



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

Conference Report on H.R. 1474 - Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (Unanimous Consent with one hour of general debate)

H.R. 3108 - Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003 (*Rep. Boehner - Education & the Workforce / Ways & Means*) (Unanimous Consent with one hour of general debate)

Suspensions (13 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3182** - Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 (*Rep. Camp - Ways & Means*)
- 2) **H.Res. 342** - Supporting the National Railroad Hall of Fame, Inc., of Galesburg, Illinois, in its endeavor to erect a monument known as the National Railroad Hall of Fame (*Rep. Evans - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 3) **H.R. 2297** - Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (*Rep. C. Smith {NJ} - Veterans' Affairs*)
- 4) **H.R. 2452** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building" (*Rep. King {NY} - Government Reform*)
- 5) **H.Con.Res. 71** - Recognizing the importance of Ralph Bunche as one of the great leaders of the United States, the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner, an accomplished scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a tireless campaigner of civil rights for people throughout the world (*Rep. Rangel - Government Reform*)
- 6) **H.Res. 262** - Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (*Rep. Platts - Government Reform*)
- 7) **H.R. 3159** - Government Network Security Act of 2003 (*Rep. Waxman - Government Reform*)
- 8) **H.R. 3054** - District of Columbia Military Retirement Equity Act of 2003 (*Rep. T. Davis {VA} /Rep. Hoyer - Government Reform*)
- 9) **H.R. 2755** - To authorize the President to issue posthumously to the late William "Billy" Mitchell a commission as major general, United States Army (*Rep. Bass - Armed Services*)
- 10) **H.R. 2998** - To amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized (*Rep. Young {FL} - Armed Services*)
- 11) **H.R. 408** - To provide for expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (*Rep. Camp - Resources*)
- 12) **H.R. 3062** - To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas (*Rep. Camp -Resources*)
- 13) **H.R. 708** - To require the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to provide for the use of the proceeds from such conveyance for National Forest purposes (*Rep. Thompson {CA} - Resources*)

Postponed Vote on H.Res. 355 - Commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria (*Rep. Wilson - International Relations*)

Postponed Vote on H.Res. 372 - Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh (*Rep. Lantos - International Relations*)

Crowley Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Child Tax Credit. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the Senate-passed Child Tax Credit measure and is identical to the one that passed in the House on June 12th, 205-201. It also instructs Conferees to report out a conference report no later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

Capps Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 6 - Energy Policy Act of 2003. The motion instructs conferees to follow the House adopted Capps-Davis(FL)-Miller(FL) amendment and not include any provision in the final Conference Report that would require an inventory of resources in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Such a provision would undermine the longstanding agreement against new oil and gas drilling in the OCS off Florida, California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska's Bristol Bay and the entire East Coast.

Schakowsky Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1 - Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. The motion instructs conferees to strike funds included in the bill (\$174 billion) for Health Savings Accounts. These resources could be used for other purposes, such as helping employers continue to provide drug coverage for their retirees.



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BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

Conference Report on H.R. 1474 - Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (Unanimous Consent with one hour of general debate). This bill would require banks to accept a paper reproduction, produced through digital means, of original paper checks. This bill promotes the electronic clearing of checks by allowing the reproduction and printing of checks closer to the originating bank and reducing the time and cost of physically returning processed checks to the bank on which the check is drawn. This bill also requires the General Accounting Office (GAO) to evaluate the economic impact of this check-clearing method and to submit its findings to Congress within five years of enactment.

H.R. 3108 - Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003 (Rep. Boehner - Education & the Workforce / Ways & Means) (Unanimous Consent with one hour of general debate). This bill amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code to temporarily replace (for plan years 2004 and 2005) the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements. This bill also expresses the sense of the Congress that it must ensure the financial health of the defined benefit pension system by working to promptly implement: (1) a permanent replacement for the pension discount rate used for defined benefit pension plan calculations; and (2) comprehensive funding reforms aimed at achieving accurate and sound pension funding.

Daily Quote...

"More than half of the 759,000 Hispanics who entered the workforce between 2000 and 2002 were unable to find jobs, even though overall Hispanic employment increased by 379,000, to about 15 million. In August, the unemployment rate for Hispanics was 7.8 percent, compared with 5.8 percent for non-Hispanics, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics."

- From today's *The Washington Post*