

Democratic Senate primary, which went ahead as scheduled on May 5.

There had been talk that a new Democrat might emerge during refiling in the 8th District, where Democratic attorney Mike Taylor faces an uphill battle against wealthy Republican Robin Hayes in the race to succeed retiring 12-term Democratic Rep. W.G. "Bill" Hefner. But again, Hayes' money -- he is heir to the Cannon textile fortune and an avid fundraiser -- scared off other contenders.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE: TROUBLED CANDIDATE MOVES AS FLOOD RISES

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 38 lines)

Item Key: 14289

NEW HAMPSHIRE: TROUBLED CANDIDATE MOVES AS FLOOD RISES

By Amy Montemerlo, CQ Staff Writer

New Hampshire Democrats had serious problems finding a House candidate -- especially one without a police record -- to challenge 1st District Republican Rep. John E. Sununu.

Only a favorable ruling from the State Ballot Commission enabled the Democrats to substitute Peter Flood, a 64-year-old real estate broker and anti-nuclear activist, for former state Rep. Cynthia McGovern -- who had filed to run but was forced to abandon her campaign when local reporters uncovered acts of violence in her past.

But McGovern had to move to Massachusetts in order to clear the way for Flood.

With the Democrats lacking any candidate to challenge Sununu, McGovern jumped into the contest on June 12, the candidate-filing deadline. But she dropped out days later amid allegations that she lied to a local newspaper about a 1987 conviction for assaulting a state trooper.

News reports also brought to light a 1979 incident in which McGovern stabbed and killed a man while coming to the aid of a neighbor involved in a domestic dispute; she was not indicted after prosecutors ruled she acted in self-defense.

Switching candidates was not easy for the Democrats. Secretary of State Bill Gardner ruled initially that McGovern could not withdraw from the race after the filing deadline. The State Ballot Law Commission overruled Gardner earlier this month, but also said Flood could replace McGovern only if she moved out of state.

Flood subsequently revealed he has a record of his own, though his

brush with the law had to do with a political protest. He told reporters that he was arrested for participating in a demonstration at a New Hampshire nuclear power plant project in the late 1970s.

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SENATE FLOOR: VARIOUS ISSUES COME TO FORE IN C-J-S FISCAL 1999 SPENDING
BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 79 lines)

Item Key: 14271

SENATE FLOOR: VARIOUS ISSUES COME TO FORE IN C-J-S FISCAL 1999 SPENDING
BILL

By Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writer

Republicans rebuffed an attempt to require trigger locks on handguns yesterday as the Senate worked its way through amendments to the \$33.2 billion spending bill (S2260) for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State and the federal judiciary.

On a 61-39 vote, the Senate tabled, or killed, an amendment by Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., to require the safety locks on all handguns

sold in this country. Nine Democrats and 52 Republicans voted to table, while three Republicans and 36 Democrats opposed the motion.

"This amendment is not about taking people's guns away," Boxer said.

"It aims only to protect children."

She said 440 children died in 1995 from accidental shootings -- a figure that she said should be compared with the very small number of accidental deaths in countries with tough gun ownership laws.

But Larry E. Craig, R-Idaho, called the amendment an "improper federal mandate ... that would not save lives." Craig said safety locks can be dangerous because they cause people to assume a loaded gun is safe. He also said that "more children will die in swimming pools than by accidental shootings."

Senators adopted, 72-28, a competing amendment by Craig that would require dealers to make "reasonable" efforts to make an array of gun safety devices available at their stores.

Boxer said the Craig amendment was "filled with loopholes" to allow gun dealers to sell handguns without safety devices.

Senators also agreed, 69-31, to an amendment by Robert C. Smith, R-N.H., that would require the FBI, and not gun purchasers, to pay for electronic background checks of gun buyers' criminal records once a national instant check system is in place. The amendment would also

require the FBI not to retain records of those cleared to buy handguns.

The administration has previously said it does not intend to require purchasers to pay for the checks. But Smith said he wanted the policy to be law.

SATELLITE RATES: 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 escalated rapidly during the past year, causing alarm in the satellite TV industry.

The amendment is similar to a House Commerce Committee-approved bill (HR2921) that would block a decision last year by the Library of Congress to substantially boost the fees and would require the Federal Communications Commission to study the impact of the increase on competition to cable television by satellite television carriers.

INTERNET FILTERS: The Senate also approved by voice vote a McCain amendment that would require schools and libraries connected to the World Wide Web and receiving federal funds to install filtering equipment designed to block adult material inappropriate for children. His amendment is taken from legislation (S1482) that had been awaiting Senate action.

On another Internet matter, 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.

Under the amendment, commercial web sites would have to restrict access to adult material by customers under 17 years of age.

Violators would be subject to a \$50,000 fine. The standard for harm would be developed by the Justice Department. The amendment is comprised of language in a separate bill (S1619) sponsored by Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz.

Some civil rights groups oppose both Internet amendments as overbroad and warn they could lead to censorship of educational information.

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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.

(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.

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 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.

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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

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NOT AS SCHEDULED: CHANGES IN COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 13 lines)

Item Key: 14293

NOT AS SCHEDULED: CHANGES IN COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

By CQ Staff

The House Resources Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee has

forwarded three bills, scheduled for markups yesterday, to the full committee without a vote.

