

telecommunications industry, focusing on how consolidation within the industry will affect businesses and consumers, including the impact of the proposed merger between Ameritech and SBC Communications, Inc., after receiving testimony from Edward E. Whitacre, Jr., SBC Communications, Inc., San Antonio, Texas; and Scott C. Cleland, Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., and Gene Kimmelman, Consumers Union, both of Washington, D.C.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts held hearings on S. 1914, to provide reforms to the business provisions of the bankruptcy code, focusing on Title II which updates and improves provisions of the bankruptcy code designed to ensure liquidity in financial markets, Title IV which establishes special fast-track bankruptcy procedures for businesses in Chapter 11 which have less than \$5 million in debt, and certain tax provisions, receiving testimony from Linda Ekstrom Stanley, United States Trustee for Region 17 (San Francisco, California), Department of Justice; Jere W. Glover, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration; Roger L. Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Federal Finance; Philip J. Hendel, Hendel, Collins & Newton, Springfield, Massachusetts, on behalf of the Commercial Law League; Stephen H. Case, Davis, Polk & Wardwell, former Adviser, National Bankruptcy Review Commission, Ann Stern, Financial Guarantee Insurance Corporation, on behalf of the Association of Financial Guaranty Insurers, David Warren, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., Inc., on behalf of the Bond Market Association, and Kathleen J. Cahill, New York City Office of the Corporation Counsel, on behalf of the National League of Cities, all of New York, New York; Randal C. Picker, Sidley & Austin, on behalf of the National Bankruptcy Conference, and Illinois Assistant Attorney

General James D. Newbold, on behalf of the National Association of Attorneys General, both of Chicago, Illinois; H. Elizabeth Baird, NationsBank, Charlotte, North Carolina, on behalf of the American Bankers Association; Joyce Kuhns, Weinberg & Green, Baltimore, Maryland, on behalf of the International Council of Shopping Centers; Grant W. Newton, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California; and Damon Silvers, AFL-CIO, Washington, D.C.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

HEALTH CARE QUALITY

Committee on Labor and Human Resources: Committee concluded hearings to examine how to implement improved health claim grievance procedures, focusing on the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) requirements regarding internal review of health benefit claims and the need for independent external review, and S. 1712, to improve the quality of health plans and provide protections for consumers enrolled in such plans, after receiving testimony from Olena Berg, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefits; Margaret A. Hamburg, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Planning and Evaluation; Bernice Steinhardt, Director, Health Services Quality and Public Health Issues, Health, Education, and Human Services Division, General Accounting Office; Maryland State Delegate Marilyn Goldwater, Annapolis, on behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures; Stephen deMontmollin, AvMed Health Plan, Gainesville, Florida, on behalf of the American Association of Health Plans; Mark Smith, AMP Incorporated, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Corporate Health Care Coalition; Peter W. Thomas, Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Health Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities; and Thomas McAfee, Brown and Toland Medical Group, San Francisco, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 3890–3903; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 278, were introduced. Pages H3487–88

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

Filed on May 18, H.R. 3150, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, amended (H. Rept. 105–540); Page H3366

Filed on May 18, H.R. 3809, to authorize appropriations for the United States Customs Service for fiscal years 1999 and 2000. Amended (H. Rept. 105–541); Page H3366

H.R. 2863, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify restrictions under that Act on baiting, to facilitate acquisition of migratory bird habitat, amended (H. Rept. 105–542);

H.J. Res. 78, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States restoring religious freedom, amended (H. Rept. 105-543); and

H. Res. 441, providing for the further consideration of H.R. 3616, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999 (H. Rept. 105-544).

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Recess: The House recessed at 11:21 p.m. and reconvened at 12:00 noon.

Page H3375

Private Calendar: Agreed that the call of the Private Calendar for today be dispensed with.

Page H3375

Presidential Message—Re Burma: Read a letter from the President, received on May 18, wherein he transmitted his report concerning the National Emergency with respect to Burma—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105-253).

Page H3376

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act: H.R. 1023, amended, to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products. Agreed to amend the title;

Pages H3377-92

Veterans Transitional Housing Opportunities Act: H.R. 3039, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to guarantee loans to provide multi-family transitional housing for homeless veterans (passed by yeas and nays vote of 405 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 162);

Pages H3392-95, H3461

Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Projects: H.R. 3603, amended, to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1999;

Pages H3395-98

Collections of Information Antipiracy Act: H.R. 2652, amended, to amend title 17, United States Code, to prevent the misappropriation of collections of information;

Pages H3398-H3404

Limiting the Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts Re Prison Release Orders: H.R. 3718, to limit the jurisdiction of the Federal courts with respect to prison release orders (passed by a recorded vote of 352 yeas to 53 noes, Roll No. 163);

