

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Second Session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress Convened.

Senate and House of Representatives met in Joint Session to receive the President's State of the Union Message.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1–S60

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2006–2009, and S. Res. 284. (S. 2005 was reported as an original bill on January 9.)

Pages S52–53

Measures Reported:

Reported on Friday, January 9, during the adjournment:

S. 2005, to temporarily replace the use by pension plans of the 30-year treasury bond rate with a composite corporate rate, and to establish a commission on defined benefit plans. (S. Rept. No. 108–221)

S. 1072, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–222)

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Measures Passed:

Providing for a Joint Session of Congress: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 349, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the State of the Union.

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Commemorating Former Senator William V. Roth, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 284, commemorating the life of William V. Roth, Jr., former member of the United States Senate from the State of Delaware.

Pages S21–26

Agriculture Appropriations Act (Omnibus Appropriations)—Conference Report: Senate resumed consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004.

Pages S3–21

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

By 48 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 1), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate failed to agree to the motion to close further debate on the conference report.

Pages S20–21

Subsequently, a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked was entered.

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A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, with the time until 6 p.m. equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee or their designees; further that Senator Byrd be recognized at 12 noon to speak for up to 2 hours and Senator McCain be recognized at 2 p.m. to speak for 1 hour.

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Appointments:

U.S.-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1237(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: William A. Reinsch of Maryland, for a term expiring December 31, 2005.

Pages S59–60

U.S. Military Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appointed Senator Reed, from the Armed Services Committee, to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy.

Pages S59–60

U.S. Naval Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), appointed Senator McCain, from the Armed Services Committee, to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Pages S59–60

U.S. Air Force Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appointed Senator Allard, from the Armed Services Committee, to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Pages S59–60

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on January 20, 2004; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–59)

Pages S33–37

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Claude A. Allen, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Paul S. Diamond, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Robert Bryan Harwell, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

George P. Schiavelli, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

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Messages From the House:

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Measures Read First Time:

Pages S37–38

Enrolled Bills Signed:

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Executive Communications:

Pages S38–52

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S53–54

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S54–57

Additional Statements:

Pages S31–33

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S57–59

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—1)

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Adjournment: Senate convened the Second Session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress at 12 noon, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable William V. Roth, Jr., former United States Senator from the State of Delaware, in accordance with S. Res. 284, adjourned at 10:13 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Wednesday, January 21, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S60.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

OVERTIME PAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Labor's proposed rule on overtime pay, after receiving testimony from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor; Jared Bernstein, Economic Policy Institute, Ronald Bird, Employment Policy Foundation, Andrew J. McDevitt, American Payroll Association, Patti Hefner, on behalf of the American Nurses Association, Richard L. Trumka, AFL-CIO, and David S. Fortney, Fortney and Scott, all of Washington, D.C.

NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on North Korean nuclear developments and the Six-Power Talks from Siegfried Hecker, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Keith Luse and Frank Jannuzi, both of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 3701–3711; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 84–85; H. Con. Res. 343, and H. Res. 489–494, were introduced.

Pages H35–36

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H36–37

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows today:

Filed on December 8, 2003, H.R. 2844, to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 21 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, amended (H. Rept. 108–404, Pt. 1); and