

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 2431, Freedom From Religious Persecution Act of 1998.

House Committees ordered reported 7 sundry measures.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4845-S4926

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2079–2085 and S. Con. Res. 96. **Page S4906**

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:

S. 1415, to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes, with amendments.

Special Report entitled “Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for the Concurrent Resolution for the Fiscal Year 1999”. (S. Rept. No. 105–191)

Page S4906

Measures Passed:

WIPO Copyright Treaty Implementation: By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 137), Senate passed S. 2037, to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and to provide limitations on copyright liability relating to material online, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S4884–S4900

Hatch Amendment No. 2411, to make technical corrections. **Page S4885**

Department of Defense Authorizations: Senate resumed consideration of S. 2057, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 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, taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

Pages S4850–83

Adopted:

Thurmond/Levin Amendment No. 2399, to increase the amount for classified programs, and to offset the increase by reducing the amount for Air Force procurement for the Advance Medium Air-to-Air Missile System program, and the amount for Defense-wide research, development, test, and evaluation for engineering and manufacturing development under the Theater High Area Defense program.

Pages S4853–54

Hutchinson/Abraham Amendment No. 2387, relating to commercial activities in the United States of the People’s Liberation Army and other Communist Chinese military companies. (By 24 yeas to 76 nays (Vote No. 136), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S4864–71, S4876, S4879–80**

Thomas Amendment No. 2401 (to Amendment No. 2387), to strike the findings provisions.

Pages S4871, S4880

Hutchinson/Abraham Modified Amendment No. 2388, relating to the use of forced labor in the People’s Republic of China. **Pages S4871–75**

Harkin Amendment No. 2402 (to Amendment No. 2388), to increase monitoring of imported products made with forced or indentured labor and forced or indentured child labor. (The amendment was incorporated into the modification of Amendment No. 2388.) **Pages S4873–75**

McCain/Levin Amendment No. 2410, to provide eligibility for hardship duty pay on the basis of the nature of the duty performed instead of the location of the duty, and to repeal an exception.

Pages S4882–83

Pending:

Feinstein Amendment No. 2405, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the Indian nuclear tests. Page S4877

Brownback Amendment No. 2407 (to Amendment No. 2405), to repeal a restriction on the provision of certain assistance and other transfers to Pakistan. Page S4879

Universal Tobacco Settlement Act: A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1415, to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, and to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on the cloture motion will occur on Monday, May 18, 1998. Page S4883

American Competitiveness Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of S. 1723, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to assist the United States to remain competitive by increasing the access of the United States firms and institutions of higher education to skilled personnel and by expanding educational and training opportunities for American students and workers, on Monday, May 18, 1998. Page S4925

Appointments:

National Skill Standards Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to P.L. 103-227, appointed the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board: Jon A. Reeves, of Mississippi, Ronald K. Robinson, of Mississippi, and Earline N. Ashley, of Mississippi. Page S4925

North Atlantic Assembly: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appointed Senator Hutchinson as a member of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the Second Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, May 22-27, 1998. Page S4925

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Paul J. Hooper, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

William P. Dimitrouleas, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Stephan P. Mickle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

Sue Bailey, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. Pages S4925, S4926

Messages From the House: Page S4902

Measures Referred: Page S4902

Petitions: Pages S4902-06

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S4906

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S4906-16

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S4916-17

Amendments Submitted: Pages S4917-21

Notices of Hearings: Page S4921

Authority for Committees: Pages S4921-22

Additional Statements: Pages S4922-25

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—137) Pages S4879-80, S4894

Adjournment: Senate adjourned for 1 minute during today's proceedings, thus changing the legislative day. Page S4883

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 15, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4925-26.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee held hearings to examine the Department of Agriculture information technology systems to ensure compliance with Year 2000 deadline, receiving testimony from Marsha Pyle Martin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration; Brooksley Born, Chairperson, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Anne F. Thomson Reed, Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture; Joel C. Willemsen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, Accounting and Information Management Division, General Accounting Office; Peter de Jager, de Jager and Company, Ltd., Toronto, Canada; and Irene Dec, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Roseland, New Jersey.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Committee completed its review of subcommittee 302(b) allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in S. Con. Res. 86, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.