



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

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

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Votes will be postponed until Members attending the Clinton Presidential Library Dedication in Arkansas return tonight --- there will be no votes before 7:00 p.m.

H.Res. 856 - Rule providing for consideration of S. 2986 - To amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit (Rep. Reynolds / Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides one hour of general debate, waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, and provides one motion to commit.

Democrats are urged to OPPOSE the Previous Question on the Rule in order to allow consideration of an amendment that would reinstate the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budget enforcement rules that were effective in the 1990s to maintain responsible budgetary discipline.

S. 2986 - To amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit (Sen. Frist) (Subject to a Rule). This bill increases the limit on the federal debt by \$800 billion to \$8.18 trillion. This is the third increase of the debt limit in four years. The federal debt limit was increased by \$450 billion in 2002 and by \$984 billion in 2003 (the largest debt limit increase in history). The Senate adopted this bill yesterday on a 52-44 vote.

- **Irresponsible Republican Policies Increase the Federal Debt to Record Levels.** Republican mismanagement turned large projected surpluses (+\$5.6 trillion) into huge projected deficits (-\$3.5 trillion). The record-setting deficits by the federal government in 2003 and 2004 have forced the dramatic increase of the federal debt limit (in June of 2002 the debt limit was \$5.950 trillion).
- **Republicans Refuse to Adhere to Common-Sense Budgetary Discipline.** Republicans have turned their backs on the budget enforcement rules that were so effective in the 1990s – including the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) system that applies to tax cuts as well as mandatory spending. Democrats support the reestablishment of these effective rules.
- **Republican policies would double the current debt in ten years.** The CBO projects that the debt subject to limit will continue to rise, reaching \$13.272 trillion by 2014 if there is no change in current Republican budget policy. Accounting for the implementation of Administration policies, such as making permanent the expiring tax cuts, the government will incur about \$6.2 trillion in additional debt between now and 2014, raising the statutory debt to a projected \$14.5 trillion, nearly double the current \$7.384 trillion limit.

Possible Motion to go to Conference on H.R. 4548 – Intelligence Authorization for FY 2005.
Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Friday, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House may consider the **Conference Report on H.R. 1350 - Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act of 2003** and may consider the **FY05 Omnibus Appropriations bill**.

Daily Quote...

"[I]t's hard to read much more than arrogance in what the GOP did Wednesday. If [House Majority Leader Tom] DeLay is indicted, he should step down from party leadership immediately, at least until the charges are resolved. . . . Republicans must know this stinks. They did it behind closed doors Wednesday and there was no vote count. DeLay has responded to all this with his usual bluster. Maybe that works in Texas . . . DeLay can bluster, but the Republican Party has to show that it understands political leaders have to set a high ethical standard. Their actions on Wednesday suggest they want to protect DeLay at any cost -- even the cost of the party's reputation."

- *The Chicago Tribune*, in an editorial today