

will not have votes. My best advice to all of us is to plan on votes next Friday; and as soon as it becomes evident that we will not have business to conduct on Friday, I will advise all the Members and the leadership on the gentlewoman's side of the aisle as soon as possible.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman anticipate and expect the bankruptcy conference report to come up next week?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry.

I believe it is very possible we might be able to bring that to the floor next week, so I would expect Members to anticipate it being on the schedule. I have not worked out the final clearances on that bill, but I do think I will by the end of the day.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an inquiry about the Labor-HHS bill. As our kids are back to school, education is the number one issue that faces the country. The bill that is before us cuts education about \$7.2 billion below H.R. 1, the authorization bill the President signed last year; and it does not have an increase for inflation and no increase for school enrollment in it.

When does the gentleman expect the Labor-HHS bill to come to the floor of the House?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman again for the inquiry.

The President's budget and our own budget allows us to bring that bill to the floor with a 5 percent increase over last year's appropriation. We will be working with the committee of jurisdiction on that, and it is my anticipation we can move so; but I do not see the possibility right now to announce any scheduling of it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the answer to the scheduling question, but I might add that there really is a freeze on education, so that is an elusive 5 percent.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield further, I would just mention that the gentlewoman makes the debate entertaining and informative, and I do appreciate it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

This is an institution where rumors fly all of the time. This is about rumors of a lame duck session. Would it not be better if we tried to get the work that we need to get done, and I understand that there is a lot of work to get done, and that we get it done as we try to meet an October deadline? So my question is, will there be a lame duck session? Does the gentleman anticipate that is what we are going to be faced with?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again I thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry. At least I can speak for this Member and say in pointing out that any discussions of lame ducks are somewhat unnerving to this Member at least. Obviously, we are disconcerted a

little bit for the failure of the other body to produce a budget and maintain some basis by which we might work out some of our differences.

I, for one, am not ready to concede that a lame duck will be necessary or in fact will be part of our experience. I believe that at some point between now and, say, the middle of October, we will come to a point where we will be able to complete our work for the year and perhaps even for this Congress. So at this point I do not speak in terms of a high probability for what is referred to as a lame duck session.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I think we concur on the issue to avoid a lame duck session. But does the gentleman think we will go beyond October 4 in terms of adjournment?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again, if the gentlewoman will yield, it has been my experience in the years I have been here that it is most probable that we will in fact be in session for at least a week beyond the 4th. That is just a matter of sort of practical prognosis, given the experience.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

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

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.

EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALYNE BYRD

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this body join me in wishing my mother-in-law, Alyne Byrd, a most happy birthday this weekend.

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

There was no objection.

GROWING HUBRIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend

his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the European Union is threatening to refuse food and livestock exports from African countries now facing famine which also accept any food assistance from the United States that might include genetically modified grains. This is economic blackmail, and many people in Africa will be forced to pay with their lives because of starvation.

In EU countries, where healthful food is plentiful and is subsidized to a degree that is unmatched elsewhere in the world, it is easy to spread harsh, emotional rhetoric on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. However, EU countries must examine the issue of GMOs from the perspective of Third World countries which face debilitating famines. Third World countries desperately need enriched, disease-resistant, drought-tolerant GMO seed to provide a steady, nutritional food source to feed their people.

We Americans have too passively watched the Luddites in the EU use their emotion-driven fears to stop American GMO exports, but it is absolutely intolerable that they are blackmailing African leaders to reject American food aid in the face of famine in that continent.

European Union countries certainly have a moral obligation to investigate GMOs through sound science techniques, not simply passing regulations on the basis of opinions of the European mass media and popular culture.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Sept. 4, 2002]

U.S. CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR

Some African nations choose ignorance and death.

What a wrenching picture starving Zambians standing outside a bulging grain distribution warehouse, grain sacks empty. "Please give us the food," an elderly blind man pleads with aid workers. "We don't care if it is poisonous because we are dying anyway."

