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CREATION DATE/TIME:22-JUL-1998 03:45:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - JILL

TO: M. Jill Gibbons (M. Jill Gibbons@eop [UNKNOWN])

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TEXT:

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! 22-JUL-1998 02:36:44

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! BILLTRACK DATABASE

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1 S2060 Thurmond S. (R-SC) 06/25/98 (11238 lines)

Engrossed (passed) in Senate--Star Print

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military
activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel
strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other
purposes.

Item Key: 12029

2 HR3616 Spence (R-SC) 06/25/98 (16830 lines)

Engrossed Amendment Senate--Star Print

A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12018

3 HR4276 Rogers (R-KY) 07/20/98 (3166 lines)

Reported in House

Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12023

4 HR4274 Porter (R-IL) 07/20/98 (2764 lines)

Reported in House

Making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12021

5 S2058 Thurmond S. (R-SC) 06/25/98 (2133 lines)

Engrossed (passed) in Senate--Star Print

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12028

6 HR4057 Shuster (R-PA) 07/20/98 (2249 lines)

Reported in House

To amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12020

7 HR4271 Riggs (R-CA) 07/17/98 (1183 lines)

Introduced in House

To amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and make improvements to that Act.

Item Key: 11998

8 HR4244 Horn (R-CA) 07/16/98 (499 lines)

Introduced in House

To amend the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) to provide for measurement of the performance of the Federal procurement system, to enhance the training of the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11937

9 S2330 Nickles (R-OK) 07/20/98 (4278 lines)

Placed on Calendar Senate

To improve the access and choice of patients to quality, affordable
health care.

Item Key: 12030

10 HCONRES298 Brown C. (D-FL) 07/16/98 (91 lines)

Introduced in House

Expressing deepest condolences to the State and people of Florida
for the losses suffered as a result of the wild land fires
occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the State
and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires,
and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the
Nation in battling the fires.

Item Key: 11955

11 HR4275 Shuster (R-PA) 07/20/98 (1849 lines)

Introduced in House

To reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the
Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and the
Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

Item Key: 12022

12 HR8 Bilbray B. (R-CA) 07/20/98 (169 lines)

Reported in House

To amend the Clean Air Act to deny entry into the United States of certain foreign motor vehicles that do not comply with State laws governing motor vehicle emissions, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 12024

13 HR4237 Norton (D-DC) 07/16/98 (69 lines)

Introduced in House

To amend the District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995 to revise the revenues and activities covered under such Act, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11930

14 S2313 Gregg (R-NH) 07/15/98 (1311 lines)

Introduced in Senate

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for individual security accounts funded by employee and employer social security payroll deductions, to extend the solvency of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11866

15 HR4235 John C. (D-LA) 07/16/98 (276 lines)

Introduced in House

To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct research, monitoring, education, and management activities for the prevention, reduction, and control of harmful algal blooms, including blooms of *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other aquatic toxins, hypoxia, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11928

16 HR4260 Snowbarger (R-KS) 07/16/98 (210 lines)

Introduced in House

To amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the number of years a Member of Congress may participate in the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees' Retirement System, to deny Federal retirement benefits to any Member convicted of a felony, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11952

17 HR4239 Leach (R-IA) 07/16/98 (1097 lines)

Introduced in House

To revise the banking and bankruptcy insolvency laws with respect to the termination and netting of financial contracts, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11932

18 S2323 Grassley (R-IA) 07/16/98 (168 lines)

Introduced in Senate

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access
to home health services under the Medicare Program.

Item Key: 11921

19 HR3874 Castle (R-DE) 07/20/98 (1025 lines)

Reported in House

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to make improvements to
the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and
children and to extend the authority of that program through
fiscal year 2003.

Item Key: 12019

Enter one or more numbers or ALL, a command, or MENU

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! NEWS DATABASE

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MIDDAY UPDATE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 116 lines)

Item Key: 14245

MIDDAY UPDATE

By CQ Staff

LOTT CAUTIOUS ON TAX CUTS: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., today said Congress should move this year to ease the tax code's "marriage penalty," but he warned against tapping the burgeoning budget surplus for huge additional cuts -- at least until the future of Social Security is assured. "I do think we need to try to identify how much is it that we do need to ... protect Social Security, take it off budget and to preserve its future," he said at a news briefing. "If there is any left over ... it should be returned to the people that earn that money. It's not the bureaucrats' money. It is the people's money." That caveat could mean a delay in major tax cuts. The Congressional Budget Office, in updated estimates last week, projected that the government will not run an operating surplus -- apart from Social Security trust fund balances -- until 2006. Lott also stressed that last year's balanced-budget deal limits both spending and tax cuts for the coming few years. "A deal is a deal. And we made just one year ago. ... That limits what you can do in terms of additional tax cuts."

LEGISLATIVE SPENDING BILL SENT TO CONFERENCE: By 90-9, the Senate today passed and sent to conference legislation (HR4112) providing \$1.7 billion for the legislative branch for fiscal 1999. The Senate first invoked cloture, 83-16, to ward off unrelated amendments, including one by Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo., that sought to eliminate the "marriage penalty" from the tax code. Invoking cloture also had the effect of blocking an amendment by John McCain, R-Ariz., that would have required the Congressional Research Service to post its many issue briefs on the Internet. The Senate Rules Committee wants to study that issue further. The Senate this afternoon will consider a \$33 billion spending bill (S2260) for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State.

HOUSE VOTE LOOMS ON ARTS FUNDING. The House today is expected to approve funding for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) through parliamentary maneuvers on the \$13.4 billion Interior appropriations bill (HR4193). The rule approved at midday, 224-19, allows the \$98 million for the NEA to be stripped from the bill on a point of order -- because the funding is not authorized -- but also permits Nancy L. Johnson, R-Conn., to offer an amendment restoring the money. If that amendment is adopted, as seems likely, the money would not be subject to a point of order. Democrats criticized the rule as a political game, forcing lawmakers to cast a clear vote on funding for the controversial NEA. Republicans have changed the chamber "from a legislative body into a re-election machine," declared David R. Obey, D-Wis., ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. "Does anyone really believe that there's any other game but that going on?"

STILL NO DEAL ON SENATE HEALTH BILL: The Senate will debate managed-care legislation next week, with or without an agreement on how to proceed, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., said today. Lott said he had rejected Minority Leader Tom Daschle's most recent offer, to allow 20 amendments per side, saying that would keep the debate going for too long. Lott said he is still working with Daschle, S.D., in search of an agreement on how to consider the GOP task force's bill (S2330), the Democratic version (S1890) and alternatives offered by others, such as John H. Chafee, R-R.I., and Bob Graham, D-Fla.

HOUSE HEALTH DEBATE ON FRIDAY: The House Republican managed care legislation (HR4250) will be debated on Friday, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, said today. He predicted that key Republicans, including Bill Thomas, Calif., who chairs the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and has expressed concerns that the bill (HR4250) is too bureaucratic, would endorse the bill by then. GOP leaders will meet later today to craft a rule for the debate. Still undecided, Armey said, is whether Democrats will get a straight up-or-down vote on their rival proposal (HR3605).

GREENSPAN WARNING: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan today declared that the central bank stands ready to "resist vigorously" any threatened increase in inflation -- a signal that policy-makers are more likely to raise interest rates in the future than cut them to counter the current slowdown in economic activity. "Given the current tightness in labor markets, the potential for accelerating inflation is probably

greater than the risk of protracted, excessive weakness in the economy," Greenspan said in remarks prepared for the Senate Banking Committee. The immediate reaction on Wall Street was muted; the Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 29.61 points at noon.

MORE CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE TOMORROW?: The House may return to its campaign finance debate tomorrow night, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, said at his weekly news conference. Debate was not expected to resume until next week, but House leaders have been under pressure to schedule more floor time so that the dozens if not hundreds of amendments that remain to be considered can be dispatched with before the August break, when Armey has pledged to conclude the debate.

DRUG PENALTIES APPROVED: The House Judiciary Committee today approved, 21-6, a bill (HR3898) that would increase penalties for the manufacture or trafficking of the drug methamphetamine, commonly known as "meth" or "crank." The bill would reduce the amount of the drug that triggers mandatory minimum sentences, aligning sentencing rules for meth with those for crack cocaine.

PANEL VOTES TO REAUTHORIZE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES: The House Transportation Public Buildings and Economic Development Subcommittee today approved, by voice vote, a five-year authorization of two agencies that fund infrastructure and development projects in low-income communities. The measure (HR4275) would reduce authorization levels for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to about \$67 million in fiscal 1999. Chairman Jay C. Kim, R-Calif., said the reduction is justified

because \$450 million in highway funding will be available to the Appalachian region through the surface transportation law (PL 105-178) enacted last month. The bill also reauthorized the Economic Development Administration.

PANEL ACTS ON CIVIL SERVICE BILLS: A House Government Reform and Oversight panel today approved a bill (HR2526) that would allow federal employees to deposit up to \$10,000 annually into their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) retirement funds. The bill would also eliminate the one-year waiting period for new federal employees to begin making deposits into the TSP and allow these employees to roll over 401(K) savings. The bill had bipartisan support and was praised by Rep. Constance A. Morella, R-Md., as "a sensible way to encourage federal employees to save for their own retirements."

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 77 lines)

Item Key: 14294

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

By CQ Staff

FULL COMMITTEE: House full committee markup for Transportation July 22

AGRICULTURE (HR4101): House subcommittee markup completed June 10; Senate subcommittee markup completed June 9; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-212); House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-588); PASSED House June 24; PASSED Senate July 16

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE & THE JUDICIARY (S2260, HR4276): House subcommittee markup completed June 24; Senate subcommittee markup June completed 23; Senate full committee markup completed June 25 (SRept105-235); House full committee markup completed July 15 (HRept105-636); Senate floor debate began July 21

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Senate full committee markup completed July 21

ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT (S2138, HR4060): Senate subcommittee markup completed June 2; Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-206); House subcommittee markup completed June 10; House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-581); PASSED Senate June 18; PASSED House June 22

FOREIGN OPERATIONS: House subcommittee markup completed July 15; Senate full committee markup completed July 21

INTERIOR: (S2237, HR4193) House subcommittee markup completed June 18; House full committee markup completed June 25 (HRept105-609); Senate subcommittee markup completed June 23; Senate full committee markup completed June 25 (SRept105-227)

LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION (HR4274): House subcommittee markup completed June 23; House full committee markup completed July 14 (HRept105-635)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH (HR4112): Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-204); House subcommittee markup completed June 10; House full committee markup completed June 18 (HRept105-595); PASSED House June 25; PASSED Senate July 21

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (HR4059): House subcommittee markup completed June 10; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-213); House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-578); PASSED House June 22; PASSED by Senate June 25

NATIONAL SECURITY/DEFENSE (S2132, HR4103): House subcommittee markup completed June 4; Senate subcommittee markup completed June 2; Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-200); House full committee markup completed June 17 (HRept105-591); PASSED House June 24

TRANSPORTATION: (S2307) Senate subcommittee markup completed July 8; Senate full committee markup completed July 14; House subcommittee markup completed July 16; House full committee markup July 22

TREASURY/POSTAL SERVICE: (HR4104) House subcommittee markup completed June 11; House full committee markup completed June 17 (HRept105-592); Senate full committee markup completed July 14; PASSED House July 16

VA, HUD, & INDEPENDENT AGENCIES (S2168, HR4194): Senate subcommittee markup completed June 9; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-216); House subcommittee markup completed June 18; House full committee markup completed June 25; House floor debate began July 16; PASSED Senate July 17

FY98 SUPPLEMENTAL (HR3579): Senate full committee markup completed March 17 (SRept105-168); House full committee markup completed March 24 (HRept105-469); S1768/S1769 DEBATE COMPLETED by Senate March 26; HR3579 PASSED by House March 31; HR3579 PASSED by Senate March 31 (Senate amended HR3579 to contain the text of S1768); Senate conferees named March 31; House conferees named April 23; Conference completed April 30 (HRept105-504); PASSED House April 30; PASSED Senate April 30; SIGNED by president May 1; Public Law: PL105-174

LEWINSKY QUESTIONING

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 86 lines)

Item Key: 14252

QUICK INSIGHTS: LOTT ON BANKRUPTCY, STEVENS' OPTIMISM, GREENSPAN
WARNING, CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE, ANTI-DRUG PROPOSAL, NURSING HOME PLAN,
LEWINSKY QUESTIONING

By CQ Staff

BANKRUPTCY A SEPTEMBER PRIORITY: The Senate will not take up
bankruptcy overhaul legislation until September, Majority Leader Trent
Lott, Miss., said today. But the bill (S1301) will be a high priority
after the August recess, Lott said, and will be considered during breaks
between appropriations measures. The bill, which would make it harder
for debtors to declare bankruptcy and start over with a clean slate,
faces Democratic opposition. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., has also
served notice that he will attempt to use the bankruptcy measure as a
vehicle for his legislation (S1805) to increase the minimum wage in two
50-cent increments to \$6.15 an hour by New Year's Day 2000.

STEVENS SEES IMF FUNDS: Continuing the renewed tussle among
Republican leaders over funding for the International Monetary Fund
(IMF), Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said today
that the full \$18 billion request from President Clinton for the IMF

would be in his committee's fiscal 1999 foreign operations spending bill. The House version approved in subcommittee last week has just \$3.4 million, but Chairman Robert L. Livingston, R-La., says he too will back the full administration request at tomorrow's full committee markup. Stevens predicted that amount would prevail, despite renewed opposition from House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas.

GREENSPAN WARNING: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan today declared that the central bank stands ready to "resist vigorously" any threatened increase in inflation -- a signal that policy-makers are more likely to raise interest rates in the future than cut them to counter the current slowdown in economic activity. "Given the current tightness in labor markets, the potential for accelerating inflation is probably greater than the risk of protracted, excessive weakness in the economy," Greenspan said in remarks prepared for the Senate Banking Committee.

SHAYS MEEHAN DEBATE TO RESUME: The House may return to its campaign finance debate tomorrow night, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, said today at his weekly news conference. Debate was not expected to resume until next week, but House leaders have been under pressure to schedule more floor time so that the dozens if not hundreds of amendments that remain to be considered can be dispatched with before the August break, when Armey has pledged to conclude the debate.

INTERDICTION EFFORTS: Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., today launched an effort to reduce the flow of cocaine and heroin into the United States by 80 percent through increased

interdiction. Calling the Clinton administration's counter-narcotics effort unbalanced, they said budget allocations for interdiction dropped from 33 percent to 12 percent between 1987 and 1995, resulting in a decline in cocaine seizures, a decline in the price of cocaine and an increase in drug use. DeWine and McCollum proposed an additional \$3 million in interdiction over three years on top of an expected three-year federal anti-drug budget of \$51 billion. The funds would be spent on additional aircraft and boats and on an air base to support counterdrug operations in the southern Caribbean, northern South America and the eastern Pacific.