The panel decided on the action after learning of the Clinton administration's opposition to two land-exchange bills (HR4021, HR4023) while negotiations continue on the measures. The third bill (HR3187) concerns a liability issue involving nonprofit groups and cooperatives on public land.

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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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GINGRICH SEES A VOTE FRIDAY ON MEDICAL INSURANCE MEASURE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/22/98; 114 lines)

Item Key: 14284

GINGRICH SEES A VOTE FRIDAY ON MEDICAL INSURANCE MEASURE

By Mary Agnes Carey and Rebecca Adams, CQ Staff Writers

While the Clinton administration and congressional Democrats kept pounding on the Republicans' managed care proposals, the GOP labored yesterday to get its legislation past that line of rhetorical fire and into the Capitol's legislative chambers for the formal debate.

Still lacking a deal with the Democrats to govern the Senate's deliberations, Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., suggested the debate

on his troops' bill (S2330) would not start before next week, but would occur then -- "one way or another."

But Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., scheduled a vote for Friday on the GOP task force bill (HR4250) that was introduced just last week.

Although no markups have been held and the rule to govern the debate has not been crafted, GOP leaders worked on a floor strategy to defeat their opponents.

Gingrich and task force leader Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., both said they expected that some kind of vote would be allowed on the Democratic bill (HR3605), which President Clinton has been endorsing with increasing fervor as this election-year showdown draws near. But the GOP leaders declined to say whether the vote would be limited to a vote on a motion to recommit the Democratic measure.

Factions of House members are pushing for consideration of other proposals for ways to regulate medical insurance providers to minimize the anger building up in consumers over billing policies and coverage denials. Ideas in the legislation (HR1415) sponsored by Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Ga., are broadly popular with both Republicans and Democrats but are viewed by the GOP hierarchy as too regulatory. The Conservative Action Team (CAT) of Republicans is drafting its own proposal, which would presumably take the most free-market stand in the debate. And other Republicans are working on amendments -- such as proposals to raise the penalties against insurance companies who deny care from \$100,000 to \$250,000 -- they want to offer on the floor.

The House GOP task force bill would offer an appeals process for those denied coverage, with a sliding timetable for appeals depending on the urgency of the medical situation. It also would require more information to be given to patients about their coverage, expand the new medical savings accounts and create new health insurance purchasing pools. And it would require coverage for emergency room visits that a "prudent layperson" would deem necessary, although the plan could charge co-payments.

The Senate GOP plan does not include many of the House GOP tax provisions, such as the lifting of restrictions on MSAs.

REINING IN THE GOP DISSIDENTS

Although Republicans watched with some anxiety last week when Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif., dropped off the GOP plan, Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said he expects Thomas to return. But a Republican who is not expected to return to the fold is Greg Ganske, Iowa, the plastic surgeon who has now thrown his allegiance to the Democratic plan.

"I wish he would. He ought to be supporting this task force instead of trying to get Republicans" to support the Democratic bill, said Norwood. "Even if the Democratic bill does pass the House, what would happen then? That wouldn't get us to a bill that would get to the president. ... I don't envision any other bill passing besides [the GOP

task force] bill to the point that it gets to conference and becomes a law."

THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTEROFFENSIVE

At a mock hearing staged by the Democrats, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala criticized both GOP plans. "Sadly, the Republican proposals, while differing in some details, do not provide the kind of protection that the American people need and deserve," she said.

She particularly criticized the Senate plan because it applies to a much smaller universe of people than any of the other bills. She said the right of direct access to a specialist and continuity of care is critical in order to win the president's signature. To that end, she said, legislation must include a mechanism that allows consumers to collect damages from their health plans. "The important thing is it's enforceable. We know that the right to sue is one way of doing that," she said.

At a news conference, John D. Dingell, D-Mich., the key sponsor of the House Democrats' health bill, said that "without this right, the bill is probably going to be vetoed."

At the hearing, Ganske also criticized several of the GOP provisions, including the emergency room care provisions and language to outlaw "gag clauses" that some plans have limiting treatment options

doctors may discuss with their patients.

Members of the American Medical Association (AMA) flooded Capitol Hill to push for enactment of a comprehensive bill; the AMA has endorsed the Democrats' version. Nancy Dickey, the group's president-elect, met with Gingrich but said "no promises" were made on either side. She did say, however, that the House GOP bill (HR4250) on liability "is not adequate."

DASCHLE'S PESSIMISM, SHALALA'S OPTIMISM

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. -- who is pushing Lott to allow a straightforward vote on a bill (S1890) that matches that of House Democrats -- said yesterday that chances were "no better than 50-50" that Clinton would sign a measure in the 105th Congress.

"Many of our Republican friends simply don't want a national public policy on managed care. They'd like to be able to take credit for addressing it without having done anything about it," Daschle said.

Shalala, however, was decidedly more upbeat. "It's very realistic. It can be done," she said.

ARTS MONEY RESTORED TO INTERIOR SPENDING PACKAGE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14250

ARTS MONEY RESTORED TO INTERIOR SPENDING PACKAGE

By Charlie Pope III, CQ Staff Writer

In what has become an annual ritual, the House today resumed its battle over the future of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The arts agency's supporters lost a preliminary round, but later won a key vote that ultimately left money for arts intact.

