

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 58 public bills, H.R. 891–948; 1 private bill, H.R. 949; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 35, H. Con. Res. 39, and H. Res. 84, 87–90, were introduced.

Pages H888–91

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 661, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prohibit the commercial operation of supersonic transport category aircraft that do not comply with stage 3 noise levels if the European Union adopts certain aircraft noise regulations (H. Rept. 106–35);

H.R. 609. To amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the Act to apples (H. Rept. 106–36);

H. Res. 85, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 603) to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the “Death on the High Seas Act” to aviation incidents (H. Rept. 106–37);

H. Res. 86, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 603) to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the “Death on the High Seas Act” to aviation incidents (H. Rept. 106–38); and

H.R. 4, to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense (H. Rept. 106–39).

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Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Stearns to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H827

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

Page H834

Presidential Message—Federal Labor Relations Authority: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the 19th annual report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for fiscal year 1997—referred to the Committee on Government Reform.

Page H838

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

Child Labor Exemption for Certain Amish and Other Youth: H.R. 221, amended, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to permit certain youth to perform certain work with wood products.

Pages H838–42

Disaster Mitigation Coordination Act: H.R. 818, to amend the Small Business Act to authorize

a pilot program for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures by small businesses;

Pages H842–45

Nullify Reservation of Funds Under Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: H.R. 882, to nullify any reservation of funds during fiscal year 1999 for guaranteed loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

Pages H846–48

Social Security Guarantee Initiative: H.J. Res. 32, amended, expressing the sense of the Congress that the President and the Congress should join in undertaking the Social Security Guarantee Initiative to strengthen and protect the retirement income security of all Americans through the creation of a fair and modern Social Security Program for the 21st century (passed by a ye and nay vote of 416 yeas to one nay, Roll No. 29). Agreed to amend the title; and

Pages H848–56

Export Apple Act: H.R. 609, to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the Act to apples (passed by a ye and nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay,” Roll No. 30).

Pages H845–46, H856

Joint Committees on Printing and on the Library: The House agreed to H. Res. 87, electing members of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.

Pages H856–57

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 88, electing Representative Isakson to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

Page H857

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two ye and nay votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H855 and H856. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Research, Education, and Economics. Testimony was heard from the following officials of USDA: I. Miley Gonzalez, Under Secretary; and Eileen Kennedy,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, both with Research, Education, and Economics.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, held a hearing on the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Institute of Nursing Research, and on National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the NIH, Department of Health and Human Services: Alan I. Leshner, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse; Enoch Gordis, M.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Patricia A. Grady, M.D., Director, National Institute of Nursing Research; Claude Lenfant, M.D., Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and Kenneth Olden, M.D., Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

TREASURY-POSTAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government held a hearing on the Executive Office of the President. Testimony was heard from Mark Lindsay, Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President; and Jacob Lew, Director, OMB.

VA-HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on FEMA. Testimony was heard from James Lee Witt, Director, FEMA.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities held a hearing on fiscal year 2000 budget request for military construction and military family housing of the Department of Defense. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert Pirie, Jr., Assistant Secretary (Installations and Facilities); Rear Adm. Louis M. Smith, USN, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command; Rear Adm. (Select) John P. McLaughlin, USN, Deputy Director, Naval Reserve, and Maj. Gen. Geoffrey B. Higginbotham, USMC, Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, all with the Department of the Navy; Ruby B. DeMesme, Assistant Secretary (Manpower,

Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment), Maj. Gen. Eugene A. Lupia, USAF, The Civil Engineer, Brig. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, USAF, Deputy Director, Air National Guard and Brig. Gen. Ralph S. Clemm, USAF, Deputy to the Chief, Office of the Air Force Reserve, all with the Department of the Air Force.

DEFENSE REFORM INITIATIVES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Readiness held a hearing on Defense reform initiatives, contracting out, and outsourcing. Testimony was heard from Barry Holman, Assistant Director, National Security and International Affairs Division, Defense Management, GAO; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Stan Z. Soloway, Deputy Under Secretary (Acquisition Reform); Randall A. Yim, Deputy Under Secretary (Installations); Maj. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr., USA, Assistant Chief of Staff, Installations Management, Department of the Army; Vice Adm. James Amerault, USA, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), Department of the Navy; Brig. Gen. Richard B. Bundy, USAF, Director, Manpower, Organization and Quality, Department of the Air Force; and Robert E. Hammond, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, U.S. Marine Corps.

