

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, April 7, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

EMERGENCY SPENDING FOR WAR EFFORT APPROVED BY HOUSE –

Seeking to provide funding for the military operations in Iraq and increased homeland security measures, the House of Representatives Thursday approved a \$77.9 billion supplemental funding bill. The bill includes \$62.4 billion for military operations, \$4.2 billion for homeland security, and \$8 billion in foreign assistance including aid for relief and rebuilding Iraq. Congressman Ehlers supported the bill, which was approved by a 414-12 vote.

HOUSE ENCOURAGES USE OF BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR BANNERS –

The House of Representatives Tuesday approved a resolution encouraging families with loved ones serving in the military to display a Blue Star Banner or, if the family member had died in action, a Gold Star. The resolution, which was approved by a 419-0 vote, also calls on all Americans to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

HOUSE COMBATS SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD –

In an effort to battle fraud in the Social Security system, Congressman Ehlers joined Wednesday with a majority of his peers to approve the Social Security Protection Act of 2003. The legislation protects beneficiaries from representative payees who misuse benefits, helps individuals with disabilities gain access to representation, provides more encouragement for individuals with disabilities to return to work, and corrects, clarifies and modifies various technical aspects of Social Security law. The legislation was approved on a 396-28 vote.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, APRIL 7

The House will convene at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (3 bills): *(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)*

- 1. H.R. 1368 - Norman Shumway Post Office Building Designation Act (Stockton, Calif.)**
- 2. H.R. 1055 - Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building Designation Act (Florence, S.C.)**
- 3. H.Res. 127 - Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that a Month Should be designated as “Financial Literacy for Youth Month”**

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

The House will convene at 10:30 a.m. for Morning Hour and 12 noon for legislative business.

Suspensions (7 bills):

1. **H.R. 108 - Amending the Education Land Grant Act to Require the Secretary of Agriculture to Pay the Costs of Environmental Reviews with Respect to Conveyances under that Act.**
2. **H.R. 273 - Providing for the Eradication and Control of Nutria in Maryland and Louisiana:** Authorizes \$6 million per year for the eradication and control of the invasive species nutria, which are large animals that are extremely harmful to marsh vegetation.
3. **H.R. 733 - Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to Acquire the McLoughlin House National Historic Site in Oregon City, Oregon, and to Administer the Site as a Unit of the National Park System**
4. **H.R. 205 - Amending the Small Business Act to Direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to Establish a Program to Provide Regulatory Compliance Assistance to Small Business Concerns:** To establish 20 local, small business regulatory compliance centers throughout the US and its territories. These centers will aid small businesses in complying with Federal regulations and complement the pre-existing Small Business Development Center services and those of the Small Business Administration (SBA).
5. **H.Res. 170 - Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the submarine U.S.S. Thresher**
6. **H.Res. 149 - Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, who was killed by a sniper on March 12, 2003. (Postponed from last week.)**
7. **H.Res. XXXX (bill number not available) - Sense of the House of Representatives Regarding the Systematic Human Rights Violations in Cuba committed by the Castro Regime.**

Bill Pursuant to a Unanimous Consent Agreement (1 bill):

S. 380 - Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003:

Information not available at time of publication.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 and the balance of the week

The House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspension (1 bill):

1. **H.R. 1528 - Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act of 2003:** Contains provisions that will assist taxpayers by reforming the penalty and interest sections of the Internal Revenue Code and provides new safeguards against unfair IRS collection procedures. The bill improves the efficiency of tax administration and increases confidentiality of taxpayer information.

Bills Subject to a Rule (2 bills):

H.R. 1036 - Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act: Provides protections for those in the firearms industry from lawsuits arising out of the criminal or unlawful acts of people who criminally or unlawfully misuse their products. The bill provides that a “qualified civil liability action” cannot be brought in any state or federal court. “Qualified civil liability action” is defined as a civil action brought by any person against

a manufacturer or seller of firearms or ammunition for damages or injunctive relief resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse of such products.

H.R. 6 - Energy Policy Act of 2003: Details not available at time of publication.

Conference reports can be taken up at any time.

Historical Tidbits

On April 7 ...

1933 – Prohibition ended in the United States.

1980 – The U.S. broke relations with Iran during a hostage crisis.