

H.R. 994, the Small Business Growth and Administrative Accountability Act; the conference report for H.R. 927, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act; a bill to Increase temporarily the public debt; an omnibus appropriations or continuing resolution for fiscal year 1996; and it is possible that we may consider a resolution allowing staff depositions in the investigation of the White House Travel Office.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we hope to conclude legislative business between 7 and 8 p.m. And we should have Members on their way back home to their districts by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 8.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would further elaborate. There is an assumption that we would have votes as early as 1 on Tuesday afternoon?

Mr. HASTERT. If the gentleman will further yield, the assumption here is that the votes could come as early as 1 on Tuesday.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Would it not be possible if we had three suspensions to roll any votes on those suspensions and perhaps delay a little longer than 1?

Mr. HASTERT. We will take it under advisement to roll those votes. Still even rolling those votes it may be 2.

Mr. FAZIO of California. It might not prolong the time, but I think Members would appreciate, particularly on a suspension, as much delay as possible before a vote would actually be called.

Mr. HASTERT. I can tell the gentleman from California that we will roll those votes, but we cannot guarantee that they will go much beyond 2.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, let me yield to my friend, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER].

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the gentleman from Illinois I have a little bit of a problem, looking at the schedule, because the last part of it says Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we hope to conclude legislative business between 7 and 8 p.m. That says Tuesday. What are we going to do after we do the three suspensions because that is all you have got listed for Tuesday?

Mr. HASTERT. We will go to the regulatory reform bill.

Mr. VOLKMER. We are going to do regulatory reform, and where is that on the schedule?

Mr. HASTERT. We will probably do the rule for the regulatory reform and then possibly get into the bill itself.

Mr. VOLKMER. Where is that on this schedule? The Small Business Growth and Administrative Accountability Act?

Mr. HASTERT. The name of the bill is H.R. 994, the Small Business Growth and Administrative Accountability Act.

Mr. VOLKMER. In other words, what is proposed we will first do, I guess it will be 1-minute on Tuesday.

Mr. HASTERT. It will be 1-minute.

Mr. VOLKMER. Then we will do the three suspensions. We will roll those. Then we will do those and then we will do the rule and then get into debate and see how far we can go on regulatory reform?

Mr. HASTERT. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, if I can reclaim my time here just to confirm. There would be no further legislative business on Tuesday other than the regulatory reform bill that the gentleman mentioned, is that correct?

Mr. HASTERT. If the gentleman will yield further, at this time that is our assumption.

Mr. FAZIO of California. We would take up the rule, general debate, and perhaps consider the legislation, is that correct?

Mr. HASTERT. And amendments.

Mr. FAZIO of California. And all amendments thereto?

Mr. HASTERT. That is right.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Does the gentleman know what kind of rule we might anticipate?

□ 1615

Mr. HASTERT. The Committee on Rules will be meeting this afternoon, and we will have the rule out later this afternoon.

Mr. FAZIO of California. We have no idea, really, how many amendments might be in order, whether an open rule would be required, but it would probably fill up the afternoon?

Mr. HASTERT. We expect it to be an open rule, yes.

Mr. VOLKMER. On the schedule, I appreciate that, because the way I read this, I did not see that in it.

Mr. HASTERT. I understand.

Mr. VOLKMER. Now we know why we are going to be here between 7 and 8. On the bill to increase temporarily the public debt, do you have any idea what date? Will that be a Wednesday or Thursday?

Mr. HASTERT. It could be Wednesday or could be Thursday.

Mr. VOLKMER. Do you know whether or not that would have an open rule, or would that be a closed rule like all of the other ones have been?

Mr. HASTERT. I would say that that bill probably will be a closed rule.

Mr. VOLKMER. The appropriation for continuing resolution, well, first let me ask this: The public debt, let us see, tomorrow is March 1, is it not?

Mr. HASTERT. Tomorrow is March 1.

Mr. VOLKMER. My understanding from earlier discussions with the leadership back before we recessed that we would be doing this by March 1.

Mr. HASTERT. That, plus we passed a piece of legislation that dealt with Social Security that said we could deal with it later than March 1.

Mr. VOLKMER. That is a firm schedule to do it next week?

The continuing resolution, instead of waiting until March 5, you are proposing to do that also next week? Is that correct?

Mr. HASTERT. We are proposing to do a continuing resolution or an omnibus appropriation next week.

Mr. VOLKMER. Right. But that would take care of those that expire on March 15? Is that correct?

Mr. HASTERT. That is our assumption.

Mr. VOLKMER. And would that continuing resolution or appropriation bill, whatever we want to call it, is that going to be for the rest of the fiscal year then? Is that going to be for another 2 or 3 months?

Mr. HASTERT. We are in negotiations with the White House, staff to staff, and intend that that will be on a higher level when those negotiations are finished. I think that result will show in the bill.

