



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of March 15, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

HOUSE VOTES TO RAISE ANTE AGAINST BROADCAST INDECENCY -

Congressman Ehlers joined with an overwhelming, bipartisan majority of his colleagues Thursday in approving increased penalties against broadcasters and entertainers who willfully or intentionally violate broadcast decency standards. The U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 391-22, approved The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act (H.R. 3717), a bill sponsored by Michigan Congressman Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph. A total of 218 Republicans, 172 Democrats and one independent voted in favor of the bill.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/031104FCCdecency.html

EHLERS URGES CONTINUATION OF EPA GRANT PROGRAM - A proposed 35 percent reduction in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants program "should not be allowed to take effect," stated Congressman Ehlers, chairman of the House Science Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards (ETS), at a hearing Thursday. Ehlers and some witnesses also criticized the application of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) new Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) in evaluating EPA's research and development (R&D) programs.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/031104EPASTAR.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2004

On Monday, the House is not in session.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (4 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.Res. 551 - Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House:** Resolves that the House of Representatives expresses the thanks of the House of Representatives to the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) for its service to the House on the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House. It recognizes that for 25 years C-SPAN has met, and continues to meet each day, its mission of providing the Members of the House with a direct, unfiltered conduit to the American people on whose behalf they go to work every day, and in turn has provided direct access for the American people to their elected officials through call-in and other programs. The resolution recognizes that since its inception 25 years ago, C-SPAN has forever changed the face of American political life, provided tremendous benefits to the American people and their elected officials, and has had a significant positive impact on the American democracy. It expresses its deep gratitude to Brian Lamb and the more than 275 C-SPAN employees who bring the proceedings of the House into the homes of tens of millions of Americans each day and commends C-SPAN and its employees for a tremendous 25 years of service to the American people and the federal government.
- 2) **H.R. 3733 - Myron V. George Post Office Designation Act** (*Altamont, Kansas*)
- 3) **H.Res. 433 - Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferre:** Resolves that the House of Representatives honors Luis A. Ferre, former governor of Puerto Rico, for his outstanding political leadership, business savvy, advocacy for social justice, and great love and support of the arts and expresses condolences on his passing to his wife, Tiody de Jesus, and his two children, Antonio Luis and Rosario, and grandchildren.
- 4) **H.J.Res. 87 - Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth.**

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 17 AND 18, 2004

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m.

Suspensions (2 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3782 - Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act:**
Information on this bill not available at time of publication.
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 364 - To recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security:** Resolves by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that Congress recognizes as an historic achievement of friendship more than five decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in pursuit of international peace and security, and recognizes with solemn regard for the cost of preserving peace, the importance of the nuclear weapon test code-named Bravo at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954.

H.Res. 557 - Relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces: *Information on this bill not available at time of publication.*

H.R. 1375 - Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act: Alters or eliminates statutory banking provisions in order to reduce the regulatory compliance burden on insured depository institutions and improve their productivity, as well as to make needed technical corrections to current statutes. H.R. 1375 counterbalances the additional regulatory burden placed on insured depository institutions in the USA Patriot Act to focus their compliance efforts on combating money laundering and terrorist financing without sacrificing proper public oversight.

* **Possible Motions to go to Conference**

* **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On March 15 ...

1913 - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

1977 - The U.S. House of Representatives began a 90-day test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television.

On March 16 ...

1802 - The U.S. Congress established the West Point Military Academy in New York.

1882 - The U.S. Senate approved a treaty allowing the United States to join the Red Cross.

1950 - Congress voted to remove federal taxes on oleomargarine.

1964 - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson submitted a \$1 billion war on poverty program to Congress.

On March 17 (*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*) ...

1941 - The National Gallery of Art was officially opened by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D.C.

1972 - U.S. President Nixon asked Congress to halt busing in order to achieve desegregation.

1985 - U.S. President Reagan agreed to a joint study with Canada on acid rain.

On March 18 ...

1818 - The U.S. Congress approved the first pensions for government service.

1963 - The U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Miranda decision concerning legal council for defendants.

1968 - The U.S. Congress repealed the requirement for a gold reserve.

1986 - The U.S. Treasury Department announced that a clear, polyester thread was to be woven into bills in an effort to thwart counterfeiters.

On March 19 ...

1903 - The U.S. Senate ratified the Cuban treaty, gaining naval bases in Guantanamo and Bahia Honda.

1918 - The U.S. Congress approved Daylight-Saving Time.

1920 - The U.S. Senate rejected the Versailles Treaty for the second time maintaining an isolation policy.

1979 - The U.S. House of Representatives began regularly broadcasting its daily business on TV.

2002 - Operation Anaconda, the largest U.S.-led ground offensive since the Gulf War, ended in eastern Afghanistan. During the operation, which began on March 2, it was reported that at least 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters were killed. Eleven allied troops were killed during the same operation.

2003 - U.S. President George W. Bush announced that U.S. forces had launched a strike against "targets of military opportunity" in Iraq. The attack, using cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs, were aimed at Iraqi leaders thought to be near Baghdad.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)