

closing days of the 105th Congress to reconcile the Senate measure (S1301) with the tougher version (HR3150) passed by the House in June. Complicating matters further is the fact that members of the House Judiciary Committee, which drafted that chamber's measure, are consumed by consideration of possible impeachment proceedings against President Clinton.

The House measure is preferred by credit card companies, banks, retailers and other creditors. It would impose a means test for use of Chapter 7, the bankruptcy code section that permits individuals to erase all debts and start over after selling off most assets. Debtors who earn more than the median income -- about \$51,000 for a family of four -- and who could pay off at least 20 percent of their unsecured debts over time would be forced to file under Chapter 13. That chapter allows the debtor to retain assets but requires repayment of as many debts as possible over three to five years.

The Senate bill is preferred by the president. It would leave bankruptcy judges more discretion, allowing them to consider whether a debtor seeking Chapter 7 protection could pay off at least 30 percent of his or her unsecured debts over three-to-five years. If so, the judge could order the debtor to use Chapter 13 proceedings.

Despite the strong economy, the number of Americans filing personal bankruptcies last year jumped to 1.3 million -- up more than 300 percent since 1980.

The Senate-passed bill, unlike the House version, would force credit card companies to disclose more information to cardholders, including the amount of time it would take to pay off the individual's debt via minimum monthly payments.

Yesterday senators adopted, by voice vote, an amendment by Herb Kohl, D-Wis., calling for Senate conferees to insist on Senate-passed language that would cap state "homestead" limits at \$100,000. The House version contains no such cap, and limits on home value exempt from seizure in bankruptcy proceedings vary greatly from state to state.

The Senate also adopted, by voice vote, an amendment by Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., requiring the Federal Reserve to conduct a two-year study to determine if regulations are needed to ensure that credit card companies are acting responsibly in offering credit to consumers at risk of accruing unmanageable debt.

That amendment was watered down from a previous version that would have required credit card companies to inform consumers with a debt-to-income ratio of 40 percent or more about the danger of such indebtedness before issuing further credit.

Senators tabled, or killed, 71-27, a nonbinding amendment by Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, calling on the Federal Reserve to lower the federal funds interest rate to combat signs of a slowdown in the economy.

Opponents said it was inappropriate for the Senate to attempt to

steer the Federal Reserve Board to a decision on monetary policy. The Fed's policy-making arm meets on Tuesday, and many economists expect the Fed to lower interest rates to spur growth.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

DEMOCRATS' PLEAS FOR QUICK INQUIRY SPURNED

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 09/24/98; 132 lines)

Item Key: 15472

DEMOCRATS' PLEAS FOR QUICK INQUIRY SPURNED

By Elizabeth A. Palmer, CQ Staff Writer

Offering more evidence that promises of a bipartisan impeachment inquiry will turn out to be wishful thinking, House Republicans summarily rejected yesterday a Democratic bid to impose a deadline for the House to finish its review of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's allegations against President Clinton.

Backed in principle by the White House, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., said the House should be able to finish its work on impeachment in as little as 30 days. But Speaker Newt Gingrich,

R-Ga., promised a "calm and methodical" approach.

The need for a bipartisan weighing of Starr's findings that Clinton committed potentially impeachable offenses in an effort to conceal an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is about the only thing the Republican and Democratic caucuses agree on.

Republicans have the House votes to impeach Clinton, but cannot convict him in the Senate without the support of some Democrats.

But the GOP majority is in no mood as yet to make concessions to the Democratic minority that would put the investigation on a bipartisan footing.

A meeting yesterday of key players that was intended to ease the bitter partisanship yielded no apparent progress.

The argument over timing is the latest in a series of flareups as the House proceeds along two divergent paths. Republicans controlling the process seem to be moving inexorably towards impeachment proceedings, while Democrats -- perhaps having concluded that a formal House impeachment inquiry is inevitable -- are trying to speed the end of the ordeal and minimize the political damage.

"Neither the American people nor the members of Congress know this case thoroughly yet," Gingrich said after meeting with Gephardt, Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, and the chairman and ranking

Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee.

Republicans also threw cold water on talk of a bipartisan arrangement to punish Clinton but stop short of impeachment. "I don't think people want this Congress to deal with a constitutional issue based on the latest overnight poll," Gingrich said. Armey said during his weekly press briefing that while "I know that there will be overtures and so forth ... any such talk of that is premature."

Another leadership meeting is scheduled tomorrow morning. And the Judiciary Committee, which had been slated to meet in closed session today, has postponed that meeting until tomorrow.

REPUBLICANS IN NO HURRY

"For the sake of the country," Gephardt said, the House should move quickly to complete its review of Starr's report. "The House's place in this process can and should be completed in some reasonable timetable," perhaps as soon as 30 days, he added.

But the minority leader said he "heard nothing in [yesterday's] meeting that gives me any assurances that this matter will be brought to closure in the next month or anytime soon." He said he is concerned that hearings could drag on for two years -- or the remainder of the Clinton presidency.

Gephardt said the investigation could turn into a "fishing

expedition," pointing to suggestions yesterday that the House inquiry may be broader than Starr's report.

Hyde issued an unusually biting reply. "The president had eight months to tell the truth, but instead he sent his staff out to declare his innocence to the world. Now the Democrats want to shut down an inquiry of his behavior in 30 days," the statement said.

The committee has yet to begin formally reviewing the evidence, much less deciding whether to ask the full House to authorize a formal impeachment inquiry.

"We haven't done anything that gets us closer to the answer, should the president be impeached?" said Judiciary member Robert C. Scott, D-Va.

Committee member Bill McCollum, R-Fla., said hearings, which may be key to the panel's decision-making, would be difficult to complete as quickly as Gephardt suggested. Members may need to "eyeball witnesses to determine if they are telling the truth," he said.

Gephardt's call for rapid action was one of four requests he made in a letter to Gingrich in what the minority leader called an attempt to make the process more bipartisan.

He also asked the Speaker to join him asking Starr's office to turn over more evidence produced during the investigation. Hyde said he will

consult with ranking committee Democrat John Conyers Jr., Mich., about additional material the committee might subpoena.

Gephardt also asked Gingrich to encourage the committee to delete as much "sexually explicit" material from the remaining evidence as possible. The panel has until Monday to decide to what to hold back -- otherwise, everything will become public.

The final Gephardt request could prove to be the most difficult: a bipartisan agreement on the handling of evidence and subpoena power.

DEMOCRATS WARN OF BACKLASH

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., urged Republican leaders to move quickly through what he called "not a complicated case." A prolonged investigation, he said, could damage the country, Congress and the presidency. If the process is politicized, Republicans risk a public backlash, he warned.

"The more partisan this whole matter becomes, the less tolerant the American people will be and the more difficult it will be to bring this process to a successful conclusion, whatever that may be," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D. "I think we're bordering on a very high level of partisanship already. I'm disappointed. I'm frankly angered by it. And I hope that in the not-too-distant future our Republican colleagues will see the error of that approach and come back to the bipartisan approach they said they would be using."

Presidential spokesman Michael McCurry said Clinton expects to face some sort of congressional punishment and would like to resolve the matter as quickly as possible, for the nation's sake as well as his own self-interest.

But McCurry said partisanship may lead Republican leaders to do the opposite of whatever the White House and Democratic lawmakers suggest. Some Republicans also favor wrapping up the matter sooner rather than later, McCurry said, but are keeping their views to themselves to avoid the wrath of "the jihad caucus of their own party."

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

GOP TAX CUT FACES A GROWING DEMOCRATIC COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 09/24/98; 106 lines)

Item Key: 15498

GOP TAX CUT FACES A GROWING DEMOCRATIC COUNTEROFFENSIVE

By Andrew Taylor and Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writers

With the backhanded blessing of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan

Greenspan, Republicans today will push their election-year tax cut to the threshold of the House floor.

After the Rules Committee crafts GOP ground rules for the debate, the package is expected to win passage tomorrow or Saturday. But after that, Senate Democrats have served notice that they will not go along. That means President Clinton will probably never have to make good on his promise to veto the measure.

Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, wrote the House bill (HR4579) with the aim of wooing Democrats by cutting taxes of married couples, farmers, senior citizens, small business operators and people with savings accounts

But most are siding instead with the president in opposing the GOP plan because it would tap into expected budget surpluses to offset the bulk of the \$80.1 billion in lost revenue during the next five years. Clinton wants to leave the surplus virtually alone as a potential source for salvaging the wobbly Social Security trust fund. That has allowed Democrats to once again portray the GOP as more interested in cutting taxes, mostly to benefit the wealthy, than helping preserve federal benefits for those less secure.

Vice President Al Gore will stand on the steps of the Capitol this morning to drive home that very point.

GREENSPAN'S OPINION, GOP RETORT

But before the Senate Budget Committee yesterday, Greenspan reiterated his view that the surplus should be dedicated to neither Social Security nor tax cuts.

"My first preference is to allow the surplus to reduce the debt with what I judge to be significant economic consequences," he said. "If that turns out to be politically infeasible -- in other words, that it either has to be spent or returned to taxpayers -- I unequivocally support the latter."

He continued: "I am also, however, aware of the pressures that will exist to spend it, and that in my judgment would be the worst of all outcomes. And if push came to shove and it was either spend it or cut taxes, I would strongly and unequivocally be on the side of cutting taxes, very specifically in cutting marginal tax rates and lowering capital-gains tax rates."

Spokesman Ari Fleischer of the Ways and Means Committee read Greenspan's words as an endorsement of the GOP bill.

"The chairman recognizes that given the president's call to spend billions of the surplus" on emergency funding that does not require offsets, reserving the surplus "is a moot point," Fleischer said. "The politicians would spend it. The less money the politicians have, the less they can spend."

This goes to the core of the GOP counteroffensive: Taxes should be cut somewhat if Clinton is so willing to bend his "save Social Security" to accommodate a growing list of "emergency" extra spending needs -- which has grown twice this week alone, with requests of \$1.8 for embassy security and probably billion more for military readiness.

Through the first 11 months of fiscal 1998, the surplus was \$31.8 billion, the Treasury Department reported Tuesday.

DEMOCRATS READY THEIR ALTERNATIVE

Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Senate Democrats next week will unveil a \$25 billion, five-year tax cut plan intended to compete with the GOP package. He declined to offer specifics except to say it would provide tax cuts for married couples, self employed individuals and families with children in school. He said it would be paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting discretionary spending.

"It is targeted, totally paid for and will not touch Social Security," he boasted, and has been crafted to combat a "false impression" that only Republicans want tax cuts. "We're not opposed to tax cuts. We're just opposed to using the Social Security trust fund to pay for those tax cuts. And they are not targeted either."

He also criticized the House Republican tax cut plan for directing 53 percent of its benefits to the top 15 percent of income earners. "It's the genetic, Republican approach to tax cuts: Give it to the

rich," he said.

STRATEGIZING FOR TOMORROW, AND NEXT MONTH

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, predicted the GOP bill "will pass big" because of a "generous supply" of Democratic support. But later in the day House Democratic whips sounded confident that they were minimizing the number of their troops who will vote "yes" to as few as 20.

After that, the GOP's best option for putting the tax bill before Clinton could be attaching it to a wrapup, must-pass fiscal 1999 spending bill and daring him to veto it. But last night Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said current GOP leadership thinking was to "probably not" pursue that option.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO has purchased \$500,000 in television time in the House districts of 18 Republicans and two Democrats -- all of whom are either in close re-election races or bidding for the Senate -- urging a "no" vote.

DOCTORS ARE KILLING ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 09/24/98; 46 lines)

Item Key: 15497

DOCTORS ARE KILLING ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

By Rebecca Adams, CQ Staff Writer

Legislation (HR4006) to effectively ban physician-assisted suicides may be on life support after being pulled from this week's House floor schedule yesterday.

A spokeswoman for Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said that there were "just a lot of other things to do this week." The spokeswoman, Michele Davis, said that she did not know when the bill would be rescheduled. "The priority is appropriations," she said.

House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution staffers blamed the delay on the executive session hearings that are occupying the Judiciary Committee today and probably tomorrow. Aides said that no lawmaker would be available to manage the bill on the floor. Other aides said that a whip count showed that the support for the measure was faltering.

