

year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes" requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUYE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. COCHRAN, be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2510. An act to extend the expiration date of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

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 the schedule for the remainder of the evening 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, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker: I am so very pleased that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet for morning business on Monday, September 24, at 12:30 p.m. and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business. The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, and a continuing resolution.

On Monday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will consider the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, and I am also hopeful that the House will be able to complete consideration of H.R. 2586, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002.

On Wednesday, only if it is necessary for the House to be in session, we will complete the business for the week. No votes are expected past 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his information this evening. I would ask him two questions:

Number one, I gather from his remarks with respect to Wednesday next that if we finish the business of the House Tuesday, that we will be finished, so Members who need to get back for religious holidays will be able to do so.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we are

going to work as hard as we can, and in full cooperation, I am sure, with all the Members to try to complete our work on Tuesday night. Members need to be home by sundown, and sometimes that is California or someplace else on the West Coast. We want to give them every opportunity to get an early start in the morning so they can accomplish that.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

Finally, I would ask my friend, the gentleman from Texas, we had a lengthy debate today on the airline bill, and a good piece of that debate centered over the Speaker's commitment to the membership of this body on the benefits for workers that have lost their jobs from the airline disaster, and the airline industry's economic problems.

I am just interested, if the gentleman from Texas could enlighten us, and I do not expect to have a complete answer here, given the fact that this was just done today, but when in fact we might expect action on legislation that was discussed on the floor in the colloquy between the Speaker and the leader.

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Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I thank the gentleman for the question, and just to be clear, the Speaker's exact words earlier this evening were, and I quote, the committees of jurisdiction have already been examining proposals to assist in this area. We will take a comprehensive look at the health care needs of these displaced workers and work together to bring an appropriate legislative response to the floor as soon as possible.

It is my interpretation that by that the Speaker meant the committees of jurisdiction are working; and at whatever point they can report legislation, we would make the floor available for that legislation. I simply cannot speak for the committees' work.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for that. I just want to encourage the gentleman from Texas and the rest of the leadership on the Republican side of the aisle to help expedite the hearing process and the committee process on this legislation. As I think the gentleman from Texas is aware, regrettably the numbers of laid-off workers have increased dramatically, especially, of course, in the airline industry; and we are probably going to see a fallout in some ancillary industries and other industries. I think it would be prudent, wise, and just to expect that we will move with some alacrity on these issues of health care, unemployment compensation, and, of course, training, when necessary.

It is not as if this is a difficult thing to do. It is pretty standard when we enter these economic downturns. And moving with some degree of speed on this would, I think, be appreciated, especially given the nature of the situation our country finds itself in today. So I will continue to raise this issue on

a regular basis, with respect, but with urgency and with some passion. And I just want the gentleman to know that this is an issue that will be before us on many occasions as we go through these next weeks.

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

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

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

I do have an inquiry of the majority leader. I do join the gentleman in the fervent hope we can complete our business for the week by Tuesday night. In the event that it was necessary for us to convene on Wednesday morning, could we convene at 9 a.m., in the hopes that maybe we could wrap up our business on Wednesday morning and not continue into Wednesday afternoon?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman from Michigan will yield further.

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the inquiry. The gentleman makes a very good point, and I have to say, I think in full confidence, that as a matter of respect for our colleagues, should we have to pro-ound such a unanimous consent request, I would guess that the gentleman would hear a resounding silence when asked if there were any objections. I appreciate the question.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the majority leader for doing everything possible to accommodate us.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2001

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

There was no objection.

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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

APOLOGY TO SIKHS, MUSLIMS, AND ANYONE ELSE TAKING OF- FENSE AT PRIOR STATEMENTS

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

MR. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was recently quoted as saying something that Sikhs, Muslims, and other Americans facing harassment and violence in this country took as offensive. I am sorry for any distress my statement caused, and I want them to know that I do not approve of any harassment or violence against any American. All I intended to say was that if a person fits the established profile of a terrorist, that person should expect to be looked at closely by airport security, given the atrocity of September 11.

