



The Daily Whip

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

Conference Report on H.R. 1588 - National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2004
(Hunter - Armed Services) (Subject to a Rule).

Postponed Vote on the Filner Motion to Instruct on H.R. 6 - Energy Policy Act of 2003. The motion instructs conferees to reject section 12403 of the House bill, which grants oil and gas exploration and production companies an exemption from controlling storm water runoff.

Postponed Vote on the Cardoza Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1 - Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. The motion instructs conferees to reject the House-passed premium support provision turning Medicare into a voucher program. The motion also instructs conferees to reject the Senate-passed provision providing \$6 billion for privatization demonstration projects proposed by Sen. Kyl. The savings gained by rejecting these provisions would be used to improve Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

Conference Report on H.R. 1588 - National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2004
***(Hunter - Armed Services)* (Subject to a Rule).** The conference report authorizes \$400.5 billion for FY04, which is \$7.6 billion more than the current authorization level. The bill allocates \$74.2 billion for procurement; \$63.38 billion for research and development; \$114.35 billion for operation and maintenance; \$17.9 billion for programs such as drug interdiction, defense health, and chemical agents and munitions destruction; \$2.85 billion for revolving management funds; \$98.9 billion for military personnel; \$5.7 billion for military construction; \$3.9 billion for family housing; \$16.69 billion for atomic energy defense activities; and \$2.7 billion for other defense related activities.

The conference report includes changes to the Pentagon's civilian personnel system that would allow the Secretary of Defense to strip some worker rights from DoD civilian employees including collective bargaining and due process and appeal rights. In addition, it includes language that would exempt DoD from compliance with some requirements under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Regarding concurrent receipt, the conference report includes provisions to provide relief to approximately one-third of eligible individuals (20-year retirees with a Purple Heart or combat-related disability, including Guard and Reserve. The agreement phases in over 10 years full concurrent receipt for the remaining military retirees with at least 50% disability).

The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that waives all points of order against the conference report and provides that the conference be considered as read. Conference reports are not subject to amendment.

Democrats will offer a motion to recommit the conference report with instructions that the conferees maximize the number of persons who will be eligible for full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation. **Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Democratic Motion to Recommit.**

Daily Quote...

"When the United States announces a schedule for training and deploying Iraqi security officers, then announces the acceleration of that schedule, then accelerates it again, it sends a signal of desperation, not certitude. When in the course of days we increase by thousands our estimate of the number of Iraqis trained, it sounds like somebody is cooking the books."

- Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), in a speech at the Council on Foreign Relations, regarding Bush Administration claims that Iraqi security forces numbered 58,000 in mid-September and nearly 120,000 today