

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 34, Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act (the legislative vehicle for 21st Century Cures Act).

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S6765–S6847*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3511–3519, S. Res. 632, and S. Con. Res. 58. **Pages S6840–41**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 425, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–395)

H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 2845, to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, with an amendment.

H.R. 4481, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 4939, to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H. Con. Res. 40, encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

S. Res. 535, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 537, expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. 8, to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

S. 1182, to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

S. 2658, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Con. Res. 30, expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon.

S. Con. Res. 57, honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. **Page S6839**

#### Conference Reports:

**National Defense Authorization Act—Conference Report:** Senate resumed consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military

construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S6795–S6826**

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

By 92 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 158), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill. **Page S6795**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2016; and that all post-cloture time on the conference report to accompany the bill expire at 12:30 p.m. **Page S6845**

### House Messages:

*Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act:* By 94 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. 157), Senate concurred in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, after taking action on the following motion and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6769–95**

Rejected:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 5117, to change the enactment date. (Senate tabled the motion to concur.) **Pages S6769, S6794**

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

McConnell Amendment No. 5118 (to Amendment No. 5117), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 5117 fell. **Page S6769**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro (Treaty Doc. 114–12) (Ex. Rept. 114–16). **Page S6840**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

46 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

94 Army nominations in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

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

**Pages S6843–45, S6846–47**

**Nomination Received:** Senate received the following nomination:

Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020. **Page S6846**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S6838**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S6839**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S6839**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S6839–40**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S6841–42**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Page S6842**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S6838**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S6842–43**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—158) **Page S6795**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:24 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6845.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation.

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security concluded a hearing to examine assessing the security of our critical surface transportation infrastructure, after receiving testimony from John Roth, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Neil Trugman, Interim Chief, Amtrak Police Department; Thomas Belfiore, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York; Chris Spear, American Trucking Associations, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Anthony Straquadine, Jr., Alliance Pipeline Inc., Eden Prairie, Minnesota, on behalf of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Committee ordered favorably reported H. Con. Res. 40, encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

**LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS**

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, four years later, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Floyd Azure, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; Terry Tatsey, Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana; Turk Cobell, Cobell Board of Trustees, Lubbock, Texas; and Melvin E. Monette-Barajas, Indigenous Education, Inc., Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**AT&T-TIME WARNER TRANSACTION**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the competitive impact of the AT&T-Time Warner transaction, after receiving testimony from Randall Stephenson, AT&T Inc., and Mark Cuban, both of Dallas, Texas; Jeff Bewkes, Time Warner Inc., New York, New York; Gene Kimmelman, Public Knowledge, Washington, D.C.; and Daphna E. Ziman, Cinemoi, Los Angeles, California.

**INTELLIGENCE**

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

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# House of Representatives

***Chamber Action***

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 6447–6475; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 180–182; and H. Res. 948, 950, were introduced. **Pages H7396–97**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H7398–99**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3764, to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–847);

Final Report of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (H. Rept. 114–848); and

H. Res. 949, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse” (H. Rept. 114–849). **Page H7396**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Neugebauer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7273**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7285**

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

***Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act:*** H.R. 329, amended, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources; **Pages H7292–97**

***Revising the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey:*** H.R. 6400, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey; **Pages H7297–98**

***Chicano Park Preservation Act:*** H.R. 3711, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California;

***Authorizing the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs:*** H.R.

6435, to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H7202–03

*Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016:* H.R. 5099, amended, to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H7303–06

*To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act:* H.R. 6076, amended, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 614;

Pages H7306–10, H7324–25

*National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016:* S. 2971, amended, to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 615;

Pages H7310–12, H7325–26

*Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016:* H.R. 5790, amended, to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 404 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 616;

Pages H7312–13, H7326

*Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act:* H.R. 4298, to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era;

Pages H7328–30

*Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016:* H.R. 6130, to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis;

Pages H7330–33

*Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016:* H.R. 6431, to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives; and

Pages H7340–43

*Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016:* S. 2854, amended, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

Pages H7343–46

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, December 6th:

*Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2016:* H.R. 1219, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 611; and

Page H7301

*Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act:* S. 3028, to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 8 nays with 2 answering “present”, Roll No. 612.

