



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of Sept. 6, 2004

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### *News from Congressman Ehlers ...*

**TREASURY SECRETARY, EPA ADMINISTRATOR, EDUCATION OFFICIAL VISIT GRAND RAPIDS DURING AUGUST** – Grand Rapids was a key stopping point for Bush Administration officials during Congress' annual August recess, as Congressman Ehlers hosted three key officials to discuss education, environmental and economic issues. First up was U.S. Education Department Undersecretary Eugene Hickok, who traveled to Grand Rapids on Aug. 17 to discuss the importance of math and science education to the workforce of the future. On Aug. 26, EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt visited the River City to talk about efforts to improve the Great Lakes and viewed the federally funded work that the city is doing to separate the city's storm and sanitary sewers. Finally, U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow joined Congressman Ehlers on Aug. 27 to discuss the economy and the importance of health savings accounts with local business leaders.

### **EHLERS CONGRATULATES HOEKSTRA ON INTELLIGENCE**

**CHAIRMANSHIP** – Congressman Ehlers released the following statement in reaction to U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert's announcement Wednesday afternoon to appoint Congressman Pete Hoekstra, R-Holland, as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: "Ever since his election to Congress in 1992, Pete Hoekstra has been determined to reform the way Congress operates. That makes him just the kind of person we need to lead the efforts to reform our nation's intelligence community as we review it from top to bottom. ..."

*To read the complete statement, please visit our website at:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/082504HoekstraIntell.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/082504HoekstraIntell.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2004**

On Monday, the House is not in session.

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

*On Tuesday, the House will meet at 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.R. 4381 - Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building Designation Act**  
*(Springdale, Arkansas)*
- 2) **H.R. 4442 - Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site**  
*(Reno, Nevada)*
- 3) **H.R. 4556 - General William Carey Lee Post Office Building Designation Act**  
*(Dunn, North Carolina)*
- 4) **H.R. 4618 - Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act**  
*(Nanuet, New York)*
- 5) **H.R. 4654 - To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007:** Reauthorizes the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (TFCA) through fiscal year 2007. The current TFCA authorization, *P.L. 107-26*, expires at the end of fiscal year 2004. H.R. 4654 authorizes appropriations for debt reduction for eligible countries through FY 2007 at \$20,000,000 in FY 2005, \$25,000,000 in FY 2006 and \$30,000,000 in FY 2007. A new section authorizes that funds can be used for audits and evaluations of the program. In addition, an amendment allows for TFCA debt reduction agreements to redirect reduced principal payments for forest conservation activities.

#### **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2004**

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

**Suspensions** (2 bills):

- 1) **H.R. XXXX - Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Administration for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:** Information not available at time of publication.
- 2) **S. 2634 - Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act:** An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organized activities involving statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, to provide funds for campus mental and behavioral health service centers.

**H.R. XXXX - Department of Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005:** Information not available at time of publication.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2004**

*On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.*

*\* Possible Motions to go to Conference*

*\* Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

**Historical Tidbits**

**On Sept. 6 ...**

**1901** - U.S. President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded (he died eight days later) by Leon Czolgosz. Czolgosz, an American anarchist, was executed the following October.

**1995** - U.S. Senator Bob Packwood was expelled by the Senate Ethics Committee.

**2002** - In New York, the U.S. Congress convened at Federal Hall for a rare special session. The session was held in New York to express the nation's mourning for the loss on September 11, 2001 and unity in the war against terrorism.

#### **On Sept. 7 ...**

**1977** - The Panama Canal treaties were signed by U.S. President Carter and General Omar Torrijos Herrera. The treaties called for the U.S. to turn over control of the canal's waterway to Panama in the year 2000.

**1989** - Legislation was approved by the U.S. Senate that prohibited discrimination against the handicapped in employment, public accommodations, transportation and communications.

**1995** - U.S. Senator Bob Packwood announced that he would resign after 27 years in the Senate.

**1999** - The White House announced that 12 jailed members of the Puerto Rican independence group Armed Forces of National Liberation had accepted a clemency offer proposed by U.S. President Clinton.

#### **On Sept. 8 ...**

**1935** - U.S. Senator Huey P. Long, "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, was shot and mortally wounded. He died two days later.

**1974** - U.S. President Ford granted an unconditional pardon to former U.S. President Nixon.

**1999** - U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno named former U.S. Senator John Danforth to head an independent investigation into the 1993 fire at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, TX.

#### **On Sept. 9 ...**

**1776** - The second Continental Congress officially made the term "United States," replacing the previous term "United Colonies."

**1893** - U.S. President Grover Cleveland's wife, Frances Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther. It was the first time a president's child was born in the White House.

**1957** - The first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction was signed into law by U.S. President Eisenhower.

**1993** - U.S. and Pakistani peacekeepers opened fire on Somalis that were attacking other peacekeepers. About a hundred Somali gunmen and civilians were killed.

**1998** - Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr delivered to the U.S. Congress 36 boxes of material concerning his investigation of U.S. President Clinton.

#### **On Sept. 10 ...**

**1979** - U.S. President Carter granted clemency to four Puerto Rican nationalists who had been imprisoned for an attack on the U.S. House of Representatives in 1954 and an attempted assassination of U.S. President Truman in 1950.

**1998** - U.S. President Clinton met with members of his Cabinet to apologize, ask forgiveness and promise to improve as a person in the wake of the scandal involving Monica Lewinsky.

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