But a massive lobbying campaign by the American Medical Association and other medical professionals may be bringing about the bill's early demise. AMA spokesman Jim Stacy said that the association was

encountering an increasing number of lawmakers who "had difficulties once they focused on the impact of the bill."

Under the bill, the Justice Department would be required to revoke physicians' licenses to write prescriptions for certain narcotics if it found "clear and convincing" evidence that doctors intended to use such drugs to assist suicide.

Medical professionals have criticized the effect of the bill on pain management for the terminally ill. The AMA and other groups say that doctors already underprescribe pain control medication for dying patients, and that the legislation would provide even more of a deterrent.

Bill sponsor Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde, Ill., has pointed out that the bill allows an appeal process for accused doctors. Supporters argue that the measure would protect doctors from punishment unless the proof is clear that a physician intended for his patient to deliberately use controlled substances to die.

On the Senate side, a companion bill (S2151) is scheduled for a markup today, but Judiciary Committee aides said that the measure is likely to be held over at least until next week.

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Hill News Highlights

(NEWS 09/24/98; 101 lines)

Item Key: 15496

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

By CQ Staff

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; Senate conferees appointed July 16; House conferees appointed Sept. 15

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE & THE JUDICIARY (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); PASSED Senate July 23; PASSED House August 6; Senate conferees appointed August 31

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (S2333, HR4380): Senate full committee markup completed July 21 (SRept105-254); House subcommittee markup completed

July 24; House full committee markup completed July 30 (HRept105-670);

PASSED House August 6

ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT (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; Senate conferees appointed July 23; House

conferees appointed July 29

FOREIGN OPERATIONS (HR4569, S2334): House subcommittee markup completed

July 15; Senate full committee markup completed July 2 (SRept105-255);

PASSED Senate Sept. 2; House full committee markup completed

Sept. 10 (HRept105-719); PASSED House Sept. 17

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); PASSED House July 23; Senate floor

debate began Sept. 8; Senate floor debate suspended Sept. 16

LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION (HR4274, S2440): House subcommittee markup

completed June 23; House full committee markup completed July 14

(HRept105-635); Senate subcommittee markup completed Sept. 1; Senate

full committee markup completed Sept. 3 (SRept105-300)

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; Senate conferees appointed July 21; House conferees appointed Sept. 15; Conference completed Sept. 18 (HRept105-734)

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; Senate conferees appointed July 23; House conferees appointed July 23; Conference completed July 23; Conference report ADOPTED by House July 29 (HRept105-647); Conference report ADOPTED by Senate Sept. 1; SIGNED by president Sept. 20 (PL105-237)

NATIONAL SECURITY/DEFENSE (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; PASSED Senate July 30; House conferees appointed Sept. 15; Conference completed Sept. 23

TRANSPORTATION: (HR4328) Senate subcommittee markup completed July 8; Senate full committee markup completed July 14 (SRept105-249); House subcommittee markup completed July 16; House full committee markup completed July 22 (HRept105-648); PASSED Senate July 24; PASSED House July 30; Senate conferees appointed July 30; House conferees

appointed Sept. 15

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 (SRept105-251); PASSED House July 16; PASSED Senate Sept. 3; Senate conferees appointed Sept. 3; House conferees appointed Sept. 16

VA, HUD, & INDEPENDENT AGENCIES (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 (HRept105-610); PASSED Senate July 30; PASSED House July 29; Senate conferees appointed July 30; House conferees appointed Sept. 15

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)

FY99 CONTINUING RESOLUTION (Sept. 30 to Oct. 9) -- HJRes128: PASSED House Sept. 17; CLEARED Senate Sept. 17

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TODAY AT A GLANCE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/24/98; 37 lines)

Item Key: 15471

TODAY AT A GLANCE

By CQ Staff

HOUSE FLOOR: Votes are scheduled today on the conference report for the legislative branch spending bill (HR4112) and a \$270.5 billion defense authorization measure (HR3616). Also possible is a bill (HR3736) that would increase the number of visas for high-tech foreign workers. (Convenes at 10 a.m.; votes possible throughout the day)

SENATE FLOOR: The Senate will vote on invoking cloture and proceeding to legislation (S2176) that would establish new requirements on appointments by the president of "acting" or temporary officials at federal agencies. The Senate also is expected to resume work on the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill (S2279). (Convenes at 9:30 a.m.; first vote at 9:30 a.m.)

PRINTING PROCESS: Senate Rules will mark up a bill (S2288) that would overhaul the government's system for printing and disseminating information.

DATA ANALYSIS: Senate Governmental Affairs will consider a bill (S1404) that would streamline the government's statistics-gathering agencies into one operation.

CRIME PAYMENTS: Senate Judiciary will mark up three bills, including one (S992) that would establish new penalties for selling or transporting stolen firearms.

FINANCIAL PRIVACY: House Commerce has eight bills on its agenda, including one (HR4321) that would criminalize fraudulently obtaining private financial records.

POSTAL RENOVATION: A House Government Reform and Oversight subcommittee will mark up a bill (HR22) designed to give the Postal Service more autonomy.

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SENATE ENVIRONMENT OKS BILLS ON BORDER SMOG, LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 59 lines)

Item Key: 15457

SENATE ENVIRONMENT OKS BILLS ON BORDER SMOG, LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

By Sumana Chatterjee, CQ Staff Writer

Legislation designed to combat air pollution caused by border-crossing commuter vehicles was approved by voice vote today by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

The House-passed measure (HR8) would give U.S. Customs officials legal authority to deny entry to foreign-registered commuter vehicles from Mexico that do not meet state or local emissions standards. Areas along the Southern California border and the Juarez/El Paso border area in Texas have been designated as "serious" ozone areas. Officials say a chief cause of increased vehicle air pollution in Southern California stems from U.S. citizens and legal migrant workers registering their cars in Mexico to avoid stricter U.S. emissions standards.

Supporters say the bill would reduce smog by 13 percent in the San Diego area, where 40,000 to 45,000 vehicles cross the border each day. The EPA has estimated that vehicle inspection and maintenance programs reduce pollution at a cost of \$500 per ton, as opposed to \$2,000 to \$10,000 per ton for stationary sources, according to a House committee

report.

The measure calls for fines and penalties when repeated attempts are made to cross the border without meeting the emissions standards. Under the bill, vehicles could enter freely if the border state certifies that they meet that state's emissions standards. One entry would be granted to obtain such documentation.

States may choose to develop their own compliance programs but those are subject to the president's approval. States along the Canadian border would not be required to check for emissions compliance, but they could opt into the program.

UNDERGROUND TANK CLEANUPS: The committee also approved by voice vote a substitute version of a bill (S555) designed to speed the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks. It would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to transfer at least 80 percent of federal funds that normally go to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank trust fund directly to the states.

The trust fund was created in 1986 to assist states in cleaning up petroleum storage tanks, which can leak into groundwater and soil and pose a public health risk. The fund was financed by a one-tenth of a cent gas tax that expired Dec. 1, 1995, and has a balance of \$1 billion.

The bill would require states to set up cooperative agreements with the EPA to schedule allocations from the trust fund and would require

the EPA to distribute the money based on the number of leaking tanks and the amount of state contributions to the fund.

The measure also calls for the EPA to expeditiously address leaking from underground storage tanks on tribal lands. According to Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., the EPA has not developed a strategic plan because it does not yet know the extent of the problem on Indian lands.

The House passed its version (HR688) in April 1997.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

MEASURES WOULD COMPENSATE HEMOPHILIACS INFECTED WITH HIV

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 39 lines)

Item Key: 15458

MEASURES WOULD COMPENSATE HEMOPHILIACS INFECTED WITH HIV

By Emily Pierce, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee today approved two bills that would compensate hemophiliacs who contracted the AIDS virus in the 1980s through contaminated blood products.

The panel by voice vote approved a House-passed measure (HR1023) and a broader, unnumbered Senate bill, offered by Chairman James M. Jeffords, R-Vt. The Jeffords bill would compensate not only people with blood-clotting disorders but also non-hemophiliacs who contracted AIDS through blood transfusions in the 1980s.

Committee approval of both reflects a compromise between Jeffords and most other committee members, who balked at nearly \$1 billion to the original \$750 million authorization in order to include infected non-hemophiliacs. Senate Majority Trent Lott, R-Miss., will now have to decide which measure to bring to the Senate floor, Jeffords said.

Chief House supporter Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., wrote Jeffords two weeks ago to urge approval of the narrower House version. Jeffords said today he may accept Hyde's suggestion to compensate hemophiliacs this year and work on a separate compensation bill for non-hemophiliacs next year.

In an effort to make the Jeffords bill more palatable to House and Senate opponents, the panel adopted by voice vote a Jeffords amendment that would give priority to hemophiliacs' petitions for payment during the first 180 days of the program. Each recipient would receive about \$100,000 if they were infected with the AIDS-virus between July 1, 1982, and Dec. 31, 1987.

During the 1980s, nearly half of the nation's 16,000 hemophiliacs

contracted HIV from contaminated blood products, like plasma. Nearly 10,000 non-hemophiliacs who underwent emergency care or elective surgery during that time also contracted the disease. Regulations put in place nearly a decade ago now mandate that the blood supply be tested thoroughly.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION PROJECT WINS HOUSE APPROVAL

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 27 lines)

Item Key: 15459

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION PROJECT WINS HOUSE APPROVAL

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

By voice vote, the House today passed legislation that would authorize \$40 million through fiscal 2003 for wildlife, conservation and other restoration projects in and around the Great Lakes.

The bill (HR1481) would reauthorize and amend a 1990 law (PL 101-596) that sought to revitalize the five lakes and more than 10,000 miles of shoreline that constitute the largest system of surface

freshwater on earth. It also would implement the recommendations of a 1995 Great Lakes resources study and create a committee to review restoration proposals.

The 1995 study found that the problems facing the Great Lakes region include chemical contamination, over-exploitation of fish and wildlife resources and the introduction of non-indigenous species.

The bill would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to annually request from states and Indian tribes restoration proposals for the region and would set up a committee, comprised of representatives of all the affected states and tribes, to review the proposals.

The Fish and Wildlife Service then would select proposals to be funded under the bill. At least 25 percent of the cost of each project must be funded with non-federal money.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

GEPHARDT CALLS FOR SPEEDY ACTION ON CLINTON; GINGRICH VOWS
METHODICAL PROBE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 86 lines)

Item Key: 15442

GEPHARDT CALLS FOR SPEEDY ACTION ON CLINTON; GINGRICH VOWS METHODICAL PROBE

By Elizabeth A. Palmer, CQ Staff Writer

Democrats pressed today to set a deadline for a conclusion of the House's review of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's allegations against President Clinton. But Speaker Newt Gingrich, Ga., promised a "calm and methodical" approach and said the House will not be stampeded by public opinion favoring punishment short of impeachment.

"Neither the American people nor the members of Congress know this case thoroughly yet," Gingrich said after meeting with House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, Mo., Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, and the chairman and ranking Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee. "I don't think people want this Congress to deal with a constitutional issue based on the latest overnight poll."

Responding to reports that Clinton and Democrats are looking to cut a deal on a punishment less severe than impeachment, Armey said during his weekly press briefing that while "I know that there will be overtures and so forth ... any such talk of that is premature."

Today's meeting, to be followed by a similar session on Friday, was scheduled to discuss how the House review will be conducted. Starr has told the House that Clinton committed 11 potentially impeachable

offenses in an attempt to conceal his sexual affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The Judiciary Committee will meet tomorrow to decide how many more of Starr's supporting documents will be released.

Gephardt said that "for the sake of the country" the House should move quickly to complete its review of Starr's report. "The House's place in this process can and should be completed in some reasonable timetable," perhaps as soon as 30 days, he added.

Gephardt said the call for rapid action was one of four requests he included in a letter to Gingrich in attempt to make the process more bipartisan.

But on his primary concern, Gephardt said. "I heard nothing in the meeting that gives me any assurances that this matter will be brought to closure in the next month or anytime soon." And he said, he is concerned that the hearings could drag on for two years -- or the remainder of the Clinton presidency.

