



The Daily Whip

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:30 a.m.: Morning Hour 11:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Unlimited "One Minutes"	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

Martial Law Rule for the same day consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY04 (Rep. Linder - Rules).

Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY04 (Rules). A Rule has not yet been issued by the Rules Committee, which is scheduled to meet at 9:00 a.m. to consider this bill.

Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY04 (Rep. Young {FL} – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule).

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

Martial Law Rule for the same day consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY04 (Rep. Linder – Rules). Democrats are expected to oppose the Previous Question on this rule in order to allow the House to consider legislation that would continue to extend unemployment benefits through the first six months of the year. The bill would also increase to 26 weeks the amount of benefits provided under that program - up from 13 weeks (and help the 1.4 million workers who have already exhausted their extended benefits). This measure is identical to H.R. 3244, the Rangel/Cardin unemployment extension, and it also contains the text of H.R. 3554 by Rep. McDermott which would fix a flaw in current law that prevents those States with exceptionally high, long-term unemployment rates from continuing to receive extra benefits. **Democrats are urged to VOTE NO on the Previous Question.**

Conference Report on H.R. 2673 – Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY04 (Rep. Young {FL} – Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill includes \$820 billion in total funding for FY04 for the seven pending Appropriations bills: Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-State, District of Columbia, Foreign Operations, Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation-Treasury, and Veterans-Housing and Urban Development. Highlights of the consolidated appropriations bill follow.

\$80.6 billion in total funding for the Agriculture appropriations bill: \$47.29 billion for Domestic Food Programs (\$30.9 billion for the Food Stamp Program; \$11.42 billion for Child Nutrition Programs; \$4.58 billion for WIC); \$3.27 billion for agriculture credit program loan authorizations; \$988 million for the Farm Service Agency; \$1.15 billion for the Agricultural Research Service; \$784.5 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service; \$725.5 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; \$2.4 billion for Rural Development Programs; \$1.39 billion for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and \$1.03 billion for Conservation Programs.

The omnibus fails to include the House provisions to prohibit the FDA from spending funds to prevent individuals and pharmacists from importing FDA-approved prescription drugs. In addition, this portion of the bill delays for two years the mandatory country-of-origin labeling for all produce, meat or meat products except for farm-raised fish and wild fish.

\$37.8 billion for the Commerce, Justice and State Departments, the Judiciary and related agencies: \$19.7 billion for the Department of Justice (\$4.64 billion for the FBI; \$2.16 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration; \$3.1 billion for assistance to state and local law enforcement; \$4.9 billion for the Federal Prison System); \$6 billion for the Department of Commerce (\$3.7 billion for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); \$1.22 billion for the Patent and Trademark Office; \$630 million for the Census Bureau); \$4.86 billion for the Federal Judiciary; \$8.13 billion for the State Department and Related Agencies (\$1.5 billion for worldwide security improvements; \$4.1 billion for Diplomatic and Consular Programs); \$811 million for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); \$273 million for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); \$186 million for the Federal Trade Commission; and \$718 million for the Small Business Administration.

In addition, the omnibus permanently limits the ability of the FCC to grant licenses for a commercial TV broadcast station if the granting of that license would result in such party having an aggregate national audience reach exceeding 39% (the House and Senate barred the FCC from increasing the share of the national market one broadcasting company can own, which currently is 35%). This portion of the bill also includes provisions that prohibit the implementation of a background check system that does not include a requirement to destroy gun purchase records within 24 hours.



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\$545 million for the District of Columbia: \$167.8 million for D.C. Courts (including family court); \$168.4 million for D.C. Court Services and Offender Supervision; \$30 million for the Water and Sewer Authority; \$32 million for Defender Services in D.C. Courts; and \$17 million for resident tuition support.

In addition, this portion of the bill includes \$40 million for D.C. schools including: \$13 million for the public school system, \$13 million for charter schools and \$14 million for a school voucher program.

\$17.2 billion for Foreign Operations: \$4.4 billion for military assistance (\$2.16 billion for Israel; \$1.3 billion for Egypt; \$206 million for Jordan); \$2.4 billion for economic support funds (\$575 million for Egypt; \$480 million for Israel; \$250 million for Jordan); \$1.7 billion for multilateral economic assistance (\$1 billion for the World Bank; \$144 million for the Asian Development Bank); \$11.2 billion for bilateral economic assistance (\$2.24 billion for the Economic Support Fund; \$1.31 billion for the Development Assistance Fund; \$2.24 billion for the Child Survival Fund; \$731 million for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative; and \$760 million for Migration and Refugee Assistance). In addition, this portion of the bill provides \$1.646 billion for global assistance to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and \$650 million for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (an additional \$350 million for the Millennium Challenge Corporation is included in the "miscellaneous" section of the omnibus).

This portion of the bill also includes comprehensive authorization language for the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

\$139.8 billion for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies: The omnibus falls \$7.8 billion short of the No Child Left Behind Authorization levels and provides \$55.7 billion for the Education Department (\$12.4 billion for the Title I program; \$10.1 billion for Special Education Grants; \$6.8 billion for the Head Start program; \$1.03 billion for the Reading First program; \$4.05 billion for Pell Grants; \$1 billion for after school centers); \$61.7 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (\$27.98 billion for the National Institutes of Health; \$4.78 billion for the Centers for Disease Control; \$1.627 billion for Community Health Centers; \$1.9 billion for the LIHEAP program); \$11.8 billion for the Labor Department (\$1.4 billion for Dislocated Worker Assistance; \$1.546 billion for the Job Corps).

The omnibus fails to include the House and Senate adopted provisions to block the Department of Labor from issuing rules that would take away the rights of some white-collar workers to overtime pay.

\$88.9 billion for the Transportation-Treasury portion of the bill: \$58.9 billion for the Transportation Department (\$33.8 billion for highway spending; \$13.9 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); \$7.3 billion for the Federal Transit Administration; and \$1.56 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration, including \$1.2 billion for Amtrak); \$11.2 billion for the Treasury Department (\$10.2 billion for the Internal Revenue Service); \$762 million for the Executive Office of the President; \$17.5 billion for the Office of Personnel Management; \$663.2 million for the General Services Administration; \$65 million for the U.S. Postal Service; and \$500 million for the Election Assistance Commission (an additional \$1 billion for election reform is included in the "miscellaneous" section of the omnibus).

The omnibus fails to include House provisions that would have limited the Administration's ability to outsource some federal jobs and includes only some limitations to programs funded by the Transportation-Treasury bill.

Veterans Affairs (VA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and independent agencies would receive \$124 billion for FY04: \$62 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (\$29.85 billion for Veterans Benefits Administration; and \$28.57 billion for the Veterans Health Administration); \$35.06 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$19.4 billion for Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund; \$3.6 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund; and \$4.95 billion for the Community Development Fund); \$8.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency; \$15.5 billion for NASA; and \$5.6 billion for the National Science Foundation.

Daily Quotes...

"After winning the House of Representatives in 1994, [Republicans] pledged to reform how spending bills were written after five decades of Democratic rule. The 1994 GOP 'Contract With America' even proposed a presidential line-item veto to rein in what Republicans called 'wasteful pork-barrel spending.' . . . The omnibus spending bill, which would provide funds for 11 of the 15 Cabinet departments for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, is riddled with about 7,000 earmarks."

- *The Los Angeles Times* today