

# THE DAILY WHIP

Thursday, April 10, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

HOUSE MEETS AT...	LAST VOTE PREDICTED...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business	???
Number of "One-Minutes" Today: 10 per side	

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

**S. 151** - Conference Report for Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act. (Hatch - Judiciary) (Conference Report Rule)

### Rolled Suspension Votes (2):

- 1) H.Con.Res. 141** - Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty and investment in American jobs (Kingston - Ways & Means)
- 2) H.Res. 165** - Expressing support for a renewed effort to find a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem (Bereuter - HIRC).

**H.R. 6** - Energy Policy Act of 2003 (Subject to a Rule) (Tauzin - Energy and Commerce, Science, Ways and Means, and Resources)

**Martial Law Rule for same day consideration of H.Con.Res 95** - Budget Resolution Conference Report FY2004.

**H.Con.Res 95** - Budget Resolution Conference Report FY2004.

## BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

**S. 151 - Conference Report on Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act.** This conference agreement provides for the appointment of a national America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) alert network coordinator within the Justice Department and a grant program to help support the AMBER system. In addition, this bill outlaws pornography using computer-generated, "virtual" children; and includes a number of other provisions to increase penalties for crimes against children and for sex offenses -- the bill would establish a mandatory life sentence for twice-convicted child sex offenders (excluding statutory rape as an offense triggering the required sentence). The Rule provides for one hour of debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

**H.R. 6 - Energy Policy Act of 2003 (Subject to a Rule).** This bill includes many of the provisions passed by the House in 2001 or tracks agreements reached during the Conference Committee on the energy bill during the Summer and Fall of 2002. However, this bill also includes controversial new sections that have not been debated in the House before, especially electricity and ethanol titles. Portions of the bill reflect partisan decisions that will do little in solving our energy needs, but instead will hurt our environment, and reduce protections for consumers and investors in energy.

- **Republicans fail to protect consumers against volatile electricity market.** The Republican bill ignores any lessons that could be learned from fraudulent actions of Enron and other players in the California electricity market, and weakens the oversight that could prevent such a situation from occurring again. Furthermore, it removes long-standing and important consumer and investor protections and ties the hands of regulators to investigate wrongdoing and restricts their ability to impose sanctions against bad actors in the marketplace.
- **Republicans weaken environmental protections.** The Republican bill also fails to acknowledge any change in the nation's energy posture over the past decade. It would lessen environmental protection and increase subsidies for oil and gas development, decreasing revenues to the federal government and cash-strapped states.

The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that provides for one hour and thirty minutes 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 also makes in order twenty-two amendments in the following order: Boehlert/Markey (30 Minutes) - Regarding Fuel Economy Standards; Dingell (30 minutes) - Regarding Electricity; Wilson (NM) (20 minutes) - Regarding the Alaska Coastal Plain; Peterson (PA) (20 minutes) - Regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; Markey/Johnson (CT) (20 minutes) - Regarding drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; Vitter (10 minutes) - Regarding dependence on foreign energy sources; Davis (VA)/Waxman (20 minutes) - Regarding reports to congress on federal procurement policy and federal

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contracting policy; Oberstar/ Norton (20 minutes) - Regarding Solar Energy; Brown (OH) (20 minutes) - Regarding a Gasoline Availability Stabilization (GAS) Reserve program modeled on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR); Udall (NM) (20 minutes) - Regarding funding for leaching uranium mining techniques; Nadler (10 minutes) - Regarding a Report on the benefits of accelerating the purchase of excess weapons grade plutonium and uranium from Russia; Reynolds/Houghton (20 minutes) - Regarding the Western New York Service Center in West Valley, New York; Barrett (10 minutes) - Regarding a study on the feasibility of developing commercial nuclear energy production; Blumenauer (10 minutes) - Regarding a Conserve by Bicycling pilot program; Ryan (WI) (20 minutes) - Regarding reduction in the number of boutique fuels; Schakowsky (10 minutes) - Regarding the development and implementation of more stringent inventory and procurement controls by the Department of Energy; Wu (10 minutes) - Regarding a report detailing the Department of Energy's Equal Employment Opportunity practices; Capps/Miller (FL)/Davis (FL) (20 minutes) - Regarding protections for sensitive coastal areas; Kind (20 minutes) Regarding oil and gas development provisions; Rahall (20 minutes) - Regarding Federal Coal Leasing; Thomas (10 minutes) - Regarding the prepayment of premium liability for coal industry health benefits; Reynolds/Rogers (MI) (10 minutes) - Regarding the Great Lakes States prohibition on Great Lakes off-shore oil and gas drilling.

## Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Dingell Electricity Amendment.

### H.Con.Res 95 – Budget Resolution Conference Report FY2004 (Subject to a Rule).

This bill is expected to share the same flaws as the irresponsible Budget Resolution adopted by the House on March 20<sup>th</sup> and would sacrifice important priorities to make room for as much as \$1 trillion in additional tax cuts.

- **Republicans find funds for irresponsible tax-cuts but not for key priorities.** Ignoring current economic problems and the uncertainty of the continuing expenses caused by the war in Iraq, the Republican Budget Conference Report will incorporate large new tax cuts.
- **Republicans short-change important investments.** The Republican Budget Conference Report is likely to place additional burdens on cash-strapped states and fails to adequately fund core functions of the government including health care, education and homeland security. Republicans fund only an inadequate prescription drug proposal and may call for billions in cuts for Medicaid "reform" under the guise of eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.
- **Republicans seek to increase the Debt Limit.** The Republican House Rules adopted earlier this Congress reinstated the "Gephardt rule" to automatically pass a Joint Resolution in the House to raise the Debt Limit upon approval of the Budget Resolution Conference Report. Therefore, a vote to support the Republican Budget Conference Report is also a vote to increase the Debt Limit.
- **Republicans increase deficits and debt and pass the bill to future generations.** Instead of developing a sound fiscal strategy to face the challenges that will come with the increased risks from terrorism and the impending retirement of the baby boom generation, the Republican Budget Conference Report would result in nearly \$2 trillion in additional public debt that creates a long-term "debt-tax" for working American families.
- **Republicans fail to develop a credible balanced budget.** The Republican Budget Resolutions in the House and Senate ostensibly achieve budget balance through unacceptable spending cuts that would weaken or eliminate vital services that the American people support – the Republican Budget reaches balance by 2012 in the House and 2011 in the Senate. Both of these fall short of the Democratic alternative in the House to reach balance by 2010.

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

### DAILY QUOTE...

"It is neither fiscally nor morally responsible to give ourselves tax cuts and leave future generations with an even higher tax burden."

Former Sens. Bob Kerrey, Warren Rudman and Sam Nunn; former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin; former Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson; and former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker in *The New York Times*, 4/9/03

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