



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of March 7, 2005

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

**EHLERS 'DELIGHTED' BY EPA ADMINISTRATOR NOMINEE** - Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Mich., chairman of the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, issued the following statement Friday regarding President George W. Bush's nomination of Stephen Johnson as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

*To read Congressman Ehlers' comment, please visit our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/030405EPAJohnson.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/030405EPAJohnson.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005**

*On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma session.*

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005**

*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 (2 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. 133 - Providing amounts from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House from April 1, 2005, through April 30, 2005:** Resolves that there shall be available from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such amounts as may be necessary for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House for the period beginning on April 1, 2005, and ending on April 30, 2005, on the same terms and conditions as amounts were available to such committees for the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2005, and ending at midnight on March 31, 2005.
- 2) **H.Res. 122 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the study of languages and supporting the designation of a Year of Languages:** Resolves that it is the sense of the House that the study of languages contributes to the intellectual and social development of a student and the economy and security of the United States; that there should be a Year of

Languages in the United States, during which language study is promoted and expanded in elementary schools, secondary schools, institutions of higher education, businesses, and government programs; and that the President should issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to encourage and support initiatives to promote and expand the study of languages and observe a Year of Languages with appropriate ceremonies, programs and other activities.

### **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 9 AND 10, 2005**

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

#### **Suspensions (4 bills):**

- 1) **H.Res. 41 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States**
- 2) **H.R. 438 - Maudelle Shirek Post Office Building Designation Act (Berkeley, Calif.)**
- 3) **H.Res. 16 - Supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, congratulating manufacturers and their employees for their contributions growth and innovation, and recognizing the challenges facing the manufacturing sector**
- 4) **H.Res. 119 - Recognizing the contributions of the United States Marine Corps and other units of the United States Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II**

**H.R. 3 - Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users:** Reauthorizes the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs for six years, from fiscal years 2004 through 2009. The policy features of the bill from the last Congress are retained. The bill provides a total of \$283.9 billion in guaranteed funding a 42 percent increase over the guaranteed funding for TEA 21 (1998-2003). The funding level has been formally endorsed by the Administration. President Bush's updated reauthorization proposal, which was submitted with the fiscal year 2006 Budget, supports a 6-year reauthorization at \$283.9 billion. The bill's funding level of \$283.9 billion reflects the same funding level that Congressional negotiations had centered on in the closing days of the 108th Congress. The guaranteed funding is \$4.5 billion higher than the guaranteed funding level of \$279.4 billion passed by the House of Representatives in April 2004. The recently enacted American Jobs Creation Act restores ethanol-related losses to the Highway Trust Fund resulting from the 5.2 cents per gallon subsidy and revokes the diversion of 2.5 cents per gallon from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund. The bill will continue and protect existing U.S. jobs in the transportation sector and related industries.

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005**

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

#### **Historical Tidbits**

**On March 7 ...**

**1850** - U.S. Senator Daniel Webster endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a method of preserving the Union.

**1911** - In the wake of the Mexican Revolution, the U.S. sent 20,000 troops to the border of Mexico.

**1975** - The U.S. Senate revised the filibuster rule. The new rule allowed 60 senators to limit debate instead of the previous two-thirds.

**1994** - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that parodies that poke fun at an original work can be considered "fair use" that does not require permission from the copyright holder.

#### **On March 8 ...**

**1880** - U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes declared that the United States would have jurisdiction over any canal built across the isthmus of Panama.

**1917** - The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

#### **On March 9 ...**

**1866** - The Civil Rights Bill passed over U.S. President Andrew Johnson's veto.

**1867** - The U.S. Senate ratified the treaty with Russia that purchased the territory of Alaska by one vote.

**1976** - The U.S. and Russia agreed on the size of nuclear tests for peaceful use.

**1988** - The U.S. imposed economic sanctions on Panama.

#### **On March 10 ...**

**1790** - The U.S. patent system was established.

**1960** - The U.S. Senate passed the Civil Rights Bill.

**1996** - U.S. President Clinton vetoed a bill that would have outlawed a technique used to end pregnancies in their late stages.

#### **On March 11 ...**

**1791** - Samuel Mulliken became the first person to receive more than one patent from the U.S. Patent Office.

**1824** - The U.S. War Department created the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Seneca Indian Ely Parker became the first Indian to lead the Bureau.

**1907** - U.S. President Roosevelt induced California to revoke its anti-Japanese legislation.

**1930** - U.S. President Howard Taft became the first U.S. president to be buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

**1941** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Lend-Lease Act, which authorized the act of providing war supplies to the Allies.

**1964** - U.S. Senator Carl Hayden broke the record for continuous service in the U.S. Senate. He had worked 37 years and seven days.

**1993** - Janet Reno was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the first female attorney general.

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