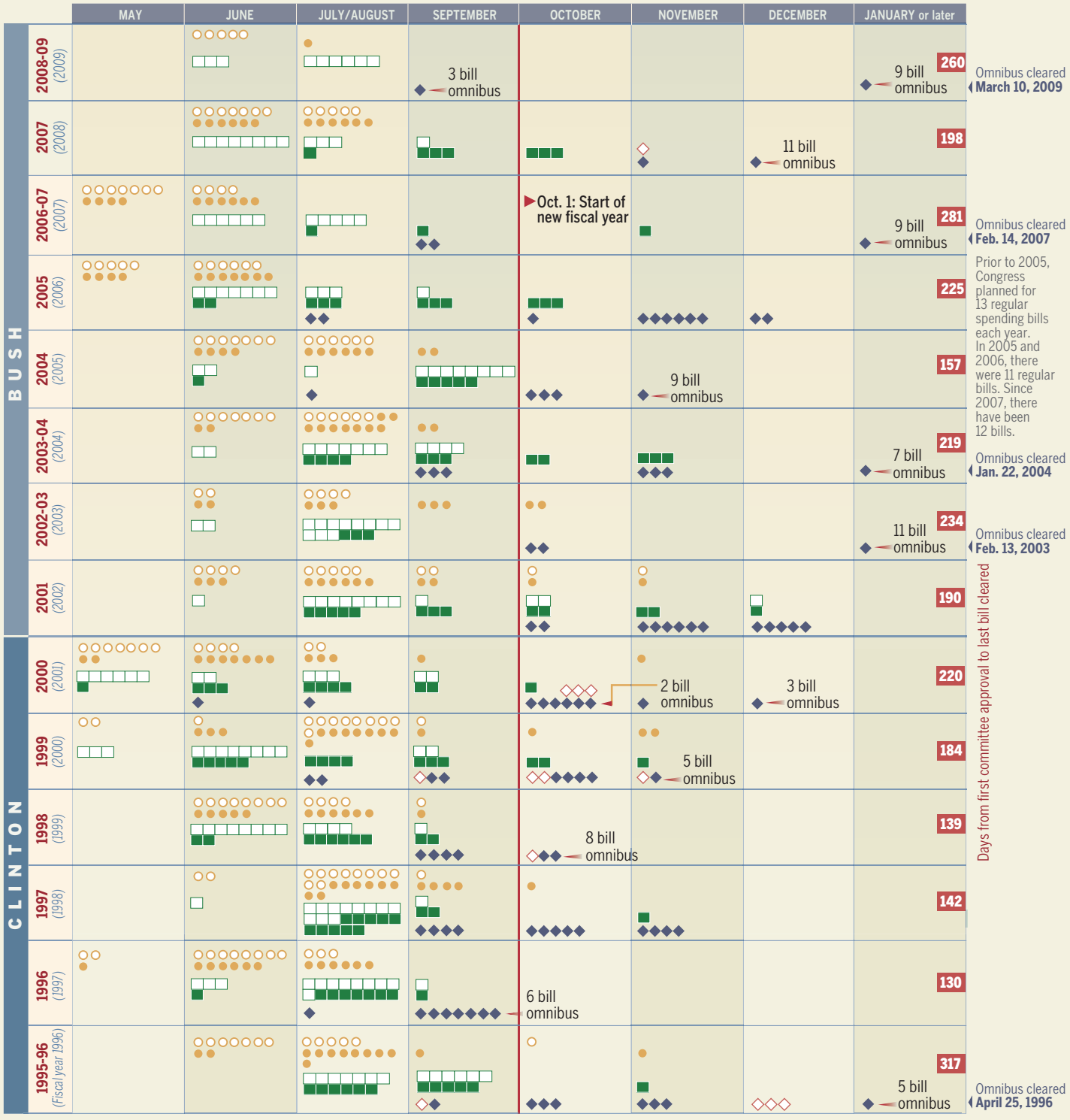
Regular Order Rare for Appropriations

House Appropriations Chairman David R. Obey, D-Wis., and Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, have said they want to complete action on all 12 regular spending bills for 2010 individually and on time — meaning before the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year. All regular bills have been enacted separately in just three of the past 14 years: for fiscal years 1998, 2002 and 2006. The last time the Oct. 1 deadline was met, and a partial-year continuing resolution wasn't required, was for fiscal 1997, but that required a six-bill omnibus measure. Appropriations for fiscal 2009, the current year, required two omnibus bills and weren't finished until March 10.



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