

about the schedule of next week, and I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, October 1 at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and 12 o'clock noon for legislative business. The majority leader will schedule a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to the Members' offices tomorrow. Recorded votes on Tuesday will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

For Wednesday and the balance of the week, the majority leader has scheduled the following measures for consideration in the House:

H. Res. 559, a House resolution on expedited special elections;

H. Res. 543, expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on H.R. 4019, making marriage penalty tax relief permanent; a continuing resolutions; and S. 2690, the Pledge of Allegiance Reaffirmation Act; and Conferees are also working hard to complete work on the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act conference report. It is our hope that the conference report will be available for consideration in the House next week as well.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

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

From what I can tell from what he read, next week we will have another week of heavy lifting: a House resolution on special elections, sense of the Congress on making tax relief permanent, a continuing resolution reflecting the fact that we have not finished our business, and the Pledge of Allegiance Reaffirmation Act.

We all want to reaffirm our Pledge of Allegiance, but we can do that by pledging allegiance not only to the Flag but to the American people. They are still crying out for us to take action, to grow the economy, to create jobs, to educate our children, to provide a prescription drug benefit, access to health care, protect Social Security, preserve Medicare, give us a prescription drug benefit under Medicare; and we are having resolutions and hoping to complete our work on the defense bill.

I have some questions for the gentleman. Will the resolution on Iraq be brought up on the floor next week? If not, when do you think it will be brought up?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in response to my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), I would like to say that on the list of things she mentioned, the House of Representatives passed virtually all of that legislation, sent it to the Senate. We would like to

see it come back and would like to take final action on it and hope that the conference reports on defense and military construction and other conference reports would produce some of that work next week.

In terms of Iraq, there is hard work on a bipartisan bicameral basis to get a resolution that I personally would be pleased to see come to the House next week, but we are working hard to have a resolution that has broad agreement to deal with this very important question.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Can the distinguished gentleman inform us when H.R. 3450, to reauthorize community health centers, might be scheduled? Twelve million Americans who are served by the centers are waiting to hear. I was hoping it might be a suspension on Tuesday.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, at the gentlewoman's request, I am told it will be on suspension on Tuesday, and I look forward to seeing that bill come to the floor as well.

Ms. PELOSI. To the best of the gentleman's knowledge, will there be votes next Friday?

Mr. BLUNT. I think there very likely will be votes next Friday; and certainly if we are able to move on the Iraq resolution, there will definitely be votes on Friday.

Ms. PELOSI. We have given up Monday of next week already?

Mr. BLUNT. We are working Tuesday, not Monday.

Ms. PELOSI. What is the leader's latest prediction on when the House will adjourn before the election? Closer to October 11 or 18? And when do you believe we will return for a lame duck session?

Mr. BLUNT. I am certainly in no position to predict that. I think there is a discussion with the leaders on both sides of the building. We want to adjourn, of course, in conjunction with our friends on the other side of the building. I would anticipate that the continuing resolution next week will go through the 11th; and hopefully by the time we get into that period, we will have either resolved some of the appropriations concerns, or we will be looking at the time between now and the election in a more definite way.

Ms. PELOSI. I certainly hope so. And I hope that we can work together to pass more of these appropriations bills. We have taken them up in committee. Some of them are ready. In fact, the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs last Thursday on the floor asked when his bill would be taken up. We are working on transportation, but we passed District of Columbia today. So many of these bills are ripe for coming to the floor. That is why I am disappointed not to see them on the schedule because when we pass up votes on Monday, I remind my colleagues that is September 30, the last day of the fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, and

once again there are no appropriations bills scheduled to be on the floor. We used to say, and you know the expression, you are a young man, "Thank God it's Friday." Around here it is "Thank God it's Thursday." Now the Republican leadership is giving us a work week that ends on Thursday afternoon. I am sure hard-working Americans who are holding down two jobs to support their families and work more than 40 hours a week would appreciate a schedule like this.

We spent weeks telling the other body that they have made no progress taking care of business we think they should be doing, and yet we have neglected so many of our own responsibilities. We have eight appropriations bills to fund the entire government that the House has yet to consider: education, veterans' medical care, transportation, agriculture, energy. The list goes on and on. And the disappointment is that these are being held up because an element, not the entire, but an element in the Republican Party wants to cut \$7 billion out of education and you do not have the votes to do that; so you cannot bring it to the floor and therefore we are engaged in this business of one CR after another.

I thank the gentleman for the information.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 559, EXPEDITED SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time to consider in the House H. Res. 559; the resolution shall be considered as read for amendment; the resolution shall be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, Representative Cox of California and Representative FROST of Texas; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 30, 2002,

it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BLUNT. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 4561, FEDERAL AGENCY PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 4561.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 4125, FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 4125.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002, TO FILE REPORT H.R. 5428, CONSERVATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may have until midnight on Monday, September 30, 2002, to file a report to accompany H.R. 5428.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1945

APPOINTMENT OF HON. JAMES V. HANSEN TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 26, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES V. HANSEN or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through October 1, 2002.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

STANDING FIRM FOR THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 20 years, the people of Sudan have been engaged in a civil war. The government in Khartoum, known as the National Islamic Front, has been ruthlessly terrorizing its own citizens in the south, killing and starving those who are not Muslim Arabs.

This religious hatred has evolved into genocide. Christians in southern Sudan are the subject of ethnic cleansing. Over 2 million people have died. Over 4 million people have been displaced. The war in Sudan is clearly one of good versus evil.

If this persecution was not bad enough, southern Sudan is a source of enormous oil reserves, causing the National Islamic Front to literally clear a path of black Christians in order to reap the benefits of this commodity.

Sudan is perhaps the most prominent purveyor of slavery, an atrocity of unspeakable proportions. Women and children are subjected to extreme cruelty. Men are removed from their families and given Arabic names before experiencing the worst of conditions.

There have been many prayers and vigils for the people of Sudan recently. I commend those who speak up for the persecuted and enslaved in the south of Sudan, and I urge the Sudanese government to resume peace talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army. We must have peace, Mr. Speaker, in Sudan.

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER 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.)

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF RUSSIAN DUMA AND FEDERATION COUNCIL

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to what has been a very exciting week.

Members of this body and the other body played host to four separate groups of our colleagues from the Russian Duma and Federation Council. These groups were involved in intense discussions involving cooperation on antiterrorism, on projects involving health care, energy, programs to improve the conditions of the people of Russia and the relationship between the U.S.

In fact, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) chaired one delegation, and we had Members of other groups in the Congress chair other delegations. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) was hosting a group that was focusing on veterans benefits and ways to construct housing support for the military in Russia. It has been a good week.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday a group of our colleagues, 12 to be exact, from both sides of the aisle played host to one of the rising young companies in Russia, an energy company known as ATERA and their CEO Igor Makarov. The members of the bipartisan delegation that traveled to Russia last May were hosted by ATERA as they had been hosted in previous delegations by the officials from GASTFIRM, LUKoil and other major energy companies, including Yukost and our friend Mikhail Korofko.