

June 12, 2000

Prepared by the staff of the Conservative Action Team

*For additional information contact Neil Bradley at 202-226-2273
or Sheila Moloney at 6-2075*

The following measures may be voted on by the House on Monday, June 12:

H.R. 3292 —Establishing the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge

Cost to the Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3292 would cost about \$30 million over the next 5 to 7 years to acquire and manage all of the acreage for the new refuge. Thereafter, CBO estimates the agency would spend \$500,000 annually on operations and in payments to local governments under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior 1) to establish a new Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge of approximately 36,500 acres, 2) to "acquire lands and waters, or interests therein, within the acquisition boundary," 3) to "administer all lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under this Act," and 4) to "make such minor revisions of the boundary ... as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the Refuge."

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, section 8 (Taxing Power and General Welfare) of the Constitution as its authority, though it does not cite a specific subsection.

Summary: The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to claim approximately 36,500 acres of land in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana as federal land and establish such land as a National Wildlife Refuge. The original refugee proposal was for 9,477 acres, but Mr. Saxton of New Jersey increased the acreage to 36,500 in committee. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only about 9,500 acres of woodlands--the core tract and the highest priority lands within Cat Island--are currently for sale.

H.Con. Res. 312 -- Regarding Title Pawn and Loan Transactions

Cost to the Taxpayers:None

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: No

Constitutional Authority: None cited.

Summary: The resolution expresses the sense of Congress that States should more closely regulate title pawn transactions (pawn shops) and outlaw the imposition of usurious interest rates on title loans to consumers.

*The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the
views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.*

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of over 50

Republican House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).