NURSING HOME CRACK-DOWN: President Clinton today announced a series of steps to crack down on nursing homes that fail to give high-quality care to their patients -- and prod states to do a better job in regulating them. Clinton said he would ask Congress to pass legislation requiring nursing homes to conduct a criminal background check on workers and would set up a national registry of nursing home employees convicted of abusing residents. But the administration said it was rejecting Congress' suggestion that state inspectors can be replaced by inspectors from private agencies. Experiments with that idea found such inspectors "actually put nursing home residents in jeopardy," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. The Clinton administration also was taking several steps on its own, such as directing state enforcement agencies to impose immediate penalties on nursing homes that repeat serious violations.

LEWINSKY VISIT: Monica Lewinsky was in the federal courthouse today,

as were Secret Service officers called to testify before a grand jury investigating an alleged affair and cover-up involving her and President Clinton. The agents and the former intern were on different floors. Mike Leibig, a lawyer for several of the officers, says prosecutors have asked uniformed officers about Lewinsky's Dec. 28 visit to the White House. Starr is interested in that visit because it might have been the last time Lewinsky met with Clinton in the White House. Shortly before the visit, Lewinsky was subpoenaed in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. She and Clinton both denied in that case that they had a sexual relationship. "Some of them were on duty," Leibig said of the officers. "Some of them know about" the Dec. 28 visit.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 41 lines)

Item Key: 14258

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

By CQ Staff

The campaign finance debate may resume on the House floor today.

After debating whether to renew China's normal trade status, House leaders want to move to the fiscal 1999 spending bill for veterans, housing, science and space programs (HR4194).

But GOP leaders also want the Appropriations Committee to finish a markup scheduled for today and do not want committee members to have to interrupt their work to manage the VA-HUD bill, according to a spokesperson for Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

So if the House completes work on the China trade measure (HJRES121) before the Appropriations panel finishes its markup, the House likely will return to the campaign finance bill (HR2183).

In that case, the first order of business will be votes on four amendments debated Monday night. The amendments are to the substitute proposal by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., to ban national parties from using unregulated "soft money" donations, increase disclosure requirements on candidates and political parties and tighten regulations on issue advocacy advertisements.

The four pending amendments would:

-- Alter the "motor voter" registration law to, among other things, repeal the federal mandate requiring states to allow voter registration by mail and require voters to provide proof of citizenship and a Social Security number when registering to vote.

-- Allow states to require that voters produce a valid photo identification at their ballot stations in order to vote.

-- Limit the amount of campaign contributions a congressional candidate may accept from individuals outside his or her district.

-- Change language in the proposal's issue advocacy advertising restrictions to make it easier for groups to publish voter guides.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

IMF FUNDING DISPUTE DELAYS HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS MARKUP

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 76 lines)

Item Key: 14268

IMF FUNDING DISPUTE DELAYS HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS MARKUP

By Sumana Chatterjee and Miles A. Pomper, CQ Staff Writers

The Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday backed President Clinton's request for nearly \$18 billion in credit for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), setting up a battle in the House to win funds for

the international lending institution.

The House Appropriations Committee was to consider today adding an additional \$14.5 billion to the \$3.4 billion for the IMF included in a draft fiscal 1999 spending bill that the Foreign Operations Subcommittee approved last week.

But after exposure of a deep rift in the Republican party over IMF funding, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., told appropriators to drop plans to vote on the bill. In a closed-door meeting late yesterday, Gingrich met with the "cardinals" -- committee and subcommittee chairs -- and ordered that the IMF vote be delayed until September, said Appropriations Chairman Robert L. Livingston, R-La.

"We have some differences in opinion across the board," Livingston said, referring to the members who support business and agricultural interests who are clamoring for the funds to be released. "We thought it was important not to put [committee members] on the spot one way or another."

Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, set the stage for a fight over IMF funding by declaring Monday that he would fight any effort to provide more than \$3.4 billion. In response, Livingston said he thought blocking IMF funding was "imprudent" and "politically unwise." However, Republicans may be able to use the IMF delay as a bargaining chip by pushing the vote for critical funds up against the October 1st appropriations deadline.

NEW SENATE DISPUTES

The 27-1 Senate panel vote to approve its \$12.6 billion fiscal 1999 foreign operations spending bill did not come as a surprise, since the Senate overwhelmingly approved a similar package as part of emergency spending legislation earlier this year.

But several other new disputes flared up during consideration of the bill, which is \$1 billion below President Clinton's request and \$200 million below current spending.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., introduced an amendment, approved without objection, that allows funding for preparatory meetings on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Specter and Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., D-Del., plan to introduce a resolution calling for the Senate to consider the treaty but Republicans, led by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., have blocked consideration, saying the treaty is unverifiable and unenforceable.

Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., also pledged to work with Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Sens. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., and Patty Murray, D-Wash, to correct a provision he wrote that other lawmakers complained could affect billions of dollars in U.S. exports.

The provision would ban the Export-Import Bank from providing loans or loan guarantees for exports to state-owned enterprises in the former Soviet Union. In terms of aid to the former Soviet states, the Senate measure calls for \$740 million in aid while the House bill would provide \$590 million.

The Senate bill also provides \$800 million that Clinton requested for the World Bank, but fences off the funds until the General Accounting Office completes an audit of the Bank amid widespread allegations of internal corruption in the organization.

Another multilateral fund -- the Global Environmental Facility -- also saw the Clinton administration's request slashed from \$300 million to \$48 million.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

GOP PAIR TAKES AIM AT PATENT OFFICE'S LAVISH PURCHASE PLANS

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 07/22/98; 29 lines)

Item Key: 14292

GOP PAIR TAKES AIM AT PATENT OFFICE'S LAVISH PURCHASE PLANS

By Alan K. Ota, CQ Staff Writer

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has its eye on \$5,000 desks, \$250 shower curtains and \$13,298 modular tables for an opulent new headquarters in Virginia. But budget hawks in Congress want an explanation of the pricey furnishings from the General Services Administration.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., sent a letter July 16 to David Barram, head of the GSA, criticizing furniture prices included in a consultant's report for the patent office on the projected cost of moving to new quarters in 2001.

The PTO is considering bids for three prospective locations. Two offer new buildings near subway stations in Alexandria. The third, from the agency's present landlord, Charles E. Smith Companies, would consolidate PTO offices in existing buildings close together in Crystal City.

"We are concerned that the prices of the furniture being considered are extremely high," Brownback and McIntosh told Barram. Other furnishings mentioned in the consultant's report included \$1,000 coat racks, \$1,500 chairs, \$1,000 beds and \$100 trash cans.

A patent office official familiar with the project said the report was based on "worst case estimates" and included furniture, such as the

\$5,000 desks, for top executives.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SENATE SENDS LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING BILL TO CONFERENCE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 80 lines)

Item Key: 14246

SENATE SENDS LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING BILL TO CONFERENCE

By Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writer

Moving swiftly on the spending bill that funds congressional operations, the Senate today passed, 90-9, and sent to conference legislation (HR4112) that would provide \$1.7 billion for the legislative branch in fiscal 1999.

There was no debate today and only a sprinkling of remarks yesterday on the legislation.

The Senate first invoked cloture, 83-16, to block unrelated amendments, including one by Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo., that sought to eliminate the so-called marriage penalty, which

requires some two-earner married couples to pay more in taxes than if they filed individually.

Republican leaders support the elimination of the penalty, but they are looking to do it on vehicles other than appropriations bills.

Invoking cloture also blocked an amendment by John McCain, R-Ariz., that would have required the Congressional Research Service to post its issue briefs on the Internet. The Senate Rules Committee wants to study that issue further.

The legislative branch spending bill includes funds for members' offices, committees, staff and a number of congressionally related agencies and support offices.

COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE: The Senate began consideration of a \$33.2 billion spending bill (S2260) for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State, and the federal judiciary.

Without debate, the Senate agreed by voice vote to an amendment by John McCain, R-Ariz., that would roll back rates that satellite television carriers pay for programming. Satellite rates have increased rapidly during the past year, causing alarm in the satellite TV industry.

The Senate also approved by voice vote a McCain amendment directing the Federal Communications Commission to study systems for filtering or

blocking matter on the Internet and to require installation of such systems in schools and libraries connected to the World Wide Web.

The Senate agreed by voice vote to an amendment by Daniel R. Coats, R-Ind., that would make it a federal crime to transfer material harmful to minors over the Internet. Coats would require commercial web sites to restrict access to adult material by customers under 17 years of age. Violators would be subject to a \$50,000 fine.

The Senate is debating an amendment by Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., that would require handgun manufacturers to add safety locks to guns. Currently, 75 percent of manufacturers install locks voluntarily, according to Boxer.

The bill would provide \$1.1 billion more than current funding and \$3.6 billion less than the president's request.

The bill would provide \$3.6 billion for the federal judiciary, including a 3.1 percent cost of living adjustment for federal judges.

The Senate measure also includes \$848 million for the 2000 census. The draft House version would provide \$956 million for the Census, but it would cut off funding next March 31 unless Congress and the White House agreed in an authorization bill on whether statistical sampling could be used to supplement the traditional head count. The Senate bill does not address the sampling controversy, which is the subject of a legal challenge now making its way through the federal courts.

Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said the Census Bureau needs to develop a better mailing list for its questionnaires, saying that dress rehearsals conducted earlier this year year showed a poor return rate. "The census is not ready to go forward, a lot needs to be done," Gregg said. He noted that the census tally effects key federal funding formulas and representation in Congress.

The spending bill would boost Justice Department funding for anti-terrorism efforts, providing \$194 million, which is \$141.2 million over current funding and \$132.3 million over the administration request.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

CLIPPINGS: INDIAN LOBBYING, CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR, ILLINOIS GOVERNOR,
MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 62 lines)

Item Key: 14244

CLIPPINGS: INDIAN LOBBYING, CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR, ILLINOIS GOVERNOR,
MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR

GAMING EFFORTS: The Albuquerque Journal reported that New Mexico

Indian tribes "spent an estimated \$790,000 on lobbyists in Washington, D.C., in 1996 and 1997 -- an example of how gaming tribes are turning casino dollars into political clout." The paper said the tribes "hired some of Washington's most prominent lobbying firms to work on issues ranging from gambling to land claims." Sandia Pueblo, "which operates one of the most successful tribal casinos in New Mexico," paid Decision Management, a lobbying firm in McLean, Va., an estimated \$120,000 in 1996 and \$180,000 in 1997, the paper said, to represent the tribe in its claim to nearly 10,000 acres of federal private land in the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque. Frank Chaves, co-chairman of the New Mexico Indian Gaming Association, said tribes "lobby in Washington to protect their casinos," particularly from state regulatory efforts.

KENNELLY RULING: The Hartford Courant reported that state elections officials have "concluded that expenditures by [Democratic Rep.] Barbara B. Kennelly's congressional committee may have provided a 'residual benefit' to her campaign for governor, but did not violate the law." The State Elections Enforcement Commission rejected a Republican complaint that some of Kennelly's \$20,000 in congressional committee expenditures since she announced her gubernatorial candidacy broke state laws prohibiting the use of federal campaign funds in state races. The commission "said it had never been asked to rule on the issue before and pointed out that it has no jurisdiction over federal elections law, which permits liberal use of leftover campaign funds."

SEEKING A BROADER BASE: The Chicago Tribune reported that Rep. Glenn Poshard, the Illinois Democratic gubernatorial nominee, moved yesterday

to improve his standing with gay voters, urging "traditionally Democratic groups to judge him on his overall record and in contrast to his Republican opponent, George Ryan, rather than on individual votes." The Tribune said gay-rights activists "are the latest to voice worries about Poshard, and Democratic leaders privately have been urging him to soften his views on gay-rights issues and to reach out to the gay community." Poshard "said he supports a law prohibiting discrimination against gays in the workplace," but he "still would not commit to extending similar protections to gays in the housing market or at public facilities, such as hospitals."

TEMPTING PILE OF CASH: The Boston Globe reported that former Rep. Brian Donnelly, D-Mass. (1979-93), "is wrestling with a decision that could make or break his struggling candidacy: whether to take possession of about \$300,000 left over in his congressional campaign coffers and donate it to his race for governor." The paper said that the "unusual, though legal, move would jump-start Donnelly's candidacy, putting him on at least an equal financial footing with former state senator Patricia McGovern as they run against Attorney General Scott Harshbarger" for the Democratic nomination. But the Globe said the money could "come with a political price attached," as Donnelly "would undoubtedly face questions about a vow he made six years ago not to use the leftover campaign contributions for personal use. Worse, because many of the contributions in the congressional account do not qualify as legal donations under state law, Donnelly could be accused of trying to launder the funds."

(This sampling of national reporting is from the Frontrunner, a

daily political update. The full text of the Frontrunner is available online through CQ's Washington Alert, CQ.com On Congress and CQ Politics for Pros.)

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE PANEL TO SEE HOTTEST BATTLES OVER D.C. SPENDING BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 57 lines)

Item Key: 14274

APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE PANEL TO SEE HOTTEST BATTLES OVER D.C. SPENDING BILL

By Matthew Tully, CQ Staff Writer

As the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a fiscal 1999 spending bill for the District of Columbia on a 27-1 vote yesterday, city representatives said they could live with the plan. But they looked with skepticism toward an upcoming House subcommittee debate on its version of the measure.

The Senate bill, which provides \$482 million in discretionary

federal contributions to the city, includes a number of provisions city officials have lobbied against. It also lacks funding for a key economic development initiative.

Still, Paul Strauss, one of the city's "shadow senators," praised the Senate panel for steering clear of contentious issues likely to emerge in the House. "You're seeing the results of a collaborative strategy to defeat more radical actions in the House," he said.

The bill calls for a total city budget of \$7.67 billion. It includes \$75 million to repair city streets and bridges. The city's control board would be able to use \$25 million of that to build a new Metro train station to serve a proposed new convention center. The bill provides \$25 million for a series of management reforms, \$7.1 million to construct a Boys Town facility for youths and \$500,000 each for a museum dedicated to American music and another celebrating the city's history.

Other funding includes \$1 million for the Georgetown Waterfront Park fund, \$128 million for D.C. courts and \$185 million for the jail system.

Missing from the bill is \$50 million that the Clinton administration is seeking for an economic development corporation, which would be charged with creating incentives to attract business and other development. Instead, Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., chairman of the District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee, included \$500,000 for a study of the issue.

The bill also includes a number of provisions that would overrule city ordinances. It would prohibit the city from using local or federal funds to pay for abortions or to offer insurance plans to unmarried couples. Another provision would repeal a law requiring new city employees to live in the city.

"Where they live doesn't matter," said Faircloth, who added the repeal could be reversed "at some point when we get better housing."

The House District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to mark up its bill tomorrow. Chairman Charles H. Taylor, R-N.C., is expected to include a number of contentious provisions in his bill, including a plan to provide vouchers to some families to send their children to the public or private schools of their choice.

Faircloth said he supports "experimental" voucher programs but acknowledged that such a provision would likely result in a presidential veto.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SENATE FLOOR: SENATE MOVES ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 35 lines)

Item Key: 14272

SENATE FLOOR: SENATE MOVES ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

By Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate, in one of its more expeditious moves on appropriations, yesterday passed, 90-9, the fiscal 1999 spending bill (HR4112) that funds legislative branch operations and sent it to conference.