Mr. VOLKMER. I have been busy with the farm bill the last 2 days. There may have been announcements on this floor that I have missed. So has there been an announcement by the Committee on Rules on what we call the regulatory reform bill or the Accountability Act that amendments had to be to the Committee on Rules before today so Members knew if they had amendments to this bill, they had to have them in?

Mr. HASTERT. They just filed the rule, sir, and it is an open rule.

Mr. VOLKMER. It is an open rule?

Mr. HASTERT. Yes.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I thank the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER]. I think he has pretty much covered the issues that need to be covered.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FUNDERBURK. 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. NETHERCUTT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1996, TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 927, CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY (LIBERTAD) ACT OF 1995

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House have

until 5 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, March 1, 1996, to file the conference report accompanying H.R. 927, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1995.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

DAIRY FARMERS FACING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, the family dairy farmers in Vermont and throughout this country are facing disastrous financial problems. While consumer milk prices have been going up, the price that the dairy farmer receives has been going down.

Adjusted for inflation, the price Vermont dairy farmers receive has dropped 50 percent over the last 15 years. No wonder that today there are fewer than 2,000 dairy farms left in Vermont, and more and more of them are going out of business.

Tragically, none of the proposals that we were permitted to vote on during the farm bill provided for a significant increase in dairy farm income. In fact, the proposal that was passed threatens to actually lower the price that farmers receive.

Mr. Speaker, in an effort to save the family farm, the six New England States each have passed the Northeast dairy contract, which finally would provide dairy farmers a fair price for their product.

In the final Senate bill, if the final Senate bill contains the Northeast dairy compact, this House must support that provision in the conference report. To do less would be to allow New England dairy farmers to disappear.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES BROKEN

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, promises made, promises broken, the true motto of this failed Republican Congress.

One would think that at least here on Leap Day once every 4 years, Speaker GINGRICH could keep his promises. But, no, indeed, when one turns to a letter written the first day of this month, Speaker GINGRICH, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. ARMEY all wrote President Clinton saying, "Your administration has communicated to us that action must be

taken by February 29 to ensure there is no default. Congressional Republicans are committed to act by this date in a manner that is acceptable to you and the Congress in order to guarantee the Government does not default on its obligations."

Where is their action? It is not here on Leap Day. Next week we are going to talk about most-favored-nation treatment for Bulgaria, and they have yet to resolve the question of whether we will protect the full faith and credit of this country.

Promises made, promises broken, and the American working people are the ones who are going to have to pay the price for this failure unless we can turn this country and this Congress around.

BRING UP A CLEAN DEBT CEILING BILL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on what my colleague from Texas said.

It is, in fact, true that the commitment was made that as of today the debt ceiling would be extended so that this country would not go into default. And I know we have heard previously, well, that deadline can be extended a couple of weeks because of legislation that has passed this House.

But the bottom line is what we are seeing here again is the same thing we saw with the Government shutdown. The Republican leadership wants to hold this Congress hostage to their ideological agenda where they want to cut Medicare, Medicaid, cut environmental programs, cut education, and they are saying unless you do some of that or unless you provide tax cuts for wealthy Americans and corporations, we are not going to extend the debt ceiling and we are going to threaten the possibility of this country going into default, again, a commitment that was made and a commitment that was broken.

They should bring up a clean debt ceiling. They should not extend it for another week or another 2 weeks but continue it through the rest of the fiscal year so the possibility of default is not out there.

I do not need to say what could possibly happen if this country went into default. Even the threat of it is a problem.

WORKING FAMILIES NEED HELP

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, now that the Republican Party has discovered working America, NEWT GINGRICH and his team are frantically working their agenda. They are desperate. The Contract With America has failed. Voters in the Republican Presidential pri-

maries do not want the Gingrich agenda of the last 14 months. They demand that the concerns of working families be the priority in Washington.

But a tiger cannot change his stripes. The Republican leadership is having a hard time crafting an agenda that deals honestly with the concerns of working men and women.

Will the Newt Gingrich Republican agenda support education, protect pensions, raise the minimum wage? No. According to the majority leader, DICK ARMEY, who is taking over the day-to-day operations of the House from Speaker GINGRICH, once again the new Republican agenda will be topped by a tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this is not what working families need. They need help to pay their bills, send their kids to college and save for retirement.

My Republican colleagues wanted to offer them the same old failed policies of the past in a brand-new package. The American people deserve better.

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.

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

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LASER SIGHTS LEGISLATION INTRODUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to announce a new legislative initiative that I am introducing, the Laser Assisted Gun Crime Penalty Act. I have drafted this bill with the assistance of the greater New Haven area police departments to provide an effective response to a new threat to our law enforcement officers and the public in general.

There has emerged on the scene recently a deadly addition to the arsenal deployed by gangs and other violent criminals. That new threat is called a laser sight.

The enhanced accuracy these devices bring—in the hands of the violent criminal—create a "super-gun," aimed with lethal precision at our police officers as they patrol our neighborhoods to serve and protect the public.

The streets of the Third Congressional District of Connecticut are not immune to this new technology. On Christmas Day of last year and in the