The stage was set for today's showdown when Democrats objected to the rule governing debate of the \$13.4 billion fiscal 1999 Interior appropriations bill (HR4193). The rule did not guard \$98.5 million in NEA funding against a point of order based on the fact that the arts agency has not been reauthorized. But the rule did allow an amendment by Nancy L. Johnson, R-Conn., to restore the money -- which would then be shielded from further attack.

David R. Obey, Wis., the ranking Appropriations Committee Democrat, called the rule a "Mickey Mouse procedure" designed to force an election-year vote on the often unpopular arts agency.

The rule was adopted, 224-191, and as promised, Republicans quickly invoked a point of order to delete the NEA funding.

But Johnson's amendment was subsequently adopted on a 253-173 vote.

The NEA, said Joseph R. Pitts, R-Pa., "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.

"Zeroing out NEA funding will not end federal funding for the arts," Pitts said. "It will simply end a program that has misused federal funds."

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."

HOUSE GOP LEADERS MEETING TO SET RULES FOR HEALTH CARE DEBATE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 50 lines)

Item Key: 14251

HOUSE GOP LEADERS MEETING TO SET RULES FOR HEALTH CARE DEBATE

By Rebecca Adams, CQ Staff Writer

House Republican leaders planned to meet this afternoon to discuss groundrules for Friday's floor debate on managed care legislation, as Democrats brought out their heavy hitters to criticize the GOP proposals (HR4250, S2330).

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala joined Democratic lawmakers in arguing that the House and Senate Republican plans do not go far enough in protecting patients. "Sadly, the Republican proposals, while differing in some details, do not provide the kind of protection that the American people need and deserve."

But Shalala, in keeping with longstanding administration flexibility on the point, signalled a willingness to compromise on whether patients should be able to bring malpractice suits against their health plans in state court when they suffer harm as a result of denial of coverage. While the right to sue is part of the primary Democratic

patient-protection legislation (HR3605, S1890), Shalala said that as long as a final bill forces accountability on the part of health plans, the administration could consider it. Some lawmakers have suggested that stiff fines and penalties for unwarranted denials of care could provide adequate accountability.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., indicated no deal has yet been reached with Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., on a time agreement for consideration of competing health proposals in that chamber.

Republicans in both the House and Senate will likely allow a vote on the Democratic bills, Republicans said. But in both chambers, Democrats -- and some Republicans -- want a chance to offer amendments that would seek a middle ground between the GOP and Democratic alternatives.

The Senate will call up its managed care legislation next week, with or without an agreement on how to proceed, Lott indicated today. Lott said he had rejected Daschle's most recent offer, to allow 20 amendments per side, saying that would make it "impossible to finish" the bill in a reasonable amount of time.

"I mean, they said they had utopia. They had designed the world's greatest solution," said Lott. "Kennedy -- you know, the nation's doctor -- had come up with these solutions. ... Now, they're saying, 'Well, we think maybe we need a lot of amendments.' Why? If the bill is perfect, what do they want?"

Despite such jibes, Lott said he is still working with Daschle in search of an agreement structuring the floor debate.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

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

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.

MEASURE WOULD CURTAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 39 lines)

Item Key: 14247

MEASURE WOULD CURTAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

By Emily Church, CQ Staff Writer

A House Transportation subcommittee today 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, reducing the percentage of eligible communities nationwide from 80 percent to 36 percent. The federal contribution for matching grants would also 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 also make it harder to qualify for EDA assistance, imposing 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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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.

HOUSE PANEL STIFFENS PENALTIES FOR 'CRANK' OFFENSES

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 38 lines)

Item Key: 14243

HOUSE PANEL STIFFENS PENALTIES FOR 'CRANK' OFFENSES

By Emily Pierce, CQ Staff

The House Judiciary Committee today 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 mandate a five-year minimum prison term, and distributing 50 grams would bring a mandatory 10-year stint in federal prison. 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, R-Fla., said the stiffer penalties are part of a larger effort to punish drug users and make inroads in prevention of 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. But 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 committee continued to work on several other measures this afternoon, including a bill (HR2070) that would require federal prisoners to undergo testing for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS if a guard or other prison employee is exposed to the inmate's blood or bodily fluids.

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BILL WOULD EXPAND RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 07/21/98; 40 lines)

Item Key: 14248

BILL WOULD EXPAND RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

By Heather M. Jensen, CQ Staff Writer

In a bipartisan effort, a House Government Reform and Oversight panel today approved legislation that would overhaul parts of the civil service system and give federal workers greater investment options.

The Civil Service Subcommittee approved, by voice vote, a bill (HR2526) that would allow federal employees to deposit up to the Internal Revenue Service's permissible limit of \$10,000 annually 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 would also 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 had 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: The panel approved, by voice vote, a measure (HR2566) that would allow federal employees to redeposit money previously refunded back into the civil service retirement system.

A bill (HR4280) that would give federal agencies the authority to subsidize employee child care was also approved by voice vote. The measure does not approve any additional funding, but authorizes the use of salary and expense accounts for the subsidies.

The committee also approved, by voice vote, a bill (HR2943) to increase the amount of leave time a federal employee could use to donate organs. Under the current law, a federal employee is granted seven days of leave time to donate bone marrow or an organ. The bill would raise the amount of time granted for organ donation to 30 days.