There was no debate on the measure, which calls for \$1.7 billion to cover expenses for members' offices, committees, staff and a number of congressionally related agencies and support offices.

The Senate first invoked cloture, 83-16, to block unrelated amendments, including one by Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo.

The amendment sought to eliminate the so-called marriage penalty from the tax code., which requires some two-earner married couples to pay more in taxes than if they filed individually.

Republican leaders support the elimination of the penalty, but they are looking to do it on vehicles other than appropriations bills.

Invoking cloture also blocked an amendment by John McCain, R-Ariz., that would have required the Congressional Research Service, a

nonpartisan research arm of the Library of Congress, to post its issue briefs on the Internet. The Senate Rules Committee wants to study that issue further.

The bill includes \$469.4 million for Senate operations, an increase of \$8.3 million over fiscal 1998. The House passed a \$1.8 billion measure (HR4112) on June 25 that includes money for its operations.

The Senate Monday inserted the language of its own bill (S2137) in the House-passed version to prepare the bill for conference.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

FAST-TRACK TRADE BILL REVIVED FOR BRUISING FIGHT

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 131 lines)

Item Key: 14270

FAST-TRACK TRADE BILL REVIVED FOR BRUISING FIGHT

By Matthew Tully, CQ Staff Writer

Throwing another log on the election-year political bonfire, the Senate Finance Committee yesterday approved a sweeping trade bill that

would give the president fast-track trade negotiating authority.

The panel's resounding 18-2 vote masked what could become a nasty fight in the closing weeks of the 105th Congress. While the Senate is expected to pass the bill with bipartisan support, House Democrats will try to repeat the successful stand they made against fast track last November.

And President Clinton, who would rather not force House Democrats to cast a tough vote right before the elections, has publicly cooled to the revival of fast track in this Congress. Presidential spokesman Michael McCurry called yesterday's resurrection "political mischief" and did not deny that Democrats hope to avoid a vote on an issue that divided their party last year. "I didn't say that, but you can easily surmise that, couldn't you?" he said.

Despite extensive lobbying by Clinton and arm-twisting by GOP leaders last year, legislation to renew the expedited trade negotiating authority (HR2621) was blocked by House Democrats and Republicans who feared that the administration's free trade philosophy would produce trade agreements that would result in the loss of more U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Fast track allows the president to send trade agreements to Congress for approval with no amendments -- only up-or-down votes -- permitted.

ROTH'S OMNIBUS STRATEGY

Hoping to jump-start the dormant fast-track issue, Finance Chairman William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., added renewal of the trade authority -- along with several other trade measures -- to a House-passed bill (HR1432) that began as a popular initiative to promote trade in sub-Saharan Africa. Roth said the omnibus approach would improve the prospects of all the measures.

Others disagreed, suggesting the popular, targeted trade measures will fall victim to a fast-track stalemate. "I am saddened by the fact that, by my perspective, a poison pill has been placed in the legislation -- and that is fast track," said Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. She and Kent Conrad, D-N.D., cast the dissenting votes.

Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., voted for the omnibus trade bill as a Finance Committee member, arriving just before the end of the markup to give it his thumbs up. "I think this is a monumental accomplishment," he said.

Lott said the bill can be considered on the Senate floor in September. But he said Clinton will need to become more involved and "put a little capital in this and do a little work" to push fast track through the House.

The Senate recently approved a non-binding amendment to the fiscal 1999 agriculture spending bill (S2159) calling on the Senate to vote on fast track before adjourning for the year.

Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., supported the bill but expressed doubts about its fate. "I don't know if we can get the House of Representatives to pass this bill," he said. "I don't know if we can get it to the president."

Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., promised last month that the House will consider fast-track legislation this fall but indicated he would prefer the Senate to act first.

The House is expected to defeat in a floor vote today a measure (HJRES121) that would disapprove Clinton's decision to extend for another year China's normal trade relations with the United States. Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, has predicted a close vote.

DEMOCRATIC OPPONENTS READY

While the White House has cooled to the prospect of voting on fast track this year, some House Democrats suggested such a vote would not be embarrassing. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said that while the vote might please traditional GOP constituencies it could also arouse the Democratic base, including labor unions, just in time for the elections.

"I think, politically, this is from heaven for the Democrats," he said.

But Brown blasted Republicans for putting fast track in the African

trade bill. The House will likely vote only on a conference report to HR1432, avoiding a separate vote on fast track. "It's an underhanded way to force on the American people a trade agreement that they don't like," he said.

But Roth said he is simply trying to send the right message to America's trading partners. "What is needed is a strong statement of the United States' commitment to a free and open trading system," he said.

OTHER TRADE ELEMENTS

Roth's omnibus bill now includes, in addition to fast track and African trade language, a Senate bill (S1216) to implement an international shipbuilding trade agreement. It would also permanently grant Mongolia "normal trade relations" status, a term that will replace "most favored nation" when President Clinton signs the Internal Revenue Service overhaul bill (HR2676). Language to change the trade term was attached to the IRS bill.

The bill also would extend through 2000 the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides training to workers in industries where jobs are lost as a result of imports.

The wide-ranging trade bill would also allow Caribbean and Central American nations covered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative to export some products to the United States free of duties and quotas. It would reauthorize through 2000 the now-expired Generalized System of

Preferences, which allows the president to extend duty-free treatment to imports from developing nations.

The bill also would reduce tariffs on imported wool. Supporters said that while tariffs are charged on imported wool, products made of wool are allowed to enter the country duty free, leaving U.S. apparel makers at a competitive disadvantage. The panel defeated, 5-15, an amendment by John H. Chafee, R-R.I., to remove the provision.

The committee also defeated two amendments by Conrad that would have required the administration to consider the potential economic consequences of trade agreements and allow the United States to renegotiate trade agreements that have adverse economic results.

The bill, which would cost \$1.9 billion over 10 years, would be funded by reducing from two years to one the period that excess foreign tax credits can be carried over.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 41 lines)

Item Key: 14269

TODAY AT A GLANCE

By CQ Staff

HOUSE FLOOR: After voting on whether to maintain China's normal trade status (HJRES121) and on the securities lawsuits bill (HR1689), debate on the Interior spending (HR4193) and the VA-HUD spending bill (HR4194) may resume. If the appropriators are busy at a markup, some time may be given to the campaign finance bill (HR2183). (Convenes at 10 a.m.; votes possible throughout the day.)

SENATE FLOOR: The Commerce, Justice, State spending bill (S2260) will have the senators' exclusive attention. (Convenes at 9:30 a.m.; first vote at 9:40 a.m.)

APPROPRIATIONS: House Appropriations marks up its Transportation spending bill.

ENERGY SECRETARY: U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson faces his confirmation hearing to be Energy secretary.

SUICIDE: A House Judiciary panel will consider a bill (HR4006) that would ban using a controlled substance for committing suicide or euthanasia.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: Senate Labor and Human Resources will consider

several measures, including one (S1380) addressing the development of charter schools.

IRAN: House International Relations marks up a bill (HR3743) that seeks to bar U.S. funds for Iran nuclear power.

WILDLIFE: Senate Environment and Public Works will consider several bills, including one (S361) to protect endangered species.

911: A House Commerce panel considers a bill (HR3844) that would enhance the nation's emergency telephone service.

AIR FORCE: Senate Armed Services votes on the nomination of Florida State Sen. Daryl Jones to be Air Force secretary.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

GINGRICH TALKS OF \$1 TRILLION TAX CUT; LOTT TALKS OF NONE AT ALL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 104 lines)

Item Key: 14295

GINGRICH TALKS OF \$1 TRILLION TAX CUT; LOTT TALKS OF NONE AT ALL

By Andrew Taylor, CQ Staff Writer

House Republicans vowed yesterday to press ahead with a tax cut of as much as \$1 trillion in the next decade, even as key Senate leaders signaled that they were either non-committal or openly hostile to the plan.

Seizing on a rosy surplus picture, Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said that the House would move legislation this year that would devote \$650 million of the projected windfall between next year and fiscal 2008 to shoring up Social Security, leaving enough left over for \$1 trillion in tax cuts in the same time frame.

The actual size of the tax cut, Gingrich acknowledged, would be perhaps \$750 billion because the Congressional Budget Office's \$1.6 trillion surplus projection includes an estimate of the interest savings that would shrink if taxes were cut.

But Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., warned against using the projected budget surplus for any more cuts until Social Security's problems are addressed -- nearly echoing the position President Clinton has been taking all year.

"I do think we need to try to identify how much is it that we do need to ... protect Social Security, take it off-budget and to preserve its future," he told reporters at a news briefing. "If there is any left over ... it should be returned to the people that earn that money. It's

not the bureaucrats' money. It is the people's money."

That caveat could mean a delay in any substantial tax cuts. The Congressional Budget Office, in its latest estimates, projected that the government will not run an operating surplus -- money left over apart from Social Security trust fund balances -- until fiscal 2006.

Lott also stressed that last year's balanced-budget deal limits both spending and tax cuts for the coming few years.

"I think it's important we try to stay close to the caps on spending that we agreed to, and that works both ways," he said. "One, you shouldn't spend more, but also, there is a problem when you start cutting below those caps. So a deal is a deal. And we made one just one year ago ... that limits what you can do in terms of additional tax cuts."

Allegiance to Social Security is emerging as a key litmus test this campaign season as Democrats seek to portray the Republican tax-cutting drive as an attack on the solvency of the behemoth retirement system and Republicans seek to boost the perception that their allegiances run simultaneously to both Social Security and lower taxes.

Echoing Lott's sentiment, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., reiterated his long-held view that any tax cut would have a rough path in the Senate -- and would not have his enthusiasm. Domenici cautioned that the first several years of the surplus would

depend on Social Security surpluses and be subject to Senate rules that make it easy for Democrats to block such a plan.

"I don't know how we will justify a major tax cut in the first five years," Domenici said. "In our body, no matter what you do, it'll require 60 votes."

THE CATS SCRATCH BACK

David M. McIntosh, R-Ind., leader of the Conservative Action Team, the group in the House that is pushing hardest for congressional budget policies based upon deep tax cuts and supply-side thinking, snapped hard at the Senate.

"If they continue to stall, which Domenici is doing, then we need to move ahead," he said.

His group wants a commitment for the House to vote before the start of the August recess on a deep tax cut over five years -- the period for which more realistic economic forecasting can be made -- in which the main component would be an elimination of the "marriage penalty," the wrinkle in the tax code under which many couples who file their income taxes jointly must send the IRS more money than if they filed individually. "We have to have significant tax cuts in the first five years that are real," McIntosh said in an interview. "And we need to include the marriage penalty."

For the five-year window covered by most budget resolutions, McIntosh said, Republicans are eyeing a tax cut of perhaps \$120 billion, or \$20 billion more than called for by the budget resolution (HCONRES284) adopted by the House. The Senate budget resolution (SCONRES84) contains no net tax cut but makes room for \$30 billion in lost revenue by suggesting offsetting spending cuts.

MARRIAGE PENALTY MANEUVER

Lott's caution on tax cuts came even as he endorsed the objective of cutting the marriage penalty this year. Yet he delivered that endorsement even as he engineered the defeat of a proposal by fellow Republicans to do just that.

Eager to move along appropriations bills free of unrelated amendments, Lott pushed for a 83-16 vote to invoke cloture on the legislative branch spending bill (S2137), which the Senate then quickly passed.

That maneuver precluded Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo., from offering an amendment to eliminate the marriage penalty.

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14253

LOTT DETAILS HIS LIMITS TO TAX CUTS IN THE AGE OF SURPLUSES

By CQ Staff

Congress should move this year to ease the tax code's so-called marriage penalty on two-earner couples, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., said today.

But, at the same time, he warned against tapping the burgeoning budget surplus for huge additional cuts -- at least until the future of Social Security is assured.

"I do think we need to try to identify how much is it that we do need to ... protect Social Security, take it off budget and to preserve its future," he told reporters at a news briefing. "If there is any left over ... it should be returned to the people that earn that money. It's not the bureaucrats' money. It is the people's money."

That caveat could mean a delay in major tax cuts. The Congressional Budget Office, in updated estimates last week, projected that the government will not run an operating surplus -- money left over apart from Social Security trust fund balances -- until fiscal 2006.

Lott also stressed that last year's balanced-budget deal limits both spending and tax cuts for the coming few years.

"I think it's important we try to stay close to the caps on spending that we agreed to, and that works both ways," he said. "One, you shouldn't spend more, but also, there is a problem when you start cutting below those caps. So a deal is a deal. And we made one just one year ago ... that limits what you can do in terms of additional tax cuts."

Lott's commitment to working to limit the marriage penalty came even as he engineered the defeat today of a proposal by fellow Republicans to do just that. Eager to push appropriations bills along unencumbered by unrelated amendments, Lott pushed for today's 83-16 vote to invoke cloture on the legislative branch spending bill (S2137), which the Senate then quickly passed.

That maneuver precluded Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo., from offering an amendment to eliminate the situation under which some couples pay more by filing their income tax returns jointly than they would if they filed them individually.

SENATE FINANCE APPROVES FAST-TRACK TRADE PACKAGE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 75 lines)

Item Key: 14249

SENATE FINANCE APPROVES FAST-TRACK TRADE PACKAGE

By Matthew Tully, CQ Staff Writer

On a resounding 18-2 vote, the Senate Finance Committee today approved a sweeping trade bill that includes language to give the president fast-track authority to negotiate new trade agreements.

The overwhelming support for the bill masked what is likely to become a fiercely political fight in the closing weeks of the 105th Congress. While the Senate is expected to pass the bill with broad bipartisan support, Democrats in the House are poised to fight the bill for the second year in a row. And President Clinton, who is not eager to force House Democrats to cast a difficult vote right before the elections, is cool to reviving the fast-track bill in this Congress.

Hoping to give the fast-track initiative a boost, Finance Chairman William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., rolled it into an omnibus trade bill (HR1432) that, among other things, promotes trade in sub-Saharan Africa. Roth said by mixing those two issues, plus several other trade initiatives, he has increased the odds of enacting all of them.

Others disagreed, suggesting the more popular, targeted trade measures ultimately will fall victim to fast track. "I am saddened by the fact that, by my perspective, a poison pill has been placed in the legislation -- and that is fast track," said Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill. Only she and Kent Conrad, D-N.D., opposed the bill.

OTHER TRADE ELEMENTS: In addition to fast track and African trade language, the bill will also include the text of a Senate bill (S1216) to implement an international shipbuilding trade agreement. It would grant Mongolia "normal trade relations" status, a term that replaces "most favored nation" as soon as President Clinton signs into law a bill to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service (HR2676). Language to change the trade term was attached to the final version of the IRS bill.

The bill also would extend through 2000 the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides training to workers in industries where jobs are lost as a result of trade agreements.

It also includes a provision that would allow Caribbean and Central American nations covered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) to export some products to the United States free of duties and quotas. It would reauthorize through the end of 2000 the now-expired Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which allows the president to extend duty-free treatment to imports from countries designated as developing nations.

