

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2005. **Page S11598**

Medicare Cost Sharing and Welfare Extension: Senate concurred in the amendments of the House to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3971, to extend medicare cost-sharing for qualifying individuals through September 2007, to extend transitional medical assistance and the program for abstinence education through December 2005, to provide unemployment relief for States and individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11595**

Signing Authority: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the adjournment of the Senate, the Majority Leader and the junior Senator from Oklahoma, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills. **Page S11595**

Appointments:

National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 109–59, Sec. 1909(b)(2)(A)(vi), appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission: Francis McArdle of New York, and Tom R. Skancke of Nevada. **Page S11595**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–27) **Page S11557**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Army. **Page S11599**

Messages From the House: **Page S11557**

Measures Referred: **Page S11557**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S11557**

Executive Communications: **Pages S11557–58**

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Additional Statements: **Page S11556**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S11579–94**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S11594**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S11594–95**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S11595**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—259) **Pages S11547, S11548–49**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:55 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 20, 2005. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S11599.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee completed its review of certain spending reductions and revenue increases to meet reconciliation expenditures as imposed by H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, and agreed on recommendations which it will make to the Committee on the Budget thereon.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the potential of stem cell and nuclear transplantation research, focusing on related provisions of S. 471, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research, H.R. 810, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research, and S. 876, to prohibit human cloning and protect stem cell research, after receiving testimony from Judith Gasson, University of California, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles; Steven Teitelbaum, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri; John Wagner, University of Minnesota Medical School Stem Cell Institute, Minneapolis; Rudolf Jaenisch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; and Anthony Herrera, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee completed its review of certain spending reductions

and revenue increases to meet reconciliation expenditures as imposed by H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, and agreed on recommendations which it will make to the Committee on the Budget thereon.

U.S.-IRAQ POLICY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States foreign policy relating to Iraq, focusing on United States' objectives and strategies to improve security, and advance political development and economic progress in Iraq, and to discuss the recent Constitutional referendum, and assess the enemies progress in Iraq, after receiving testimony from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of David M. Hale, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the business items:

S. 1873, to prepare and strengthen the biodefenses of the United States against deliberate, accidental, and natural outbreaks of illness, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Mark Hofflund, of Idaho, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, Naomi Churchill Earp, of Virginia, and Christine M. Griffin, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jan Cellucci, of Massachusetts, Sandra Frances Ashworth, of Idaho, and Diane Rivers, of Arkansas, each to be a Member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Bertha K. Madras, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Mark S. Schneider, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Education Statistics, Department of Education, Bruce Cole, of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and John O. Agwunobi, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health.

Also, Committee completed its review of certain spending reductions and revenue increases to meet reconciliation expenditures as imposed by H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, and agreed on recommendations which it will make to the Committee on the Budget thereon.

REPORTERS' PRIVILEGE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine issues and implications regarding reporters' privilege legislation, focusing on S. 1419, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, after receiving testimony from Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Department of Justice; Judith Miller, The New York Times, and David Westin, ABC News, both of New York, New York; Joseph E. diGenova, diGenova & Toensing LLP, Washington, D.C.; Anne K. Gordon, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Dale Davenport, The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Steven D. Clymer, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York.

VIDEO COMPETITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition, and Business and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine video competition in 2005, focusing on the impact for consumers of the acquisition of Adelphia by Comcast and Time Warner, policies to ensure new competitors in the video market, and the transformation in the cable industry including new products and more choices as cable operators compete, after receiving testimony from Glenn A. Britt, Time Warner Cable, Stamford, Connecticut; Kyle McSlarrow, National Cable and Telecommunications Association, Walter B. McCormick, Jr., United States Telecom Association, Scott Cleland, Precursor, and Mark Cooper, Consumer Federation of America, all of Washington, D.C.; Doron Gorshein, The America Channel, LLC, Heathrow, Florida; and Peter D. Aquino, RCN Corporation, Herndon, Virginia.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.