

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

Mr. Speaker, the majority leader mentioned two appropriations bills, the District of Columbia and the Military Construction bill. Can the gentleman give me an estimate, if he knows, of what days those two bills will be considered?

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. I would expect to see the stock options bill legislation and the D.C. and Military Construction appropriations bills earlier in the week. The U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and the Marriage Protection Act would be Thursday or Friday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman said the Morocco Free Trade will be early or later?

Mr. DELAY. Later.

Mr. HOYER. Later.

Mr. DELAY. Thursday or Friday.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman anticipated my two questions, I see.

The conference reports, will we be considering the DOD appropriations conference report next week?

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. I have every expectation that the DOD conference will be finished and ready to go and voted on sometime next week, but I am not advised as to when during the week that we might anticipate voting on it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, there has been a lot of discussion, and I have read some things in the newspaper and heard discussions, about the child tax credit bill which has been pending for some time in conference.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not there is an intention to move that out of conference; and, if so, what condition will it be in in terms of what will there be in the bill, if the gentleman knows, in addition to the originally passed child tax credit? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. We have been working to extend the child tax credit, the 10 percent tax bracket, and the marriage penalty tax relief provisions from the 2001 and 2003 tax bills. I would anticipate that the bill, well, I cannot say what else might be in the bill. The conference has yet to be called into a meeting, but in discussions with the other body, it seems to be that most want to keep this bill as simple as possible; and I hope we can find a way to send these tax measures to the President before the August recess.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have a view that if there was some disagreement and an agreement could not be reached on the other matters above and beyond the child tax credit, would the gentleman's expectation be that the child tax credit might be moved independently? Could the gentleman see a scenario that would result in that? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, that is speculation and I hate to speculate, but I know that this House has voted several times on these issues, and I know that the House wants to see a 10 percent tax bracket, the marriage penalty, and the child tax credit provisions to be extended and funded; and I would tend to think that the bill would have to come back with at least those provisions in it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3313, what day does the gentleman anticipate we will consider this bill? That is the Defense of Marriage Act. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I expect that that will come on Thursday. As the gentleman knows, sometimes these appropriations bills take longer than we anticipate. If they do, then it could be pushed over into Friday, but our intention is to bring that bill to the floor on Thursday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would hope that during the consideration of the child tax credit, assuming the conference is going to meet, that our conferees be included in that conference. As the gentleman knows, we feel pretty strongly about the fact that if conferences are held, those Democratic conferees that have been appointed by the Speaker need to be invited and to be able to participate in those. So I would urge that to occur when and if that conference is convened.

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

Mr. HOYER. I am glad to yield.

Mr. DELAY. I would have every reason to believe that if we can get the other body to call the meeting, then, surely, the Democrats on the conference committee, along with the Republicans, would all have invitations to that meeting.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

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

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

There was no objection.

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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES ON AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3313, MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of July 19, 2004, to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act of 2004. The Committee on the Judiciary ordered H.R. 3313 reported on July 14, 2004, and is expected to file its report with the House on July 19, 2004.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment to the bill 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, July 21, 2004. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. Members also are advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web sites of both the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Rules by Friday, July 16, 2004.

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 that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

UNITED STATES-MOROCCO FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-201)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents prepared by my Administration to implement the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement" or the "FTA"). This Agreement enhances our bilateral relationship with a long-standing partnership in the North Africa and Middle East region. The Agreement will benefit the people of the United States and Morocco, illustrating to other developing countries the advantage of open markets.

This Agreement is a strong demonstration of my Administration's commitment to opening markets, leveling the playing field, and expanding opportunities for American workers, manufacturers, businesses, farmers, and consumers. In negotiating this

Agreement, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement will expand Morocco's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and investment. As soon as this Agreement enters into force, tariffs will be eliminated on virtually all manufactured goods traded between our countries.

The Agreement provides U.S. producers of beef, poultry, wheat, corn, soybeans, and other agriculture products with increased access to Morocco's market, while complementing Morocco's agriculture reform program. In addition, the Agreement provides the opportunity for U.S. producers to adjust to increased imports from Morocco, if necessary.

