

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1474, Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act.

The House passed H.R. 3108, Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

### Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Measures Introduced:** 28 public bills, H.R. 3259–3286; and; 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 296–300, and H. Res. 392–394 were introduced.

**Pages H9375–77**

#### Additional Cosponsors:

**Pages H9377–78**

#### Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 1598, to amend the Reclamation Water and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects within the San Diego Creek Watershed, California, (H. Rept. 108–306);

H.R. 3076, to amend title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure graduate opportunities in postsecondary education, amended, (H. Rept. 108–307); and

H.R. 3077, to amend title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance international education programs, amended, (H. Rept. 108–308).

H.R. 135, to establish the “Twenty-First Century Water Commission” to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs, amended, (H. Rept. 108–309, Part 1).

**Page H9375**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered today by Rev. Ky Weekley, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Page H9285**

**Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act—Conference Report:** The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1474, to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation’s payments system, by voice vote.

**Pages H9289–93**

The conference report was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached on Tuesday, October 7.

**Page H9289**

**Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003:** The House passed H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions by a yeas-and-nays vote of 397 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 535.

**Pages H9293–H9302, H9332**

Pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement, the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Representative Boehner was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and was agreed to by a voice vote.

**Page H9302**

The bill was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached on Tuesday, October 7.

**Page H9302**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Adoption Promotion Act of 2003:** H.R. 3182, to reauthorize the adoption incentive payments program under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act; **Pages H9302–05**

**Veterans Benefits Act of 2003:** H.R. 2297, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and improve certain benefits for veterans by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 399 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 536; **Pages H9305–12, H9332–33**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.” **Page H9333**

**National Railroad Hall of Fame:** H. Res. 342, supporting the National Railroad Hall of Fame, Inc., of Galesburg, Illinois, in its endeavor to erect a monument known as the National Railroad Hall of Fame; **Pages H9312–15**

**Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building Designation Act:** H.R. 2452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the “Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building”; **Pages H9315–16**

**Recognizing Ralph Bunche:** H. Con. Res. 71, recognizing the importance of Ralph Bunche as one of the great leaders of the United States, the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner, an accomplished scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a tireless campaigner of civil rights for people throughout the world; **Pages H9316–18**

**Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month:** H. Res. 262, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month; **Pages H9318–19**

**Government Network Security Act of 2003:** H.R. 3159, amended, to require Federal agencies to develop and implement plans to protect the security and privacy of government computer systems from the risks posed by peer-to-peer file sharing; **Pages H9219–20**

**District of Columbia Military Retirement Equity Act of 2003:** H.R. 3054, amended, to amend the Policemen and Firemen’s Retirement and Disability Act to permit military service previously performed by members and former members of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division to count as creditable service for purposes of calculating

retirement annuities payable to such members upon payment of a contribution by such members;

**Pages H9320–22**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “to amend the Policemen and Firemen’s Retirement and Disability Act to permit military service previously performed by members and former members of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service to count as creditable service for purposes of calculating retirement annuities payable to such members upon payment of a contribution by such members, and for other purposes.” **Page H9322**

**Authorizing the President to issue posthumously a commission as major general, U.S. Army to William “Billy” Mitchell:** H.R. 2755, to authorize the President to issue posthumously to the late William “Billy” Mitchell a commission as major general, United States Army; **Pages H9322–25**

**Amending the U.S. Code:** H.R. 2998, amended, to amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 399 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 537; **Pages H9325–27, H9333–34**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read, “to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for the exemption for certain members of the uniformed services from an otherwise-applicable requirement for the payment of subsistence charges while hospitalized.” **Page H9334**

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore:** H.R. 408, amended, to provide for expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; **Pages H9327–30**

**Amending the Mineral Leasing Act:** H.R. 3062, amended, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas; and **Pages H9330–31**

**Conveyance of certain lands in Mendocino National Forest, California:** H.R. 708, to require the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to provide for the use of the proceeds from such conveyance for National Forest purposes. **Pages H9331–32**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:38 p.m. and reconvened at 1:49 p.m. **Page H9322**

**Commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Bulgaria:** H. Res. 355, commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States

and Bulgaria by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 397 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 538.

**Pages H9334–35**

The bill was debated under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, October 7.

**Page H9334**

**Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh:** H. Res. 372, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 398 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 539.

**Page H9335**

The bill was debated under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, October 7.

**Page H9335**

**Energy Policy Act of 2003—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House debated the Capps motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed until next week.

**Pages H9336–46**

**Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House debated the Crowley motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed until next week.

**Pages H9346–49**

**Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House debated the Schakowsky motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed until next week.

**Pages H9349–54**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 10, further that when it adjourns on Friday, it adjourn to meet at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, and further that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15.

**Page H9354**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, October 15.

**Page H9354**

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **IRAQ: RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Held a hearing on Iraq: Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. Testimony was

heard from Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense; and a public witness.

### **FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT AMENDMENTS**

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on H.R. 1943, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to permit certain youth to perform certain work with wood products. Testimony was heard from Representatives Pitts and Souder; and public witnesses.

### **MEDICAID—CHALLENGES FACING PROGRAM**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Challenges Facing the Medicaid Program in the 21st Century.” Testimony was heard from Thomas A. Scully, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Adelaide Eckardt, Delegate, General Assembly, State of Maryland; and a public witness.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; WINNING THE PEACE: COALITION EFFORTS TO RESTORE IRAQ**

*Committee on Government Reform:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 3166, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Old Tappan Road in Tappan, New York, as the “John G. Dow Post Office Building;” H.R. 3175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio, as the “Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building;” H.R. 3185, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 38 Spring Street in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the “Hugh Gregg Post Office Building;” H.R. 2744, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, as the “David Bybee Post Office Building;” and S. 1591, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the “Edward O’Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building.”

The Committee also held a hearing on “Winning the Peace: Coalition Efforts to Restore Iraq.” Testimony was heard from Lee Brownlee, Acting Secretary, U.S. Army; Tom Korologos, Senior Advisor to Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority; Maj. Gen. Carl Strock, USA, Director, Operations and Infrastructure, Coalition Provisional Authority; Bernie Kerik, former Director of the Interior, Coalition Provisional Authority; and public witnesses.