

nominations in the order listed; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations.

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo.

Perry L. Holloway, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

7 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Foreign Service.

Pages S1311–19

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2015.

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Messages from the House: Page S1300

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S1263, S1300

Executive Communications: Pages S1300–02

Petitions and Memorials: Page S1302

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1303–05

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1305–10

Additional Statements: Page S1300

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S1310–11

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1311

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—68) Pages S1274, S1284–85

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1311.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Sally Jewell, Secretary, and Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, William C. Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Brian P. McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Michael S. Elliott, Deputy Director for Strategic Stability, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN, Commander, United States Strategic Command, all of the Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General

Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret.), Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine wasteful duplication in the Federal government, including opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, duplication, and improper payments and achieve other financial benefits, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on oversight and reform of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, including truck safety programs and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations, after receiving testimony from T. F. Scott Darling, III, Acting Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Joseph W. Come, Deputy Principal Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and Evaluation, both of the Department of Transportation; Susan A. Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Christopher A. Hart, Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Senators Vitter (Chair), Barrasso, Capito, Crapo, Boozman, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Inhofe (ex officio), Boxer, Carper, Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, and Gillibrand.

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety: Senators Capito (Chair), Vitter, Barrasso, Crapo, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Inhofe (ex officio), Carper,

Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Markey, and Boxer (ex officio).

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight: Senators Rounds (Chair), Vitter, Crapo, Boozman, Sullivan, Inhofe (ex officio), Markey, Carper, Merkley, Booker, and Boxer (ex officio).

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife: Senators Sullivan (Chair), Barrasso, Capito, Boozman, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Rounds, Inhofe (ex officio), Whitehouse, Carper, Cardin, Sanders, Gillibrand, Booker, Markey, and Boxer (ex officio).

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, after receiving testimony from Mikheil Saakashvili, former President of Georgia, International Advisory Council on Reforms of the President of Ukraine, Kiev; Garry Kasparov, Human Rights Foundation, New York, New York; and Stephen Blank, American Foreign Policy Council, Damon M. Wilson, Atlantic Council, and Steven Pifer, The Brookings Institution, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 579, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 460, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities;

H.R. 615, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 614, to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order to reduce improper payments, S. 558, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations;

S. 565, to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts;

S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads;

S. 242, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability; and

S. 136, to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

IRRIGATE ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 438, to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects, including deferred maintenance and financial sustainability issues, after receiving testimony from Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Anne-Marie Fennell,

Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Harry C. LaBonde Jr., Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne; Charles Headdress, Sr., Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; and Mitchel T. Cottenoir, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes Office of the Tribal Water Engineer, Ft. Washakie, Wyoming.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on improving protections and oversight, including additional actions needed to improve Department of Justice's handling of FBI retaliation complaints, after receiving testimony from Kevin L. Perkins, Associate Deputy Director, and J. Richard Kiper, Special Agent, both of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, all of the Department of Justice; David Maurer, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; Michael German, New York University Law School Brennan Center for Justice, New York, New York; and Stephen M. Kohn, National Whistleblowers Center, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 105 public bills, H.R. 1232–1336; 1 private bill, H.R. 1337; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 23–24; and H. Res. 142–147 were introduced. **Pages H1609–14**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1618**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carter (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1569**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 749, to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 316 yeas to 101 nays, Roll No. 112. **Pages H1578–96, H1596–H1603**

Rejected the Sean Patrick Maloney (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an

amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 yeas to 232 noes, Roll No. 111. **Pages H1600–02**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–9 shall be considered as read.

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Agreed to:

McNerney amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that ensures that socially and economically disadvantaged businesses request for proposals are considered for station development opportunities under Section 208 of the bill; **Page H1593**

Fitzpatrick amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that adds veteran-owned small businesses to the participation study required under Section 305; **Pages H1593–94**

Mica amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that proposes Northeast Corridor Express Service; **Pages H1594–95**

Brownley (CA) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that requires each state to develop a grade crossing action plan, identifying specific solutions for improving safety at crossings, including