

# THE DAILY WHIP

Thursday, March 6, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

HOUSE MEETS AT...	LAST VOTE PREDICTED...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business	3:00-4:00 p.m.
No "One-Minutes" Today	

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

**H.R. 13** - Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Hoekstra- Ed and Wkforce)  
(Under Unanimous Consent with 1 hour of debate)

**H.R. 878** - Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003. (Thomas- Ways and Means)  
(Subject to a Rule)

## BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

**H.R. 13 - Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Under Unanimous Consent with 1 hour of debate).** This bill authorizes federal assistance for museums and libraries through FY 2009, which expired at the end of FY 2002 and was authorized for FY 2003 by the Omnibus Appropriations Act recently passed by Congress. The bill authorizes \$245 million in FY 2004, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2005 through 2009, for these programs. The Education and the Workforce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**H.R. 878 - Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003 (Subject to a Rule).** This bill includes a number of important provisions aimed at reducing taxes for members of the armed services. These measures include: military death benefits; tax benefits related to the sale of a principal residence; tax deductions for National Guard and Reserve travel expenses; extensions for filing tax returns; and tax breaks related to dependent care. The House passed similar legislation twice in the 107th Congress (on July 2002 with 414 votes and October of 2002 with 412 votes). **Unfortunately, during the committee consideration and mark up of the original version of this bill last week, Republicans included numerous provisions unrelated to the tax treatment of members of the armed forces.**

The Republican Leadership has reported a closed rule for the bill denying Democrats the opportunity to offer any amendments to the bill, including the Senate Finance Committee version of this bill (S. 351), which Mr. Rangel had asked to be made in order.

**Therefore, Democrats are urged to oppose the previous question on the rule to allow consideration of Democratic amendments. Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question.**

**Steny Hoyer**

*Office of the Democratic Whip*

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If the previous question is not defeated, Ranking Member Rangel is expected to offer a motion to recommit, which would be the Senate Finance Committee bill (S. 351) that expands the benefits to our men and women in the military and eliminates any of the extraneous components included in the Republican bill.

Through the motion to recommit:

- **Democrats Offer Generous Military Benefits** by improving the underlying bill in two key areas. First, Democrats do not limit the deduction for overnight travel expenses of National Guard members and Reservists (Republicans place a \$500 limitation), which would result in **\$851 million in tax relief** for the National Guard and Reserves over the next 10 years (Republicans would only provide \$189 million). Second, Democrats provide slightly more relaxed capital gains relief for sales of principal residences for members of the military.
- **Democrats Refuse to Include Extraneous Tax Amendments** adopted by the Committee on Ways and Means. These extraneous provisions include: tax breaks for foreigners who place bets outside the United States on U.S. horse races; a special tax rate on fuel that is a blend of diesel fuel and water benefiting the few companies that manufacture such fuels; a tax break to benefit manufacturers of fishing tackle boxes; a tax break to benefit landowners who sell timber from their land; an extension of the time allowed for ranchers to utilize a tax break for the weather-related sale of livestock; and a tax break for one variety of archery bows.
- **Democrats Remain Strong on Budgetary Issues** and include all of the revenue offsets that were adopted by the Senate Finance Committee on a bipartisan basis with the adoption of S. 351. Those offsets include an extension of the existing IRS user fees and provisions denying tax benefits to individuals who renounce their U.S. citizenship for tax avoidance reasons.

**Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Rangel motion to recommit.**

## REMINDERS

- The Republican Leadership has announced that the voting time on 15-minute recorded votes will be strictly enforced.
- Please Notify the Democratic Whip's Office if you will be absent.

## DAILY QUOTE...

"There are so many bad things to say about the military tax bill the House is expected to consider today that it's hard to know where to start. . . . The final package contains about as much in special interest tax breaks as it does for members of the military."

-A *Washington Post* editorial today criticizing House Republicans for adding special-interest tax breaks to the "Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act"

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