

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 4112, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 1999.

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3616, DOD Authorization for FY 1999.

The House passed H.R. 3736, Workforce Improvement and Protection Act.

House Committee ordered reported 7 sundry measures.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10865-S10943

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2514-2519 and S. Res. 282. Pages S10920-21

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:

S. 1405, to provide for improved monetary policy and regulatory reform in financial institution management and activities, to streamline financial regulatory agency actions, to provide for improved consumer credit disclosure, and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 105-346)

H.R. 378, for the relief of Heraclio Tolley.

H.R. 379, for the relief of Larry Errol Pieterse.

H.R. 2744, for the relief of Chong Ho Kwak.

S. 1202, providing relief for Sergio Lozano, Fauricio Lozano, and Ana Lozano.

S. 1460, for the relief of Alexandre Malofienko, Olga Matsko, and their son Vladimir Malofienko.

S. 1551, for the relief of Kerantha Poole-Christian.

S. 2151, to clarify Federal law to prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance for the purpose of causing, or assisting in causing, the suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of any individual, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2235, to amend part Q of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to encourage the use of school resource officers.

S. 2253, to establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase bullet resistant equipment for use by law enforcement departments. Page S10919

Measures Passed:

Congressional Gold Medal: Senate passed H.R. 3506, to award a congressional gold medal to Gerald R. and Betty Ford, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S10941-42

McCain (for D'Amato) Amendment No. 3647, to award congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred to collectively as the "Little Rock Nine", on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Pages S10941-42

FAA Authorizations: Senate concluded consideration of H.R. 4057, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, after striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the text of S. 2279, Senate companion measure, after agreeing to a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows:

Pages S10866-67, S10869-73, S10875-77, S10879-81, S10884, S10886-89, S10893-S10901, S10903-13

Adopted:

Reed Amendment No. 3629, to provide for the expenditure of certain unobligated funds for noise abatement discretionary grants. Pages S10879-80

McCain (for Faircloth) Amendment No. 3631, to express the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Transportation should ensure the enforcement of the rights of the United States under the air service agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom known as the "Bermuda II Agreement".

Pages S10886-87

McCain (for DeWine) Amendment No. 3632, to express the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Transportation should ensure the enforcement of the rights of the United States under the air service agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom known as the "Bermuda II Agreement".

Page S10887

McCain (for Thompson) Amendment No. 3633, to provide for criminal penalties for pilots operating in air transportation without an airman's certificate.

Page S10887

Robb Amendment No. 3634, to ensure consumers benefit from any changes to the slot rule and perimeter rule at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Page S10888

Moynihan Amendment No. 3635, to provide for reporting of certain amounts contributed to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and funding of States for airport improvement.

Pages S10888–89, S10896

Dorgan Amendment No. 3636, to facilitate air service to under-served communities and encourage airline competition through non-discriminatory interconnection requirements between air carriers.

Pages S10893–95

Sarbanes/Mikulski/Robb/Warner Amendment No. 3637, to ensure that certain funds made available to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority are used for noise compatibility planning and programs.

Pages S10897–98

Sarbanes/Mikulski/Robb/Warner Amendment No. 3638, to mitigate adverse environmental noise consequences of exemptions of additional air carrier slots added to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as a result of exemption.

Page S10898

Sarbanes/Mikulski/Robb/Warner Amendment No. 3639, to mitigate adverse environmental noise consequences of exemptions for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport flight operations by making available financial assistance for noise compatibility planning and programs.

Pages S10898–S10906

McCain Amendment No. 3640 (to Amendment No. 3639), of a clarifying nature.

Page S10899

McCain (for Bingaman/Domenici) Amendment No. 3641, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a demonstration project to require aircraft to maintain a minimum altitude over Taos Pueblo and the Blue Lake Wilderness Area of Taos Pueblo, New Mexico.

Page S10899

McCain (for Reed) Amendment No. 3642, to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations to improve notification to consumers of air transportation from an air carrier of the corporate identity of the transporting air carrier.

Pages S10899–S10900

Warner/Sarbanes/Robb/Mikulski Amendment No. 3643, relating to the granting of exemptions.

