



The Daily Whip

democraticwhip.house.gov • (202) 225-3130

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*** TODAY 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

H.Res. 574 - Rule providing for consideration of H.Con.Res. 393 - Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY05 (Rep. Hastings (WA) / Rules Committee). The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that makes in order four amendments in the nature of a substitute and waives all points of order against them, except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment.

Democrats are urged to **OPPOSE the Previous Question on the Rule** in order to allow consideration of an amendment that would extend "pay-as-you-go" rules to both mandatory spending and tax cuts.

Postponed Suspension Votes (4 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3095** - Community Recognition Act of 2003 (*Rep. Doolittle - Judiciary*)
- 2) **H.R. 3786** - Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Act of 2004 (*Rep. King {NY} - Financial Services*)
- 3) **H.R. 2993** - District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act (*Reps. King {NY}/Norton - Financial Services*)
- 4) **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*)

H.Con.Res. 393 - Budget Resolution for FY05 (Rep. Nussle - Budget) (Complete Consideration - Subject to a Rule). This 5-year 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. In addition, Republicans leaders will not allow consideration of much needed budget enforcement mechanisms – and may delay them indefinitely, effectively offering only lip-service to this important procedure.

Yesterday, the House completed six hours of general debate on the misguided Republican budget. Today, the House will complete consideration of this bill and will consider the four substitute amendments made in order by the rule in the following order:

- **Cummings/Scott (VA)/Majette Amendment in the nature of a Substitute (Congressional Black Caucus) (40 minutes).** This 5-year substitute provides roughly \$852 billion in discretionary spending for FY05 and a deficit of \$356 billion and a \$50 billion reserve for operations in Iraq. This substitute promotes necessary domestic investments in: homeland security, support for troops and reservists currently engaged in combat, veterans benefits, health insurance for the uninsured, and economic development. It fully funds the FY05 authorization level for No Child Left Behind, doubles funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions, increases the Pell Grant allotment for college students, and provides resources for law enforcement initiatives such as COPS, local law enforcement block grants, and juvenile justice programs. It provides for job training and workforce development and a four-week extension for unemployment benefits. It provides the necessary resources for the Department of Homeland Security to begin fully protecting America's rails and ports, and provides significant resources for our first responders. This substitute raises approximately \$192 billion in revenues in 5 years by rescinding the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for individuals making more than \$200,000 in gross income and by closing tax loopholes, abusive tax shelters, and methods of tax avoidance. It protects the child-care tax credit, the elimination of the marriage penalty and the 10% tax bracket. This substitute reduces funding for the Ballistic Missile Defense program and estimates savings in defense contractor overcharges and applies the balance of funds to deficit reduction.



The Daily Whip

democraticwhip.house.gov • (202) 225-3130

- **Hill/Stenholm Amendment in the nature of a Substitute (Blue Dog Coalition) (40 minutes).** This 10-year substitute: maintains the overall spending levels in the President's budget (\$823 billion of discretionary spending in FY05) but reallocates priorities to provide increased funding for education, job training, health care and veterans; rejects cuts in Medicaid and other entitlement programs called for in the House GOP budget; cuts the deficit in half in two years and achieves balance in 2012 while extending middle class tax relief for 2005 (full child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, expanded 10% bracket); provides permanent estate tax relief for small businesses and family farms; matches GOP Defense spending and sets aside \$50 billion for the costs of military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This substitute pays for middle class tax relief and war costs by suspending reductions in the top two income tax brackets; directs Ways and Means Committee to identify tax loopholes and other offsets to pay for further extension of middle class tax relief and other tax breaks; rejects GOP budget entitlement cuts; and contains strong budget enforcement rules, including "pay-as-you-go" for spending and revenues in for all legislation that would increase the deficit.
- **Hensarling Amendment in the nature of a Substitute (Republican Study Committee) - (40 minutes).** This five-year substitute would limit FY05 discretionary spending to approximately \$811 billion, would leave in place spending increases for the military and homeland security proposed by the GOP Nussle Budget, establishes a firewall for defense discretionary spending and would cut other discretionary spending by 1% compared to last year's level. This substitute also includes reconciliation protection for \$182 billion in tax cuts and over \$60 billion in mandatory cuts to programs such as Medicaid and Medicare.
- **Spratt Democratic Budget Alternative - Amendment in the nature of a Substitute (1 hour).**
 - **Democrats 10-year substitute achieves a Balanced Budget within eight years,** cuts the deficit in half in 3 years and has a better bottom line than the GOP budget every year (less deficits, interest and debt);
 - **Democrats offer real Budget Enforcement Rules** by including restoration of rules from the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 that Republicans let lapse in 2002. These mechanisms would extend pay-as-you-go rules to both spending and tax cuts.
 - **Democrats stand for Strong Homeland Security and Defense** including \$5 billion more than the President's budget for Homeland Defense and First Responders during the next 5 years. Democrats provide the same levels of funding as the GOP proposal for defense and prioritize support for our troops, reservists, and their families.
 - **Democrats are committed to meeting the Nation's Domestic Needs by providing more resources than the GOP budget for priority investments** in education, veterans, public health, infrastructure, environmental protection, public housing, science and economic development. Democrats also offer more assistance for the unemployed and workers discouraged by the indifference of President Bush and Congressional Republicans.
 - **Democrats promote responsible tax policy by extending implementation of tax cuts for working families** while restoring sense to the federal tax code. The Democratic Budget directs the Ways and Means Committee to extend the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, low-income tax bracket and Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for another year. Furthermore, the Democratic Budget alternative provides for the ability to make those tax cuts permanent, and extend others such as the R&D tax credit by offsetting the cost of tax cuts through tax reform measures such as closing costly loopholes, eliminating abusive shelters, and reducing the size of the tax cuts for the highest income taxpayers.

All Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Spratt Democratic alternative and to VOTE NO on the Republican Budget Resolution.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"One year after a vast reorganization of domestic security, the government has made important strides in defending the nation against another terrorist attack but still faces critical gaps that could take years to close, according to an internal review released on Wednesday."

- *The New York Times* today

[The Democratic FY05 Budget adds back \$857 million for homeland security that the Republican Budget would cut from the President's Budget and then provides \$5 billion more for homeland security than the President's]