

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1739–S1832.

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 842–856, and S. Res. 108–110. **Pages S1780–81**

Measures Passed:

Boys Town Centennial Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 301, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1830–31

Attacks Carried Out by Russian-Backed Rebels: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 72, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of defensive lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1831–32**

Capito (for Lee) Amendment No. 598, to urge the President to prioritize and expedite the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, consistent with United States national interests and policies. **Page S1831**

Capito (for Leahy) Amendment No. 599, to amend the title. **Page S1832**

Internet of Things: Senate agreed to S. Res. 110, expressing the sense of the Senate about a strategy for the Internet of Things to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment. **Page S1832**

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1740–74**

Adopted:

By 94 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 79), Sanders/Wyden Amendment No. 386, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts. **Pages S1744–48, S1750–51**

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. 80), Portman/Bennet Amendment No. 349, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid. **Pages S1744, S1751**

Sanders Amendment No. 474, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect and strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs, hire more health care professionals for the Department, and ensure quality and timely access to health care for all veterans. **Pages S1765–66**

Ayotte Amendment No. 400, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. **Pages S1764, S1766**

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 81), Fischer Amendment No. 409, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information. **Pages S1757–58, S1766**

By 75 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. 83), Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 498, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by President Obama to protect and strengthen Social Security. **Pages S1765, S1767**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 78), Sanders/Wyden Modified Amendment No. 323, to create millions of middle class jobs by investing in our nation's infrastructure paid for by raising revenue through closing loopholes in the corporate and international tax system. **Pages S1740–44, S1748–50**

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 82), Mikulski Amendment No. 362, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to amending the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to allow for punitive damages, limit the any

factor “other than sex” exception, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information. **Pages S1751–57, S1766–67**

By 1 yeas to 98 nays (Vote No. 85), Cornyn Amendment No. 357, to raise taxes and spending by enacting President Obama’s fiscal year 2016 budget. **Pages S1758–62, S1768**

Pending:

Cotton Amendment No. 481, to establish a deficit-neutral fund relating to supporting Israel. **Pages S1764–65**

Enzi (for Kirk) Amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement. **Pages S1768–69**

Rounds/Inhofe Amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties. **Pages S1769–70**

Rubio Modified Amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050). **Pages S1770–73**

Daines Amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments. **Pages S1773–74**

Daines Amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget. **Page S1774**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 84), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Whitehouse (for Wyden) Amendment No. 471, to create a point of order against legislation that would cut benefits, raise the retirement age, or privatize Social Security. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. **Pages S1762–64, S1767–68**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the concurrent resolution at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, with 18 hours of debate time remaining; that the time until 10:30 a.m., be equally divided and controlled by the two managers, or

designees; that Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair at 10:30 a.m., to allow for the Joint Meeting of Congress; and that all time during the recess count against the remaining debate time on the concurrent resolution. **Page S1832**

Joint Meeting—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 His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. **Page S1832**

Messages from the House: **Page S1779**

Measures Referred: **Page S1779**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1779–80**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1780**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1781–83**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1783–86**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1778–79**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1786–S1830**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1830**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1830**

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—85) **Pages S1750–51, S1766–68**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:51 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1832.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine waters of the United States, focusing on stakeholder perspectives on the impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rule, after receiving testimony from Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, Little Rock; Donald R. van der Vaart, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary, Raleigh; Susan Metzger, Kansas Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary, Manhattan; Josh Baldi, Washington Department of Ecology Regional Director, Bellevue; Lynn Padgett, Ouray County Commissioner, Montrose, Colorado, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; T. Furman Brodie, Charles Ingram Lumber, Inc.,

Effingham, South Carolina; Jason Kinley, Gem County Mosquito Abatement District, Emmett, Idaho, on behalf of the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association; Mac McLennan, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., Grand Forks, North Dakota; Jeff Metz, Metz Land and Cattle Co., Bayard, Nebraska; and Kent Pepler, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Denver, Colorado.

