

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Richard A. Meserve, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Paul L. Hill, Jr., of West Virginia, to be Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Maj. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, and Sam Epstein Angel, of Arkansas, and Brig. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, United States Army, each to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf. Mr. Hill was introduced by Senator Byrd.

CORRUPTION IN RUSSIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings to examine issues on corruption in Russia and the status of United States and Russian relations, after receiving testimony from Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State; Jim E. Moody, Jim Moody and Associates, McLean, Virginia, former Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; E. Wayne Merry, Atlantic Council of the United States, Washington, D.C.; Robert Legvold, Columbia University, New York, New York; and Fritz W. Ermarth, Fairfax, Virginia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported S. Res. 99, designating November 20,

1999, as “National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day”.

Also, committee approved a committee resolution on issuance of subpoenas pursuant to Rule 26.

INS REFORM AND BORDER SECURITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration concluded hearings on proposals to reform current immigration structure and border security, including S. 1563, proposed Immigration and Naturalization Service Reform and Border Security Act of 1999, after receiving testimony from Doris Meissner, Commissioner, and Paul M. Berg, Chief, Del Rio Sector, U.S. Border Patrol, both of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; Warren R. Leiden, Berry, Appleman and Leiden, San Francisco, California, on behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association; Rachel S. Yoskowitz, Jewish Family Service Metro Detroit, Detroit, Michigan; T.J. Bonner, National Border Patrol Council, Campo, California; and Richard J. Gallo, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, East Northport, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee continued to discuss procedural issues relating to S. Res. 172, to establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 2922–2940; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 301–303, were introduced. Pages H8627–28

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2392, to amend the Small Business Act to extend the authorization for the Small Business Innovation Research Program (H. Rept. 106–329, Pt. 1); and

H. Res. 300, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 106–330). Page H8627

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Hefley to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H8559

Interstate Class Action Jurisdiction Act: The House passed H.R. 1875, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 443. Pages H8568–95

Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order by the rule.

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Agreed to:

The Boucher substitute amendment to the Watt of North Carolina amendment that allows a class action to be removed to a district court before or after a State has certified the class. Except that a plaintiff

who is not a named class member of the action may not seek removal of the action before a class containing the plaintiff has been certified. Subsequently, agreed to the Watt of North Carolina amendment, as amended.

Pages H8584–85

Rejected:

The Nadler amendment that sought to exempt any class action that is brought for harm caused by a firearm or ammunition (rejected by a recorded vote of 152 ayes to 277 noes, Roll No. 439);

Pages H8577–78, H8592

The Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that sought to exempt any class action that is brought for harm caused by a tobacco product (rejected by a recorded vote of 162 ayes to 266 noes, Roll No. 440);

Pages H8578–84, H8592–93

The Frank of Massachusetts amendment that sought to allow a State court to certify a class action after the action has failed to meet class certification under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in a Federal court (rejected by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 225 noes, Roll No. 441); and

Pages H8585–88, H8593–94

The Waters amendment that sought to delay implementation of the act until the Judicial Conference of the United States certifies that the number of vacancies of Federal judgeships is less than 3 percent (rejected by a recorded vote of 185 ayes to 241 noes, Roll No. 442).

Pages H8588–92, H8594

H. Res. 295, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yeas and nays vote of 241 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 437.

Pages H8563–67

Juvenile Justice Reform Act—Motions to Instruct Conferees:

Lofgren Motions to Instruct: Agreed to the Lofgren motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501, to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders to recommend a conference substitute that (1) includes a loophole-free system that assures that no criminals or other prohibited purchasers (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, undocumented aliens, stalkers and batterers) obtain firearms from non-licensed persons and federally licensed firearms dealers at gun shows; (2) does not include provisions that weaken current gun safety law; and (3) includes provisions that aid in the enforcement of current laws against criminals who use guns (e.g. murderers, rapists, child molesters, fugitives from justice, stalkers and batterers) by a yeas and nays vote of 305 yeas to 117 nays, Roll No. 438. Debate on the motion was completed on September 22.

