

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S2848–49

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—66) Pages S2759, S2760, S2786

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:43 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2850–51.)

Committee Meetings*(Committees not listed did not meet)***AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine investing in our nation's future through agricultural research, focusing the Agricultural Bioenergy and Biobased Products Research Initiative, specialty crops, and Foreign Animal Disease Research, after receiving testimony from Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics; Alan I. Leshner, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.; Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Michigan State University, East Lansing; William H. Danforth, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri; and Francis Thicke, Radiance Dairy Farm, Fairfield, Iowa.

MEDICAL READINESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense medical programs, focusing on combat casualty care, and recruitment and retention efforts of medical department personnel, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James G. Roudebush, Surgeon General, and Major General Melissa A. Rank, Assistant Surgeon General for Nursing Services, both of the United States Air Force; Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, Surgeon General, and Rear Admiral Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler, Director of Nurse Corps, both of the United States Navy; and Lieutenant General Kevin C. Kiley, Surgeon General, and Major General Gale Pollock, Chief of the Nurse Corps, both of the United States Army.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from James A. Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, and Edward F. Sproat, III, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive

Waste Management, both of the Department of Energy.

PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development concluded a hearing to examine policy implications of pharmaceutical importation for U.S. consumers, including S. 242, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, after receiving testimony from Randall W. Lutter, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; former Representative Billy Tauzin, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, William B. Schultz, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, and Nelda Barnett, AARP, all of Washington, D.C.; Stephen W. Schondelmeyer, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Minneapolis; and John A. Vernon, University of Connecticut Department of Finance School of Business, Storrs.

EARTH SCIENCE RESEARCH

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science and Space concluded a hearing to examine national imperatives for Earth Science research, after receiving testimony from Michael H. Freilich, Director, Earth Science Division, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Berrien Moore, III, University of New Hampshire Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, Durham, and Otis B. Brown, University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Key Biscayne, Florida, both on behalf of the National Academies; Nancy Colleton, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Arlington, Virginia, on behalf of the Alliance for Earth Observations.

ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine market constraints on large investments in advanced energy technologies and investigate ways to stimulate additional private-sector investment in the deployment of these technologies, after receiving testimony from Dan W. Reicher, Google.org, Mountain View, California; Elon Musk, Tesla Motors, El Segundo, California; Jerome P. Peters, Jr., TD Banknorth, N.A., Westport, Connecticut; John Denniston, Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers, Menlo Park, California; and Michael Liebreich, New Energy Finance, London, United Kingdom.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

CREDIT CARD PRACTICES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine fees, interests rates and grace periods relating to credit card practices, focusing on high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt, and an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates, after receiving testimony from Alys Cohen, National Consumer Law Center, Washington, D.C., on behalf of National Association of Consumer Advocates; Bruce L. Hammonds, Bank of America, and Richard J. Srednicki, Chase Card Services, both of Wilmington, Delaware; Vikram A. Atal, Citigroup Inc., New York, New York; and Wesley Wannemacher, Lima, Ohio.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine strengthening American competitiveness for the 21st Century, after receiving testimony from William H. Gates, Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, Washington.

MCCARRAN-FERGUSON ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity, including S. 618, to further

competition in the insurance industry, after receiving testimony from Senators Lott and Landrieu; Susan E. Voss, Iowa Department of Commerce, Des Moines, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; J. Robert Hunter, Consumer Federation of America, and Marc Racicot, American Insurance Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and Michael M. Homan, New Orleans, Louisiana.

ANTITRUST LAWS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of antitrust laws, including S. 316, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and S. 772, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads, after receiving testimony from Thomas O. Barnett, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission.

VA CLAIMS ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans' Administration disability benefits adjudication process, focusing on the timeliness and accuracy of decisions on claims and appeals, and efforts to reduce backlogs, and concerns about decisional consistency, after receiving testimony from Daniel L. Cooper, Under Secretary for Benefits, and James P. Terry, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Daniel Bertoni, Acting Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America, Silver Spring, Maryland; and Rick Surratt, Disabled American Veterans, Cold Spring, Kentucky.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 1365–1396; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 84; and H. Res. 218, 220–227 were introduced. **Pages H2300–02**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2302–03**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 219, providing for consideration of H. Res. 202, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Tenth Congress (H. Rept. 110–34).

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Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McCollum to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H2245**