



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*** IMPORTANT VOTES ARE EXPECTED TODAY ON THE GOP CONFERENCE BUDGET REPORT. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

RULE providing for consideration of H.R. 4200 - National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005. The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that provides two hours of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule makes in order twenty-eight amendments in the following order: Goode #5; Susan Davis #41; Hunter #125; Curt Weldon/Murtha #16; Meek #39; Alcee Hastings #84; Walter Jones #112; Mark Kennedy #33; Tauscher/Markey/Skelton/ Dicks/Allen/Spratt #45; Hunter #114; Wamp #36; Dicks #76; Doc Hastings #126; Slaughter/ Capito/Solis/Brown-White #86; Maloney #43; Chabot #26; Manzullo #7; Danny Davis #109; Curt Weldon #15; Henry Brown #49; Henry Brown #48; Timothy Johnson #25; Baird #121; Hefley #71; Jim Ryun/Bordallo #28; Flake/Weldon (PA)/Bordallo/Simmons/Franks/Jones (NC)/ Wilson (SC) #38; Shimkus #20; and Adam Smith #59. However, several Democratic amendments were not made in order including: an amendment by Rep. Cooper regarding the Iraq supplemental, an amendment by Rep. Loretta Sanchez regarding sexual assaults and an amendment by Rep. Spratt on quality of life/missile defense.

RULE providing for consideration of the Conference Report on S.Con.Res. 95 - Republican Budget Resolution for FY 2005

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.Con.Res. 424 - Honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day (*Rep. Shadegg / Armed Services Committee*)

H.R. 4200 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Rep. Hunter - Armed Services) (Subject to a Rule – Begin Consideration). This bill authorizes \$422.2 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. This bill allocates \$76.22 billion for procurement; \$68.14 billion for research and development; \$119.83 billion for operation and maintenance; \$20.22 billion for programs such as drug interdiction, defense health and chemical agents and munitions destruction; \$2.76 billion for the revolving management fund; \$104.64 billion for military personnel; \$5.85 billion for military construction; \$10 billion for family housing; and \$16.7 billion for atomic energy defense activities. Also, H.R. 4200 provides \$25 billion in emergency budget authority to partially cover the projected costs of continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This emergency authorization includes \$3.39 billion for procurement; \$16.22 billion for operation and maintenance; and \$5.3 billion for military personnel. These funds include an additional \$705 million for "Up Armor" Humvees; \$332 million more for ballistic armor for other Humvees and trucks; and \$421 million more for body armor. This bill was reported out of the Armed Services Committee by a 60-0 vote.

The \$422.2 billion authorization includes \$10.2 billion for missile defense programs, continues funds for nuclear weapons research (low-yield nuclear weapons, and high-yield nuclear weapons to destroy underground facilities), and also delays the scheduled round of military base closings from 2005 to 2007. H.R. 4200 also contains provisions included as result of Democratic pressure that would eliminate the Social Security offset under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by gradually increasing the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 or older during the next five years.

Conference Report on S.Con.Res. 95 - Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY05 (Rep. Nussle / Budget Committee) (Subject to a Rule). This bill shares the same flaws as the irresponsible Budget Resolution adopted by the House on March 25th with unanimous Democratic opposition.

➤ **Republicans fail to present a credible budget.** The Conference Report is a 1-year budget plan that is an effort to mask their long-term fiscal irresponsibility. Both House and Senate Republicans passed budgets that claimed to "cut the deficit in half" within 5 years, a contrived benchmark that ignores the increase in the record deficits that have resulted from their flawed fiscal agenda and masks their stated goal to make the President's reckless tax cuts permanent during a time of severe fiscal crisis.



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- **Republicans Abandon the Budget Process and Make a Mockery of the Budget Enforcement Act.** Republicans claim fiscal responsibility by restoring the budget enforcement rules they let lapse in 2002, **BUT ONLY IN THE SENATE FOR ONE YEAR.** They are ignoring "pay-as-you-go" rules on tax cuts and mandatory spending and would exempt a one year extension of middle class tax cuts (child tax credit, 10% bracket, and marriage penalty) that expire this year from the pay-as-you go rules.
- **Republicans seek to take their Debt Limit hypocrisy one step further and pass the debt onto future generations.** The GOP Budget Conference Report deems the third increase in the debt limit in the past 3 years, as much as \$689.95 billion and protect it under reconciliation. Last year, the GOP adopted the Hastert Rule to automatically pass a Joint Resolution in the House to raise the debt limit upon approval of the Budget Conference Report. **Therefore, a vote to support the GOP Budget Conference Report is a vote to increase the debt limit (up to \$8.074 trillion).**
- **Republicans will freeze domestic programs now and cut them drastically in the future.** The discretionary spending target in the Republican Conference Report is \$821 billion --- a total that will essentially freeze non-defense, non-homeland discretionary programs --- and includes a \$50 billion reserve for Defense supplemental. The GOP funding plan will result in substantially fewer resources than needed and promised for domestic priorities. It is not clear what level of mandatory spending reductions will be required by the Conference Report, but the House budget proposed \$13 billion in mandatory cuts over 5 years under the guise of reducing waste, fraud and abuse, which could result in cuts to Medicaid, veterans' health care, welfare, and unemployment assistance. The Senate budget assumed nearly \$14 billion in savings.
- **Republicans create dire situation for Social Security and Medicare.** The GOP Budget results in a \$367.4 billion deficit for FY05. Without adequate resources to manage the looming retirement of the baby boom generation, Republican fiscal mismanagement is setting the stage for drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Republican Budget Conference Report.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. to continue consideration of **H.R. 4200** - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (*Rep. Hunter - Armed Services*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Daily Quote...

"As mind boggling as expanding Medicare has been, nothing tops my confusion with the rationale for cutting taxes during wartime."

- Sen. McCain in *CongressDaily* May 18, 2004