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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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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 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 affects 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

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

FOREIGN RELATIONS STALLS ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION BILL

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 07/22/98; 47 lines)

Item Key: 14290

FOREIGN RELATIONS STALLS ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION BILL

By Miles Pomper, CQ Staff Writer

Senate Republicans are having a hard time advancing legislation (S1868) designed to curb religious persecution overseas. The Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to consider the measure tomorrow, but

GOP aides say they may once again have to postpone a vote.

The Senate bill is similar to a measure (HR2431) by Frank Wolf, R-Va., that the House approved 375-41 in May with strong backing from religious conservatives. The Christian Coalition has made passage of the bills, which call for publicly denouncing and punishing countries that carry out or endorse religious attacks, its top legislative priority.

However, the Senate version by Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., faces opposition not only from Democrats and the Clinton administration, but also from some Republicans on Foreign Relations.

Nickles and Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., have been working for months with Republicans (and more recently with Democrats) to assuage concerns. But although Nickles has agreed to more than 100 changes in the bill, a GOP aide said, "We have not won one additional vote."

For example, panel members Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and Rod Grams, R-Minn., say they cannot support the bill as it now stands. Echoing major business groups, they say it would create a backlash against religious believers, harm the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and damage U.S. exports.

They have been pushing to water down the bill, so that the administration would publish only the names of "gross violators" of religious freedom.

According to congressional sources, administration officials would go even further, eliminating any requirement to single out "who falls in the category of being naughty." Instead, the State Department advocates publishing an annual report on violations of religious freedom, similar to the annual global report on human rights.

Lawmakers and aides are continuing to try to work out a compromise.

If they fail, Nickles and Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., are prepared to force a floor vote. Lott has placed the Wolf bill on the Senate calendar, and GOP aides say that one way or another, "There's going to be a vote."

50 of 53 items

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.

LOTT REFUSES TO RELEASE HIS HOLD ON CLINTON NOMINATIONS

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 07/22/98; 40 lines)

Item Key: 14291

LOTT REFUSES TO RELEASE HIS HOLD ON CLINTON NOMINATIONS

By George Clifford III, CQ Staff Writer

Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., continues to hold up Senate action on presidential appointments -- even as the Senate looks toward asserting its constitutional prerogative to "advise and consent" on nominations.

In hearings before the Government Affairs Committee, senators from both parties conceded that the Senate has contributed to the long-running problem of "temporary" appointments that stretch for months -- and even years -- by delaying action on nominations. The panel last month approved a bill (S2176) that would specify which individuals could serve on an "acting" basis in jobs requiring Senate confirmation and would strictly limit their tenure.

Lott, who has voiced concern about extended temporary appointments, sees no conflict between his support for the bill and his hold on nominations. And he isn't budging on the hold.

"Our focus for the next nine days is not going to be on nominations; it's going to be on the appropriations bills, the credit union bill and the Patients' Bill of Rights," Lott declared yesterday. "I hope that next week we can work out several issues, make enough progress on appropriations where we could consider some additional nominations, but that's not an area that we're focused on now."

Lott previously said he might hold up confirmations to pressure the administration to turn over documents Senate investigators requested in their probe of technology transfers to China.

Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., objects to the delays. "We have a responsibility here. We shouldn't be playing politics or using it in ways that undermine the functions of the executive branch or the judicial branch. And that's in essence what's happening," he said.

Jim Kennedy, special adviser to the White House counsel, said 128 nominations for executive branch slots are awaiting Senate action, along with 51 judicial nominations.

PEOPLE: AROUND THE AGENCIES

People on the Move

(NEWS 07/22/98; 16 lines)

Item Key: 14286

PEOPLE: AROUND THE AGENCIES

By Ann E. Marimow, CQ Staff Writer

President Clinton has announced his intention to nominate Romulo L. Diaz Jr., a longtime official at the Energy Department, to be assistant administrator for resources management at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since 1995, Diaz has been the director of the Regulatory Coordination Office at Energy.

Also at the EPA, J. Charles Fox has been tapped to be assistant administrator for water. Before joining the EPA last year as an associate administrator, Fox was assistant secretary for Maryland's Department of the Environment. He previously was campaign director of American Rivers Inc. and, before that, director of legislative affairs at Friends of the Earth.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People on the Move

(NEWS 07/22/98; 29 lines)

Item Key: 14285

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

By Ann E. Marimow, CQ Staff Writer

Rep. Rick A. Lazio, R-N.Y., has hired four staffers for his Capitol Hill office.

Emily Miller started last month as press secretary. For the previous three years, she was an associate producer at ABC News in Washington for "This Week" and then "Good Morning America." Before that, she spent two years as a production assistant at NBC News.

Dawn Petchell and Jennifer Nord have been hired as legislative assistants.

Petchell will be responsible for telecommunications, environmental, transportation and education issues. She was a health care policy administrative fellow at Stony Brook University Hospital in New York.

Nord, formerly a health policy specialist at the National Conference

of State Legislatures, is handling health, Social Security and women's and seniors' issues. She replaces Eric Heighberger, who joined the Republican Institute in Albania.

Kim Pacelli, formerly a legislative intern with the American Legislative Exchange Council, has joined Lazio's office as a staff assistant. She takes over for Jessica Lynch, who was promoted to office manager and systems manager. Lynch replaces Tara Shelley, the scheduler for the past three years, who is moving to California in August.

There are no more items to read.

You are in NEWS

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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.

