

Nussle
Reichert

Sensenbrenner
Sessions

Waxman
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1117

Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 16, 2006, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 861, the resolution on the War in Iraq.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote 288, for H. Res. 861, I would have voted "nay" on this non-binding and toothless sham of a resolution, that was not a meaningful legislative document.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2006, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 287 due to a family emergency.

On rollcall vote No. 287, if present, I would have voted "aye."

On June 16, 2006, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 288 due to the same family emergency.

On rollcall vote No. 288, if present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall vote 288, final passage of H. Res. 861: Declaring that the United States will prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary. Had I been able to be here I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 288.

We are in a world war against terrorism, a world war, and Iraq is a major battlefield of that war right now. The reason we are not being attacked in large part here in the United States, in my opinion, is because our young men and women in uniform serving in Iraq are making sacrifices over there, in the middle of the storm, where terrorism has its genesis, where Iran and Syria and other countries are supporting terrorism. The terrorists and their state-sponsors do not want democracy to flourish over there, because they know their days will be numbered if democracy succeeds. The killing of Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi shows that our young men and women fighting over there are making the terrorist days numbered, in my opinion.

I would like to just make one quote from Sir Winston Churchill, when I think about my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and they start talking about how we have to get out of there right now. Sir Winston Churchill, who was one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century, he said in a speech that he made entitled "We Shall Fight on the Beaches," which is very famous, he says: "Wars are not won by evacuations." You do not win by retreating.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4157

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 4157, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purposes of inquiring of the majority leader the calendar.

I yield to my friend Mr. BOEHNER, the majority leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the whip for yielding.

Next week we will convene on Monday at 12:30 for morning hour and 2 o'clock for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A list of those will be sent out by the end of today. Any votes called on these will be rolled until 5 p.m. on Monday. I want to repeat that: 5 p.m. we will vote on Monday.

For the balance of the week, the House will consider on Tuesday, the Department of Defense appropriation bill; Wednesday, the Voting Rights Act, the reauthorization and several amendments; and on Thursday, we will do the legislative line item veto.

I will remind Members there are no votes next Friday.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his information.

The leader and I had a brief conversation, as you recall, with reference to the time when we would vote on Monday. I know that you have considered that, but I would again reiterate, as you know, one of the problems is in order for a Member on the west coast to get here, they need at least until 5:30 to be assured of being available for a vote. I know you must have considered this.

Mr. BOEHNER. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. We have discussed it. It is somewhat problematic, but I think what I would say to my colleague is let me keep working with you to see if we can't come to some agreement. I think 6 o'clock would be too late but 5:30 may work. We will continue to work with you on that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with him on this to accommodate those Members on the west coast in particular.

There is a change in the announced schedule with regard to first votes, as we have discussed, and I appreciate your responding to that.

With respect to the Labor-Health bill, it was our expectation that the

Labor-Health-Education appropriations bill, which was reported out of committee this week, would be on the floor this coming week. As you know, that included within it a bipartisan-approved increase in the minimum wage, by \$2.10, to \$7.25 over the next 30 months. I notice that that bill is not on the schedule for next week. Can you tell me the status of the Health and Human Services appropriations bill?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. We are continuing to work with the appropriators, trying to resolve some issues in order to find a way to bring it to the floor, but we do not expect to consider it next week.

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

If I might follow it up, we would very much hope that the amendment that was adopted, and we believe is supported by over 80 percent of the American public, would be protected under the rule. We obviously understand that it is legislation on an appropriation bill and would require a waiver, as many have been given in the past. I would respectfully request that you look at that and, in light of the fact of the bipartisan support in the committee, seriously consider and hopefully give a waiver so that that matter may be considered on the floor with a vote by the membership.

If you have any comment, I would be glad to yield.

Mr. BOEHNER. I understand your interest.

Mr. HOYER. It will be continuing. I thank you.

We understood next week was supposed to be health care week. Yet no health care legislation is listed. For example, the Health IT or the bill authored by Mr. SHADEGG are not on your announcement. When do you anticipate we may see either of these pieces of legislation on the floor?

Mr. BOEHNER. We were hoping to do that Health IT bill next week. We have got some scoring issues and some what we believe are problems with CBO that we are trying to iron out. So I would expect hopefully those will be ironed out next week and possibly bring that bill up for the following week.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you.

