

FOIA Marker

This is not a textual record. This FOIA Marker indicates that material has been removed during FOIA processing by George W. Bush Presidential Library staff.

Records Management, White House Office of Subject Files - FG030 (Legislative Branch)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	11	7	10	1	11163	24026	12169	11959

Folder Title:

704604

parker_d

704604

FG030

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT BUSH**

Document Date: **8/7/2006**

Correspondent: **DEB FIDDELKE**

Subject/Description: **LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 31 --
THROUGH: CANDIDA WOLFF**

SCANNED
BY
ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 2006

THE PRESIDENT
HAS SEEN

8/7-8/10/06

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CANDIDA WOLFF
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

FROM: DEB FIDDELKE
Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 31

Highlights

The Senate book-ended accomplishments in what was an otherwise lackluster final week before heading into the August recess.

Early in the past week, the Senate adopted legislation to expand drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by a vote of 71 to 25. The strength of the vote, however, belies the fragility of the compromise that led to successful passage. If changes are made to the bill that cause it to lose the support of the key Senators involved - Mel Martinez (R, FL), Bill Nelson (D, FL), and Mary Landrieu (D, LA) - it would likely prevent a revised package from securing 60 votes. For this reason, Senate Leaders are not requesting a conference and have sent the Senate bill over to the House. Speaker Dennis Hastert (R, IL-14) and Leader John Boehner (R, OH-08) stated the House's comprehensive approach is what is required - setting up a game of chicken between the two bodies in September.

Midweek, the Senate began consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations bill. Chairman Ted Stevens (R, AK) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D, HI) quickly added \$13 billion in emergency funding to the bill for Army and Marine Corps reset costs. Senators also adopted an amendment by Senator Jeff Sessions (R, AL) to provide an additional \$1.8 billion in emergency funding for constructing fencing on the U.S. / Mexico Border. An amendment by Senator Barbara Boxer (D, CA) to prevent U.S. soldiers from being under the jurisdiction of Iraqi criminal courts was accepted unanimously. The Senate will return to the bill after the August recess, with the hope of quickly passing it so that the bill can proceed to conference and be ready for your signature before October 1st.

The Senate's attempt to bring up the House-passed tax bill fell short of the needed 60 votes, failing 56-42. The bill includes death tax relief, popular extenders such as the R&D credit, and a minimum wage increase. Majority Leader Bill Frist (R, TN) switched his vote to "no," a procedural move that will enable him to bring the bill up at a later date. Republican Senators George Voinovich (OH) and Lincoln Chafee (RI) voted against the bill, while Democrat

Senators Blanche Lincoln (AR), Ben Nelson (NE), Bill Nelson (FL) and Robert Byrd (WV) supported it. Senators Max Baucus (D, MT) and Joe Lieberman (D, CT) did not vote.

Before adjourning for the August break, the Senate agreed to the House-passed pensions bill, which makes fundamental improvements to rules governing private pension plans. With Senators Burr (R, NC), Coburn (R, OK), Cornyn (R, TX), Boxer (D, CA), and Feingold (D, WI) voting no, the Senate approved the bill by a vote of 93-5, clearing it for your signature.

During the past week the Senate also unanimously approved legislation that directs the federal government to acquire the Mt. Soledad veterans memorial in San Diego, so that the memorial may continue to memorialize Americans who have fallen in service to their country. You are scheduled to sign the bill on August 14.

This past week, the Senate also confirmed seventy-three of your nominations.

Other Legislative Activities

On Wednesday, August 2, Attorney General Gonzales and Defense Deputy Secretary England testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee regarding the Supreme Court decision in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld. Earlier in the day, a panel of Judge Advocate Generals and Acting Assistant Attorney General Steven Bradbury testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the authority to prosecute terrorists under the War Crime Provisions of Title 18. During the Armed Services hearing, Senators discussed timing of the Army Field Manual revision, due process rights for enemy combatants, detainee interrogation practices, and your draft military commission proposal. Senators queried the panel on the inclusion of hearsay evidence and the sharing of classified information. Gonzales and England confirmed that while the U.S. military trains to standards that exceed Common Article 3, further clarification by Congress is necessary.

During the Hamdan hearing, Senator Hillary Clinton (D, NY) harshly criticized Defense Secretary Rumsfeld for declining Senator Warner's invitation to testify before Armed Services regarding the War in Iraq. Secretary Rumsfeld subsequently appeared before the committee with Generals Pace and Abizaid to discuss efforts in Iraq. They faced predictable questions on increasing troops in Baghdad, the potential for civil war, and funding requirements to replace equipment for the Army and Marines.

Outlook

Senators now join their House colleagues in venturing home or to exotic locales for the next four weeks. When both chambers return after Labor Day, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kimberly Ann Moore to the federal circuit court and resume consideration of the Defense Appropriations bill, and the House will take up legislation dealing with the slaughter of horses. The Senate Foreign Relations committee has also set a vote on John Bolton's nomination during the first week in September.