



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of September 20, 2004

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

**EHLERS PRAISES BEMENT NOMINATION AS NSF DIRECTOR:** Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, chairman of the House Science Committee's Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, released a statement praising the nomination of Dr. Arden Bement as Director of the National Science Foundation.

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

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/091604NSFBement.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/091604NSFBement.html)

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

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**

*On Monday, there are no votes in the House.*

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 (9 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. 4459 - Llagas Reclamation Groundwater Remediation Initiative:**  
Establishes the "California Basins Groundwater Remediation Fund" within the U.S. Treasury. The Fund, subject to annual appropriations and administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, would provide up to \$25 million in federal funding to remediate groundwater in the service area of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The bill requires a local cost share of 35 percent. Perchlorate is the chemical compound of primary concern, although funds will be available to remediate other groundwater challenges in the area.
- 2) **H.R. 1658 - Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act of 2003:**  
Amends the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to legalize, validate, and confirm, as far as any interest of the United States in the affected lands is concerned, two additional conveyances in San Joaquin County, California, that involve lands forming part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to the Central Pacific Railway Company under previous law. Declares the conveyances to be: (1) that between the Central Pacific Railway

- Company and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company and the Bank of America, recorded September 27, 1945; and (2) that between the Central Pacific Railway Company and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company and the Tri-Valley Packing Association, recorded November 13, 1957.
- 3) **H.R. 2663 - To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System**
  - 4) **H.R. 2966 - Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2004:** To preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use.
  - 5) **H.R. 3334 - Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in three southern California water supply projects.
  - 6) **H.R. 3257 - Western Reserve Heritage Areas Study Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area.
  - 7) **H.R. 3632 - Anti-Counterfeiting Amendments of 2003:** Expands the criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2318 to combat the trafficking of counterfeit intellectual property products.
  - 8) **S. 1301 – Video Voyeurism Prevention Act of 2003:** Amends the Federal Criminal Code to prohibit a person, in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, from intentionally capturing an image of a private area of an individual without that individual's consent and the person capturing the image knowingly does so under circumstances in which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy.
  - 9) **S.J.Res. 41 - Commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian:** Recognizes the important and unique contribution of Native Americans to the cultural legacy of the United States, both in the past and currently. Honors the cultural achievements of all Native Americans. Celebrates the official opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. Requests the President to issue a proclamation encouraging all Americans to take advantage of the resources of the Museum to learn about the history and culture of Native Americans.

**H.R. 5025 - Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005:** To complete consideration of this bill. Debate began last week. In total, the bill provides more than \$89.9 billion in total budgetary resources, an increase of \$1 billion more than the President's request and \$495 million below the FY04 level. Discretionary spending is \$25.4 billion, \$275 million below the President's request and \$2.9 billion below the FY04 level.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK**

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

**Suspensions (17 bills):**

- 1) **H.R. 2449 - Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act:** Establishes a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It requires the Commission to award a grant in each of FY 2004 through 2016 to: (1) the U.S. Civil War Center at Louisiana State University, Louisiana; and (2) the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania.
- 2) **H.R. 2528 - Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2003:** Establishes the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission to plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate, in 2009, the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson (the first European to sail up the Hudson River), the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton (the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis), and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain (the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain).
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 489 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month:** Resolves by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Congress: (1) supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month; (2) supports the designation of National Preparedness Month; and (3) urges the federal government, states, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness for terrorist attacks and other emergencies.
- 4) **H.Res. 772 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week:** Resolves that the House of Representatives (1) supports the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week; and (2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to demonstrate the importance of long-term care residents to our everyday lives.
- 5) **H.Con.Res. 473 - Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion**
- 6) **H.Res. 761 - Congratulating Lance Armstrong on his record-setting victory in the 2004 Tour de France**
- 7) **H.R. 5039 - Eva Holtzman Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Ridgeway, N.C.*)
- 8) **H.R. 480 - United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex Redesignation Act** (*Albany, N.Y.*)
- 9) **H.Con.Res. 161 - Recognizing the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946**

- 10) H.Con.Res. 486 - Recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces, and members of the Armed Forces and their families:** Resolves by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that Congress recognizes and honors the military unit family support volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, and energy in service to the United States and commends military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the Armed Forces and the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.
- 11) H.Con.Res. 488 - Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances (*Sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers*):** Resolves by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Congress: (1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances; (2) commends the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances; (3) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and (4) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.
- 12) H.R. 3428 - Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building Designation Act (*Alexandria, Va.*)**
- 13) H.R. 3734 - Joe Skeen Federal Building Designation Act (*Roswell, N.M.*)**
- 14) H.R. 1057 - The Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act:** Preserves the adoption tax credit (as indexed) up to \$10,390 for qualified adoption expenses. In the case of a special needs adoption, the full amount of the credit can be claimed regardless of expenses. Without this legislation, in 2011, the adoption credit will fall back to \$6,000 for special needs adoptions. No credit will be allowed for other adoptions. The bill keeps the exclusion for employer-paid adoption expenses for up to the full amount of the credit. Under H.R. 1057, the full credit will remain available to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes up to \$150,000. Fewer families will be able to take advantage of the credit without enactment of H.R. 1057 because income caps for eligibility will fall from \$150,000 to \$75,000.