APPROPRIATIONS: THE JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Judiciary, after receiving testimony from Julia S. Gibbons, Chair, Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

UNITED STATES MIDDLE EAST POLICY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Middle East policy, after receiving testimony from Ray Takeyh, Council on Foreign Relations, Kenneth M. Pollack, The Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy, and Dafna H. Rand, Center for a New American Security, all of Washington, D.C.; and Colonel Derek J. Harvey, USA (Ret.), University of South Florida Global Initiative for Civil Society and Conflict, Riverview.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 2,360 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

REGULATORY REGIME FOR REGIONAL BANKS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the regulatory regime for regional banks, after receiving testimony from Oliver I. Ireland, Morrison and Foerster, and Mark Olson, Bipartisan Policy Center Financial Regulatory Reform Initiative's Regulatory Architecture Task Force, both of Washington, D.C.; Deron Smithy, Regions Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, on behalf of The Regional Bank Group; and Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge.

CAPITAL FORMATION AND REDUCING SMALL BUSINESS BURDENS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment concluded a hearing to examine capital formation and reducing small business burdens, including

S. 576, to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans, after receiving testimony from Tom Quaadman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, Marcus M. Stanley, Americans for Financial Reform, and John C. Partigan, Nixon Peabody LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; and William H. Spell, Spell Capital Partners, LLC, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on behalf of the Small Business Investor Alliance.

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 performance, not prescription, after receiving testimony from Peter M. Rogoff, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; David B. Nichols, Missouri Department of Transportation Director, Jefferson City, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; John D. Graham, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Bloomington; and Peter Sweatman, University of Michigan Transportation Research Center, Ann Arbor.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine unmanned aircraft systems, focusing on key considerations regarding safety, innovation, economic impact, and privacy, including status of test sites and international developments, after receiving testimony from Margaret Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation; John B. Morris, Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Policy Analysis and Development, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; Gerald L. Dillingham, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; John Villasenor, Brookings Institution, and Paul Misener, Amazon.com, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jeff VanderWerff, American Farm Bureau Federation, Sparta, Michigan.

THE NATION'S FOREST SYSTEM

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine management reforms to improve forest health and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system, after receiving testimony from Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture; Brian Brown, Alcan Forest Products,

LP, Ketchikan, Alaska; Carlton N. Owen, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Greenville, South Carolina; Mark L. Peck, Lincoln County Montana County Commissioner, Libby; and Duane Vaagen, Vaagen Brothers Lumber Company, Colville, Washington.

SECURING THE BORDER

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine securing the border, focusing on assessing the impact of transnational crime, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Kempshall, Executive Director, Arizona Region of the Southwest Border High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Bryan Costigan, Montana Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation Supervisory Agent, Helena, on behalf of the National Fusion Center Association; Benny Martinez, Brooks County Chief Deputy Sheriff, Falfurrias, Texas; General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Seattle, Washington; and John P. Torres, former Deputy Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR PATIENTS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine continuing America's leadership, focusing on advancing research and development for patients, after receiving testimony from Bruce A. Sullenger, Duke University

Medical Center Duke Translational Research Institute, Durham, North Carolina; Alexis Borisy, Third Rock Ventures, Boston, Massachusetts; Michael A. Mussallem, Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, California; and Allan Coukell, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Isakson and Perdue, and Representative Lewis, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

VETERANS CHOICE ACT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Veterans Choice Act, focusing on exploring the distance criteria, after receiving testimony from Sloan Gibson, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and Roscoe Butler, The American Legion, Peter B. Hegseth, Concerned Veterans for America, Joseph A. Violante, DAV, Bill Rausch, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Carlos Fuentes, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, all of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 40 public bills, H.R. 2, 1557–1595; 1 private bill, H.R. 1596; and 6 resolutions, and H. Res. 165–170, were introduced. **Pages H1898–1900**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1901–02**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1851**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:01 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m. **Page H1851**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:31 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H1855**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Dennis Fountain, Moses Lake Baptist Church, Moses Lake, Washington. **Page H1855**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 254 yeas to 156 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 135. **Pages H1855, H1870**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Palazzo wherein he resigned from the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security. **Page H1855**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 165, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H1855**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Monday, March 23rd:

Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015: H.R. 216, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a Future-Years Veterans Program and a quadrennial veterans review, and to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Chief Strategy Officer, by a ²/₃ ye-and-nay vote of 420 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 134. **Pages H1869–70**

Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025: The House began consideration of H. Con. Res. 27, establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H1858–95**

H. Res. 163, the rule providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27), was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 237 yeas to 180 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 133, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 132. **Pages H1858–70**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Designating the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the “Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Field Office”: H.R. 1092, amended, to designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the “Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Field Office”; **Pages H1895–97**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To designate the Federal building located at 2030 Southwest 145th Avenue in Miramar, Florida, as the ‘Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building’.”. **Page H1897**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1858.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four ye-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1868, H1868–69, H1869–70, and H1870. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINATION OF THE COSTS AND IMPACTS OF MANDATORY BIOTECHNOLOGY LAWS

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing on examination of the costs and impacts of mandatory biotechnology laws. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZING THE CFTC: END-USER VIEWS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit held a hearing on reauthorizing the CFTC: end-user views. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC AND OUTSIDE WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing for American Indian and Alaska Native public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Agriculture Research Agencies budget. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Catherine E. Woteki, Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics; Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Administrator, Agriculture Research Service; Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Mary Bohman, Administrator, Economic Research Service; Joseph Reilly, Administrator, National Agriculture Statistics Service; and Michael Young, Budget Officer.

APPROPRIATIONS—MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Missile Defense Agency budget. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral James D. Syring, Director, Missile Defense Agency. This hearing was closed.

APPROPRIATIONS—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Nuclear Regulatory Commission budget. Testimony was

heard from Stephen Burns, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Kristine Svinicki, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; William Ostendorff, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and Jeff Baran, Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS—COAST GUARD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Coast Guard budget. Testimony was heard from Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant, United States Coast Guard.

APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on National Labor Relations Board budget. Testimony was heard from Mark Pearce, Chairman, National Labor Relations Board; and Richard F. Griffin Jr., General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board.

APPROPRIATIONS—HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Housing and Urban Development Programs budget. Testimony was heard from Julian Castro, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Federal Communications Commission budget. Testimony was heard from Tom Wheeler, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; and Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS—ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Assistance to Central America budget. Testimony was heard from Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of State, Western Hemisphere Affairs; William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; and Elizabeth Hogan, Acting Assistant Administrator, Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE HEARING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2016 Atomic Energy Defense Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Frank Klotz (USAF, Retired), Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Department of Energy; and Jessie Hill Roberson, Vice Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on H.R. 548, the “Certainty in Enforcement Act of 2015”; H.R. 549, the “Litigation Oversight Act of 2015”; H.R. 550, the “EEOC Transparency and Accountability Act”; and H.R. 1189, the “Preserving Employee Wellness Programs Act”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program”. Testimony was heard from Diana Espinosa, Deputy Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Debbie Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and Ann Maxwell, Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

THE INTERNET OF THINGS: EXPLORING THE NEXT TECHNOLOGY FRONTIER

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade held a hearing entitled “The Internet of Things: Exploring the Next Technology Frontier”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPROVING COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS REGULATION ACT OF 2015

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy concluded a hearing on the “Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015”. Testimony was heard from Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy began a markup on

the “Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015”.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade began a markup on the “Data Security and Breach Notification Act of 2015”.

EXAMINING THE SEC’S AGENDA, OPERATIONS, AND FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the SEC’s Agenda, Operations, and FY 2016 Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from Mary Jo White, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission.

THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION’S ROLE IN OPERATION CHOKE POINT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s Role in Operation Choke Point”. Testimony was heard from Martin J. Gruenberg, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

THE U.S. REBALANCE IN SOUTH ASIA: FOREIGN AID AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled “The U.S. Rebalance in South Asia: Foreign Aid and Development Priorities”. Testimony was heard from Nisha Desai Biswal, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State; and Jonathan Stivers, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development.

