Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1193–S1228

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3846–3858, S.J. Res. 41, and S. Res. 548–549.

Measures Reported:

- S. 664, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 117–94)

Appointments:

Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Madelyn R. Creedon of Virginia and General (Ret.) John E. Hyten of Colorado.

National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: Dov S. Zakheim of Maryland and Senator Padilla.

Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 117–81, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: Diem Salmon of Maryland.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: Senators Scott (SC) and Rubio.

Corley Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

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

- By 63 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 82), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Slaughter Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

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

- By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 83), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Montenegro Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

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

- By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 84), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Calvert Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

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

- By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Rubin Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.
During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Gonzalez Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

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

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 87), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Geraghty Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

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

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 89), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Castner Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Geogette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

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

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 90), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Silva Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

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

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 91), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Traum Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

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

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 92), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Luger Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

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

By 61 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 93), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, and at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit; and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader.
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2022. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S1227–28.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the health effects of exposure to airborne hazards, including toxic fumes from burn pits, after receiving testimony from Terry M. Rauch, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight, Raul Mirza, Division Chief of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinical Public Health and Epidemiology, Army Public Health Center, Colonel Adam J. Newell, USAF, Chief of Medical Readiness, Air Force Medical Readiness Agency, and Captain Brian L. Feldman, USN, Commander, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, all of the Department of Defense; Steven Patterson, former Environmental Science Officer, Combined Joint Task Force 101 Headquarters, Afghanistan, 2008–2009; Anthony M. Szema, Northwell Health Foundation; Tom Porter, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; and Rosie Torres, Burn Pits 360.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman, and Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be a Member, all of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund formula, after receiving testimony from Jonathan L. Ramseur, Specialist in Environmental Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Laura Watson, Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, on behalf of the Environmental Council of the States’ Water Committee; and Thomas W. Sigmund, NEW Water, Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland, both on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE INFLATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine prescription drug price inflation, focusing on the urgent need to lower drug prices in Medicare, after receiving testimony from Rena Conti, Boston University Questrom School of Business Department of Markets, Public Policy and Law, Boston, Massachusetts; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Stephen J. Ezell, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Steffany Stern, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine violent extremism and terrorism, focusing on the threat to houses of worship and public spaces, after receiving testimony from Ryan T. Young, Executive Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Stephanie Dobitsch, Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence Enterprise Operations, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Christopher Logan, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Marcus T. Coleman Jr., Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, all of the Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR NATIVE BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Federal support for Native business capacity building and success, after receiving testimony from Wizipan Garriott, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Janie Simms Hipp, General Counsel, Department of Agriculture; Wahleah Johns, Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Department of Energy; Gary Hennigh, City of King Cove, Anchorage, Alaska; Lexie Holden, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Billings, Montana; JT Willie, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; and J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth, MA'O Organic Farms, Wai'anae, Hawai‘i.

SMALL BUSINESS FRANCHISING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine small business franchising, focusing on an overview of the industry, Small Business Administration’s role, and legislative proposals, including S. 420, to amend the
National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, S. 1120, to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchises whose franchisees use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration, and S. 2162, to require the Small Business Administration to publish loan default rates by franchise brand, after receiving testimony from Senator Cortez Masto; Robert W. Emerson, University of Florida Warrington College of Business, Gainesville; Aaron Yelowitz, University of Kentucky, Lexington, on behalf of the Cato Institute; Leanne Stapf, The Cleaning Authority, Columbia, Maryland, on behalf of the International Franchise Association; and Bryan Tipton, Tipton Investments, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

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: 13 public bills, H.R. 7095–7107; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 76; and H. Res. 986–988, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Underwood to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Address of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine: Agreed by unanimous consent that proceedings during the address of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine held in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Auditorium, on March 16, 2022, be printed in the Record.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:57 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act and Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 979, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual’s texture or style of hair, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 74, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 73.

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, March 15th.

Save the Liberty Theatre Act: H.R. 3197, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 75.

Designating the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial: H.R. 4380, to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 76; and

Japanese American World War II History Network Act: H.R. 6434, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 77.

Discharge Petition: Representative Gosar presented to the Clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from the consideration of the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 46, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, which was referred to said committee May 20th, 2021 (Discharge Petition No. 12).