- 15) **S.Con.Res. 137 - Calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights**
- 16) **H.Res. 767 - Condemning the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on 9/9/04**
- 17) **H.Con.Res. 475 - Encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select New York City as the site of the 2012 Olympic Games**

**H.R. 2028 - Pledge Protection Act of 2004:** In order to protect the Pledge of Allegiance from federal court decisions that would have the effect of invalidating the Pledge across several states. As introduced, it would have precluded the lower federal courts from hearing cases involving the Pledge. It reserves to the state courts the authority to decide whether the Pledge is valid within each state's boundaries. It will place final authority over a state's Pledge policy in the hands of the states themselves. It is identical to H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, which the House passed just prior to the August recess, except it addresses the Pledge rather than the Defense of Marriage Act. If different states come to different decisions regarding the constitutionality of the Pledge, the effects of such decisions will be felt only within those states, and a few federal judges sitting hundreds of miles away from your state will not be able to rewrite your state's Pledge policy.

- \* *Possible Motions to go to Conference*
- \* *Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

### **Historical Tidbits**

#### **On September 20 ...**

**1881** - Chester A. Arthur became the 21st president of the U.S. President James A. Garfield had died the day before.

**1963** - U.S. President John F. Kennedy proposed a joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to the moon in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

**1982** - U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced that the U.S., France, and Italy were going to send peacekeeping troops back to Beirut.

**1995** - The U.S. House of Representatives voted to drop the national speed limit. This allowed the states to decide their own speed limits.

#### **On September 21 ...**

**1973** - Henry Kissinger was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become 56th Secretary of State. He was the first naturalized citizen to hold the office.

**1981** - The U.S. Senate confirmed Sandra Day O'Connor to be the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

**1998** - The videotaped grand jury statement that U.S. President Bill Clinton made concerning the Monica Lewinsky case was made public.

#### **On September 22 ...**

**1789** - The U.S. Congress authorized the office of Postmaster General.

**1862** - U.S. President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It stated that all slaves held within rebel states would be free as of January 1, 1863.

**1961** - U.S. President John F. Kennedy signed a congressional act that established the Peace Corps.

**1975** - Sara Jane Moor attempted to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford. 17 days earlier Lynnette "Squeaky" Fromme made an assassination attempt against Ford.

**1986** - U.S. President Ronald Reagan addressed the U.N. General Assembly and voiced a new hope for arms control. He also criticized the Soviet Union for arresting U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff.

**1998** - The U.S. and Russia signed two agreements. One was to privatize Russia's nuclear program and the other was to stop plutonium stockpiles and nuclear scientists from leaving the country.

**1998** - U.S. President Clinton, addressed the United Nations, and told world leaders to "end all nuclear tests for all time". He then sent the long-delayed global test-ban treaty to the U.S. Senate.

### **On September 23 ...**

**1806** - The Corps of Discovery, the Lewis and Clark expedition, reached St. Louis, MO, and ended the trip to the Pacific Northwest.

**1952** - Richard Nixon gave his "Checkers Speech". At the time he was a candidate for U.S. vice-president.

**1991** - U.N. weapons inspectors find documents detailing Iraq's secret nuclear weapons program. The find in Baghdad triggered a standoff with authorities in Iraq.

### **On September 24 ...**

**1789** - The U.S. Congress passed the First Judiciary Act. The act provided for an Attorney General and a Supreme Court.

**1957** - U.S. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock, AR, to enforce school integration.

**1963** - The U.S. Senate ratified a treaty that limited nuclear testing. The treaty was between the U.S., Britain, and the Soviet Union.

**1996** - The United States, represented by President Clinton, and the world's other major nuclear powers signed a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons.

**1998** - The U.S. Federal Reserve released into circulation \$2 billion in new harder-to-counterfeit \$20 bills.

**2001** - U.S. President George W. Bush froze the assets of 27 suspected terrorists and terrorist groups.

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