

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2723–S2778

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 522–526, and S. Res. 63–64. **Pages S2766–67**

Measures Considered:

Omnibus Appropriations Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2728–62**

Rejected:

By 38 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 77) Coburn Amendment No. 596, to require the use of competitive procedures to award contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements funded under this Act. **Pages S2734–35, S2748–51**

By 37 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 78) Coburn Amendment No. 608, to provide for the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act from funds already provided for the Weed and Seed Program. **Pages S2732–34, S2735–40, S2743–46, S2751–54**

By 34 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 79) Coburn Amendment No. 610, to prohibit funding for certain congressional earmarks. **Pages S2741, S2754–61**

By 43 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 80) Coburn Modified Amendment No. 623, to prohibit taxpayer dollars from being earmarked to 14 clients of a lobbying firm under Federal investigation for making campaign donations in exchange for political favors for the group's clients. **Pages S2741–43, S2746–48, S2761**

Pending:

Wicker Modified Amendment No. 607, to require that amounts appropriated for the United Nations Population Fund are not used by organizations which support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. **Pages S2728, S2754**

Thune Modified Amendment No. 635, to provide funding for the Emergency Fund for Indian Safety and Health, with an offset. **Pages S2728, S2754**

Murkowski Amendment No. 599, to modify a provision relating to the repromulgation of final rules by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. **Page S2728**

Cochran (for Kyl) Amendment No. 634, to prohibit the expenditure of amounts made available under this Act in a contract with any company that has a business presence in Iran's energy sector. **Page S2761**

Cochran (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 613, to provide that no funds may be made available to make any assessed contribution or voluntary payment of the United States to the United Nations if the United Nations implements or imposes any taxation on any United States persons. **Pages S2761–62**

Cochran (for Crapo (and others)) Amendment No. 638, to strike a provision relating to Federal Trade Commission authority over home mortgages. **Pages S2761–62**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, March 6, 2009.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009. **Page S2760**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. **Page S2728**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-10)

Pages S2764-65

Transmitting, pursuant to the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), certification that the export of two environmental chambers to be used to test automotive parts is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry and will not measurably improve missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM-11)

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Ronald C. Sims, of Washington, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

John Berry, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

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Messages from the House: **Page S2765**

Measures Referred: **Page S2765**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2765-S2778**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2765-66**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S2767**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2767-75

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2775-78**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2778**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2778**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—80) **Pages S2750-51, S2753, S2760-61, S2761**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:06 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2778.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving nutrition for America's children in difficult economic times, after receiving testimony from Katie Wilson, Onalaska School District, Onalaska, Wisconsin; Susan Bartlett, Abt Associates Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts; Connie K. Boldt, Knoxville Community Schools, Knoxville, Iowa; David M. Page, The John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; Lucy Nolan, End Hunger Connecticut!, Hartford; and Kenneth Hecht, California Food Policy Advocates, Oakland.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010, after receiving testimony from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine the Iran status report, focusing on nuclear and political issues, from national security briefers.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMIC RISK AND BREAKDOWN

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine systemic risk and breakdown of financial governance, after receiving testimony from Robert E. Litan, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Missouri; Damon A. Silvers, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Washington, D.C.; and Robert C. Pozen, MFS Investment Management, Boston, Massachusetts.

TAX HAVEN BANKS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by United States clients, after receiving testimony from John DiCicco, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice; Doug Shulman, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Mark Branson, UBS Global Wealth Management and Swiss Bank, Zurich, Switzerland.