

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Mick Mulvaney, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Scott Pruitt, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1223–S1416

Measures Introduced: Thirty-eight bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 405–442, S.J. Res. 23, and S. Res. 62–67.

Pages S1304–05, S1396–97

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 62, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, and October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.

S. 63, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act. (S. Rept. No. 115–3) **Pages S1304, S1396**

Measures Passed:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act: Senate passed S. 442, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Pages S1400–15**

Abie Abraham VA Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 609, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs health care center in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Abie Abraham VA Clinic", and the bill was then passed. **Page S1415**

Joint Session of Congress: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 23, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President. **Pages S1415–16**

Denali National Park: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 55, recognizing February 26, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Denali

National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S1416

Cornyn (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 191, relating to visitor experiences. **Page S1416**

National Speech and Debate Education Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 65, designating March 3, 2017, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day". **Page S1416**

Career and Technical Education Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 66, supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month. **Page S1416**

National Health and Wellness Coach Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 67, expressing support for health and wellness coaches and for the designation of February 13, 2017, through February 19, 2017, as "National Health and Wellness Coach Recognition Week". **Page S1416**

Washington's Farewell Address—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2017, Senator Sasse be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address, as under the previous order. **Page S1416**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, February 20, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday,

February 23, 2017, it next convene at 12 noon, on Monday, February 27, 2016. **Page S1416**

Ross Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Pages S1391–92, S1400

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

By 66 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 72), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1391–92**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 7 p.m., on Monday, February 27, 2017, all post-cloture time be considered expired on the nomination and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S1400**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 12 noon, on Monday, February 27, 2017, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, as under the previous order. **Page S1416**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 68), Mick Mulvaney, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Pages S1226–29, S1275

Routine lists in the Army, and Navy. **Page S1313**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 71), Scott Pruitt, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Pages S1229–75, S1275–95, S1315–91, S1416

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

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 69), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1229–30**

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 70), Senate rejected the motion to extend debate on the nomination. **Page S1390**

Messages from the House: **Page S1393**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1393–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1397–98**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1398–99**

Additional Statements: **Page S1393**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1399**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1399**

Privileges of the Floor: **Pages S1399–S1400**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—72) **Pages S1229, S1230, S1390–92**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., on Thursday, February 16, 2017, and adjourned at 1:54 p.m., on Friday, February 17, 2017, until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1416.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

RESHAPING THE U.S. MILITARY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reshaping the United States military, after receiving testimony from David A. Ochmanek, RAND Corporation; James P. Thomas, The Telemus Group; Thomas M. Donnelly, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research; Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies; and Bryan Clark, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

IMPROVING TSA

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine stakeholder perspectives on improving the Transportation Security Administration for the security of the traveling public, after receiving testimony from Stephen A. Alterman, Cargo Airline Association, on behalf of Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and Sharon Pinkerton, Airlines for America, both of Washington, D.C.; Kim Day, Denver International Airport, Denver, Colorado; and Mark Laustra, Analogic Corporation, Peabody, Massachusetts.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Seema Verma, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Donnelly and Young, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of David Friedman, of New York, to be Ambassador to Israel, Department of State, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Graham and former Senator Joe Lieberman, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian

Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine democracy and human rights, focusing on the case for United States leadership, after receiving testimony from former Representative Mark Green, International Republican Institute, Carl Gershman, The National Endowment for Democracy, Kenneth Wollack, National Democratic Institute, and Hala Aldosari, Arab Gulf States Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; Garry Kasparov, Human Rights Foundation, New York, New York; and Danilo Maldonado Machado.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 62) authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, and October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 115th Congress.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade: Senators Boozman (Chair), Cochran, Hoeven, Grassley, Thune, Daines, Perdue, Heitkamp, Brown, Bennet, Gillibrand, Donnelly, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy: Senators Ernst (Chair), Cochran, Boozman, Hoeven, Thune, Daines, Strange, Van Hollen, Brown, Klobuchar, Bennet, Donnelly, and Heitkamp.

Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, and Natural Resources: Senator Daines (Chair), Cochran, McConnell, Boozman, Grassley, Strange, Bennet, Leahy, Klobuchar, Donnelly, and Casey.

Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research, and Specialty Crops: Senators Strange (Chair), McConnell, Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Perdue, Casey, Leahy, Brown, Gillibrand, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Livestock, Marketing, and Agriculture Security: Senators Perdue (Chair), McConnell, Ernst, Grassley, Thune, Daines, Gillibrand, Leahy, Klobuchar, Heitkamp, and Casey.