The last question I would ask you, Mr. Leader, you and I have had a discussion. You have been in the leadership of the consideration of the pension reform legislation. Obviously, we all know it is critical to employees, critical to companies. It has been now pending in conference for many, many months. I am wondering whether or not you might give us some thought as to its status and its prospects.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. As the gentleman knows, I do several media events every week where members of the press routinely ask me every Tuesday and every Thursday the same question, and as you know, this is a very difficult issue. Protecting Americans' pensions and the commitments that have been made

to them by their employers is very important, and trying to strengthen the funding rules over these plans is critically important.

I can tell you that there are some issues that we are hung up on. We have had a lot of conversations. We are continuing to have conversations. I am a little more optimistic today than I was yesterday, but we are not there yet. There are Democrat Members who have been involved in at least informal conversations on both sides of the Capitol with regard to how we would proceed, but no timeline yet.

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

As you recall when we discussed this matter, it is still my understanding that the Democratic conferees have yet to be really engaged in the conference proceedings. You and I had a discussion on that, and I would hope that that might happen.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. Most of the Republican conferees have yet to sit down at the table as well. The principals have been involved and the leadership on both sides have been involved, and as I said, there have been a lot of informal conversations with Democrat Members on both sides of the Capitol.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, you indicate that the leadership on both sides of the aisle have been involved.

Mr. BOEHNER. I said Democrat Members have been involved on both sides of the Capitol.

Mr. HOYER. I mean the leadership of the committees is what I was talking about.

Mr. BOEHNER. The leadership on the Senate side and the House side have been engaged in this as well.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the comments and would hope that is the case, and we will talk to our leaders on that so that we can both, working together, move this bill forward.

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. McHENRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006 AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. 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; and further, when the House adjourns on that day,

it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVING MEMBER FROM COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 872) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 872

Resolved, That Mr. Jefferson is hereby removed from the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the resolution?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1130

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD OF ADVISORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors for a term of 2 years.

Mr. Thomas A. Fuentes, Lake Forest, California.

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 Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

IRAQ

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 39 months since our troops were sent to Iraq; and today, more than 37 months after the President declared

their mission accomplished, they are still there, still fighting a guerrilla war for which they weren't properly trained or equipped, still paying for the tragic blunders of their civilian superiors, and still risking life and limb because of a security threat that never even existed.

If American troops are still in Iraq at year's end, and, unfortunately, it appears they might be, we will have been in Iraq longer than these soldiers' grandfathers fought in World War II. The difference is that that was a much different war, with a clearer objective, a national consensus, a moral core, and a just cause.

Not only has Iraq not made us safer; it has actually harmed our national security, making the United States an international pariah, provoking the range of anti-American jihadists around the Muslim world, and stoking the fires of an insurgency that gets stronger every day, every day that we are in Iraq.

And that doesn't even take into account the staggering human cost, the 2,500th American soldier killed just yesterday, more than 1,800 soldiers gravely wounded, thousands of others mentally and physically traumatized by their combat experience, not to mention the countless tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians who died for the cause of their own so-called liberation.

Mr. Speaker, the sham resolution that the Republicans in Congress brought to the floor yesterday and that we voted on just a few minutes ago is yet another partisan divisive attempt to stay the course and to link support for this war to support for our troops.

We could have debated particulars of a military disengagement. We could have a substantive discussion that results in an actual change in the Nation's Iraq policy. Instead, we did nothing more than a little Kabuki dance that at the end of the day won't change a single thing except to prove that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to distort the facts and use the war and our troops for politics.

There is nothing inconsistent about having the deepest contempt for the war, but the utmost admiration for the soldiers on the front lines. Last fall, I traveled to Iraq and visited with our troops. My conversations with them only confirmed what I already knew, that these are uniquely loyal, intelligent, and courageous Americans. They represent the very finest our country has to offer, and they deserve our unyielding gratitude every hour of every day.

If only they had civilian leaders who were worthy of their service and their sacrifice. If only the people who are running this war had half the honor, half the integrity of the men and women who are fighting it. It is because I support the troops that I have advocated so passionately for their return home. And we can do that, and we can do it without abandoning Iraq.

We must establish a multilateral security force to keep the peace in Iraq