He said he is also concerned that the investigation could turn into a "fishing expedition," because there were suggestions during today's meeting that the scope of the inquiry may be broader than Starr's report.

In his letter to Gingrich, Gephardt also asked the Speaker to join him asking Starr's office to turn over other evidence produced during

the investigation that has not been turned over to the House. According to a Gephardt aide, Starr's staff has said 20 boxes of information, including half of Lewinsky's FBI interview and about one-quarter of her testimony to the grand jury, have not been sent to the House.

Gephardt also asked Gingrich to encourage the committee to delete as much of the "sexually explicit" material from the remaining evidence as possible. The panel has until the end of the day Monday to decide to what to hold back -- otherwise, everything will become public.

The final Gephardt request could prove to be the most difficult: a bipartisan agreement on the handling of evidence and subpoena power. These kinds of questions go to the heart of who will control the investigation, and could be very difficult to work out.

CALL FOR SPEEDY ACTION: The Democratic leader's call for quick action was surprising. The Judiciary Committee has yet to begin formally reviewing the evidence, much less deciding whether to ask the full House to authorize a formal impeachment inquiry.

Gephardt's proposal may not be universally popular within his party. "We haven't done anything that gets us closer to the answer, should the president be impeached?" said Judiciary Committee member Robert C. Scott, D-Va.

DASCHLE'S PREDICTION: President Clinton will be able to serve out his term, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., predicted today.

Daschle, who said he is recovering from a sense of betrayal after learning that Clinton falsely denied a relationship with Monica Lewinsky, said the allegations against the president are unlikely to hurt Democratic candidates in November's House and Senate elections. A perception among Democratic voters that the president has been treated unfairly in the House could increase voter turnout, Daschle added.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

SENATE PASSES BILL TO TIGHTEN CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY STANDARDS

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 79 lines)

Item Key: 15456

SENATE PASSES BILL TO TIGHTEN CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY STANDARDS

By Richard Sammon, CQ Staff Writer

Paving the way for a conference with the House, the Senate today passed legislation designed to make it harder for consumers to declare bankruptcy and walk away from their debts. The vote was a resounding 97-1. The only dissenter was Paul Wellstone, D-Minn.

Despite that overwhelming vote, it will be a challenge in the

closing days of the 105th Congress to reconcile the Senate measure (S1301) with the tougher version (HR3150) passed by the House in June. Complicating matters further is the fact that members of the House Judiciary Committee, which drafted that chamber's measure, are consumed by consideration of possible impeachment proceedings against President Clinton.

The House measure -- which is preferred by credit card companies, banks, retailers and other creditors -- would impose a means test for use of Chapter 7, the bankruptcy code section that permits individuals to erase all debts and start over after selling off most assets. Debtors who earn more than the median income -- about \$51,000 for a family of four -- and who could pay off at least 20 percent of their unsecured debts over time would be forced to file under Chapter 13. That chapter allows the debtor to retain assets but requires repayment of as many debts as possible over three to five years.

The Senate bill, which the president has said he prefers, would leave bankruptcy judges more discretion, allowing them to consider whether a debtor seeking Chapter 7 protection could pay off at least 30 percent of his or her unsecured debts over three to five years. If so, the judge could order the debtor to use Chapter 13 proceedings.

Overhauling bankruptcy laws has been a top business priority for banks and credit card companies that must write off bad loans when consumers file for bankruptcy. Despite the strong economy, the number of Americans filing personal bankruptcies last year jumped to 1.3 million

-- up more than 300 percent since 1980.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: As a result of floor amendments adopted since debate began last week, the Senate-passed bill, unlike the House version, would credit card companies to disclose more information to card holders, including the amount of time it would take to pay off the individual's debt via minimum monthly payments. "Right now, people know more about what is in a box of cookies by looking at the nutritional label than they know about credit obligations," said Richard J. Durbin, Ill., the main Democratic sponsor.

Members also agreed, by voice vote, to an amendment by Herb Kohl, D-Wis., calling for Senate conferees to insist on Senate-passed language that would cap state "homestead" limits at \$100,000. The House version contains no such cap, and limits on home value exempt from seizure in bankruptcy proceedings vary greatly from state to state. Texas and Florida, for example, allow people to keep their entire home's worth, regardless of how much that is. The laws have drawn fire in recent years after some prominent individuals moved to those states, bought million-dollar homes and then filed for bankruptcy -- secure in the knowledge that the investments in their homes were safe from creditors.

Members also agreed, by voice vote, to an amendment that would exempt education savings accounts and state pre-paid tuition plans from being cashed out to satisfy creditors.

And the Senate adopted, also by voice vote, an amendment by Dianne

Feinstein, D-Calif., requiring the Federal Reserve to conduct a two-year study to determine if regulations are needed to ensure that credit card companies are acting responsibly in offering credit to consumers at risk of accruing unmanageable debt. The amendment was watered down from a previous version that would have required credit card companies to inform consumers with a debt-to-income ratio of 40 percent or more about the danger of such indebtedness before issuing further credit.

Senators tabled, or killed, 71-27, a nonbinding amendment by Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, calling on the Federal Reserve to lower the federal funds interest rate to combat signs of a slowdown in the economy. Opponents said it was inappropriate for the Senate to attempt to steer the Federal Reserve Board to a decision on monetary policy. The Fed's policy-making arm meets on Tuesday, and many economists expect the Fed to lower interest rates to spur growth.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION FUND GETS SENATE ENERGY APPROVAL

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 39 lines)

Item Key: 15453

HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION FUND GETS SENATE ENERGY APPROVAL

By Emily Church, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today gave voice-vote approval to a measure (S2257) that would reauthorize through fiscal 2004 the fund that finances preservation of historic sites.

In a pre-recess rush to clear their legislative slate, the Senate panel approved the bill with three dozen other resource management measures. However, it left untouched three controversial mining reform bills and a contested authorization of a water project in Colorado.

The Historic Preservation Fund, which is financed through royalties paid to the federal government on certain oil-drilling leases, provides about one-half of the money for the nation's historic preservation programs. State governments provide the remaining funds.

The bill would reauthorize the deposit of \$150 million annually into the fund through 2003. The authorization for the deposit of royalties into the fund expired Sept. 30, 1997.

The panel adopted, by voice vote, an amendment offered by bill sponsor Mary Landrieu, D-La., that would reauthorize the advisory council to the historic preservation fund through 2004.

Landrieu said the fund underwrites the identification of historic places, negotiations with private property owners, education programs

and community revitalization projects. According to Landrieu, the fund provided \$1.7 billion in 1997 for construction and rehabilitation projects.

Committee spokesman Derek Jumpers said the panel is unlikely to take up the mining bills (S1102, S327 and S326), the Colorado water project transfer (S725) or a bill (S624) to increase competition for concessions contracts in national parks before Congress adjourns in October. He said the bulk of the concessions bill was incorporated into a larger parks reform bill (S1693) that passed the Senate in June and received voice-vote approval of the House Resources Committee in July.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

MIDDAY UPDATE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 174 lines)

Item Key: 15455

MIDDAY UPDATE

By CQ Staff

GINGRICH RULES OUT QUICK CLINTON RESOLUTION; DEMOCRATS SEEK

DEADLINE:

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Ga., today ruled out a speedy deal to subject President Clinton to punishment short of impeachment. "I don't think people want this Congress to deal with a constitutional issue based on the latest overnight poll," he said after meeting with House leaders and the Judiciary Committee's chairman and ranking Democrat. Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, Mo., argued for a timetable for the House's review of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's findings. "We can resolve in a bipartisan effort to do the work that needs to be done in the next 30 days in the House, or we might face two years of ongoing hearings regarding the details of a sexual relationship between Monica Lewinsky and the president," he said. Presidential spokesman Michael McCurry said, "The fact that this matter is now going to drag on and on and on endlessly has to be laid at the foot of Speaker Gingrich."

DASCHLE PREDICTS CLINTON WILL FINISH HIS TERM:

President Clinton will be able to serve out his term, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., predicted today. Daschle, who said he is recovering from a sense of betrayal after learning that Clinton falsely denied a relationship with Monica Lewinsky, said the allegations against the president are unlikely to hurt Democratic candidates in November's House and Senate elections. A perception among Democratic voters that the president has been treated unfairly in the House could increase voter turnout, Daschle added.

CLINTON SEES NEED TO BOOST MILITARY SPENDING:

With negotiators on the fiscal 1999 defense appropriations bill (HR 4103) meeting this afternoon, President Clinton is calling for an unspecified boost in military spending -- both in that bill and in fiscal 2000 -- to pay for modernizing weapons and retaining top-quality people. "Readiness is a perishable commodity and requires our serious attention," Clinton wrote in a letter yesterday to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen. He asked Cohen and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to work with the White House to develop revised budget proposals for fiscal 2000. But for next year, he said, "we need to examine options" with Congress for last-minute spending boosts for spare parts, Navy manpower and Army training. Spokesman Michael McCurry said Clinton intends to send a similar letter to Congress. Pentagon leaders are reportedly asking Clinton to increase the defense budget by as much as \$15 billion per year over the caps set by last year's budget law (PL 105-33).

HOUSE TO VOTE FRIDAY OR SATURDAY ON FAST TRACK, TAX CUT:

The House will vote Friday or Saturday on legislation to renew presidential fast-track trade authority, regardless of whether it has the votes to pass, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, said today. The bill (HR2621) was pulled last November as President Clinton and GOP leaders faced sure defeat, which they feared would send negative signals to the world about congressional commitment to free trade. Despite White House objections to moving forward this time, Armey said he and other

House leaders believe it is more important to show that the House is willing to take the vote. Also slated for floor action Friday or Saturday is the House Republicans' \$80 billion tax cut bill (HR4579), which Arney predicted "will pass big" with a "generous supply" of Democratic votes.

SENATE DEMOCRATS PLAN THEIR OWN TAX CUT:

Senate Democrats said today that by next week they will unveil a \$25 billion, five-year tax cut plan intended to compete against the House Republican plan (HR4579). Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., said it would cut taxes for married couples, the self-employed and families with children in school. He said the Democratic tax cuts would be offset by closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting spending. It is "totally paid for and will not touch Social Security," he said, in drawing his version of distinctions with the Republican package.

SENATE POISED TO PASS BANKRUPTCY OVERHAUL:

The Senate is approaching a final vote this afternoon on legislation (S1301) designed to reduce the number of personal bankruptcies. Sponsors hope to quickly resolve differences with the House-passed bill (HR3150), but concede the rush to adjournment is not in their favor. Both measures would provide bankruptcy judges with more tools to compel bankruptcy filers to pay off a portion of their debts. Senators voted 71-27 to table, or kill, a nonbinding amendment by Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, calling on the Federal Reserve to lower the federal funds interest rate to combat

signs of a slowdown in the economy. Democrats plan to object to an expected move this afternoon by Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., to turn to an Internet tax moratorium bill (S442). They are protesting the lack of an agreement on debating their managed-care legislation (S1890).

CONFEREES STRUGGLING WITH OFFSETS FOR COLLEGE LOAN SUBSIDIES:

Student groups today were balking at some offsets proposed by conferees on the Higher Education Act reauthorization (HR6) to pay for new subsidies to commercial lenders and a consolidated loan repayment plan. Among their objections: a proposal to make it harder for individuals to discharge their student loans through bankruptcy. Lenders, meanwhile, are concerned about a separate proposal that in effect would reduce loan subsidies to commercial lenders. A House committee spokesperson maintained that the bill was making progress but backed away from earlier projections it would come to the House floor Friday. HR6 would reauthorize student aid and other higher education programs for five years.

CAPITOL SHOOTING SUSPECT GOES TO COURT:

Russell Eugene Weston Jr. today appeared at the federal courthouse for the first time since being charged with killing Capitol Police officers J. J. Chestnut and John Gibson on July 24. Asked if he had trouble understanding the proceeding, Weston replied, "No." Asked if he understood that the charges he faces are punishable by death, he answered, "Yes, sir." Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola ordered Weston

-- who was confined to a wheelchair, his left leg and right arm in casts
-- held without bond. The next preliminary hearing is set for Oct. 14.
Weston's attorney, A.J. Kramer, declined to discuss his client's mental
condition with reporters.

