

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, June 23, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

EHLERS ANNOUNCES STEELCASE GETS FAA CONTRACT; FPI AGREES TO

'RELINQUISH' - After a months-long battle, Steelcase Inc. has won a \$6 million contract bid to outfit the new Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers announced Friday. The announcement marks the end of a conflict that involved the Grand Rapids-based office furniture manufacturer pitted against the Federal Prison Industries (FPI) program, also known as UNICOR.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/062003FPIRelinquishes.html

EHLERS URGES ADMINISTRATION TO END STEEL TARIFFS - Arguing that tariffs on imported steel are costing the jobs of manufacturing workers in his district and throughout the country, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers Thursday urged the Bush Administration to end the 30 percent tariff enacted last year to protect domestic steelmakers.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/061903SteelTariffs.html

COMSTOCK PARK TEEN WORKS AS SUMMER HOUSE PAGE - Next fall, Elspeth Paige Rollert's essay on "What I Did During My Summer Vacation" will be able to include one of the most exclusive backstage views of American political process. Since June 8, the 17-year-old senior-to-be at West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids has been hard at work as a page for the U.S. House of Representatives, allowing her unfettered access to the floor of the House, opportunities to meet members of Congress and an insider's view on the workings of American government. Her assignment ends June 28.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/061803pageelspeth.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

On Monday, 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 (5 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. 264 - Expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Algeria on May 21, 2003**
- 2) **H.Res. 177 - Commending the people of the Republic of Kenya for conducting free and fair elections, for the peaceful and orderly transfer of power in their government, and for the continued success of democracy in their nation since that transition**
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 209 - Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia**

- 4) **H.R. 2465 - Family Farmer Bankruptcy Relief Act of 2003:** Extends Chapter 12 of Title 11 of the United States Code for an additional six months from the current expiration date of July 1, 2003. Chapter 12 offers special bankruptcy protection for family farmers by allowing them to reorganize their debt rather than forcing them to liquidate their assets.
- 5) **H.R. 1460 - Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003:** Authorizes the use of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits to pay for non-degree, non-credit entrepreneurship courses for eligible veterans at approved institutions. Also, provides federal agencies discretionary authority to create “sole-source” contracts for disabled veteran-owned and controlled small businesses – up to \$5 million for manufacturing contract awards and up to \$3 million for non-manufacturing contract awards. Plus, additional provisions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2003

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (3 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 1772 - Small Business Advocacy Improvement Act of 2003:** Strengthens and improves the Office of Advocacy within the Small Business Administration (SBA) in order to ensure that there is an entity within the Executive Branch that has the statutory independence and adequate financial resources to be an effective fighter for small businesses.
- 2) **H.R. 923 - Premier Certified Lenders Program Improvement Act of 2003:** creates a two-year pilot program starting 90 days after enactment that permits qualified Certified Development Companies (CDCs) under the PCLP to elect to use a risk-based approach to calculate their loan loss reserve requirements and allows PCLP CDCs to make withdrawals from their loan loss reserves such amounts as are in excess of the aggregate outstanding balance of debentures to which the loss reserve relates.
- 3) **H.R. 1416 - Homeland Security Technical Corrections Act of 2003**

H.R. XXXX - Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:

Information not available at time of publication.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2003 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (7 bills):

- 1) **S. 858 - Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Extension Act:** Extends the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission until 2010, which will allow it to continue its valuable work through the celebration of the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln’s birth in 2009.
- 2) **H.R. 2474 - To require that funds made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center**

- 3) **H.J.Res. 49 - Recognizing the important service to the Nation provided by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary**
- 4) **H.R. 1511 - To award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair**
- 5) **H.Res. 277 - Expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong**
- 6) **H.Con.Res. 49 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-Semitic violence within many participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is of profound concern and efforts should be undertaken to prevent future occurrences**
- 7) **H.Res. ___ - Condemning the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the Aqaba summit, expressing solidarity with the Israeli people, and calling on the Palestinian Authority to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure on the West Bank and Gaza**

H.R. 2417 - Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004: *Information not available at time of publication.*

H.R. XXXX- Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003:
Information not available at time of publication.

H.R. 2351 - Health Savings Account Availability Act: Creates savings accounts to help low-income, middle-income and uninsured families save for medical expenses and to gain greater access to quality health care.

H.R. XXXX - Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:
Information not available at time of publication.

Historical Tidbits

On June 23 ...

1860 - The U.S. Secret Service was created to arrest counterfeiters.

1947 - The U.S. Senate joined the House in overriding President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.

On June 24 ...

1964 - The Federal Trade Commission announced that starting in 1965, cigarette manufacturers would be required to include warnings on their packaging about the harmful effects of smoking.

On June 25 ...

1788 - Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

1868 - The U.S. Congress enacted legislation granting an eight-hour day to workers employed by the Federal government.

1868 - Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina were readmitted to the Union.

1910 - The U.S. Congress authorized the use of postal savings stamps.

1962 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the use of unofficial non-denominational prayer in public schools was unconstitutional.

1998 - The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the line-item veto thereby striking down presidential power to cancel specific items in tax and spending legislation.

1998 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that those infected with HIV are protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

On June 26 ...

1835 - A resolution was passed in the U.S. Congress stating that Congress has no authority over state slavery laws.

1868 - U.S. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted, by one vote, of all charges in his impeachment trial.

1938 - The House Committee on Un-American Activities began its work of searching for subversives in the United States.

1994 - U.S. President Clinton renewed trade privileges for China, and announced that his administration would no longer link China's trade status with its human rights record.

On June 27 ...

1980 - U.S. President Carter signed legislation reviving draft registration.

1985 - The U.S. House of Representatives voted to limit the use of combat troops in Nicaragua.

2002 - The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission required companies with annual sales of more than \$1.2 billion to submit sworn statements backing up the accuracy of their financial reports.

(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers> and click on "Write Your Rep.")