

THE DAILY WHIP

Wednesday, April 9, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

HOUSE MEETS AT...	LAST VOTE PREDICTED...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Number of "One-Minutes" Today: 10 per side	

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

H.Res. 181 – Rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1036 – Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (Sessions-Rules)

Rolled Suspensions Votes (2 bills)

- 1) **H.Res. 170** – Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. Thresher (Bradley- Armed Services)
- 2) **H.Res. 149** - Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, and for other purposes (Bereuter, Hyde, Lantos - HIRC)

H.R. 1036 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (Stearns - Judiciary)
(Subject to a Rule)

Suspensions (3 bills):

Suspension bills are debatable for 40 minutes each, may not be amended, and require two-thirds majority for passage.

- 1) **H.R. ____** - Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act (Thomas - Ways & Means).
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 141** - Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 should be fundamentally reformed to be fairer, simpler, and less costly and to encourage economic growth, individual liberty and investment in American jobs (Kingston - Ways & Means).
- 3) **H.Res. 165** - Expressing support for a renewed effort to find a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem (Bereuter - HIRC).

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.Res. 181 – Rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1036 – Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (Sessions-Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended a structured rule that provides for one hour of general debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Rule also makes in order five amendments in the following order:

- **Watt Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would restore an individual plaintiff's ability to pursue all currently accepted product liability causes of action.
- **Scott Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would eliminate the requirement under the bill for the conviction of a transferor who knowingly transfers a firearm, knowing that such a firearm will be used to commit a crime of violence before a transferor can be sued.

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- **Linda Sanchez Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would remove from liability immunity any gun sellers or manufacturers who sell or otherwise give guns or ammunition to someone who uses or is addicted to illegal drugs, or "who has been adjudicated as a mental defective."
- **Meehan Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would allow plaintiffs to recover against negligent manufacturers, sellers, or trade associations.
- **Watt Amendment (20 minutes).** This amendment would limit the bill's prohibition to suits against gun manufacturers for relief due to an injury resulting from the criminal act of another.

H.R. 1036 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (Stearns - Judiciary) (Subject to a Rule). This bill bars liability lawsuits in federal and state courts against firearms manufacturers, distributors, and dealers by state and local governments and individual victims for damages caused by the unlawful use of firearms. This bill still allows civil actions against a person convicted under federal or state law, of knowingly transferring a firearm, knowing that the firearm would be used to commit a violent crime or drug trafficking crime, by an individual directly harmed by the conduct of the person convicted. Under this bill, any pending litigation against gun manufacturers, distributors, and dealers would be immediately dismissed upon enactment.

REMINDER

- The Republican Leadership has announced that the voting time on 15-minute recorded votes will be strictly enforced.

DAILY QUOTE...

"It's a pipe dream to think you can get above 350 [billion dollars] without dramatic changes of positions."

- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, Today's *The Washington Post* (A4), Regarding discussions on the Congressional Budget Resolution

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