SENATE FLOOR July 22

Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 166

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 22

S2260 An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

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 BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE NOMINATION

Vote on Confirmation

Senate Committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Armed Services)

Item Key: 29

SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE NOMINATION * New *

Vote on Confirmation

Senate Armed Services Committee (Chairman Thurmond, R-S.C.) will vote on the nomination of Daryl L. Jones to be secretary of the Air Force.

July 22 10:00 am SR-222 Russell Bldg.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

PUBLIC LAND BILLS

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Energy & Natural Resources -- Subcommittee on
Forests and Public Land Management)

Item Key: 28

PUBLIC LAND BILLS * Revised *

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee (Chairman Craig,
R-Idaho) of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a
hearing on pending legislation.

July 22 2:00 pm SD-366 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

HR3796 - A bill to authorize the secretary of Agriculture to convey
the administrative site for the Rogue River National Forest
and use the proceeds for the construction or improvement of
offices and support buildings for the Rogue River National
Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.

S2136 - A bill to provide for the exchange of certain land in the
state of Washington.

S2226 - A bill to amend the Idaho Admission Act regarding the sale
or lease of school land.

HR2886 - A bill to provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, Calif., under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Senator Dirk Kempthorne, R-Idaho; Senator Patty Murray, D-Wash.; Rep. John T. Doolittle, R-Calif.

PANEL:

Gloria Manning - associate deputy chief, National Forest Systems, U.S. Forest Service PANEL:

Douglas Dorn - Office of Governor, State of Idaho; Craig Gehrke - regional director, Wilderness Society; Anne Fox - state superintendent, Public Instruction and member, State Board of Education, Boise, Idaho

PANEL:

Bill Brown - vice president, Strategic Business Development, Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.; Rick McGuire - president, Alpine Lakes Protection Society; Norm Winn - member, Conservation Division, Mountaineers; Charles C. Raines - director, Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club, Cascade Chapter; Janine Blaeloch - director, Western Land Exchange Project

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

INDIAN BILLS

Joint Hearing

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Indian Affairs)

Item Key: 18

INDIAN BILLS * Revised *

Joint Hearing

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Chairman Campbell, R-Colo.) and House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will hold a joint hearing on pending legislation.

July 22 9:00 am SD-106 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S1770 - A bill to elevate the position of director of the Indian Health Service to assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, to provide for the organizational independence of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health

and Human Services, and for other purposes.

HR3782 - A bill to compensate certain Indian tribes for known errors
in their tribal trust fund accounts, and for other purposes.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL: S 1770:

Kevin Thurm - deputy secretary of Health and Human
Services; Julia Davis - chair, Northwest Portland Area
Indian Health Board and secretary/treasurer, Nez Perce
Tribal Council; Buford Rolin - chairman, National Indian
Health Board

PANEL: HR 3782:

Kevin Gover - assistant secretary of Interior for Indian
affairs; Roland Johnson - governor, Pueblo of Laguna,
Laguna, N.M.; Mark Fox - chairman, Intertribal Monitoring
Association on Indian Trust Funds; John Echohawk - director,
Native American Rights Fund

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

MULTILATERAL/AGRICULTURAL TRADE

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Agriculture)

Item Key: 15

MULTILATERAL/AGRICULTURAL TRADE * Revised *

House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Smith, R-Ore.) will hold a hearing on the 1999 multilateral negotiations on agricultural trade between North and South America.

July 22 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Daniel Dye - vice president, North American Grain, Cargill Inc.; Chandler Keys - vice president, Public Policy, National Cattlemen's Beef Association; Janet Nuzum - vice president and general counsel, International Dairy Foods Association

PANEL:

Kraig Naasz - president and CEO, U.S. Apple Association; Dennis DeLaughter - chairman, Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group; Doreen Brown - president, Consumers for World Trade

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE BILLS

Full Committee Markup

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Education & Workforce)

Item Key: 38

EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE BILLS * Revised *

Full Committee Markup

House Education and the Workforce Committee (Chairman Goodling, R-Pa.)

will mark up pending legislation.

July 22 11:00 am 2175 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR4257 - A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to

permit certain youth to perform certain work with wood

products.

Agenda:

Proposed changes in committee rules to allow for deposition
authority for the Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations' probe of the International Brotherhood of
Teamsters

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

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

BANNING USE OF DRUGS FOR ASSISTED SUICIDE

Subcommittee Markup

House Committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on the Constitution)

Item Key: 48

BANNING USE OF DRUGS FOR ASSISTED SUICIDE * New *

Subcommittee Markup

Constitution Subcommittee (Chairman Canady, R-Fla.) of House Judiciary

Committee will mark up legislation that would clarify federal law to prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance for the purpose of causing or assisting in causing the suicide or euthanasia of any individual.

July 22 2:00 pm 2226 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR4006 - A bill to clarify federal law to prohibit the dispensing or distribution of a controlled substance for the purpose of causing, or assisting in causing, the suicide or euthanasia, of any individual.

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

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HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Judiciary)

Item Key: 30

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT * Revised *

House Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hyde, R-Ill.) will hold a hearing on legislation that would amend the federal criminal code to set penalties for persons who, whether or not acting under color of law, willfully cause bodily injury to any person or, through the use of fire, firearm, or explosive device, attempt to cause such injury, because of the actual or perceived: (1) race, color, religion, or national origin of any person; and (2) religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of any person.

