

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House Committees ordered reported seven sundry measures.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at 11 a.m.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INTERNET SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary concluded

hearing on internet security issues, focusing on criminal behavior and significant threats to our national security and economic security, after receiving testimony from Janet Reno, Attorney General, and Louis J. Freeh, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of the Department of Justice; Bill Reinsch, Under Secretary of Commerce; Robert Chestnut, eBay, Inc., San Jose, California; Jeff B. Richards, Internet Alliance, Washington, D.C.; and Mark D. Rasch, Global Integrity Corporation, Reston, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 3669–3698, and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 252–255, were introduced. **Pages H508–10**

Reports Filed: No Reports were filed today.

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of February 15 by a yeas and nays vote of 354 yeas to 46 nays, Roll No. 22. **Pages H457–58**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Ronald F. Christian of Fairfax, Virginia. **Page H457**

Millennium Digital Commerce Act—E—SIGN: The House passed S. 761, to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, after amending it to contain the text of H. R. 1714, Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. The House insisted on its amendments and requested a conference. **Pages H486–89**

Appointed as conferees: Chairman Bliley and Representatives Tauzin, Oxley, Dingel, and Markey. **Page H489**

Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2000: The House passed H.R. 2366, to provide small businesses certain protections from litigation excesses and to limit the product liability of nonmanufacturer product sellers by a recorded vote of 221 yeas to 193 noes, Roll No. 25. **Pages H463–86**

Agreed to:

Hutchinson amendment that allows the court to exceed punitive damage caps if it finds clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with specific intent to cause harm; **Pages H476–77**

Moran of Virginia amendment that defines punitive damage as those awarded to punish or deter others from engaging in similar behavior and does not include any civil penalties, fines, or treble damages assessed by a State or Federal government agency; and **Pages H478–79**

Watt of North Carolina amendment that strikes language to preclude Federal court jurisdiction over

claims dealing with the interference in interstate commerce and antitrust. **Page H479**

Rejected:

Conyers amendment that sought to change the definition of small business to those with revenues, in each of the last two years, of \$5 million or less; apply product liability protections to small retailers only; limits cap on punitive damages to product liability; define hate crime as those where a defendant selects a victim or victim's property based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation; and allows States to opt out of the Federal damages cap through legislation or voter initiative (rejected by a recorded vote of 178 ayes to 237 noes, Roll No. 24). **Pages H479–85**

Agreed to H. Res. 423, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by a yea and nay vote of 223 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 23. **Pages H461–63**

Resignations—Appointments: Agreed that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, February 29, 2000, the Speaker, Majority leader and Minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments. **Page H489**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed that the Calendar Wednesday business be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 1, 2000. **Page H489**

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Houghton, as Chairman, to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group. **Pages H489–90**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Morella to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 29, 2000. **Page H489**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea and nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House and appear on pages H457–58, H463, H484–85, and H485. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and pursuant to S. Con. Res. 80, the House adjourned at 5:19 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, for morning-hour debate.

Committee Meetings

RURAL LOCAL BROADCAST SIGNAL ACT; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Agriculture: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3615, Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act.

The Committee also approved the Committee Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2001 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies began appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Military Readiness. Testimony was heard from the following officials from the Department of Defense: Adm. D.L. Pilling, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. John Keane, USA, Vice Chief of Staff; Gen. Terrence Dake, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Gen. Lester Lyles, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held an oversight hearing on the Forest Service Managerial Accountability. Testimony was heard from Barry T. Hill, Associate Director, Energy and Natural Resources Division, GAO; the following officials from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture: Mike Dombeck, Chief; Vincette Goerl, Chief Financial Officer; and Randle Phillips, Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation; and public witnesses.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on the National Institute on Aging, the National Center for Research Resources, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Richard J. Hodes, Director, National Institute on Aging; Judith Vaitukaitis, Director, National Center for Research Resources; Duane Alexander, M.D., Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and James F. Battey Jr., M.D., National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction held a hearing on the Quality of