New opportunities for U.S. services firms will be opened, U.S. investment will be protected, and U.S. companies will be able to participate in government procurement opportunities on the same basis as Moroccan firms. This Agreement has some of the strongest intellectual property protections ever contained in a U.S. trade agreement with a developing country.

The United States and Morocco have agreed to cooperate on environment and Labor issues and to establish mechanisms supporting those efforts. Negotiation of this Agreement has promoted adoption of a new labor law in Morocco. This Agreement has also helped lead to improved domestic environmental laws in Morocco, and a number of additional cooperative projects have been identified for future work.

The approval of this Agreement will be another important step in implementing our plan for a broader Middle East Free Trade Area. Indeed, this Agreement offers the United States an opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation, as we have done with the Jordan FTA and the recently concluded Bahrain FTA. Leaders in Morocco support a reformist and tolerant vision that includes free parliamentary elections, the sale of state-owned businesses, the encouragement of foreign investment that can be connected to broad-based development, and better protection of the rights of women and workers. It is strongly in the interests of the United States to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them. Passing this Agreement is a critical step in that direction.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2004.

□ 2245

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Votes on H.R. 1587, S. Con. Res 114 and S. 2264 will be taken on Monday.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 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 California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

STATEMENT ON SMART SECURITY AND LETTER TO SECRETARY TOM RIDGE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Deforest Soaries, chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, asked Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to consider seeking the authority to postpone a Federal election.

In response, I have composed a letter to Secretary Ridge expressing dismay at the very possibility of postponing an election. The letter has been signed by 90 other Members of Congress. Ninety percent of the Democrats have signed this letter and one Republican.

Mr. Speaker, the leader reads, "Dear Secretary Ridge, we are deeply troubled by reports that the Department of Homeland Security has asked the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel to analyze what steps would need to be taken to postpone the Presidential election in November of this year.

"We are also concerned that this important issue was not raised last week when Homeland Security Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Terrorist Threat and Interrogation Center Director John Brennan briefed Members of the Congress on the possibility of terrorist attacks affecting the upcoming elections.

"Any action taken by the Department of Homeland Security to postpone a Federal election, including requesting an informal review by the Justice Department, would present the greatest threat to date of our democratic process and would invite terrorists to disrupt the selection of our highest leader.

"The mere consideration of postponing an election, the very basis upon which our American democracy is founded, is a capitulation to terrorism. Wars, droughts, floods and hurricanes

have not stopped elections, and the possibility of a terrorist attack must not stop one either.

"This move would be unprecedented for a Presidential election. Not even the Civil War stopped the 1864 Presidential election. In 1864, President Lincoln stated," and I quote President Lincoln in my letter, "We cannot have free government without elections, and if the rebellion could force us to forego or postpone a national election, it might already fairly claim to have conquered or ruined us."

The letter continues, "Moreover, such a proposal suggests that State officials responsible for elections in their region are incapable of deciding for themselves what steps to take in the event of a catastrophe. The legislative branch of the government has always held the authority to regulate elections. Now is not the time to transfer this authority to the executive branch. In the event of a terrorist attack, we trust that the respective legislatures across the Nation will make the right decisions to ensure that our democratic process remains intact.

"Fighting terrorism and preventing terrorists from changing our democratic process is the greatest fight we face in America today, but postponing an election due to the possibility of a terrorist attack, or even in the event of an actual terrorist attack, would represent the greatest possible loss for democracy and victory for terrorism.

"Let us make sure that in the fight against terrorism we do not sacrifice the very values we are fighting for in the first place. We urge you to take no further steps to postpone this year's Presidential election."

Mr. Speaker, this letter is signed by 190 other Members of Congress. Each of these Members realizes there must be a way to both fight terrorism and hold onto the democratic ideals that make our country great. And there is.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, the SMART Security Resolution, which provides a better way to address the threat of terrorism. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism.

SMART would prevent future acts of terrorism. It is more vigilant than the President on fighting terror. Instead of emphasizing military force, SMART focuses on multilateral partnerships and stronger intelligence capabilities to track and detain terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing about our letter in the House, Deforest Soaries revised his previous remarks. He claimed he could not conceive of any circumstances under which a Presidential election could be postponed or cancelled. Apparently, our message has gotten through. We must be smart about how we react to terrorist threats, and that means never sacrificing the democratic principles that make this country great.