

“(1) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of funds to carry out this subsection, award a grant or contract to an independent organization to conduct research on the ability of the centers of excellence to use the funds received under this section to improve the school readiness of children receiving Head Start services, and to positively impact school results in the earliest grades. The organization shall also conduct research to measure the success of the centers of excellence at encouraging the center’s delegate agencies, additional Head Start agencies, and other providers of early childhood education and development programs in the communities involved to meet measurable improvement goals, particularly in the area of school readiness.

“(2) RESEARCH REPORT.—Not later than 48 months after the date of enactment of the Head Start for School Readiness Act, the organization shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Congress a report containing the results of the research described in paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.—Centers of excellence shall annually submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, a report containing a description of the activities the center carried out with funds received under this section, including a description of how such funds improved services for children and families.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to make bonus grants to centers of excellence under subsection (b) to carry out activities described in subsection (d) and research activities described in subsection (e).”

Section 27. General provisions

472. The House bill and the Senate amendment contain similar provisions. The House bill requires written consent for each specific health care service. The Senate amendment also requires consent for referral to services.

House recedes with an amendment to strike “Rule of Construction” and insert “General Provisions”.

473. The House bill requires consent for any health care services. The Senate amendment does not include similar provisions.

House recedes.

Section 28. Compliance with Improper Payments Information Act of 2002

474. The Senate amendment includes a provision on improper payments. The House bill does not include a similar provision.

House recedes.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this conference report contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

GEORGE MILLER,
DALE E. KILDEE,
LYNN WOOLSEY,
DANNY K. DAVIS,
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ,
JOHN P. SARBANES,
JOE SESTAK,
DAVID LOEBSACK,
MAZIE K. HIRONO,
CAROL SHEA-PORTER,
HOWARD “BUCK” MCKEON,
MICHAEL N. CASTLE,
LUIS FORTUÑO,
RIC KELLER,
JOE WILSON,
C. W. BOUSTANY,

DEAN HELLER,
Managers on the Part of the House.

TED KENNEDY,
CHRIS DODD,
TOM HARKIN,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
JEFF BINGAMAN,
PATTY MURRAY,
JACK REED,
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
BARACK OBAMA,
BERNARD SANDERS,
SHERROD BROWN,
MICHAEL B. ENZI,
JUDD GREGG,
LAMAR ALEXANDER,
RICHARD BURR,
JOHNNY ISAKSON,
LISA MURKOWSKI,
ORRIN HATCH,
PAT ROBERTS,
WAYNE ALLARD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

□ 1345

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule II, and the order of House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment of Mr. Irvin B. Nathan as General Counsel of the United States House of Representatives, effective November 12, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would yield to my friend, the majority leader, for an update on next week’s schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the distinguished whip for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday the House will not be in session so that we can observe Veterans Day in honor of those who have sacrificed for our country, served our country so ably and well, and to remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms that we enjoy today.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business and 9 a.m. on Friday. We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A list of those bills, of course, will be announced by the close of business today.

Under rules, we expect to consider H.R. 3915, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and the conference report on H.R. 1429, Improving Head Start Act. In addition, we hope to be able to consider additional conference reports as they become available. And in light of the fact it’s our last week before the Thanksgiving break, if there are other items that come to our attention, we will try to move those forward as well. But we don’t have notice of those at this point in time.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank you for that information. I certainly agree with your observation about our veterans and the appropriateness of us taking the day on Monday to honor them.

On that issue, we went to conference this week on two different bills, and my impression was, based on the combination of the Military Construction and Veterans bill with Labor-HHS, that that veterans part of that bill was probably done. I’m wondering if the gentleman has any sense of how we can reinstate a conference on that bill so that we can get the veterans and the military quality of life, military construction money passed. Is there a plan to go to conference there?

Mr. HOYER. I can’t represent to the gentleman the specific plan because I have not gotten that from Mr. OBEY, what his thoughts are on that or what his discussions have been with Senator BYRD or with the subcommittee Chairs in both of the bodies. However, we certainly intend to move that forward, as the gentleman suggests, as quickly as possible.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I appreciate that. And I would think since essentially it appears that bill has already been conferenced, since it was included with the Labor-HHS bill in conference, that it should be pretty easy to do and hope that we can do it. The President has announced he would sign that bill. The difference in this year’s spending and last year’s is about \$18.5 million dollars a day, and I would hope we could get there.

On the trade agreement this week, I thought we had a significant bipartisan vote on the Peru Trade Agreement. There are three other agreements out there that have been negotiated, and I wonder if the leader has any sense of when we might be able to look toward any of those bills coming to the floor.

And I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for that question on the trade bills. We did have a bipartisan vote on the Peru Trade Agreement which incorporated, as we had urged, both worker protections and environmental protections. And with respect to the other three agreements which have been negotiated, Panama, Colombia and South Korea, frankly, we don’t yet know. As the gentleman knows, with respect to the agreement with Panama, the complication really doesn’t regard the trade agreement as much as it regards the concern that many people have on both sides of the aisle that the Speaker or President of the Panamanian Parliament is under indictment in the United States with an extradition request for the murder of an American soldier. That, obviously, has complicated the consideration of that agreement.

