

THE DAILY WHIP

Thursday, April 3, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

HOUSE MEETS AT...	LAST VOTE PREDICTED...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business	Evening ???
Number of "One-Minutes" Today: 5 per side	

***** ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL FOR TODAY'S CONSIDERATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU PLAN TO BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

H.R. 1559 - Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for FY2003 (Young - Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule)

H.R. 735 - Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003 (McHugh - Government Reform) (Under Unanimous Consent)

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.R. 1559 - Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for FY2003 (Young - Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$77.9 billion in supplemental funds for military operations, homeland security and foreign assistance (\$62.5 billion for military operations in Iraq and the war on terrorism; \$4.2 billion for Homeland Security; \$8 billion in aid to allies and for Iraqi relief and reconstruction; and \$3.2 billion to help U.S. airlines with increased aviation security expenses).

The Rules Committee has recommended an open rule but has not provided the waivers needed to make in order key Democratic amendments. The Rule also provides for one hour of debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule; provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions; and authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record.

The Republican Rule denies Democrats the opportunity to vote on key amendments to this bill including an amendment by Mr. Obey, Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, to increase funding by \$2.5 billion to critical Homeland Security programs. The items in Mr. Obey's amendment would include: \$197 million to protect military facilities; \$241 million for nuclear security (nuclear cargo detection, nuclear detection equipment, securing nuclear materials abroad and in the U.S.); \$722 million for port and infrastructure security (Coast Guard personnel, port security grants, dams and bridge security, water and chemical plant security, rail tunnel security); and \$1.2 billion for state and local first responders (state and local civil defense teams, first responder equipment, firefighter grants, state and local bio-chemical response, military guard and reserves).

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H.R. 735 - Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003 (McHugh - Government Reform) (Under Unanimous Consent). This bill authorizes the United States Postal Service to modify the formula it uses to determine the amount of annual lump-sum payments to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), which cover the difference between the costs of the program and payroll contributions made by employees and the Postal Service. This modification would result in a lower annual payment by the Postal Service to the CSRS and would save the Postal Service enough money to hold postage rates at current levels until at least 2006.

The Unanimous Consent Agreement provides for one hour of general debate; two amendments; and one motion to recommit.

- **Waxman Amendment (10 minutes)** – This amendment would strike the provision that requires the Postal Service to pay the pension costs related to the military service of postal employees covered by Civil Service Retirement System.
- **Tom Davis (VA) (10 minutes)** - This amendment would require the Postal Service, the Treasury Department and the Office of Personnel Management each to prepare a report by Sept. 30, proposing whether and to what extent the Treasury or the Postal Service should pay the retirement benefits attributable to the military service of current and former postal employees.

REMINDER

- The Republican Leadership has announced that the voting time on 15-minute recorded votes will be strictly enforced.

DAILY QUOTE...

"[T]he most vital services in education, health and welfare are certain to be crimped and hacked by hundreds of billions of dollars at all levels of government afflicted with increasing deficits. Yet GOP leaders work to compound this pain by restoring the president's full tax cut in a closed-door compromise plan that will soon emerge for a showdown vote."

- *The New York Times*, in an editorial today

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