

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, October 20, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

EHLERS: HOLLAND MEETING WITH EPA ‘VERY GOOD’ – After attending a Monday morning meeting of federal, state and local elected officials with representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in Holland to discuss the potential impact of the EPA’s proposed air quality rules on ozone emissions for West Michigan, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, said, “I thought the tone of the meeting was very good. The people at the EPA seem to now totally understand the phenomena of transport pollution. They listened well and had a lot of good comments and the audience was also quite knowledgeable about the issue. I thought it was a helpful meeting.”

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/102003EPAMeeting.html

HOUSE, SENATE APPROVE \$87B BILL TO FUND IRAQ, AFGHAN WORK –

The U.S. House and Senate last week overwhelmingly approved separate bills providing funding for reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as addition funding for U.S. military operations in those countries. Congressman Ehlers joined with 220 Republicans and 83 Democrats in supporting the House bill, 303-125, while the Senate passed its measure by an 87-12 tally. A conference committee of the two chambers will meet to develop a compromise bill before it can send the final product to President Bush for his consideration.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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 (8 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. 356 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933:** Resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that: (1) the millions of victims of the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933 should be solemnly remembered and honored in the 70th year marking the height of the famine; (2) this man-made famine was designed and implemented by the Soviet regime as a deliberate act of terror and mass murder against the Ukrainian people; (3) the decision of the Government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada (the Ukrainian parliament) to give official recognition to the famine and its victims, as well as their efforts to secure greater international awareness and understanding of the famine, should be supported; and (4) the official recognition of the famine by the Government of Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine's national identity, the elimination of the legacy of

- the Soviet dictatorship, and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations.
- 2) **H.Res. 400 - Honoring the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's ascension to the papacy.**
 - 3) **H.R. 1446 - California Missions Preservation Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make matching grants to the California Missions Foundation to support its efforts to restore and repair the California missions, and to preserve associated artworks and artifacts.
 - 4) **H.R. 542 - To repeal the reservation of mineral rights made by the United States when certain lands in Livingston Parish, Louisiana:** H.R. 542 is designed to restore the mineral rights to the private landowners in Livingston Parish, Louisiana.
 - 5) **H.R. 2048 - International Fisheries Reauthorization Act of 2003:** Extends the period for reimbursement under the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, and reauthorize the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund. The bill reauthorizes two important fisheries laws: the Fishermen's Protective Act and the Yukon River Salmon Act of 1995.
 - 6) **S. 1591 - Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Nyack, N.Y.*)
 - 7) **H.R. 3068 - Brigadier General (AUS-Ret.) John H. McLain Post Office Designation Act** (*Sarasota, Fla.*)
 - 8) **H.R. 3288 - To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to make technical corrections with respect to the definition of qualifying state:** Makes technical corrections to the definition of a qualifying state with respect to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) to allow certain states access to funds allotted to them for the S-CHIP program.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2003

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

H.J.Res. XXXX - Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004:
Information not available at time of publication.

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2003 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On Oct. 20 ...

1803 - The U.S. Senate approved the Louisiana Purchase.

1818 - The U.S. and Great Britain established the boundary between the U.S. and Canada to be the 49th parallel.

1995 - Britain, France and the U.S. announced a treaty that banned atomic blasts in the South Pacific.

On Oct. 21 ...

1994 - North Korea and the U.S. signed an agreement requiring North Korea to halt its nuclear program and agree to inspections.

On Oct. 22 ...

1962 - U.S. President Kennedy went on radio and television to inform his nation about his order to send U.S. forces to blockade Cuba. The blockade was in response to the discovery of Soviet missile bases on the island.

1986 - U.S. President Reagan signed the Tax Reform Act of 1986 into law.

On Oct. 24 ...

1940 - In the U.S., the 40-hour workweek went into effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, U.S. military forces went on the highest alert in the postwar era in preparation for a possible full-scale war with the Soviet Union. The U.S. blockade of Cuba officially began on this day.

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

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Filename: 102003.doc
Directory: C:\WINDOWS\Desktop
Template: C:\WINDOWS\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: The Ehlers e-Newsletter
Subject:
Author: Jon Brandt
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 10/20/03 11:22 AM
Change Number: 5
Last Saved On: 10/20/03 4:01 PM
Last Saved By: Jon Brandt
Total Editing Time: 88 Minutes
Last Printed On: 10/23/03 4:06 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 3
Number of Words: 952 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 5,430 (approx.)