With respect to Colombia, frankly, I want to tell the gentleman, I don’t expect Colombia to come up until next year or South Korea to come up before next year. We obviously have, after

next week, we hope, a short time left to go, maybe six, seven legislative days. So it would be unrealistic to expect us to be able to move these agreements within that time frame. But if we could resolve, I think, the issue regarding Panama, that might be possible.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate that. I'd also say that I was heartened by the good work that Chairman RANGEL and Mr. MCCRERY and others did on the Peru agreement, and certainly, I think I want to continue to reach out to you and the chairman and others who'd like to get things done so these bills could come to the floor.

Colombia is the one that was negotiated next, and because of the Panama complication, it may even be more likely that that could come next.

I would be pleased to yield to Mr. RANGEL for any thoughts he has on that topic.

Mr. RANGEL. Well, it was about the Panama complication, because it was my understanding, to a large extent, that it would be the administration to make the decision or to respond to the answer that you asked of the majority leader. And it's because of the complication that they'll have to decide, politically, as to how they want to handle it, because it goes beyond a trade agreement. It's involved with State Department policy.

And I always get the impression, since the FTA with Korea that's been left out of the discussion with me, that when the administration believes it has completed its negotiation on the executive level, then they too would be coming back to the Congress.

And of course Colombia has its own special problems, which we can talk about at a different time. So I just wanted to say, as it relates to Panama and Korea, it was my impression that the administration has to make some major decisions before we can respond.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I appreciate that. And I do know that the chairman has worked hard with the U.S. Trade Ambassador and others, and I'm appreciative of that. And the administration, as this process works, will decide whether to send those up, but I know that they will do that in significant consultation with the chairman and ranking member and, I hope, others in the leadership. And these are important discussions.

I thought we had a significant step in the right direction for our neighborhood this week. To have all of the leaders of both parties vote for a trade agreement was a good sign about the future of our relationships with Panama and, I hope, a good sign about how we approach more of these trade agreements.

The other question I had also relates just on the Armenian resolution. I know that a lot of things have happened in regard to that resolution. But I also know that the leader, 3 or 4 weeks ago, maybe it was 4 weeks ago, said that that resolution would be on

the floor by November 16. I know it wasn't announced today. I wonder, has any decision been made on advancing that resolution?

And I would yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his question. I did say that. He's correct. However, the principal proponents of that resolution, obviously, the relationship with Turkey is a very important one for the United States. It is a critical time in the Middle East. Turkey has been, obviously, a great help in some respects, sometimes. And so the principal sponsors of that resolution have written a letter to the Speaker and myself and asked us not to move forward with that resolution at this time. But it is obviously still a matter of great concern to the Speaker, to myself and, frankly, the majority of this House who are sponsors of this resolution.

But in answer to the gentleman's question, I do not expect it to move forward any time soon.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate that. What I believe will be my last question, Mr. Leader, is on Tuesday, knowing this is the last week before there is a break, and we may not stay with the normal procedure, should we expect anything beyond suspension bills on Tuesday? Do you think there's any likelihood, not possibility, but any likelihood of a rule bill as early as Tuesday?

Mr. HOYER. It is possible. And the reason I say it's possible is because a lot of Members, obviously, would like to get out. It's Thanksgiving week. We're leaving. And I'm not sure whether it's a majority of your side or the majority, but I think there's probably unanimity that if we could see our way clear to finishing the business that we have by Thursday, they would prefer to work Tuesday night than they would prefer to work on Friday day. So I want to say to my friend it's possible, to facilitate the work. We're going to be talking about that later on today, and maybe even over the weekend, where we are. So I want to say to the gentleman, it's possible.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, we'd be pleased to be notified as early as you know about it. And I think you're absolutely right, that Members would be pleased to work a little longer days this week to get some time at home with their families during the holidays.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1400

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. 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 Maryland?

There was no objection.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY FOOTBALL
TEAM'S HISTORIC VICTORY OVER
NOTRE DAME

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an historic victory that occurred over last weekend, when the United States Naval Academy football team, for the first time in 43 years, upset the University of Notre Dame.

As we recognize the accomplishments of this Midshipmen football team, we also recognize the commitment that each middle has made to our country. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Midshipmen for their historic victory over the Fighting Irish.

It is in this spirit that I submit further remarks for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as well as an editorial from the Baltimore Sun recognizing the extraordinary accomplishment of these young men.

And also for the record, I would like to say, Go Navy. Beat Army.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Naval Academy Football Team for Saturday's thrilling victory over the University of Notre Dame.

The Midshipmen defeated the Fighting Irish 46-44 in triple-overtime, marking the first Navy victory in the annual match-up since 1963.

A tradition since 1927, the Navy-Notre Dame series is the longest uninterrupted inter-sectional series in Division I college football. This year's installment of this great football rivalry was, for the first time, tied at the end of regulation and featured 90 combined points, the most ever in the 80-year-old series.

The Midshipmen victory in the third overtime snapped Notre Dame's 43-year win streak in harrowing fashion. Navy made what appeared to be its last stand against the Fighting Irish Offense, stopping a Notre Dame attempt at a two-point conversion to tie the game. A controversial pass interference call allowed Notre Dame one more chance to force a fourth overtime. It looked as though the streak was destined to continue.

But the Midshipmen again held their ground and defeated Notre Dame. On this Saturday, the disadvantages that a service academy team has to overcome relative to its "Big Name" Division I competition did not matter. The Naval Academy does not have an exclusive television contract. Its recruiters cannot promise top-tier high school seniors access to a network of NFL scouts and alumni.

When the United States Naval Academy beat the University of Notre Dame, a team of