POLITICAL CLIPPINGS:

The TOLEDO BLADE reported that Ohio Republican Gov. George V. Voinovich, who polls show well ahead in his race for a U.S. Senate seat, opposes the congressional GOP drive to cut taxes. Voinovich dismisses the projected budget surpluses that would pay for the proposed cut as an "accounting gimmick," noting that if Social Security's surplus is removed from budget calculations, "we're still in financial trouble."

The LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER reported that House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Ga., said during a campaign stop in Kentucky that the top issue on Election Day will be taxes, not Monica Lewinsky. Appearing on behalf of 4th District Republican candidate Gex Williams, Gingrich said the projected federal budget surplus will provide enough money to both cut taxes and shore up Social Security.

The INDIANAPOLIS STAR reported that recently hospitalized Rep. Ed Pease, R-Ind., is suffering from a partially blocked artery but that doctors have found no evidence of a heart attack.

The BIRMINGHAM NEWS reported that Republican challenger Gil Aust is making a campaign issue of 5th District Democratic Rep. Robert E. "Bud"

Cramer's votes to continue funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. "Liberal Bud Cramer voted to waste our money on this filth and continues voting to do so," says an Aust advertisement. The congressman said NEA backs many worthwhile projects, including a theater group and an orchestra in his district.

THE LATEST SCHEDULE CHANGES:

TOMORROW: House Judiciary will meet at 10:30 a.m. in 2141 Rayburn to consider and vote on the release to the public of evidence turned over to Congress by Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr that was collected during his investigation of possible wrongdoing by President Clinton.

TOMORROW: House Commerce will meet at 10:30 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn to mark up pending legislation, including a bill (HR3888) aimed at protecting consumers against telephone "slamming," a measure (HR3783) to insulate minors from harmful material on the World Wide Web and legislation (HR4321) to prevent personal financial information from being obtained from financial institutions under false pretenses.

NOTED & QUOTED:

No. 1: Today is the first day of fall, and it's a beauty in the nation's capital: cloudless blue skies, temperatures in the 60s and a pleasant breeze.

No. 2: "Those of us who share his vision and lift him up in honor

today owe it to him to build a permanent partnership between Americans and Africans for the education of our children, for the solution of our problems, for the resolution of our differences, for the elevation of what is best about us all."

-- President CLINTON, in the Rotunda to present former South African President Nelson Mandela a Congressional Gold Medal.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

SENATE LABOR RECOMMENDS CONFIRMATION OF HENNEY TO HEAD FDA

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 19 lines)

Item Key: 15454

SENATE LABOR RECOMMENDS CONFIRMATION OF HENNEY TO HEAD FDA

By Emily Pierce, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee today approved by voice vote the nomination of Dr. Jane E. Henney to serve as the first female commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Only Michael B. Enzi, R-Wyo., objected to the nomination based on

Henney's support for approval of the controversial "morning after" abortion drug known as RU-486. Enzi opposes approval of the drug because it would conflict with the FDA's mission to "protect public health by ensuring that human drugs are safe and effective." RU-486, however, would be "fatal to the baby," he said.

Enzi said he would not filibuster on the Senate floor to block the nomination and would settle for a voice vote. But his reservations could still force Senate leaders to negotiate a time agreement for debate instead of simply confirming Henney by unanimous consent.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

QUICK INSIGHTS: THE SILVER LINING?

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 09/24/98; 17 lines)

Item Key: 15495

QUICK INSIGHTS: THE SILVER LINING?

By Dan Carney, CQ Staff Writer

Not everyone dreads the thought of a highly partisan impeachment inquest. The Libertarian Party released a statement headlined:

"Impeachment gridlock and mudslinging will be good for America, say Libertarians: Let politicians attack each other -- and leave the rest of us alone." According to National Director Ron Crickenberger, there are three benefits to a drawn-out struggle. Paralysis decreases the chance Congress will increase taxes or spending; the sordid details will lower people's respect for government (and government programs); and hearings will showcase the need for a third party. "No matter what you think about the allegations against President Clinton," Crickenberger said, "impeachment isn't all doom and gloom."

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

CHANGE OF COLLAR RUFFLES FUR OF SENATE ENERGY'S CHAIRMAN

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 09/24/98; 21 lines)

Item Key: 15494

CHANGE OF COLLAR RUFFLES FUR OF SENATE ENERGY'S CHAIRMAN

By Emily Church, CQ Staff Writer

Is the Bureau of Engraving and Printing taking sides on natural

resources policy? Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, is suspicious, thanks to Benjamin Franklin's attire on the new counterfeit-resistant \$100 bill.

Murkowski got curious when he noticed that Franklin's beaver fur collar -- which was prominent in the old design -- disappeared on the new bill. So he is directing committee staff to send the bureau an inquiry about the newly naked neckline.

"Whether this is an affront to natural resources or a favor to friends of animals, I don't know," Murkowski observed yesterday.

Neither, according to agency spokesman Edward Sheehan. One of the bill's new anti-counterfeit features is a microprinted "United States of America" across Franklin's neckline. And that required a different collar.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FARM GROUPS SPLIT OVER PUSH TO PASS FAST-TRACK MEASURE

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 09/24/98; 38 lines)

Item Key: 15493

FARM GROUPS SPLIT OVER PUSH TO PASS FAST-TRACK MEASURE

By Matthew Tully, CQ Staff Writer

House Republicans have made much of the agriculture community's stepped-up support for fast-track legislation, with advocates of the measure (HR2621) claiming that farm-state lawmakers may provide the boost needed for House passage by this weekend.

Last week, farmers from around the nation rallied at the Capitol, and Agriculture Chairman Bob Smith, R-Ore., said the efforts had doubled support for the bill on his committee.

But not all farm groups are on board. The second-largest farming lobby, the National Farmers Union, which often takes a populist stance, is hoping fast track will either go down in flames or just go away. The group, which represents 300,000 family farmers and ranchers, has long argued that Congress should play a stronger role in shaping trade deals than fast-track would allow.

This year, however, the NFU is not arguing against the merits of fast track as much as it is protesting the timing of the debate. The House is scheduled to vote tomorrow or Saturday.

"Our position is that given the farm crisis, now is not the time to debate fast track," said lobbyist Lynn McBride. "This is not on the radar screen of farmers out there. They are concerned with their price

and income levels."

The group also worries that a prolonged debate over fast track will hurt efforts to deliver immediate aid to farmers hit by crashing farm prices, droughts and floods. The House GOP has added \$4 billion in relief to the fiscal 1999 agriculture appropriations bill (HR4101), while Senate Democrats earlier this week unveiled a \$7.1 billion proposal.

If fast track passes, the NFU frets, Congress might feel less need to pass a more tangible farm-relief bill.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

TREASURY-POSTAL FIGHT ERUPTS ON BIRTH CONTROL ISSUE

Pulse of Congress/Insight

(NEWS 09/24/98; 39 lines)

Item Key: 15492

TREASURY-POSTAL FIGHT ERUPTS ON BIRTH CONTROL ISSUE

By Mary Agnes Carey and Juliana Gruenwald, CQ Staff Writers

Although it was endorsed by both the House and Senate, a provision

in the fiscal 1999 Treasury-Postal appropriations bill (HR4104) that would require federal health plans to cover contraceptives if they pay for prescription drugs is suddenly in jeopardy in conference.

Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., author of the House language, is up in arms at the development. "There should be no question that this basic women's health benefit should be included in the conference report," she said.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Gloria Feldt said it would be "outrageous" for conferees to change the provision. "They couldn't do it legitimately, so they're resorting to back-room tactics," she said.

But an Appropriations aide confirmed that the issue is in play.

In the House, opponents of the provision include Chris Smith, R-N.J., and Tom Coburn, R-Okla. In the Senate, Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., are fighting to kill it.

In a Sept. 4 letter to Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., the chairman of the Senate Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations Subcommittee, Nickles, Brownback and others argued that the language contained a "loophole" that could require payment for contraceptives that -- upon failing to prevent fertilization -- "act de facto as abortifacients," meaning they cause abortions.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive

Rights Action League, said efforts to remove the provision "demonstrate what the real mission is. ... They don't want women to have control over reproductive decisions."

The House voted 224-198 to include the measure after Lowey outmaneuvered Smith. The Senate subsequently adopted, by voice vote, a similar measure by Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, and Harry Reid, D-Nev.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

PEOPLE: LOBBYISTS AND ADVOCATES

People on the Move

(NEWS 09/24/98; 13 lines)

Item Key: 15488

PEOPLE: LOBBYISTS AND ADVOCATES

By Caroline E. Brown, CQ Staff Writer

Ilene R. Penn is the new associate executive director of the Cure For Lymphoma Foundation, where she will serve as policy adviser, counselor and administrator. The foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding research for Hodgkins disease and non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Penn was formerly a senior associate at Podesta

Associates, a public policy firm where she focused on health and telecommunications issues.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

People on the Move

(NEWS 09/24/98; 30 lines)

Item Key: 15487

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

By Caroline E. Brown, CQ Staff Writer

Jonathan Friedman, chief of staff to retiring Rep. Lee H.

Hamilton, D-Ind., will join the law firm of Willkie, Farr and Gallagher in late October and will specialize in telecommunications law. Friedman joined Hamilton's staff a decade ago as a legislative assistant and was promoted to chief of staff two years later.

Drew Maloney is the new legislative director and counsel to Rep. Ed Bryant, R-Tenn. He was formerly legal counsel for Rep. Roger Wicker,

R-Miss. Before coming to Capitol Hill in June 1997, Maloney was congressional liaison at the law firm Robertson, Monagle and Eastaugh and is a former political director at the Carlye Gregory Company, a Republican consulting firm

Maloney replaces Mark Johnson, now director for congressional affairs at Fluor Corp.

Also new to Bryant's office is Andrea Spring, who has been named a legislative assistant. She has worked as a legislative intern to Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo., and in 1993-94 was managing editor of Campaigns and Elections magazine. Spring replaces Jeff Vanness, now a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Allison Dixon is the new deputy press secretary for Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. Since January, she had been a legislative assistant to Rep. Mike Parker, R-Miss. Before that, she worked in marketing for Up With People, an international community service organization.

There are no more items to read.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

HOUSE FLOOR Sept. 24

Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 160

HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 24

CONVENES AT 10AM.

HR3736 A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make
changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants. -- BEGIN
CONSIDERATION.

Conference report on:

HR3616 A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for
military activities of the Department of Defense, for
military construction, and for defense activities of the
Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for
such fiscal year for the armed forces, and for other
purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4112 An original bill making appropriations for the legislative
branch for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for
other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

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SENATE FLOOR Sept. 24

Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 162

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 24

CONVENES AT 9:30AM.

S2176 A bill to amend sections 3345 through 3349 of title 5, U.S. Code, commonly referred to as the "Vacancies Act," to clarify statutory requirements relating to vacancies in and appointments to certain federal offices, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION (CLOTURE VOTE AT 9:30AM).

S2279 A bill to amend title 49, U.S. Code, to authorize the programs of the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes. -- CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

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READINESS CHALLENGES TO ARMY AND MARINE CORPS

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Armed Services -- Subcommittee on Readiness)

Item Key: 34

READINESS CHALLENGES TO ARMY AND MARINE CORPS * Revised *

Readiness Subcommittee (Chairman Inhofe, R-Okla.) of Senate Armed

Services Committee will hold a hearing on military readiness issues and challenges facing Army and Marine Corps forces.

Sept. 24 10:00 am SH-216 Hart Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Gen. David Bramlett - former commanding general of U.S.

Army FORSCOM; Gen. Thomas Schwartz - commanding general of

U.S. Army FORSCOM

PANEL:

Maj. Gen. Wayne Rollings - commanding general, II Marine

Expeditionary Force; Gen. Ray Smith - commanding general,

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Maj. Gen. Emil Beddard -

commanding general, 2nd Marine Division; Maj. Gen. William

Nyland - commanding general, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing; Brig.