OVERSIGHT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the State Department and Agency for International Development Funding Priorities for the Western Hemisphere”. Testimony was heard from Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; and Elizabeth Hogan, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development.

IRAN’S NONCOMPLIANCE WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY OBLIGATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Iran’s Noncompliance with Its International Atomic Energy Agency Obligations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AFTER PARIS AND COPENHAGEN: RESPONDING TO THE RISING TIDE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “After Paris and Copenhagen: Responding to the Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A GLOBAL BATTLEGROUND: THE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIST EXTREMISM AT HOME AND ABROAD

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Global Battleground: The Fight against Islamist Extremism at Home and Abroad”. Testimony was heard from Former Speaker Newt Gingrich; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 348, the “Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015”; H.R. 712, the “Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015”; H.R. 1155, the “Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2015”; H.R. 690, the “Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act of 2015”; and H.R. 889, the “Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act”. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1155, H.R. 348, H.R. 690, H.R. 712, and H.R. 889.

EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSIONS OF THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE PRESIDENT’S FY 2016 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposals”. Testimony was heard from Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management; and Thomas Tidwell, Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSIONS OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS AND USGS WATER DIVISION IN THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans held a hearing entitled “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water Division in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal”. Testimony was heard from Estevan Lopez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; Mark Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration; Elliot Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; Christopher Turner, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration; Kenneth Legg, Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration; and William Werkheiser, Associate Director, Water, U.S. Geological Survey.

EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSION OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining the Spending Priorities and Mission of the U.S. Geological Survey in the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal”. Testimony was heard from Suzette Kimball, Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 152, the “Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act”; H.R. 308, the “Keep the Promise Act of 2015”; H.R. 373, the “Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act”; H.R. 404, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; H.R. 533, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; H.R. 979, to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”; H.R. 984, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 1168, the “Native American Children Safety Act”; and H.R. 1324, the “Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015”.

USSS: HOLDING THE PROTECTORS ACCOUNTABLE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “USSS: Holding the Protectors Accountable”. Testimony was heard from Joseph P. Clancy, Director, Secret Service.

SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE: AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled “Searching for the Origins of the Universe: An Update on the Progress of the James Webb Space Telescope”. Testimony was heard from John Grunsfeld, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Cristina Chaplain, Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; John Mather, Senior Project Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope, Goddard Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and a public witness.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OVERSIGHT: OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Department of Energy Oversight: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy”. Testimony was heard from David Danielson, Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

OPTIONS FOR FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL REFORM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Options for FAA Air Traffic Control Reform”. Testimony was heard from Matt Hampton, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Transportation; Craig Fuller, Vice Chairman, Federal Aviation Administration Management Advisory Council; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE HEARING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 456, the “Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2015”; H.R. 473, the “Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015”; H.R. 474, the “Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015”; H.R. 475, the “GI Bill Processing Improvement Act of 2015”; H.R. 476, the “GI Bill Education Quality

Enhancement Act of 2015”; H.R. 643, the “Veterans Education Survey Act of 2015”; H.R. 1038, the “Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act”; H.R. 1141, to amend title 38, United States Code, to consider certain time spent by members of reserve components of the Armed Forces while receiving medical care from the Secretary of Defense as active duty for purposes of eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; H.R. 1187, to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1313, the “Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act”; and H.R. 1382, the “Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act”. Testimony was heard from Representative Murphy of Florida; Major General Robert M. Worley II USAF (Retired), Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Teresa W. Gerton, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S USE OF DATA ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY EMERGING TRENDS AND STOP MEDICARE FRAUD

