

Would the distinguished majority leader tell us when the bankruptcy conference report would be scheduled?

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

It is particularly timely to talk about bankruptcy within the context where 3.7 percent increase and a 14.2 percent increase is considered a cut. That is exactly the kind of thinking that leads to bankruptcy dilemmas across the country. The bankruptcy bill, too, is an extremely important bill. We intend to do so.

Unfortunately, the bill is inflicted by a totally extraneous provision having to do with abortion put in by the other body. That has made it very difficult for Members who have a commitment on both of these two very important moral issues to reconcile their conflicts between that.

Unfortunately, we risk this bill's passage by virtue of the kind of extraneous riders that are all too commonplace in the other body. This body, being the more disciplined and responsible body, will, as it many times must do, find a way to come to terms with that irresponsibility in the legislative process, and as soon as we have found that way, I promise we will bring that bill to the floor.

Ms. PELOSI. Is the gentleman referencing the provision in the bill that was put in by the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), from the gentleman's own party?

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman's inquiry.

The gentlewoman also understands it is contrary to the rules of the House for me to mention Senator SCHUMER by name, and I would never do that.

Ms. PELOSI. And the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE).

Mr. Leader, can we assume that since here we are, it is 20 after 12 on Thursday, we are in the middle of a great economic uncertainty in our country, America's seniors are clamoring for prescription drug benefits, we need to invest more in education, we have a list of priorities that the American people are concerned about, including their pension security, we came in just the other night, we are going out at 20 after 12 on Thursday and there will be no votes tomorrow, is that our understanding? We finished our business for the week?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, if the gentleman will yield, I appreciate so much the gentleman's frustration. We passed investment security over to the other body in August. We passed the education bill. We passed the prescription drug bill. We passed the homeland security bill.

We in this body are stuck with watching these bills languish in the other body as we await any kind of competent action from the other body. As soon as they can manage to pass any of these bills and get to conference on these bills, we would be willing to sit down and work on these bills, and I promise you we will bring them back for completion.

The gentlewoman is absolutely correct. All of this is too important to the people of this Nation for the other body to continue to dillydally.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think that if there is a person out there who has lost their pension or a senior making a decision about how much of a dosage you are able to afford to take or whether you can even afford to take any prescription drug over purchasing food, or if your child is going to a substandard school and you want a better investment, and the list goes on and on, you would think that what we were doing here is irrelevant, especially when we are not even here. We are missing-in-action on some of the struggles of the American people.

Will the gentleman inform us whether we will have votes next Friday?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the gentleman's inquiry.

Of course, all of these concerns are exactly why our pension bill was passed out of this body, as I said, last April.

Whether or not we are able to have votes on Friday will depend upon the appropriators, particularly those appropriators that must reconcile themselves against the excesses of the other body. But we will try to get these bills to the floor, and I will announce as early as I can whether or not there will be votes on Friday.

Ms. PELOSI. So it is our understanding we are leaving at 20 after 12 on Thursday, coming back at 6:30 on Tuesday, and we may be out next Friday?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentlewoman will yield, the incredible thing, Mr. Speaker, is that even keeping these hours, we get three times as much work done as is done in the other body.

Ms. PELOSI. Our standard must be the standard we set for the American people, and we cannot hide behind anyone else's schedule. We have leadership that we can take ourselves to meet the needs of the American people.

I thank the distinguished majority leader for the information, and, as always, his gracious presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would remind Members that references to the Senate or to Senators are closely circumscribed by the rules and inappropriate references must be avoided.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2002, TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, September 13, 2002, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, 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.

LAYING ON THE TABLE CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following resolutions be laid on the table:

H. Res. 464;
H. Res. 500;
H. Res. 501;
H. Res. 506; and
H. Res. 508.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-261)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for 1 year. Proclamation 7463, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist

Attacks, was published in the *Federal Register* on September 18, 2001 (66 Fed. Reg. 48199).

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2002, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2002.

WELCOMING BULGARIAN PRESIDENT GEORGI PARVANOV TO AMERICA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, I welcomed Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov to Capitol Hill, along with Ambassador Elena Poptodorova and Foreign Minister Solomon Passy. Joining me in this meeting were the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), who are two members of the newly formed Bulgaria Caucus, also cochaired by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

The Bulgarian caucus was created to spread awareness in America about Bulgaria's strategic location and critical assistance in the war on terrorism. Members of the Bulgaria Caucus are also strongly committed to helping Bulgaria gain admittance to NATO this November.

