

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S875–S1045

Measures Introduced: Nine bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2262–2270. **Pages S978–79**

Measures Passed:

Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act: Senate passed H.R. 22, to reform the postal laws of the United States, after striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof, the text of S. 662, Senate companion measure, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S898–S943**

Frist (for Collins/Bond) Amendment No. 2750, to modify provisions relating to objectives, unused rate adjustment authority, transition rules, rate and service complaints. **Pages S926–27**

Frist (for Harkin) Amendment No. 2751, to provide for procedures by the Postal Service to give notice on certain actions affecting communities. **Pages S926–27**

Frist (for Reid) Amendment No. 2752, to modify qualifications and terms of Governors of the United States Postal Service. **Pages S926–27**

Frist (for Stevens) Amendment No. 2753, to modify contracts for the transportation of mail by air. **Pages S926–27**

Senate insisted on its amendment, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Collins, Stevens, Voinovich, Coleman, Bennett, Lieberman, Akaka, and Carper. **Page S942**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that S. 662 be returned to the calendar, and that it not be in order for the Senate to consider any conference report or House amendments to H.R. 22, if it would cause a net increase in on- or off-budget direct spending in excess of \$5 billion in any of the four 10-year periods beginning in 2016–2055, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office. **Page S942**

Honoring Coal Miners: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 331, honoring the sacrifice and courage of the 16 coal miners killed in various mine disasters in West Virginia, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies. **Page S1044**

Hurricane Election Relief Act: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. 2166, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to restore and replace election administration supplies, materials, records, equipment, and technology which were damaged, destroyed, or dislocated as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1044**

Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 852, to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, withdrawing the committee amendments, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S879–98, S944–68**

Pending:

Frist (for Specter/Leahy) Amendment No. 2746, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S879–98, S944–57**

Specter Modified Amendment No. 2747 (to Amendment No. 2746), to provide guidelines in determining which defendant participants may receive inequity adjustments the Administrator shall give preference. **Pages S880–98, S944–57, S968**

Kyl Amendment No. 2754 (to Amendment No. 2746), to reduce the impact of the trust fund on smaller companies and to expand hardship adjustments. **Pages S957–68**

Ensign point of order that the pending bill and the pending amendment in the nature of a substitute (Frist (for Specter/Leahy)) Amendment No. 2746 (listed above) violate section 407 of H. Con. Res. 95, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. **Pages S960–68**

Specter motion to waive the point of order (listed above). **Pages S960–68**

Rejected:

Cornyn Amendment No. 2748 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2746),

to provide a new system by which to resolve claims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure. (By 70 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 13), Senate tabled the amendment).
Pages S882–98, S944–57

During consideration of this bill, Senate also took the following action:

Cornyn Amendment No. 2749 (to Amendment No. 2748), in the nature of a substitute, fell when Cornyn Amendment No. 2748 (listed above) was tabled.
Pages S884–98, S944–57

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, February 10, 2005.

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Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Daniel A. Blumenthal of the District of Columbia for a term expiring December 31, 2007.
Pages S1044–45

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Eric S. Edelman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.
Pages S1044, S1045

(Prior to the confirmation of the nomination, Senate vitiated the vote on the motion to invoke cloture.)
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Messages From the House: **Page S978**

Measures Referred: **Page S978**

Executive Communications: **Page S978**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S979**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S979–82

Additional Statements: **Pages S975–78**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S982–S1037**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S1037**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S1037–38

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—13)
Page S957

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 8:28 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, February

10, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1045.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

TSA'S PASSENGER PRE-SCREENING PROGRAMS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee held an oversight hearing to examine commercial aviation security, focusing on Transportation Security Administration's aviation passenger pre-screening programs, Secure Flight and Registered Traveler, to discuss issues that have prevented these programs from being launched, and to determine their future, receiving testimony from Kip Hawley, Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; Cathleen A. Berrick, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; James C. May, Air Transport Association of America, Inc., and Timothy D. Sparapani, American Civil Liberties Union, both of Washington, D.C.; and Charles Barclay, American Association of Airport Executives, on behalf of The American Association of Airport Executives and Airports Council International-North America, and Bill Connors, National Business Travel Association, both of Alexandria, Virginia.

Hearings recessed subject to the call.

BUDGET: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy.

NATURAL GAS PRICES

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine the impact of clean air regulations on natural gas prices, including electricity generation, after receiving testimony from Howard K. Gruenspecht, Deputy Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; William Wehrum, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; Arthur E. Smith, Jr., NiSource, Inc., Washington, D.C., on behalf of the American Gas Association; and Joel Bluestein, Energy and Environmental Analysis, Inc., and Jack N. Gerard, American Chemistry Council, both of Arlington, Virginia.