

Withdrawn:

Souder amendment (no. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to change language in the following areas relating to “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”, after the dollar amount, reduce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Engel amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase funding to the Bilateral Economic Assistance; **Pages H1014–16**

Garrett amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to strike lines relating to Department of State’s Democracy Fund, reduces funding for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs, and strikes language in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Hinojosa amendment (no. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to designate funding for the United States Section of the International Boundary Water Commission, United States and Mexico;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Melancon amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to insert a new title, entitled, “Title IV—Louisiana Hurricanes Agricultural Disaster Relief”;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Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase reconstruction funding; and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Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to insert language regarding disaster loans and the SBA.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

Chairman, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; and Eldon Gould, Administrator, Risk Management Agency; and public witnesses.

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 Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Chuck Lambert, Acting Under Secretary; and Jeremy Stump, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, both with Marketing and Regulatory Programs; Lloyd C. Day, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; W. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; James E. Link, Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; and W. Scott Steele, Budget Officer.

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, Nuclear Waste Disposal. Testimony was heard from Paul Golan, Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Defense.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Fish and Wildlife Service. Testimony was heard from H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testimony was heard from Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

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 SBA. Testimony was heard from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, SBA.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Central Command. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: GEN John Abizaid, USA, Combatant Commander, U.S. Central Command; and Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary (Policy).

MILITARY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee in Military Personnel held a hearing on the Military Resale and Morale, Welfare Morale, Welfare and Recreation Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Leslye A. Arshnt, Deputy Under Secretary, Military Community and Family Policy; MG Paul Essex, USAF, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service; RADM Robert E. Crowley III, USN, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; BG John A. Macdonald, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center; RADM Wayne G. Shear, Jr., USN, Vice Commander, Navy Installations Command; Patrick B. Nixon, Acting Director and Chief Executive Officer, Defense Commissary Agency; Michael P. Downs, Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and Arthur J. Myers, Director, Air Force Services; and public witnesses.

NAVY SHIPBUILDING/FLEET PLAN

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Projection Forces held a hearing on evolving Navy missions and the role of surface and subsurface combatants. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: VADM Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Resources, Requirements, and Assessments (N8), MG Gordon C. Nash, USMC, Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division (N75), U.S. Marine Corps; RADM Bernard J. McCullough, USN, Director, Surface Warfare (N76); RADM Thomas J. Kileline, Jr., USN, Director, Air Warfare Division (N78), and RADM Joseph A. Walsh, USN, Director, Submarine Warfare Division (N77), all with the Department of the Navy; and Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in National Defense, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

WAR ON TERROR: INTERAGENCY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on Implementing the Global War on Terror Strategy: Overcoming Interagency Problems. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT STATUS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled "Status of the Yucca Mountain Project." Testimony was heard from Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy.

HEALTHCARE SERVICE COSTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "What's the Cost? Proposals To Provide Consumers With Better Information About Healthcare Service Costs." Testimony was heard from Representatives Lipinski and Emanuel; former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich of Georgia; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 4411, amended, Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2005; H.R. 4916, To authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for, the United States contribution to the first replenishment of the resources of the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund; and H.R. 4912, Rural Health Care Capital Access Act of 2006.

Will continue tomorrow.

NATION'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Nation's Water Infrastructure: The Army Corps of Engineers' Planning Priorities." Testimony was heard from Douglas W. Lamont, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Project Planning, Department of the Army; Anu Mittal, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH CARE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization held a hearing entitled "Improving the Quality of Healthcare in the FEHBP." Testimony was heard from David Powner, Director, IT Management Issues, GAO; and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich of Georgia; and public witnesses.

OMB'S LINE OF BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability held a hearing entitled "OMB's Financial Management Line of Business Initiative: Too Much Too Soon?" Testimony was heard from Linda Combs, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB; and public witnesses.

PARK SERVICE WATERCRAFT RULES

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled "Taking on Water: The National Park Service's Stalled Rule-making Effort on Personal Watercraft." Testimony was heard from Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Associate Director, Visitor Resource Protection, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 4942, Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act; and H.R. 4941, amended, Homeland Security Science and Technology Enhancement Act of 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, approved for full Committee action, as amended, the Department of Homeland Security Management and Operations Improvement Act of 2006.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 282, Iran Freedom Support Act.

