

IRAQ'S TRANSITION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings to examine the way ahead in Iraq, focusing on the Administration's plans for the transition to Iraqi sovereignty, after receiving testimony from Anthony H. Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Phebe Marr, National Defense University, both of Washington, D.C.; General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret.), former Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, Del Mar, California; and Larry Diamond, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California.

TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AMENDMENTS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1696, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, after receiving testimony from Don Kashevaroff, Seldovia Village Tribe, Anchorage, Alaska, on behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Alvin Windy Boy, Sr., Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's Reservation, Box Elder, Montana, on behalf of

the Indian Health Service's Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee; W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Sequim, Washington, on behalf of the Title VI Study Team; and Mickey Peercy, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the benefits and risks of Health Savings Accounts as provided for in the Medicare Law, focusing on the future of health care, reducing insurance costs, and enabling more employers to begin or retain health insurance benefits for employees, after receiving testimony from John W. Snow, Secretary of the Treasury; John C. Goodman, National Center for Policy Analysis, Dallas, Texas; Ronald A. Williams, Aetna, Hartford, Connecticut; Kate Sullivan, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Robert Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, both of Washington, D.C.; and Edward L. Langston, Lafayette, Indiana, on behalf of the American Medical Association.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4389–4407; 1 private bill, H.R. 4408 and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 431, and H. Res. 650 were introduced. **Pages H3390–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3391–92**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4103, to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, amended (H. Rept. 108–501); and

H.R. 2912, to reaffirm the inherent sovereign rights of the Osage Tribe to determine its membership and form of government (H. Rept. 108–502).

H.J. Res. 83, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the appointment of individuals to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives, adversely (H. Rept. 108–503). **Page H3390**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Latham to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H3231**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rev. Pete Wall, Pastor, Jackson Baptist Church in Sylvania, Georgia. **Page H3231**

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

Honoring past and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces: H. Con. Res. 424, honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day, by a ²/₃ ye-a-and-nay vote of 419 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 195.

Pages H3251–56, H3259

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005: The House began consideration of H.R. 4200, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2005. Further consideration will continue on Thursday, May 20.

Pages H3241–45, H3257–H3358, H3369–77

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services printed in the bill was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Pages H3281–H3346**

Pursuant to section 4 of H. Res. 648, it was agreed that the Slaughter amendment (no. 14 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) be considered out of the order printed in H. Rept. 108–499. **Page H3375**

Pursuant to H. Res. 648, it was agreed that certain amendments be placed in order as though printed in H. Rept. 108–499 and numbered 29, 30, 31, and 32; that amendment numbered 13 in H. Rept. 108–499 be modified in the form that was placed at the desk; and that the amendments and the modification placed at the desk be considered as read.

Pages H3376–77

Agreed to:

Goode amendment (no. 1 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that authorizes the Secretary of Defense to assign members of the Armed Forces, under certain circumstances and subject to certain conditions, to assist the Department of Homeland Security in the performance of border protection functions (by a recorded vote of 231 ayes to 191 noes, Roll No. 196);

Pages H3346–50, H3357

Hunter amendment (no. 3 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that expresses the sense of Congress concerning the abuse of persons in custody in Iraq (by a recorded vote of 416 ayes to 4 noes, Roll No. 199);

Pages H3354–57, H3370

Meek amendment (no. 5 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that moves mission-critical information from the commissioning authority up to the highest levels in short order when that information portends events or situations detrimental to our strategic plan; and

Pages H3372–73

Hastings of Florida amendment (no. 6 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that expresses the sense of Congress that no funds available to any department or agency of the United States Government may be used to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq unless the President certifies to Congress that the United States has entered into an agreement with the Iraqi Governing Council or a transitional government in Iraq under which Iraq agrees that it will expend a significant portion of its revenues generated from oil production for reconstruction activities in Iraq.

Pages H3373–74

Rejected:

Davis of California amendment (no. 2 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that sought to repeal the prohibition on servicewomen and female military dependents from using their own funds for abortions at overseas military hospitals (by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 221 noes, Roll No. 197).