Gen. Paul Lee - commanding general, 2nd Force Service

Support Group

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

Full Committee Markup & Vote

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Governmental Affairs)

Item Key: 39

STATISTICAL POLICY; NAMING BILLS; PENDING NOMINATIONS * Revised *

Full Committee Markup & Vote

Senate Governmental Affairs Committee (Chairman Thompson, R-Tenn.) will
mark up pending legislation and vote on pending nominations.

Sept. 24 2:15 pm SD-342 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S2404 - A bill to establish designations for U.S. Postal Service

buildings located in Coconut Grove, Opa Locka, Carol City,
and Miami, Fla.

S2370 - A bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service

located at tall Timbers Village Square, U.S. Highway 19
South, in Thomasville, Ga., as the "Lieutenant Henry O.
Flipper Station."

S2310 - A bill to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 297

Larkfield Road in East Northport, N.Y., as the "Jerome
Anthony Ambro, Jr. Post Office Building."

HR3999 - A bill to designate the U.S. Postal Service building located at 5209 Greene Street, Philadelphia, Pa., as the "David P. Richardson, Jr., Post Office Building."

HR3939 - A bill to designate the U.S. Postal Service building located at 658 63rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa., as the "Edgar C. Campbell, Sr., Post Office Building."

HR3810 - A bill to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 202 Center Street in Garwood, N.J., as the "James T. Leonard, Sr. Post Office."

HR3808 - A bill to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 47526 Clipper Drive in Plymouth, Mich., as the "Carl D. Pursell Post Office."

HR3630 - A bill to redesignate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 9719 Candelaria Road NE. in Albuquerque, N.M., as the "Steve Schiff Post Office."

HR2799 - A bill to redesignate the building of the U.S. Postal Service located at 324 South Laramie Street, in Chicago, Ill., as the "Reverend Milton R. Brunson Post Office Building."

HR2798 - A bill to redesignate the building of the U.S. Postal Service located at 2419 West Monroe Street, in Chicago, Ill., as the "Nancy B. Jefferson Post Office Building."

HR2623 - A bill to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 16250 Highway 603 in Kiln, Miss., as the "Ray J. Favre Post Office Building."

S1404 - A bill to establish a Federal Commission on Statistical Policy to study the reorganization of the federal

statistical system, to provide uniform safeguards for the confidentiality of information acquired for exclusively statistical purposes and to improve the efficiency of federal statistical programs and the quality of federal statistics by permitting limited sharing of records among designated agencies for statistical purposes under strong safeguards.

Nominations:

Patricia A. Broderick - to be associate judge, Superior Court, District of Columbia

Neil E. Kravitz - to be associate judge, Superior Court, District of Columbia

Natalia Combs-Greene - to be associate judge, Superior Court, District of Columbia

Kenneth Prewitt - to be director of the Census

Robert M. Walker - to be deputy director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

CALIFORNIA INDIAN GAMBLING

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Indian Affairs)

Item Key: 15

CALIFORNIA INDIAN GAMBLING * Revised *

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Chairman Campbell, R-Colo.) will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

Sept. 24 2:00 pm SR-485 Russell Bldg.

Agenda:

HR1805 - A bill to amend the Auburn Indian Reservation Act to establish restrictions related to gaming on and use of land held in trust for the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California, and for other purposes.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Rep. John T. Doolittle, R-Calif. PANEL:

Kevin Gover - assistant secretary of Interior for Indian affairs; Jessica Tavares - president, Auburn Indian Rancheria

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for Sept. 30

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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JUDICIARY BILLS

Full Committee Markup

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Judiciary)

Item Key: 40

JUDICIARY BILLS * Revised *

Full Committee Markup

Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hatch, R-Utah) will markup pending legislation.

Sept. 24 9:30 am SD-226 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S2151 - 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, euthanasia or

mercy killing of any individual.

S2099 - A bill to provide for enhanced federal sentencing guidelines
for counterfeiting offenses, and for other purposes.

S2235 - A bill to amend part Q of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
Streets Act of 1968 to encourage the use of school resource
officers.

S2253 - A bill to establish a matching grant program to help state
and local jurisdictions purchase bullet resistant equipment
for use by law enforcement departments.

HR379 - A bill for the relief of Larry Errol Pieterse.

HR998 - A bill for the relief of Lloyd B. Gamble.

HR2744 - A private bill for the relief of Chong Ho Kwak.

HR378 - A bill for the relief of Heraclio Tolley.

S1551 - A bill for the relief of Kerantha Poole-Christian.

S1202 - A bill providing relief for Sergio Lozana, Fauricio Lozano,
and Ana Lozano.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CAPITOL SECURITY ISSUES

Senate Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Rules & Administration)

Item Key: 32

CAPITOL SECURITY ISSUES * Revised *

Senate Rules and Administration Committee (Chairman Warner, R-Va.) will hold a hearing on security issues at the Capitol. This hearing addresses these issues following the deaths of two capitol police officers July 24 when an armed intruder opened fire in the Capitol.

Sept. 24 9:30 am SR-301 Russell Bldg. CLOSED\will OPEN

Witnesses scheduled:

CLOSED SESSION:

PANEL:

Gregory S. Casey - sergeant at arms, Senate; Wilson

Livingood - sergeant at arms, House of Representatives; Alan

M. Hantman, architect of the Capitol

PANEL:

Larry E. Torrence - acting assistant director, National

Security Division, FBI; Robert M. Blitzer - section chief,

Domestic Terrorism Unit, National Security Division, FBI

PANEL:

Gary Abrecht - chief of police, Capitol Police; Bob Greeley

- director, Physical Division, Capitol Police; Alan M.

Hantman, architect of the Capitol; Sam Raines - security and

force consultant, Booz, Allen and Hamilton

PANEL:

Robert Gramling - General Accounting Office; Joyce Doria -
vice president, Booz, Allen and Hamilton; Jack Meyer -
principal, Booz, Allen and Hamilton

PANEL:

Kenneth Lopez - director of security, Library of Congress;
Alan M. Hantman, architect of the Capitol

OPEN SESSION:

PANEL:

Gregory S. Casey - sergeant at arms, Senate; Wilson
Livingood - sergeant at arms, House of Representatives; Alan
M. Hantman, architect of the Capitol

PANEL:

Gary Abrecht - chief of police, Capitol Police

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

Full Committee Markup

Senate Committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Rules & Administration)

Item Key: 25

OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT PRODUCTION * New *

Full Committee Markup

Senate Rules and Administration Committee (Chairman Warner, R-Va.) will
mark up pending legislation.

Sept. 24 1m:00 mediately following full committee hearing on Capitol
security, SR-301 Russell Bldg.

Agenda:

S2288 - A bill to provide for the reform and continuing legislative
oversight of the production, procurement, dissemination and
permanent public access of the government's publications,
and for other purposes.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

Oversight Hearing

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Banking & Financial Services -- Subcommittee on
Capital Markets, Securities and Government-Sponsored Enterprises)

Item Key: 31

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD * Revised *

Oversight Hearing

Capital Markets, Securities and Government Sponsored Enterprises

Subcommittee (Chairman Baker, R-La.) of House Banking and Financial

Services Committee will hold an oversight hearing on a General

Accounting Office study of the Federal Housing Finance Board. The board

supervises the regional Federal Home Loan Banks, whose members are local

savings associations and other institutions that make long-term

home-mortgage loans. The GAO study reviews the board's role as a

regulator of the safety and soundness of member institutions.

Sept. 24 11:00 am 2128 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Richard S. Carnell - assistant secretary of the Treasury

for financial institutions; Nancy Kingsbuty - acting

assistant comptroller general, General Accounting Office;

Bruce Morrison - chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

COMMERCE COMMITTEE BILLS

Full Committee Markup

House Committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Commerce)

Item Key: 48

COMMERCE COMMITTEE BILLS * New *

Full Committee Markup

House Commerce Committee (Chairman Bliley, R-Va.) will mark up pending legislation.

Sept. 24 10:30 am 2123Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR3888 - A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the protection of consumers against "slamming" by

telecommunications carriers, and for other purposes.

HR3783 - A bill to amend section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 to require persons who are engaged in the business of selling or transferring, by means of the World Wide Web, material that is harmful to minors to restrict access to such material by minors, and for other purposes.

HR563 - A bill to establish a toll-free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made.

HR4353 - A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 to improve the competitiveness of American business and promote foreign commerce, and for other purposes.

HR4321 - A bill to protect consumers and financial institutions by preventing personal financial information from being obtained from financial institutions under false pretenses.

HR3610 - A bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S439 - A bill to provide for Alaska state jurisdiction over small hydroelectric projects, to address voluntary licensing of hydroelectric projects on fresh waters in the state of Hawaii, to provide an exemption for portion of a hydroelectric project located in the state of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

HR4081 - A bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act
applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in
the state of Arkansas.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFIT RATE INCREASES

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on
Civil Service)

Item Key: 21

FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFIT RATE INCREASES * Revised *

Civil Service Subcommittee (Chairman Mica, R-Fla.) of House Government
Reform and Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on rate increases for
federal employee health benefits.

Sept. 24 11:00 am 2203 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

William Flynn III - associate director, Retirement and
Insurance Services, Office of Personnel Management; Steve
Gammarino - vice president, Federal Employee Program, Blue
Cross/Blue Shield; Terry Latanich - senior vice president,
Merck Medco Managed Care

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN WESTERN SAHARA

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; International Relations -- Subcommittee on Africa)

Item Key: 16

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN WESTERN SAHARA * Revised *

Africa Subcommittee (Chairman Royce, R-Calif.) of House International
Relations Committee will hold a hearing on the progress of conducting a
U.N.-supervised referendum to determine the political status of
polisarios (Sahrawi tribe) in western Sahara. The polisarios were
removed from the region by the Moroccan military during a 1975 takeover

and now reside in southern Algeria.

Sept. 24 10:00 am 2172 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Ronald Neumann - deputy assistant secretary of State for
Near Eastern affairs

PANEL:

John Damis - chair, Division of Political Science, Portland
State University, Portland, Ore.; Moulud Said - Polisario
representative to the United States; Brig. Gen. Al Zapanta
(retired) - U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western
Sahara (MINURSO)

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FUNDING FOR DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; National Security -- Subcommittee on Military
Personnel)

Item Key: 23

FUNDING FOR DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS * Revised *

Military Personnel Subcommittee (Chairman Buyer, R-Ind.) of House
National Security Committee will hold a hearing on the adequacy of the
funding request for Defense Department health program.

Sept. 24 3:00 pm 2118 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck - surgeon general, Department of the
Army; Vice Adm. Richard Nelson - surgeon general, Department
of the Navy; Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman - surgeon general,
Department of the Air Force

PANEL:

Rudy de Leon - under secretary of Defense for personnel and
readiness; William J. Lynn III - under secretary of Defense,
Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Oversight Hearing

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Resources -- Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health)

Item Key: 20

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK * Revised *

Oversight Hearing

National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee (Chairman Hansen, R-Utah) of House Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the Grand Canyon National Park.

Sept. 24 10:00 am 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Robert Arnberger - superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park; Robert S. Lynch - chairman of the board, Central Arizona Project Association; Mark Grisham - executive director, Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association; Brian

I. Merrill - chief of operations, Western Rivers
Expeditions; William C. Reffalt - The Wilderness Society and
The Grand Canyon Trust

PANEL:

Elling B. Halvorson - president, Papillon Airways, Inc.;
Robin T. Harrison, P.E. - consultant; John R. Alberti - JR
Engineering; K.K. Ahuja - professor and regents researcher,
Georgia Institute of Technology

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

RULES FOR FLOOR DEBATE

House Committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98; Rules)

Item Key: 45

RULES FOR FLOOR DEBATE * Revised *

House Rules Committee (Chairman Solomon, R-N.Y.) will meet to consider
rules for floor debate for pending legislation.

Sept. 24 10:00 am H-313 Capitol Bldg.

Agenda:

HR2621 - A bill to extend trade authorities procedures with respect to reciprocal trade agreements, and for other purposes.

