

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2673, Agriculture Appropriations Act (Omnibus Appropriations).

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S127–S203

Measures Introduced: Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2016–2023. **Pages S184–85**

Agriculture Appropriations Act (Omnibus Appropriations)—Conference Report: By 65 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 3) Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S129–57**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following actions:

Pursuant to the order of January 21, 2004, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on January 20, 2004 was agreed to. **Page S156**

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By 61 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 2), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report. **Page S156**

Pension Funding Equity Act: Pursuant to the order of December 9, 2003, Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of 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, and the Senate then began consideration of the bill, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S157–68**

Pending:

Grassley Amendment No. 2233, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S166–68**

Kyl Amendment No. 2234 (to Amendment No. 2233), to limit the liability of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to a plan for which a reduced deficit contribution is elected. **Pages S166–68**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Cynthia R. Church, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

Robert N. McFarland, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

Gordon H. Mansfield, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S197, S203**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David Safavian, of Michigan, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

41 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy. **Pages S198–S203**

Nominations Returned to the President: The following nomination was discharged from the Committee on Governmental Affairs and returned to the President:

James C. Miller III, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service. **Pages S184, S197**

Messages From the House: **Page S180**

Executive Communications: **Pages S181–84**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S185–86**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S186–93**

Additional Statements: **Pages S178–80**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S193–97**

Authority for Committees to Meet: Page S197

Privilege of the Floor: Page S197

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—3) Page S156

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:20 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, January 23, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S198.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NIH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine avoiding conflicts of interest at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focusing on the executive branch ethics program and the role of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), OGE program reviews at NIH, and recusals and audits, policies and procedures for avoiding conflicts of interest, after receiving testimony from Elias A. Zerhouni, Director, Stephen I. Katz, Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, Edgar M. Swindell, Associate General Counsel, Ethics Division, Ruth Kirschstein, Senior Advisor to the Director, and John I. Gallin, Director, Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center, all of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; and Marilyn L. Glynn, Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on ongoing military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan from Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Rear Admiral Robert B. Murrett, USN, Director for Intelligence, J-2, and Lieutenant General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, Director for Operations, J-3, both of U.S. Joint Forces Command; and Reuben Jeffery III, Coalition Provisional Authority.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Raymond W. Gruender, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Bond and Talent; Ricardo S. Martinez, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, who was introduced by Senator Murray; Gene E. K. Pratter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senators Specter and Santorum; and Neil Vincent Wake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, who was introduced by Senator Kyl, after each nominee testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. It will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23 in pro forma session.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.