

Sisisky	Tate	Walker
Skaggs	Tauzin	Walsh
Skeen	Taylor (MS)	Wamp
Skelton	Tejeda	Ward
Slaughter	Thomas	Watts (OK)
Smith (MI)	Thompson	Weldon (FL)
Smith (NJ)	Thornberry	Weldon (PA)
Smith (WA)	Thornton	Weller
Solomon	Thurman	White
Souder	Tiahrt	Whitfield
Spence	Torkildsen	Wicker
Spratt	Torres	Williams
Stearns	Torricelli	Wilson
Stenholm	Towns	Wise
Stockman	Trafigant	Wolf
Stokes	Upton	Woolsey
Studds	Vento	Wynn
Stump	Visclosky	Yates
Stupak	Volkmer	Young (FL)
Talent	Vucanovich	Zeliff
Tanner	Waldholtz	Zimmer

NOES—42

Becerra	Foglietta	Martinez
Bonior	Gibbons	McDermott
Bryant (TX)	Green	Meek
Clay	Gutierrez	Mfume
Combust	Hastings (FL)	Owens
Condit	Hilliard	Pastor
Conyers	Hinchey	Payne (NJ)
Coyne	Jefferson	Rahall
DeFazio	Kanjorski	Rangel
Dellums	Kennedy (MA)	Sanders
Fattah	Klink	Schroeder
Fields (LA)	Latham	Stark
Filner	Lofgren	Velazquez
Flake	Maloney	Watt (NC)

NOT VOTING—20

Baker (LA)	Hancock	Smith (TX)
Barcia	Hayes	Taylor (NC)
Barton	Johnson, E. B.	Waters
Brewster	Linder	Waxman
Chapman	Moakley	Wyden
Clyburn	Myers	Young (AK)
Frank (MA)	Serrano	

□ 1941

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the distinguished majority leader of the schedule for today and the remainder of the week and next week.

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

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this last vote marks the end of the legislative business for the week. Members are now free to return to their families and their districts. Next week the House will not be in session on Monday, January 29.

On Tuesday, January 30, there is a possibility of a suspension day. Several items are under consideration, although none have been finalized at this time. Of course, we will consult with the minority and keep Members apprised of any additions to the schedule. Members should be advised, however, that there will be no recorded votes on Tuesday. In fact, we do not expect any recorded votes before Wednesday at 12 o'clock noon.

On Wednesday there is a possibility that we will act on emergency legislation to fund certain farm programs. Because of the President's veto of the Balanced Budget Act which contained farm program funding and reforms, there is a great deal of uncertainty in farm country that need to be addressed. We are working with Members on both sides of the aisle and will continue to do so as this legislation develops.

On Thursday, February 1, there will be a joint meeting of Congress at 11:45 a.m. to receive the President of France. After the joint session, we anticipate bringing to the floor for consideration the President's most recent complete budget submission.

We also plan to consider a sense-of-the-House resolution regarding Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare reform, directing the Committee on the Budget to report on a resolution regarding funding levels and policy priorities for these programs. We hope to have Members on their way home by a reasonable hour on Thursday evening.

We will then begin a 3-week district work period, and reconvene the House on Monday, February 26.

Mr. Speaker, I have just one more comment.

□ 1945

This one to my esteemed colleagues from Pennsylvania. I will see you next week with a smile on my face after our beloved Dallas Cowboys win the Super Bowl.

Mr. BONIOR. I would say to my friend from Texas that the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Budget, Mr. KASICH, is a fanatical Steelers fan, as you probably know. I was just wondering if your differences with respect to this football game are the reason why he would prefer that we go ahead with a clean debt ceiling bill, and you have expressed contrary views this past week.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, I have discussed this with Mr. KASICH, and as much as he loves the Steelers, he has not been prepared to bet the budget on it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the majority leader yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I am happy to yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and my suggestion would be that when you have all of your Dallas fans watching that game on Sunday, thank God they are not playing the Washington Redskins.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, we have 26 teams in the NFL; I am sure we could keep this up for a while.

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

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss, if the gentleman from Texas would be so kind to do so, the statement in here about the farm bill and emergency legislation. What emergency legislation would that be?

I am on the Committee on Agriculture, and I would like to know what we are going to be faced with.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the inquiry of the gentleman, and I would refer the gentleman to the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. As the gentleman from Missouri has pointed out on many occasions, I am not personally an expert on farm policy.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, you have done enough to agriculture programs in your time.

Mr. ARMEY. Pursuant to the recommendations of the gentleman, I have chosen to try as much as possible to leave this work in the hands of the committee. I know the committee and the members of the committee are very concerned.

