting or inflicting economic harm on employers by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 78.

Agreed to the Goodling amendment that clarifies that a bona fide employee has all of the rights provided by the National Labor Relations Act including the right to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives, and to engage in other activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or mutual aid (agreed to by a recorded vote of 398 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 77).

Earlier, the agreed to H. Res. 393, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by a yea and nay vote of 220 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 76.

Forest Recovery and Protection Act: Agreed by unanimous consent that H. Res. 394, be considered as adopted and that during consideration of H.R. 2515, in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to that resolution, that the amendment in the nature of
a substitute made in order as original text be consid-
ered as read; and after general debate the bill be con-
sidered for amendment under the five-minute rule
for a period not to extend beyond 1:30 p.m. on Fri-
day, March 27, 1998.

Late Reports: The Committee on Appropriations re-
ceived permission to have until midnight on Friday,
March 27, 1998 to file two privileged reports on
bills making Emergency Supplemental Appropri-
ations for Fiscal Year 1998 and making Supplemental
Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1998.

Authority to Add Cosponsors: Agreed that Repre-
sentative Capps be authorized to sign and submit
requests to add co-sponsors to H.R. 2009,
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Research, Treat-
ment, and Assistance Act of 1997.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate
today appears on page H1553.

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursu-
ant to the rule appear on pages H 1644-47.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea and nay votes and
five recorded votes developed during the proceedings
of the House today and appear on pages H 1578–79,
H 1579–80, H 1580–81, H 1588, H 1608–09, H 1622,
and H 1622–23. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at
11:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

USDA'S FEDERAL MILK MARKETING
ORDER REFORM
Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock,
Dairy, and Poultry held a hearing to review the
USDA’s Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform. Testi-
mony was heard from Enrique E. Figueroa, Admin-
istrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; Ben
Brancel, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Con-
sumer Protection, State of Wisconsin; and public
witnesses.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND
JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Com-
merce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary held a hear-
ing on State and Local Law Enforcement. Testimony
was heard from the following officials of the Depart-
ment of Justice: Joe Brann, Director, Cops Program;
Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General, Office
of Justice Programs; and Shay Bilchik, Adminis-

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development held a hearing on the App-
alachian Regional Commission. Testimony was
heard from Jesse L. White, Jr., Federal Co-Chair,
Appalachian Regional Commission; and Cecil H.
Underwood, Governor, State of West Virginia.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Inter-
ior, the Committee on the Budget and the Commit-
tee on Resources held a joint oversight hearing on the
Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Barry
T. Hill, Associate Director, Energy, Resources and
Science Issues, GAO; and the following officials of
the USDA: Roger C. Viadero, Inspector General; and
Michael Dombeck, Chief, Forest Service.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the In-
terior held a hearing on Department of Energy Con-
servation. Testimony was heard from the following
officials of the Department of Energy: Dan W.
Reicher, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy; and Patricia Fry Godley, Assist-

LAW-HHS-EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education held a
hearing on Elementary and Secondary Education; Bi-

tingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs,
Howard University and on Special Institutions for
the Disabled. Testimony was heard from the following
officials of the Department of Education: Gerald
N. Tirozzi, Assistant Secretary, Elementary and Sec-
ondary Education; Delia Pompa, Director, Office of
Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs;
Judith E. Heumann, Assistant Secretary, Special
Education and Rehabilitative Services; and H. Pat-

VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA,
HUD, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the
Department of Housing and Urban Develop-
ment. Testimony was heard from Andrew M.
Cuomo, Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
ment.

CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT
Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Ordered
reported amended H.R. 1151, Credit Union Mem-

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SUPERFUND REFORM ACT
Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on H.R. 3000, the Superfund Reform Act. Testimony was heard from James E. Trobaugh, Mayor, Kokomo, State of Indiana; and public witnesses.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH
Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on New Developments in Medical Research: NIH and Patient Groups. Testimony was heard from Representatives Tauzin, Johnson of Connecticut, Fox, Meek of Florida, DeFazio, Porter and Walsh; Harold E. Varmus, M.D., Director, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services; former Representative Raymond J. McGrath of New York; Muhammad Ali, National Spokesman, National Parkinson Foundation; and public witnesses.

TEAMSTERS—FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Financial Affairs of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—2000 CENSUS
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on the Census held a hearing on Oversight of the 2000 Census: Putting the Dress Rehearsals in Perspective. Testimony was heard from L. Nye Stevens, Director, Federal Management and Workforce Issues, GAO; and the following officials of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce: James F. Holmes, Acting Director, John H. Thompson, Associate Director, Decennial Census; and Paula J. Schneider, Principal Associate Director, Programs.