Ironically—if that word is strong enough to cover impending death—the food isn't "poisonous" at all. It is the same food that Americans, Canadians and people from many other countries eat daily. It contains some grain that is genetically modified, but the major safety concern is the remote possibility of allergic reactions in some people.

Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has told the United Nations and the United States that his nation would "rather starve" than feed biotech corn to its people. He personally, of course, is not starving.

The country has turned down more than 50,000 tons of corn from the United States. About 2.5 million Zambians are in danger of dying if help doesn't come quickly. In rural areas of the country, where drought and government mismanagement have devastated the fields, many people are reduced to eating leaves and twigs.

Estimates indicate that 13 million people in six southern African nations, including Zambia, are facing famine. Zimbabwe and Mozambique have also refused American help. Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland have taken U.S. food aid.

As usual, it is the United States that stepped up to help these countries, not the well-fed European nations that are leading

the mob against biotech crops. When that aid is refused by a president who would rather let his people die than believe the sweeping evidence that biotech grains are safe for the vast majority of people—well, the ignorance and callousness are just staggering.

The United States can only offer. It should continue to do so. Sad as all of this is, the innocent victims of famine and ignorance are not on America's conscience.

AFRICAN FAMINE, MADE IN EUROPE
(By Robert L. Paarlberg)

Southern Africa is suffering its worst drought in a decade. The U.N. World Food Program estimates some 13 million people in six countries will need 1.2 million tons of food aid till March 2003 to avoid famine. Yet two countries, Zimbabwe and Zambia, have spent most of the summer rejecting food aid shipments of corn from the U.S. because some varieties of U.S. corn are "genetically modified" (GM). Incredibly, African leaders facing famine are rejecting perfectly safe food. What is going on here?

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Farmers in the U.S. have been planting (and Americans have been consuming) genetically engineered corn, soybeans and cotton since 1995. Regulatory authorities in the EU and Japan have also approved such GM crops, but in Europe food safety regulators have been mistrusted by consumers ever since the unrelated but traumatizing mad cow disease crisis of 1996. EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Affairs David Byrne repeatedly states there is no scientific evidence of added risk to human health or the environment from any of the GM products approved for the market so far, and he can point to 81 separate scientific studies, all EU-funded, that bolster this conclusion.

But greens and GM critics in Europe say this absence of expected or known risks is no longer a sufficient regulatory standard. Touting the "precautionary principle," they argue that powerful new technologies should be kept under wraps until tested for unexpected or unknown risks as well. Never mind that testing for something unknown is logically impossible (the only way to avoid a completely unknown risk is never to do anything for the first time).

Europeans can perhaps afford hyper-caution regarding new crop technologies. Even without planting any GM seeds, European farmers will continue to prosper—thanks to lavish subsidies—and consumers will remain well fed. The same is not true in the developing world, especially in Africa, where hunger is worsening in part because farmers are not yet productive.

Two-thirds of all Africans are farmers, most are women, and they are poor and hungry in part because they lack improved crop technologies to battle against drought, poor soil fertility, crop disease, weeds and endemic insect problems. The productivity of African agriculture, per farm worker, has actually declined by 9% over the past two decades, which helps explain why one-third of all Africans are malnourished.

This ought to change the calculus of precaution. If GM-improved crops are kept out of the hands of African farmers, pending tests for the "nth" hypothetical risk, or the "nth" year of exposure to that risk, the misery of millions will be needlessly prolonged.

But now we are seeing an even less justified application of regulatory caution toward GM foods. Governments in Africa that are facing an actual famine have been rejecting some food aid shipments because they contain GM seeds. In May 2002, the government of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe rejected 10,000 tons of corn shipped from the U.S. because it was not certified as GM-free. This at

a time when four to six million Zimbabweans approached a risk of starvation

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Precautionary European policies toward the environment are also keeping Africans from growing their own food. The EU has been insisting that governments in Africa treat GM crops as a potentially serious threat to rural "biological safety." This helps explain why there are no GM crops yet being planted commercially anywhere on the continent, except in the nation of South Africa. Instead of helping Africa's hungry to grow more food, European donors are helping them grow more regulations.

