Slaughter Spratt Stark Stenholm Stokes Stupak Tanner Tejeda Thompson Ward

Waters Watt (NC) Thornton Thurman Torres Williams Torricelli Wilson Wise Towns Traficant Wolf Visclosky Woolsey Volkmer Wynn Yates

Quinn Ros-Lehtinen Roth Roukema Seastrand

Velázquez Shadegg Shaw Vento Studds Wamp Taylor (NC) Thornberry Waxman Wyden

□ 1459

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

On this vote:

Ms. Harman for, with Mr. Quinn against. Mr. Jefferson for, with Mr. Quillen against. Mr. Filner for, with Mr. Bilirakis against.

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The question is on the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my request. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman withdraws his request.

The joint resolution was passed. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 134. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to determine from the distinguished majority leader the remainder of the schedule for today and perhaps for the rest of the year, and maybe into the next year. I would be happy to hear from the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, let me begin by saying to our colleagues, this is the last vote of the day, and perhaps the last of the year, but certainly for a while. So those of our colleagues that are anxious about their airplanes are released, may go, and have a merry Christmas.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman further elaborate on the schedule? I have some questions that perhaps he wants to take them up on his time.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I would be more than happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I have just come back from the White House where I can say to my colleagues that things

are going well. I think there is a very healthy rapport that is being estab-lished. The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] I see is back as well, and I think he would agree with me that we have a good beginning.

We have reason to be optimistic, but as everybody knows, there are a great many points to these negotiations, and we do not necessarily expect them to

be completed soon.

We are able now, I think, to go into a recess that will take us until Wednesday evening. I do not expect that we would have business that would demand any votes on Wednesday evening. I would expect that we would be able to perhaps renew the recess period until Saturday

I would ask Members to please be in touch on Tuesday morning with your whip phone. We will try to keep you updated, but I do believe at this point, unless you receive information to the contrary, that you should be able to expect that there will be no business that would be compelling enough to bring you back from your districts and your constituents prior to next Saturday.

Ĭf, in fact, things pick up with the budget negotiations, obviously would give everybody ample notice and get everyone back. But we have no other business rather than the budget that I know of at this time that would make us feel constrained to call Members back.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Well, if I could further ask the leader to elaborate, so when we come in to session on December 27, on Wednesday; on Saturday, December 30, and perhaps again on January 3, we would not be having any business on those occasions; except perhaps if the majority chooses to extend the recess, there would be no procedural votes, nor would there be any substantive matters coming before the body. Is that the understanding that the gentleman can leave us with?

Mr. ARMEY. Well, if the gentleman would yield, I am very confident that there would be no procedural votes from our side of the aisle, and of course I would feel much more comfortable if I could have the same assurance from the gentleman from California. I would expect none from your side as well, since it would be, I think we would all agree, a terrible inconvenience to the Members who might try to get something done in their district.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Would the gentleman indicate once again how much notice he thought we could obtain as Members who might be at some distance from this town in order to get back if any votes are required?

Mr. ARMEY. The Members should be aware that they would get a minimum of 12 hours notice. We would certainly try to do better than that, and I will try, beginning on Tuesday, to see to it that there is an updated information on the whip notice for all of the Mem-

