A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a record and regret that I could not be present today, September 25, 2003, to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 520, 521, 522, and 523 because I was attending a funeral in my District.

Had I been present, I would have voted: “aye” on rollcall vote No. 520 on H.J. Res. 69—Continuing Resolution through October 31st; “aye” on rollcall vote No. 521 on H.R. 3161—To Ratify the Authority of the FTC to Establish a Do-Not-Call Registry; “aye” on rollcall vote No. 522 on the motion to instruct conferences on H.R. 1588 to accept provisions in the Senate and House bills to avoid cuts to rural hospitals, ensure access to health care for rural communities, and provide guaranteed prescription drug coverage; and “aye” on rollcall vote No. 523 on the motion to instruct conferences on H.R. 1588 to accept provisions in the Senate bill to provide TriCare health coverage for reservists called to active duty.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of scheduling, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would be happy to talk about the schedule to the extent we know it. Mr. Speaker, according to the calendar, we announced at the beginning of the year, next week was scheduled to be the last week of the first session of the 108th Congress, and while the House by and large has completed its work for this session, the Senate is a little behind us, maybe several weeks behind us, and we still have some more work to do. So we will be here beyond October 3, certainly. We will be completing appropriations bills, as well as other important priorities.

In addition, the President’s recent request for additional resources for the war on terrorism through the supplemental is something this Congress will be considering. Of course, that means we will need additional time in session. While I understand that Members are anxious to know about votes for October 6, we have not yet finalized a number of key decisions that need to be made before we know exactly what that schedule will be. Hopefully by the close of business tomorrow, Friday, we will be able to distribute a “Dear Colleague” letter to each office which will indicate the days when we expect to have votes for the entire month of October. This information will also be on the majority leader’s Web site hoping for the close of business tomorrow.

For next week, in addition to a lengthy list of bills that we will consider under suspension of the rules