Friday, December 4, 2009

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE   NEW

The House did not meet today and will reconvene on Monday, December 7. On the agenda for next week are a package of tax extenders and a bill (H.R. 4173) to strengthen federal regulation of financial services, including creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

The Senate today continued work on amendments to the Democratic health care legislation (H.R. 3590). Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced earlier this week that the Senate would remain in session on Saturday and Sunday to work on the measure.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

END-OF-YEAR OMNIBUS BILL LIKELY TO INCLUDE MORE THAN APPROPRIATIONS   NEW

With the Senate focused almost entirely on health care legislation, House Democratic leaders are developing plans for one or more omnibus appropriations packages that could include other must-pass legislation that they and the Administration see as politically desirable. CongressDaily reports that no final decisions have been made.

One possibility, says the publication, is for Democrats to package six of the seven remaining FY10 appropriations bill into an omnibus bill that also could include jobs-related provisions, expiring provisions of the PATRIOT Act, and a one-year fix to prevent cuts in Medicare payments to physicians. A second omnibus package might combine a final version of the FY10 Defense appropriations bill with a debt limit increase and an extension of the 2009 rules on the estate tax, which otherwise would fall to zero in 2010.

Also pending is the package of year-end tax extenders, which will be considered in the House next week, bypassing markup in the House Ways and Means Committee. Although the House is expected to approve the extenders bill—which includes the IRA charitable rollover, the education tuition deduction, and the research and development tax credit—the Senate Finance
Committee has not marked up a companion bill, and it remains unclear if or how the Senate would consider extenders this year.

OTHER

NAS TO SCREEN FILM ON SCIENCE “WHIZ KIDS” DECEMBER 9 NEW

Members of the public are invited to attend the screening of a documentary film about three extraordinary teenagers competing in the Intel Science Talent Search. WHIZ KIDS will be shown at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, in the auditorium of the National Academies of Science (NAS) at 2100 C Street, NW.

Immediately following the screening, Bob Edwards—former host of National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition”—will moderate a question & answer session with the film’s subjects and the filmmakers.

The event is free, but those who wish to attend must RSVP to rdiaz@nas.edu or 202-334-1517. Attendees will be asked to show a photo ID at the door.

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