They are working on it; they are working with Members of the other body, and the details of their work, I am sure, are something that the gentleman can better determine from the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, there is a great deal of uncertainty out there among all of the farmers. We have not done a farm bill. There was a welfare bill for big farmers put in the so-called Debt Ceiling Reduction Act that the President vetoed. It is my understanding that that bill, which the President said was one of the reasons he vetoed the provision on agriculture, one of the reasons he vetoed the bill, is going to be basically the same bill, so I have been told, that the Members want to take up in the Committee on Agriculture; and if that is the case, I do not know why we are doing it, because it will be vetoed again.

Now, I just do not understand why we continue to do legislation down here that is not going anywhere.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield, again let me refer the gentleman from Missouri to the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. If in fact you want to have a debate on farm policy or you prefer to have a debate on welfare programs, I think you would better enjoy that debate in the Committee on Agriculture, and I would refer you to that committee.

Mr. VOLKMER. Well, I object strongly that you blame the President for something that needs to be solved right here in this body and with the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and with the Committee on Agriculture in the Senate, because that is where the work has not been done, not with the President.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, one other comment to my friend from Texas concerning the concerns that Secretary Rubin has with regard to the possibility of a default by the 1st of March: For 220 years this government has paid its bills, and there is deep concern that our credit rating will in fact be destroyed.

Just yesterday, as the gentleman from Texas knows, Moody's announced they may lower America's credit rating, and of course the impact that will

have on homeowners, on mortgage interest rates, on student loans and on automobile loans could be devastating to your constituents and mine. I am just wondering when we will be able to see a clean debt ceiling bill come to the floor of this House.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I thank the gentleman for the question. I do know that the President and the Speaker have discussed this issue by phone and we will continue to work with the White House to determine the time frame for the debt limit extension.

It is also my belief that we can reach an agreement on a suitable downpayment for the balanced budget at that time.

As the gentleman will recall, the President was presented with a debt ceiling extension in November which he vetoed pursuant to the advice of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury assured the President that he could manage affairs without that debt ceiling extension that the President vetoed at that time, and the Secretary of the Treasury has assured us that he can continue to do so until March 1. In the meantime, we are talking with the White House about the conditions under which we can send forward a debt ceiling increase that also is accompanied by a suitable downpayment on the balanced budget.

Mr. BONIOR. I just wish to advise my friend from Texas and his esteemed colleague on the other side of the aisle that we have filed a discharge petition, and we have Members who have signed it, to bring a clean debt ceiling to this floor. We invite responsible Members of the other side of the aisle who want to make sure that this does not happen to this country, that our credit rating is not besmirched, to join us so that we can bring this bill to the floor and we can get on with the business of this country without the threat hanging over our head that now looms there.

I thank my colleague.

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

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, the distinguished minority whip, permitting me to inquire of the distinguished majority leader.

Next Thursday, February 1, is the occasion of the annual National Prayer Breakfast, and traditionally we are accommodated so that we do not have votes in the House before, say, 10:30 or 11 o'clock, because most Members like to participate in this event, which is held off the Hill.

After inquiring of the distinguished majority leader's staff, I am advised that you have allocated for that in the schedule, and I just wanted to confirm that.

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman is absolutely correct. We are scheduling no votes before, probably, 12 o'clock on

Thursday morning, and I guess I could encourage, and I am sure the gentleman would agree, that it is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share that time together at the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning. The schedule will surely accommodate that.

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HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I call up a privileged resolution (H. Res. 343) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 343

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Hayes of Louisiana.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 344) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 344

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Ways and Means: Michael McNulty of New York.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a Member of the Committee on International Relations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
New York, January 24, 1996.

The SPEAKER,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my position as a member of the House International Relations Committee (HIRC) effective upon ratification by the full House of my membership on the House Ways and Means Committee.

While I look forward to returning to my assignment on Ways and Means, I wish to thank Chairman Gilman, Ranking Member Hamilton, and all the HIRC members for the many courtesies extended to me during my service on that panel.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. McNULTY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

EXTENDING AUTHORITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2353) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to delivery of health and medical care, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and to concur in the Senate amendments with amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments and the House amendments to the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PRIORITY HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.—(1) Effective June 29, 1995, section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "after June 30, 1995," and all that follows through "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "after December 31, 1996".

(2) Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".

(b) DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE.—Section 1720A(e) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR NONINSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1720C(a) of such title is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(d) NEGOTIATED INTEREST RATES.—Section 3703(c)(4)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(e) MORTGAGES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 3710(d)(7) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(f) ENHANCED LOAN ASSET SALE AUTHORITY.—Section 3720(h)(2) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".

(g) AUTHORITY OF LENDERS OF AUTOMATICALLY GUARANTEED LOANS TO REVIEW APPRAISALS.—Section 3731(f)(3) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(h) AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 3735(c) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".