



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

*** ON THURSDAY WE EXPECT IMPORTANT VOTES ON THE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Suspensions (9 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 1768** - Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act of 2004 (*Rep. Sensenbrenner - Judiciary*)
- 2) **H.R. 3095** - Community Recognition Act of 2003 (*Rep. Doolittle - Judiciary*)
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 328** - Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the designation of a National Military Appreciation Month (*Rep. Tom Davis - Government Reform*)
- 4) **H.R. 3059** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 304 West Michigan Street in Stuttgart, Arkansas, as the "Lloyd L. Burke Post Office" (*Rep. Berry - Government Reform*)
- 5) **H.R. 3786** - Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Act of 2004 (*Rep. King{NY} - Financial Services*)
- 6) **H.R. 2993** - District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act (*Rep. King {NY}/Norton - Financial Services*)
- 7) **H.R. 254** - To authorize the President of the United States to agree to certain amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States concerning the establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank (*Reps. Bereuter/Hinojosa - Financial Services*)
- 8) **H.R. 3873** - Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act (*Rep. Castle - Education & the Workforce*)
- 9) **H.Con.Res. 189** - Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and supporting an International Geophysical Year-2 (IGY-2) in 2007-08 (*Rep. Udall - Science*)

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3926** - Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act (*Rep. Bilirakis - Energy & Commerce*)
- 2) **H.Res. 522** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there is a critical need to increase awareness and education about heart disease and the risk factors of heart disease among women (*Rep. Snyder - Energy & Commerce*)

H.Con.Res. 393 - Budget Resolution for FY05 (Rep. Nussle - Budget) (Begin Consideration Under Unanimous Consent with 6 hours of general debate). This resolution calls for \$821 billion in discretionary spending and a \$377 billion deficit for FY05. This irresponsible GOP budget essentially freezes non-defense/non-homeland security spending for FY05 at current levels while maintaining room for making additional future tax cuts permanent and shifting the burden of massive debt to future generations.

Under a Unanimous Consent agreement reached yesterday, today the House will debate H.Con.Res. 393 for up to 6 hours. Tomorrow, the House is expected to adopt a Rule for further consideration of this bill including several substitute amendments. Budget Committee Ranking Member Spratt is expected to offer a Democratic Budget alternative that balances within ten years, provides real budget discipline, protects Social Security and provides better investments than the GOP budget in important domestic priorities. **All Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Spratt Democratic alternative and to VOTE NO on the Republican Budget Resolution.**

- **The Republican 5-year budget plan masks their long-term fiscal irresponsibility.** By limiting the budget window to five years, Republicans leave out significant costs from the bottom-line in order to mask the true costs of their ultimate goal to make the President's tax cuts permanent, which would result in an additional \$1.5 trillion dollars of debt during the next decade. This, at the same time they "deem" another increase in our nation's debt limit of as much as \$700 billion.

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- **Republicans offer only lip-service to budget enforcement.** Republicans will likely lace this debate with talk of “spending restraint” but the Republican Leadership will not allow consideration of much needed budget enforcement mechanisms – and may delay them indefinitely. Even if such measures are considered, GOP leaders are expected to reinstate “pay-as-you-go” restrictions only for spending increases, but not tax cuts, meaning additional spending would need to be offset, but new tax cuts could be implemented without constraint.
- **Republicans freeze domestic programs now and cut them by \$120 billion in the next five years** including: substantially less resources than needed and promised for No Child Left Behind and IDEA; less funding for programs such as police and fire grants, port security, employment training, as well as the elimination of dozens of other programs;
- **Republicans would cut mandatory programs under the guise of “Waste, Fraud and Abuse”** including: \$13.2 billion in mandatory spending reductions in FY 2005, which could result in cuts to Medicaid, veterans’ health care, welfare, and unemployment assistance.
- **Republicans create dire situation for Social Security and Medicare.** As described recently by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, without adequate resources to manage the looming retirement of the baby boom generation, Republican fiscal mismanagement is setting the stage for drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare benefits.

TOMORROW’S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. to complete consideration of: **H.Con.Res. 393 - Budget Resolution for FY05 (Rep. Nussle – Budget)**

Daily Quote...

“The co-authors of the IB [Independent Budget] call on you to reject this half-hearted attempt to fund veterans' health care. Passage of the Budget Resolution, as presented, would be a disservice to those men and women who have served this country and who are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world in our fight against terrorism.”

- Letter on Tuesday to Members of the House from the Independent Budget, which includes the AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars.