



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006

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

*(123rd Calendar Day of the Year – 26th Voting Day of the Year – 67 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)***FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY****Suspensions (7 bills):**

- 1) [H.Res. 781](#) - Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes (*Rep. Porter - Education and the Workforce*)
- 2) [H.Con.Res. 359](#) - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (*Rep. Shuster - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 3) [H.R. 4700](#) - To provide for the conditional conveyance of any interest retained by the US in St. Joseph Memorial Hall in St. Joseph, Michigan (*Rep. Upton - Transportation and Infrastructure*)
- 4) [H.R. 5253](#) - To prohibit price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, and home heating oil, and for other purposes (*Rep. Wilson (NM) - Energy and Commerce*)
- 5) [H.R. 5254](#) - Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act (*Rep. Bass - Energy and Commerce*)
- 6) [H.Con.Res. 99](#) - Expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and support for the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month (*Rep. Pascrell - Energy and Commerce*)
- 7) [H.Res. 245](#) - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week (*Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson - Energy and Commerce*)

[H.R. 4975](#) – Lobbying “Accountability and Transparency” Act of 2006 (*Rep. Dreier – Judiciary*) (Restrictive Rule). This bill would make only modest improvements to lobbying rules without providing a comprehensive, permanent solution to the GOP “culture of corruption.” [H.R. 4975](#) delays real action on private-funded travel and the acceptance of gifts until after the November election and does nothing to slow the revolving door between congressional service and lobbying by retaining the current 1-year period in which former Members and senior staff are prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues.

- **527 “Reform”** - The Rule adopted last week provides that if the Lobbying Bill passes, the text of [H.R. 513](#) - the so called 527 “Reform” bill - will be added to the Lobbying bill. The 527 “Reform” bill was overwhelmingly opposed by Democrats on April 5th.
- **Gifts - The GOP bill does nothing meaningful to tighten the current House gift rule** or curb meals from registered lobbyists.
- **Corporate Jets - The GOP does nothing meaningful to curb use of corporate jets**, instead, merely prohibits lobbyists from riding on them with Members.
- **Revolving Door - Republicans do nothing to slow the revolving door**, retaining the current 1-year period in which former Members are prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues.
- **Member and staff travel - The GOP bill only temporarily suspends all Member and Staff privately-funded travel** until December 15th, a cynical attempt to look serious about reform through the November election.

Last week, the House adopted on a party-line vote a restrictive rule that denied consideration of the Democratic substitute, [H.R. 4682](#), that permanently bans any travel financed by nongovernmental organizations that employ or retain lobbyists; bans all gifts and meals offered by registered lobbyists; shuts down the K Street project; and doubles the period in which former Members are prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues, from 1 year to 2 years. The restrictive rule also makes in order nine amendments which are debatable for 10 minutes each:

- **Gohmert Amendment.** To strike section 106, which provides increased penalties for failure to comply with lobbying disclosure, and insert an ascending civil penalty structure for each subsequent offense.
- **Castle/Gerlach Amendment.** To require that lobbyists be held liable for offering gifts that violate the gift ban. Under the amendment a lobbyist who knowingly offers a gift to a US Representative, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, or their employee that is in violation of the gift ban, would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$50,000.
- **Lungren/Miller, George (CA)/Hastings (WA)/ Berman/Cole Amendment.** To modify section 301 to place a moratorium on privately-funded official travel unless the Ethics Committee issues a certification that the gift of travel complies with all House rules and standards of conduct. The Committee is not permitted to issue that certification until it reports its recommendations on changes to rule XXV to the Committee on Rules, which must occur not



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later than June 15, 2006. The Committee is permitted to issue the certification before June 15th if 2/3 of the committee vote to do so. The amendment also modifies section 302 to direct the Ethics Committee to report to the Committee on Rules on recommended changes to rule XXV with respect to gifts, and consider factors similar to those in the base bill.

- **Sodrel/McGovern/Davis (KY) Amendment.** To amend section 502 to add a voluntary ethics training program for Members within 100 days of being sworn in to Congress. The status of the Members completing and not completing the course within the time frame will be posted on the website for the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and in the Congressional Record.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment.** To modify the extent to which pensions can be withheld from the spouse and family of a member convicted of a felony.
- **Gingrey Amendment.** To extend the prohibition on converting campaign dollars for personal use currently applicable to campaign committees to Leadership PACs. A Leadership PAC is defined in this amendment as a political committee which is directly or indirectly established, maintained, or controlled by a candidate for Federal office or an individual holding Federal office.
- **Wolf Amendment.** To prohibit former ambassadors and CIA station chiefs from acting as an agent of the foreign nation where they were stationed for five years after their service as ambassador or station chief is completed.
- **Castle Amendment.** To require that all registered lobbyists complete a mandatory 8-hours of ethics training each Congress. Ethics training would include the code of conduct and disclosure requirements applicable to Members, officers, and employees of the House, including rules relating to acceptance of gifts (including travel and meals), and financial disclosure requirements under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Any registered lobbyist failing to complete ethics training each Congress would be subject to penalties.
- **Flake Amendment.** To clarify the application of criminal bribery and illegal gratuities statutes with regard to earmarks. Specifically, the amendment prohibits a person from directly or indirectly, corruptly giving, offering, or promising anything of value to any public official with the intent to influence any official act relating to an earmark; and prohibits a public official from corruptly demanding, seeking, receiving, accepting, or agreeing to receive or accept anything of value in return for influence in the performance of an official act relating to an earmark.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on [H.R. 4975](#) .

[H.Res. 789](#) – Rule providing for consideration of **[H.R. 4954](#)** – SAFE Port Act (*Rep. Sessions – Rules*). The Rules Committee has recommended a restrictive rule that provides one hour of general debate and makes in order fifteen amendments. The rule blocks consideration of an important amendment by Reps. Markey, Nadler, Oberstar, Harman, DeFazio, Lowey and Jackson Lee. This amendment would require that, within a 3 to 5 year timeframe, all shipping containers be scanned and sealed using the best available technology before being loaded onto ships destined for the US.

Larson Motion to Instruct Conferees on [H.R. 4297](#) - Tax Reconciliation Act of 2005. The motion instructs conferees to: adopt three Senate provisions affecting large integrated oil companies and would raise over \$5 billion in additional revenue over 10 years; and to drop the capital gains and the dividends provisions included in the House bill.

George Miller Motion to Instruct Conferees on [H.R. 2830](#) - Pension Protection Act of 2005. The motion instructs conferees to adopt Senate provisions regarding restrictions on funding of nonqualified deferred compensation plans including that restrictions regarding executive compensation should be the same as restrictions regarding benefits for workers and retirees.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 for legislative business and is expected to complete consideration of **[H.R. 4954](#)** – **SAFE Port Act** (*Rep. King (NY) – Homeland Security*).

Daily Quote...

"House members should reject the diluted snake oil that Mr. Dreier and the GOP leadership are peddling as bold reform. Their bill, which is expected to come before the House for a vote today, is an insult to voters who the GOP apparently believes are dumb enough to be snookered by this feint. The procedures under which it is to be debated, allowing only meaningless amendments to be considered, are an insult also -- to the democratic process."

- A *Washington Post* editorial this morning