

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: J.B. Penn, Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; A. Ellen Terpstra, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service; Teresa Lasseter, Administrator, Farm Service Agency; Eldon Gould, Administrator, Risk Management Agency; and Dennis Kaplan, Budget Office.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Army Budget and Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Francis J. Harvey, Secretary; and GEN Peter J. Schoemaker, USA, Chief of Staff.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on United States Coast Guard. Testimony was heard from ADM Thomas H. Collins, USCG, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on DOE, Environment Management. Testimony was heard from James Rispoli, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs held a hearing on HIV/AIDS Programs. Testimony

was heard from Mark Dybul, M.D., Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Chief Medical Officer, Department of State.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Dale Bosworth, Chief, Forest Service, USDA.

SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Secretary of State. Testimony was heard from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND AND U.S. FORCES KOREA

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: ADM William J. Fallon, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; and GEN B.B. Bell, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY AND BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization budget request for the Missile Defense Agency and Ballistic Missile Defense Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG Trey Obering, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency; LTG Larry J. Dodgen, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; David W. Duma, Operational Test and Evaluation; and Peter Flory, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST DOD MAJOR ROTORCRAFT PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on Fiscal year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act Budget Request for the Department of Defense

major rotorcraft programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Tony Melita, Defense Systems, Director, Land Warfare, Office of the Secretary; BG Stephen Mundt, USA, Director of Aviation, U.S. Army; Thomas Laux, Program Executive Officer for Air, ASW, Assault and Special Mission Programs, Naval Air Systems Command; LTG John G. Castellaw, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps; and MG Stanley Gorenc, USAF, Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations, U.S. Air Force.

DOE'S FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PROPOSAL

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Held a hearing entitled "Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Proposal." Testimony was heard from Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Energy.

GULF COAST REGION—FEDERAL ROLE IN FACILITATING RECOVERY AND LONG-TERM BUILDING EFFORTS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled "The Federal Role in Facilitating Recovery and Long-term Rebuilding Efforts in the Gulf Coast Region." Testimony was heard from Donald E. Powell, Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding, Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; REGULATION OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 4855, to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for 5 additional years the public and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act; S. 1736, To provide for the participation of employees in the judicial branch in the Federal leave transfer program for disasters and emergencies; H.R. 4674, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 North Chestnut Street in Olathe, Kansas, as the "Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building;" H.R. 4688, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Boyden Street in Badin, North Carolina, as the "Mayor John Thompson 'Tom' Garrison Memorial Post Office;" H.R. 4786, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building;" H.R. 4805, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois, as the "Gene Vance Post Office Building;" H. Res. 85, Supporting the goals and ideals of National "MPS Day;" H. Res.

517, amended, Recognizing the life of Wellington Timothy Mara and his outstanding contributions to the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States; and H. Res. 556, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic.

The Committee approved a Committee Report on the National Drug Control Strategy for 2006 and the National Drug Control Budget for Fiscal Year 2007.

The Committee also held a hearing entitled "The Regulation of Dietary Supplements: A Review of Consumer Safeguards." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Robert E. Brackett, M.D., Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA; and Paul M. Coates, M.D., Director, Office of Dietary Supplements, NIH; C. Lee Peeler, Deputy, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC; and public witnesses.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2005

Committee on Homeland Security: Began mark up of H.R. 4439, Transportation Security Administration Reorganization Act of 2005.

Will continue March 16.

ONLINE FREEDOM OF SPEECH ACT

Committee on House Administration: Ordered reported H.R. 1606, Online Freedom of Speech Act.

AFGHANISTAN: PROGRESS REPORT

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a joint hearing on Afghanistan: Progress Report. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: James R. Kunder, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia and the Near East; and Thomas A. Schweich, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; and Maureen E. Quinn, Coordinator for Afghanistan, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; and RADM Robert T. Moeller, USA, Director, Plans and Policy, U.S. Central Command, Department of Defense.

AFGHANISTAN: IS THE AID GETTING THROUGH?

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Afghanistan: Is the Aid Getting Through? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STATE/FEDERAL NOTARY RECOGNITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 1458, To require any Federal or State court to recognize any notarization made by a notary public licensed by a State other than the State where the court is located when such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE/NOAA BUDGET

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans held an oversight hearing on the FY '07 Budget Request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Testimony was heard from H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., USN (Ret.), Under Secretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 1370, Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act; H.R. 1644, Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act; H.R. 2110, Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act; H.R. 4382, Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act; H.R. 4789, To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district; and S. 56, Rio Grand Natural Area Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hastings of Washington and Porter; Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, USDA; Tom Lonnie, Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty, and Resource Protection, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LOBBYING REFORM—REFORMING GIFT AND TRAVEL RULES

Committee on Rules: Continued hearings on lobby reform entitled “Lobby Reform: Reforming the Gift and Travel Rules.” Testimony was heard from former Representative Mickey Edwards of Oklahoma; Rob-

ert Hynes, former Minority Counsel, House Committee on Rules; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL ENERGY RESEARCH

Committee on Science: Held a hearing on Should Congress Establish “ARPA-E,” The Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SBA FINANCE PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Small Business Administration’s Finance Programs.” Testimony was heard from Michael Hager, Associate Deputy Administrator, Office of Capital Access, SBA; and public witnesses.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS OF U.S. PORTS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held an oversight hearing on Foreign Operations of U.S. Port Facilities. Testimony was heard from Stewart A. Baker, Assistant Secretary, Policy, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held an oversight hearing on the VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service contract services and its coordination with the Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service. Testimony was heard from Charles S. Ciccolella, Assistant Secretary, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; July Caden, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a representative of a veterans organization.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Background on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

FREEDOM IN BELARUS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): Commission concluded a hearing to examine the complete absence of political freedom in Belarus and the implications this has on its upcoming elections, after receiving testimony from David J. Kramer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

for European Affairs; and Stephen B. Nix, International Republican Institute, Rodger Potocki, National Endowment for Democracy, Iryna Vidanova, Students' Thought, Celeste A. Wallander, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Patrick Merloe, all of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine the roles and missions of the Department of Defense regarding homeland defense and support to civil authorities in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine defective products relating to criminal penalties ensuring corporate accountability, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, on GPO, Library of Congress, Open World Leadership Center, GAO, and CBO, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the employment situation for February 2006, 9:30 a.m., 2212 RHOB.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 13 through March 18, 2006

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 10 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the budget resolution, if available. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will begin a period of morning business until 1:30 p.m.; following which, Senate will continue consideration of the budget resolution. Also, at 5:30 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Leo Maury Gordon, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and vote immediately on the confirmation of the nomination.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business, including the debt-limit.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: March 14, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Boyd Kevin Rutherford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Sec-

retary, Gale A. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Marc L. Kesselman, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel, and Linda Avery Strachan, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: March 14, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10 a.m., SD-192.

March 14, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, to hold hearings to examine an overview of the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Office of Science, the Energy Supply and Conservation account, and the Fossil Energy Research and Development account within the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

March 14, Subcommittee on District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the D.C. Courts, D.C. Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and the D.C. Public Defender Service, 3 p.m., SD-192.

March 15, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the the Secretary of the Senate, Architect of the Capitol, and the Capitol Visitor Center, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

March 15, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for military construction, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

March 16, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

March 16, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Research, Education, and Economics, Rural Development, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, 10 a.m., SD-192.

March 16, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, to hold hearings to examine National Nuclear Security Administration budget, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: March 13, to hold a closed briefing on an update from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, 3 p.m., SR-222.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 14, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine health benefits and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 2:30 p.m., SR-325.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Joint Strike Fighter F-136 Alternate Engine Program in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.