



The Daily Whip

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Fifteen "One Minutes" per side	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*** TODAY, THE HOUSE WILL BE RE-VOTING ON THE GOP BUDGET RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE REPORT. MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT A CLOSE VOTE IS EXPECTED ON THIS BILL AND ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE CALL THE WHIP'S OFFICE IF A MEMBER ANTICIPATES NOT BEING IN ATTENDANCE.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

The House will recess until the Democratic Caucus has concluded its business.

Suspensions (1 bill):

- 1) **H.Res. 648 – To eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House (*Rep. Dreier – Rules*).** This resolution amends the Rules of the House of Representatives to eliminate floor privileges for registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal who are former Members or officers of the House --- the Speaker may promulgate regulations that exempt ceremonial or educational functions from the new restrictions. H.Res. 648 also prohibits access to Member exercise facilities to any former Member, former officer, or spouse who is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign principal.

H.Res. 653 – Relating to the consideration of the bill S.1932 - GOP Reconciliation Bill Conference Report (*Rep. Putnam - Rules*). Late last year, the House adopted S.1932 on a 212-206 vote with all Democrats opposed. Subsequently, the Senate amended (using the Byrd Rule to strike a Medicaid medical liability waiver and two miscellaneous studies) and adopted the measure on a 51-50 vote. H.Res. 653 is a self-executing rule that adopts the changes made by the Senate to S.1932.

S.1932 cuts nearly \$39 billion over 5 years (\$100 billion over 10 years) at the expense of vital services for disadvantaged Americans and college students, while still increasing the deficit in FY 2006:

- **Education and the Workforce: Over \$12 billion in cuts** to student aid programs, the largest student aid cut ever, raising the cost of college for students and their families through increased interest rates and loan fees. The conference report increases pension fees by \$3.6 billion.
- **Energy and Commerce: Nearly \$7 billion in Medicaid cuts** to health services for the poor and increased costs of prescription drugs for beneficiaries through increased asset transfer provisions, premium increases and benefits cuts. The conference report will also count over \$7 billion in "savings" from digital conversion spectrum sales but with only about \$1.5 billion in assistance for set-top analog television converters.
- **Ways and Means: A net reduction of \$6.4 billion in Medicare**, including Medicare Part B premium increases, but no reduction to the HMO slush fund. The conference report also includes the following cuts: \$1.5 billion from child support enforcement, \$320 million from Foster Care, and \$712 million from SSI for the elderly and disabled.



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- **Agriculture: A Net of \$2.7 billion in cuts** to commodity, conservation and rural development funds. The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) increase is included, and food stamp cuts have been removed, but no additional Katrina crop or livestock assistance funds are included.

Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on H.Res. 653.

Suspensions (1 bill):

- 1) H.R.____ - **To amend the USA Patriot Act to extend the sunset of certain provisions of such act (Rep. Sensenbrenner- Judiciary)**

H.Res. 655 - Honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King (Hastert/Pelosi – Judiciary) (Complete Debate Under Unanimous Consent Agreement).

The Resolved Clause of the Resolution states that "the House of Representatives honors the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights and expresses condolences to the King family on her passing."

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Thursday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"Consider the totality of the budget package, add in these two reports [by the Washington Post and the Congressional Budget Office demonstrating that the proposed cuts fall on the neediest], and you have to ask yourself: Does this package really represent the right priorities? Republican moderates prepared to hold their noses and vote for this stinker again ought to reconsider."

- *The Washington Post*, in an editorial today