

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to inquire about next week's schedule.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for an explanation of the schedule for next week.

□ 1600

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have concluded legislative business for the week. The House will not be in session on Friday, May 21.

The House will next meet on Monday, May 24, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and at 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business. We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to all Members' offices. Members should note that we expect votes after 6 o'clock p.m. on Monday, May 24.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week, the House will take up:

H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safety Deposit Box Act of 1999;

H.R. 1833, the United States Trade Representative and Customs Service Reauthorization Act;

H.R. 150, the Education Land Grant Act;

The Agriculture Appropriations Act;

The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act; and

H.R. 1401, the Defense Authorization Act.

On Tuesday, May 25, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

On Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Madam Speaker, we hope to conclude legislative business for the week by 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 27.

I would like to remind Members that the Memorial Day District Work Period begins following the close of legislative business on Thursday, May 27. And the House will return on Monday, June 7, with votes after 6 p.m.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the majority leader for the schedule. If I might just ask one or two questions about the schedule for next week.

Does my colleague know what days the Social Security Lock Box bill and the appropriations bills will be called up?

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, if the gentlewoman would continue to yield, I thank the gentlewoman for asking.

On Tuesday, we expect to do the Lock Box and the Agriculture Appropria-

tions bill. It is our expectation that on Wednesday we will be able to do Legislative Branch Appropriations, the Education Land Grant, and USTR-Customs. On Thursday, we would begin work on DOD authorization.

If the gentlewoman would continue to yield, I should encourage Members to anticipate that we may be working later into the evenings on these evenings next week. As our past experience tells us, when we enter appropriations season and we begin to consider these bills under the 5-minute rule, they may oftentimes take longer days than other legislative business under more time-constrained rules.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the majority leader anticipated my question in wanting to know if there were going to be any late nights next week. So we should anticipate late nights next week.

And a final question: I do not see on the agenda listed out for next week anything about campaign finance reform on the schedule. Does the gentleman from Texas know when we might be able to expect any action on that issue?

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry. And if the gentlewoman would continue to yield, we have had several discussions with different Members that have interest in this matter.

As the gentlewoman knows, we are going into the appropriations season. The appropriations season is very important in terms of its early conclusion in order to get into the final end-of-the-year appropriations conference reports.

It is our anticipation that, while we expect this important issue to be addressed before the year is over, that we would like to get this appropriations work behind us so that we would have time to address that during which period they are in their conference committees. So I would guess that she should have an anticipation that it would be sometime later in the year.

Ms. DELAURO. Sometime later in the year.

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House join me in wishing my son, Scott, happy birthday tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps people regain development and build skills that are important for independent functioning, health, well-being, and happiness. Occupational therapy employs purposeful occupational tasks, the kind of thing that we do in our ev-

eryday life, to return individuals with disability to function.

The American Occupational Therapy Association has a motto that expresses it so very well. "Occupational Therapy: Skills for the Job of Living."

In Texas and across the Nation, we recently recognized contributions of this important profession with an official designation of Occupational Therapy Month. Our therapists help those whose lives are dramatically impacted by injury or stroke. They help people return to work and resume their place in the community. They work in the aid and development of children. They assist parents in developing and improving the skills necessary to participate in school, work, play, or leisure activities.

My wife, Libby, has had an opportunity to see firsthand the incredible work that our occupational therapists perform to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. I join in recognizing the significant benefits of occupational therapy for Americans from childhood to old age and salute the efforts of our occupational therapists across the country.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 24, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam 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 North Carolina?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BORDER PATROL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 1999

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SILVESTRE REYES), to stand up for the men and women who guard our Nation's borders and risk their lives every day.

Today, with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), I will introduce the Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999. The legislation will

provide incentives and support for recruiting and retaining Border Patrol agents. This legislation would increase the compensation of Border Patrol agents, and allow the Border Patrol agency to recruit its own agents without relying on personnel officers of the Department of Justice or the INS.

The United States is in dire need of more Border Patrol agents to enforce policies against illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Under current law, the INS is authorized to add a total of 5,000 additional border agents at a rate of 1,000 per fiscal year from 1997 to 2001.

We have not met our goals. The INS has only recruited between 200 and 400 new agents because salaries and the recruitment skills have not been up to par.

My legislation will increase the salaries and work harder at retention, and salute those men and women who serve us very ably at the border. It is time now to give more respect to our border agents.

Madam Speaker, I rise to the floor of the House today to stand up for a group of men and women who guard our nation's borders and risk their very lives everyday. The group of men and women whom I am referring to are the United States Border Patrol. Today, along with my colleague from Texas, Mr. REYES, I introduce the "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999."