Many Sikhs are being subjected to harassment due to their beards and turbans, which are required by their religion. Americans of the Muslim faith are also receiving harassment. Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revered religion. It is not part of any other religion, although Sikhs are sometimes mistaken for Muslims or Hindus. There are 21 million Sikhs in the world, most of whom live in the Punjab state of India. Approximately 500,000 live in the United States; and most are naturalized or American-born citizens. Most have contributed to all walks of life. Most of the people who wear turbans in this country are Sikhs.

There are many reasons Sikhs come to America, but mainly they come seeking freedom. To persecute them only weakens American unity at a time when our country is under attack.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to let the Sikhs, Muslims, and other Americans who are facing harassment and violence know that I do not condone such acts, that I stand shoulder to shoulder with them, and that I am on their side.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICANS FACING UGLY THREATS AT HOME

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as America mourns its dead and prepares to launch a global war on terrorism, some Americans are facing additional ugly threats here on the home front, and they are not from foreign terrorists but, regrettably, they are from fellow citizens.

Since the attacks on New York and Washington last week, many Arab

Americans, Muslim Americans, Sikhs, and other Americans of South Asian heritage have become the targets of terrible bigotry and violence based solely on their faith, their heritage, or their choice of traditional clothing.

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Americans of just about every religion and ethnic heritage lost loved ones in this terrorist attack. At least five Sikh Americans were killed in the World Trade Center, and one a convenience store owner named Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot dead last week in Phoenix by an angry gunman calling himself a patriot. Other Sikhs are facing harassment and humiliation in our airports, and every American should deplore this backlash. It is morally repugnant.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Indian and Pakistani Americans died in the attacks, too; and they have become targets of retaliation in the aftermaths. In Dallas, a Pakistani Muslim grocer named Waqar Hassan was shot dead in a hate crime on Saturday.

In New Jersey, businesses owned by Indian Americans have been spray painted with crude epithets, warning them to leave town. Such intimidation is reminiscent of the KKK or Nazi Germany. It has no place in modern America, and all of us must stand with our neighbors in the face of such ignorance and hatred.

I am reminded of the remarks that were made on the floor of the House last Saturday morning between 12:45 and 2 a.m. in the morning when the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) said on this floor in a comment or remarks that she made on the resolution, we had to condemn this kind of bigotry, that she was locking arms that weekend with religious leaders in her community, rabbis, ministers, priests, imams and others, and walking through the streets of her community in solidarity against this kind of repression and intimidation.

Mr. Speaker, mosques and temples have been vandalized, business owners shot and killed, school children taunted, and women attacked with stones and knives. As we have just heard from the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. COOKSEY), in this House a colleague referred to the head covering some Sikhs or Muslims wear out of respect for God as a diaper, and his spokesman went on to say that all turban-wearing airline passengers should be taken aside and questioned.

Mr. Speaker, this runs directly against the very ideals that make our country great. It runs against the ideals of equality of tolerance of diversity and, yes, our own democracy. We are a Nation built by immigrants, a Nation that is stronger, not weaker for the many people and cultures who proudly call it home, and we must stand united as one people in this difficult time and this time of crisis.

So I say to my friends and colleagues here in the Chamber and across Amer-

ica, when this happens, join with your brothers and sisters of different faiths and races and nationalities and ethnicities and bind together and show your support for those who have been singled out unjustly.

America will prevail against terrorism, and we will prevail not just through the strength and the courage of our military but through the enduring strength of our most cherished principles. Only if we stand by our ideals and our neighbors will we successfully defend the Nation that we love.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE FOR MILITARY RETIREES

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the people tonight about the terrible tragedy that occurred a week ago Tuesday, about the terrible loss of life for not only people who serve in the military at the Pentagon, the folks that worked at the World Trade Center, the people on those airplanes, but the firefighters who lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. I think it has caused us all to reflect and hopefully appreciate more those people who work every day to look out for us.

It also brings to mind the importance of rewarding those people who serve us, treating them well, paying them well, giving them the best possible equipment because as the President spoke last night, they will be called upon in the very near future.

One of the promises that has been made to those people for decades, certainly since World War II and in the Army recruiting those years all the way up to 1991, was a promise of free lifetime health care if they served their country honorably for 20 years or more in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform my fellow citizens that because of the failure of an agreement between the Department of Defense and Medicare those military retirees who were hoping to take that benefit to a military treatment facility will probably be turned away on October 1.