



# The Daily Whip

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006**

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	9:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**\*\* IMPORTANT VOTES ON THE BUDGET ARE EXPECTED TODAY. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF YOUR MEMBER WILL NOT BE VOTING.**

*(137<sup>th</sup> Calendar Day of the Year – 32<sup>nd</sup> Voting Day of the Year – 61 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)*

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

**H.R. 4200 – Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (Rep. Walden – Resources) (Subject to a Rule).** This bill establishes new procedures to expedite projects to clear federal land after catastrophic events, such as fires, floods, or other disasters. [H.R. 4200](#) requires the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop response plans for land they manage, allows timber harvesting on damaged land under certain circumstances, and permits the departments to assist state and local governments in restoring non-federal land after a disaster. This bill would enable the Forest Service and BLM to come to a decision about rehabilitation of the land in as little as 30 days; and if a department decides to implement a pre-approved recovery plan, it would have 30 days to issue a public statement describing the plan, the agency's reason for using the plan, and an analysis of the environmental impact of the plan. Under the bill, recovery projects would not have to comply with all relevant environmental laws in the case of emergency procedures or expedited pre-approved plans. [H.R. 4200](#) was reported out of the Resources Committee on May 4<sup>th</sup> by a 25-13 vote with 13 Democrats voting No.

The Rule makes in order four amendments debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **Rahall Amendment.** To strike all waivers of existing conservation laws by removing the bill's exemptions from requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The amendment also specifically requires that the Secretary concerned comply with the NEPA in utilizing the authorities under [H.R. 4200](#).
- **DeFazio Amendment.** To allow the emergency procedures authorized by [H.R. 4200](#) to be used on lands managed for timber production. For all other lands, except where prohibited, such as wilderness areas, the Secretary would be required to amend land management plans to incorporate salvage and restoration activities.
- **Inslee Amendment.** To exempt any provision in the underlying bill from being applicable to any inventoried roadless area within the National Forest System set forth in the maps contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000.
- **Udall (NM) Amendment.** To add language in Section 102(e) directing the relevant Secretary to consider the effect of any pre-approved management practice or catastrophic event recovery or research project on fire risk and forest regeneration. It further states that the Secretary may not implement the practice or carry out the recovery or research project unless the Secretary is able to certify that the activity will not increase fire risk or decrease forest regeneration.

**H.Res. 815 – Martial Law Rule for same day consideration of H.Con.Res.376**

**H.Res.\_\_\_\_ - Rule to provide consideration of H.Con. Res.376**

**H.Con.Res. 376 – Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY07 (Rep. Nussle – Budget) (Subject to a Rule).** This bill continues the most fiscally irresponsible policies in the history of this nation. The Republican policies have squandered a \$5.6 trillion budget surplus, added \$3 trillion in debt, weakened the nation's ability to respond to major national and international crises and threatened our economic security.

- **The Republican budget continues fiscal irresponsibility by making the deficit worse and leaving a legacy of debt.** The GOP budget offers a \$372 billion deficit in 2006 and \$348 billion in 2007, and \$1.1 trillion worth of deficits over five years. The GOP continues to borrow heavily from future generations, calling for a debt limit increase of \$653 billion to \$9.6 trillion – the fifth in six years - for a total of \$3.7 trillion debt increases under President Bush.
- **Republicans freeze domestic programs** reducing veterans' health care by \$6 billion, education by \$45.3 billion, public health by \$18.1 billion, and environmental protection by \$25.0 billion. They also include \$6.8 billion in reconciliation cuts to mandatory programs.
- **Republicans continue to reduce revenues and rely on gimmicks rather than real budget enforcement rules.** The GOP budget calls for \$228 billion over five years in additional tax cuts that cost \$1.3 trillion in the following five years. GOP leaders once again refuse to restore the common sense "pay-as-you-go" budget enforcement rules they let lapse in 2002 and hide behind process "reforms" that do nothing to reign in their large structural deficits or curb the targeted tax giveaways or spending that has grown on their watch.



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It is expected that the Rule to provide for consideration of [H.Con.Res. 376](#) will make in order three substitute amendments:

- **Spratt/Democratic Substitute Amendment.** The substitute achieves balance in less than ten years, provides real budget discipline, promotes responsible tax policy that will spur economic growth and jobs for working Americans, provides matching resources for Defense and Homeland Security, and more resources than the GOP budget in domestic priorities such as veterans, education, environment, local law enforcement and health care.
  - **Democrats Show Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility and Social Security with a BALANCED BUDGET by 2012.**
  - **Democrats Stand for STRONG HOMELAND SECURITY and NATIONAL DEFENSE** by matching the GOP defense funding level, but targeting Democratic priorities: funds for our troops and their families, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and port and homeland security.
  - **Democrats Remain Committed to Meeting our Nation's DOMESTIC NEEDS** by providing more resources for key investments than the Republican budget and rejecting harmful cuts and reconciliation instructions that could repeat cuts to Medicare, veterans' benefits, pension programs and human services required by the GOP's budget.
  - **Democrats Back Real BUDGET ENFORCEMENT Rules**, such as pay-as-you-go, that Republicans let lapse in 2002, and that allowed the country to reduce long-term debt.
  - **Democrats PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE TAX POLICY.** Democrats support middle-class tax relief for working families by providing a reserve fund of \$150 billion for future tax cuts, and require additional tax cuts or entitlement changes to meet pay-as-you-go rules.

#### Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Spratt Substitute.

- **Watt/Scott Substitute Amendment.** This five-year substitute is more fiscally responsible than the GOP budget reaching balance in 2011, with lower deficits and less interest and debt, while increasing investment in America's communities. It funds essential social services, restores GOP cuts to domestic discretionary programs and funds increases in specific areas such as: education, health care, reconstruction of the Gulf Coast, veterans, port and homeland security, community development, LIHEAP, and job training, as well as increased support for the troops in Iraq, other active military, national guard and their families. To pay for these increases, the substitute raises revenue by: rescinding the tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 for an individual's adjusted gross income that exceeds \$200,000; closing tax loopholes, abusive tax shelters, and corporate tax incentives for off-shoring jobs; and reducing tax avoidance. Furthermore, it does not adopt the new GOP tax cuts, and redirects savings from a reduction in the Ballistic Missile Defense program in 2007 (\$9.4 billion) to homeland security, veterans, and programs supporting the troops and their families.
- **Hensarling/(Pence) Substitute Amendment.** This five-year substitute includes \$358 billion in mandatory program cuts under reconciliation, while making room for another \$630 billion in tax cuts over five years; eliminates roughly 150 federal programs; block grants Medicaid, SCHIP, and most federal education and job training programs; caps the growth of Medicare at 5.4% annually; calls for the "restructuring" of the Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Education; allows drilling in ANWR; and eliminates funding for alternative energy research and development. The substitute also rejects real budget enforcement pay-as-you-go rules.

#### Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on Final Passage of the Republican Budget.

##### Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) [H.Res. 740](#) - Calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane, as recommended by international Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park agreement and a way forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process (*Rep. Smith (NJ) - IR*)
- 2) [H.Res. 795](#) - Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006 (*Rep. Tom Davis - International Relations*)

#### 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 and will consider: [H.R. 5384](#) – **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY07.**

##### Daily Quote...

"Public confidence in GOP governance has plunged to the lowest levels of the Bush presidency...Democrats are now favored to handle all 10 issues measured in the Post-ABC News poll."

- From the *Washington Post* this morning