



The Daily Whip

democraticwhip.house.gov • (202) 225-3130

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Morning Hour 10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

*** THIS WEEK WE EXPECT IMPORTANT VOTES ON THE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION. ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU WILL BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 1268 – Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act (Rep. Lewis {CA} – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$81.1 billion in emergency FY2005 funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, tsunami relief efforts, foreign assistance programs and domestic homeland security priorities. The total includes \$76.8 billion for defense related expenditures: \$37.5 billion for military operations and maintenance spending, \$15.5 billion for Army personnel, and \$18.2 billion for new weapons procurement. This bill also includes: \$656 million in direct assistance for tsunami disaster relief and \$222 million to reimburse the U.S. military for expenses incurred in providing emergency relief to tsunami victims; \$1.3 billion for relief and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and \$1.3 billion to train and equip Afghan security forces and the Afghan Army; \$92 million for humanitarian assistance in Darfur; \$580 million for peacekeeping programs; \$200 million in economic assistance for the Palestinian Authority (provisions added in committee include requiring a report by the Administration on the steps taken by the Palestinian Authority on good governance, economic reforms, and dismantling terrorist organizations, and an independent audit of the Palestinian Authority finances); \$749 million for additional State Department operating costs; and \$592 million for a new embassy compound in Baghdad. This bill also increases the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and subsidized life insurance benefits from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for families of soldiers who died or were killed on active duty beginning from October 7, 2001.

The Rules Committee has recommended an Open Rule that provides one hour of general debate and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule does not protect from points of order the provisions in the bill regarding increasing the military death gratuity and life insurance benefits for soldiers families. The Rule also provides through a self-executing provision that upon the engrossment of H.R. 1268 the Clerk shall add the text of H.R. 418 (the REAL ID Act, which was adopted last month) as passed by the House at the end of H.R. 1268.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business. The House is expected to complete consideration of **H.R. 1268 – Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act (Rep. Lewis {CA} – Appropriations)** and may also consider: **H.Con.Res. 95 – Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2006 (Rep. Nussle – Budget) (Subject to a Rule).**

Daily Quote...

"Social Security is just part of the looming fiscal challenge, and not even the largest share. The pending fiscal issues are so daunting, however, that economists doubt the economy can accelerate fast enough to grow its way out of its problems. While the long-term deficits are not, in the largest measure, caused by imbalances in Social Security, they will force painful choices on spending, taxes or borrowing to preserve current benefits that are the only income for 22% of the elderly...The budget situation is further being fed by Bush's plans to extend expiring tax cuts, and the costly need to address the fact that the alternative minimum tax, created to ensure that high-income taxpayers don't escape taxes, is snaring more of the middle class."

- From *USA TODAY*, Today