Mr. FAZIO of California. In an earlier dialog, the gentleman indicated that he

NOES-200

Allard Funderburk Moorhead Ganske Archer Myrick Gekas Nethercutt Armey Bachus Gilchrest Neumann Baker (CA) Gillmor Nev Gilman Nussle Barrett (NE) Goodlatte Goodling Oxley Packard Bartlett Parker Goss Bateman Graham Paxon Greenwood Petri Bereuter Bilbray Gutknecht Pombo Bliley Hall (TX) Porter Blute Portman Hansen Boehlert Hastert Radanovich Boehner Havworth Bonilla Hefley Ramstad Bono Heineman Regula Brownback Riggs Roberts Herger Bryant (TN) Hilleary Rogers Rohrabacher Bunn Hobson Hoekstra Burr Burton Royce Camp Campbell Horn Salmon Sanford Hostettler Canady Houghton Saxton Castle Hunter Scarborough Hutchinson Chabot Schaefer Chambliss Schiff Sensenbrenner Inglis Chenoweth Christensen Shays Istook Chrysler Johnson (CT) Shuster Coble Johnson, Sam Skeen Coburn Smith (MI) Jones Kasich Collins (GA) Smith (NJ) Combest Kellv Smith (TX) Cooley Smith (WA) Kim Solomon King Crane Kingston Souder Crapo Klug Knollenberg Spence Cremeans Stearns LaHood Stockman Cubin Cunningham Largent Stump Deal Latham Talent DeLav LaTourette Tate Diaz-Balart Tauzin Laughlin Taylor (MS) Dickey Doolittle Lazio Leach Thomas Dornan Lewis (CA) Tiahrt Dreier Lewis (KY) Torkildsen Duncan Lightfoot Upton Vucanovich Linder Ehlers Livingston Waldholtz Ehrlich LoBiondo Walker Longley Walsh Watts (OK) English Lucas Martini Everett Weldon (FL) Ewing Fawell McCollum Weldon (PA) McCrery Weller McDade White Flanagan Foley McInnis Whitfield Forbes McKeon Wicker Fox Metcalf Young (AK) Franks (CT) Franks (NJ) Young (FL) Zeliff

Montgomery NOT VOTING-72

Zimmei

Meyers Miller (FL)

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Klink Ackerman Edwards Baker (LA) Ensign Kolbe Ballenger Fields (TX) LaFalce Barton Filner Lantos Lincoln Berman Ford Fowler Bevill Lipinski Bilirakis Gallegly Lofgren Bunning Geren Manzullo Buyer Callahan Gibbons McCarthy McHugh Green Calvert Gunderson McIntosh Cardin Gutierrez McNulty Clinger Hancock Meek Collins (MI) Harman Mica Conyers Hastings (WA) Murtha Cramer Hayes Myers Jacobs de la Garza Neal Deutsch Jefferson Norwood Quillen Doyle Johnston

thought a 24-hour notice would be appropriate, and I realize that he is reluctant to make that commitment, but I can tell you there are many Members on both sides who think in this kind of an atmosphere with the difficulty of travel, a 24-hour notice would be far more appropriate, in light of the Members' needs to get reservations and get here in a timely way

here in a timely way.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, the gentleman's point is well taken. I am acutely aware that it is this gentleman's habit not to promise something unless he is certain he can deliver on it. So let me promise my assurance that I will do my very, very best to be sure that everyone gets as ample a notice as possible with my whole assurance that it would never be less than a 12-hour notice.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Well, I read the gentleman's comments in Roll Call today about the family friendly issue, and I think it was in the Wall Street Journal as well, and the gentleman has made the point he does not want to overpromise, so I do understand.

Speaking of family friendly, let me yield briefly to the cochairman of that caucus, which has had one of the more difficult years, perhaps.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield for a quick response, I would like also to refer the gentleman to the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal today as well.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I always skip over that page.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER].

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the distinguished leader a question or two.

First of all, Mr. Leader, I would like to extend a great deal of thanks to the staffs. If this is the last day that we are in session in 1995, certainly the staff on the Republican side and the staff on the Democratic side, working through the contract, working through December 22, today; sometimes working longer than we have, and the staff here in the Capitol deserve the taxpayers' thanks and the Members' thanks, and I would just like to extend a great deal of thanks to the staff.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Reclaiming my time, I just wanted to confirm that there will be no other legislation other than a CR or 7-year balanced budget brought before the institution at any time during the next 2 weeks; is that correct? There will be no other legislation?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, I should say that there may be a few nominal unanimous-consent requests that are cleared by both sides. I would expect that anything of consequence of either a CR or the balanced budget itself would be a matter consequential enough to expect the Members to have an opportunity to vote on it

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman inform us as to when we will get a formal legislative schedule for January?

Mr. ARMEY. I would say that we will try to get you that as soon as we can and certainly within a week or two. I understand the concern of the gentleman and we will try to do the best we can.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Is there any possibility that you could at least give us weeks in January when you anticipate our presence or the fact that we would be free to work in our districts with our constituents?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, if the gentleman would yield, it is our intention, as we complete this very, very long and difficult year, to make January as much a time for district and family as we can

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, let me yield to my colleague from Maryland [Mr. HOYER].