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE—EMPLOYEE BENEFIT
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Civil Service held a hearing on Long Term Care Insurance as an Employee Benefit. Testimony was heard from William Flynn, III, Associate Director, Retirement and Insurance Services, OPM; Bob Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Long Term Care and Disability Policy, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice held a hearing on the 1998 National Drug Control Strategy. Testimony was heard from Barry R. McCaffrey, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

COLOMBIA—ILICIT DRUGS TRAFFICKING
Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported H.Res. 398, urging the President to expeditiously procure and provide three UH-60L Blackhawk utility helicopters to the Colombian National Police solely for the purpose of assisting the Colombian National Police to perform their responsibilities to reduce and eliminate the production of illicit drugs in Colombia and the trafficking of such illicit drugs, including the trafficking of drugs such as heroin and cocaine to the United States.

U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS—RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND NEW INDEPENDENT STATES
Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing to review U.S. Assistance Programs to Russia, the Ukraine and the New Independent States. Testimony was heard from Ambassador Richard Morningstar, Special Advisor to the President and the Secretary of State on Assistance to the New Independent States and Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to the New Independent States, Department of State; and Don Pressley, Acting Assistant Administrator, Europe and the New Independent States, AID, U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency.

OVERSIGHT—RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—FEDERAL PROTECTION
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded oversight hearings on the Need for Federal Protection of Religious Freedom after Boerne v. Flores, II. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on privacy in electronic communications. Testimony was heard from Ambassador David Aaron, Under Secretary, International Trade, Department of Commerce; David Medine, Associate Director, Credit
Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime approved for full Committee action the following: H.R. 2925, Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997; and the Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998. The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the following Controlled Substances Trafficking Prohibition Act; and H.R. 2070, Correction Officers Health and Safety Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from Representative Chabot; Wesley S. Windle, Program Officer, Passenger Operations Division, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
Committee on National Security: Concluded hearings on the fiscal year 1999 National Defense authorization request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert M. Walker, Acting Secretary, Army; John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy; and F. Whitten Peters, Acting Secretary, Air Force.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing on the following bills; H.R. 2538, to establish a Presidential commission to determine the validity of certain land claims arising out of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo of 1848 involving the descendants of persons who were Mexican citizens at the time of the Treaty; H.R. 2776, to amend the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes” to authorize the acquisition of property known as the Warren property; and H.R. 3047, to authorize expansion of Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, by 16 acres. Testimony was heard from Representatives Frelinghuysen, Bonilla and Redmond; Denis Galvin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

SONNY BONO MEMORIAL SALTON SEA RECLAMATION ACT
Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power approved for full Committee action amended H.R. 3267, Sonny Bono Memorial Salton Sea Reclamation Act.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Technology approved for full Committee action amended the following bills: H.R. 3007, Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act; and H.R. 2544, Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 1997.

URBAN EDUCATION
Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Empowerment held a hearing on urban education. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RAIL SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads held a hearing on Rail Safety Reauthorization: Federal Railroad Administration Resources Requirements. Testimony was heard from Jolene Molitoris, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL DROUGHT POLICY ACT; DISASTER ASSISTANCE—FEDERAL COST
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment approved for full Committee action amended H.R. 3035, National Drought Policy Act of 1997. The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Federal Cost of Disaster Assistance. Testimony was heard from James L. Witt, Director, FEMA; Judy A. England-Joseph, Director, Housing and Community Development Issues, GAO; Albert R. Capellini, Mayor, Deerfield Beach, State of Florida; Gavin J. Donohue, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, State of New York; and public witnesses.

VA BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION—GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCES AND RESULTS ACT PRINCIPLES
Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Benefits held a hearing on Government Performances and Results Act (GPRA) principles at the Veterans Benefits Administration. Testimony was heard from Cynthia M. Fagnoni, Associate Director, Veterans Affairs and Military Health Care Issues, Health, Education, and Human Services Division, GAO; and Joseph Thompson, Under Secretary, Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT

ANALYSIS AND PRODUCTION ISSUES
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Analysis and Production Issues. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.
Joint Meetings
HEAD START


Hearings will continue on Thursday, April 23.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1998

Senate

No meetings are scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, on National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and National Institute of General Medical Services, 10 a.m., and on Office of AIDS Research; Office of the Director-NIH; Building and Facilities; and GAO—Department of Education Oversight, 1 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing on the Role of Mortgage Brokers in the Mortgage Finance System, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing to review pending OSHA legislation, 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to hold a hearing on H.R. 3534, Mandates Information Act of 1998, 10 a.m., H-313 Capitol.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9 a.m., Friday, March 27
Senate Chamber
Program for Friday: Senate will consider the nomination of M. Margaret McKown, of Washington, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, with a vote to occur thereon.
Senate also will begin consideration of S. Con. Res. 86, Congressional Budget.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Friday, March 27
House Chamber
Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 2515, Forest Recovery and Protection Act (open rule, 1 hour of general debate).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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