The bill also seeks to reduce tariffs on imported wool. Supporters said that while tariffs are charged on imported wool, products made of wool are allowed to enter the country duty free. That means American makers of wool suits must pay duty to import wool, but other countries can export finished suits to the United States without being charged a tariff.

The panel defeated, 5-15, an amendment by John H. Chafee, R-R.I., to remove the provision. The committee also defeated two other amendments by Conrad -- requiring the administration to consider the potential economic consequences of trade agreements and allowing the United States to renegotiate trade agreements that end up having adverse economic results.

The bill, which would cost \$1.9 billion over 10 years, would be funded by reducing from two to one the number of years that excess foreign tax credits can be carried over.

FLOOR OUTLOOK: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., today said he thinks the omnibus trade legislation could be considered on the Senate floor in September. But Lott said Clinton needs to become more involved and "put a little capital in this and do a little work" to push fast track through the House.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Ga., promised last month that the House will consider fast-track legislation this fall but indicated he would prefer the Senate to act first.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 46 lines)

Item Key: 14255

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

By CQ Staff

A vote is expected by the House today to allow China to enjoy normal trade relations with the United States for another year.

Congress never has denied a president's request to extend to China the trade status, which allows Chinese goods to enter the United States at low, non-discriminatory tariff rates.

This year is unlikely to be different, although House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, predicted a close vote. "It will be a closer vote than last year, but one that we will win," Armey said yesterday.

The vote is on a resolution (HJRES121) to disapprove extending China

the trade status for another year. A similar resolution failed in the House last year on a 173-259 vote. The Senate did not take up the issue.

President Clinton notified Congress last month that he intended to extend China's status for another year. Both the House and Senate would have to disapprove the request by veto-proof margins to block the president's request.

The trading status has been known as "most-favored-nation," but that term will change to "normal trade relations" as soon as Clinton signs into law legislation to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service (HR2676). Language to change the trade term was attached to that bill. Supporters of the change say it better describes the trade relationship that applies to all but seven countries in the world.

The debate, which is expected to be heated, is scheduled to last four hours.

Supporters of extending China's trade status say that doing so is good for both countries' economies. They also argue that engaging China in trade is the best way to bring about political change, as well as improve human rights policies, in that country.

Opponents counter that extending the trade status in past years has done little to change the Chinese government's policies and that it also has contributed to the growing trade deficit with China.

The opposition is fueled further this year by the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

There are no more items to read.

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! SCHEDULE DATABASE

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

BANKING REGULATION REVISION

Full Committee Markup

Future Senate committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/29/98; Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs)

Item Key: 54

BANKING REGULATION REVISION * Revised *

Full Committee Markup

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Chairman D'Amato, R-N.Y.) will mark up pending legislation.

July 29 10:00 am SD-538 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S1405 - A bill to provide for improved monetary policy and regulatory reform in financial institution management and activities, to streamline financial regulatory agency actions, to provide for improved consumer credit disclosure, and for other purposes.

Note: This markup was originally scheduled for July 9.

Information verified as of 08:32pm 07/21/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Ways & Means -- Subcommittee on Social Security)

Item Key: 33

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LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION * Revised *

Social Security Subcommittee (Chairman Bunning, R-Ky.) of House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on labor-management relations at the Social Security Administration (SSA). The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 authorized federal agencies to use federal funds to pay the cost of union facilities and support services within agencies and to pay salaries and travel expenses of federal employees to perform union activities for part or all of their workweek. A report by the General Accounting Office found that the SSA was unable to keep track of the amount of time agency employees spend on union work. The hearing will focus on the scope of non-agency activity by SSA employees and the accuracy and completeness with which such spending is accounted for by the SSA.

July 22 10:00 am 1100 Longworth Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled: James G Huse Jr. - acting inspector general, Social Security Administration (SSA); Pamela Gardiner - assistant inspector general for audits, SSA

Information verified as of 08:21pm 07/21/98

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH PROGRAM

Oversight Hearing

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on
Human Resources)

Item Key: 41

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH PROGRAM * Revised *

Oversight Hearing

Human Resources Subcommittee (Chairman Shays, R-Conn.) of House
Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold an oversight hearing
on the Health Care Financing Administration's efforts to implement
surety bond requirements to protect Medicare's home health program from
waste, fraud and abuse. Total home health spending rose from \$4.7
billion in 1990 to \$17.8 billion in 1997. Studies by the Health and
Human Services Department and the General Accounting Office attribute a
significant amount of this growth to waste, fraud and abuse.

July 22 10:00 am 2247 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Penny Thompson - director, program integrity, Health Care Financing Administration; George W. Grob - deputy inspector general, Department of Health and Human Services

PANEL:

Lynn M. Schubert - president, Surety Association of America; Bill Koniers - senior vice president for business development, AMHealth Group Inc.; William A. Dombi - vice president for law, National Association for Home Care; Jane F. Quinn - home health care coordinator, York Hospital Home Care; Steve Richard - CEO, Sun Home Health Service; Steve Schneider - CEO, VNA of Central New Jersey

Information verified as of 08:21pm 07/21/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SIMPLIFYING APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Future House committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/28/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology)

Item Key: 100

SIMPLIFYING APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS * New *

Government Management, Information and Technology Subcommittee (Chairman Horn, R-Calif.) of House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on legislation that would require federal agencies, with oversight from the Office of Management and Budget, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs

July 28 10:00 am 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR3921 - A bill to improve the effectiveness and performance of federal financial assistance programs, simplify federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, and improve the delivery of services to the public.

Information verified as of 08:32pm 07/21/98

SENATE FLOOR July 23

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/23/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 167

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 23

S2307 An original bill making appropriations for the Department of
Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year
ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY
CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

S2312 An original bill making appropriations for the Treasury
Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of
the President, and certain independent agencies, for the
fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes.
-- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

TRANSFER OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

Future Senate committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/02/98; Commerce, Science & Transportation)

Item Key: 59

TRANSFER OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA * Revised *

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman McCain, R-Ariz.) will hold a hearing on the transfer of sensitive missile technology to China.

Sept. 2 9:30 am SR-253 Russell Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

John Holum - acting under secretary of State for international security affairs; Franklin Miller - principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense; William Reinsch - under secretary of Commerce, Bureau of Export Administration

PANEL:

Paul Freedenberg - international trade consultant, Baker &

Botts; Kathrine Schinasi - associate director, Defense
Acquisitions Issues, National Security and International
Affairs Division, General Accounting Office; Henry Sokolski
- executive director, Non-Proliferation Policy Education
Center

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for July 22.
rescheduled for September 2.

Information verified as of 08:32pm 07/21/98

7 of 11 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SENATE FLOOR July 24

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/24/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 168

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 24

HR1151 A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to clarify existing law with regard to the field of membership of federal credit unions, to preserve the integrity and purpose of federal credit unions, to enhance supervisory oversight of insured credit unions, and for other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

S2132 An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

8 of 11 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 5

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

By CQ Staff

The campaign finance debate may resume on the House floor today.

After debating whether to renew China's normal trade status, House leaders want to move to the fiscal 1999 spending bill for veterans, housing, science and space programs (HR4194).

But GOP leaders also want the Appropriations Committee to finish a markup scheduled for today and do not want committee members to have to interrupt their work to manage the VA-HUD bill, according to a spokesperson for Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

So if the House completes work on the China trade measure (HJRES121) before the Appropriations panel finishes its markup, the House likely will return to the campaign finance bill (HR2183).

In that case, the first order of business will be votes on four amendments debated Monday night. The amendments are to the substitute proposal by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., to ban national parties from using unregulated "soft money" donations, increase disclosure requirements on candidates and political parties and tighten regulations on issue advocacy advertisements.

The four pending amendments would:

-- Alter the "motor voter" registration law to, among other things, repeal the federal mandate requiring states to allow voter registration by mail and require voters to provide proof of citizenship and a Social Security number when registering to vote.

-- Allow states to require that voters produce a valid photo identification at their ballot stations in order to vote.

-- Limit the amount of campaign contributions a congressional candidate may accept from individuals outside his or her district.

-- Change language in the proposal's issue advocacy advertising restrictions to make it easier for groups to publish voter guides.

9 of 11 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Small Business -- Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction)

Item Key: 39

ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY * Revised *

Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction Subcommittee (Chairman Kelly, R-N.Y.) of House Small Business Committee will hold a hearing on the potential impacts on the small business community of restructuring the

electric utility industry.

July 22 2:00 pm 311 Cannon Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Alan Statman - Wright & Talisman, P.C., Washington, D.C.;
Robert O'Neil - Miller, Balis & O'Neil, P.C.; Washington,
D.C.; John N. O'Brien - Wheeled Electric Power Co.,
Uniondale, N.Y.; John Wilson - J.W. Wilson & Associates,
Washington, D.C.; Jon Hockenyos - Texas Perspectives,
Austin, Texas; Arthur A. Fletcher - National Black Chamber
of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

PANEL:

Cliff McCourt - Day and Night Heating, Novi, Mich.; Donald
J. Deless - Deless Associates, Wayne, Penn.; John Bishop -
Gurnee Heating and Air Conditioning Corp., Closter, N.J.;
Charles H. Vernon - Newport Harbor Co., Newport, R.I.;
Laurie Crigler - L & D Associates, Aroda, Fla.

Information verified as of 08:21pm 07/21/98

HOUSE FLOOR July 22

Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 163

HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 22

CONVENES AT 10AM.

HR4194 An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

HJRES121 A joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR2183 A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for federal office, and for other purposes. -- CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 2

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

By CQ Staff

A vote is expected by the House today to allow China to enjoy normal trade relations with the United States for another year.

Congress never has denied a president's request to extend to China the trade status, which allows Chinese goods to enter the United States at low, non-discriminatory tariff rates.

This year is unlikely to be different, although House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, predicted a close vote. "It will be a closer vote than last year, but one that we will win," Armey said yesterday.

The vote is on a resolution (HJRES121) to disapprove extending China the trade status for another year. A similar resolution failed in the House last year on a 173-259 vote. The Senate did not take up the issue.

President Clinton notified Congress last month that he intended to extend China's status for another year. Both the House and Senate would have to disapprove the request by veto-proof margins to block the president's request.

The trading status has been known as "most-favored-nation," but that term will change to "normal trade relations" as soon as Clinton signs into law legislation to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service (HR2676). Language to change the trade term was attached to that bill. Supporters of the change say it better describes the trade relationship that applies to all but seven countries in the world.

The debate, which is expected to be heated, is scheduled to last four hours.

Supporters of extending China's trade status say that doing so is good for both countries' economies. They also argue that engaging China in trade is the best way to bring about political change, as well as improve human rights policies, in that country.

Opponents counter that extending the trade status in past years has done little to change the Chinese government's policies and that it also has contributed to the growing trade deficit with China.

The opposition is fueled further this year by the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

> 0stop

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1 of 1 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SENATE FLOOR July 24

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/24/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 168

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 24

HR1151 A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to clarify
existing law with regard to the field of membership of
federal credit unions, to preserve the integrity and purpose
of federal credit unions, to enhance supervisory oversight
of insured credit unions, and for other purposes. -- MAY
BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

S2132 An original bill making appropriations for the Department of
Defense for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other
purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

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TEXT:

RFC-822-headers:

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id <01IZOOXQGDYO004L4D@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for gibbons_m@a1.eop.gov; Wed,
22 Jul 1998 02:49:28 EDT

Received: from Storm.EOP.GOV by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)
with ESMTP id <01IZOOXMUG400076XY@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for gibbons_m@a1.eop.gov; Wed,

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Wed, 22 Jul 1998 02:49:14 -0400 (EDT)

Received: by ns1.cq.com; id CAA19480; Wed, 22 Jul 1998 02:31:49 -0400 (EDT)

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id xma019476; Wed, 22 Jul 1998 02:31:24 -0400

Received: from veeger.CQ.COM (veeger.cq.com [198.67.5.2])
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Wed, 22 Jul 1998 02:56:21 -0400 (EDT)

Received: from veeger.CQ.COM via Pony Express VMS Mail FPI (v9.5.0-moe002)
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X-VMS-To: wins%"gibbons_m@a1.eop.gov"

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ARMS Email System
RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Paul J. Weinstein Jr. (Paul J. Weinstein Jr.@EOP@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-JUL-1998 10:04:00.00

SUBJECT: OMB Legislative Report - July 21, 1998

TO: Cathy R. Mays (Cathy R. Mays@EOP [UNKNOWN])
READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Christa Robinson (Christa Robinson@EOP [UNKNOWN])
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TO: Cynthia A. Rice (Cynthia A. Rice@VAXGTWY@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])
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TO: Diana Fortuna (Diana Fortuna@VAXGTWY@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])
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TO: Tanya E. Martin (Tanya E. Martin@VAXGTWY@LNGTWY@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])
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TO: ACTING DIRECTOR JACK LEW

COUNSELOR TO THE DIRECTOR SYLVIA MATHEWS

ACTING DEP. DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT ED DESEVE

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR JOSH GOTBAUM

FROM: OMB LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

DATE: JULY 21, 1998

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Social Security: The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing tomorrow
on

Social Security and related retirement security issues. Treasury
Secretary

Rubin, Deputy Secretary of Treasury Summers, and SSA Commissioner Kenneth
Apfel
are scheduled to testify.

Fast Track: Language to give the President fast-track authority was
included

in a wide-ranging trade bill that was approved today (18-2) by the Senate
Finance Committee. Committee Chairman Roth is attempting to increase the

odds

of fast-track passage by rolling it into an omnibus trade bill. Senators

Carol

Moseley-Braun and Kent Conrad voted against the bill, with Moseley-Braun

referring to the renewal of fast-track authority as a "poison pill" that

outweighed her support for an Africa trade bill.

Senator Lott has indicated that the bill could be considered in September,

but

said that President Clinton needs to "put a little capital in this and do a

little work" to push fast-track through the House. While Speaker Gingrich

intends to consider fast-track legislation this fall, he would prefer the

Senate to act first.

CONGRESS -- TODAY (7/21):

SENATE:

Passed (90-9) H.R. 4112 - Legislative Branch FY99 Appropriations Bill.

Cloture

was invoked (83-16) on the bill, effectively warding off unrelated

amendments

including the Ashcroft/Brownback marriage penalty amendment. The

Republican

leadership supports the elimination of the tax, but are looking to do it

on

vehicles other than appropriations bills.

[No SAP]

Considered S. 2260 - Commerce/Justice/State FY99 Appropriations

[SAP sent 7/20: strong concerns]

The following action occurred on S. 2260:

- o Adopted (72-28) Craig amendment to require gun dealers to make safety features available for purchase
- o Tabled (61-39) Boxer amendment to require child safety locks on guns
- o Adopted (69-31) Smith amendment to prohibit the FBI from establishing taxes or fees for the cost of gun purchase background checks
- o Adopted (voice) McCain amendment to roll back rates that satellite television carriers pay for programming.
- o Adopted (voice) McCain amendment directing the FCC to study systems for filtering or blocking matter on the Internet.
- o Adopted (voice) Coats amendment to make it a federal crime to transfer harmful material to minors over the Internet.

