

the Government Reform Committee due to my appointment as the Ranking Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

JIM TURNER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

□ 1900

ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DELEGATES TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 52) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 52

Resolved. That the following named Members and Delegates be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Ballance, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Case.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Israel, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Meek of Florida, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Alexander.

(3) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Ms. Majette.

(4) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Case, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Majette, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. Van Hollen.

(5) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Emanuel (to rank immediately after Mr. Miller of North Carolina), Mr. Davis of Alabama.

(6) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez, Mr. Ruppertsberger.

(7) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Millender-McDonald, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania.

(8) COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Bell.

(9) COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES: Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Cardoza, Ms. Bordallo.

(10) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE: Mr. Bell, Mr. Bishop of New York, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Davis of Tennessee.

(11) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Ballance, Mr. Ryan of Ohio.

(12) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT: Mr. Mollohan.

(13) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Michaud.

Mr. CLYBURN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purposes of inquiring of the distinguished majority leader the schedule for the coming week.

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

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Maryland yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules at that time. There will be no votes in the House before 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m.; and we expect to consider H.R. 395, the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act, to restrain rampant telemarketers. Additionally, we hope to consider the conference report on House Joint Resolution 2, which will finish up the 2003 appropriations process. However, if the conference report is not ready for floor consideration, the House will need to consider another continuing resolution.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. We expect to consider the Welfare Reform Reauthorization Act.

I am happy to answer any questions the gentleman may have.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the information. I would ask the distinguished majority leader, when does he expect the conferees will complete their work on the omnibus? Does the gentleman have any idea?

I notice the gentleman says, "if it is available." Does the gentleman have any information on when it may be available and completed?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I have talked to the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. He is working all through the weekend.

As the gentleman may know, the Republican Caucus is going to spend this weekend in retreat. The chairman and some of the conference members are not going on that retreat so they can work through the weekend. They hope to be able to have a formal conference meeting Monday, Monday evening, and start the formal process at that time, hopefully getting the conference report to the floor by Wednesday.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that answer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know, and as I said last week, because of the process we are pursuing Members are not as knowledgeable, perhaps, as they otherwise would be on exactly what is going on. Can the majority leader inform me as to how much time he would expect to give Members, A, to review the conference report, and then to have consideration of it on the floor, and what procedures might be available to them on the floor?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I cannot advise the gentleman on what proce-

dures may be available to them on the floor.

As the gentleman knows, the conference report is a privileged motion not subject to amendment. The Members, I do not know about the gentleman's side of the aisle, but my side of the aisle are very aware that the appropriations process is ongoing. I have been overwhelmed with requests and issues that are in that bill, as the chairman has, and Members are working as hard as they can to make sure their concerns are taken care of in the appropriations bill and in that process.

We are hoping that the Members will have sufficient time. This is, again, an unusual process, and the bill itself is huge, but we are hoping that we can give the Members sufficient time to review the bill. But if Members are interested, they ought to be consulting with the staff of the Committee on Appropriations right now as to what is in the bill and what might come to the bill so they might be prepared for voting on it on Wednesday.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the staff of the Committee on Appropriations is now very upset with the gentleman for that recommendation.

Mr. DELAY. I retract that remark.

Mr. HOYER. The staff clearly is overwhelmed because they are trying to move ahead, covering 11 appropriation bills, in a short period of time.

I appreciate the gentleman's observation that there is going to be an attempt made to give the Members sufficient time when the report is issued, when the conference report is issued from the committee, to at least have 24 hours to review it and come to grips with what is in it. Because, again, the process has been one in which we have not had many of the bills, as the gentleman knows, on the floor for consideration in the House in the first instance, much less the conference reports, while the Senate, obviously, had a fuller debate on most of the pieces of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman again, I would like to ask him about the Welfare Reform Reauthorization Act which he indicates may be on the floor next Thursday. If it comes on the floor next Thursday, can the gentleman tell me how whether it is going to go to committee, to the Committee on Ways and Means for consideration, or whether it will go directly to the Committee on Rules and be reported out by the Committee on Rules?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we intend to use an unusual procedure to bring the bill straight to the floor because of many reasons, not the least of which is that reforming welfare, as the gentleman knows, has been an incredible success. The reauthorization was vitally important; and many of these programs, these successful programs, are working under short-term extensions. We think it is vitally important to get this program reauthorized and, most importantly, get to the Senate.

