



The Daily Whip

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FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
9:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Five "One Minutes" Per Side	3:00 p.m.

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.R. 2745 - United Nations Reform Act of 2005 (*Rep. Hyde - International Relations Committee*) (Complete Consideration). This bill requires the Secretary of State to press for numerous reforms at the United Nations (UN) including budgeting, oversight and accountability, peacekeeping, and human rights. HR 2745 requires the Secretary of State to withhold 50% of the U.S. assessed contributions to the regular budget of the UN, if the Secretary is unable to certify that the reforms called for by this bill have been met. This Republican proposal was reported out of the International Relations Committee on June 10th on a 25-22 vote (with 20 Democrats and 2 Republicans voting no). The most problematic components of this Republican proposal include:

- **Unrealistic Requirement for Assessed vs. Voluntary Programs.** Republicans would withhold up to \$100 million per year beginning in 2008 in U.S. contributions until 18 UN programs are shifted from the "assessed" to the "voluntary" budget. This requirement is unlikely to be achieved, as any proposal to shift UN programs must be approved by 191 countries, including Syria, Iran and North Korea.
- **Blocking New Peacekeeping Missions,** including involvement in a crisis like the one taking place in Darfur, until the peacekeeping reforms called for by the bill have been completed.
- **Inadequate Flexibility for the Secretary of State.** While the proposal allows the Secretary of State to certify that 32 of 39 required reforms have been met --- and still allow U.S. funds to be provided --- it does not allow waivers for the reforms that are most difficult to achieve by making 14 of the 39 reforms mandatory.

Democrats will offer a balanced alternative (Lantos Substitute) similar to the proposal considered in the Committee.

- **Democrats give flexibility to the Secretary of State.** The Democratic substitute maintains the link between achieving UN reform benchmarks and withholding 50% of the U.S. assessed dues, however, the substitute would give the Secretary of State the authority to withhold up to 50% of our UN dues, rather than mandating such a cut.
- **Democrats allow for Continuation of Peacekeeping Missions** by providing the Secretary with a waiver to the requirement to veto all new missions or expansion of existing missions.
- **Democrats Call for Timely Payment of UN Dues.** The substitute encourages the U.S. to pay UN dues on time (they are now paid in the last quarter of the calendar year), supports an increased budget for the new offices that will be needed to implement the reforms, supports a well structured buyout of unneeded UN personnel and supports a contribution to the UN Democracy Fund.

Yesterday, the House considered 11 of the 28 amendments made in order by the rule. Today, up to 40 minutes of general debate remain during consideration of the 17 remaining amendments. All of these amendment but the Lantos substitute are debatable for 10 minutes:

- **Royce Amendment**– regarding country specific resolutions.

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- **Fortenberry Amendment** – regarding the implementation of mechanisms to suspend a Member State that is engaged in the act of genocide.
- **Flake Amendment** – regarding the Oil-for-Food Program.
- **Barton Amendment** – regarding a review of the Final Report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the UN Oil for Food Program.
- **Chabot /Lantos Amendment** – regarding opposition to anti-Semitic statements in the UN.
- **Wilson (SC) Amendment** – regarding the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.
- **King (IA) Amendment** – regarding contributions to UNRWA.
- **McCotter/Engel Amendment** – regarding UNSCR 1559 relating to the removal of foreign forces from Lebanon.
- **Pence Amendment** – regarding a difference in the levels of assessment among permanent members of the UN Security Council.
- **Ros-Lehtinen Amendment** – regarding a democracy fund for emerging democracies.
- **Garrett #25 Amendment** – regarding the size of the UN Security Council.
- **Garrett #26 Amendment** – regarding the growth of all assessed dues.
- **Gohmert Amendment** – regarding assistance to a country that opposes the U.S. position in the UN.
- **Kucinich Amendment** – regarding the “strengthening of international labor rights.”
- **Pearce Amendment** – regarding unauthorized contact with a UN Member State that is subject to UN sanctions.
- **Stearns #6 Amendment** – regarding the increase of U.S. dues withheld to 75%.
- **Lantos Substitute (30 minutes)**.

Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Lantos Substitute, and to VOTE NO on Final Passage of H.R. 2745 - United Nations Reform Act of 2005.

Daily Quote...

“Increasingly pessimistic about Iraq and skeptical about President Bush's plan for Social Security, Americans are in a season of political discontent, giving Mr. Bush one of the lowest approval ratings of his presidency and even lower marks to Congress. . . . Forty-two percent of the people responding to the poll said they approved of the way Mr. Bush was handling his job, a marked decline from his 51 percent rating after of the November election, when he embarked on an ambitious second term agenda led by the overhaul of Social Security. Sixteen months before the midterm elections, Congress fared even worse in the survey, with the approval of just 33 percent of the respondents, and 19 percent saying Congress shared their priorities.”

- A story in *The New York Times* today, on the results of a new New York Times/CBS News Poll