

amend the Communications Act of 1934 to enhance the ability of direct broadcast satellite and other multichannel video providers to compete effectively with cable television systems, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

MEDICARE FINANCIAL STATUS

Committee on Finance: Committee held hearings to examine spending trends in the Medicare program, the impact on those trends of Medicare savings in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for Medicare, including the fifteen-percent surplus funding proposal, receiving testimony from Jacob J. Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Hearings continue on Thursday, March 18.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings to examine the current human rights situa-

tion in Cuba, focusing on Fidel Castro's recent crack-down on Cubans and independent journalists, U.S. support for dissidents, and the codification of the embargo, after receiving testimony from Frank Calzon, Center for a Free Cuba, Washington, D.C.; and Eloy Gutierrez-Menoyo, Cambio Cubano, Ruth Montaner, Internal Dissident Working Group, on behalf of the Cuban Dissidence Task Group, and Luis Zuniga, Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba, all of Miami, Florida.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee will meet again on Thursday, March 18.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 1048–1068; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 49–52 and H. Res. 105–107, were introduced. **Pages H1161–63**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 774, to amend the Small Business Act to change the conditions of participation and provide an authorization of appropriations for the women's business center program (H. Rept. 106–47);

H. Res. 103, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 42, regarding the use of United States Armed Forces as part of a NATO peacekeeping operation implementing a Kosovo peace agreement; (H. Rept. 106–48); and

H. Res. 104, providing for consideration of H.R. 819, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal years 2000 and 2001; (H. Rept. 106–49). **Page H1161**

Journal Vote: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea and nay vote of 356 yeas to 39 nays, Roll No. 34. **Pages H1075, H1079–80**

Suspension—Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 540, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the Medicaid Program which was debated on March 9: (passed

by yeas and nays vote of 398 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 35). **Pages H1080–81**

Dodson Montana School Districts Impact Aid: The House passed S. 447, to deem as timely filed, and process for payment, the applications submitted by the Dodson School Districts for certain Impact Aid payments for fiscal year 1999—clearing the measure for the President. **Pages H1088–89**

Education Flexibility Partnership Act: The House completed debate and considered amendments to H.R. 800, to provide for education flexibility partnerships. **Pages H1089–H1136**

Agreed To:

The Ehlers amendment, numbered 6 and printed in the Congressional Record, that requires each State educational agency insure that the purposes of the statutory requirements of each program, for which a waiver is granted, continue to be met (agreed to by a recorded vote of 406 yeas to 13 nays, Roll No. 38); and **Pages H1100–13**

The Castle amendment, numbered 2 and printed in the Congressional Record, that strengthens accountability by clarifying reporting responsibilities by the states and includes specific performance data to demonstrate the degree to which progress has been made toward meeting objectives. **Pages H1131–32**

Rejected:

The Holt amendment to the Ehlers amendment that sought to require that each State educational

agency insure that the purposes of the statutory requirements of each program, for which a waiver is granted, continues to be met and further requires that the State include in its application a description of how the professional development needs of its teachers, in the areas of mathematics and science will be, or are being met (rejected by a recorded vote of 204 yeas to 218 noes, Roll No. 37); and

Pages H1101–13

The George Miller amendment, numbered 12 and printed in the Congressional Record, that sought to require states to have developed a system to measure student performance from one school year to the next and established numerical performance standards for student achievement, including an objective of improving the performance of all groups and narrowing the gaps in performance between the groups disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, English proficiency status, migrant status, and socioeconomic status, before a waiver authority is granted (rejected by yeas and nays vote of 196 yeas to 228 nays, Roll No. 39).

Pages H1113–31

Recorded Vote Postponed:

The Scott amendment, numbered 21 and printed in the Congressional Record, that seeks to authorize a waiver in the case of a school that participates in a Title I program only if the school serves at least thirty-five percent of children from low-income families.

Pages H1132–36

H. Res. 100, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a voice vote. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by yeas and nays vote of 217 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 36.

Pages H10181–88

Presidential Message—Re Iran: Read a message from the 1081–88 President wherein he transmitted his report concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 106–38).

Page H1036

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H1164–71.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas and nays votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1079–80, H1080–81, H1088, H1112–13, H1113, and H1130–31. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM REVIEW

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops held a hearing on Review of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Testimony was heard from Kenneth D. Ackerman, Administrator, Risk Management Agency, USDA.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: August Schumacher, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service; Kenneth D. Ackerman, Administrator, Risk Management Agency; and Keith Kelly, Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary held a hearing on the Secretary of State, and on The Supreme Court. Testimony was heard from Madeline Albright, Secretary of State; and the following Associate Justices of the Supreme Court: David H. Souter; and Clarence Thomas.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on fiscal year 2000 Air Force Budget. Testimony was heard from F. Whitten Peters, Acting Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on the fiscal year 2000 Air Force Acquisition Program. Testimony was heard from the following Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries of the Air Force, Department of Defense: Lt. Gen. Gregory S. Martin, USAF, (Acquisitions); and Darleen A. Druyan, (Acquisitions and Management).

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the Secretary of Agriculture, and on the Forest Service. Testimony was heard from the