

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to State Department Reorganization Conference Report.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3665–S3738*

**Measures Introduced:** Seven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1993–1999. Page S3709

**Treaty Considered:** Senate continued consideration of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, with a resolution of ratification containing seven declarations and four conditions, taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows: Pages S3667–78, S3680, S3686–S3708

Adopted:

By 90 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. 107), Kyl Modified Amendment No. 2310, to establish principles of policy of the United States toward the Strategic Concept of NATO.

Pages S3667, S3680, S3687–88, S3695–98

Rejected:

By 24 yeas to 76 nays (Vote No. 106), Harkin Amendment No. 2312, to limit future U.S. subsidies of the national expenses incurred by Poland, Hungary, or the Czech Republic in meeting NATO commitments. Pages S3667–78, S3686–87

Pending:

Smith (New Hampshire)/Hutchison Amendment No. 2314, to express a condition requiring full cooperation from Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic with United States efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of captured and missing United States personnel from past military conflicts or Cold War incidents. Pages S3688–95, S3698–S3708

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the Treaty and the amendment pending thereto, on Wednesday, April 29, 1998. Page S3737

**State Department Reorganization Conference Report:** By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 105), Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1757, to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and relat-

ed 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. Pages S3680–86

**Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools—Conferees:** Pursuant to the order of March 27, 1998, the Chair appointed conferees on the part of the Senate 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, as follows: Senators Roth, Mack, Coats, Gorton, Coverdell, Moynihan, Moseley-Braun, Kennedy, and Bingaman. Page S3736

**Appointments:**

**Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 208 of the 105th Congress, appointed the following Senators to the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: Senators Kyl, Smith (of Oregon), and Collins, and as ex-officio members by virtue of their positions on the Committee on Appropriations: Senators Stevens and Byrd. Page S3736

**Removal of Injunction of Secrecy:** The injunction of secrecy was removed for the following treaty:

Treaty with Brazil on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. (Treaty Doc. 105–42)

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and was ordered to be printed. Page S3737

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Togo Dennis West, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Pages S3736–38

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Mari Carmen Aponte, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

E. William Crotty, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the State of Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Jeffrey Davidow, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Mexico.

John O'Leary, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Arthur Louis Schechter, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Page S3738

**Messages From the House:**

Page S3709

**Statements on Introduced Bills:**

Pages S3709–23

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S3723–24

**Amendments Submitted:**

Pages S3724–25

**Authority for Committees:**

Page S3725

**Additional Statements:**

Pages S3725–36

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—107)

Pages S3686–87, S3698

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:28 p.m., until 11:45 a.m., on Wednesday, April 29, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S3737–38.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### JAPAN'S ECONOMY

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the current state of the Japanese economy and banking system and their implications for the United States economy, after receiving testimony from Tadashi Nakamae, Nakamae International Economic Research, Tokyo, Japan; John H. Makin, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and David Malpass, Bear Stearns, New York, New York.

### YEAR 2000 COMPUTER CONVERSION

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the potential impact of the Year 2000 computer conversion problem on the U.S. and world economies, and to review efforts to address potential problems, after receiving testimony from Senator Bennett; Edward W. Kelley, Jr., Member, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Robert L. Mallett, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; William E. Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Mortimer L. Downey, Deputy Secretary of Transportation; and Richard A. Grasso, New York Stock Exchange, Inc., Washington, D.C.

### FEDERAL R&D FUNDING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space concluded hearings to examine the state of Federal research and development (R&D) funding in the United States, focusing on America's future role in the dominance of science and technology, after receiving testimony from Senators Bingaman, Gramm, and Lieberman; Kerri-Ann Jones, Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Judith Rodin, Member, President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, and University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Dan Peterson, DAP and Associates, Winter Park, Florida; and Albert H. Teich, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.

### MINING LAW REFORM

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management held hearings on S. 326, to provide for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines, S. 327, to ensure that Federal taxpayers receive a fair return for the extraction of locatable minerals on public domain lands, and S. 1102, to provide a reasonable royalty from mineral activities on Federal lands, and to create a State program for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mining sites on Federal lands, receiving testimony from Senators Reid and Bryan; Nevada Governor, Bob Miller, Carson City; Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; Douglas C. Yearley, Phelps Dodge Corporation, Phoenix, Arizona, on behalf of the National Mining Association; Stephen D'Esposito, Mineral Policy Center, and Jill Lancelot, Taxpayers for Common Sense, both of Washington, D.C.; Stephen D. Alfors, Alfors and Carver, Denver, Colorado; Steven C. Borell, Alaska Miners Association, Inc., Anchorage; Stephen A. Orr, Homestake Mining Company, San Francisco, California; and Roger Flynn, Western Mining Action Project, Boulder, Colorado.