Pages H3350–54, H3357

Proceedings Postponed:

Weldon of Pennsylvania (no. 4 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) amendment that seeks to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should assist the Iraqi Government in destroying the Abu Gharib prison and replacing it with a modern detention facility; and

Pages H3370–72

Skelton amendment (no. 14 printed in H. Rept. 108–499) that seeks to require the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy for the Department of Defense on the prevention of and response to sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces and requires the DoD to take related measures to address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces.

Pages H3374–76

H. Res. 648, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a recorded vote of 220 ayes to 205 noes, Roll No. 194, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 193.

Pages H3257–59

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2005—Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report on S. Con. Res. 95, original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 198.

Pages H3358–69

H. Res. 649, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report was agreed to by a recorded vote of 220 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 192, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 191.

Pages H3256–57

Budget Resolution for FY 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees: Subsequent to the filing of the conference report on S. Con. Res. 95, the chair announced the motion to instruct conferees offered by Representative Stenholm, which was debated on Tuesday, May 18 and the notice of intent to offer a motion to instruct conferees by Representative Price of North Carolina had been vitiated.

Page H3259

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004—Order of Business: Pursuant to section 3 of H. Res. 649, H.R. 2660, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, was laid on the table.

Pages H3236–41, H3377

Policy Committee of the White House Conference on Aging—Appointment: Read a letter from the Minority Leader wherein she appointed Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut and Robert B. Blancato of Virginia to the Policy Committee of the White House Conference on Aging.

Page H3259

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3231.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3256–57, H3257, H3257–58, H3258–59, H3259, H3357, H3357–58, H3358–69, and H3369–70. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to review Agricultural Trade Negotiations. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 4278, Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004.

REGIONAL ENERGY RELIABILITY AND SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled “Regional Energy Reliability and Security: DOE Authority to Energize the Cross Sound Cable.” Testimony was heard from Senator Schumer; Representatives DeLauro, King of New York and Shays; the following officials of the Department of Energy: Patrick Wood, III, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and Lee Otis, General Counsel; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut; and public witnesses.

COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE COMPETITION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Competition in the Communications Marketplace: How Convergence Is Blurring the Lines Between Voice, Video, and Data Services.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS ACT; OVERSIGHT—NASA’S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 3826, Program Assessment and Results Act.

The Subcommittee also held an oversight hearing entitled “Mission Impossible? Fixing NASA’s Financial Management.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of NASA: Gwendolyn Brown, Chief Financial Officer; Robert Cobb, Inspector General; and Greg Kutz, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO.

FEDERAL ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census held an oversight hearing entitled “Federal Enterprise Architecture: A Blueprint for Improved Federal IT Investment and Cross-Agency Collaboration and Information Sharing.” Testimony was heard from Karen S. Evans, Administrator of E-Government and Information Technology, OMB; Randolph C. Hite, Director, Information Technology Architecture and Systems, GAO; Daniel Matthews, Chief Information Office, Department of Transportation; Kim Nelson, Chief Information Officer, EPA, and public witnesses.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACT

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on Implementation of the Millennium Challenge Act. Testimony was heard from Paul Applegarth, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

ESTABLISH A COMMISSION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSIST PARLIAMENTS IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe approved for full Committee action H. Res. 642, Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 646, amended, To Expand the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to authorize the acquisition and interpretation of lands associated with the campaign that resulted in the capture of the fort in 1862; H.R. 1156, To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project; H.R. 2619, amended, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Point National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2003; H.R. 2831, amended, Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility Transfer Act; H.R. 2909, amended, Utah Test and Training Range Protection Act; H.R. 3785, amended, To authorize the exchange of certain land in Everglades Park; H.R. 4115, To amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation; H.R. 4158, To provide for the conveyance to the Government of Mexico of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration ship; H.R. 4362, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept a parcel of Federal land in the State of Washington in trust for the Nisqually Tribe, to ensure that the acceptance of such land