



# The Daily Whip

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2005**

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
<b>10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business</b> <b>Ten "One Minutes" Per Side</b>	<b>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</b>

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

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

**H.R. 1268 – Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act (Rep. Lewis {CA} – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule).** This bill provides \$81.1 billion in emergency FY2005 funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, tsunami relief efforts, foreign assistance programs and domestic homeland security priorities. The total includes \$76.8 billion for defense related expenditures; \$656 million in direct assistance for tsunami disaster relief and \$222 million to reimburse the U.S. military for expenses incurred in providing emergency relief to tsunami victims; \$1.3 billion for relief and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and \$1.3 billion to train and equip Afghan security forces and the Afghan Army; \$92 million for humanitarian assistance in Darfur; \$580 million for peacekeeping programs; \$200 million in economic assistance for the Palestinian Authority; \$749 million for additional State Department operating costs. H.R. 1268 also increases the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and subsidized life insurance benefits from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for families of soldiers who died or were killed on active duty beginning from 10/7/01.

Yesterday, the House completed general debate on this bill and considered numerous amendments to H.R. 1268. Today, the House will consider the three remaining amendments made in order by the unanimous consent agreement reached yesterday:

- **Obey Amendment.** To prohibit the use of funds in the bill until the president submits a proposal on how to inform Congressional committees of clandestine military activities in terrorist-sponsoring countries.
- **Filner Amendment.** To guarantee that companies receiving benefits from the bill make every effort to hire veterans.
- **Velazquez Amendment.** To require that contracts funded by this bill are included in the calculation of the federal government's small business goals.

### Postponed Vote (1 amendment):

- **Markey Amendment.** To prohibit the use of funds in the bill for contravention of laws enacted or promulgated to implement the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### Suspensions (4 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 1270** - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate (Rep. Thomas / Ways & Means)
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 98** - Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the recent passage of the anti-secession law by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (Rep. Hyde / International Relations)
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 32** - Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic (Rep. Ros-Lehtinen / International Relations)
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 18** - Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic (Rep. Ros-Lehtinen / International Relations)

**H.Con.Res. 95 – Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY06 (Rep. Nussle – Budget) (Subject to a Rule).** The GOP Budget largely mirrors the President's irresponsible proposals, sacrificing important domestic priorities in order to cover for their mismanagement of our nation's economy and the government's finances. Republicans will present a 5-year budget plan that masks their fiscal irresponsibility, having already produced over \$2.2 trillion in additional debt since 2001 and will continue to use every penny of the Social Security Trust Fund to mask record deficits. The GOP budget makes room for over \$100 billion in new tax cuts with \$68 billion in mandatory cuts that could hit Medicaid, pension programs or student loans, and human services, while refusing to reinstate common-sense budget enforcement rules. Republicans also cut non-defense programs in 2006 and substantially reduce their funding in the future compared to current services projections.

The Rules Committee has recommended a Rule that provides 5 hours of debate, makes in order four amendments debatable for 40 minutes each and waives all points of order against these amendments. The four amendments made in order by the rule are:

- **Obey Amendment.** This amendment would provide an increase of \$15.8 billion in FY 2006 for critical investments such as veterans, education, health care needs, homeland security, the environment and infrastructure. The amendment would ensure tax fairness by reducing the 2006 tax benefits for those earning more than \$1,000,000, increasing revenues by \$25.818 billion.



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Finally, the amendment would reduce the deficit by \$10.018 billion to ease the next generations' burdens.

- **Hensarling Substitute Amendment.** This five-year substitute amendment includes deeper cuts to domestic discretionary (by 2% compared to FY 2005) and mandatory programs (\$125 billion reduction over five years) than the Nussle Budget, but matches the underlying resolution on defense and homeland security funding. This amendment also protects an additional \$100 billion in tax cuts under reconciliation, while maintaining large budget deficits and rejecting real budget enforcement pay-as-you-go rules. This amendment also resurrects many of the Republican Study group budget process reform goals that were defeated during budget process reform debate last year, such as: reorganizing budget functions, super-majority points of order against new spending, and one-sided pay-as-you go rules that would also exempt borrowing trillions of dollars in new debt to fund transition costs for privatizing Social Security.
- **Scott (VA) Substitute Amendment.** This five-year substitute amendment produces lower deficits and less debt than the GOP budget, while increasing funding for key programs to America's communities, and restores fiscal responsibility to the federal budget process. The Amendment restores cuts and funds increases in specific domestic areas such as: full funding for No Child Left Behind, and increased funds for school construction, Pell Grants, Head Start, job training, community and regional development programs, juvenile justice, child nutrition programs, urban and rural Community Health Centers, aeronautics and science research and development, Amtrak, and Hope VI and Section 8 Housing Programs. To pay for these increases, the amendment raises revenue by closing tax loopholes and abusive shelters, corporate tax incentives for off-shoring jobs, reducing tax avoidance, rescinding recent tax cuts for people who earn over \$200,000 and maintaining the limitation on itemized deductions and the phase-out of personal exemptions for high income taxpayers. Furthermore, this amendment redirects savings from the Ballistic Missile Defense program (\$7.8 billion) in 2006 to homeland security, veterans, and programs supporting the troops and their families.
- **Spratt/Democratic Substitute Amendment.** The Spratt Substitute achieves a balanced budget, provides real budget discipline, and protects Social Security. The substitute provides matching resources for Defense and Homeland Security, and more resources than the GOP budget in domestic priorities such as veterans, community development, education, environment, local law enforcement and health care, with responsible tax policy that promotes economic growth and jobs for working Americans.
  - **Democrats Show Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility and Social Security with a BALANCED BUDGET.** Democrats protect Social Security first and promote economic stability by reducing future long-term debt. The Democratic Budget returns to balance in 2012, and maintains a path of fiscal responsibility that accumulates less debt and strengthens Social Security.
  - **Democrats PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE TAX POLICY and offer REAL BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RULES.** The Democratic Budget alternative restores "pay-as-you-go" rules for both spending and revenues and allows for future tax cuts that meet these rules, such as middle-class tax relief for working families. Democrats reduce deficits by raising additional revenues through tax reform measures such as: closing costly loopholes, eliminating abusive shelters, and strengthening enforcement of our tax laws to ensure greater compliance.
  - **Democrats Stand for STRONG HOMELAND SECURITY and NATIONAL DEFENSE:** The Democratic Budget alternative continues our commitment to a strong Homeland Security and National Defense. The substitute matches the GOP defense funding level, but prioritizes resources for our troops and their families, nuclear non-proliferation activities, and port and homeland security.
  - **Democrats Remain Committed to Meeting our Nation's DOMESTIC NEEDS** by rejecting the irresponsible GOP cuts to Medicaid and other mandatory programs in order to provide additional tax cuts, and by providing more funding for priority investments such as: education, community development, public health, veterans and environmental protection.

## 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 is expected to consider: **H.Con.Res. 95 – Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY06** (*Rep. Nussle – Budget*) (*Subject to a Rule*).

### Daily Quote...

"Consider the tax proposals that President Bush sent to Capitol Hill last month as part of his budget outline. Bush has proposed the fifth major tax cut in five years, even though the government posted a record budget deficit last year and federal revenues have fallen to their lowest point, as a share of the economy, since the 1950s. Worse, tax cuts that help low-income Americans save for retirement are set to expire, while tax cuts on stock dividends and investment gains would be extended indefinitely"

- Minneapolis' *Start Tribune*, Today