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to ask two questions. First of all, I would like to ask the leader, in terms of the recess and the reconvening of the House on the days that the leader has indicated that the House may be in session for the purposes of recessing to a future time, will we have notice of the time of that convening for the purposes of additional recess?

 $\mbox{Mr.}$ ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman from Maryland makes a good point, and yes, Members will be notified of our intention to reconvene the House, even for the purpose of renewing the recess, if that is possible. We will try to provide our Members, through their whip phones, as complete information about anything that would happen, but certainly we would notify Members that we would be reconvening the House at such-and-such a time, and we will try to give ample notice on that as well.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I would be happy to yield further to my friend from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his response on that, because there may be some of us, obviously, who do live close enough to participate in those sessions and would want to know, obviously, of any unanimous-consent request that will be offered at that time, and I am sure my own leadership will keep me informed of that, as well as your leadership.

The second question I would ask, Mr. Leader, as I hear what the gentleman is saying, am I correct that the probability is that the first time we could pass legislation to reopen those segments of Government that are closed would be January 3. after 5 o'clock?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, I would suggest to the gentleman that no, that is not necessarily the first time. Again, I would remind the gentleman, and again, the minority leader is here, at the White House today we had a sense of a very cordial

workmanship-like rapport that should give us some confidence that progress might be made in this process, and obviously, everybody, I think, is very much aware that this is a serious business and we are resolved to get right to it.

So I think we should be prepared, with the proper notice, nurturing all of the optimism we can and perhaps goodwill among the negotiators, to expect that at the very, very most early convenience.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I would yield again to my colleague from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that.

Mr. Leader, I would hope that in the event that you, who are perceived by, I think, many of your Members as I read in the papers as being tough enough to make the hard decisions, if you conclude prior to a finalization of an agreement that in fact negotiations are being conducted in good faith; that there is a reasonable probability that they will be successful in accomplishing the objective of the balanced budget within 7 years by CBO scoring, or such scoring as the parties agree on, that you would contact my leadership to suggest that the next time we come back from recess, whether it is Saturday or next Tuesday, that we pass a unanimous-consent continuing resolution to put the Government back to work.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Of course I will be in contact with Members of your leadership and with the White House each day, and I think that the gentleman would agree with me that it would be quite inappropriate for anybody to do anything along the lines of a unanimous consent that would not honor each and every Member's right to vote on such an action.

So if we thought that it was appropriate to bring an action of that nature to the floor, we would properly notify Members and give them their opportunity to be here for debate and to vote.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FĂZIO of California. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Majority Leader, you have indicated that you would give at least 12-hour notice on giving us the opportunity to get here. My question is, ordinarily under those circumstances the House is not called into session for possible votes or anything before 5 o'clock when we know that people have to travel. Could we count on the same? That is my only request. I am not trying to ask for special treatment.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, the point of the gentleman is very well taken. Yes, on that day in

which we would expect action, it would be our intention then to try to make it action that would require a vote at 5 o'clock or later. Is this what the gentleman is asking?

Mr. ABERCRÖMBIE. Yes. If the gentleman would yield just a moment longer, the first time, Mr. Majority Leader, as I understand our recess resolution, that we would be called to make a determination or that the majority would be called to make some determination as to whether we continue in recess, et cetera, would be next Wednesday; is that correct?

Mr. ARMEY. That is correct.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. All I am asking is if you would be kind enough to extend what I think what could be called the usual courtesy of calling us into session before 5 o'clock.

1515

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate that. The gentleman's point is well taken, and we would not expect to have to make the determination by a vote before 5 o'clock.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I thank the gentleman very much, and I thank the

gentleman for yielding.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, just to confirm what the majority leader told the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER], we would not move a CR by unanimous consent. It would take a vote of the Members. Therefore, Members would be called back on one of those days and we would vote any CR that would be proposed by your leadership?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, that is right. If I may say, our Members would be called back

with proper notice.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Vir-

ginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Leader, I do not want to belabor this discussion, but I want to ask, I know that you are aware that 500,000 Federal employees only got half a paycheck for this current paycheck. But I wanted to emphasize that the January 5 paycheck for everyone, whether they worked or did not work, will be zero.