HR4579 - A bill to provide tax relief for individuals, families and farming and other small businesses, to provide tax incentives for education, to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

HR4578 - A bill to amend the Social Security Act to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the OASDI trust funds.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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FY99 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Joint Committees

* Revised *

Conference committees

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 12

FY99 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS * Revised *

Conferees will meet on legislation that would make FY99 appropriations
for energy and water programs.

Sept. 24 Time and room TBA VERY TENTATIVE

Agenda:

HR4060 - An original bill making appropriations for energy and water
development for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and
for other purposes.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY STUDY

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 47

NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY STUDY * New *

Science Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Vern Ehlers, R-Mich., will be joined by House Speaker Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., in unveiling the National Science Policy Study, which will guide the development of a long-term science and technology policy for the United States. House Science Committee Chairman Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wis., distinguished members of the scientific community, and students from Thomas Jefferson High School will also be in attendance. Copies of the study will be available at the press conference, and will not be released prior to the event.

Sept. 24 12:30 pm 2325 Rayburn Bldg.

Contact: Jennifer Siciliano

(Jennifer.Siciliano@mail.house.gov) Mike Catanzaro

(Michael.Catanzaro@mail.house.gov) (202) 225-4275

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 49

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM * New *

Discovery Institute, a Seattle, Wash., think tank, will hold a one-day conference to explore the public policy implications of the Y2K millennium computer bug, "Y2K Versus American Prosperity: Liability and the Links."

Sept. 24 8:40 am Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Contact: Rob Crowther, 206-292-0401 Ext. 106

Highlights:

9am: Rep. Steve Horn, R-Calif.

9:40am: Steve Forbes

10:40am: Panel discussion on liability in a digital and networked economy

12:10pm: Luncheon speaker - Steven Kolodney of the National Association of State Information Resource Executives

12:40pm: Sen. Robert Bennett

1:35pm: Janet Abrams of the White House Office of Year 2000

conversion

3:10pm: Panel discussion on what government and business
should expect of each other

4:10pm: Panel discussion on the "hard choices."

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MEDICARE ISSUES

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 50

MEDICARE ISSUES * New *

American Association of Health Plans President Karen Ignagni will
participate in a roundtable discussion on the future of Medicare.

Sept. 24 9:00 am 6th floor, 1129 20th St. NW

Contact: Aylin Gonen, 202-778-8451

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

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OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 51

OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK * New *

The United Steelworkers Union will hold a rally in an attempt to stop congressional action on "fast track" trade authority. Participants include House Minority Leader Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., Rep. Jack Quinn, R-N.Y., and Sens. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D. and Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., along with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

Sept. 24 10:00 am Capitol Bldg., West Front

Contact: Gary Hubbard, 202-778-4384.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

ELECTION INSIGHTS

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 52

ELECTION INSIGHTS * New *

The Womans National Democratic Club will hold a luncheon with Rep.
Martin Frost, D-Texas, chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign
Committee, discussing election insights.

Sept. 24 1:00 pm Womans National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire
Ave. NW

Contact: Nancy Young, 202-232-7363.

Information verified as of 07:58pm 09/23/98

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS CONFERENCE

Other news events

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 53

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS CONFERENCE * New *

The National Association of Women Business Owners will hold its annual public policy conference. Second of three days.

Sept. 24 7:30 am Hyatt Regency Washington, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW

Contact: Emilee Truelove, 703-671-5483

Highlights:

7:30am: Breakfast with Labor Secretary Alexis Herman

9am: Remarks by Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y.

9:20am: Remarks by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

9:45am: Remarks by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas

10am: Remarks by Senate Small Business Committee Chairman

Christopher Bond, R-Mo.

10:15am: Remarks by Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

10:45am: Remarks by Rep. Sue Kelly, R-N.Y.

11:10am: Remarks by House Small Business Committee Chairman

James Talent, R-Mo.

11:30am: Remarks by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.

12:30pm: Remarks by House Republican Conference Secretary

Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash.

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FAA DEBATE RESUMES BUT MANAGED CARE LOOMS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 1

FAA DEBATE RESUMES BUT MANAGED CARE LOOMS

By CQ Staff

The Senate likely will resume work today on a bill (S2279) debated briefly yesterday to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration for four years and provide \$10.1 billion in fiscal 1999.

The House passed its version (HR4057) to reauthorize FAA programs at \$10.1 billion in fiscal 1999.

As of last night, nearly 50 amendments -- many related to regional airport concerns -- were filed, but Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., said the list should be reduced dramatically by midafternoon and an effort will be made to finish work tonight.

McCain said the measure needs to be signed into law by the end of the month, warning that not doing so would delay billions of dollars in airport improvement grants for every state.

Both the House and Senate bills would increase funding for airport safety and security efforts. The measures would authorize \$5.6 billion for FAA operations, \$2.1 billion for the Facilities and Equipment program and roughly \$2.3 billion for the Airport Improvement Program.

The bill before the Senate would reauthorize agency operations for four years at a \$42.4 billion funding level.

Prospects for the bill heightened earlier this week after Charles S. Robb, D-Va., dropped objections related to language increasing the number flights out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and permitting some to exceed the existing 1,250-mile "perimeter." The bill would permit 12 daily flights that could exceed the limit and additional 12 daily flights inside the perimeter.

On the perimeter rule, Robb may offer an amendment that would delay expansion of flights from the airport until the local airport authority reviews the issue. Opponents might argue that waiting for a review would only delay a reasonable expansion of service.

INTERNET TAXATION: If leaders make progress on negotiations about managed care legislation, the Senate could try again to take up a bill (S442) establishing a moratorium on Internet taxation.

In a bid to pressure Republicans to allow debate on their managed care legislation (S1890), Democrats yesterday objected to a GOP attempt to bring up the Internet bill. Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., has said he has already made "fair and reasonable" offers for considering managed care legislation, but he says he cannot afford to allow the Senate to debate it for more than a few days at most given other pressing work.

Democrats have pledged to force the issue one way or another. Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said the managed care issue is "hovering ... like a circling bird" over all legislation on the floor.

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 5

HOUSE FLOOR: HIGH-TECH VISA BILL SCHEDULED BUT MAY BE BUMPED FOR STUDY

By CQ Staff

House leaders have included on today's floor schedule a bill to increase a special class of visas for foreign workers that is pitting the high-tech industry and business interests against organized labor and the Clinton administration.

But the bill may be bumped from the agenda so House members can have a chance to review the results of negotiations between the administration and the legislation's prime backer in the Senate, Spencer Abraham, R-Mich.

The bill (HR3736), which also was pushed from last week's floor agenda, would increase the number of "H-1B" visas available for foreign workers with high-tech expertise.

This year's allotment of 65,000 high-tech visas expired in May. The bill would grant an additional 20,000 visas for the rest of the year, and increase the number of six-year H1-B visas to 95,000 in fiscal 1999

and then up to 115,000 during fiscal 2001 and fiscal 2002.

Opponents of the bill, including some Republicans, argue that employees who enter the United States under the program could displace U.S. workers. However, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, yesterday predicted the bill would pass.

The business community is complaining about a shortage of high-tech workers and is pushing the measure vigorously.

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SENATE FLOOR: REPUBLICANS HOPE TO DISSIPATE WAVE OF 'ACTING' APPOINTEES

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 2

SENATE FLOOR: REPUBLICANS HOPE TO DISSIPATE WAVE OF 'ACTING' APPOINTEES

By CQ Staff

The first order of Senate business this morning will be a vote at on invoking cloture and proceeding to legislation (S2176) that would

specify which individuals could be appointed by a president on an "acting" basis to jobs requiring Senate confirmation and set strict limits on their tenure.

Republicans assert that President Clinton has been naming people to serve in acting capacities longer than the 120-day limit set by the 1868 Vacancies Act.

Bill sponsor Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., says 64 positions in the administration subject to confirmation are filled by temporary appointees, about two-thirds of whom have served more than 120 days -- without any nomination being submitted to the Senate for consideration. The 120-day limit does not apply once the name of the person is officially sent to the Senate.

Senate concern was ignited last December when President Clinton appointed Bill Lann Lee acting assistant attorney general for civil rights after Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee blocked floor action on his nomination. Lee is still serving, but, because the full Senate has not acted on his nomination, he is not in violation of the Vacancies Act.

The Justice Department has argued that its officials are not covered by the Vacancies Act -- a position Senate GOP leaders reject. S2176 would clarify that all executive branch positions that are not explicitly governed by other statutes fall under the Vacancies Act.

The measure would allow a federal department's top deputy to fill a vacancy on an acting basis for 150 days, up from the current 120. Any other official already confirmed by the Senate for another position could hold an acting appointment for a similar period. Unless a permanent nomination is submitted, the post would be vacated after 150 days and no one could exercise the duties of the position until a nominee was formally selected and submitted.

Many Democrats, including Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., argue that the legislation is unnecessary. Daschle said acting officials need to be used in some offices because the Senate has been slow in confirming nominations.

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HOUSE FLOOR: CHAMBER TO MULL CONFERENCE REPORT ON DEFENSE SPENDING

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 4

HOUSE FLOOR: CHAMBER TO MULL CONFERENCE REPORT ON DEFENSE SPENDING

By CQ Staff

House floor action is scheduled today on the conference report on the fiscal 1999 defense authorization bill, which contains compromises worked out last week concerning satellite exports to China and gender-integrated training in the armed forces.

Reacting to recent reports that U.S. satellite exports to China have helped Beijing develop its ballistic missile capability, conferees agreed to several changes in U.S. policy that are included in the \$270.5 billion measure (HR3616).

It would shift jurisdiction for licensing U.S. satellites from the Commerce Department back to the State Department, where it had been until President Clinton changed the policy in 1996.

It also would force the president to get congressional approval before granting satellite export waivers to American companies, and it would ban exports of missile equipment or technology to China unless the president pledges that they will not undermine the U.S. space launch industry or bolster China's weapons capabilities.

On military training, conferees agreed to house male and female recruits separately but effectively left to the service chiefs the question of whether to train them separately. Conferees also agreed on non-binding sense of Congress language that the sexes should be separated during training.

HOUSE FLOOR: ADOPTION LIKELY FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CONFERENCE REPORT

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 3

HOUSE FLOOR: ADOPTION LIKELY FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CONFERENCE REPORT

By CQ Staff

The House today is expected to adopt the conference report on the fiscal 1999 legislative branch appropriations bill.

The measure (HR4112) would provide about \$2.35 billion for the House, Senate and various congressional agencies and offices, such as the Library of Congress, General Accounting Office and Congressional Budget Office.

The total is 2.7 percent above fiscal 1998 levels and includes \$83 million for the Capitol Police, a 12 percent increase. For the first time, it provides enough money to allow additional pay for officers who work nights, holidays and Sundays.

The vote comes a day after Russell Eugene Weston Jr. appeared in court for the first time since being charged in the deaths of two Capitol Police officers during a July 24 shootout at the Capitol.

The conference agreement does not include funding for additional security improvements, including the construction of a visitors' center, that have been requested by the police and the Architect of the Capitol. That funding likely will be considered in a supplemental "emergency" funding bill that could move before Congress adjourns.

The conference report will not be open to amendments on the floor.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD CRIMINALIZE THEFT OF PRIVATE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 7

LAW/JUDICIARY: BILL WOULD CRIMINALIZE THEFT OF PRIVATE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

By CQ Staff

It would become a federal crime to use fraudulent methods to obtain an individual's financial records under legislation (HR4321) to be marked up in the House Commerce Committee.

Under the bill, violators would face up to five years in prison for a first offense, with fines of \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for companies. The penalties could be doubled for repeat offenders. The bill would subject a person or company that knowingly receives such information to identical penalties.

Jim Leach, R-Iowa, said the legislation responds to so-called information brokers, who use a variety of means to collect personal financial data, then sell it. Some Democrats complained that the bill should allow consumers to sue banks that improperly or negligently allow the release of financial information.

INTERNATIONAL BRIBERY: Another bill (HR4353) before the panel would modify U.S. law to implement an international agreement barring bribery of foreign officials. The measure would make current U.S. law conform to a 1997 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development treaty by extending existing U.S. anti-bribery laws to non-U.S. citizens, foreign corporations and international organizations. The treaty was signed by 33 developed countries and ratified by the Senate on July 31.

