

Jerry Lasker, Indian Nations Council of Governments, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Annette Liebe, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Portland, on behalf of the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators, and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials; Diane Steed, American Highway Users Alliance, Washington, D.C.; Marsha Kaiser, Maryland Department of Transportation, Annapolis, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and Michael Replogle, Environmental Defense, New York, New York.

MILITARY OPERATIONS/IRAQ

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine Iraq's

political future from William Burns, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee held hearings to examine the nomination of Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, where the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

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 Tuesday, March 18.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 1256–1297; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 39;

H. Con. Res. 92–94, and H. Res. 142–144 were introduced. Pages H1900–02

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1902–03

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 444, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a Personal Reemployment Accounts grant program to assist Americans in returning to work, amended (H. Rept. 108–35); and

H.R. 875, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for security improvements to over-the-road bus operations (H. Rept. 108–36). Page H1900

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thornberry to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H1815

Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act: The House passed H.R. 5, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system by recorded vote of 229 ayes to 196 noes with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 64. Pages H1817–71, H1879–80

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 108–34 was considered as adopted. Page H1832

Rejected the Conyers motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on energy and commerce with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with amendments in the nature of a substitute that establishes the Medical Malpractice and Insurance Reform Act of 2003 by yea-and-nay vote of 191 yeas to 234 nays, Roll No. 63. Page H1870

The House agreed to H. Res. 139, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 201 noes, Roll No. 62. Earlier agreed to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 61. And, pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 139, H. Res. 126 was laid on the table. Pages H1828–29

Legislative Program: The Majority Leader announced the Legislative Program for the week of March 17. Page H1872

Meeting Hour—Monday, March 17 and Tuesday, March 18: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 17 and agreed that when the House adjourns on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, for morning hour today. Page H1874

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 19. Page H1874

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Kolbe as Chairman, Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group. Page H1875

Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Houghton as Chairman, Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group. **Page H1875**

British-American Interparliamentary Group: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Petri as Chairman, British-American Interparliamentary Group. **Page H1875**

Speaker Pro Tempore List: The chair announced that on February 10, the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter listing members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule 1. **Page H1875**

Presidential Messages: Read the following messages from the President:

Continuation of the National Emergency re Iran: Message wherein he transmitted his notice announcing the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108-46); and **Page H1875**

Six Month Periodic Report on the National Emergency re Iran: Message wherein he transmitted a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108-47). **Page H1875**

Designation by the Speaker re Assembly of the Congress: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he stated that pursuant to H. Con. Res. 1, regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of Government, and also for the purposes of concurrent resolutions of the current Congresses as may contemplate his designation of members to act in similar circumstances, he designates Representative Tom DeLay of Texas to act jointly with the Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, in the event of his death or inability, to notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, of any reassembly under any such concurrent resolution. He further stated that in the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternate Members of the House listed in the letter dated March 13, 2003 that has placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purposes.

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Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H1871.

Referral: S. 3 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H1828-29, H1870, and H1871. There were no quorum calls.

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

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies held a hearing on National Resources Conservation Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment; Bruce Knight, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Gerald Patterson, Acting Budget Officer.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Research, Education and Economics. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Joseph J. Jen, Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics; Edward B. Knipling, Acting Administrator, Agricultural Research Service; Collen Hefferan, Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; Susan E. Offutt, Administrator, Economic Research Service; and R. Ronald Bosecker, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE AND THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State and The Judiciary, and Related Agencies held a hearing on SEC. Testimony was heard from William H. Donaldson, Chairman, SEC.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on U.S. Northern Command. Testimony was heard from Gen. Ralph Eberhart, USAF, Commander and Chief, U.S. Northern Command.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Department of Energy-Science, Nuclear Energy, and Renewable Energy. Testimony was heard from Robert Card, Under Secretary, Energy, Science and Environment, Department of Energy.