Of course for those who have been working all along, I think that is a serious situation, that they have worked every day, they have probably done twice as much work because of the number of people who have not been working, and their paycheck will be zero as of January 5. So the problem is, if we do not get a full continuing resolution, and I think the date is probably January 3, for that January 5, paycheck, then I think we have an extremely serious situation, that we could not possibly recess for the rest of the month of January without rectifying it. I want to bring that to the leader's attention. I assume that he has considered that.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I say to the gentleman from Virginia, again I am reminding

that the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is here and was at the White House. We are acutely aware of this circumstance and we are acutely, I think, convinced that it would be in the best interest of all parties concerned for us to negotiate, complete these negotiations, come to an agreement that would have the blessing of both bodies, and resolve the dilemma as quickly as possible.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, who I am sure also shares the concern about a 24-hour notice require-

ment.

Mr. DREIER. Absolutely. I thank my friend from West Sacramento for yielding. I would simply like to, in behalf of the California congressional delegation represented here on the floor by the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] and the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] and others, and most especially my colleague, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND], would like to inquire of the majority leader what we could anticipate as far as comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Many of us in California have been insistent that we move this as quickly as possible, and other States, we have people like the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] here and others, and I suspect the gentleman from Florida [Mr. Goss] over my shoulder and others who are hoping very much that we will move as quickly as possible—maybe even the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the chairman of the Rules Committee, and any other names shouted out to me I am happy to repeat—but I would like to inquire of the distinguished majority leader what we can anticipate as far as scheduling for the comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, the gentleman from California does make a good point. The California delegation has been very enthusiastic in inquiring about this. I have had many inquiries and there has been a good deal of good work done, as you know, particularly by yourself and the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] and other Members.

I should say that, again as we talked earlier about the vagaries of putting together a calendar, that I can say with full confidence that we would have an immigration bill on the House floor no later than the week of March 18, 1996.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for that understanding, and I thank my California colleague for yielding.

Mr. FAZIO of California. The gentleman is welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] once again for a question that is more international in scope. He is concerned, as he will make clear, about Israeli bond default.

Mr. MORAN. I think we are all aware of the situation that Israel is in, a

unique situation where they get their \$3 billion at the beginning of the fiscal year. We understand that their bond credit rating is now in jeopardy because of the fact that it is unclear if and when they will get that money in a timely manner.

I wonder if the leader would like to assure them as to what to expect, and perhaps the Members of the House, who surely will be asked what the status is of the \$3 billion for Israel. Would you like to assure us, Mr. Leader, as to what they should expect? At this point unless we taken action, there is some likelihood that Israel's bond credit rating will drop through the floor.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, again the gentleman from Virginia raises an important point, and again let me remind the gentleman this is another one of these very weighty matters that we are all concerned with as we are working so hard on this budget agreement. We will move on and try to accomplish this as well as the others.

Mr. MORAN. If the gentleman would continue to yield, I guess the real question is, would we anticipate being called back perhaps to vote on that? Is that some possibility? I know there has been a request. Does the leadership think that that is of an urgent enough matter that we might be called back to vote on that independently?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would further yield, this is certainly a matter of enormous concern and we would not rule that out.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS].

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just would like to assure the majority leader of my full confidence in his good judgment. And in regard to the issue of delaying any action on a continuing resolution until we are present to vote on it, I would assure him that if he and the other Members of both parties and leadership should decide to adopt a continuing resolution for a day or two, if we have good progress, I would certainly encourage them to pass such a short-term continuing resolution by unanimous consent pending our return for a fullfledged vote on a further continuing resolution, so that we can get the Government operating as soon as possible.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] because I believe he and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] are together on this matter.

Mr. HOYER. I want to say—and I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, the distinguished chairman of the Democratic Caucus—the comments of the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS], I think, are ones that reflect what I would refer to as a commonsense way of proceeding. Because, and that was the reason for

my question, I believe that the Members of your conference have confidence in you, Mr. Leader, and I believe the Members of our caucus have confidence in the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT]. I think if the two of you agree that this can be moved forward, with the Speaker's concurrence as well, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is echoing what I said, that we ought to be able to do that, it seems to me, by unanimous consent and put the Government back to work at least through January 2, which after all is a very short time.