Pages H3404-07, H3461-62

Drug Free Borders Act: H.R. 3809, amended, to authorize appropriations for the United States

Customs Service for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 (passed by yeas and nays vote of 320 yeas to 86 nays, Roll No. 164). Agreed to amend the title;

Pages H3407-16, H3462-63

National Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization: H.R. 1522, amended, to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund;

Pages H3416-19

Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1997: H.R. 2556, amended, to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act;

Pages H3419-20

New Wildlife Refuge Authorization Act: H.R. 512, amended, to prohibit the expenditure of funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the creation of new National Wildlife Refuges without specific authorization from Congress pursuant to a recommendation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to create the refuge;

Pages H3420-23

Honoring EMS Personnel Who Have Died in the Line of Duty: H. Con. Res. 171, amended, declaring the memorial service sponsored by the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial Service Board of Directors to honor emergency medical services personnel to be the "National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service." Agreed to amend the title.

Pages H3423-25

National Bone Marrow Donor Registry Reauthorization: H.R. 2202, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the bone marrow donor program;

Pages H3425-29

Energy Policy and Conservation Act Program Extensions: Concurred in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2472, to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act—clearing the measure for the President; and

Pages H3429-30

Immunity from Prosecution for Testimony Re Illegal Fundraising Activities: H. Res. 440, expressing the sense of the Congress that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight should confer immunity from prosecution for information and testimony concerning illegal foreign fundraising activities (agreed to by yeas and nays vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 161).

Pages H3452-61

Mandates Information Act of 1998: The House passed H.R. 3534, to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates by a recorded vote of 279 yeas to 132 noes, Roll No. 160. The House completed general debate and began considering amendments to the bill on May 13.

Pages H3430-52

Agreed To:

The Traficant amendment that requires annual CBO reports on the economic impact of the Act on employment and businesses in the United States.

Page H3443

Rejected:

The Moakley amendment that sought to strike language that exempts from points of order provisions that result in net decreases in tax and tariff revenues (rejected by a recorded vote of 176 ayes to 233 noes, Roll No. 156);

Pages H3430–36, H3448

The Waxman amendment that sought to permit points of order against provisions that prohibit or make less stringent any mandate established to protect human health, safety, or the environment (rejected by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 221 noes, Roll No. 157);

Pages H3436–42, H3449

The Boehlert amendment that sought to exclude points of order against amendments with respect to an increase in the direct costs of Federal private sector mandates (rejected by a recorded vote of 189 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 158); and

Pages H3443–46, H3449–50

The Becerra amendment that sought to permit points of order against provisions that prohibit or make less stringent any mandate established to protect civil rights (rejected by a recorded vote of 180 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 159).

Pages H3446–48, H3450

The House agreed to H. Res. 426, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill on May 13.

Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative Obey notified the House of his intention to offer a motion on Wednesday, May 20, to instruct House conferees on H.R. 2400, Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act.

Page H3463

DOD Authorization: The House completed general debate on H.R. 3616, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999. Consideration of amendments will begin on Wednesday, May 20.

Pages H3467–78

H. Res. 435, the rule providing for general debate only on the bill was agreed to earlier by a voice vote.

Pages H3463–66

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3367.

Referral: S. 1723, to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to make the restrictions on foreign students added by such Act inapplicable to students lawfully present in the United States on the effective date of the restrictions in cases where a public school or adult education program evidences a desire for such result

was referred to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, and International Relations.

Page H3482

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea and nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H3448, H3449, H3449–50, H3450, H3451–52, H3460–61, H3461, H3461–62, and H3463. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SECURITIES LITIGATION UNIFORM STANDARDS ACT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials held a hearing on H.R. 1689, Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from Representatives Campbell and Eshoo; the following officials of the SEC: Arthur Levitt, Jr., Chairman; and Richard Walker, Director of Enforcement; the following officials of the Securities Regulation Division, Department of Corporations, State of California: Blake Campbell, Assistant Commissioner; and A. Peter Kezirian, Jr., General Counsel; and public witnesses.

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE—SAVINGS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Medicare Billing: Savings Through Implementation of Commercial Software. Testimony was heard from Senator Grassley; Joel Willemsen, Director, Accounting and Information Management Division, GAO; Adm. Tom Carrato, USN, Director, Military Health System Operations, Department of Defense; Michael W. Hartford, Director, Health Administration Center, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Nancy-Ann Min DeParle, Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

TEAMSTERS' ELECTION—WHO PAYS FOR THE RERUN

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on "Who Pays for the Rerun Teamsters' Election?" Testimony was heard from Stephen R. Colgate, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice; Gary L. Kepplinger, Associate General Counsel, Accounting and Financial Management, GAO; and Tom Sever, Secretary-Treasurer, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.