

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Met in executive session to consider pending business.

WORLD WAR I VETERANS' SERVICE PENSION ACT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance held a hearing on H.R. 1918, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize a service pension of up to \$150 per month for veterans of World War I and for certain surviving spouses and dependent children of such veterans. Testimony was heard from Representatives Anderson, Edgar, Pepper, Tauke and Skelton; John Hagan, Jr., Deputy Chief Benefits Director, VA and representatives of various veterans organizations.

TAX REDUCTION BILL

Committee on Ways and Means: Continued markup of the tax reduction bill.

JOINT MEETINGS**DEFENSE PROCUREMENT**

Joint Economic Committee: Subcommittee on International Trade, Finance, and Security Economics held hearings on the economics of defense procurement, focusing on the Army's M-1 tank, receiving testimony from Walton H. Sheley, Director, Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition, and Donald J. Horan, Director, Procurement Logistics and Readiness Division, both of the General Accounting Office.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

RECONCILIATION—FOOD STAMPS

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and House Committee on Agriculture met to resolve their differences on the agriculture and food stamp provisions of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again tomorrow.

RECONCILIATION—MILITARY PROGRAMS

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and House Committee on Armed Services agreed on their differences on the National Defense stockpile provisions and cost of living allowances (COLA) provisions, and failed to agree on their differences on the military survivor benefits provisions of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget.

RECONCILIATION—FHA/MORTGAGE INSURANCE

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs continued to resolve their difference on those provisions which fall within their jurisdiction of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget, did not complete action thereon and will meet again tomorrow.

RECONCILIATION—COMMERCE, SCIENCE, TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House Committee on Energy and Commerce met to resolve their differences on those provisions under their jurisdiction of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301, of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to call.

RECONCILIATION—INTERIOR

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs agreed on their differences on the Department of the Interior and related agencies provisions of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget.

RECONCILIATION—CORPS OF ENGINEERS/USER FEES

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works and House Committees on Public Works and Interior and Insular Affairs agreed on their differences on the Corps of Engineers special recreational user fees provisions of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget.

RECONCILIATION—ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Conferees of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Energy and Commerce agreed on their differences on the Office of the Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System provisions of H.R. 3982, providing for reconciliation pursuant to section 301 of H. Con. Res. 115, the First Concurrent Resolution of the Congressional Budget.

NBC] about which I know almost nothing, involving news, sports, daytime programming, budgets and business... I'm not going to look across the street to the other guys [CBS & ABC]. Let them do their thing and we'll do ours."

HOUSE TO FIGHT SENATE BROADCAST PACKAGE: Insisting they're not opposed to "substance" of measures, House communications leaders are gearing up for attempt to delete broadcast deregulation package which Senate has included in massive budget bill. Rep. Dingell (D-Mich.), Commerce Committee chmn., warned NAB Pres. Vincent Wasilewski and Kenneth Schanzer, NAB senior vp for govt. affairs, that if NAB & broadcasters don't stop lobbying for House to approve Senate package in conference, "retribution" is possible. Dingell "was very strong in his position," we were told.

House leaders argue broadcast deregulation measures should be considered as separate bills, don't belong in budget bill because they make "substantive" changes. Joined by Rep. Wirth (D-Colo.), Telecommunications Subcommittee chmn., Dingell also sent letter to Budget Committee urging Chmn. Jones (D-Okla.) to "resist any consideration" of Senate's broadcast package during conference on grounds that including items in budget bill is "flagrant abuse of the budget process."

In letter, Wirth & Dingell said hearings weren't held on some parts of package, that House plans similar broadcast reform but is taking "far more thoughtful approach." Meanwhile, NCCB, joined by numerous other public interest groups, will hold press conference July 20 to urge against passage in conference of Senate package. NCCB spokesman said Senate exercised "abusive procedures" when it slipped measures into large bill.

Budget conference has begun, but broadcast issues will first be considered in mini-conference between House & Senate Commerce Committees not yet scheduled.

Several broadcasters who also are members of United Church of Christ have formed group to oppose anti-commercial broadcasting activities of Church's Office of Communications. Charles Wright, ex-NAB dir. from WBYS(AM) Canton, Ill., was major force behind organizational meeting — at which Herbert Skoog, KGNB(AM) New Braunfels, Tex., was elected chmn. Broadcasters will carry their grievances directly to Office of Communications at meeting scheduled Sept. 12.

NAB asked Federal Reserve System not to impose unnecessary restraints on broadcast advertising for credit transactions. Commenting on Federal Reserve staff commentary on Regulation Z, pertaining to advertising of open and closed end consumer credit plans, NAB said "due to inherent restraints in radio and television advertising, truth in lending information cannot be meaningfully and economically incorporated into a 30 or 60-sec. spot."

National Advertising Div. of Council of Better Business Bureaus resolved 13 challenges to national advertising in June. Five were related to TV advertising, all of which were decided in advertisers' favor. Three investigations resulted in advertising being withdrawn or modified.

Several broadcast groups, led by Capital Cities, hope to raise \$1 million to help fledgling TV writers through Humanitas awards of Human Family Institute. To date, \$505,000 has been raised. Among contributors: Group W, Metromedia, Times Mirror Bestg., Lin Bestg., Outlet Co., Hearst Corp., Meredith Bestg., Scripps-Howard Bestg.

Battle over TV press pool assignments for White House reached impasse again last week when U.S. Dist. Court Judge Orinda Evans in Atlanta extended restraining order against White House notice excluding all TV crews from pool assignments. White House issued order hoping to resolve dispute between 3 major networks and CNN, which claims that present TV pool system -- daily rotation among ABC, CBS & NBC crews -- not only excludes CNN but doesn't fit into its 24-hour, live news format. At issue is whether White House notice is constitutional; 4 networks claim it isn't. Once that issue is decided, and that's expected this week, Judge Evans will hold hearing (slated for Aug. 3) on what is constitutional.

Writers Guild unanimously approved 4-year contract with TV & movie producers, ending 3-month strike and paving way for start of fall TV season with minimum delay. At heart of dispute was pay-TV residuals for writers. Contract would give them 2% of gross of shows made for pay TV after producer recouped his investment at set rate of \$1 million for one-hour videotaped show and \$1,250,000 for one-hour filmed show. Both figures include revenue from sales of videocassettes and discs. Contract also included substantial boosts in minimum pay.

China has given U.S. broadcasters permission to base news correspondents in Beijing. AP, UPI, several newspapers are represented in China, but networks hadn't been allowed to station correspondents in Chinese capital. Networks still cannot station TV crews there; Canadian Bestg. Corp news crews have been providing TV coverage to U.S. from China.