But what it does is, it solves the problem that the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] has referenced with reference to getting paychecks to people for the second half of this month. We are running into a time now where we are not going to be able to pay people, not going to be able to send out checks except for the exceptions we

have made.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and would concur with him. I do not believe, very honestly, Mr. Leader, that that takes any pressure off because of the short-term nature of that action.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, perhaps we could delegate this responsibility to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] and the gentleman

from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS].

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I appreciate the observation of the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] about the enormous confidence my colleagues have in me, and I am sure they would agree that they have every confidence that I would not deny them their right to vote on a matter of such consequence as a continuing resolution in any shape.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader,

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, let me at this point yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY], who I believe is seeking recognition. Is the gentleman still interested in comment-

ing?

Mr. FOLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to see if the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLO-MON], the chairman of the Committee on Rules, will engage in just 1 minute

of question.

I want to be certain, and I have received a number of phone calls to my office both in the district and in Washington, inquiring as to whether veterans of wars, disabled veterans, and others, would receive a check on January 1. There has been a lot of stress on the phone of some people who are deeply, deeply concerned. I just want to make certain we are taking care of those men and women who have spilled blood for this Nation for the freedoms that we enjoy.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am more than happy to yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for a response.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just assure the gentleman that in the recently passed continuing resolution over in the Senate, that the veterans provisions that guaranteed that those checks would go out for medical compensation, medical disability compensation, for GI bill, all of those checks are provided for in the Senate bill. In the bill just passed by the House the same is true.

There is one little difference, that the Medicaid provision that passed over in the Senate is not in our bill, so there is still a difference. As I understand, we are protected because the veterans are in both bills. But what it does mean is that one of the Houses will have to act on the other's bill before we go home this evening. That will be done by unanimous consent. But whichever way it works out, it guarantees that those checks for veterans will go out in a timely manner.

Mr. FOLEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, that means the Senate must act today on the appropriations matter before them in order for those checks to be delivered?

Mr. SOLOMON. That is correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I will reclaim my time, unless the leader has any further comments he may wish to make. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I would just like to announce to my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle that the most updated schedule, that will be updated daily, will be available through our Cloakroom, and Members should call that number at any point to receive the latest information on a regularly updated recording.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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 (Mr. COBLE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DESIGNATING OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF 104TH CONGRESS.

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 22, 1995.
I hereby designate the Honorable CONTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro

STANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is approved. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL ORDER ON TODAY

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to do a 60-minute special order in a few moments here after a few 5-minutes. I raced in this morning and missed the 1-minute.

I just wanted to say that since there is a 50-50 chance we will not have any votes next week, and I hope to head off to Europe to visit with our troops in the field, I wanted to do a tribute for a half hour to our men and women in uniform today as we close out 1945, the last year of World War II.

I also want to do a half hour on execution-style, a few inches from infanticide, partial-birth coupe de grace abortion. We may not think that is proper at this time of year, but on December 28, which we may miss, it is the Feast of the Holy Innocents to remind us of the Herod slaughter of innocent children, trying to kill the Messiah, whose birth many of us will celebrate next Monday.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). The Chair will recognize special orders but not beyond 6 p.m. today at this point.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SALE OF ATACMS MISSILES TO TURKEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as soon as today, or at least by the middle of next week, our Department of Defense will sign a letter of offer and acceptance [LOA] with the Government of Turkey, to complete the sale of 120 Tactical Missile Systems Army [ATĂCMS]. The ATACMS—pronounced attacks 'ems-is a ground-launched surface-to-surface, conventional. semiguided ballistic missile which carries an antipersonnel/antimateriel cluster warhead capable of spraying shrapnel over a 150-square-meter area. Turkey already has the multiple launch rocket system from which to launch these very nasty, destructive weapons. What this weapon does is essentially deliver 950 small bombs, some of which do not immediately detonate and remain on the ground, posing a threat to noncombatants—including children.