PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MAY 13, 2005, TO FILE A PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight May 13, 2005, to file a privileged report making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI all points of order are reserved.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MAY 13, 2005, TO FILE A PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight May 13, 2005, to file a privileged report making appropriations for the Department of Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI all points of order are reserved.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1650

Ms. LEE, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1650.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the removal of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring of the Majority Leader the schedule for the week to come. At this time, I yield to the distinguished Majority Leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.
We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to the Members’ offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On the appropriate day and at the appropriate time, the House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business. We may consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as several bills under a rule: The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006; and H.R. 1817, the Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back to the distinguished Minority Whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader for that information. With respect, Mr. Leader, to the Homeland Security Authorization bill, can you presently tell us which day of the week would go to the Department of the Interior, or would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of the week, with the Homeland Security appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, we will likely have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader. Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yield?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. While things could certainly change as we work through what will be a very busy business week, we likely will have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader. Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yield?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. While things could certainly change as we work through what will be a very busy business week, we likely will have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader. Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yield?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. While things could certainly change as we work through what will be a very busy business week, we likely will have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

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Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. While things could certainly change as we work through what will be a very busy business week, we likely will have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader. Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yield?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. While things could certainly change as we work through what will be a very busy business week, we likely will have the two appropriations bills sort of bookending the week, with the Homeland Security authorization bill coming in the middle of those two bookends. So I would expect that the Homeland Security Appropriations bill would start as early as Tuesday morning. Then we would go to the Homeland Security authorization bill, and when it is finished, we would go to the Department of the Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time. Lastly, Mr. Leader, there has been some discussion about having bipartisan support for the legislation, some of the legislation that is going through this body. We have had bipartisan support for some of those pieces of legislation. There is a bipartisan bill, the Castle-DeGette bill, on stem cell research. I know it is a controversial piece of legislation, but it does have bipartisan support and broad support I might say.

Can the Leader tell us when the gentleman might contemplate that bill coming to the floor?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER yields. I have not been advised as to what kind of rule. I think the gentleman that is sitting here is aware of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yielding.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Majority Leader for that observation. I appreciate the gentleman from Texas. I agree with the gentleman from Texas. In light of the fact it is the first time that we will have considered an authorization bill from this committee and for this department since its formation as a separate piece of legislation, it would, hopefully, be one that would be open to perfection and amendment, if possible. So we will hear from the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Sessions) shortly on that.

Prior to Memorial Day, can you tell us, Mr. Leader, what appropriation bills you anticipate coming to the floor prior to that Memorial Day break? We are going to have, obviously, Homeland Security and Interior next week. Do you know which bills you might be considering?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

As the gentleman knows, serving on the committee, the committee has a very ambitious schedule, and it hopes to complete all 11 bills coming out of its committee by the Fourth of July recess, meaning all 11 bills out of the House by the Fourth of July recess. So, in addition to managing the two bills on the floor next week, the committee intends to mark up both the Military Quality of Life and the Energy and Water bills. So we would anticipate, if things go well, those two bills being on the floor the following week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader.

Reclaiming my time. Lastly, Mr. Leader, there has been some discussion about having bipartisan support for the legislation, some of the legislation that is going through this body. We have had bipartisan support for some of those pieces of legislation. There is a bipartisan bill, the Castle-DeGette bill, on stem cell research. I know it is a controversial piece of legislation, but it does have bipartisan support and broad support I might say.

Can the Leader tell us when the gentleman might contemplate that bill coming to the floor?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER yielding. I have not been advised as to what kind of rule. I think the gentleman that is sitting here is aware of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) yielding.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time. I could inform the gentleman that probably the timing for the floor, the best I could tell you is that timing for the floor would be sooner than later.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate not necessarily the specifics, but at least the assertion that it will be sooner. We believe this is a very important piece of legislation. It is. Obviously, strong views are held on this issue on both sides of the issue. But it is important to an overwhelming majority of Americans, one way or the other, and I would certainly hope, I know both the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) on your side of the aisle, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BENTLEY) on our side of the aisle, have both been working very hard on this piece of legislation. We would look forward to it coming to the floor as soon as practical, given the discussions that are ongoing. And I appreciate the Leader’s observations. I thank the Leader for his information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 16, 2006

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the reception of the former Members of Congress?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order on Thursday, May 19, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the chair for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the reception of the former Members of Congress?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1817, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee may meet next week.