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Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—52)	Pages S2173–80

Recess: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and recessed at 8:05 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2223.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of the Navy, after receiving testimony from David C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy; Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

APPROPRIATIONS: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Secretary of the Senate, and Architect of the Capitol, including an update on the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center, after receiving testimony from Emily Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate; Alan Hantman, Architect, Steven Ayers, Acting Chief Operating Officer, and Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Executive, all of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; and Bernard Ungar, Director, Physical Infrastructure, and Terrell Dorn, both of Government Accountability Office.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, focusing on ground forces readiness, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James J. Lovelace, Jr., USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, United States Army; Lieutenant General Jan C. Huly, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant General John R. Vines, USA, Commanding General,

XVIII Airborne Corps; and Lieutenant General John F. Sattler, Commander, United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the Joint Strike Fighter F136 Alternate Engine Program, after receiving testimony from Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Admiral Robert F. Willard, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General John D.W. Corley, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; General Robert Magnus, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Rear Admiral Steven L. Enewold, USN, Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter Program, United States Navy.

INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation to provide a national innovation initiative, and related proposals for assuring America's leadership and competitiveness in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Senators Baucus and Lieberman; Deborah L. Wince-Smith, Council on Competitiveness, Washington, D.C.; Craig R. Barrett, Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California; John E. Kelly III, IBM Corporation, Somers, New York; and Norman Augustine, Bethesda, Maryland.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 476, to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the State of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1829, to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands;

S. 1830, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, with amendments;

H.R. 562, to authorize the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932–1933;

H.R. 3443, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; and

The nominations of Raymond L. Orbach, to be Under Secretary for Science, Alexander A. Karsner, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Dennis R. Spurgeon, to be Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and David Longly Bernhardt, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Post-Palestinian election challenges in the Middle East, focusing on Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, which was victorious in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in January 2006, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Keith W. Dayton, U.S. Security Coordinator, Department of State; and James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement, Dennis Ross, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Robert Malley, International Crisis Group, all of Washington, D.C.

GAO HIGH-RISK LIST

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the progress of the programs on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list, including whether a proposal to create a Chief Management Officer at the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense would foster a culture of accountability necessary for improved high-risk program performance, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Clay Johnson III, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1955, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1899, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, after receiving testimony from William P. Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Robert McSwain, Deputy Director, and Jon Perez, Director, Division of Behav-

ioral Health, both of Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; James H. Burrus, Jr., Acting Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Ron Suppah, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Warm Springs; Terry L. Cross, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Portland, Oregon; and Paul D. Steele, Morehead State University Center for Justice Studies, Morehead, Kentucky.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee resumed markup of proposed legislation providing for comprehensive immigration reform, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, March 16.

HOSPITAL GROUP PURCHASING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine hospital group purchasing, focusing on whether the industry's reforms are sufficient to ensure competition, after receiving testimony from Richard J. Bednar, Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative, and Mark B. Leahey, Medical Device Manufacturers Association, both of Washington, D.C.; S. Prakash Sethi, City University of New York Baruch College, New York, New York; and Mina Ubbing, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, Ohio.

GENDER RETIREMENT DISPARITY

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine eliminating retirement income disparity for women, focusing on the financial security of America's women, after receiving testimony from Jean Chatzky, Money Magazine, Briarcliff Manor, New York; Cindy Hounsell, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement, Barbara B. Kennelly, National Committee To Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Jack L. VanDerhei, Employee Benefit Research Institute, and Karyne Jones, The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., all of Washington, D.C.; Sara C. Hart, CNF Service Company, Portland, Oregon; and Lynn Rollins, New York, New York.

INTELLIGENCE

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

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4960–4971; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 358 and H. Res. 728, were introduced.

Pages H1058–59

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1059–60

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1176, to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage, adoption, or failure to adopt rules of play for athletic competitions and practices (H. Rept. 109–393); and

H.R. 1871, to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–394).

Page H1058

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Larry R. Hayward, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

Page H977

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, March 14th:

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards: H. Con. Res. 190, to express the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards, by a yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 1 nay with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 42; and

Pages H991–92

Amending the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws: H.R. 4944, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, by a yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 44.