Senators Roberts and Stabenow are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 96 public bills, H.R. 1101–1196; 3 private bills, H.R. 1197–1199; and 24 resolutions, H.J. Res. 76–82; H. Con. Res. 28–29; and H. Res. 131–145 were introduced.

Pages H1296–H1303

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1306–07

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 393, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces (H. Rept. 115–13).

Page H1296

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rogers (KY) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1247

Recess: The House recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H1255

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Pages H1255, H1280

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Mulvaney, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of South Carolina, effective immediately.

Page H1255

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Mulvaney, the whole number of the House is 431.

Page H1255

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Bishop (MI) wherein he resigned from the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce.

Page H1259

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 131, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H1259

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the

final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to “Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska”: The House passed H.J. Res. 69, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to “Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 98.

Pages H1259–68, H1278–79

H. Res. 123, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 43) and (H.J. Res. 69) was agreed to yesterday, February 15th.

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule submitted by Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to compliance with title X requirements by project recipients in selecting subrecipients: The House passed H.J. Res. 43, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule submitted by Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to compliance with title X requirements by project recipients in selecting subrecipients, by a recorded vote of 230 ayes to 188 noes, Roll No. 99.

Pages H1268–78, H1279–80

H. Res. 123, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 43) and (H.J. Res. 69) was agreed to yesterday, February 15th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow, February 17. **Page H1280**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representatives Jackson Lee and Moore. **Page H1280**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1279 and H1279–80. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; PROS AND CONS OF RESTRICTING SNAP PURCHASES

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1029, the “Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act of 2017”; and H.R. 953, the “Re-

ducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017”; and hearing entitled “Pros and Cons of Restricting SNAP Purchases”. H.R. 1029 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 953 was ordered reported, without amendment. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBERS’ DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Members’ Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Radewagen, Cleaver, LoBiondo, Hanabusa, Williams, and Brownley of California.

MILITARY SERVICES 5TH GENERATION TACTICAL AIRCRAFT CHALLENGES AND F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “Military Services 5th Generation Tactical Aircraft Challenges and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program Update”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Chris Bogdan, USAF, Program Executive Officer, F-35 Joint Program Office; Rear Admiral Dewolfe “Chip” Miller, III, USN, Director, Air Warfare; Lieutenant General Jon Davis, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Aviation; and Lieutenant General Select Jerry D. Harris Jr., USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans, Programs, Requirements.

FEDERAL WAGE AND HOUR POLICIES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ECONOMY

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Federal Wage and Hour Policies in the Twenty-First Century Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MODERNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Modernizing Environmental Laws: Challenges and Opportunities for Expanding Infrastructure and Promoting Development and Manufacturing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE U.S.–EU COVERED AGREEMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “Assessing the U.S.–EU Covered Agreement”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAN ON NOTICE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Iran on Notice”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A DANGEROUS AND SOPHISTICATED ADVERSARY: THE THREAT TO THE HOMELAND POSED BY CARTEL OPERATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “A Dangerous and Sophisticated Adversary: The Threat to the Homeland Posed by Cartel Operations”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Charles Ray, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard; Chief Paul Beeson, Commander, Joint Task Force—West, Arizona, Department of Homeland Security; Matt Allen, Assistant Director for HIS Investigative Programs, Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Homeland Security; and Luis E. Arreaga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State.

WATCHDOG RECOMMENDATIONS: A BETTER WAY AHEAD TO MANAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Watchdog Recommendations: A Better Way Ahead to Manage the Department of Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from John Roth, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; and Rebecca Gambler, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office.

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee concluded a hearing on committee funding for the 115th Congress. Testimony was heard from Chairman Hensarling, Chairman Thornberry, Chairman Roe of Tennessee, Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Chaffetz, Chairman Black, Chairman Smith of Texas, and Representatives Maxine Waters of California, Smith of Washington, Walz, Conyers, Cummings, Yarmuth, and Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing on H.R. 372, the “Competitive Health Insurance Reform Act of 2017”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Gosar and Austin Scott of Georgia and public witnesses.

THE STATE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice held a hearing entitled “The State of Religious Liberty in America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NASA: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “NASA: Past, Present, and Future”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STATE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMY

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access held a hearing entitled “State of the Small Business Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE USE OF OFFICIAL TIME FOR UNION ACTIVITIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and Subcommittee on Government Operations of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing entitled “The Use of Official Time for Union Activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs”. Testimony was heard from Cindy Brown Barnes, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Kimberly Perkins McLeod, Acting Executive Director, Labor Management Relations, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: organizational business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments, Time to be announced, S-216, Capitol.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

Friday, February 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue in the session that began on Thursday, February 16, 2017. See next volume of the Congressional Record.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Friday, February 17

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

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