July 22 10:00 am 2141 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR3081 - A bill to enhance federal enforcement of hate crimes, and
for other purposes.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Bill Lann Lee - acting assistant attorney general, Civil
Rights Division, Department of Justice

PANEL:

Cass Sunstein - law professor, University of Chicago Law
School, Chicago, Ill.; John C. Harrison - law professor,
University of Virginia School of Law School,
Charlottesville, Va.; Marc Bangerter - victim, Boise, Idaho;
Richard A. Devine - state attorney, Cook County, Ill.; Jack
McDevitt - Co-director, Center for Criminal Justice Policy
Research, Northeastern University Law School, Boston, Mass.;
Kimberly Potter - Center for Research in Crime and Justice,
New York University School of Law

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

Joint Hearing

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Resources)

Item Key: 19

INDIAN BILLS * Revised *

Joint Hearing

House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) and Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Chairman Campbell, R-Colo.) will hold a joint hearing on pending legislation.

July 22 9:00 am SD-106 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S1770 - A bill to elevate the position of director of the Indian Health Service to assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, to provide for the organizational independence of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

HR3782 - A bill to compensate certain Indian tribes for known errors in their tribal trust fund accounts, and for other purposes.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL: S 1770:

Kevin Thurm - deputy secretary of Health and Human Services; Julia Davis - chair, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and secretary/treasurer, Nez Perce Tribal Council; Buford Rolin - chairman, National Indian Health Board

PANEL: HR 3782:

Kevin Gover - assistant secretary of Interior for Indian affairs; Roland Johnson - governor, Pueblo of Laguna, Laguna, N.M.; Mark Fox - chairman, Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust Funds; John Echohawk - director, Native American Rights Fund

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

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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.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

House Committees

* Revised *

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

Item Key: 33

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

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MANAGED CARE ISSUES

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 49

MANAGED CARE ISSUES * New *

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., Rep. Greg Ganske, R-Iowa, Rep. John D.
Dingell, D-Mich., and small business owners from across the country will
hold a news conference to announce support for the Patients' Bill of
Rights.

July 22 3:00 pm S-207 Capitol Bldg. (Mansfield Room)

Contact: Jim Manley at 20222402633 (Kennedy); Barbara
Levering at 202-225-4426 (Ganske); Dennis Fitzgibbons at
202-225-3641; Joel Marks at 202-337-0037 (American Small
Business Alliance)

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

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REPUBLICAN MANAGED CARE BILL

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 50

REPUBLICAN MANAGED CARE BILL * New *

House Democrats will continue hearings on the managed care legislation
proposed by the House Republican leadership.

July 22 10:00 am B-318 Rayburn Bldg.

Contact: Laura Nichold or Erik Smith at 202-225-0100

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

OTHER EVENTS FOR JULY 22, 1998 * NEW *

Other news events

* NEW *

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 1

OTHER EVENTS FOR JULY 22, 1998 * NEW *

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 Littles 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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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.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

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.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

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

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 4

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.

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 3

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.

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APPROPRIATIONS: FULL HOUSE PANEL TAKES UP TRANSPORTATION SPENDING BILL

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 6

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 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.

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

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 12

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.

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

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 9

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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SOCIAL POLICY: BILL WOULD CLARIFY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN MEDICAL MATTERS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 14

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.

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ENVIRONMENT: MEASURES ADDRESS LAND USE, PRESERVATION ISSUES

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 11

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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DEFENSE: AIR FORCE SECRETARY NOMINEE STILL FACES UNCERTAIN ROAD

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 8

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.

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ENERGY: DEREGULATION, WASTE STORAGE QUESTIONS AWAIT RICHARDSON

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 7

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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ENVIRONMENT: GAMUT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 10

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.

SOCIAL POLICY: SENATE COMMITTEE WEIGHS BILL TO SPUR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98)

Item Key: 13

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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HOUSE FLOOR July 24

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/24/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 165

HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 24

CONVENES AT 9AM.

HR4250 A bill to provide new patient protections under group health
plans. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

Conference report on:

HR629 A bill to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. -- MAY BEGIN
CONSIDERATION.

HOUSE FLOOR July 23

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 07/23/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 164

HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

July 23

CONVENES AT 10AM.

HR1122 A bill to amend title 18, U.S. Code, to ban partial-birth abortions. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION (VETO OVERRIDE).

HR4276 An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

Conference report on:

HR629 A bill to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. -- MAY BEGIN
CONSIDERATION.

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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.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

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.

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DERIVATIVES MARKET REGULATION

Future Senate committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/30/98; Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry)

Item Key: 51

DERIVATIVES MARKET REGULATION * Revised *

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Lugar, R-Ind.) will hold a hearing on a recent proposal by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to review the regulation of over-the-counter derivatives. The hearing also will focus on related legislation proposed by the Treasury Department, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

July 30 9:00 am SD-106 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Alan Greenspan - chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; Brooksley Born - commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Arthur Levitt - chairman, Securities Exchange Commission; Lawrence Summers - deputy secretary of the Treasury

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for July 15.

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

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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

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

BOXING RULES REVISION

Future Senate committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/23/98; Commerce, Science & Transportation)

Item Key: 58

BOXING RULES REVISION * Revised *

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman McCain, R-Ariz.) will hold a hearing on legislation that would curb the most restrictive and anti-competitive business practices in boxing and protect boxers from unethical business practices carried out by promoters and managers. The legislation also would help state officials provide more effective public oversight of boxing events held in their jurisdiction, so that they can better prevent business practice abuses and unethical conduct.

