

and Social Security benefits, after receiving testimony from Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner, Social Security Administration; Leslie V. Norwalk, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Josefina Carbonell, Assistant Secretary

for Aging, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; and Brian D. Montgomery, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 47 public bills, H.R. 1062–1108; 1 private bill, H.R. 1109; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 66; and H. Res. 165–171 were introduced. **Pages H1789–90**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1790–91**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–14). **Page H1787**

Administration of the Oath of Office to Officers of the House: The Speaker administered the Oath of Office to Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House of Representatives and Daniel P. Beard, Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives. **Page H1671**

Notify the Senate of the Election of the Clerk: The House agreed to H. Res. 165, informing the Senate of the election of the Clerk. **Page H1671**

Notify the President of the Election of the Clerk: The House agreed to H. Res. 166, instructing the Clerk to inform the President of the United States of the election of the Clerk. **Page H1671**

Clerk Designations: Read a letter from the Clerk wherein she designated Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Deputy Clerk, and Mr. Jorge E. Sorensen, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts in case of her temporary absence or disability. **Page H1671**

Disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq: The House continued debate on H. Con. Res. 63, to disapprove of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq. Further proceedings were postponed until Friday, February 16. **Pages H1674–H1782**

H. Res. 157, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution, was agreed to on Tuesday, February 13.

Election of committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Charlie Norwood: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House of Representatives to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Charlie Norwood: Representatives Lewis (GA), Boehner, Blunt, Bishop (GA), Deal (GA), Kingston, Linder, Gingrey, Marshall, Scott (GA), Barrow, Price (GA), Westmoreland, Johnson (GA), Sensenbrenner, Barton (TX), Coble, Gene Green (TX), Hoekstra, Manzullo, McKeon, Mica, Frelinghuysen, Hastings (WA), LaHood, Latham, Myrick, Shadegg, Tiahrt, Wicker, Aderholt, Pitts, Sessions, Capps, Hayes, Tancredo, Terry, Brown (SC), Pence, Putnam, Shuster, Miller (FL), Wilson (SC), Sullivan, Barrett (SC), Burgess, King (IA), Neugebauer, Conaway, Gohmert, Schmidt, and Bilbray. **Pages H1782–83**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 1:13 a.m. on Friday, February 16th.

Committee Meetings

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2007 Supplemental Requests for Iraq and Afghan Security Forces Fund. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: MG Robert Durbin, Commander, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan; BG Michael D. Jones, Deputy Director, Political-Military Affairs, Joint Staff; and Peter Rodman, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Coast Guard Iraq Operations, Port Security and Deepwater. Testimony

was heard from ADM Thad Allen, USCG, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Steve Caldwell, Assistant Director; and John P. Hutton, both with GAO.

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 (Panel I) Overview on America's Workers and Education for the 21st Century. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on (Panel II) Overview on Health Care Access and the Aging of America. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Long-Term Health Care Challenges. Testimony was heard from Stephen Heffler, Director, National Health Statistics Group, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; A. Bruce Steinwald, Director, Healthcare Team, GAO; and Allison Percy, Principal Analyst; and John P. Hutton, both with CBO.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

RECRUITING AND RETENTION OVERVIEW

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on overview of recruiting and retention. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: David S. C. Chu, Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness; LTG Michael D. Rochelle, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1; VADM John C. Harvey, Jr., USN, Chief of Naval Personnel; LTG Roger A. Brady, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Personnel; and LTG Ronald S. Coleman, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

USDA FY 2008 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Priorities. Testimony was heard from Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

MONETARY POLICY AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing on Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy. Testimony was heard from Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; AFGHANISTAN AT THE BRINK

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 957, To amend the Iran Sanctions Act to expand and clarify the entities against which sanctions may be imposed.

The Committee favorably considered the following measures and adopted a motion urging the Chairman to request that they be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Res. 98, as amended, Honoring the life and achievements of the late Dr. John Garang de Mabior and reaffirming the continued commitment of the House of Representatives to a just and lasting peace in the Republic of Sudan; H.R. 987, NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007; H.R. 1003, To amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; H. Res. 107, as amended, Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah; H. Res. 149, Supporting the goals of International Women's Day; and H. Res. 64, as amended, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury.

The Committee also held a hearing on Afghanistan on the Brink: Where Do We Go From Here? Testimony was heard from Representative Kirk; and public witnesses.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF COMFORT WOMEN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment held a hearing on Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women. Testimony was heard from Representative Honda; and public witnesses.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Held a hearing entitled "Lessons Learned and Grading Goals: The Department of Homeland Security of 2007." Testimony was heard from Michael P. Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

OVERSIGHT—PATENT SYSTEM REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on American Innovation at Risk: The Case for Patent Reform. Testimony was heard from Suzanne Michel, Chief Intellectual Property Counsel and the Deputy Assistant Director for Policy Coordination, FTC; and public witnesses.

YOUTH VIOLENCE AND GANG INTERVENTIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled "Making Communities Safer: Youth Violence and Gang Interventions that Work." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled "Iraq Reconstruction: An Overview." Testimony was heard from David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; William H. Reed, Director, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Department of Defense; and Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

NIST ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ROLE

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation held a hearing on The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Role in Supporting Economic Competitiveness in the 21st Century. Testimony was heard from William Jeffrey, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

SHORT SEA SHIPPING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled "The Development of Short Sea Shipping in the United States." Testimony was heard from Sean Connaughton, Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation; Collister Johnson, Jr. Administrator, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; and public witnesses.

FILIPINO VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on Equity for Filipino Veterans. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bordallo, Hirono and Honda; Ronald R. Aument, Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carlos D. Sorreta, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the Philippines; and public witnesses.

VA INSPECTOR GENERAL

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held an oversight hearing on VA Inspector General-Budget and Best Practices. Testimony was heard from George J. Opfer, Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

U.S.-CHINA TRADE RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing on the U.S.-China trade relationship. Testimony was heard from Karan K. Bhatia, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative; from former Representatives Dan Glickman of Kansas and Patricia Schroeder of Colorado; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—HOT-SPOTS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Hot-Spots. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

IRAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Iran's Involvement in Iraq. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 2007**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine paying for college in the future relating to higher education, higher cost and higher student debt, 10 a.m., SD-430.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, executive, hearing on Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Future of the Nation's Navigation Infrastructure, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Implementation of U.S. VISIT Entry/Exit Program, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on Forest Service: State and Private Forestry and Research, 9 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Capitol Visitor Center, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, on Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Request, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on IRS and the Tax Gap, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.