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the federal government’s use of data analysis—particularly the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Fraud Prevention System (FPS)—to identify emerging trends, and stop Medicare fraud. Testimony was heard from Shantanu Agrawal, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Program Integrity, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Gary Cantrell, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Defense and Overhead Architecture held a budget hearing. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed

budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Defense Health Program, 9 a.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9 a.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the current state of readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) accountability, focusing on nonbank designations, 2 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and Katherine Simonds Dhanani, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, all of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding and addressing the root causes of Central American migration to the United States, 2 p.m., SD-342.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine the fight against Alzheimer’s disease, focusing on a treatment by 2025, 2:15 p.m., SD-106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, hearing to examine the implications of potential retaliatory measures taken against the United States in response to meat labeling requirements, 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy and Credit, hearing on reauthorizing the CFTC: market participant views, 1:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget, 8:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on Intelligence Community and Global Threat budget, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol. This hearing will be closed (Members only).

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing for American Indian and Alaska Native public and outside witnesses, 9 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Railroad Administration, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration budget, 9 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, hearing on National Nuclear Security Administration, Nuclear Nonproliferation and Naval Reactors budget, 9:30 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal Bureau of Investigation budget, 1 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing for public and outside witnesses, 3 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Judiciary budget, 2:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Stakeholder's Views on the Recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategy and the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Chemical Biological Defense Program", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2016 National Security Space Hearing", 5 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, markup on the "Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015" (continued), 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, markup on the "Data Security and Breach Notification Act of 2015" (continued), 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 299, the "Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2015"; H.R. 601, the "Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act"; H.R. 650, the "Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2015"; H.R. 685, the "Mortgage Choice Act of 2015"; H.R. 1195, the "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act"; H.R. 1259, the "Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act"; H.R. 1265, the "Bureau Advisory Commission Transparency Act"; H.R. 1367, to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to clarify the application of that Act to American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands; H.R. 1408, the "Mortgage Servicing Asset Capital Requirements Act of 2015"; H.R. 1480, the "SAFE Act Confidentiality and Privilege Enhancement Act"; H.R. 1529, the "Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2015"; and a resolution to establish the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, 9 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, markup on H.R. 237, to authorize the revocation or denial of passports and passport cards to individuals affiliated with foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes, 1:30 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "The Goldman Act to Return Abducted American Children: Reviewing Obama Administration Implementation", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled "Risk-Based Security: Assessing the Path Forward for TSA Pre✓™", 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled "Patent Reform: Protecting American Innovators and Job Creators from Abusive Patent Litigation", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "Wrecking the Internet to Save It? The FCC's Net Neutrality Rule", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 707, the "Restoration of America's Wire Act", 4 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 152, the "Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act"; H.R. 308, the "Keep the Promise Act of 2015"; H.R. 373, the "Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act"; H.R. 404, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; H.R. 533, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; H.R. 979, to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point"; H.R. 984, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 1168, the "Native American Children Safety Act"; and H.R. 1324, the "Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015" (continued), 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 653, the "FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act of 2015"; H.R. 901, the "Eliminating Pornography from Agencies Act"; H.R. 1069, the "Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2015"; the "Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015"; the "Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015"; the "Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2015"; H.R. 1531, the "Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act"; and H.R. 651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the "Sister Ann Keefe Post Office", 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on the “Weather Research and Forecast Innovation Act of 2015”, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1481, the “Small Contractors Improve Competition Act of 2015”, 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1058, the “Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2015”; H.R. 1152, to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; H.R. 1026, the “Taxpayer Knowledge of IRS Investigations Act”; H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations”; H.R. 1295, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code; H.R. 709, the “Prevent Targeting at the IRS Act”; H.R. 1104, the “Fair Treatment for All Donations”; and H.R. 1105, the “Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015”, 1:30 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on NSA and Cybersecurity, budget hearing, HVC-304. This hearing will be closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 25

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, Budget Resolution.

At 10:30 a.m., Senate will recess to allow for the Joint Meeting of Congress with His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. Senators will gather in the Senate Chamber at 10:35 a.m. and depart as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:40 a.m.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Joint Meeting with the Senate to receive His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Continue consideration of H. Con. Res. 27—Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2017 through 2025.

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