African governments also must worry that accepting GM food aid will cost them commercial export sales to Europe. The EU has not been importing any U.S. corn since 1988, because U.S. shipments can contain one GM varieties not yet approved in Europe. African governments now worry that any illicit planting of U.S. corn by farmers could jeopardize their own exports to Europe. Trying to remain GM-free for commercial export reasons is a policy that does not help poor subsistence farmers, but it may soon become the norm in Africa, once the EU moves next year toward much tighter labeling and traceability regulations on all imported GM foods and animal feeds.

DOCUMENTARY RECORDS

Even while professing that GM foods are safe, EU officials will soon require that they be traced individually through the marketing chain, with legal documentary records to be saved by all producers and handlers for five years. African countries won't have the institutional capacity to implement this traceability regulation, so they will have to remain GM-free to retain their access to the EU market. Meat products raised with GM feed are not yet covered by this new EU regulation, but Zambia's initial rejection of GM corn in food aid shipments was partly based on a fear that if the country lost its GM-free animal feed status, poultry and dairy exports to the UK would slump.

By inducing African governments to embrace excessively cautious biosafety, regulations and by requiring stigmatizing labels and costly traceability certificates for all imported GM foods and feeds, wealthy and comfortable officials in Europe have made it harder for drought-stricken societies in Africa to accept food aid from the U.S. European critics of GM foods did not foresee this potentially deadly misapplication of their precautionary principle. Yet here it is.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 3, 2002]

THE "PURE" AND STARVING POOR
ENVIRONMENTALISTS STIFLE MODERN
AGRICULTURE IN THE THIRD WORLD
(By James P. Pinkerton)

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa.—The apartheid system is gone, but many here at the World Summit on Sustainable Development seem to want to bring back a form of "separate and unequal"—for South Africa and for the rest of the Third World—in the form of environmental regulation that would stifle economic development.

Politically correct greens, of course, recoil at the thought of any kind of racism, but actions speak louder than words. So if ecological activists from the developed countries of the north push policies that would retard agriculture in the developing south, consigning billions to permanent poverty, maybe they deserve to be labeled "neo-apartheidists."

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Today, greens still seem intent on keeping Third Worlders innocent of advanced civili-

zation—even if that means keeping them poor. One flashpoint issue is genetically engineered food. In the last two decades, this food has become a part of our lives. Indeed, genetically engineered-derived vaccines and medicines—targeted on diabetes, meningitis, hepatitis, cancer—are lifesaving. Maybe that's why I never hear about American environmentalists protesting the advance of genetically engineered techniques; the greens of the U.S. don't dare block American health therapies, which they themselves may depend on.

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The greens of the north want pure food, and they also want the people of the south to stay pure. For their part, poor southerners want more food, period, and if they think genetic engineering will help them, they will fight for it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PREVENTING FOREST FIRES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, millions of acres out west have burned, causing billions of dollars in damage. We were warned in the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health in early 1998 and early 2000 that this was going to happen; and then a few months later in 2000, 7 million acres burned, causing \$10 billion worth of damage.

If I went out and burned down one tree in a national forest, I would be arrested; and yet, because of the policies of the past administration and following these extremist environmental groups, these policies have caused millions and millions of acres out west to burn and caused billions of dollars' worth of damage.

This year, 20 firefighters have lost their lives because of the fires out there. Also one of my constituents, a young woman firefighter in an accident fighting one of the fires, has been paralyzed from the waist down.

Extremist groups, Mr. Speaker, protest any time anyone wants to cut any trees, even though we have many millions more acres in forest land now than 50 or 100 years ago. I will repeat that. We have many millions more acres in forest land now than 50 or 100 or 150 years ago. These groups have driven many small logging companies out of business. Most of these fires have been caused by groups which have stopped even the thinning of forests or the removal of dead and dying trees, resulting in a tremendous buildup of fuel on the floors of our national forests.

The Washington Times had a front page story a few days ago which said, "There are simply too many trees." It