HOUSE:

Began consideration of H.R. 4193 - Interior FY99 Appropriations. Rule passed
224-191.

[SAP sent 7/21: senior advisors recommend veto]

The following action occurred on H.R. 4193:

- o Adopted (253-173) Johnson amendment to restore full funding to NEA (after

Aderholt point of order which struck the NEA funding for lack of authorization)

- o Failed (203-221) McGovern amendment to increase the State side program of the

LWCF by \$30 M

- o Adopted (241-185) Sanders amendment to increase funding for BLM PILT by \$20 M

- o Failed (212-213) Skaggs amendment to increase funding for energy conservation

by \$40 M

- o Adopted (voice) Miller amendment to increase National Park Service funding

for the Urban Park and Recreation Fund

- o Adopted (voice) Sanford amendment to make technical corrections to the
!&Coastal Barrier Resources System !8 maps

Began debate on H.R. 1689 - Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1997

[No SAP]

CONGRESS -TOMORROW (7/22):

SENATE:

The Senate will convene Wednesday at 9:30 am.

Resume consideration and attempt to complete action on S. 2260 -
Commerce/Justice/State FY99 Appropriations

[SAP sent 7/20: strong concerns]

HOUSE:

On Wednesday the House will meet at 10:00 am for legislative business.

May continue consideration of H.R. 4193 - Interior FY99 Appropriations

[SAP sent 7/21: senior advisors recommend veto]

H.J. Res. 121 - Disapproving the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment

to

the Products of the People's Republic of China

[SAP pending:oppose]

Continue consideration of H.R. 4194 - VA/HUD FY99 Appropriations

[Floor SAP sent 7/16: senior advisors recommend veto]

Complete action on H.R. 1689 - Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act

of

1997

[No SAP]

CONGRESS -- THIS WEEK:

SENATE

Consideration of a managed care/HMO bill is possible late in the week,

however,

it may be held until next week July 27th(The Democrats', version is S.

1890 and

the Republicans !, version is S.2330).

S.2307- Transportation FY99 Appropriations

[SAP pending]

CONGRESS -- THIS WEEK:

HOUSE

Thursday, July 23 and Friday, July 24

On Thursday the House will meet at 10:00 am for legislative business. On

Friday the House will meet at 9:00 am for legislative business.

H.R. 1122 - Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1997 (consideration of the

President !,s veto)

H.R. ---- Commerce-Justice-State FY99 Appropriations (subject to a rule)

[SAP pending]

H.R. 4250 Patient Protection Act (subject to a rule)

CONGRESS - THIS MONTH

SENATE

Items that the Majority Leader has indicated are candidates for floor

action

before the August recess include appropriations, managed care/HMOs, and

credit

union legislation.

Also possible are the following:

S. 1250 - NASA authorization bill (possible)

[SAP pending: support if amended]

S. 1301 - Consumer Bankruptcy Reform bill

[SAP under development]

S. 1482 - Obscene Material on the Web

[SAP pending: strongly oppose Senate passage]

S. 1619 - Blocking Children's Access to Unsuitable Material on the Internet

[SAP pending: support if amended]

S. 442 - Internet Taxes

H.R. 1151 - Credit Union Membership bill

[SAP pending: POTUS letter sent 7/14: support]

S. 474 - Internet gambling

H.R. 3717 - Clean Needles Bill

[House SAP sent 4/28/98; strongly oppose]

H.R. 2614 - Reading Excellence Act

[SAP under development; support Senate passage if amended]

H.R. 2610 - National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1997 (ONDCP
reauthorization)

[SAP sent 11/8/97: no objection but will seek amendments]

S. 2228 - Advisory Committee Termination and Streamlining Act of 1998

[SAP pending: support Senate passage]

S. 625 - Auto Choice insurance regulation

Message Sent

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robert s. fairweather/omb/eop
janet e. irwin/omb/eop
james b. kazel/omb/eop
mckiernan_k @ a1 @ cd @ lngtwy
mark a. weatherly/omb/eop
richard a. mertens/omb/eop
peter g. jacoby/who/eop
levin_p @ a1 @ cd @ lngtwy
kate p. donovan/omb/eop
oliver_a @ a1 @ cd @ lngtwy
abramson_k @ a1 @ cd @ lngtwy
justine f. rodriguez/omb/eop
julie e. mason/who/eop
brian a. barreto/opd/eop
mary jo siclari/omb/eop
barry j. toiv/who/eop
hogan_l @ a1 @ cd @ lngtwy
toni s. hustead/omb/eop
russell w. horwitz/opd/eop
elena kagan/opd/eop

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rodney g. bent/omb/eop
bruce k. sasser/omb/eop
gary l. bennethum/omb/eop
larry r. matlack/omb/eop
robert m. shireman/opd/eop
richard j. turman/omb/eop
louisa koch/omb/eop
david e. tornquist/omb/eop
david j. haun/omb/eop
francis s. redburn/omb/eop
edward a. brigham/omb/eop
edward m. rea/omb/eop
andrew m. schoenbach/omb/eop
patricia e. romani/omb/eop
jake siewert/opd/eop
charles r. marr/opd/eop
rhodia d. ewell/omb/eop
laura s. marcus/who/eop
mathew c. blum/omb/eop
michael deich/omb/eop
janie l. jeffers/omb/eop
melissa n. benton/omb/eop
carol thompson-cole/omb/eop
kenneth l. schwartz/omb/eop

ronald k. peterson/omb/eop

jennifer ferguson/omb/eop

rosemary evans/omb/eop

m. jill gibbons/omb/eop

ronald e. jones/omb/eop

paul j. weinstein jr./opd/eop

barry white/omb/eop

kevin s. moran/who/eop

maryanne b. green/omb/eop

bruce n. reed/opd/eop

robert donnelly/omb/eop

nancy e. schwartz/omb/eop

gene b. sperling/opd/eop

wesley p. warren/ceq/eop

eric r. anderson/ovp @ ovp

robin j. bachman/who/eop

sean e. o'connor/omb/eop

wayne upshaw/omb/eop

ruby shamir/who/eop

sandra yamin/omb/eop

allan e. brown/omb/eop

stephen g. elmore/omb/eop

dario j. gomez/who/eop

jessica l. gibson/who/eop

jonathan orszag/opd/eop

bendick_g @ a1@cd@lngtwy

peter d. greenberger/who/eop

peter a. weissman/opd/eop
theodore wartell/omb/eop
wendy a. taylor/omb/eop
barbara chow/omb/eop
donald r. arbuckle/omb/eop
suzanne dale/who/eop
anna m. briatico/omb/eop
jonathan h. adashek/who/eop
lisa b. fairhall/omb/eop
david a. bernell/omb/eop
sally katzen/opd/eop
lawrence j. haas/ovp @ ovp
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michael l. goad/omb/eop
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daniel n. mendelson/omb/eop
gina c. mooers/omb/eop
dianne m. wells/omb/eop
chandler g. spaulding/who/eop
steven d. aitken/omb/eop
gary c. reisner/omb/eop

wendy r. fink/omb/eop

lisa m. kountoupes/who/eop

john a. gribben/who/eop

robert d. kyle/omb/eop

jack a. smalligan/omb/eop

jade l riley/who/eop

Bonnie Galvin/OMB/EOP

Elizabeth Gore/OMB/EOP

Lisa Zweig/OMB/EOP

Robert L. Nabors/OMB/EOP

Adrienne C. Erbach/OMB/EOP

Paul W. Baker/OMB/EOP

Nancy J. Duykers/OMB/EOP

Sylvia M. Mathews/OMB/EOP

Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP

Charles Konigsberg/OMB/EOP

Charles M. Brain/WHO/EOP

Victoria A. Wachino/OMB/EOP

Nanda Chitre/WHO/EOP

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 (cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:22-JUL-1998 05:18:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - Monitor

TO: Julia E. Yuille (Julia E. Yuille@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Nancy J. Duykers (Nancy J. Duykers@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Paul W. Baker (Paul W. Baker@eop [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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! 22-JUL-1998 04:12:55

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DEFENSE: AIR FORCE SECRETARY NOMINEE STILL FACES UNCERTAIN ROAD

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14261

DEFENSE: AIR FORCE SECRETARY NOMINEE STILL FACES UNCERTAIN ROAD

By CQ Staff

The Senate Armed Services Committee is expected to vote today on the nomination of Florida state Sen. Daryl Jones to be Air Force secretary, but as late as last night, it was still unclear whether the nomination will see the light of day in the full Senate.

Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., said that senators may decide to approve the nomination with a negative recommendation, essentially passing it on to the full Senate to consider. This would allow committee Republicans to cast their vote against Jones but give the nominee a chance to be confirmed.

Republicans on the panel are concerned that Jones, a former fighter pilot, may have overstated his flight record and shaded the truth about his business history. The Clinton administration and committee Democrats back Jones' nomination.

The vote will likely be split down party lines with a few

exceptions. Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., may vote for Jones, while Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, and Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., are undecided.

Critics say Jones was a mediocre pilot who won a coveted assignment to the Air Force's squadron of F-16 fighter planes because of political favoritism and that he exploited his status as a pilot to further his political career. Additionally, the Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into Jones' role in a Miami bond deal.

In a hearing last Thursday, Col. Thomas Dyches, a former commander of the 93rd Fighter Squadron, urged lawmakers to reject Jones. Dyches testified that he grounded Jones because his handling of F-16 fighters became unsafe. Jones had told the committee he stepped down as a pilot because of other demands on his time.

Democrats on the panel argued that Jones' being grounded had nothing to do with his ability to be Air Force secretary. And in a letter to panel members, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen defended Jones, saying that he "is a man of proven ability who understands the challenges of public service."

President Clinton nominated Jones last October to replace Sheila Widnall, who resigned.

FOREIGN POLICY: HOUSE PANEL SEEKS TO BAR U.S. FUNDS FOR IRAN NUCLEAR
POWER

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 51 lines)

Item Key: 14262

FOREIGN POLICY: HOUSE PANEL SEEKS TO BAR U.S. FUNDS FOR IRAN NUCLEAR
POWER

By CQ Staff

The House International Relations Committee is scheduled to mark up a bill (HR3743) today that would bar the use of any U.S. contributions to international organizations to support nuclear power plants in Iran.

With scientific and technical assistance from Russia, Iran is currently building a \$1 billion nuclear power plant in Bushehr. Lawmakers are concerned that building such a facility will enable Iran to gain the expertise to develop a nuclear weapons program. Iran has announced plans to build three power plants by 2015.

The measure would prohibit organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from using U.S. funds in Iran's nuclear power program and would direct the U.S. representative to oppose all programs and funding that promote the development of the Bushehr plant

and any other nuclear development in Iran.

The measure also would require the State Department to annually review IAEA programs to determine if they are consistent with non-proliferation policies.

The IAEA, created to verify compliance of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), does not directly aid the construction and development of nuclear power plants, an agency source said, but uses its funding to check whether civilian nuclear projects are being used for military purposes.

The agency employs about 200 inspectors to ensure compliance by signatories to the NPT, including Iran.

AFRICA AID: The committee is also set to debate a bill (HR3636) that would require the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop a strategy for providing credits for agricultural and rural development in the famine-plagued sub-Saharan Africa region. The bill would also urge the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to extend certain loans and funding to sub-Saharan nations, such as South Africa, Kenya and Uganda.

Another measure (HRES415) calls for promoting independent radio broadcasting in Africa. It would support the creation of a Voice of America project known as "Radio Democracy for Africa" and would include training and exchange programs for African journalists.

BORDER VIOLENCE: The panel will also consider a resolution (HCONRES292) that calls for an end to the renewed hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Border skirmishes in May left hundreds of civilians dead and many more displaced. In 1993, the two nations ended a nearly 25-year-old civil war.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

ENVIRONMENT: GAMUT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 56 lines)

Item Key: 14263

ENVIRONMENT: GAMUT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

By CQ Staff

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has several bills on tap for markup today, including one concerning the illegal trafficking of animal parts from endangered or threatened species.

The bill (S361) would prohibit the sale, importation and purchase of goods containing ingredients culled from endangered animals. Specifically, the measure sets penalties for the trafficking of rhino

horn and tiger parts. Sponsor James M. Jeffords, R-Vt., said that of the 77,000 shipments that enter or leave the United States each year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspectors are able to check only 5 percent to 10 percent.

The panel also will take up a bill (S2094) to allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to keep the profits when it sells fish and wildlife parts and other items it has seized and has put in storage. The agency currently is allowed to donate some of the items to museums, schools, zoos and colleges for educational purposes. The agency also provides American eagle corpses for American Indian ceremonies.

GREAT LAKES: Another bill (S659) would authorize \$1.5 million annually through fiscal 2002 for the Great Lakes Coordination Office and the Upper and Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Offices and promote a comprehensive environmental study of the Great Lakes region. The measure also would authorize \$3.5 million annually through fiscal 2002 to implement fish and wildlife restoration proposals offered by the Fish and Wildlife Service and tribal and local communities.

ESTUARY PRESERVATION: The panel also will mark up a measure (S1222) calling for financial incentives for communities that engage in cleanup projects or other protection measures for nationally significant estuaries. Estuaries, found where the salty tide meets the freshwater current, provide habitat for wildlife.

FLOOD HAZARDS: Another measure (S2131) would authorize the Secretary

of the Army to undertake a program to reduce flood hazards and restore natural functions of river ecosystems. The bill would authorize \$25 million in fiscal years 1999 and 2000, \$50 million in fiscal 2001 and \$75 million in fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

The bill would increase funding for small flood control projects. It would also set aside \$34 million annually in user fees from fiscal years 1999 through 2002 for the improvement of the recreational value of national parks.

KENNEDY CENTER: The committee also will consider legislation (HR3504) that would authorize funding for maintenance and capital projects for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. Maintenance and security projects would be authorized at \$13 million in fiscal 1999, \$14 million for each fiscal year 2000 and 2001 and \$15 million for each fiscal year 2002 and 2003. Capital projects would be authorized at \$20 million for each fiscal year 1999 through 2001, \$19 million for fiscal 2002 and \$17 million for fiscal 2003.

ENVIRONMENT: MEASURES ADDRESS LAND USE, PRESERVATION ISSUES

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 37 lines)

Item Key: 14264

ENVIRONMENT: MEASURES ADDRESS LAND USE, PRESERVATION ISSUES

By CQ Staff

The House Resources Committee will mark up two measures today concerning public land use and preservation.

One measure (HR2223) calls for amending a 1926 law that authorizes state and local governments to acquire or use public lands for recreation by including land transfers to public school systems. Such transfers include acreage from national forests, which has drawn objections from the Forest Service.

Lawmakers agreed to negotiate a bipartisan solution before full committee consideration.

Another land-related bill (HR3625) would protect 630,000 acres of wilderness in Utah's San Rafael Swell -- a tract of land that includes dinosaur bone quarries, caves and Native American historical sites.

