

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. He has now said both initially and again about the budget. You have indicated there will be votes on Friday, obviously.

Mr. BOEHNER. I am very sure that next week there will be votes on Friday.

Mr. HOYER. So no doubt in your mind about that?

Mr. BOEHNER. With three appropriations bills and several other bills, and the possibility of doing the budget, we will have our hands full.

Mr. HOYER. I thank you for that. On the energy bills, do you expect any energy-related legislation on the floor next week, refinery siting, for example?

Mr. BOEHNER. It is not likely we will have any energy bills up next week, but there are a number of energy bills that are in the pipeline with regard to the possibility of drilling in ANWR, the CAFE bill continues to move along, and the refinery legislation that did not receive a two-thirds vote under suspension is likely to be back in some form.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. The telecom bill which was reported out of committee, I know it is not on this calendar for the coming week. Could you tell us your expectations of when that might be scheduled?

Mr. BOEHNER. After that bill came out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Judiciary Committee filed a request for a referral on that bill. It has been under consideration this week with the Parliamentarians, and we are hopeful that we will have an answer from the Parliamentarians about this jurisdiction which is holding up the consideration of the bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, would it be your expectation then, once the Parliamentarians make their judgment, that the bill will then be referred to the Judiciary Committee, if that was their judgment, so that it might be some time before that bill came to the floor? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. It depends on the ruling of the Parliamentarians; and until they rule whether there is a jurisdictional claim or not, there is not much that we can do.

Mr. HOYER. All right. Thank you very much for that.

The Voting Rights Act reauthorization, quite clearly that got overwhelming bipartisan support. I know the chairman has worked very hard on that. MEL WATT and other members of the Judiciary Committee have worked very hard on that. Can you tell me when you expect that to come to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I have talked to Chairman SENSENBRENNER and others about the bill. We don't have it scheduled as yet, but we are hopeful that it will be coming to the floor in the near future.

Mr. HOYER. If the budget does come to the floor next week, would you bring

it in the early part of the week or the latter part of the week; do you know? I know you have had some hard work on this. I understand that.

Mr. BOEHNER. As I have indicated, when we think we have the votes to pass the budget, we will bring it up, sooner rather than later, I hope.

□ 1700

Mr. HOYER. That is such a pragmatic approach, and I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Leader, I don't want to end the week on an unhappy note, but you and I had discussions in these colloquies the last 2 weeks in a row. After the tax reconciliation bill was reported out, I asked Mr. RANGEL had he been included in the conferences in any meaningful way. It was his view that he had not. You had made assurances that would happen; I don't mean that you could guarantee that it would happen.

I will tell my friend that the ranking member of the committee does not believe there was meaningful participation by the minority in the consideration of that bill which obviously was a bill of some significant import.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my friend for yielding. You and I did have a conversation about participation. The conversation was centered around the pension reform bill, only because I am a conferee on the pension bill. What happens in other committees and some of these conferences, they all have their own style and own way of doing their conferences. I understand the gentleman's concern, but that was not the reference that I was making when you and I were having a discussion about the pension bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, and I accept the gentleman's explanation. It was my thought that we were talking about both conferences that were then pending. I raised both conferences, but I take the gentleman at his word, he has always been truthful with me, that he was referring to the pension conference. I understand that.

I also understand that he is not in control of everything any more than we are on this side. But I will again reiterate, Mr. Leader, your experience and your performance in terms of dealing in a bipartisan way has been different than some, and we appreciate your view on this.

Whether it is the pension conference or any other conference, particularly bills of significance, we would hope that you would use your good offices to encourage and frankly request that the Chairs of the conferences make sure that the minority is included. After all, as I have said, we represent about 125 million people in this country, maybe more than that, and they should not be excluded.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate your concern. As the gentleman is well

aware, these conferences that occur between the House and Senate trying to resolve the differences in these bills are sometimes dealt with by the majority. I saw it when I was a minority Member of the House. I understand the gentleman's concern.

I will urge my colleagues, my chairmen, to be more open. I share the gentleman's view that we all have a role to play in this institution and having people at the table gives usually a much better product and everyone has a right to voice their approval or disapproval of the actions that the conference is taking.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I think we certainly agree on that.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. 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. PRICE of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW, ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006, TO MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006, AND HOOR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow; that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 4200, FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of May 15 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. The bill was ordered reported by both the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Agriculture.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the

amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4200 which will be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and available on the Web sites of both the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Rules by tomorrow. The amendment in the nature of a substitute consists of the text of the bill ordered reported by the Committee on Agriculture with additional language for section 404 of the bill negotiated between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE MAC THORNBERRY AND HONORABLE JOHN CAMPBELL TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MAY 16, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 11, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY and the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through May 16, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointments are approved.