Pages H8567–68

Subsequently, Representative Lofgren notified the House of her intention to offer another motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501 on September 24.

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McCarthy of New York Motion to Instruct: Representative McCarthy moved to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501, to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders, to insist that (1) the committee of conference should this week have its first substantive meeting to offer amendments and motions, including gun safety amendments and motions; and (2) the committee of conference should meet every weekday in public session until the committee of conference agrees to recommend a substitute. Ordered vote on the motion was postponed until September 24; and

Pages H8595–H8613

Doolittle Motions to Instruct: Representative Doolittle notified the House of his intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501, to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders; and

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Subsequently, Representative Doolittle notified the House of his intention to offer another motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501 on September 24.

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Presidential Messages: Read the following messages from the President:

Veto Message Financial Freedom Act: Message wherein he announced his veto of H.R. 2488, the Financial Freedom Act of 1999, and explained his reasons therefor—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered printed (H. Doc. 106–130);

Pages H8613–21

National Emergency Re Iran: Message wherein he transmitted his report on the national emergency with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 106–131); and

Page H8621

Money Laundering: Message wherein he transmitted the National Money Laundering Strategy for 1999—referred to the Committees on the Judiciary and Banking and Finance.

Page H8621

Amendments Ordered Printed: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H8629.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas and nays votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H8566–67, H8567–68, H8592, H8592–93, H8593–94, H8594, and H8594–95. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING REVITALIZATION ACT

Committee on Agriculture: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 2389, County Schools Funding Revitalization Act of 1999.

LABOR—HHS—EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education approved for full Committee action the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

FIXING OUR SCHOOLS

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Fixing Our Schools From the Bottom Up, State, Local and Private Reform Initiatives. Testimony was heard from Senator Voinovich; Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education; Jeb Bush, Governor, State of Florida; Dwight Evans, member of the Legislature, State of Pennsylvania; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS ENERGY MEASURES

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 2884, to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through fiscal year 2003; and H.R. 2531, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000.

Prior to this action, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the following: Reauthorization of Expiring Energy Policy and Conservation Act Programs; and on the Energy Policy and Conservation Act Amendments. Testimony was heard from Robert Gee, Assistant Secretary, Fossil Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

BLOOD SAFETY AND AVAILABILITY

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Blood Safety and Availability. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Thomas Roslewicz, Deputy Inspector General, Audit Services; and Joe Green, Assistant Deputy, Audit Services; and public witnesses.

FIGHTING PROSTATE CANCER

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing on Fighting Prostate Cancer: Are We Doing Enough? Testimony was heard from Representative Cunningham; former Senator Robert Dole of Kansas; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on International Relations: Favorably considered the following measures and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that they be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Res. 292, amended, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the referendum in East Timor, calling on the Government of Indonesia to assist in the termination of the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, and supporting a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force for East Timor; H. Res. 181, condemning the kidnapping and murder by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) of 3 United States citizens, Ingrid Washinawatok, Terence Freitas, and Lahe'ena'e Gay; H.R. 2608, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to clarify the definition of "major drug-transit country" under the international narcotics control program; H.J. Res. 65, amended, commending the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge; H. Con. Res. 187, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the European Council noise rule affecting hushkitted and reengineered aircraft; and H. Res. 297, amended, expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Taiwan on September 21, 1999.

OVERSIGHT—INDEPENDENT COUNSEL—ABUSES OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held an oversight hearing on the Abuses of Individual Rights by Independent Counsel. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STATES' CHOICE OF VOTING SYSTEMS ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held a hearing on H.R. 1173, States' Choice of Voting Systems Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Campbell; Anita Hodgkiss, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

PRISON INDUSTRIES REFORM ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 2558, Prison Industries Reform Act of 1999.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 2496, to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994; H.R. 2821, to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to provide for appointment of 2 additional members of the North