

are completed, we would expect to move those conference reports to the floor as soon as possible.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me just ask my friend maybe in closing, why is there a need for us to be here late next Thursday night? The gentleman says as a possibility.

Mr. PORTMAN. Well, it really depends on what kind of progress we make earlier in the week I suppose. We are going to come in, as we said, Tuesday night and start with suspensions and then we start working on some of these other bills, but it looks as though the Charitable Choice Giving Act and the Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act will take quite a bit of time on Wednesday and Thursday. So, again, we are telling Members they should expect to be here on Thursday night probably to vote on the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for being so forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 15, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. 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 Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE REAL STORY ON IRAQ

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Iraq. I

was privileged to go with the Committee on Government Reform and one can imagine my surprise turning on the evening news the day I got back and watching the national news anchor describe a situation that, quite honestly, I did not recognize and we had just left the country.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not getting the real story on what is happening with our troops in Iraq.

General Conway of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Babylon described to us what he said was a vivid success story. He told us that Iraqis are not concerned that we would stay too long but rather that we would leave too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed by the return to normal life that is present through all areas of Iraq that I visited. The markets are full. In fact, there were traffic jams on the streets of Baghdad. Satellite dishes have sprouted on the roof tops of houses and apartment buildings, probably 25 to 30 percent, and Mr. Speaker, just four or five months ago, possession of a satellite dish was punishable by a year in prison.

The schools finished their school year. They completed the wheat harvest in the area around Tikrit in northern Iraq.

From the standpoint of our military, the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom was prosecuted brilliantly. Mr. Speaker, there is no remaining strategic threat. To be sure, there are still dangers and there are still terrorists, but there is no operational threat in Iraq. Stabilization is now the key goal of our offensive operation. Our troops are charged with finding, containing and killing those who would harm our troops and Iraqi citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw attention to a photograph from the 4th Infantry Division. That is a division from Fort Hood, Texas. This is a picture that I took in one of Saddam's old palaces. Forty-two of the 54 individuals identified as the most wanted of the previous regime have been crossed off this list. The top caption reads, "Saddam's regime is gone and will not be back." At the bottom someone panned, Can you hear me now?

Health care was particularly important to me, bearing in mind that no health care infrastructure improvements have occurred for over 30 years in Iraq. A member of the Civil Affairs Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Keller reported to me that within one of the medical libraries at the medical school he visited no text had copyright later than 1984. Pharmaceuticals that were manufactured in Iraq were useless. They relied upon donations from Kuwait after the combat phase to avert a humanitarian disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in 90 days, schools completed their academic year and conducted testing. Ninety percent of the major cities and towns across Iraq have functioning town councils and city councils, over 500,000 Iraqis are contrib-

uting to their own security. Prisons are on the verge of reopening. The judicial system is up and functioning. Food distribution is not a problem. No humanitarian crisis grew as a result of the combat operations, and although they have a long way to go, the hospitals remain open and functional, and very important to me as a physician, 4.2 million children have been immunized since the first of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this progress within 90 days of the end of the major combat phase, none of these things were in place after 1 year of the conclusion of combat in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a good story to be told to the American people about what has happened in Iraq, and I intend to make that part of my mission.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1304

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, 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 Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SO COMMITTED AND SO RESOLVED

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today the United States is a Nation in mourning. And yet, Mr. Speaker, even as we grieve, we fight. Even as our hearts burst with compassion, our souls burn with resolve. Because today the United States is also a Nation at war.

We are at war for the survival of our Nation and the cause of freedom. And we are at war against the evil that planned and executed the attacks we coldly remember today. That evil we fight today is the same evil mankind

has always fought, the violent lie that with enough brute force, human cruelty can subdue human freedom.

In the 2 years since we declared war on this new, old enemy, the United States has not suffered a major terrorist event on our soil. Thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice by our law enforcement community and thousands more have had justice brought to them by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

Even so, after 2 years, two successful military campaigns, and 50 million liberated Afghans and Iraqis, our dangerous days are still just beginning.

Winston Churchill, in a similar moment at the dawn of the Second World War, braced his countrymen by saying: "We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many months of struggle and suffering." But he would not yield. He understood that in the face of evil, mankind's only option was to wage war by land, sea, and air. He understood that its only objective was victory. Victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terrorists, however long and hard the road may be.

