



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: To prepare for Joint Mtg. 10:00 a.m.: Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Ayad Allawi Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**** DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN THE LEE-SANDERS-CAPUANO DISCHARGE PETITION (#11) TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

Today, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. and recess immediately until 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Ayad Allawi, Interim Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

H.R. 2028 – Pledge Protection Act of 2004 (Rep. Akin – Judiciary) (Structured Rule). This bill would prohibit federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from hearing cases related to any claim that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance violates the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Rule adopted yesterday provides for one hour of general debate and makes in order the following three amendments:

- **Sensenbrenner Manager's Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment clarifies that local courts of the District of Columbia may consider cases relating to the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Watt Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment preserves the authority of the Supreme Court to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in section 4 of title 4, or its recitation.
- **Jackson-Lee Amendment (10 minutes).** This amendment provides for an exception in the bill to protect religious minorities from being coerced into reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, in violation of their religious beliefs and their First Amendment right of free speech.

H.R. 1308 - Extension of Tax Cuts Conference Report (Rep. Thomas – Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule). H.R. 1308 extends the middle-class tax cuts from the 2003 tax bill. The conference report would extend the \$1,000 per child tax credit, the current level of marriage penalty relief and the expanded 10 percent bracket for five years. The conference report would also provide a one-year extension of current income exemptions from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In addition, H.R. 1308 extends a set of other expiring tax provisions costing nearly \$14 billion, such as: the Research and Development tax credit, renewable energy tax credits, and work opportunity tax credit. The total cost of the conference report is approximately \$146 billion.

Postponed Suspension Votes (1 bill):

- 1) **H.R. 1057** – The Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act (Rep. DeMint – Ways & Means)

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: On Friday, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m.

Daily Quote...

"Ten years ago, Republican congressional candidates like me were running as Washington outsiders, promising to balance the budget and pay off the federal debt. We campaigned against the Imperial Congress and promised Americans that if we got elected, we would be different. We lied. . . . It is ironic that we Republicans took control of Congress in 1994 by attacking Bill Clinton for his free-spending ways. But spending grew annually under Mr. Clinton at a 3.4% rate, while exploding under President Bush at a 10.4% clip. Republicans taking credit for restraining Mr. Clinton need to explain why they didn't hold their own president to the same standards."

- Former Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-FL) in *The Wall Street Journal* today