

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.

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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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert L. Walker, who, after 4 years of outstanding service as chief counsel and staff director of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, is leaving to become chief counsel and staff director for the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

Rob served the committee under two different chairmen, myself and my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH). I speak for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the ranking minority member, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), and all of my colleagues on the committee, past and present, in thanking Rob for his nonpartisan dedication to the committee and to the House. We express gratitude to Rob for his tireless work, his sense of fairness, his judiciousness and, most importantly, his impartiality.

Mr. Speaker, Rob Walker is the epitome of the nonpartisan professional staff required by the House and by the Committee on the Standards of Official Conduct for the important position he held. Rob advised the members of the committee and guided the staff in an impartial and absolutely fair manner.

As our counsel, in all aspects of his work Rob brought a profound sense of wisdom and respect for the history and precedents of the committee, the House and the American tradition of equal justice under the law. He carefully and faithfully balanced the rights of the committee and the House with the important due process rights of respondents and witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, Rob came to the committee from the Senate Ethics Committee, where he previously served as counsel. Prior to coming to Capitol Hill, he was a prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and at the public integrity section of the Department of Justice. He has both a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from Stanford University. Rob is married to Dr. Alice Weiss and they have three children: Aaron, Daniel, and Madeleine. Devotion to his family and his distinguished professional record have earned Rob the personal and professional respect and friendship of the members of the committee and his colleagues on the staff.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Rob Walker and his family well in his new position. Although this House and the Committee will miss him, we will long remember his distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a memorial service for *Columbia* shuttle astronaut Dr. Laurel Clark of Racine, Wisconsin.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 16. An act to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 51, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. Friday, February 7, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the valiant crew members of the *Columbia* shuttle mission.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolution 51, the House adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the valiant crew members of the *Columbia* shuttle mission until Friday, February 7, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

511. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the transport of a chemical warfare agent, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1512(4); to the Committee on Armed Services.

512. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Secretary's determination and findings that it is in the public interest to use other than competitive procedures for a specific procurement, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(7); to the Committee on Armed Services.

513. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Extension of DoD Pilot Mentor-Protege Program [DFARS Case 2002-D029] received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

514. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Trade Agreements Act — Exception for U.S.-Made End Products [DFARS Case 2002-D008] received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

515. A letter from the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children: Exclusion of Military Housing Payments (RIN: 0584-AD34) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

516. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Platform Lift Systems for Accessible Motor Vehicles Platform Lift Installations on

Motor Vehicles [Docket No. NHTSA-02-13917; Notice 1] (RIN: 2127-AD50) received December 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

517. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Emmetsburg, Sanborn and Sibly, Iowa and Brandon, South Dakota) [MM Docket No.01-65, RM-10078, RM-10188, RM-10189] received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

518. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's three report on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia for the period of April 1 to September 30, 2001, October 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 and April 1 to September 30, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2376(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

519. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Air Force's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Jordan (Transmittal No. 01-03), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

520. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 34-02 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States, France the United Kingdom, and the NATO AEW&C Programme Management Organisation concerning Projects for the E-3 AEW&C Fleets, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

521. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Production or Disclosure of Official Information in Connection with Legal Proceedings (RIN: 1601-AA01) received January 24, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

522. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Procedures — received January 24, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

523. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

524. A letter from the Director, Information Security Oversight Office, transmitting a copy of the Information Security Oversight Office's (ISOO) "Report to the President" for 2001; to the Committee on Government Reform.

525. A letter from the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's inventory of inherently governmental and commercial activities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

526. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Retirement Coverage and Service Credit Elections Available to Current and Former Nonappropriated Fund Employees (RIN: 3206-AJ72) received January 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

527. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of