Page S10901

Subsequently, adoption of the amendment was initiated.

Page S10907

Warner Amendment No. 3644, to provide for an assessment of safety, noise and environmental impacts at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Page S10907

McCain/Ford Amendment No. 3646, to make technical corrections to Amendment No. 3618, previously agreed to.

Page S10912

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 286), Inhofe Amendment No. 3620, to provide for the immediate application of certain orders relating to the amendment, modification, suspension, or revocation of certificates under chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code.

Pages S10866–67

Torricelli Amendment No. 3627, to establish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency. (By 69 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 287), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S10871–73, S10875–77

Withdrawn:

Dorgan Amendment No. 3628, to provide an investment credit to promote the availability of jet aircraft to underserved communities, and to reduce the passenger tax rate on rural domestic flight segments.

Pages S10879–81

Specter Amendment No. 3645, to provide for the recovery of non-pecuniary damages in commercial aviation suits.

Pages S10907–10

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following passage of the bill on Friday, September 25, 1998, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

Page S10913

Federal Vacancies Reform Act—Cloture Vote: By 96 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 285), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2176, to amend sections 3345 through 3349 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Vacancies Act") to clarify statutory requirements relating to vacancies in and appointments to certain Federal offices.

Page S10866

Subsequently, a motion to proceed to consideration of the bill was agreed to by unanimous-consent, and a motion was entered to close further debate on the bill. 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, September 28, 1998.

Pages S10868–69

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Linwood Holton, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Reform Board (AMTRAK) for a term of five years.

Amy M. Rosen, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Reform Board (AMTRAK) for a term of five years.

Pages S10941, S10943

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

C. Donald Johnson, Jr., of Georgia, for the Rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Chief Textile Negotiator.

William Clifford Smith, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission for a term expiring October 21, 2005.

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Messages From the House: Pages S10916–17

Measures Referred: Page S10917

Measures Placed on Calendar: Page S10917

Communications: Pages S10917–19

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S10919–20

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S10921–29

Additional Cosponsors: Page S10929

Amendments Submitted: Pages S10929–37

Notices of Hearings: Page S10937

Authority for Committees: Page S10937

Additional Statements: Pages S10937–41

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—287) Pages S10866–67, S10877

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:09 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, September 25, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10942.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Richard Danzig, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Navy, Bernard Daniel Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, Stephen W. Preston, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy; Herbert Lee Buchanan, III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Jeh Charles Johnson, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, James M. Bodner, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and 5,539 military nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings on the report of the Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, after receiving testimony from Donald H. Rumsfeld, Chairman, Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States, who was accompanied by several of his associates.

ARMY/MARINE READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness concluded hearings to examine the readiness challenges confronting the United States Army and Marine Corps forces and their ability to successfully execute the National Military Strategy, after receiving testimony from Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command; Gen. David A. Bramlett, USA, former Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command; Maj. Gen. Wayne E. Rollings, USMC, Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Maj. Gen. Emil R. Bedard, USMC, Commanding General, 2nd Marine Division; Maj. Gen. William L. Nyland, USMC, Commanding General, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing; Maj. Gen. Ray L. Smith, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; and Brig. Gen. Paul M. Lee, Jr., USMC, 2nd Force Service Support Group.

MIDWEST ELECTRICITY PRICE SPIKES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded oversight hearings on the need to provide consumers with the benefits of a competitive electric market, focusing on the electricity pricing abnormalities that occurred in the Midwest during the week of June 22 through 26, 1998, after receiving testimony from Senator Durbin; James J. Hoecker, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Jolynn Barry Butler, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission of Ohio, on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and Susan Tomasky, American Electric Power Company, both of Columbus, Ohio; James L. Turner, Cinergy Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio; Steven J. Kean, Enron Corporation, Houston, Texas; and Mark Millett, Steel Dynamics, Inc., Butler, Indiana.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Patricia T. Montoya, of New Mexico, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, and David C. Williams, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf. Ms. Montoya was introduced by Senators Domenici and Bingaman.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

The nominations of Patricia A. Broderick, Natalia Combs Greene, and Neal E. Kravitz, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Kenneth Prewitt, of New York, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Robert M. Walker, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;