July 23 9:30 am SR-253 Russell Bldg.

Agenda:

S2238 - A bill to reform unfair and anticompetitive practices in the professional boxing industry.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Tim Witherspoon - retired boxer; Shelly Finkel - manager
for heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson

PANEL:

Marc Ratner - Nevada State Athletic Commission (NSAC);
James Nave - NSAC; Larry Hazzard - New Jersey Board of
Athletic Control; Eddie Futch - trainer

PANEL:

Walter Stone - counsel, International Boxing Federation;
Jose Sulaiman - president, World Boxing Council

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Future Senate committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/29/98; Select Intelligence)

Item Key: 84

INTELLIGENCE MATTERS * New *

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Chairman Shelby, R-Ala.) will hold
a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

July 29 2:00 30pm SH-219 Hart Bldg. CLOSED

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Future Senate committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/29/98; Select Intelligence)

Item Key: 83

INTELLIGENCE MATTERS * New *

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Chairman Shelby, R-Ala.) will hold a closed meeting on intelligence matters.

July 29 10:00 am SH-219 Hart Bldg. CLOSED

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Future Senate committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE date TBA; Judiciary)

Item Key: 77

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT * Revised *

Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hatch, R-Utah) will hold an oversight hearing on the Violence Against Women Act.

Date TBA Time TBA SD-226 Dirksen Bldg.

Note: This hearing was previously scheduled for July 22.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Future Senate committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/28/98; Labor & Human Resources)

Item Key: 82

SUBSTANCE ABUSE * New *

Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee (Chairman Jeffords, R-Vt.)

will hold a hearing on the science of drug addiction and the options for
drug abuse treatment.

July 28 10:00 am SD-430 Dirksen Bldg.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

FY99 APPROPRIATIONS

Full Committee Markup

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE date TBA; Appropriations)

Item Key: 89

FY99 APPROPRIATIONS * Revised *

Full Committee Markup

House Appropriations Committee (Chairman Livingston, R-La.) will mark up pending FY99 appropriations legislation.

Date TBA Time TBA 2359 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR - - - FY99 Transportation Appropriations

HR -- - FY99 Foreign Operation Appropriations

NOTE: This was originally on the schedule for July 22

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

TEAMSTERS INVESTIGATION

Future House committees

(SCHEDULE 07/24/98-07/30/98; Education & Workforce -- Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations)

Item Key: 96

TEAMSTERS INVESTIGATION

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (Chairman Hoekstra, R-Mich.) of House Education and the Workforce Committee will continue its series of hearings investigating the Teamsters' election.

July 24 9:30 am 2175 Rayburn Bldg.

July 30 Time TBA 2175 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

July 24 Aaron Bell - vice president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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

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IMPACT OF REGULATIONS ON STATES AND LOCALITIES

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/28/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on
National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs)

Item Key: 103

IMPACT OF REGULATIONS ON STATES AND LOCALITIES * Revised *

National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs

Subcommittee (Chairman McIntosh, R-Ind.) of House Government Reform and

Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on a recent executive order (No.

13083) relating to federal-state relations in the development and

revision of regulations. There is concern among the states that the new

order revokes previous guidelines that required the federal government

to consult with states and local governments and take into account the

burdens that new rules might impose, before taking final action on

regulations.

July 28 10:00 am 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Information verified as of 08:32pm 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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

IMPACT OF FEDERAL AGENCY REGULATIONS ON FAMILIES

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/30/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology)

Item Key: 102

IMPACT OF FEDERAL AGENCY REGULATIONS ON FAMILIES * Revised *

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 direct each federal agency, before implementing policies and regulations that may affect family well-being, to assess such actions with respect to specified criteria.

July 30 10:00 am 2247 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR2124 - A bill to require federal agencies to assess the impact of policies and regulations on families, and for other purposes.

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for July 28.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

HEALTH CARE LABOR RELATIONS ISSUES

Future House committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 07/29/98; Judiciary)

Item Key: 112

HEALTH CARE LABOR RELATIONS ISSUES * New *

House Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hyde, R-Ill.) will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

July 29 10:00 am 2141 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR4277 - A bill to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations by groups of health care professionals and certain other associations that are engaged in negotiations with health maintenance organizations and other health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act.

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

COPYRIGHT OFFICE OVERSIGHT

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/23/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual
Property)

Item Key: 113

COPYRIGHT OFFICE OVERSIGHT * Revised *

Courts and Intellectual Property Subcommittee (Chairman Coble, R-N.C.)
of House Judiciary Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the U.S.
Copyright Office.

July 23 10:00 am 2226 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Marybeth Peters - register of copyrights, Copyright Office
of the United States, The Library of Congress; Shira
Perlmutter - associate register, Policy and International
Affairs, Copyright Office of the United States, The Library
of Congress

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 08/05/98; Resources)

Item Key: 126

RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUSINESS * Revised *

House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will meet on
business to be announced.

Aug. 5 11:00 am 1324 Longworth Bldg.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS BILLS

Subcommittee Markup

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 08/06/98; Resources -- Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health)

Item Key: 115

PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS BILLS * Revised *

Subcommittee Markup

National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee (Chairman Hansen, R-Utah)
of House Resources Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Aug. 6 10:00 am 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Agenda:

HR2800 - A bill to provide for a study of the establishment of Midway
Atoll as a national memorial to the Battle of Midway, and
for other purposes.