President Parvanov presented proclamations to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) and I to honor the creation of the Bulgaria Caucus. The presidential proclamation affirms "Bulgaria is committed to standing by the United States in the war on terrorism for the long haul," and that the leaders of Bulgaria are looking forward to working with members of the Bulgaria Caucus to further interest and awareness in America about Bulgaria.

□ 1230

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of South Carolina). 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.

SADDAM'S VIOLATION OF U.N. RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the wake of the remarks by the President of the United States before the United Nations, words that reso-

nated not only around this Nation but around the world, to respectfully repeat the question the President asked that august and historic body today: Will the United Nations choose to be relevant on the planet Earth?

As the President described, Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, has systematically and continually violated 16 United Nations resolutions over the past decade. The United Nations, for incomprehensible reasons, has chosen to retreat in the face of Hussein's audacity.

Mr. Speaker, we must learn the lessons of history. Over 60 years ago, Neville Chamberlain retreated in the face of tyranny in Central Europe when he returned to the people of England and held aloft a sheet of paper, an agreement of peace with the dictator of Germany, and pledged that he had achieved peace in our time.

For the past decade, the United Nations has repeated the mistakes of the past. President Bush demonstrated by his speech in the United Nations that he will not play the role of a modern-day Chamberlain, but he has chosen to play the role of Churchill. As the President said today, Saddam has made the case against himself. A dictator who routinely murders his own people, harbors terrorists, develops weapons of mass destruction is a threat to the civilized world.

President Bush has made the case for military action against Iraq, and it is now time for the United Nations to fully support regime change in that nation and for that people.

Iraq has refused weapons inspections for almost 4 years. Mr. Speaker, 4 years is 4 years too long. Are we to believe that Saddam Hussein stopped developing biological and chemical weapons and his pursuit of nuclear capability at the exact moment he prevented weapons inspections from going forward? As the President said memorably today to the United Nations, logic and common sense scream otherwise.

Are we willing to gamble, as the President asked, the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people on the possibility that Saddam Hussein can be trusted, or is it more reasonable to assume that when that dictator attains a nuclear weapon, that he will be prepared to use it?

Saddam Hussein has already used weapons of mass destruction. A nuclear capability is simply the next and logical macabre step. As the President said today, this is a gamble that opponents of military action are taking in the world. It is a gamble that I and many in this institution, as the debate ensues in the weeks and months ahead, I pray will not be willing to take.

Mr. Speaker, military conflict is a serious business. There is not a night that I do not go into my 11-year-old son's room late, pull up the covers and brush back his hair, that I am not aware of the cost of war. But I must say today, the risk of inaction against this malevolent dictator, who has

flaunted the resolutions of the civilized world, is greater than the risks of action.

The United Nations, as the President said memorably today, Mr. Speaker, was designed to be able to respond to threats from dangerous dictators who threaten the peace of the world. I say again that question which the President asked today. The United Nations must now choose whether it will be relevant on planet Earth.

If they choose against relevance, as the President was clear today, let the world be assured that by this Congress and its war powers authorizing our Commander in Chief, the United States and its courageous allies will not choose irrelevance; we will choose justice. We can seek the safety and security of our people and the people of the civilized world.

ELECTIONS IN KASHMIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the House floor this afternoon to express my deep concerns regarding the upcoming elections in Kashmir, which begin on September 16.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to first make it clear that Kashmir is a state within India, which is the largest democracy in the world. Given that India has operated under the traditions of democracy since independence, I am confident that Indian officials and their electoral commission are doing everything possible to ensure that the elections proceed under free and fair circumstances.

In fact, this week myself and some of my colleagues who are members of the India Caucus met on a bipartisan basis, I should say, with the external minister, Sinha; and he told us very dramatically that the Indian Government, together with the electoral commission, are doing everything possible to make sure that these elections are held in free and fair circumstances. They have learned some of the lessons from the past about how to improve the voter turnout and to make sure that violence is not committed against those who would choose to exercise their right to vote.

However, my concern stems not only from increased infiltration of terrorists at the Kashmiri line of control, but also from the surge of violence in the Kashmir region by Islamic fundamentalists, whose primary purpose is to thwart the elections in Kashmir.

It is no coincidence that the new wave of infiltration at the border and the specific violence aimed at candidates running in Kashmir are occurring now just days prior to the beginnings of the election. On a near-daily basis for over a year, we have been witnessing cross-border terrorism in Kashmir that has led to countless murders