The bill calls for certain sections of the area to be set up as preserves. Within the Swell's conservation area, 130,000 acres would be designated as wilderness and 109,000 acres would be accessible only by non-motorized vehicles.

The Clinton administration has threatened a veto, arguing the bill gives local citizens too much management authority over federal government land.

CRAB HARVESTS: The panel also will mark up a bill (HR3498) that would give permanent authority to California, Oregon and Washington state to regulate the harvest of Dungeness crabs.

Under current law, the states manage harvesting operations along the Pacific coast, but their authority is set to expire in October 1999. The measure would expand state authority in both managing and ensuring equitable access to the fishery.

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SOCIAL POLICY: BILL WOULD ENHANCE NATION'S 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 40 lines)

Item Key: 14265

SOCIAL POLICY: BILL WOULD ENHANCE NATION'S 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

By CQ Staff

A House Commerce subcommittee today will mark up legislation aimed at promoting and upgrading the emergency telephone service known to nearly all Americans as 911.

The bill (HR3844) before the Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee would provide block grants to states to be used in efforts to designate 911 as the universal emergency number, upgrade existing 911 networks and develop coordinated state plans to better link the public with available emergency services.

Bill sponsor W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-La., said the measure would reduce emergency response times, prevent fatalities and save billions in health care costs.

The legislation also would fund field research to expand the Automatic Crash Notification program, a project which uses wireless communications to notify dispatchers when police or emergency service vehicles are involved in accidents. The bill would help establish telecommunications networks by using wireless antennae on federal property.

Democratic concerns about liability issues for wireless carriers and whether federal funds should be used to pay for the technology needed for the project are expected to be addressed in a substitute amendment.

CELLULAR TELEPHONES: The panel also will mark up legislation intended to improve cellular telephone service in rural areas. The bill (HR2901) would reinstate three companies -- previously denied licenses by the Federal Communications Commission -- as tentative licensees in rural service areas.

Democrats are expected to call for a hearing on the history and potential effects of the measure. In a recent court case filed by the companies, the FCC's rulings were upheld. A Republican substitute amendment consisting of technical changes is expected to be offered.

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SOCIAL POLICY: SENATE COMMITTEE WEIGHS BILL TO SPUR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 47 lines)

Item Key: 14266

SOCIAL POLICY: SENATE COMMITTEE WEIGHS BILL TO SPUR CHARTER SCHOOLS

By CQ Staff

Two education bills and one to extend workplace safety standards to the U.S. Postal Service will be marked up by the Senate Labor and Human

Resources Committee today.

One bill (S1380) would authorize a state educational agency to use federal funds in planning, designing and implementing charter schools, and would require local educational agencies to use such funds for the same purpose.

Democrats are expected to offer several amendments. Some are concerned that the promotion of charter schools would undermine the public school system. Charter schools, which receive taxpayer support, operate free of many of the usual regulations and requirements imposed by state and local school boards and agencies.

The bill would establish certain priorities for awarding charter school program grants, among them state laws that support: an increase in the number of charter schools; non-local educational chartering agencies or appeals processes for denials of charters; automatic waiver of state and local education laws for charter schools; and periodic review and evaluation.

State educational agencies that apply for charter school program grants would have to outline outreach plans to inform each school of available federal funds and to ensure that each school received the maximum federal education funds allowed.

The bill would extend the authorization through 2002.

OTHER BILLS: Several amendments are expected to a second bill (S2213) that would allow all states to participate in activities under the Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration program under the Goals 2000 umbrella. The program would be authorized through 2003.

Democrats are expected to try to add language to bolster reading and literacy programs. Senators also want to set aside funds to provide for other innovative school projects.

No amendments are expected to legislation (S2112) that would extend Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations to the U.S. Postal Service. The House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on the Postal Service yesterday approved its own version (HR3725) of the legislation by voice vote.

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SOCIAL POLICY: BILL WOULD CLARIFY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN MEDICAL MATTERS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 24 lines)

Item Key: 14267

SOCIAL POLICY: BILL WOULD CLARIFY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN MEDICAL

MATTERS

By CQ Staff

A manager's amendment may try to alleviate concerns about a bill (HR4006) to be considered today by the House Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee that would ban the use of a controlled substance for committing or assisting in the suicide or euthanasia of any person.

The bill would clarify that distributing controlled substances to be used for suicide or euthanasia is against federal law.

The manager's amendment, if it is offered, could protect doctors who prescribe controlled substances for legitimate medical purposes without any indication or intent that they would be used for suicide. Some Democrats say they are interested in preserving the rights of doctors to practice medicine without fear of penalties.

Some members, speaking on behalf of doctors, say that the government should not restrict doctors' privileges to prescribe controlled substances or second-guess their medical decisions. Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., the bill's sponsor, said he wants to ensure that the sanctity of life is protected.

ENERGY: DEREGULATION, WASTE STORAGE QUESTIONS AWAIT RICHARDSON

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 36 lines)

Item Key: 14260

ENERGY: DEREGULATION, WASTE STORAGE QUESTIONS AWAIT RICHARDSON

By CQ Staff

U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson, President Clinton's nominee to be Energy secretary, will face his first confirmation hearing today before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Last week, Richardson sought support from Committee Chairman Frank H. Murkowski, R-Alaska, who has said he will likely support Richardson after he receives satisfactory answers about the administration's position on electric utility deregulation and interim storage of nuclear waste.

Richardson also may be asked about his offer of a job to former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, who is alleged to have had a sexual relationship with President Clinton. Richardson has said he interviewed Lewinsky at the behest of a White House official.

Tough questions about nuclear storage are likely to come from Larry

E. Craig, R-Idaho, who has vowed to stall the nomination until the administration permits Richardson to negotiate a deal with commercial utilities on temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel now kept at nuclear plants. The utilities want the Energy Department to move the waste to a temporary storage site in Nevada.

Craig said he met with Richardson yesterday and that he would continue to put a hold on the nomination. "This nomination isn't moving," he said. "The Energy secretary has to have a full portfolio of responsibilities. Nuclear waste represents one-third of his job. He has to have the ability to negotiate."

A former Democratic congressman from New Mexico (1983-1996), Richardson has been working behind the scenes and already has considerable support. A committee aide said she expects a vote before the August recess.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

APPROPRIATIONS: FULL HOUSE PANEL TAKES UP TRANSPORTATION SPENDING BILL

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 38 lines)

Item Key: 14259

APPROPRIATIONS: FULL HOUSE PANEL TAKES UP TRANSPORTATION SPENDING BILL

By CQ Staff

The House Appropriations Committee today is expected to mark up a draft \$46.9 billion Transportation spending bill for fiscal 1999. Chairman Robert L. Livingston, R-La., said full House consideration of the measure will likely occur after the August recess.

The bill virtually matches funding guarantees, or firewalls, for highway construction and mass transit improvements that were established by the transportation authorization law (PL 105-178) enacted this spring. The bill would provide \$3.9 billion more than requested in President Clinton's budget.

The House bill would provide \$3.9 billion to the Coast Guard, \$29 million less than this year and \$81 million less than Clinton requested. Still, the bill dictates that the agency, an arm of the Transportation Department, spend 11 percent more on drug interdiction. Supporters of the Coast Guard intend to offer an amendment to boost funding, according to Sonny Callahan, R-Ala.

When the Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee marked up the bill last week, Chairman Frank R. Wolf, R-Va., blamed the new highway law for reducing his flexibility and preventing appropriators from providing needed funds to the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and traffic safety programs.

The bill would spend \$5.4 billion on mass transit programs, a \$521 million increase over this year's funding and \$589 million more than Clinton's request. Amtrak would receive \$609 million, \$12 million less than Clinton sought but more than approved by Senate appropriators.

The bill would provide \$9.5 billion for the FAA, up \$100 million from this year but \$400 million less than the Senate Transportation spending bill. The House bill also allocates \$461 million for programs aimed at cutting the number of traffic-related deaths on America's highway system.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 41 lines)

Item Key: 14258

HOUSE FLOOR: CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE MAY RESUME IF SCHEDULING PERMITS

By CQ Staff

The campaign finance debate may resume on the House floor today.

After debating whether to renew China's normal trade status, House leaders want to move to the fiscal 1999 spending bill for veterans, housing, science and space programs (HR4194).

But GOP leaders also want the Appropriations Committee to finish a markup scheduled for today and do not want committee members to have to interrupt their work to manage the VA-HUD bill, according to a spokesperson for Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

So if the House completes work on the China trade measure (HJRES121) before the Appropriations panel finishes its markup, the House likely will return to the campaign finance bill (HR2183).

In that case, the first order of business will be votes on four amendments debated Monday night. The amendments are to the substitute proposal by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., to ban national parties from using unregulated "soft money" donations, increase disclosure requirements on candidates and political parties and tighten regulations on issue advocacy advertisements.

The four pending amendments would:

-- Alter the "motor voter" registration law to, among other things, repeal the federal mandate requiring states to allow voter registration by mail and require voters to provide proof of citizenship and a Social Security number when registering to vote.

-- Allow states to require that voters produce a valid photo identification at their ballot stations in order to vote.

-- Limit the amount of campaign contributions a congressional candidate may accept from individuals outside his or her district.

-- Change language in the proposal's issue advocacy advertising restrictions to make it easier for groups to publish voter guides.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SENATE FLOOR: CJS AMENDMENT WOULD GIVE NEW RIGHTS TO GRAND JURY WITNESSES

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 48 lines)

Item Key: 14257

SENATE FLOOR: CJS AMENDMENT WOULD GIVE NEW RIGHTS TO GRAND JURY WITNESSES

By CQ Staff

The Senate this morning will vote on whether to allow more legal

protections to witnesses called before grand juries.

Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., offered the amendment last night to the fiscal 1999 spending bill (S2260) for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State and the federal judiciary.

Work on the legislation is expected throughout the day, and both the Republican and Democratic leaders have put senators on notice that they should expect to stay late tonight in an effort to finish the bill.

The Bumpers amendment would guarantee the right of witnesses to have counsel present with them when they testify before a federal grand jury.

Bumpers did not refer specifically to the investigation of President Clinton by Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr, but the implication was there in his comments last night.

"Newspapers are filled with stories of grand jury testimony -- often attributed to prosecution sources -- and of witnesses called back to testify a fourth, fifth or sixth time before the same grand jury," Bumpers said. "Shouldn't they have their lawyer there?"

Currently, witnesses may speak with counsel outside a grand jury room, but not inside.

Bumpers' amendment would also require prosecutors to disclose to a grand jury any "substantial evidence" that the accused is not, or may

not be, guilty.

Judiciary Chairman Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, is expected to lead opposition to the amendment, arguing it would further complicate grand jury investigations and lead to more lawsuits.

The Senate may also act on an amendment by Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., that would establish penalties to combat "Internet predators" who track victims, often female, through chat rooms.

The Senate is also expected to act on an amendment that would make it easier for local law enforcement agencies to assist neighboring counties with aircraft support, such as police and medical helicopters, without incurring the extra costs that are applied to aircraft used outside of a normal jurisdiction.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HOUSE FLOOR: HOUSE HOPING TO FINISH WORK ON INTERIOR, TURN TO VA-HUD
BILL

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 51 lines)

Item Key: 14256

HOUSE FLOOR: HOUSE HOPING TO FINISH WORK ON INTERIOR, TURN TO VA-HUD BILL

By CQ Staff

After debating and voting on about a half-dozen remaining amendments, the House is scheduled to take a final vote today on the fiscal 1999 Interior appropriations bill (HR4193).

The chamber dispatched with most of the major amendments last night, including one to continue funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Among the remaining amendments that may be offered is one by George Miller, D-Calif., that would prohibit the use of funds in the bill for new road construction in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

Wayne T. Gilchrest, R-Md., may offer an amendment to strike from the bill provisions that exclude 36 acres in Florida from the coastal resources barrier system.

The \$13.4 billion bill would provide 3 percent less than current levels and \$695 million less than was requested by the Clinton administration.

VA-HUD SPENDING: The House also may return to the fiscal 1999 spending bill for veterans, housing, space and science programs today,

but action on that bill (HR4194) may be pushed back because of a crowded floor schedule.

Among the amendments pending on that bill are ones to kill the space station, weaken the bill's language barring the EPA from developing rules for the implementation or "contemplation of implementation" of the Kyoto protocol and cut \$269 million from the National Science Foundation.

SECURITIES LAWSUITS: The House is expected today to pass legislation to require class-action suits alleging securities fraud to be filed in federal rather than state courts. The bill (HR1689) originally was set for action on Monday but was pulled from the schedule. It was debated last night but the vote was postponed.

Supporters said the bill is needed to close a loophole in a 1995 law that made it harder for stockholders to win class-action suits in federal court. The Securities Litigation Act (PL 104-67) sought to protect companies that distribute forward-looking profit statements from lawsuits if their projections fell short. As a result, some lawyers circumvented the law by filing in state or local jurisdictions.

The bill was considered under suspension of the rules, which means a two-thirds majority vote is needed for passage.

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 46 lines)

Item Key: 14255

HOUSE LIKELY TO KEEP CHINA TRADE STATUS AS IS

By CQ Staff

A vote is expected by the House today to allow China to enjoy normal trade relations with the United States for another year.

Congress never has denied a president's request to extend to China the trade status, which allows Chinese goods to enter the United States at low, non-discriminatory tariff rates.

This year is unlikely to be different, although House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, predicted a close vote. "It will be a closer vote than last year, but one that we will win," Armey said yesterday.

The vote is on a resolution (HJRES121) to disapprove extending China the trade status for another year. A similar resolution failed in the House last year on a 173-259 vote. The Senate did not take up the issue.

President Clinton notified Congress last month that he intended to extend China's status for another year. Both the House and Senate would have to disapprove the request by veto-proof margins to block the president's request.

The trading status has been known as "most-favored-nation," but that term will change to "normal trade relations" as soon as Clinton signs into law legislation to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service (HR2676). Language to change the trade term was attached to that bill. Supporters of the change say it better describes the trade relationship that applies to all but seven countries in the world.

The debate, which is expected to be heated, is scheduled to last four hours.

Supporters of extending China's trade status say that doing so is good for both countries' economies. They also argue that engaging China in trade is the best way to bring about political change, as well as improve human rights policies, in that country.

Opponents counter that extending the trade status in past years has done little to change the Chinese government's policies and that it also has contributed to the growing trade deficit with China.

The opposition is fueled further this year by the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

OTHER EVENTS FOR JULY 22, 1998

Scheduled Events

(NEWS 07/22/98; 211 lines)

Item Key: 14254

OTHER EVENTS FOR JULY 22, 1998

By CQ Staff

STUDENTS CONFERENCE

The Young America's Foundation will hold its 20th Annual National Conservative Student Conference. Fourth of seven days.

Contact: Greg Coffey or Adriene Davis, 703-683-5004.

Highlights:

9 a.m.: Remarks by Robert Novack, CNN commentator. American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Mary Graydon Bldg.

Noon: Remarks by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. Dirksen Bldg., Room G-50.