Pages H7301–02

*Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016:* The House passed H.R. 5143, to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, by a ye-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 170 nays, Roll No. 613.

Pages H7313–24

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–68 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill.

Pages H7313–14

Agreed to:

DeSantis amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–846) that adds an additional requirement that the international agreement must be written in plain writing, as defined by the Plain Writing Act of 2010.

Page H7324

H. Res. 944, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 232 yeas to 180 noes, Roll No. 610, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 178 nays, Roll No. 609.

Pages H7288–92, H7299–H7301

*Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016:* The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 3183, to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event.

Pages H7326–27

*Directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635:* The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 181, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635.

Pages H7327–28

**Requiring a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram:** The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram. **Page H7328**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 8. **Page H7328**

**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication:** Read a letter from Chairman Shuster wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions to authorize four lease prospectuses and two construction projects, included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 7, 2016. **Pages H7346–85**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

*Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016:* H.R. 4919, amended, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism. **Pages H7333–40**

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate today and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7292, H7312.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Seven yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7299–H7300, H7300–01, H7301, H7301–02, H7324, H7324–25, H7325–26, and H7326. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS: RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "1890 Land-Grant Institutions: Recruitment Challenges and Scholarship Opportunities". Testimony was heard from Representatives David Scott of Georgia; Cleaver; and Cramer; and public witnesses.

### CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD BONUS REPAYMENT ISSUE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled "California National Guard Bonus Repayment Issue". Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Timothy J. Kadavy, U.S. Army, Director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau; Major General David S. Baldwin, U.S. Army, Adjutant General, California National Guard; Peter Levine, performing the duties of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; Alissa M. Starzak, General Counsel, Department of the Army; and Teresa (Terri) A. McKay, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

### WASTE AND DUPLICATION IN THE USDA CATFISH INSPECTION PROGRAM

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Waste and Duplication in the USDA Catfish Inspection Program". Testimony was heard from William Jones, Deputy Director, Office of Food Safety, Food and Drug Administration; Steve Morris, Acting Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

### UNCONVENTIONAL MONETARY POLICY

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled "Unconventional Monetary Policy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### CORRUPTION: A DANGER TO DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled "Corruption: A Danger to Democracy in Europe and Eurasia". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### EXAMINING THE COSTS OF OVERCLASSIFICATION ON TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Examining the Costs of Overclassification on Transparency and Security". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### TIME AND ATTENDANCE ABUSE AT THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled "Time and Attendance Abuse at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office". Testimony was heard from Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of

Commerce for Intellectual Property, Deputy Director, Patent and Trademark Office; David Smith, Acting Deputy Inspector General, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

**SENATE BILL TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 1300 VICTORIA STREET IN LAREDO, TEXAS, AS THE “GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE”; SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016**

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; and Senate amendment to H.R. 2028, the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016”. The committee granted, by record vote of 6–2, a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–70 modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. Additionally, the rule grants a closed rule for S. 612. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–69 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Shuster, Chairman Bishop of Utah, Chairman Upton, Chairman Rogers of Kentucky,

and Representatives Doyle of Pennsylvania, and Lowey.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a markup on General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. The General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions passed, without amendment.

*Joint Meetings*

**BALTIC SECURITY**

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission received a briefing on Baltic security after the Warsaw NATO summit from Michael Johnson, RAND Corporation, Arlington, Virginia; Magnus Nordenman, Atlantic Council of the United States Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Washington, D.C.; and Karl Altau, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc., Rockville, Maryland.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 2016**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine State Department and United States Agency for International Development management challenges and opportunities for the next administration, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

**House**

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight Review of the U.S. Navy’s Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Program”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “Mixed Martial Arts: Issues and Perspectives”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled “The Impact of Regulations on Short-Term Financing”, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “DATA Act Implementation Check-In”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 8

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, December 8

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act, post-cloture, and vote on the conference report to accompany the bill at 12:30 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S. 612—To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse” (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the rules.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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