

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 248 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR FILING OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 2115, FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of June 9 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2115, Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered the bill reported on May 21, 2003, and is expected to file its report with the House tomorrow, June 6, 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 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10th.

Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure which will be available tomorrow for their review on the websites of both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Rules.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR FILING OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 1115, CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003**

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of June 9 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1115, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2003. The Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill reported May 21, 2003, and is expected to file its report in the House on June 9, 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 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11.

Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill, as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary which will be available early next week for their review on the websites of both the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Rules.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the

most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, and I am glad to see him on the floor, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for next week.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debates and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to the Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on those measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we expect to consider additional bills under suspension of the rules. We also plan to consider several bills under a rule: H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration; H.R. 1115, the Class Action Fairness Act; and H.R. 2143, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act.

In addition to these bills, we may also consider H.R. 1528, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act.

And, finally, I would like to note for all Members that we are making a change in the schedule that was sent to offices at the beginning of the year. We do not plan to have votes next Friday, June 13.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his informing us of the schedule that is contemplated for next week.

Mr. Leader, I do not see Child Tax Credit legislation listed on next week's schedule. I did not hear you talk about that.

We have a bill, as I think you probably know, the Rangel/DeLauro/Davis bill, that will make sure working families and our service members left out of the recently enacted tax bill get the child tax credit they should have. We have sought unanimous consent to bring this bill up, but we have been denied and not successful. There is apparently agreement in the Senate, as we understand it, to take this matter up perhaps today.

When do you expect that we might be able to consider child tax credit legislation on the floor, Mr. Leader?

Mr. DELAY. The gentleman knows that we think we have already done child tax credit in a very meaningful way. Whatever the Senate does, certainly we will take it under consideration, but our schedule and our agenda

that has been announced from the first of the year is that we will have several tax relief bills. Of those bills, maybe this provision that the gentleman is talking about could be included. I do not know, but the Committee on Ways and Means would certainly take it under advisement.

We have scheduled certainly an international tax bill for this summer. We have already announced that we would like to see the total repeal of death tax made permanent. There will probably be another tax relief bill, so there is plenty of opportunity for the gentleman to talk about that provision that the Senate may have left out of the bill signed by the President a week ago.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. He and I may disagree as to the fact that the Senate left it out. It was left out. We agree on that. The Senate, of course, had it in its bill. We did not.

Am I correct then that there are no plans next week to have on the floor of the House as far as you know a child tax credit bill?

Mr. DELAY. I cannot say no plans. As the gentleman knows, in this business you never say never.

I am under the impression that the other body has some sort of package that they have put together. If they pass that package today or tomorrow, the Committee on Ways and Means can certainly take it under advisement and make recommendations to the leadership, and that may happen next week. I just cannot tell the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his observation. I take it then that if the Senate does not pass something over here, that we would have no thought that that would be on the schedule for next week?

Mr. DELAY. If the minority on the Committee on Ways and Means wants to participate in the process, certainly in those tax provisions that are being worked on as we speak by the Committee on Ways and Means, they could certainly participate in that process, try to get their provision in, gather the votes to pass it, and bring it out here, and hopefully they would support a tax relief bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, without taking this further, than perhaps we need to go in a colloquy of this type on the schedule, Mr. Leader. In a serious vein, the minority on the Committee on Ways and Means would love to participate in the process. I would tell the leader, with all due respect and very sincerely, the minority in the Committee on Ways and Means does not believe it is included in the process; and that is of concern to us.

If perhaps you could talk with the chairman, with your persuasive powers, perhaps, in fact, we could participate in the process and perhaps we would be able to offer such an amendment; and, clearly, if that would happen, we would offer such an amendment, I assure the leader. So if he could help us with the chairman of the

committee, that would be greatly appreciated.

Medicare prescription drugs, Mr. Leader, what can you tell us about when we can expect to see Medicare prescription drug legislation considered in the committees of jurisdiction and then on the floor?

Mr. DELAY. As previously announced, we had tried to get Medicare modernization onto the floor before the Memorial Day break. Obviously, there was a tremendous amount of work that needed to be done, and we had to postpone that goal. We have set a new goal, and we hope that we can have Medicare modernization to the floor before the July 4 break. The Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce are working hard to develop a proposal that would modernize and preserve the Medicare program and provide needy citizens with life-saving drugs. But while the complexity of this issue means that our staffs and committees need to be working and they are working very hard, we still hope to have a bill for the House to consider before the end of the month.

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

Lastly, I would ask the gentleman, I have served on the Committee on Appropriations for many years. We have not marked up yet, as the gentleman knows, any bills in subcommittee nor, obviously, in full committee at this point in time. In fact, we have not been given 302(b) allocation, as the leader knows. Would the leader be able to tell us what schedule he now foresees for appropriations bills and when we might do the 302(b) allocations?

Mr. DELAY. The gentleman is absolutely correct. We are way behind in our appropriations process. I am very concerned about that. We had hoped that this year that the House and the Senate could work out an agreement of allocation so that we could work together more smoothly than we have in the past as two bodies. We are still hopeful that we can get that kind of an agreement. But I anticipate the mark-ups in the subcommittee to begin, and I am very hopeful they can start beginning next week. But it is still probably a little too early to tell.

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

Reclaiming my time, obviously, last year the discussion was the failure to pass a budget undermined the appropriations process. Of course, we have passed a budget, I would say somewhat facetiously. That probably undermines the appropriations process as well, but, nevertheless, we are behind, as the gentleman indicates. We are concerned that we get so far behind that we are unable to pass appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year, and I am pleased to hear that perhaps we are moving ahead to start giving the allocation for the subcommittees and having mark-ups perhaps as soon as next week. I thank the gentleman for the information.

#### PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 2115, FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have until midnight, Friday, June 6, 2003 to file a report to accompany the bill H.R. 2115, to reauthorize funds for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, June 9, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MICA. 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

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#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 669

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 669.

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

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

#### MAJORITY DID NOT DO ITS JOB

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would argue that after today's work it is imperative that we put on the floor of the House a relief to many of the children of America, millions in fact.

We did not do our job. This House, the majority, did not do its job. The Senate, the majority, did not do its job by eliminating a tax credit benefit from 6.5 million families, 12 million children. We need to restore the \$400 tax credit that will be given to those families.

Right now we have a study that says military kids are slighted on tax credits. That means the young men and women, the young families in the United States military, their income does not allow them to get a tax credit for the children that they have. Blessed are the poor, they do not get tax cuts.

They do pay taxes. They pay sales tax, payroll taxes. They pay property taxes. It is imperative to pass H.R. 2286, and Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor I would ask that the Rangel-DeLauro bill be put on the floor of the House next week to match the Senate bill so we can restore the \$400 to these families 6.5 million, 12 million children, what a shame.

We do not need to wait for months for tax bills to come. We need to fix our error now and help the working families of America.

#### VETERANS HEALTHCARE ACCESS STANDARDS ACT OF 2003

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans Health Care Access Standards Act of 2003. This bill would establish standards of access to care for veterans who utilize the VA health care system. If enacted the bill would codify the Department's current standard of access to care and would actually require the VA to use alternative community health care resources if the VA is unable to meet their own standard.

In my home State of Florida, there is a backlog of more than 24,000 veterans seeking VA medical care. In my District alone, there are 2,727 veterans waiting for an appointment and another 2,000 who have an appointment but the schedule time is more than 6 months away.

The Department's established access standard for outpatient care is to provide veterans seeking primary care with appointments within 30 days of making the request for such an appointment. However, it is clear to any Member of Congress that has toured