



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 1997 - Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003 (*Rep. Hart - Judiciary / Armed Services*) (*Modified Closed Rule, Two Hours of Debate*). This bill makes it a separate federal offense to cause the death of, or bodily injury to, an "unborn child" during the commission of specified violent crimes (an "unborn child" or "child in utero" is defined as a "member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb"). Punishment for the separate charges would be the same as if the offense had been committed against the pregnant woman. The bill specifies that an offense would not require proof that the perpetrator: (1) had knowledge or should have had knowledge that the victim was pregnant; or (2) intended to cause the death of, or bodily injury to, the fetus. This bill bars prosecution under this Act: (1) of any person for conduct relating to an abortion for which the consent of the pregnant woman has been obtained; (2) for conduct relating to any medical treatment of the pregnant woman or her "unborn child;" or (3) of any woman with respect to her "unborn child."

The House passed similar bills in both the 106th and the 107th Congresses but these bills were never considered by the Senate. This Congress, H.R. 1997 was adopted by the House Judiciary Committee on January 21 on a party line vote. The major concern of Judiciary Democrats is that the legislation establishes a distinct legal status for a fetus under federal law and appears to be an attempt to undermine *Roe v. Wade*.

The Rule adopted yesterday makes in order the following amendment:

- **Lofgren Amendment in the nature of a substitute (1 hour).** This amendment would make it a separate federal crime to cause, whether intentionally or not, a prenatal injury or the termination of the pregnancy while committing one of a number of specified federal offenses. Penalties for the perpetrator could be up to life in prison.

Martial Law Rule for the same day consideration of a rule for H.R. 3783 (*Rules*). The martial law rule waives the one day layover requirement under House rules.

Rule for H.R. 3783 - Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (*Rules*)

H.R. 3783 - Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (*Rep. Young (AK) / Transportation and Infrastructure*) (*Subject to a Rule*). The House adopted this bill earlier this month to provide a four month extension for highway and transit programs. However, the Senate is expected to amend this bill to provide for a two-month extension.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

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

- * **Conference Reports may be brought up at any time.**
- * **Motions to go to Conference should they become available.**
- * **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees.**

Daily Quote...

"But [Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan] once again parted ways with Mr. Bush on the question of how to pay for those tax cuts, calling for Congress to make the tax cuts permanent only if it also adopted rules that would require it to offset the loss in revenue with spending cuts or tax increases in other areas.

That approach contrasts sharply with Mr. Bush's proposal, which would require Congress to offset only new increases in spending with cuts in other programs."

- *The New York Times* today