One provision that could generate opposition would make officials at two intergovernmental satellite organizations -- Intelsat and Inmarsat -- liable for accepting bribes to give unfair advantages to private companies competing for global mobile satellite services. Ranking Democrat John D. Dingell, Mich., hinted he may offer an amendment to strip that provision. Dingell said the language was added without consultation of the Senate, the Clinton administration or officials at either satellite organization.

Intelsat and Inmarsat, which are controlled by 140 countries, are insulated from competition by law and are free from regulatory authority, tax liabilities and antitrust restrictions. The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee approved similar legislation (S2375) June 25.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

COMMERCE: MEASURES AIMED AT 'SLAMMING,' 'SPAMMING' AND INTERNET ACCESS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 6

COMMERCE: MEASURES AIMED AT 'SLAMMING,' 'SPAMMING' AND INTERNET ACCESS

By CQ Staff

The House Commerce Committee today will mark up eight bills that cover a range of consumer, privacy and business issues.

One measure (HR3888) would address a practice in the long-distance telephone industry known as "slamming" -- when a long-distance provider switches a customer into the service without notification or permission. The bill would require companies to verify that subscribers agreed to switch their long-distance carrier and that the new long-distance provider notify consumers of the change. Under the measure, violators could face a fine of up to \$40,000 for the first offense.

The legislation also aims to curb the sending of unsolicited e-mail, known as "spamming." The bill would require those who send unsolicited e-mail to provide their name, mailing address and e-mail address.

The measure would require an unsolicited e-mail message to say that it is "unsolicited commercial e-mail" and that further unsolicited transmissions may be stopped by replying to the message and placing the word "remove" in the subject line.

The Senate passed its version of the bill (S1618) on May 12.

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY: The panel also will consider a bill (HR3783) aimed at cracking down on commercial adult Internet sites that do not

block access to minors. The bill would require web sites containing material "harmful to minors" to use an adult verification method -- such as a credit card, an access code or a personal identification number -- to keep minors off their sites. Failure to make a good faith effort to do so could result in fines up to \$50,000 and a six-month prison term.

The measure would call on the FCC to meet every two years to determine which methods web sites could use to comply with the adult verification requirements.

The Senate incorporated the companion measure (S1482), sponsored by Daniel R. Coats, R-Ind., into its version of the fiscal 1999 Commerce, Justice, State spending bill (S2260).

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: ONE AGENCY CONSIDERED FOR COMPILING GOVERNMENT DATA

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 10

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: ONE AGENCY CONSIDERED FOR COMPILING GOVERNMENT

DATA

By CQ Staff

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee today will consider legislation that would consolidate the government's statistics gathering operation by creating a commission to examine how the current disparate agencies can share information and avoid duplication.

Under the bill (S1404) the panel would recommend if and how federal statistical agencies -- such as the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis -- should be streamlined into one agency.

The bill would establish uniform confidentiality protections and encourage data-sharing among federal agencies for statistical analysis. Sponsor Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., cited the need for such legislation because "the current federal statistical system is in disarray."

Because more than 70 federal agencies are responsible for gathering and analyzing statistics, Brownback said many expend resources "attempting to gather the same information from the same sources. This duplication is unnecessarily burdensome on both taxpayers and respondents."

At a hearing in March, Rep. Steve Horn, R-Calif., who also supports such consolidation, said, "Cost savings from either organizational

consolidation or data-sharing is a real possibility. This could be a double victory -- higher quality and lower costs."

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

A House Government subcommittee today will mark up a bill aimed at revamping the U.S. Postal Service that includes proposals for more financial flexibility to encourage profits and stricter administrative oversight.

While loosening financial restrictions on the Postal Service, the bill (HR22) before House Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittee on Postal Service it also would eliminate the agency's exclusive control over some aspects of basic mail delivery. The bill would give the service more authority to set stamp prices and permit it to make a profit for services in which it has direct competition. The bill also would establish two inspector general offices to oversee internal operations.

Democrats are expected to offer amendments that would require the Postal Service to study such issues as diversity in the workplace and worker dislocation caused by increased automation. Subcommittee ranking Democrat Chaka Fattah, Pa., may request that one seat on the governing board that oversees the Postal Service be reserved for a representative of labor unions.

The underlying bill would allow the agency to borrow money and grant

it flexibility in other financial decisions that currently are controlled by the Treasury Department.

The bill would create two categories for postal rates. A non-competitive group would include regular letters, postcards, magazines and other basic mail for which no real delivery alternative exists. A competitive category would include priority mail, international mail, parcel post and other special mail services also provided by private competitors.

For basic mail and non-competitive services, the bill would set a five-year cap on stamp prices and allow the Postal Service to adjust them each year within the cap. Currently, stamp prices can be increased only to reflect higher prices in the cost of delivering mail.

Under the bill, the Postal Rate Commission would be able to set the five-year price caps according to economic assessments such as the gross domestic product and other financial indicators.

Current federal assistance to the Postal Service for providing special services to the blind and the disabled would end, along with assistance to expedite voter registration in post offices.

LAW/JUDICIARY: MEASURE WOULD EXPAND SCHOOL-BASED POLICE GRANT PROGRAM

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 9

LAW/JUDICIARY: MEASURE WOULD EXPAND SCHOOL-BASED POLICE GRANT PROGRAM

By CQ Staff

The Senate Judiciary Committee will mark up a bill (S2235) to build upon a school-based partnership grant program administered by the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Grants are given to encourage the use of school resources officers. The legislation would require school resources officers to be career law enforcement officers directed by their agencies to collaborate with schools in educating students about crime and violence prevention. Resources officers would be encouraged to focus on gangs and drug-related activities, as well as to educate potential school-age victims in crime prevention and personal safety.

The bill would expand the range of programs that could receive grants. The current program gives money to specific youth crime prevention programs.

BULLET-PROOF VESTS: The committee also will consider a bill (HR2253) that would build upon a grant program to help law enforcement agencies purchase bulletproof vests for their officers. The bill would expand the program to include bullet-resistant equipment for officers' vehicles, shields and other equipment.

The bill would provide a \$40 million matching grant program for state, county, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. Jurisdictions that do not receive any funding under another grant program, the local law enforcement block grant program, would be given preference. At least half of the funds available would be awarded to jurisdictions with less than 100,000 residents.

The bill also authorizes \$3 million over 3 years for the Justice Department to conduct research and development of new bullet-resistant technologies, such as bonded acrylic, polymers and polycarbon.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

LAW/JUDICIARY: COMMITTEE TO MARK UP BILLS ON COUNTERFEITING, GRANTS

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 8

LAW/JUDICIARY: COMMITTEE TO MARK UP BILLS ON COUNTERFEITING, GRANTS

By CQ Staff

The Senate Judiciary Committee will mark up a bill (S2099) that would increase penalties for counterfeiting if computer technology is used.

With increased use of personal computers, scanners, digital imaging software, full color copiers and laser and inkjet printers, bill sponsor Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., said that small amounts of counterfeit cash are produced more easily.

The bill would change sentencing guidelines so that increases are determined by the amount of counterfeit bills produced and a point system based upon the offender's criminal record.

The bill would raise the sentence by two levels for any conviction involving \$2,000 in counterfeit currency or less. For offenses involving more than \$2,000 in counterfeit money, increases already are in place depending upon the amount. Beyond those guidelines, the bill would add a sentencing enhancement of at least two levels for counterfeiting offenses that involve the use of a computer printer or a color photocopier.

Bill supporters argue that counterfeiters with no prior record and

who produce small amounts of phony cash often are given probation rather than a prison sentence. The legislation would make it easier for a criminal to reach a sentencing level that would require a prison sentence of 12-to 18-months.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: SENATE PANEL WILL TRY AGAIN TO MARK UP PRINTING MEASURE

Schedule highlights

(SCHEDULE 09/24/98)

Item Key: 11

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: SENATE PANEL WILL TRY AGAIN TO MARK UP PRINTING MEASURE

By CQ Staff

The Senate Rules and Administration Committee will mark up a controversial bill today that aims to overhaul the government's system for printing and disseminating information to the public.

Since a markup last week was canceled abruptly, lawmakers have been

negotiating intensely to revive the bill (S2288). However, details of any compromise remain elusive.

At issue is how the Government Printing Office (GPO) will move to adopt new technologies, and ensure that government publications are widely available and that private companies have a chance to bid on printing contracts. The bill sets up procedures and requirements to ensure public access to government publications. It also changes procurement rules but retains competitive private-sector bids for printing government documents. And it calls for agencies, courts and other government entities to make documents available to the GPO for electronic posting on the Internet.

Representatives from the information technology and printing industries have protested that the bill changes too many of the government's procurement rules and enlarges the GPO bureaucracy. At the hearing last week, Xerox executive Mike Farren, representing the Information Technology Industry Council, said the legislation is "at odds" with fast-paced technological changes. A less centralized system, he said, would serve the public and taxpayers better. Spending \$26 billion annually, the federal government is largest consumer of information technology, Farren said.

Another company, ABC Advisors Inc., a private information company that disseminates bid solicitations to a national clientele, opposes the legislative language for the bid solicitation process. Currently, ABC pays the GPO \$54,000 to receive faxed copies of the urgent solicitations

or hard copies that their courier shuttles for non-immediate bids. It then scans the documents, codes the information and relays it to its clientele either by fax or a proprietary online service. The company would like the bill to ensure that the GPO will charge an access fee if it posts calls for bids on the Internet. Some see the idea, backed by Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa., as "private relief legislation."

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

HOUSE FLOOR Sept. 25

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 161

HOUSE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 25

CONVENES AT 9AM.

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. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4578 A bill to amend the Social Security Act to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the OASDI trust funds. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR2621 A bill to extend trade authorities procedures with respect to reciprocal trade agreements, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4579 A bill to provide tax relief for individuals, families and farming and other small businesses, to provide tax incentives for education, to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

Conference report on:

HR6 A bill to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4103 An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

SENATE FLOOR Sept. 25

Future Senate/House floor

* Tentative *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 163

SENATE FLOOR * Tentative *

Sept. 25

S2333 An original bill making appropriations for the government of
the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in
whole or in part against the revenues of said district for
the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other
purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

Conference report on:

HR4103 An original bill making appropriations for the Department of
Defense for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for
other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4112 An original bill making appropriations for the legislative
branch for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for
other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Future Senate committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 10/01/98; Armed Services)

Item Key: 54

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS * New *

Senate Armed Services Committee (Chairman Thurmond, R-S.C.) will hold a
hearing on current plans for Department of Energy national security
programs.

Oct. 1 9:30 pm SR-222 Russell Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Ambassador Bill Richardson - secretary of Energy

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES NOMINATIONS

Full Committee Vote

Future Senate committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 10/06/98; Energy & Natural Resources)

Item Key: 59

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES NOMINATIONS * New *

Full Committee Vote

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Murkowski,
R-Alaska) will vote on pending nominations.

Oct. 6, Oct. 6 Time TBA SD-366 Dirksen Bldg.

Nominations: Pending nominations

Oct. 6 Theodore J. Glauthier to be deputy secretary of Energy

NOTE: The committee was scheduled to vote on this nomination on Sept. 23 but did not take any action at that time. It may be considered at a later date.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES NOMINATIONS

Confirmation Hearing

Future Senate committees * New *

(SCHEDULE 10/01/98; Energy & Natural Resources)

Item Key: 60

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES NOMINATIONS * New *

Confirmation Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Murkowski, R-Alaska) will hold a confirmation hearing on any last-minute nominees submitted by the Administration.

Oct. 1 Time TBA SD-366 Dirksen Bldg.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS

Confirmation Hearing

Future Senate committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Foreign Relations)

Item Key: 65

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS * New *

Confirmation Hearing

Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Chairman Helms, R-N.C.) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending nominations.

Sept. 25 9:30 am SD-419 Dirksen Bldg.