Pages H1008–09

Recess: The House recessed at 12:49 p.m. for the purpose of receiving Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. The

House reconvened at 3:44 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. The House will resume consideration of H.R. 4939 following the Joint Meeting.

Pages H995, H998

Joint Meeting to receive Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. She was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Boehner, Putnam, Boozman, Fortenberry, Leach, Ros-Lehtinen, Royce, Smith of New Jersey, Wilson of South Carolina, Flake, Pelosi, Clyburn, Lewis of Georgia, Payne, Waters, Watt, Kennedy, Kilpatrick, Lee and Watson; and Senators Frist, Stevens, Lugar, Martinez, Durbin, Feingold, and Reed.

Pages H995–98

Recess: The House recessed at 3:45 p.m., and reconvened at 4:44 p.m.

Page H998

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006: The House began consideration of H.R. 4939, to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. Further consideration will continue tomorrow, March 16th.

Pages H992–95, H999–H1008, H1009–25, H1026–47

Agreed to:

Millender-McDonald amendment that decreases and increases funding relating to the Defense Health Program;

Page H1013

Shays amendment that designates funding for the Community Action Program;

Pages H1016–17

Kirk amendment that increases funding for the DEA;

Page H1022

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment which pertains to section 3013, regarding funds appropriated relating to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season as pertains to expenses as a result of legally voting in any officially designated election of the Gulf Coast region.

Page H1046

Rejected:

Gilchrest amendment that strikes section 3011 (by a recorded vote of 38 yeas to 377 noes, Roll No. 43); and

Pages H1002–05, H1008

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that strikes and inserts certain language regarding the disallowance of requirement waivers as it relates to low and moderate incomes;

Pages H1044–45

Withdrawn:

Souder amendment (no. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to change language in the following areas relating to “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”, after the dollar amount, reduce funding. In the item relating to “International Narcotics and Law Enforcement”, after the dollar amount, increase funding;

Pages H1013–14

Engel amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase funding to the Bilateral Economic Assistance; **Pages H1014–16**

Garrett amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to strike lines relating to Department of State’s Democracy Fund, reduces funding for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs, and strikes language in the bill relating to Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs;

Page H1017

Hinojosa amendment (no. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to designate funding for the United States Section of the International Boundary Water Commission, United States and Mexico;

Page H1024

Melancon amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to insert a new title, entitled, “Title IV—Louisiana Hurricanes Agricultural Disaster Relief”;

Pages H1039–43

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase reconstruction funding; and

Pages H1043–44

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to insert language regarding disaster loans and the SBA.

Pages H1046–47

Point of Order sustained against:

Sabo amendment that sought to amend the Defense Production Act by inserting a new section 3011A;

Pages H1005–08

Salazar amendment (no. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that sought to increase funding for Department of Veterans Affairs, Departmental Administration, General Operating Expenses;

Pages H1021–22

Brady amendment that sought to insert language pertaining to data used be the most timely and accurate data available relating to damages from such hurricanes;

Page H1036

Brady amendment that sought to increase funding for the long-term recovery of areas that are housing victims of Hurricane Katrina;

Pages H1036–37

Brady amendment that sought to increase funding for the recovery, rebuilding, and relief of the State

of Texas from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes;

Pages H1037–38

Brady amendment that sought funding under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development” Community Development Fund; and

Pages H1038–39

Conaway amendment that sought to insert language regarding the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Page H1047

Agreed by unanimous consent that no amendments may be in order during further consideration of H.R. 4939 except those contained in a list which was submitted to the desk. Agreed to without objection.

Page H1025

H. Res. 725, providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 41, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 40.

Pages H980–91

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further consideration of the measure will resume tomorrow, March 16th:

Making available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006: S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006.

Pages H1047–51

Tax Relief Act of 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees: The House began consideration of the Tanner motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. Further consideration will resume tomorrow, March 16th.

Pages H1051–55

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H990, H990–91, H991, H1008, and H1008–09. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEW FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review the Federal Crop Insurance System. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Keith Collins, Chief Economist and