EFT-99 IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to review implementation of EFT-99, the federal program designed to facilitate the payment of government benefits by electronic rather than paper check. Testimony was heard from John Dyer, Principal Deputy Commissioner, SSA; Donald V. Hammond, Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury; Gregory Bitz, Director of Finance, Finance and Accounting Services Headquarters, Department of Defense; and a public witness.

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS PROTECTION AMENDMENTS

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment approved for full Committee action H.R. 540, Nursing Home Residents Protection Amendments of 1999.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning held a hearing on The Older Americans Act: Meeting the Needs of Our Nation's Seniors. Testimony was heard from Representatives DeFazio and Kolbe; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—2000 CENSUS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on the Census held a hearing on Oversight of the 2000 Census: Examining the America Counts Today (ACT) Initiatives to Enhance Traditional Enumeration Methods. Testimony was heard from Representatives Myrick and Meek of Florida; and Kenneth J. Prewitt, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

OVERSIGHT—YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology, and Subcommittee on Technology of the Committee on Science held a joint hearing on Oversight of the Year 2000 Problem at the Department of Defense: How Prepared is Our Nation's Defense? Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert J. Lieberman, Assistant Inspector General, Auditing; and John J. Hamre, Deputy Secretary; and Jack L. Brock, Director, Governmentwide and Defense Information Systems, GAO.

OVERSIGHT—EFFORTS TO REDUCE WASTE, FRAUD AND MANAGEMENT WEAKNESSES BY CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations held an oversight hearing on efforts to address waste, fraud and management weaknesses by the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and State. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Nelson Toye, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; and Standley Z. Soloway, Deputy Under Secretary, Acquisition Reform; Edward A. Powell, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Financial Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Bert T. Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, Department of State.

U.S. SHOULD INTRODUCE RESOLUTION CRITICIZING CHINA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES; FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights approved for full Committee action amended H.Con.Res. 28, expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution criticizing the People's Republic of China for its human rights abuses in China and Tibet at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Foreign Relations Authorization for Fiscal Years 2000–2001: Department of State Management Initiatives. Testi-

mony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Bonnie Cohen, Under Secretary, Management; and Patrick Kennedy, Assistant Secretary, Administration.

BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported amended H.R. 808, to extend for 3 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

The Committee also approved the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for fiscal year 2000 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Independent Counsel Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dickey, Hastings of Florida and Thompson of Mississippi; and Eric H. Holder, Jr., Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.

PROHIBITION—COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF SUPERSONIC TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 661, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to prohibit the commercial operation of supersonic transport category aircraft that do not comply with state 3 noise levels if the European Union adopts certain aircraft noise regulations. The rule waives clause 4(a) of Rule XIII (requiring a three-day layover of the committee report) against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be open for amendment at any point. The rule authorizes the chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule permits the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce voting time to five minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a fifteen minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duncan and Sherwood.

“DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT”—CLARIFY APPLICATION

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, an open rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 603, to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the “Death on the High Seas Act”. The rule provides that each section of the bill shall be considered as

read. The rule authorizes the chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule permits the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce voting time to five minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a fifteen minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duncan and Sherwood.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 819, Federal Maritime Commission Authorization Act of 1999; and H.R. 707, amended, Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 1999.

The Committee also approved the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for fiscal year 2000 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

REPORT ON MEDICARE PAYMENT POLICIES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the Report on Medicare Payment Policies. Testimony was heard from Gail R. Wilensky, Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

Joint Meetings

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs concluded joint hearings to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from Thomas A. Pouliot, Commander in Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1999

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Education, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2000 for the Capitol Police Board, and the Architect of the Capitol, 10 a.m., SD-116.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel, to continue hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on recommendations pertaining to military retirement, pay and compensation, and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Army modernization, and the future years defense program, 1:30 p.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings on the 21st century seapower vision overview and maritime implications of 21st century threats, 2 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings on the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2000, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business Meeting to markup S.96, to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: with the Committee on Indian Affairs, to hold joint hearings on American Indian trust management practices in the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, and the Power Marketing Administrations, Department of Energy, 2 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water, to hold oversight hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 9 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine education savings incentives, education financing and school construction financing proposals, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion, to hold hearings on the commercial viability of a Caspian Sea export energy pipeline, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Governmental Affairs: to resume hearings on the future of the Independent Counsel Act, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Aging, to hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Older Americans Act, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to hold joint hearings on American Indian trust management practices in the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.