I might remind the gentleman that we passed the welfare reform I think 2 years ago and never got through the Senate and sat on the desk, and it never was considered by the Senate. That bill, by the way, has had more than 20 hearings and multiple mark-ups, and we feel that Members have had plenty of opportunity to consider the bill. We want to expedite the process and not jeopardize the great success that we have seen over the time of the welfare reform.

As far as the Committee on Rules is concerned, if the gentleman will continue to yield, it will go straight to the Committee on Rules discharging from the committees. The chairman is standing right beside me. I would anticipate very soon that he will announce a filing deadline for amendments this evening and will meet sometime next week to consider those amendments.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the leader for that information with reference to how it is going to be considered.

As the gentleman, as the leader will recall, and I am sure the chairman of the Committee on Rules will recall, when last considered, the Democrats, the minority, was given a substitute, and a waiver was given with respect to that substitute as well. We would hope that that would be repeated again this year.

Again, notwithstanding the accelerated consideration, clearly we would hope that we would be able to offer, with an appropriate waiver, an alternative to the proposal that emanates from the Committee on Rules.

Could the leader tell me whether that is the intention?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield further, Mr. Speaker, I have watched the chairman of the Committee on Rules work for many years now, going on 9 years as chairman of the Committee on Rules, I believe. The whole time that he has been chairman he has, I think, treated the minority with utmost and extreme fairness.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time just briefly, Mr. Leader, we do not have time to debate that issue; but I will yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I think that he is ultimately fair and will treat the minority fairly as it comes to the welfare reform bill.

To be serious about it, I think the minority deserves to be heard on welfare reform, especially welfare reform, and the chairman will treat them fairly.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the last time this bill was considered the chairman will recall a waiver was given because of the budget objections that might lie.

Would the chairman contemplate a similar waiver being offered?

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

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

Mr. DREIER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, Mr. Speaker, and appreciate the kind remarks from the distinguished majority leader.

I just want to say that I am prepared, when this colloquy comes to an end, to make an announcement that we are going to be considering this. What I will tell the gentleman is that, while we cannot at this juncture anticipate exactly what the structure of the rule will be, we clearly do plan to offer the opportunity for Members to submit their amendments. I will say right now, as I will in the announcement, the formal announcement that I will make in a couple of minutes, that we will really have a preference for amendments in the nature of a substitute, which is what we have traditionally done on the issue of welfare reform.

Until our committee works its will on this issue it would be early to say, but as the majority leader has said, we clearly want to ensure that the minority has an opportunity to be heard on this question.

I am hoping very much that we will have strong bipartisan support at the end of the day for what will be truly an historic welfare reform measure that will do exactly what the leader has said; that is, to take advantage and encourage people to get into the work force and create a modicum of responsibility, which is what this is all about.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, as some know, I was one of those who voted for the welfare reform bill.

Mr. DREIER. I know the gentleman did.

Mr. HOYER. I believe that we have made great strides. I believe that there are, obviously, different times that confront us at this point in time; but I think, given where we are, that both sides may still be pretty much in the same position they were in last time.

I would, without asking further questions, urge my friends on the majority side to provide for that full and open debate and not allow a technicality which would result from a lack of waiver to preclude a substantive alternative to be debated on this floor and the different perspectives that Members might have being aired.

I think that is good for the American public, I think it is good for the House of Representatives, and I think it is good for the final product. I would hope that would be done. We certainly anticipated the gentleman's announcement, and we will be offering a substitute in a timely fashion on Tuesday next, as I understand the chairman will announce.

Mr. DREIER. By 5 p.m., Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HOYER. I do not want to announce it for the gentleman, but I appreciate it. I appreciate the comments of the leader and the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2003 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 7; and, further, that when the House adjourns on Friday, February 7, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1915

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. 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 (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of February 10, although I think it is pretty obvious that we are anticipating our meeting in the week of February 10, to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by, as I said earlier, 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11.

Members should draft their amendments to the bill as it was introduced on February 4. Members should be aware that the Committee on Rules intends, as I said earlier, to give priority to amendments offered as complete substitutes.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

SALUTE TO ROBERT L. WALKER

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1