There was no objection.

WISHING MOTHERS HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

(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 want to take this opportunity just a few days before Mother's Day to wish America's mothers a very happy Mother's Day.

We realize that mothers play so many different roles in our Nation. They are our soldiers, our factory workers, lawyers and doctor and office workers. They are also the workers that make America work; and, of course, our mothers come in all shapes, sizes, religions and of course with enormous diversity.

I wish for them a great and wonderful Mother's Day, and I hope as we plan our future in this Congress we realize that working women or mothers that stay at home care about their children, and that the work we will do will reflect on the goodness of our mothers, whether they are our extended mothers, mothers related to us by blood relationship, or mothers who have simply nourished us.

And might I simply pay tribute to my own late aunt, Valrie Bennett, and my own mother, Ivalita Jackson. For this reason, I think the reasons that mothers are always mothers, it is important to wish them a very happy Mother's Day. To the mothers of the Nation, happy Mother's Day.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

VOICE OF AMERICA

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of Mr. JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect action regarding the porous borders of the United States. They expect and deserve leadership. Here is what some Americans are saying about our porous borders in correspondence they have sent to me.

Terrence Griffin from Spring, Texas, writes, "I am angry and fed up with the inaction and lack of leadership for immigration reform. Vote 'no' on amnesty. Illegal means illegal. Secure the borders first. We as Americans feel like thrown away stepchildren. I am taught that charity begins at home. America looks weak and reckless when it chooses to secure the borders of other nations, feed people of other nations and protect other nations when America is left unprotected, unsafe and insecure."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. William Wainscott in Dayton, Texas, write, "Vote against amnesty and providing social services which are supported by the taxpayers. This has gone too long and too far. Our government law enforcement officials look the other way while our country is being invaded by people who choose to violate and disregard our system, that system being of legal entry and immigration. These illegals represent a major burden on taxpayers. They not only take away low-paying jobs, they take away good jobs. I should know. It is extremely difficult for an American citizen to get a job in the construction field because of the number of illegals getting preference in hiring. I speak from experience as a welder and a fitter. Because of preferential hiring practices of construction companies, the American has to look elsewhere for his employment."

Tracy Blackburn in Spring, Texas, writes, "A Los Angeles attorney brought into the case last week by the Mexican Consul General's office in Phoenix plans to file another motion claiming Maricopa County Attorney officials are violating State and Federal law because supposedly it is the Federal Government's job to control illegal immigration. Well, why is the Mexican Consul General able to use a local lawyer to try to prevent enforcement of American law? They are not U.S. citizens, what gives these people these rights? I am fed up with the illegal trespassers coming in here and demanding rights that they obviously do not have."

I also received a correspondence from a high school student from Humble, Texas. Jack writes to me, "I just wanted to express to you my feelings as part of the generation that will soon be voting. Though it is hard to get our voices out, as we are immediately hushed under the complaints of racism, many of my classmates, whether they are white, black or Hispanic, feel that the restriction of illegal immigrants is obviously a necessary action."

Further, Mr. Speaker, I have received correspondence from Richard of Houston. He says, "As Texans, we are on the front lines of this illegal invasion. If we fail to act, the future of our children, the next generation of Texans, is obviously at risk. I urge you to take all possible measures available, including support of local border law enforcement agencies, with the Texas National Guard to stop the threat to security and to our economy. Texans have always stood tall in the face of threats to our State and Nation. Because of the failure of national leadership, it is now this generation of Texans' turn to defend our land."

I have also received correspondence from Patricia in Houston. She says, "I am writing to let you know how I feel about the immigration issue. We have laws in effect that are not enforced. The illegal immigrants are breaking the law. They come over here and they do not want to melt into the melting pot of people. Please vote to shut down our borders and build a wall. I will even go down there and volunteer to help build that wall if necessary. You might be surprised how many people would volunteer to help build such a wall. And how dare people compare themselves to the immigrants that were our ancestors. They wanted to be Americans. They even changed their names to be more American. These people are taking Texas back one baby at a time and we are just allowing them. Most Americans, specifically those on the border States, feel that we need to close the border but are afraid of being called a racist. It has nothing to do with race, it has everything to do with the law."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I received several cases of bricks from an individual down in Texas. With the cases of bricks that he has sent me this letter, "I am