The moral defiance Churchill voiced that day, Americans fired within ourselves that moment 2 years ago when we realized we were at war. Today our Armed Forces are deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq because we are resolved to wage this war for human liberty to its end.

We know now the lesson of 9/11, that freedom and terrorism cannot coexist. This battle will be decided by our victory or by our surrender, in security or in shame.

America will have won or lost, and the brave heroes we mourn today, those who gave their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, the Pentagon, Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world over the last 2 years, will have either sacrificed for virtue or died in vain.

The question, then, before the American people today after 2 armed years of struggle in the face of a relentless evil is whether our will is as powerful as our weapons.

This September 11, let us reaffirm our commitment to freedom and our resolve to end global terrorism everywhere its merciless hatred lurks. For if we stand together so committed and so resolved, we shall overcome. And even now as we look back on the day America came to know evil, we can by the grace of God also look forward to the day America will come to know evil's defeat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California 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 gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

PATRIOT DAY

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, today is Patriot Day, so designated by a law enacted by this Congress in October 2001, that calls on the people of the United States to observe a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives that terrible day. It is a day of national prayer and mourning, a day to honor memories of the 3,016 men, women, and children who perished on September 11, 2001.

In my south Texas congressional district, numerous cities, schools, and civic organizations are holding ceremonies today. I want to especially mention a few events like those being held at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School in Beeville VFW Post 9170, as well as in the Staff Sergeant Ernesto Garcia American Legion Post 633 in Mathis, Texas.

In that moment of silence, we remember all of those who perished and pray for their families and loved ones who endure the pain and loss of that tragic day. We honor especially the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, police and rescue personnel, military servicemembers, and the courageous passengers on Flight 93 who saved hundreds of more lives by stopping that fourth plane which crashed in Pennsylvania. They are the true heroes and patriots. And so are the tens of millions of Americans who on that day answered their Nation's calls by contributing to relief efforts and helping those in need.

As we commemorate the terrorist attack on America 2 years ago, we also reaffirm our resolve as a Nation to fight the scourge of international terrorism, to destroy the abilities of al Qaeda to mount deadly attacks against innocent civilians in the United States, the Middle East, and beyond. Achieving that goal will require the concerted effort of all civilized nations. Even as we pay tribute to our troops defending our freedoms abroad, we applaud the President for turning to the United Nations to help in the major effort that lies ahead in rebuilding Iraq.

In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, Congress responded with unprecedented unity and speed. We authorized the President to use all necessary force to destroy the al Qaeda network and the Taliban government that provided it safe harbor in Afghanistan. We enacted legislation to strengthen our homeland security. New laws overhauled our airport security system, fortified our borders, and provided our intelligence and law enforcement agencies with new tools to track

down terrorists at home and abroad. And we worked together with the President to establish the Department of Homeland Security. But much more remains to be done to secure our homeland to make Americans safer and more secure.

Providing for the common defense as set forth in the preamble to the Constitution is our first responsibility as Members of Congress. We need to improve the protection of our borders by hiring more border patrol agents and inspectors and by employing technology to monitor every mile of our borders around the clock. We also need more extensive security protections for our commercial ports, and we need to provide our first responders with the equipment and training they need to respond to another terrorist attack.

As we remember 9/11, we also recognize that some positive things have come out of this tragedy. All across America we see a renewed sense of community, a feeling of patriotism and greater appreciation for the freedoms and the liberty that make our country great.

In the aftermath of September 11, a Newsweek poll found that fully 78 percent of the public felt more patriotism and love of country.

□ 1315

It is estimated that more than half of American households proudly display the flag on their homes or automobiles compared to 15 percent before September 11.

A recent CNN-USA Today poll shows that an overwhelming majority of Americans, 70 percent, are extremely proud to be an American. They are proud of what our country stands for and proud to live in the greatest democracy in the history of the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope that this renewed sense of patriotism, of fellowship with our local communities, of compassion for those in need, and respect for those who protect and defend us will strengthen, comfort, and sustain us in the great struggle that lies ahead.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the gentleman from Minnesota's (Mr. GUTKNECHT) position.

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

There was no objection.