1:30 p.m.: Remarks by Rep. Jim Traficant, D-Ohio.

2 p.m.: Remarks by Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

2:20 p.m.: Remarks by House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

2:40 p.m.: Remarks by Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

3 p.m.: Remarks by Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

3:20 p.m.: Senate Ethics Committee Chairman Robert Smith, R-N.H. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

3:40 p.m.: Remarks by Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga. Hart Bldg., Room 902.

5:30 p.m.: Remarks by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas. Rayburn Bldg., Room B-338.

LONG-TERM CARE DISCUSSION

The American Enterprise Institute will hold a discussion titled,

"The Rise in Old-Age Longevity and the Market for Long-Term Care."

9:15 a.m.: AEI, 1150 17th St. NW, 12th floor boardroom July 22.

Contact: David Wallace, 202-862-5829.

HISPANIC CAUCUS/CENSUS NEWS CONFERENCE

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will hold a news conference to urge for full FY'99 funding for the census in the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Act. Participants include Reps. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., Ruben Hinojosa, D-Texas, Ciro Rodriguez, D-Texas, and representatives of the national Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

10 a.m.: Capitol Bldg., House grassy triangle.

Contact: Mary Gonzalez, 202-225-2410; or Yolanda Chavez, 202-225-1766.

LATE-TERM ABORTION NEWS CONFERENCE

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and other members of Congress will hold a news conference on late-term abortions.

10 a.m.: Capitol Bldg., House Radio/TV Gallery.

Contact: 202-225-4131.

SUDAN BRIEFING

The U.S. Committee for Refugees will hold a briefing on the current situation in Sudan. The discussion will focus on the country's "regular bombing, widespread famine and massive population displacement."

10 a.m.: 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 701.

Contact: Gabrielle Bushman, 202-347-3507.

CSPC BUDGET MEETING

The Consumer Product Safety Commission will hold an open meeting on the FY 2000 budget request for the commission.

10 a.m.: CSPC, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Md., East West Towers,
room 420.

Contact: 301-504-0580.

SEN. DASCHLE NEWS CONFERENCE

Senate Minority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., will hold his regular news conference.

10:15 a.m. Capitol, Room S-224.

Contact: 202-224-2939.

DRUGS NEWS CONFERENCE

Sens. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., and Robert Graham, D-Fla., and Reps. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., and Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., will hold a news conference to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act.

10:30 a.m.: S-325 Capitol Bldg. (Senate Radio-TV Gallery).

Contact: Mary Brown Brewer or Charles Boesel, 202-224-2315.

VIDEO GAMES/VIOLENCE NEWS CONFERENCE

Sens. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Herbert Kohl, D-Wis., along with arcade industry leaders, will announce their new plan to protect kids from violent video games in arcades. They discuss a new industry-wide rating system and how they will reduce the amount of violence in new releases.

11 a.m.: SD-342 Dirksen Bldg.

Contact: Eric Federing, 202-224-4041; or Lynn Becker, 202-224-5653.

CHEMICALS/ACCIDENTS NEWS CONFERENCE

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the National Environmental Law Center will release a new report identifying the parts of the country most vulnerable to toxic chemical accidents. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., Allison LaPlante of U.S. PIRG, and Paula Little of OCAW, speak.

11:30 a.m.: 2203 Rayburn Bldg.

Contact: Allison LaPlante or Liz Hitchcock, 202-546-9707.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWS CONFERENCE

Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., will hold a news conference on the Special Olympics.

Noon: Capitol, House grassy triangle.

Contact: 202-225-6631.

BAUCUS CHINA SPEECH

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., will hold a news conference to discuss his recent trip to China, the Clinton-Jiang summit and the future of U.S.-China relations in a speech to the Congressional Economic

Leadership Institute.

Noon: EF-100 Capitol Bldg.

Contact: Giano Cromley, 202-224-2651.

HIGH-TECH BUSINESS NEWS CONFERENCE

Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, will hold a news conference following a forum on promoting the economic growth between high-tech business in eastern and western states. Other participants include Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust Enforcement Joel Klein and FCC Commissioner Michael Powell.

12:30 p.m.: SD-192 Dirksen Bldg.

Contact: Darcy Lee, 617-565-4472 or Lisa Brenner, 202-224-2633.

Note: The forum kicks-off at 9:30 a.m. with Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Jim Brett of the New England Council delivering opening remarks.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY BRIEFING

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe will hold a briefing on "The Deterioration of European Religious Liberty."

1 p.m.: HC-5 Capitol Bldg.

Contact: Chadwick Gore, 202-225-1901.

COMPUTER PRIVACY NEWS CONFERENCE

Americans for Computer Privacy will hold a news conference to unveil plans for a multimedia ad campaign to support encryption. Other participants include Reps. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., Sam Gejdenson, D-Conn., and Rick White, R-Wash.

2:15 p.m.: HC-4 Capitol Bldg.

Contact: Sue Richard or Monica Gliva, 202-625-1256.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE FORUM

Education Secretary Richard Riley and Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., will participate in a forum on school violence.

4 p.m.: HC-5 Capitol Bldg.

Contact: 202-225-2871.

CHINA NEWS CONFERENCE

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., will hold a news conference on most favored nation trade status for China.

4 p.m.: Capitol Bldg. (House Radio/TV Gallery).

Contact: 202-225-4965.

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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: TRUSTEES COULD APPEAL REMOVAL FROM CASES UNDER BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 32 lines)

Item Key: 14275

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: TRUSTEES COULD APPEAL REMOVAL FROM CASES UNDER BILL

By Emily Pierce, CQ Staff Writer

The House Judiciary Committee gave voice-vote approval yesterday to a measure (HR2592) that would allow private bankruptcy trustees to appeal their removal from cases.

Approval of the measure came after a compromise was reached between private trustees and the Justice Department, which said the original version made it too easy for trustees to file frivolous appeals.

The bill aims to solve disputes between the office of the U.S. Trustee, a part of the Justice Department, and the private trustees it appoints to oversee a debtor's fulfillment of bankruptcy obligations. Private trustees felt they were being dismissed from cases for unfair reasons, such as errors on expense reports.

The panel adopted, by voice vote, a substitute amendment by bill sponsor Robert W. Goodlatte, R-Va., that would require private trustees to exhaust all administrative remedies before seeking a judicial review and mandate administrative hearings in some cases.

CLASS-ACTION SUITS: The committee postponed until next Tuesday further consideration of a measure (HR3789) that would make it easier to transfer class-action lawsuits to federal courts.

Chairman Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., said the bill is needed to curb trial lawyer abuse of state class-action laws, but ranking Democrat John Conyers Jr., Mich., claimed that the measure was crafted to allow corporations to use stricter federal standards to get around potentially expensive lawsuits.

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 48 lines)

Item Key: 14276

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: PANEL APPROVES MEASURE ADDRESSING IRAQ NERVE GAS

By Sumana Chatterjee, CQ Staff Writer

After debating whether Congress should give President Clinton carte blanche to use military force against Saddam Hussein, the House International Relations Committee toned down language and approved, by voice vote, a GOP-sponsored resolution (HJRES125) expressing concern about Iraq's possession of nerve gas on warheads.

In a recent report to the U.N. Security Council, the commission that inspects and destroys Iraq's weapons of mass destruction concluded Iraq had deceived the international community by concealing its use of deadly VX nerve gas in warheads. The report's findings contradict Iraq's assertion that it had never used nerve gas in weapons.

Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, R-N.Y., said that Iraq's continued defiance of international resolutions to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction programs warrants a tough congressional resolution. Language in the measure concludes that "Iraq is in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations."

The legalistic semantics have very specific meaning under international law, said Ranking Democrat Lee H. Hamilton, Ind. The phrase "material and unacceptable breach" provides the threshold and justification for use of military force by the U.N. The measure, therefore, is "a go-ahead for the use of force" by the president, he said.

The panel voted to drop language from the measure that would have urged the president to "act accordingly" to news that Iraqi missile warheads were loaded with the lethal VX nerve gas before the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Opponents of the language said it would cede too much of Congress' constitutional powers to declare war.

Tom Campbell, R-Calif., objected to the measure's "vague" language, which he said would give the president de facto approval to wage war against Iraq. "If we are prepared to give the president the authority to go to war, then let's say so," he said. If not, Campbell said the panel should remove any implication of abdicating Congress' constitutional authority to declare war. He proposed an amendment, which was approved by voice vote, to do just that.

Gilman opposed the amendment, saying the language was intentionally vague to give the president flexibility to conduct foreign affairs. He added that he believed the president already had the authority to "act accordingly" but believed it necessary for Congress to voice its opinion.

EDUCATION: CLINTON CARRIES OUT THREAT TO VETO GOP EDUCATION MEASURE

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 31 lines)

Item Key: 14277

EDUCATION: CLINTON CARRIES OUT THREAT TO VETO GOP EDUCATION MEASURE

By Ann E. Marimow, CQ Staff Writer

As promised, President Clinton yesterday vetoed a Republican education bill that would increase the amount of money that families can set aside in tax-sheltered education savings accounts.

Clinton said the bill (HR2646) would have weakened public education. The way to improve education, he said, is to "increase standards, accountability and choice within the public schools."

The measure also would have expanded the permissible withdrawals from the accounts to include payment of private school tuition.

Clinton and Democratic leaders maintain that the measure would do little to help middle- and lower- income families.

House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, Texas, criticized Clinton's decision and said it was a "sad day for America's school and schoolchildren."

Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., the principle Senate sponsor of the bill said the veto was "a new low in shameless pandering ... to Washington-based unions who believe the system is more important than our children."

Coverdell said Clinton "gets an 'F' on education reform."

The proposal cleared the Senate last month on a 59-36 vote -- five votes short of the two-thirds majority necessary to override a veto. The House passed the measure 225-19, 57 votes short of a veto-proof majority.

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LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD TOUGHEN PENALTIES FOR 'METH' USE AND
TRAFFICKING

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 56 lines)

Item Key: 14278

LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD TOUGHEN PENALTIES FOR 'METH' USE AND

TRAFFICKING

By Emily Pierce, CQ Staff Writer

The House Judiciary Committee yesterday approved, 21-6, a bill (HR3898) that would toughen penalties for users and traffickers of the drug methamphetamine, bringing sentences into line with the penalties for crack cocaine offenses.

Several Democrats strenuously objected to the bill, which would reduce the amounts of "crank" or "meth" that trigger mandatory minimums. Under the bill, trafficking in 5 grams of the drug would carry a five-year minimum prison term, and distributing 50 grams would bring a mandatory 10-year sentence.

Current law allows judges to sentence such drug dealers to between one and 20 years for 10 grams. The average sentence for methamphetamine trafficking is about eight years, said ranking Democrat John Conyers Jr., Mich.

Conyers and other Democrats warned the bill would result in clogged courts and more prison overcrowding for relatively minor offenses.

Republicans, led by Bill McCollum, Fla., said the stiffer penalties are part of a larger effort to punish drug users and deter drug abuse.

The panel rejected, 6-22, an amendment by Barney Frank, D-Mass.,

that would have replaced the mandatory minimums with language requiring the U.S. Sentencing Commission to study the penalties for selling methamphetamine compared to other drugs, and their relative dangers. Instead, the committee adopted, by voice vote, an amendment by Maxine Waters, D-Calif., that would require a similar study but leave untouched the increase in the mandatory minimum sentences.

HIV TESTING: The panel also approved, by voice vote, a measure (HR2070) that would allow any federal employee or prison visitor to request that an inmate be given a test for the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS if the inmate's bodily fluids came into contact with the person making the request.

While most members supported the measure, Robert C. Scott, D-Va., said it would take away the rights of federal inmates to refuse such testing.

Republicans countered that federal prisoners already are subject to HIV tests when they are released from prison or if the attorney general finds a compelling reason for the test.

The committee adopted an amendment by Steve Buyer, R-Ind., to mandate HIV tests for prisoners three to four months after they are incarcerated. The panel also adopted, by voice vote, a Waters amendment to ensure that inmates who tested positive for HIV are given access to counseling, health care and support services. And a Scott amendment making the results of tests inadmissible in court also was approved by

voice vote.

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: MORE INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR FEDERAL WORKERS UNDER BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 35 lines)

Item Key: 14279

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: MORE INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR FEDERAL WORKERS UNDER BILL

By Heather Jensen, CQ Staff Writer

A House Government Reform and Oversight panel yesterday approved legislation that would overhaul parts of the civil service system and give federal workers greater investment options on their retirement plans.

By voice vote, the Civil Service Subcommittee approved a bill (HR2526) that would allow federal employees to deposit up to \$10,000 annually -- the maximum allowed by the IRS -- into their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) retirement funds.

Current legislation allows for 10 percent of wages to be deposited into the account. The federal government matches half of the employee's deposit, up to 5 percent of wages. The government contribution would not change under the legislation.

The bill also would eliminate the one-year waiting period for new federal employees to begin making deposits into the TSP and would allow these employees to roll over any previous 401(K) savings.

The bill has bipartisan support and was praised by its sponsor, Rep. Constance A. Morella, R-Md., as "a sensible way to encourage federal employees to save for their own retirements."

OTHER MEASURES: On voice votes, the panel also approved a bill (HR2566) that would allow federal employees to deposit refunded money back into the civil service retirement system; a bill (HR4280) calling for federal agencies to be given authority to subsidize child care; and a measure (HR2943) to extend from seven days to 30 the leave time allowed to federal employees who donate bone marrow or organs for medical procedures.

SERVICE

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 41 lines)

Item Key: 14280

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: HOUSE PANEL VOTES TO EXTEND OSHA RULES TO POSTAL
SERVICE

By Pherabe Kolb, CQ Staff Writer

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules would be extended to operations at the U.S. Postal Service under a bill (HR3725) approved on a voice vote yesterday by the House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on the Postal Service.

The measure would subject the Post Office to the same workplace regulations as private businesses, said Subcommittee Chairman John M. McHugh, R-N.Y.

Under current law, the Post Office is expected to comply with OSHA standards, but the Labor Department lacks authority to issue citations for violations, making enforcement difficult. This leads to a higher incidence of injury on the job and greater outlays for workers' compensation payments, he said.

McHugh offered a substitute version of the bill, adopted on a voice

vote, that would bar the Postal Service from considering the added cost of OSHA compliance when deciding whether to close or consolidate post office locations.

Major R. Owens, D-N.Y., offered an amendment that would have expanded the bill to cover all federal agencies, arguing that all employees deserve OSHA protections. But Pete Sessions, R-Texas, raised a point of order against the amendment, saying it went beyond the scope of the bill and was therefore non-germane.

"We are the Postal Service Subcommittee and are not authorized and do not understand the inner workings of all of these other government agencies," he said.

Owens acknowledged the amendment was too broad but explained that "we are not violating the rules, we are simply expanding on them."

Although his amendment was ruled non-germane, Owens indicated he likely would offer it again during full committee consideration of the measure.