Nominations: Robert Randolph to be assistant administrator
of the Agency for International Development

B Lynn Pascoe to be ambassador to Malaysia

Diane Edith Watson to be ambassador to the Federated States
of Micronesia

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

LABOR DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/28/98; Education & Workforce -- Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations)

Item Key: 87

LABOR DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT * Revised *

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (Chairman Hoekstra, R-Mich.)
of House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing on
budget practices, financial analysis and management and financial
accounting systems at the Department of Labor.

Sept. 28 1:30 pm 2261 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Carlotta C. Joyner - director, Education and Employment
Issues, General Accounting Office; Patricia A. Dalton -
deputy inspector general, Department of Labor; Kenneth M.
Bresnahan - acting chief financial officer, Department of
Labor; James McMullen - director, Office of Budget, Office
of Administration and Management, Department of Labor

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for July 28.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

VETERANS HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on
Human Resources)

Item Key: 90

VETERANS HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT * Revised *

Human Resources Subcommittee (Chairman Shays, R-Conn.) of House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sept. 25 10:30 am 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Thomas Garthwaite - deputy under secretary of Veterans Affairs for health; Denis Fitzgerald - network director, Veterans Integrated Service Network, Boston, Mass.; Nancy Wilson - former director, Office of Performance Management, Department of Veterans Affairs

PANEL:

Bruce Woolette - Department of Dentistry, Veterans Health Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Togus, Maine; Jack Bachman - Department of Dentistry, VAMC, Togus, Maine; Neal Williams - disabled Vietnam veteran and member, Military Order of the Purple Heart; Robert Hite - national field representative, American Legion; Linda Schwartz - president, Project Partnership

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACTS

Joint Hearing

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 10/01/98; International Relations -- Subcommittee on Asia and
the Pacific)

Item Key: 97

FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACTS * Revised *

Joint Hearing

Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee (Chairman Bereuter, R-Neb.) of House
International Relations Committee and House Resources Committee
(Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will hold a joint oversight hearing on
compacts of free association with the Marshall Islands, Federated States
of Micronesia, and Palau.

Oct. 1 2:00 pm 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Stanley Roth - assistant secretary of State for east Asian
and Pacific affairs; John Berry - assistant secretary of
Interior for policy, management and budget; Kurt M. Campbell
- deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Asia

PANEL:

Hersey Kyota - ambassador to the United States, Republic of
Palau; Jesse B. Marehalau - ambassador to the United States,
Federated States of Micronesia; Banny DeBrum - ambassador to
the United States, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Note: This hearing was previously scheduled for Sept. 22.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

REPORT ON U.K.-NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/29/98; International Relations -- Subcommittee on
International Operations and Human Rights)

Item Key: 99

REPORT ON U.K.-NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS * Revised *

International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee (Chairman Smith, R-N.J.) of House International Relations Committee will hold a hearing on the report of a special rapporteur to the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning human rights violations in the area.

Sept. 29 10:30 am 2172 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Param Kumaraswamy - special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

AFRICA RESOLUTIONS

Subcommittee Markup

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE date TBA; International Relations -- Subcommittee on Africa)

Item Key: 102

AFRICA RESOLUTIONS * Revised *

Subcommittee Markup

Africa Subcommittee (Chairman Royce, R-Calif.) of House International Relations Committee will mark up legislation under its jurisdiction.

Time TBA 2255 Rayburn Bldg. TENTATIVE WEEK OF SEPT. 28

Agenda:

HCONRes 309 - A concurrent resolution condemning the forced abduction of

Ugandan children and their use as soldiers.

HRes 518 - A resolution calling for free and transparent elections in Gabon.

Note: This markup was originally scheduled for Sept. 17.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

OPERATION OF AIRPORT IN WEST VIRGINIA

Future House committees

* New *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Commercial and
Administrative Law)

Item Key: 104

OPERATION OF AIRPORT IN WEST VIRGINIA * New *

Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee (Chairman Gekas, R-Pa.)
of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

Sept. 25 1:00 pm 2237 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

Sept. 25

SJRes 51 - A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the
Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into
between the states of Maryland and West Virginia.

Witnesses scheduled:

Sept. 25 Sen Paul S. Sarbanes, D-Md.; Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-Md.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

RELEASE OF EVIDENCE IN CLINTON CASE

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Judiciary)

Item Key: 105

RELEASE OF EVIDENCE IN CLINTON CASE * Revised *

House Judiciary Committee (Chairman Hyde, R-Ill.) will meet to consider and vote on the release to the public of additional evidence turned over to Congress by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr that was collected during his investigation of possible wrongdoing by President Clinton.

Sept. 25 10:00 am 2141 Rayburn Bldg. CLOSED

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BILLS

Subcommittee Markup

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98; Judiciary -- Subcommittee on Commercial and
Administrative Law)

Item Key: 107

COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BILLS * Revised *

Subcommittee Markup

Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee (Chairman Gekas, R-Pa.)
of House Judiciary Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Sept. 25 Fo:00 llowing subcommittee h aring on SJ Res 51, 2237

Rayburn Bldg.

Date TBA Time TBA 2141 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

Sept. 25

SJRes 51 - A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the
Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into
between the states of Maryland and West Virginia.

NOTE: This was previously on the agenda for Sept. 17.

HR4572 - A bill clarifying that the limitation on state income
taxation of governmental pension income applies to
possessions of the United States.

NOTE: This was previously on the agenda for Sept. 17.

HR4049 - A bill to amend titles 5 and 28, U.S. Code, to provide for a
limitation on sanctions imposed by agencies and courts in
certain circumstances.

NOTE: This was previously on the agenda for Sept. 17.

HR4096 - A bill to amend title 5, U.S. Code, to provide for
Congressional review of rules establishing or increasing
taxes.

NOTE: This was previously on the agenda for Sept. 17.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACTS

Joint Hearing

Future House committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 10/01/98; Resources)

Item Key: 119

FREE ASSOCIATION COMPACTS * Revised *

Joint Hearing

House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) and Asia and Pacific Subcommittee (Chairman Bereuter, R-Neb.) of House International Relations Committee will hold a joint oversight hearing on compacts of free association with the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

Oct. 1 2:00 pm 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

PANEL:

Stanley Roth - assistant secretary of State for east Asian and Pacific affairs; John Berry - assistant secretary of Interior for policy, management and budget; Kurt M. Campbell - deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Asia

PANEL:

Hersey Kyota - ambassador to the United States, Republic of Palau; Jesse B. Marehalau - ambassador to the United States, Federated States of Micronesia; Banny DeBrum - ambassador to the United States, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Note: This hearing was previously scheduled for Sept. 22.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FY99 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS

Future conference committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/28/98)

Item Key: 138

FY99 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS * Revised *

Conferees will meet on legislation making FY99 appropriations for programs of the Transportation Department.

Sept. 28 Time and room TBA VERY TENTATIVE

Agenda:

HR4328 - 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.

Senate Conferees:

SHELBY, R-Ala.; DOMENICI, R-N.M.; SPETER, R-Pa.; BOND,
R-Mo.; GORTON, R-Wash.; BENNETT, R-Utah; FAIRCLOTH, R-N.C.;
STEVENS, R-Alaska; LAUTENBERG, D-N.J.; BYRD, D-W.Va.;
MIKULSKI, D-Md.; REID, D-Nev.; KOHL, D-Wis.; MURRAY,
D-Wash.; and INNOUYE, D-Hawaii

House Conferees:

WOLF, R-Va.; DELAY, R-Texas; REGULA, R-Ohio; ROGERS, R-Ky.;
PACKARD, R-Calif.; CALLAHAN, R-Ala.; TIAHRT, R-Kan.;
ADERHOLT, R-Ala.; LIVINGSTON, R-La.; SABO, D-Minn., TORRES,
D-Calif.; OLVER, D-Mass.; PASTOR, D-Ariz.; CRAMER, D-Ala.;
OBEY, D-Wis.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

FY99 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

Future conference committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE 09/25/98)

Item Key: 146

FY99 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS * Revised *

Conferees will meet on legislation making FY99 appropriations for the programs of the Department of Agriculture and related agencies.

Sept. 25 Time and room TBA VERY TENTATIVE

Agenda:

HR4101 - An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs, for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Senate Conferees:

COCHRAN, R-Miss.; SPECTER, R-Pa.; BOND, R-Mo.; GORTON, R-Wash.; McCONNELL, R-Ky.; BURNS, R-Mont.; STEVENS, R-Alaska; BUMPERS, D-Ark.; HARKIN, D-Iowa; KOHL, D-Wis.; LEAHY, D-Vt.; BOXER, D-Calif.; BYRD, D-W.Va.

House Conferees:

SKEEN, R-N.M.; WALSH, R-N.Y.; DICKEY, R-Ark.; KINGSTON, R-Ga.; NETHERCUTT, R-Wash.; BONILLA, R-Texas; LATHAM, R-Iowa; LIVINGSTON, R-La.; KAPTUR, D-Ohio; FAZIO, D-Calif.; SERRANO, D-N.Y.; DELAURO, D-Conn.; and OBEY, D-Wis.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

FY99 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Future conference committees

* Revised *

(SCHEDULE date TBA)

Item Key: 147

FY99 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS * Revised *

Conferees will meet on legislation that would make FY99 appropriations
for energy and water programs.

Date TBA Time and room TBA

Agenda:

HR4060 - An original bill making appropriations for energy and water
development for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and
for other purposes.

HR4060 - An original bill making appropriations for energy and water
development for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and
for other purposes.

Senate Conferees:

DOMENICI, R-N.M., COCHRAN, R-Miss., GORTON, R-Wash.,
McCONNELL, R-Ky., BENNETT, R-Utah, BURNS, R-Mont., CRAIG,
R-Idaho, STEVENS, R-Alaska, REID, D-Nev., BYRD, D-W.Va.,
HOLLINGS, D-S.C., MURRY, D-Wash., KOHL, D-Wis.,
DORGAN, D-N.D., INOUE, D-Hawaii

House Conferees:

McDADE, R-Pa.; ROGERS, R-Ky.; KNOLLENBERG, R-Mich.;
FRELINGHUYSEN, R-N.J.; PARKER, R-Miss.; CALLAHAN, R-Ala.;
DICKEY, R-Ark.; LIVINGSTON, R-La.; FAZIO, D-Calif.;
VISCLOSKEY, D-Ind.; EDWARDS, D-Texas; PASTOR, D-Ariz.; OBEY,
D-Wis.

Note: Conferees MAY meet on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Information verified as of 08:08pm 09/23/98

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

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Approximate Connect Time: 0 Hour(s) 2 Minute(s)

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24 Sep 1998 03:48:20 -0400 (EDT)

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24 Sep 1998 03:55:48 -0400 (EDT)

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; Thu, 24 Sep 1998 03:47:11 -0500 (EST)

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

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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

CREATION DATE/TIME:24-SEP-1998 03:56:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - Nassif

TO: Robert J. Nassif (Robert J. Nassif@EOP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

!=====

! Nite-Alert Created for Rob Nassif - Office of Mgmt & Budget

! 24-SEP-1998 02:50:05

!=====

! Searching the BILLTRACK database

! For New Legislative Action on bills with your search terms

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 09/24/98

MIDDAY UPDATE

Afternoon News Highlights

(NEWS 09/23/98; 174 lines)

Item Key: 15455

MIDDAY UPDATE

By CQ Staff

HOUSE TO VOTE FRIDAY OR SATURDAY ON FAST TRACK, TAX CUT:

The House will vote Friday or Saturday on legislation to renew presidential fast-track trade authority, regardless of whether it has the votes to pass, Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, said today. The bill (HR2621) was pulled last November as President Clinton and GOP leaders faced sure defeat, which they feared would send negative signals to the world about congressional commitment to free trade. Despite White House objections to moving forward this time, Armey said he and other House leaders believe it is more important to show that the House is willing to take the vote. Also slated for floor action Friday or Saturday is the House Republicans' \$80 billion tax cut bill (HR4579), which Armey predicted "will pass big" with a "generous supply" of Democratic votes.

There are no more items to excerpt.

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! Searching the CQ WEEKLY REPORT MAGAZINE

! Using the word list NASSIF

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===== ATTACHMENT 1

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