

Committee Times

"All the News I Feed
Like Printing."

Scientist Begins New Job At Congress Senate. If years, Con authorization

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Ranking Mem.
Pete King

(D-MS) (R-NY)
Dr. Allen will be one of 19 staffers
the minority side—the majority is allotted
28 staffers.

March has been a busy month for the DHS Committee. They recently passed H.R. 844, the "Promoting Anti-terrorist Cooperation through Technology as Science (PACTS) Act," and H.R. 1404, the "Authorization of Homeland Security Appropriations for FY2010 Bill." The bill intended to improve the security of rail-based transportation infrastructure by authorizing DHS to draft language for the FY2010 Authorization of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. The Authorization bill authorizes hundreds of billions of dollars for DHS, is passed every year by the House but rarely by the Senate.

Life on the Hill

The First Four Weeks

**ETC SUBCOMMITTEE
HOLDS Two HEARING
WITH DNDO**

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A close-up view of a necktie featuring a repeating pattern of red, white, and blue stars and stripes, resembling the American flag.

 Ranking Mem.
Michael McCaul

(R-IX)

The ETC Subcommittee is the technical arm of the HS Committee and has jurisdiction over chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats; agorism; cybersecurity; other emerging threats; the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO); the Homeland Security Applied Research Programs Agency (HSARPA); and cross-cutting science and technology initiatives at the Department of Homeland Security.

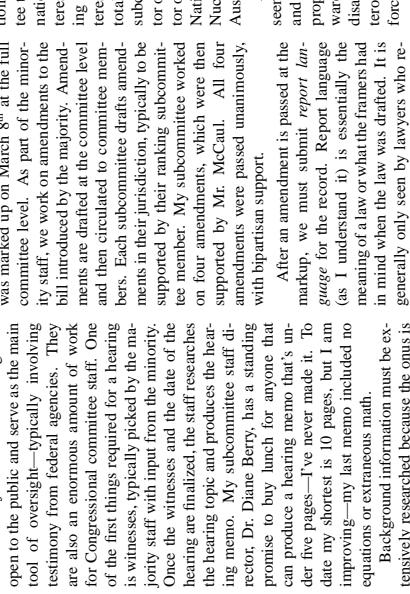
revising, and debating, are often glee-

fully ignored by the Members. At the end of every hearing, we submit *Questions For the Record*. These are questions Members ask the witnesses to look into and get back to the committee.

The first four weeks have been a real learning experience. In the past month, I've had my first exposure to both hearings and markups.

A hearing is held to inform Mem-

with the first "markup." A markup is a public event where the majority and minority parties come together and debate and amend a bill—first at the subcommittee



on the staff to be prepared for any question that might arise during the hearing. It is also the role of the staff to provide questions to members for them to ask the witnesses. It's been a learning experience to observe that rigorously written briefings can be split into two large categories: solicited and unsolicited. In addition to preparing for hearings and markups, briefings are a daily occurrence.

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POINTS OF INTEREST

- My next report will discuss the various technology related issues the Lab should be aware of in the Rail Bill and the FY08 Authorization Bill.

- Looking ahead: There will be a hearing on April 18 for BioShield, and April 19 for Cyber-security. If you're in DC, it may be worth dropping by.

