



# The Daily Whip

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**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2006**

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
<b>10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business</b>  <b>Ten "One Minutes" Per Side</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>

*(201<sup>st</sup> Calendar Day of the Year – 63<sup>rd</sup> Voting Day of the Year – 26 Voting Days until Target Adjournment)*

## FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

**[H.Res.925](#) - Rule providing for consideration of [H.R. 5684](#) – U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rules*)**. The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides two hours of debate. Unfortunately, Rules Committee Republicans rejected two important amendments by Rep. Cardin: an amendment to close the current loophole in the agreement that would allow a foreign company based in Oman to operate U.S. port facilities; and an amendment to ensure that the agreement will not come into effect until Oman has enacted and implemented all of the changes to its labor laws necessary to meet basic International Labor Organization (ILO) standards.

**[H.R. 5684](#) – U.S. – Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (*Rep. Boehner – Ways & Means*) (*Subject to a Rule*)**. This bill implements the trade agreement signed by the United States and Oman and would reduce most tariffs on items traded between the two countries. Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee have stated that Oman fails to comply with basic International Labor Organization (ILO) standards such as: 1) the lack of existence of real labor unions and 2) the lack of laws that prohibit employers from confiscating foreign workers' documents, which enables human trafficking and forced labor conditions. In addition, they have stated that this agreement does not meet standards that were set last year in the Bahrain Trade Agreement, as Oman has refused for 8 months to take a number of interim steps to ensure that its practices immediately comply with ILO standards and to bind those commitments under the agreement --- as was done by Bahrain last year. In this trade agreement, the US also agrees not to restrict the ability of Omani companies to operate "landside aspects of port activities," which could result in Oman imposing trade sanctions if the US were to prohibit foreign companies from managing such operations --- like the Dubai Ports World deal. [H.R. 5684](#) was favorably reported out of the Ways and Means Committee by a 23-15 vote with all Democrats voting No.

**Possible George Miller Motion to Instruct Conferees on [H.R. 2830](#) - Pension Protection Act of 2005**. The motion instructs conferees to agree to certain Senate provisions regarding conversions to cash balance plans and computation of guaranteed benefits of airline pilots required to separate from service before reaching 65 years of age.

### Postponed Suspension Votes (2 bills):

- 1) [H.Con.Res. 448](#) - Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission (*Rep. Paul - Science*)
- 2) [H.Res.921](#) - Condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel, holding terrorists and their state-sponsors accountable for such attacks, supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and for other purposes (*Rep. Boehner - International Relations*)

## TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

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

### Daily Quote...

"With midterm elections less than four months away, the poll also asked respondents whether they would choose a Democratic or Republican candidate 'if the election for Congress were held today.' Forty-four percent of those surveyed said they would vote for the Democratic candidate, up from 41% in April, while 31% said they would vote for the Republican candidate, down from 37% in April."

- A *Wall Street Journal* story this morning on a new Harris Interactive Poll