

does not adversely affect the Bonneville Power Administration; S. 144, amended, Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003; and S. 1146, Three Affiliated Tribes Health Facility Compensation Act.

#### FEDERAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS IMPACT

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled "The Impact of Federal Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy R&D Programs." Testimony was heard from Peter Smith, Energy Research and Development Authority, State of New York; and public witnesses.

#### EPA—HOMELAND SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

*Committee on Science:* Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards held a hearing entitled "Homeland Security Research and Development at the EPA: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead." Testimony was heard from Paul Gilman, Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development, EPA; Penrose C. Albright, Assistant Secretary, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

#### RED TAPE REDUCTION

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing entitled "Red Tape Reduction: Improving the Competitiveness of America's Small Manufacturers." Testimony was heard from John Graham, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB; and public witnesses.

#### OVERSIGHT—BIOMETRICS USE TO IMPROVE AVIATION SECURITY

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Aviation held an oversight hearing on The Use of Biometrics to Improve Aviation Security. Testimony was heard from Stewart Verdery, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security; Keith A. Rhodes, Chief Technologist, Applied Research and Methods, GAO; and public witnesses.

#### VETERANS LEGISLATION

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 4231, amended, Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004; H.R. 4248, amended, Homeless Veterans Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2004; H.R. 3936, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation; H.R. 4345, To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of home loan guaranty available under the home loan guaranty program of the

Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1716, amended, Veterans Earn and Learn Act of 2004; and H.R. 4175, amended, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

#### VA'S ROLE—IN ELECTRONIC-MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEMS

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs' role in the development of interoperable Electronic-medical records systems in the Federal Government. Testimony was heard from Linda Koontz, Director, Information Management Issues, GAO; Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Acting Under Secretary, Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; James C. Reardon, Chief Information Officer, Military Health System, Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS—BRIEFING—DOD'S INTELLIGENCE REFORM INITIATIVE

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to consider pending business.

The Committee also met in executive session to receive a briefing on Department of Defense Intelligence Reform Initiative (DoD HUMINT Reform). The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

### Joint Meetings

#### 2005 BUDGET

*Conferees:* On Tuesday, May 18, 2004, agreed to file a conference report on S. Con. Res. 95, 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.

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#### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D 468)

S. 2315, to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to extend the deadline for the INTELSAT initial public offering. Signed on May 18, 2004. (Public Law 108-228)

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

##### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, to hold hearings to examine intellectual property, 10 a.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Extended Custodial Inventory Program, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and