HR2970 - A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act for
purposes of establishing a national historic lighthouse
preservation program.

HR3705 - A bill to provide for the sale of certain public lands in
the Ivanpah Valley, Nev., to the Clark County Department of
Aviation.

HR3746 - A bill to authorize the addition of the Paoli Battlefield

site in Malvern, Penn., to the Valley Forge National
Historic Park, and for other purposes.

HR3883 - A bill to revise the boundary of the Abraham Lincoln
Birthplace National Historic Site to include Knob Creek
Farm, and for other purposes.

HR -- - A bill to make technical corrections and minor adjustments
to the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National
Monument in the state of Utah.

HR3910 - A bill to authorize the Automobile National Heritage Area.

HR3950 - A bill to designate a portion of the Otay Mountain region of
California as wilderness.

HR3963 - A bill to establish terms and conditions under which the
secretary of the Interior shall convey leaseholds in certain
properties around Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Mont.

HR3981 - A bill to modify the boundaries of the George Washington
Birthplace National Monument, and for other purposes.

HR4109 - A bill to authorize the Gateway Visitor Center at
Independence National Historic Park, and for other purposes.

HR4141 - A bill to amend the act authorizing the establishment of the
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to modify the
boundaries of the area, and to provide for the protection of
lands, waters, and natural, cultural and scenic resources
within the national recreation area, and for other purposes.

HR4144 - A bill to ensure the protection of natural, cultural, and
historical resources in Cumberland Island National Seashore
and Cumberland Island Wilderness in the state of Georgia.

HR4158 - A bill to authorize the private ownership and use of certain

secondary structures and surplus lands administered as part of any national historical park that are not consistent with the purposes for which the park was established, if adequate protection of natural, aesthetic, recreational, cultural and historical values is assured by appropriate terms, covenants, conditions or reservations.

HR4211 - A bill to establish the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, in association with the Tuskegee University, in the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.

HR4230 - A bill to provide for a land exchange involving the El Portal Administrative Site of the Department of the Interior in the state of California.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

COSTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE

Joint Hearing

Future House committees

* Postponed *

(SCHEDULE 08/04/98; Resources -- Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans)

Item Key: 118

COSTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE * Postponed *

Joint Hearing

Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee (Chairman Saxton, R-N.J.) and Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee (Chairman Cubin, R-Wyo.) of House Resources Committee will hold a joint hearing on coastal impact assistance.

Aug. 4 2:00 pm 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Note: This hearing has not been rescheduled.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

INDIAN LANDS CONSOLIDATION

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/29/98; Resources)

Item Key: 116

INDIAN LANDS CONSOLIDATION * Revised *

House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will hold a hearing
on pending legislation.

July 29 11:00 am 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Agenda:

HR2743 - A bill to reduce the fractionated ownership of Indian lands,
and for other purposes.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS BILLS

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/28/98; Resources -- Subcommittee on Forests and Forest
Health)

Item Key: 125

PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS BILLS * Revised *

National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee (Chairman Hansen, R-Utah)
of House Resources Committee will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

July 28 10:00 am 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Agenda:

- HR4144 - A bill to ensure the protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources in Cumberland Island National Seashore and Cumberland Island Wilderness in the state of Georgia.
- HR4211 - A bill to establish the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, in association with the Tuskegee University, in the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.
- HR4230 - A bill to provide for a land exchange involving the El Portal Administrative Site of the Department of the Interior in the state of California.
- HR -- - To make technical corrections and minor adjustments to the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the State of Utah
- HR2125 - A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes.
- HR3950 - A bill to designate a portion of the Otay Mountain region of California as wilderness.
- HR3963 - A bill to establish terms and conditions under which the secretary of the Interior shall convey leaseholds in certain properties around Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Mont.

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

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

WATER AND POWER ISSUES

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 07/28/98; Resources -- Subcommittee on Water and Power)

Item Key: 121

WATER AND POWER ISSUES * Revised *

Water and Power Resources Subcommittee (Chairman Doolittle, R-Calif.) of
House Resources Committee will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

July 28 2:00 pm 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Agenda:

HR3478 - A bill to amend the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights

Settlement Act to provide for a final settlement of the
claims of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes, and for other
purposes.

HR745 - A bill to deauthorize the Animas-La Plata federal reclamation project, and to direct the secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations to satisfy, in a manner consistent with all federal laws, the water rights interests of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

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

55 of 55 items CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/22/98

KYOTO PROTOCOL

Future House committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 07/27/98; Small Business)

Item Key: 133

KYOTO PROTOCOL * New *

House Small Business Committee (Chairman Talent, R-Mo.) will hold a hearing on the science behind the global warming hypothesis which has been used to support the Kyoto Protocol.

July 27 1:00 pm 2360 Rayburn Bldg.

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

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

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===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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22 Jul 1998 04:23:07 -0400 (EDT)

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22 Jul 1998 04:29:27 -0400 (EDT)

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; Wed, 22 Jul 1998 04:18:27 -0500 (EST)

X-VMS-To: wins%"yuille_j@a1.eop.gov",wins%"baker_p@a1.eop.gov",
wins%"duykers_n@a1.eop.gov"

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