

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:48 a.m. on Friday, April 11.

Committee Meetings

FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION; AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing on implementation of the 2002 Farm bill and 2003 Agriculture Assistance. Testimony was heard from J.B. Penn, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA.

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

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary and Related Agencies continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Science and Technology. Testimony was heard from Charles McQueary, Under Secretary, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard. Testimony was heard from Adm. Thomas H. Collins, USCG, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Related Agencies held a hearing on Secretary of Labor. Testimony was heard from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor.

TRANSPORTATION AND TREASURY, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury, and Independent Agencies, on Passenger Rail (Panel). Testimony was heard from Michael P. Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation; David L. Gunn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak; and a public witness.

VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on NSF. Testimony was heard from Rita R. Colwell, Director, NSF.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 1350, Improving Education Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003.

EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE REGULATION: WHY SOME CONSUMERS CAN'T GET INSURANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "The Effectiveness of State Regulation: Why Some Consumers Can't Get Insurance." Testimony was heard from Ernst Csiszar, Director, Department of Insurance, State of South Carolina; and public witnesses.

NATION'S CAPITAL—EMERGENCY READINESS

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled "Are We Ready for Prime Time? Assessing the State of Emergency Readiness in the Nation's Capital." Testimony was heard from Michael Byrne, Director, Office of National Capital Region Coordination, Department of Homeland Security; Van Harp, Director, Washington Field Office, FBI, Department of Justice; Teresa Chambers, Chief, U.S. Park Police, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Mark Warner, Governor, State of Virginia; the following officials of the District of Columbia: Anthony Williams, Mayor; and Charles Ramsey, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department; Richard White, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and public witnesses.

BALKANS—ASSESSING PROGRESS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe held a hearing on The Balkans: Assessing the Progress and Looking to the Future. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT TRANSITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims held an oversight hearing on "Department of Homeland Security Transition: Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement." Testimony was heard from Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary, Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security; Rich Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

SIKES ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on

H.R. 1497, Sikes Act Reauthorization Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary, Installations and Environment, Department of Defense; Benjamin N. Tuggle, Chief, Division of Federal Program Activities, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

FY 2004 BUDGET RESOLUTION CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 4, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. Testimony was heard from chairman Nussle and Representative Spratt.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL—CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a resolution waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The resolution applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of Friday, April 11, 2003, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany H.R. 1559, making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards held a hearing on Transportation Research and Development: Investing in the Future. Testimony was heard from Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary, Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation; Kate Siggerud, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, GAO; Eric E. Harm, Deputy Director, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation, State of Illinois; and public witnesses.

VETERAN'S LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Benefits held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 241, Veterans Beneficiary Fairness Act of 2003; H.R.

533, Agent Orange Veterans' Disabled Children's Benefits Act of 2003; H.R. 761, Disabled Servicemembers Adapted Housing Assistance Act of 2003; H.R. 850, Former Prisoners of War Special Compensation Act of 2003; H.R. 966, Disabled Veterans' Return-to-Work Act of 2003; and H.R. 1048, Disabled Veterans Adaptive Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from Representative Simpson; the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary, Benefits; and Ronald J. Henke, Director, Compensation and Pension Service, both with the Veterans Benefits Administration; and John H. Thompson, Deputy General Counsel; and representatives of veterans organizations.

OVERSIGHT—MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing on medical and prosthetic research programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Representative Langevin; the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Nelda P. Wray, M.D., Chief Research and Development Officer, Office of Research and Development, Veterans Health Administration; Mindy Aisen, M.D., Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development; John G. Demakis, M.D., Director, Health Sciences Research and Development; and Fred S. Wright, M.D., Associate Chief of Staff, Research, VA Healthcare System, State of Connecticut; and Kevin C. Dellsperger, M.D., Chief of Staff, Associate Dean, Veterans Affairs, VA Medical Center, Iowa City, Iowa; and public witnesses.

MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on VA's progress in the development of the medical education program mandated by Section 3 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002. Testimony was heard from Robert H. Roswell, Under Secretary, Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jerome M. Hauer, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services; Eric Tolbert, Director, Preparedness, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Col. Maria Morgan, USAF, Deputy Adjutant General, National Guard, State of New Jersey; and public witnesses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND "RETURNS TO WORK"

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing on Unemployment

Benefits and “Returns to Work.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

MEDICARE

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded joint hearings to examine Medicare, focusing on the 2003 Medicare Trustees Report, the long-term financial viability of the program, proposals to add a prescription drug benefit, and other related reforms, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office; David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, General

Accounting Office; Gail R. Wilensky, Project HOPE, Millwood, Virginia; and John P. Martin, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Marilyn Moon, Urban Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-226.