

by suspending a portion of the reduction in the highest income tax rate for individual taxpayers.

Page S3866

Reid (for Feingold) Amendment No. 459, to extend the termination date of Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, expand the duties of the Inspector General, and provide additional funds for the Office.

Page S3866

Ensign Amendment No. 487, to provide for additional border patrol agents for the remainder of fiscal year 2005.

Pages S3867–68

Byrd Amendment No. 516, to increase funding for border security.

Pages S3888–90

Reid (for Biden) Amendment No. 440, to appropriate, with an offset, \$6,000,000 for the Defense Health Program for force protection work and medical care at the Vaccine Health Care Centers.

Pages S3890–91

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

By 21 yeas to 77 nays (Vote No. 97), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on Frist (for Chambliss/Kyl) Amendment No. 432, to simplify the process for admitting temporary alien agricultural workers under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, to increase access to such workers.

Pages S3866–67, S3868–79

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 98), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on Frist (for Craig/Kennedy) Modified Amendment No. 375, to provide for the adjustment of status of certain foreign agricultural workers, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H-2A worker program under that Act, to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce, to extend basic legal protections and better working conditions to more workers.

Page S3879

By 91 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 99) Senate agreed to the motion to instruct the Sergeant At Arms to request the attendance of absent Senators.

Page S3884

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 100) Senate agreed to the modified motion to recess until 5 p.m. today.

Pages S3884–85

By 83 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. 101), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on Mikulski Amendment No. 387, to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers and require submission of information regarding H-2B nonimmigrants.

Pages S3885–86

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 103), 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 bill.

Page S3888

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., and that, notwithstanding morning business, and the adjournment of the Senate, all time be counted against cloture under Rule XXII.

Page S3957

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Alex Azar II, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Page S3957

Messages From the House:

Page S3896

Measures Read First Time:

Page S3957

Executive Communications:

Pages S3896–97

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S3898–99

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S3899–S3942

Additional Statements:

Pages S3894–96

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S3942–56

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

Page S3956

Authority for Committees to Meet:

Pages S3956–57

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—103) **Pages S3879, S3884, S3884–85, S3886, S3887, S3888**

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—2) **Page S3884**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m., and adjourned at 7:42 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 20, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3957.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/GAO

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Open World Leadership Center, and David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, who were both accompanied by several of their associates.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Gordon England, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, who was introduced by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, and Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, for reappointment, to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower concluded a hearing to examine the United States Marine Corps ground and rotary wing programs and seabasing in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006, after receiving testimony from John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Vice Admiral Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs, United States Navy; and Lieutenant General Robert Magnus, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, and Lieutenant General James N. Mattis, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, both of the U.S. Marine Corps.

HOUSING GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposals to improve the regulation of the Housing Government Sponsored Enterprises, after receiving testimony from David E. Hayes, Security Bank, Dyersburg, Tennessee, on behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America; Al Mansell, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Midvale, Utah, on behalf of the National Association of Realtors; William A. Longbrake, The Financial Services Roundtable, and David F. Wilson, National Association of Home Builders, both of Washington, D.C.; Marc Savitt, The Mortgage Center, McLean, Virginia, on behalf of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers; Harry P. Doherty, Independence Community Bank Corporation, Brooklyn, New York, on behalf of America's Community Bankers; Michael F. Petrie, P/R Mortgage and Investment Corporation, Carmel, Indiana, on behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association; and Nancy O. Andrews, Low Income Investment Fund, San Francisco, California.

OFFSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine offshore hydrocarbon production and the future of alternate energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, focusing on

recent technological advancements made in the offshore exploration and production of traditional forms of energy, and the future of deep shelf and deepwater production; enhancements in worker safety, and steps taken by the offshore oil and gas industry to meet environmental challenges, after receiving testimony from Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.), Chairman, United States Commission on Ocean Policy; R.M. "Johnnie" Burton, Director, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior; Robert W. Thresher, Director, National Wind Technology Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Department of Energy; Virginia State Senator Frank W. Wagner, Virginia Beach; Scott A. Angelle, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Baton Rouge; Charles D. Davidson, Noble Energy, Inc., Houston, Texas, on behalf of the Domestic Petroleum Council, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America; and Debbie Boger, Sierra Club, Washington, D.C.

WATER AND POWER BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 166, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy, S. 251, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Sub-basins in Oregon, S. 310, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District in the State of Nevada, S. 519, to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects and activities under that Act, and S. 592, to extend the contract for the Glendo Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in the State of Wyoming, after receiving testimony from Bill Rinne, Deputy Commissioner, Director of Operations, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Wayne Halbert, Harlingen Irrigation District, Harlingen, Texas; Tod Heisler, Deschutes River Conservancy, Bend, Oregon; Jim Hill, City of Medford Water Reclamation Division, Medford, Oregon; and Ernie Schank, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, Fallon, Nevada.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

An original bill, entitled Highway Reauthorization and Excise Tax Simplification Act of 2005; and

S. 661, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the modernization of the United States Tax Court, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

MIDDLE EAST EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Near East and South Asian experience relating to combating terrorism through education, focusing on education reform in the Middle East, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth L. Cheney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; James Kunder, Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East, U.S. Agency for International Development; Bassem Awadallah, Minister of Finance, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman; Shahid Javed Burki, Nathan Associates, Potomac, Maryland; Samina Ahmed, International Crisis Group, Islamabad, Pakistan; and Frank J. Method, Research Triangle Institute International, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met and began consideration of the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, but did not take final action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

DRUG IMPORTATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee held a hearing to examine S. 334, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, receiving testimony from Senators Snowe, Vitter, Dorgan and Stabenow; Graham Satchwell, Proco Solutions, London, United Kingdom; Todd Cecil, United States Pharmacopeia, Rockville, Maryland; Thomas C. Arthur, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia; and David A. Kessler, Uni-

versity of California-San Francisco School of Medicine, San Francisco.

Hearings recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY MERGERS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee held a hearing to examine the SBC/ATT and Verizon/MCI mergers relating to remaking the telecommunications industry, focusing on ramifications effecting competition for local, long-distance, and wireless telephone services, and internet-based services, receiving testimony from Carl Grivner, XO Communications, Inc., Reston, Virginia; Jeffrey Citron, Vonage Holdings Corporation, Edison, New Jersey; and Scott Cleland, Precursor Group, and Gene Kimmelman, Consumers Union, both of Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

CIVILIAN LIFE TRANSITION

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine "Back from the Battlefield, Part II: Seamless Transition to Civilian Life", focusing on outreach to military service men and woman, including Reserve and National Guard members during their induction into service, during service, and when preparing to separate or retire from the military, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits; John M. Molino, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy; Frederico Juarbe, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, Veterans Employment and Training Service; Lieutenant John Fernandez, USA (Ret.), Rocky Point, New York; and Tristan Wyatt, Washington, D.C.

PATRIOT ACT

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-56), after receiving testimony from Gregory T. Nojeim, American Civil Liberties Union, and James X. Dempsey, Center for Democracy and Technology, both of Washington, D.C.; and Heather MacDonald, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, New York.