

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee began consideration of the nomination of Michael B. Mukasey, of New York, to be Attorney General, who was introduced by Senators Schumer and Lieberman, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf, but did not complete action thereon.

Hearing will next convene on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 10 a.m.

VA/DOD COLLABORATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense collaboration, focusing on the report of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, the report of the Veterans Disability Benefit Commission, and other related reports, after re-

ceiving testimony from former Senator Bob Dole, and Donna E. Shalala, both Co-Chair, President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors; Lieutenant General James Terry Scott, USA (Ret.), Veterans Disability Benefits Commission; Rear Admiral Patrick W. Dunne, USN (Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning; Colonel Peter Duffy, USARNG (Ret.), National Guard Association of the United States, Togo D. West, Jr., Independent Review Group, and Gerald T. Manar, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, on behalf of the Independent Budget, all of Washington, D.C; Meredith Beck, Wounded Warrior Project, Jacksonville, Florida; Colonel Steve Strobridge, USAF (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, Alexandria, Virginia; and Ariana Del Negro, Waialua, Hawaii.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 3863–3883; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 59; H. Con. Res. 238; and H. Res. 752–755 were introduced. **Pages H11727–28**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H11728–29**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, DC.

Page H11641

Discharge Petition: Representative Pence moved to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 694, providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2905) to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine (Discharge Petition No. 3).

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, October 16th:

Recognizing the importance of America's Waterway Watch program: H. Res. 549, to recognize the importance of America's Waterway Watch program, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 420 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 976 and **Pages H11655–56**

Commending NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia on the celebration of its 90th anniversary

on October 26 and 27, 2007: H. Con. Res. 222, to commend NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia on the celebration of its 90th anniversary on October 26 and 27, 2007, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 421 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 978.

Pages H11670–71

Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007: The House began consideration of H.R. 3773, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H11656–68**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of H. Rept. 110–385, modified by the amendment printed in part B of such report, shall be considered as adopted in lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. **Pages H11659–68**

H. Res. 746, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 223 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 975, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nays vote of 221 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 974.

Pages H11645–55

Recess: The House recessed at 1:02 p.m. and reconvened at 2:53 p.m. **Page H11667**

Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007: The House passed H.R. 2095, to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases and to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, by a yea-and-nay vote of 377 yeas to 38 nays, Roll No. 980. **Pages H11671–96**

Rejected the Sali motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yea-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 979. **Pages H11694–95**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. **Pages H11677–87**

Accepted:

Oberstar amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that requires the Federal Railroad Safety Administration to issue regulations requiring owners of track carried on one or more railroad bridges to adopt safety practices to prevent the deterioration of railroad bridges and reduce the risk of human casualties, environmental damage, and disruption to the Nation's transportation system that would result from a catastrophic bridge failure. The amendment also strikes Sections 301, 610, and 616 of the reported bill because these sections were enacted in Public Law 110–53, the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007." The amendment also requires the Secretary to consider additional criteria regarding communities when reviewing applications for a waiver or exemption from sounding locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings; **Pages H11687–89**

Napolitano amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that prohibits mechanical and brake inspections performed in Mexico of rail cars entering the United States from satisfying U.S. rail safety laws unless inspection standards, enforcement standards, and worker training are certified to meet those of the United States and prohibits hazardous material inspections performed in Mexico from satisfying applicable U.S. rail safety laws and regulations; **Pages H11689–90**

Pallone amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that allows state and local authorities to regulate solid waste management facilities and states that the Surface Transportation Board does not have exclusive authority to preempt state and local regulation of solid waste management facilities, as defined in the amendment; and **Pages H11690–92**

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that authorizes funds to the Sec-

retary to design and develop a pilot electric cargo conveyor system for the transportation of containers from ports to depots outside of urban areas. **Pages H11692–94**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H11696**

H. Res. 724, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 977. **Pages H11667–70**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H11656.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11654, H11654–55, H11655, H11670, H11670–71, H11695, and H11695–96. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STATUS OF DTV TRANSITION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled "Status of the DTV Transition—Part 2." Testimony was heard from Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, FCC; John M.R. Kneuer, Assistant Secretary, Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

U.S.-RUSSIA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology held a hearing on U.S.-Russia Economic Relationship: Implications of the Yukos Affair. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LATE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing on The Impacts of Late Housing Payments on Tenants and Owners in the Project-Based Rental Assistance Program. Testimony was heard from John W. Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development; David Wood, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, GAO; and public witnesses.