



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

***SIGN BARROW DISCHARGE PETITION (#11).** The Barrow Discharge Petition would force consideration of the Miller (CA)/Owens bill (HR2429) to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years. 156 members have signed on. Check if your member has signed on: <http://clerk.house.gov/109/lrc/pd/petitions/Dis11.htm>

The House Floor will be cleared at 12:30 p.m. in order to prepare the House Chamber for the President of the Republic of Liberia's address. The House will reconvene at approximately 1:45 p.m. in a Joint Meeting with the Senate to receive Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. **All Democratic Members are strongly urged to attend the Joint Meeting.**

H.R. 4939 – Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Rep. Lewis {CA} – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides an additional \$91.8 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, other international programs, and hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast. Funding in this bill includes: \$72 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and foreign assistance programs (\$9.93 billion for Military Personnel; \$36.96 billion for Operations and Maintenance; \$17.68 billion for Procurement; \$1 billion for Research and Development; and \$4.1 billion for foreign aid and State Department operations); and \$19.1 billion for hurricane relief (\$9.7 billion for FEMA; \$4.2 billion for Community Development Block Grants; \$1.46 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers; and \$1.2 billion for Defense Department disaster-related costs). This bill also includes language to block Dubai Ports World from taking over operations at six US ports operated by P&O Ports; and allows \$750 million of contingency LIHEAP funds provided in the recently enacted budget reconciliation package to be available for FY06 and FY07.

The Rules Committee has recommended an Open Rule that provides one hour of general debate and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Amendments that do not require waivers of points of order will be considered under the five-minute rule.

Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) H.Con.Res. 190** – Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards (*Rep. Smith {NJ} – International Relations*)
- 2) H.R. 4944** – To amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes (*Rep. Shaw – Ways and Means*)



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Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4297 – Tax Reconciliation Act of 2005.

The motion instructs conferees to insist on a conference report that will neither increase the federal deficit nor increase the amount of the debt subject to the public debt limit.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House will complete consideration of **H.R. 4939 – Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Rep. Lewis {CA} – Appropriations)**; and will also consider **H.R. 1606 – Online Freedom of Speech Act (Rep. Hensarling – House Administration) (Subject to a Rule)**.

Daily Quote...

"I am quite concerned about the intermediate-to-long-term federal budget outlook. ... By holding down the growth of national saving and real capital accumulation, the prospective increase in the budget deficit will place at risk future living standards of our country."

- Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in a letter to Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), as quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* this morning