(NEWS 07/22/98; 38 lines)

Item Key: 14281

SOCIAL POLICY: BILL TO REAUTHORIZE ECONOMIC AID AGENCIES GETS PANEL'S OK

By Emily Church, CQ Staff Writer

A House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee yesterday approved a bill that would make it more difficult for some communities to receive economic aid and infrastructure grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Public Buildings and Economic Development Subcommittee gave voice-vote approval to a five-year reauthorization measure (HR4275) for the two agencies, which provide assistance to low-income communities.

The bill would reduce ARC authorization levels by about \$100 million each year -- to \$67 million in fiscal 1999, \$75 million in 2002 and \$80 million in 2003.

Subcommittee Chairman Jay C. Kim, R-Calif., said the reduction is justified because \$450 million in highway funding will be available to the impoverished Appalachian region through the new surface transportation law (PL 105-178).

The bill would tighten criteria for ARC grants and reduce the percentage of communities eligible for the EDA grants nationwide to 36 percent from 80 percent. The federal contribution for ARC matching grants also would be decreased for less-distressed areas.

The EDA authorization would match President Clinton's requests at \$368 million a year through 2003. The bill would impose a 50 percent matching requirement for grants and requiring the agency to measure the performance of recipients.

In response to requests by James A. Traficant Jr., D-Ohio, the bill includes a pilot program that would allow the EDA to help provide low-interest loans for businesses and nonprofits involved in local infrastructure projects and a provision allowing the agency to help restructure local economies hurt by international trade.

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POLITICS: NEW YORK DEMOCRAT MANTON ANNOUNCES HOUSE RETIREMENT

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14282

POLITICS: NEW YORK DEMOCRAT MANTON ANNOUNCES HOUSE RETIREMENT

By Marc Birtel, CQ Staff Writer

Rep. Thomas J. Manton, D-N.Y., said yesterday that he will retire rather than seek a ninth term this fall, a surprise announcement that came five days after the state's candidate filing deadline.

The move by Manton, who also is the Queens County Democratic chairman, essentially enabled him to anoint the Democratic candidate to succeed him in the 7th District, which connects the Bronx and Queens.

Since Manton was the only Democrat who had filed to run, party leaders in the district got to fill his vacated ballot slot. And yesterday afternoon they nominated Manton's choice: state Rep. Joseph Crowley.

"Clearly if he's going to try to retire, he's going to do that in a manner that protects his interests," said Manton's chief of staff, Jim Mathews. "The fact of the matter is, he didn't know he was going to decide not to run until yesterday. He doesn't control the [Queens County Democratic Party] committee on vacancies, but certainly as chair of the party, he has influence."

Crowley will be favored to win in the largely middle class, multi-ethnic 7th District, a Democratic stronghold in which blacks and Hispanics together account for about one-third of the population. The only Republican in the race is little-known James Dillon.

The district -- which includes the setting for Archie Bunker's house in the TV series, "All in the Family" -- has a substantial number of white ethnic voters. During the 1980s, it was home to many "Reagan Democrats." Manton won in 1996 with 71 percent, as President Clinton took 68 percent in the district.

Manton, 65, said he was retiring because of his long career in politics and a desire to pursue other "professional and personal endeavors."

He first was elected in 1984 to succeed Geraldine A. Ferraro, who gave up her seat to be the Democratic vice-presidential nominee. In the House he has worked in relative obscurity on the Commerce Committee, where he is now ranking minority member of the Finance and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee.

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POLITICS: BLACK GOP CANDIDATE APPARENT LOSER IN GEORGIA HOUSE PRIMARY

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 62 lines)

Item Key: 14283

POLITICS: BLACK GOP CANDIDATE APPARENT LOSER IN GEORGIA HOUSE PRIMARY

By Erika Niedowski, CQ Staff Writer

In a Republican House primary that received national attention for its racial connotations, businessman Joe McCormick yesterday appeared to have defeated former Senate aide and political consultant Dylan Glenn in Georgia's 2nd District.

McCormick, who is white, neared victory even though Glenn, a black conservative, had the backing of a number of high-profile Republicans, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich and 1996 vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp.

McCormick -- the GOP chairman in Dougherty County, the district's largest -- had 55 percent the vote with half the precincts reporting late last night.

The winner will face Democratic Rep. Sanford D. Bishop Jr. in the fall.

Bishop, who is black, broke the district's color barrier in 1992, but the Supreme Court declared the 2nd an unconstitutional racial gerrymander three years later. Campaigning in a redrawn district in 1996, in which the percentage of black voters had dropped from 52 to 35, Bishop fended off two white opponents in the primary, then defeated a white Republican by 8 percentage points in the general.

Governor. After narrowly losing contests for major statewide office in 1994 and 1996, Georgia Republican Guy Millner is used to long election nights. And so he again waited patiently last night, this time to see if GOP voters gave him an outright victory in the state's primary for governor.

The Democratic outcome also was unclear, with returns showing state Rep. Roy Barnes just below the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid an Aug. 11 runoff with Georgia Secretary of State Lewis Massey.

Millner, a millionaire businessman, used his wealth and familiarity among voters to deflect a spate of criticism over his failure to appear at a number of debates. With 45 percent of precincts reporting, he had 53 percent of the vote.

His closest rival, former state Attorney General Mike Bowers, never recovered politically from his admission earlier this year to an adulterous affair with his former secretary. He had 38 percent; two other candidates lagged behind.

This is Millner's second try for governor. He was edged out in 1994 by Democratic incumbent Zell Miller, who is retiring this year after two terms. Millner also lost a close 1996 Senate race to Democrat Max Cleland.

On the Democratic side, Barnes had 49 percent of the vote to

Massey's 28 percent with 48 percent of precincts reporting, with four other candidates trailing.

SENATE: The little-noticed Senate primary was a tepid preview of a key general election contest. Freshman Republican Paul Coverdell, unopposed for his party's nomination, will face a stiff challenge in November from wealthy cookie mogul Michael Coles, who easily defeated Jim Boyd for the Democratic nod.

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APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE PANEL TO SEE HOTTEST BATTLES OVER D.C. SPENDING BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 57 lines)

Item Key: 14274

APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE PANEL TO SEE HOTTEST BATTLES OVER D.C. SPENDING BILL

By Matthew Tully, CQ Staff Writer

As the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a fiscal 1999 spending bill for the District of Columbia on a 27-1 vote yesterday,

city representatives said they could live with the plan. But they looked with skepticism toward an upcoming House subcommittee debate on its version of the measure.

The Senate bill, which provides \$482 million in discretionary federal contributions to the city, includes a number of provisions city officials have lobbied against. It also lacks funding for a key economic development initiative.

Still, Paul Strauss, one of the city's "shadow senators," praised the Senate panel for steering clear of contentious issues likely to emerge in the House. "You're seeing the results of a collaborative strategy to defeat more radical actions in the House," he said.

The bill calls for a total city budget of \$7.67 billion. It includes \$75 million to repair city streets and bridges. The city's control board would be able to use \$25 million of that to build a new Metro train station to serve a proposed new convention center. The bill provides \$25 million for a series of management reforms, \$7.1 million to construct a Boys Town facility for youths and \$500,000 each for a museum dedicated to American music and another celebrating the city's history.

Other funding includes \$1 million for the Georgetown Waterfront Park fund, \$128 million for D.C. courts and \$185 million for the jail system.

Missing from the bill is \$50 million that the Clinton administration is seeking for an economic development corporation, which would be

charged with creating incentives to attract business and other development. Instead, Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., chairman of the District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee, included \$500,000 for a study of the issue.

The bill also includes a number of provisions that would overrule city ordinances. It would prohibit the city from using local or federal funds to pay for abortions or to offer insurance plans to unmarried couples. Another provision would repeal a law requiring new city employees to live in the city.

"Where they live doesn't matter," said Faircloth, who added the repeal could be reversed "at some point when we get better housing."

The House District of Columbia Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to mark up its bill tomorrow. Chairman Charles H. Taylor, R-N.C., is expected to include a number of contentious provisions in his bill, including a plan to provide vouchers to some families to send their children to the public or private schools of their choice.

Faircloth said he supports "experimental" voucher programs but acknowledged that such a provision would likely result in a presidential veto.

HOUSE FLOOR: ARTS MONEY RESTORED TO FISCAL 1999 INTERIOR SPENDING BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 66 lines)

Item Key: 14273

HOUSE FLOOR: ARTS MONEY RESTORED TO FISCAL 1999 INTERIOR SPENDING BILL

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The embattled National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will not have to rely on the Senate this year to make sure Congress funds the agency.

In a reversal from last year, the House voted yesterday, 253-173, to provide \$98.5 million for the NEA -- equal to its current funding -- as part of the fiscal 1999 Interior appropriations bill (HR4193). The House is expected to pass the bill today.

The agency has been a prime target for Republican leaders since they took control of the House in 1995. Last year, the House voted 217-216 to effectively kill the agency but it got a stay of execution when the Senate insisted on the money in conference.

Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, the chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the bill, said the NEA has made progress in recent years in reducing administrative costs and reacting

to other complaints from lawmakers, including a charge that it funds projects in big cities at the expense of small towns and rural areas.

Joining all but seven Democrats in voting to fund the agency this year were 58 Republicans.

Despite the change of heart by several Republicans, the NEA still came under fire yesterday.

Joseph R. Pitts, R-Pa., said the NEA "has wasted U.S. taxpayer dollars on art that has been objectionable." And, he added, federal assistance for the arts will still be available in the form of tax breaks and grants.

The NEA, created in 1965, provides grants to organizations in every state. Supporters dismiss complaints that NEA money supports objectionable projects, pointing out that only 40 out of 100,000 grants have drawn criticism.

Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., a moderate who has been instrumental in keeping the NEA alive, said he had a hard time understanding those who "are hell-bent on destroying an agency whose programs enrich and educate Americans of all walks of life."

The first battle came on the rule to bring the bill to the floor. The rule did not guard the NEA funding, which Democrats had added in the Appropriations Committee, against a point of order based on the fact

that the NEA was not authorized. The rule then allowed the amendment by Nancy L. Johnson, R-Conn., to restore the money after it had been struck.

David R. Obey, Wis., the ranking Appropriations Committee Democrat, called the rule a "Mickey Mouse procedure." But it was adopted, 224-191, and as promised, Republicans quickly invoked a point of order to delete the funding, before Johnson brought it back with her amendment.

OTHER AMENDMENTS: The House rejected, 212-213, a proposal to add \$40 million to the bill for various energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Another amendment, adopted 241-185, adds \$20 million to the bill for federal payments intended to make up for the taxes localities might otherwise collect if federal lands were not federally owned.

Another amendment was defeated, 203-221, that would have added \$30 million to the bill for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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SENATE FLOOR: SENATE MOVES ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 35 lines)

SENATE FLOOR: SENATE MOVES ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

By Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate, in one of its more expeditious moves on appropriations, yesterday passed, 90-9, the fiscal 1999 spending bill (HR4112) that funds legislative branch operations and sent it to conference.

There was no debate on the measure, which calls for \$1.7 billion to cover expenses for members' offices, committees, staff and a number of congressionally related agencies and support offices.

The Senate first invoked cloture, 83-16, to block unrelated amendments, including one by Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo.

The amendment sought to eliminate the so-called marriage penalty from the tax code., which requires some two-earner married couples to pay more in taxes than if they filed individually.

Republican leaders support the elimination of the penalty, but they are looking to do it on vehicles other than appropriations bills.

Invoking cloture also blocked an amendment by John McCain, R-Ariz.,

that would have required the Congressional Research Service, a nonpartisan research arm of the Library of Congress, to post its issue briefs on the Internet. The Senate Rules Committee wants to study that issue further.

The bill includes \$469.4 million for Senate operations, an increase of \$8.3 million over fiscal 1998. The House passed a \$1.8 billion measure (HR4112) on June 25 that includes money for its operations.

The Senate Monday inserted the language of its own bill (S2137) in the House-passed version to prepare the bill for conference.

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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN'S NEW PAC IS LIVING LARGE

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 39 lines)

Item Key: 14287

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN'S NEW PAC IS LIVING LARGE

By Derek Willis, CQ Staff Writer

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert L. Livingston, R-La.,

is testing his campaign fundraising clout, and he seems to be passing with flying colors: The "leadership" political action committee that he founded on March 17 has taken in an average of \$5,575 a day.

The Building Our Bases political action committee --BOBs PAC, for short -- passed the \$500,000 mark in its latest filing with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Records show the PAC took in \$402,336 between April 1 and June 30, raising its total this year to \$591,036.

Livingston formed the PAC to bolster his stated plan to run for Speaker should Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., vacate the post to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2000.

BOBs PAC also began disbursing its first contributions to congressional candidates during the most recent quarter. Fifteen House candidates -- including 10 challengers and open-seat candidates -- each received \$1,000 from the PAC.

The PAC has derived its funds from an eclectic group. Contributors include 14 people from the Florida Panhandle, who gave \$5,000 each; Brooklyn Rabbi Yeshoshua Balkany and his wife, Sara, who gave \$10,000 together; six partners at New York stock brokerage Angelo Gordon & Co., who gave \$2,000 each; and movie industry lobbyist Jack Valenti and Mary Margaret Valenti, who each chipped in \$1,000.

PACs contributed about \$172,000 of Livingston's most recent haul and account for 43 percent of BOBs PAC's total receipts.

Nonetheless, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, Livingston's main potential rival for Speaker, has maintained his fundraising lead over Livingston. Armey's PAC, the Majority Leader's Fund, raised \$380,685 during the April-June period and \$687,707 overall for 1998. Armey also leads in contributions to candidates -- he has doled out \$373,886 during the 1997-98 election cycle, according to FEC records.

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N.C. HOUSE CANDIDATE FILING CLOSES -- FOR GOOD

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14288

N.C. HOUSE CANDIDATE FILING CLOSES -- FOR GOOD

By Geoff Earle, CQ Staff Writer

The fields are set -- finally -- for North Carolina's long-delayed House primary.

The initial House filing deadline was Feb. 2. But a legal challenge to the largely black 12th District, which forced the postponement of the

House primaries from May 5 to Sept. 15, gave candidates an additional two weeks to file, beginning July 6 and ending Monday.

In the interim, the state legislature passed a revised district map that passed muster with a federal court panel that invalidated the previous map on grounds that the 12th District was racially gerrymandered to elect a black House member.

Since the 1992 election, that lawmaker has been Democratic Rep. Melvin Watt, who has easily won three times. But the new district map will, at the least, force Watt to run harder than usual.

Under the revision, the black population of the 12th dropped from about 45 percent to 36 percent of the district's total. According to the Charlotte Observer, registration in the district went to 55 percent Democratic, from 77 percent.

Although Republican officials tried but failed to recruit a heavyweight challenger to Watt, the demographic changes were enough to draw six contenders into the GOP primary. They include Tom Bush, a commissioner from vote-rich Mecklenburg County, which includes Charlotte; Charlotte City Councilman Mike Jackson; and state Rep. Steve Wood.

In the 5th District, Republican Rep. Richard M. Burr had been unopposed before the new filing period opened, but he now has drawn an opponent. He will face Mike Robinson, who lost to John Edwards in the