

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1813–S1883

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 476–489. **Pages S1866–67**

Measures Passed:

Permitting Use of Capitol Rotunda: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 79, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation. **Page S1882**

Bankruptcy Reform Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S1820–31, S1834–57

Adopted:

By 63 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 12), Sessions Amendment No. 23, to clarify the safe harbor with respect to debtors who have serious medical conditions or who have been called or ordered to active duty in the Armed Forces and low income veterans.

Pages S1848–50, S1853–54

Rejected: 1 By 38 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 13), Durbin Modified Amendment No. 16, to protect servicemembers and veterans from means testing in bankruptcy, to disallow certain claims by lenders charging usurious interest rates to servicemembers, and to allow servicemembers to exempt property based on the law of the State of their premilitary residence.

Pages S1827–29, S1854

Pending:

Feingold Amendment No. 17, to provide a homestead floor for the elderly. **Pages S1829–31**

Akaka Amendment No. 15, to require enhanced disclosure to consumers regarding the consequences of making only minimum required payments in the repayment of credit card debt. **Pages S1834–41**

Leahy Amendment No. 26, to restrict access to certain personal information in bankruptcy documents. **Page S1850**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:15 a.m., on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, and that the Senate vote in relation to Feingold Amendment No. 17 (listed above), to be followed by a vote in relation to Akaka Amendment No. 15 (listed above); and provided further, that no amendment be in order to either amendment prior to those votes. **Page S1882**

Appointments:

British-American Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed Senator Cochran as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group conference during the 109th Congress. **Page S1882**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Brian Edward Sandoval, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

32 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

30 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force. **Pages S1882–83**

Messages From the House:

Pages S1865–66

Executive Communications:

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S1867–68

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S1868–77

Additional Statements:

Pages S1863–65

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S1877–81

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

Page S1881

Authority for Committees to Meet:

Pages S1881–82

Privilege of the Floor:

Page S1882

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—13) **Pages S1853–54**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m., and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 9:15 a.m., on Wednesday, March 2, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on Page S1882.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from General James L. Jones, Jr., USMC, Commander, United States European Command, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; General John P. Abizaid, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command; and General Bryan D. Brown, USA, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command.

NOMINATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUDGET: DEFENSE

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for defense, after receiving testimony from Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary, General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Tina Jonas, Under Secretary (Comptroller), all of the Department of Defense.

BUDGET: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Gale A. Norton, Secretary, and Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, both of the Department of the Interior.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN PROPOSAL

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine the financial status of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Administration's Defined

Benefit Plan Funding Proposal, receiving testimony from Mark J. Warshawsky, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy; Ann L. Combs, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration; Bradley D. Belt, Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Larry Zimpleman, Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, Iowa, on behalf of the Business Roundtable; Alan Reuther, United Auto Workers, Washington, D.C.; and Randall S. Kroszner, The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Chicago, Illinois.

Hearings recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

FDA's DRUG APPROVAL PROCESS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee held a hearing to examine Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) drug approval process, focusing on FDA's drug approval process after a sponsor demonstrates that their benefits outweigh their risks for a specific population and use, and that the drug meets standards for safety and efficacy, receiving testimony from Sandra L. Kweder, Deputy Director, Office of New Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Nancy Davenport-Ennis, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Scott Gottlieb, American Enterprise Institute, and William B. Schultz, Zuckerman Spaeder, LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; Thomas R. Fleming, University of Washington Department of Biostatistics, Seattle; David Fassler, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, on behalf of American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association; and Abbey S. Meyers, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Danbury, Connecticut.

Hearings recessed until Thursday, March 3.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 147, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, after receiving testimony from Representative Case and Delegate Faleomavaega; Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, Hawaii State Attorney General Mark Ben-Haunani Apoliona, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Micah Kane, State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and Jade Danner, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, all of Honolulu; Tex Hall, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, D.C.; and Julie Kitka, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage, Alaska.