Senate Referral: S. 623 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3747.


Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.
Committee Meetings

A 2022 REVIEW OF THE FARM BILL: THE ROLE OF USDA PROGRAMS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: The Role of USDA Programs in Addressing Climate Change”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “United States Central Command”. Testimony was heard from General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., Commander, U.S. Central Command. This hearing was closed.

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Energy, Installations, and Environment Program Update”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Paul Cramer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations, and Environment; Paul Farnan, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy, Installations, and Environment; Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Energy, Installations, and the Environment; and Edwin Oshiba, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Energy, Installations, and the Environment.

ENSURING WOMEN CAN THRIVE IN A POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Ensuring Women Can Thrive in a Post-Pandemic Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments. Subcommittee assignments were approved.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES


5G AND BEYOND: EXPLORING THE NEXT WIRELESS FRONTIER

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “5G and Beyond: Exploring the Next Wireless Frontier”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EARLY SIGNS OF WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY DURING THE FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment held a hearing entitled “Early Signs of War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Russian Military During the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

11 YEARS OF WAR: THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “11 Years of War: The Humanitarian Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Syria”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 350, the “Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021”; H.R. 5460, the “Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2021”; and H.R. 301, to amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as “Lift Every Voice and Sing” as the national hymn of the United States.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE: EVALUATING THE ROLE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN REDUCING CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires”. Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.
BIOENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUELS AND CHEMICALS OF TOMORROW
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Bioenergy Research and Development for the Fuels and Chemicals of Tomorrow”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM
Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “An Empirical Review of the Paycheck Protection Program”. Testimony was heard from William Shear, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022: MEMBERS’ DAY HEARING

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on legislation on Permanent Authorization for Flexible Use of Funds for Homeless Veterans; legislation on Veteran Health Training Act; legislation on Permanent Authorization for Education Assistance Benefits During Emergency Situations; legislation on Vaccine Refusal and GI Bill Benefits; legislation on HU–ASH Flexibilities; legislation on VA Home Loan Transparency and Consumer Protection Act of 2022; legislation on Expand Eligibility for Self-employment Assistance under Veteran Readiness and Employment; legislation on Foreign School GI Bill Payment; legislation on Program Approval; legislation on Quality Education for Veterans Act of 2022; H.R. 6458, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of a transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent; and H.R. 6604, the “Veterans Eligible to Transfer Schools Credit Act”. Testimony was heard from Brianne Ogilvie, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 4993, the “Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement Act of 2021”; H.R. 5738, the “Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act”; H.R. 5754, the “Patient Advocate Tracker Act”; H.R. 5819, the “Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act”; H.R. 5941, the “Fairness for Rural Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 6647, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022; and legislation on Long-term Care Veterans Choice Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dingell, McClain, O’Halleran, Rodgers of Washington, and Higgins of Louisiana; Julianne Flynn, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Scottie Hartronft, Executive Director, Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

IMPROVING FAMILY OUTCOMES THROUGH HOME VISITING
Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support held a hearing entitled “Improving Family Outcomes through Home Visiting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIG IDEAS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: FOSTERING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH STARTING, SUSTAINING AND GROWING SMALL BUSINESSES
Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Big Ideas for Small Businesses: Fostering American Entrepreneurship Through Starting, Sustaining and Growing Small Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
Joint Meetings

SHAREHOLDER PRIMACY

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impact of shareholder primacy, focusing on what it means to put stock prices first, after receiving testimony from Lenore Palladino, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Judy Samuelson, Aspen Institute, New York, New York; Frederick Alexander, The Shareholder Commons, Wilmington, Delaware; and Joshua D. Rauh, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the role of digital assets in illicit finance, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kathryn Huff, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy), 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine charitable giving and trends in the nonprofit sector, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine pandemic response and accountability, focusing on reducing fraud and expanding access to COVID–19 relief through effective oversight, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine building financial inclusion for America’s underserved populations, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “United States Southern Command”, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled “Defense Intelligence Posture to Support the Warfighters and Policy Makers”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.


Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7066, the “Russia and Belarus Financial Sanc-
Joint Meetings

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* to hold hearings to examine the Baltics under pressure, 10 a.m., SD–106.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Thursday, March 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

At 11:45 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Thursday, March 17

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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