This legislation will provide incentives and support for recruiting and retaining Border Patrol agents. This legislation would increase the compensation for Border Patrol agents and allow the Border Patrol agency to recruit its own agents without relying on personnel officers of the Department of Justice or INS.

The United States is in dire need of more Border Patrol agents to enforce policies against illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Under current law, the INS is authorized to add a total of five thousand additional border patrol agents, at a rate of five thousand additional border patrol agents, at a rate of one thousand per fiscal year from 1997 to 2001. However, INS did not request any additional agents in its FY 2000 budget due in large part to the lucrative job market and the low unemployment rate.

According to Commissioner Meissner of the INS, only 200 to 400 new agents will be hired this year. Arizona had been slated to receive approximately 400 of the full complement but will not likely receive between 100-150, and my home state of Texas, which would have received approximately 500 new agents this year, could see that number cut by more than half.

The "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Enhancement Act" would move Border Patrol agents with one year's agency experience from the federal government's GS-9 pay level (approximately \$34,000 annually) to GS-11 (approximately \$41,000 annually) next year. We need better recruitment and better retention. We cannot play with the nation's borders, and right now in the Immigration and Claims subcommittee in which I am a Ranking Member, we listen to testimony hearing after hearing about how the Border Patrol agents need more money, and the INS needs to be given the resources to be able to do it. This legislation is the step in that direction.

Madam Speaker, we are a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. The "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999," will give us the ability to control our borders and uphold the law. I urge my colleagues to join me and Mr. REYES, who is our resident expert on Border Patrol matters due to his service as a Border Patrol Sector Chief to support this much needed measure.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REGARDING LATEST SHOOTING IN ATLANTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, the latest shooting in an Atlanta school is deeply troubling. My wife is a teacher in a public school. My kids have gone to a public school. I taught for a lot of years in a public school.

I fervently believe that every child deserves to learn in a good school and in a safe environment. But how can we create such an environment if it is the children themselves who make the schools unsafe?

Clearly, we need to tighten current laws to make it more difficult for kids to get guns. We will take a look at the measure passed by the Senate to make sure that it is a reasonable and common sense approach.

We also need to more effectively enforce the laws that are already on the books and to prosecute those who break the laws. But these measures will fall short if we do not effectively address the deeper problems that face our society and our children.

Our children need to learn the differences between right and wrong. They need moral instruction. They need a culture that reinforces positive values that help create a safer and more secure society.

It is more difficult to be a parent today. We feel the need to work harder just to keep pace with the neighbors. All too often, parents are forced to worry first about their jobs and then about their kids. And it is becoming more and more difficult for parents to monitor what their kids are watching, hearing, and learning.

I support free expression, but there is a point where unbridled free expression undermines a free society. I challenge the entertainment industry, the Internet industry, the video game industry, and the media to become good corporate citizens. Monitor the material that flows to our kids.

I applaud the Disney Company for taking some steps in the right direction, but the whole industry must join in the cause. Keep casual gunplay out of the movies. Keep hate music out of

the music stores. Keep bomb-making web sites off the Internet. Do not make video games so violent that they warp young minds.

Free expression does not necessarily have to lead to moral chaos. Let us join together in finding ways to help parents raise their children to be good productive citizens.

GOD BLESS AMERICA'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the Third District of North Carolina. The Third District covers most of the eastern part of the State, including five military bases: Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, New River Marine Corps Air Station, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Elizabeth City Coast Guard Station, and Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base.

In eastern North Carolina we are also proud to be the home of 77,000 thousand of our Nation's 25 million living veterans. Madam Speaker, these are the men and women who courageously served to protect this country and preserve the principles that it was founded upon.

Out of respect and appreciation, we must ensure the sacrifice these brave soldiers made is something we never forget and that the vital role they play in this country's history remains as unmistakable as our commitment to their continued well-being.

As President Abraham Lincoln said in his Second Inaugural Address: "Let us care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

This statement is said to reveal the government's promise to provide lifetime health care for our veterans and their families, a promise that many of my colleagues in Congress and I continue fighting to fulfill.

Madam Speaker, today I am here to share with my colleagues good news, to tell them of two successful efforts by the government to provide our Nation's veterans with the health care that they need and deserve.

Two weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending the dedication of a new community-based outpatient clinic in Jacksonville, North Carolina. For the veterans of Onslow County, this is a tremendous victory and the result of a great deal of work and determination.

It has been a priority of mine for some time to find a way to see that a satellite facility was built in eastern North Carolina. For too long, many veterans were forced to travel to Fayetteville, North Carolina or Durham, North Carolina to reach the closest VA hospital.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues can see, we were in desperate need of health care services that were more accessible to the veterans of eastern