The Committee approved a motion directing the Chairman to request that the following resolutions be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Con. Res. 90, Conveying the sympathy of Congress to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes; H. Con. Res. 320, amended, Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Pham Hong Son and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; H. Res. 578, Concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania; and H.R. 658, Supporting the goals and ideals of Work Water Day.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats held a joint hearing on the Northern Ireland Peace Process: Policing Advances and Remaining Challenges. Testimony was heard

from Mitchell B. Reiss, Special Envoy of the President and the Secretary of State for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, Department of State; and public witnesses.

UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on Unrest in South Asia: Recent Developments in Nepal and Sri Lanka. Testimony was heard from Donald A. Camp, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, South Asian Affairs, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 4698, amended, Disaster Relief Volunteer Protection Act of 2006; H.R. 4742, To amend title 35, United States Code, to allow the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to waive statutory provisions governing patents and trademarks in certain emergencies; and H. Con. Res. 319, Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the successful and substantial contributions of the amendments to the patent and trademark laws that were enacted in 1980 (Public Law 96–517); commonly known as the Bayh-Dole Act, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its enactment; H.R. 3127, Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005; and H. Res. 724, Honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported H.R. 4882, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

The Committee also began markup of H.R. 4200, Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act.

INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT AMENDMENTS TO RESTRICT OFF- RESERVATION GAMING

Committee on Resources: Held a hearing on H.R. 4893, To amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming. Testimony was heard from James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior; and Philip N. Hogen, Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission.

ONLINE FREEDOM OF SPEECH ACT

Committee on Rules: Testimony was heard from Chairman Ehlers and Representatives Shays, Bass,

Hensarling, Millender-McDonald and Allen, but action was deferred on H.R. 1606, Online Freedom of Speech Act.

LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT

Committee on Rules: Subcommittee on the Legislative and Budget Process held a hearing on H.R. 4890, Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ryan of Wisconsin and Lewis of California; Joel D. Kaplan, Deputy Director, OMB; and Donald B. Marron, Acting Director, CBO.

UNDERGRAD SCIENCE-MATH ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Research held a hearing on Undergraduate Science, Math and Engineering Education: What's Working? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SBA BUDGET AND REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on the issues confronting the Small Business Administration in the upcoming fiscal years. Testimony was heard from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, SBA.

MISSOURI RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Enterprise, Agriculture and Technology held a hearing entitled "The Missouri River and Its Spring Rise: Science or Science Fiction?" Testimony was heard from Senator Talent; BG Gregg F. Martin, USA, Commander and Division Engineer, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mitch King, Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Mike Wells, Deputy Director, and Chief of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, State of Missouri; and public witnesses.

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads held a hearing on Implementation of the Recently Expanded Rail Infrastructure Loan Program. Testimony was heard from Joseph H. Boardman, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation.

OVERSIGHT—EDUCATION BENEFITS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held an oversight hearing on education benefits for the total military force. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: T. F. Hall, Assistant Secretary, Reserve Affairs; Bill Carr, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Military Personnel Policy; LTG James R. Helmly, USA, U.S. Army Reserves; LTG

John A. Bradley, USAF, U.S. Air Force Reserves; LTG John W. Bergman, USMC, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves; MG Ronald Young, USA, Acting Director, U.S. National Guard Bureau Joint Staff; RADM Craig McDonald, USN, U.S. Navy Reserves; and RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, Department of Homeland Security.

LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals. Testimony was heard from Herb B. Kuhn, Director, Center for Medicare Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OVERSIGHT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing Regarding New Research on Unemployment Benefit Recipients. Testimony was heard from Sigurd Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO.

Joint Meetings

TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D225)

H.R. 4515, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the "Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office". Signed on March 14, 2006. (Public Law 109-180)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: 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.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Transportation and Amtrak, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine an overview of democracy programs, 2 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: 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; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219, 8:30 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Global Strike Plans and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 3:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction, to hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 3 p.m., S-128, Capitol.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine Cuno and competitiveness, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act relating to enhancing public health and medical preparedness, 10:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine understanding the obligation of Funds Transparency Act, focusing on the need for earmark reform and legislation that would be an important step toward achieving such reform, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Patrick Joseph Schiltz, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and John F. Clark, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, both of the Department of Justice, David F. Kustoff, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, proposed comprehensive immigration reform, S. 1768, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 829, to allow media coverage of court proceedings, S. 489, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, S. 2039, to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, S.J. Res. 1, proposing an