The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 390, noes 33, not voting 9, as follows:

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The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**The CHAIRMAN.** The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.**

**The CHAIRMAN.** Under the rule, the Committee on Agriculture.

Accordingly, the Committee rose, and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, pursuant to House Resolution 910, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** Under the rule, the previous question is ordered. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** The question is on the passage of the bill.

**The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.**

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** The question is on the passage of the bill.

**The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.**

**The SPEAKER pro tempore.** The question is on the passage of the bill.

**The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.**

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 390, noes 33, not voting 9, as follows:

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The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.**

**REREFERRAL OF H.R. 503. AMERICAN HORSE Slaughter PREVENTION ACT**

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, H.R. 503, be referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition, to the Committee on Agriculture.

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

**There was no objection.**

**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 1 minute for the purposes of
inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. I would be pleased to yield to my friend, Mr. BOEHNER, the majority leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Next week, Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 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 Members’ offices later on this afternoon.

On Tuesday, we expect to do House Joint Resolution 88, the marriage amendment.

For the balance of the week, H.R. 2389, the pledge protection bill; H.R. 5684, the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

We do expect that if the Senate acts on the Castle stem cell legislation and several other bills that could be brought over to the House, where the House would consider the other two stem cell bills, and send all three bills to the White House. And then, depending upon what happens at the White House, whether we would vote on a veto override or not is certainly under consideration.

I do expect that we will have votes on Friday at this point. We will continue to work with Members on both sides of the aisle as the schedule develops. But the next two Fridays are scheduled. My hope is that we are able to finish our work, both next week and the following week, by Thursday night so that Members would not have to vote on Friday. But I cannot make that commitment at this point.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you, Mr. Leader, for that information.

Tuesday is the marriage amendment. Would it be fair to believe that these, they would be dealt with relatively in chronological order, therefore, the pledge protection bill would come on Wednesday probably, and then Oman on Thursday probably?

Mr. BOEHNER. Probably.

Mr. HOYER. On the veto override, you expect H.R. 810 to pass the Senate and then be vetoed and come back to us at that point in time, which would be either Thursday or Friday, depending upon how quickly we were doing our business.

Mr. BOEHNER. Yes. It could be Wednesday if you are a real optimist.

Mr. HOYER. If it were Wednesday, are you going to try to keep the other two bills that would come over from the Senate with that bill? Are you going to try to do all three of them at the same time, or is that not necessarily the case?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

It is expected that the House would take up the other two stem cell bills, pass them, and send them with the Castle bill to the White House, and then be prepared to deal with whatever happens from there.

Mr. HOYER. So if you were trying to keep the three bills relatively together at the White House, is that what I am hearing you say?

Mr. BOEHNER. Yes. Mr. HOYER. Then we might pass those earlier in the week?

Mr. BOEHNER. But I do not expect that they will get here until late Tuesday, and so I think the earliest we could take them up would be Wednesday morning.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. And I appreciate what you are saying about Friday. That will be dependent upon how quickly we get the work that is before us done. I understand that.

Mr. Leader, we have had some discussions, and we still have pending, as you know, one appropriation bill, the Labor-Health bill which is pending. It has, as you know, attached to it an amendment adopted in a bipartisan fashion on the minimum wage, taking the minimum wage to $7.25 in three increments.

Can you tell me the status of the Labor-Health bill? I know it is not on the calendar, but can you tell me its status?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

There is that issue and other issues on the bill that are still being discussed. There has been no resolution on those.

But I think I will anticipate the next question with regard to the minimum wage. I have had conversations with Members on both sides of the aisle about the issue. It is clearly under discussion, but there have been no decisions made as to what to do or when to do, whatever.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. He anticipated my question, but I noted in the paper that there are some 25 or 25-plus Members on your side of the aisle who have written suggesting that we bring this to the floor. I would think if that is the case that we do have a majority, I would think, who would be for bringing this to the floor and, quite probably, a majority who might vote for a minimum-wage bill, assuming it comes to the floor as a minimum-wage bill.

But I think I will anticipate the next question with regard to the minimum wage. I very much hope that the majority members and the ranking member have not been included, in the information I have, in the conferences or deliberations that have been going on with reference to the pension bill.

In light of the fact, as you point out, it is a complicated bill, a difficult bill, I think that would be useful certainly for us; but very frankly, we think it would be appropriate for the process itself.

I yield to my friend in hopes that he will, as he indicated he would, try to prevail on those powers that be to effect that happening, as he indicated he thought ought to happen.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. As the gentleman is aware, this conference is being chaired by the Senate. There has been one formal conference meeting. But I can tell you there have been consultations with Members of both parties on both sides of the Capitol with regard to many of the issues that have been agreed to and issues that are yet to be resolved, and I fully expect those conversations will continue.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I hope that is the case. And perhaps I will privately discuss with you whom these consultations have been with because on my side of the aisle, they have not talked to me yet. But I thank the gentleman, and I will talk to him privately.

Mr. Leader, the pension conference, you and I are very concerned about it. Literally millions of people are very concerned about it. But it still languishes in the conference committee. Can you give us any update on where the pension conference is and what expectations there might be for the pension bill to come to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. Clearly, protecting the American people’s pensions and ensuring that we get better funding of pension plans is one of the goals of this legislation. I can tell the gentleman that I think we are very close. There is some progress. We are close. We have discussed this for months and months here. It is a very difficult bill, as you are well aware, and trying to make sure that there is balance, that we dot the I’s and cross the T’s, that process is under way. But I am hopeful.

Mr. HOYER. Hope springs eternal. Let’s hope the bill is not eternity, however, in the conference committee.

Mr. Leader, if I could comment as well, you and I had a discussion and I have a discussion hereon this issue as well and with Mr. BLUNT, when he was acting in the capacity you now have, with reference to the bipartisan inclusion of conferences in the decision-making process as to what the pension bill is going to be. In our experience in dealing with you when you were chairman of the committee, you did that. We appreciated that. We think it was the right thing to do. And, frankly, we think it manifested itself in some good products. But, Mr. Leader, are you going to tell us that the majority members and the ranking member have not been included, in the information I have, in the conferences or deliberations that have been going on with reference to the pension bill.

Mr. Leader, we have had some discussions, and we still have pending, as you know, one appropriation bill, the Labor-Health bill which is pending. It has, as you know, an amendment adopted in a bipartisan fashion on the minimum wage, taking the minimum wage to $7.25 in three increments.