



The Daily Whip

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

The House will recess immediately when it meets at 10:00 a.m. and will reconvene for legislative business approximately at 1:00 p.m.

H.R. 743 - Social Security Protection Act of 2003 (Rep. Shaw – Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule). H.R. 743 was first defeated under Suspension of the Rules on March 5, 2003 (249-180) because of objections to taking up a controversial bill under suspension of the rules. H.R. 743 was later adopted by the House on April 3, 2003 (396-28) and on December 9, 2003, the Senate amended and passed the current version of this bill by unanimous consent. This bill protects vulnerable Social Security beneficiaries and bars fugitives from justice from being paid Social Security benefits. It includes a number of provisions to assist disabled beneficiaries and to prevent fraud including: allowing the Social Security Administration to repay benefits that are misused by a beneficiary's "representative payee"; improving access to legal representation for claimants for Social Security and SSI disability benefits; and expanding prohibitions against misleading mailings to seniors. The Senate bipartisan amendments added provisions including: permitting payment of non-attorneys who serve as representatives of claimants out of the claimant's past due benefit awards; prohibiting paying Social Security benefits to non-citizens who have no authorization to work; and adding Louisiana to the list of states that are allowed to operate "divided retirement systems." This bill also includes a provision, opposed by Texas teachers and public employee unions, that would require state and local government employees not covered by Social Security to work at least five years in a job covered by Social Security in order to receive full spousal benefits.

The Rules Committee has recommended a rule that provides for the consideration of a motion offered by the chairman of the Ways and Means to concur in the Senate amendment; provides one hour of general debate; provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read; waives all points of order against consideration of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment; and provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion.

Suspensions (2 bills):

- 1) H.R. 3783** - Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (*Rep. Young (AK) / Transportation and Infrastructure*). This bill extends funding for highway and transit programs for four months, through June 30.
- 2) S. 523** - Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2003 (*Sen. Campbell / Resources Committee / Agriculture*)

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

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

Daily Quote...

"I am concerned . . . on how we bridge between the end of this fiscal year and whenever we could get a supplemental in the next year. And I do not have an answer for exactly how we would do that."

- Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday on how American military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will run out of money in September, as quoted in *The Los Angeles Times* today. General Schoomaker's testimony prompted Senator John McCain (R-AZ) to say that funding the fighting after the November elections, as the Bush Administration has suggested, "deceives the American people about the size of the deficit and the debt that we are incurring."