

Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida, Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut and Mr. Danny Vargas of Herndon, Virginia were previously appointed and shall remain voting members.

Mr. Albareda has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill the request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend and gentleman from Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

I must tell my friend, the gentleman from California, that on Monday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business; on Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, we will consider H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and the Fight Fraud Act of 2009.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if I may ask my colleague, knowing that Congress is in session only for 3 more weeks before we break for Memorial Day and having just heard next week's schedule, I wondered if my colleague might elaborate on the last 2 weeks in May what we would be expecting in the House.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend for yielding.

You know by now that we have had a very busy agenda during this break period, including the bills we have already completed: National Water Research and Development Initiative Act, credit card legislation, hate crimes legislation, the budget conference report; and next week, we expect to pass the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act and the Fight Fraud Act of 2009.

I must tell you that in addition before the Memorial Day break, we will need to pass the supplemental appropriation for Iraq and Afghanistan. The President sent his request on April 10 for more than \$83 billion. We expect the House and Senate to act on the request before the Memorial Day recess.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if I may elaborate with the gentleman from Georgia.

You said a war supplemental. I would wonder, would there be any bench-

marks in this bill, and would there be any non-war-related spending in this bill as well?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I must tell my friend, again, that we have not discussed that with the majority leader, with others in leadership. But right now it is our intention to pass a bill that includes the two wars.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if I may further ask, is it your intention to put any non-war spending in this supplemental bill?

And I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. The Chair of the Appropriations Committee has informed us that he expects to mark up the bill next week, and we will make that information available at that time.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. So it is your intention, the majority's, not to have any non-war funding in the supplemental?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. At this moment—things can change—but at this moment, we plan to have the two wars in the bill.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if I could just clarify one last time, do you envision having benchmarks in this supplemental bill knowing in the past term the desire of the majority to have benchmarks?

I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Thank you for yielding again.

We have not had any discussion about benchmarks in the bill. We will wait to hear from the Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. OBEY, and his members.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman.

Knowing the debate that we had a week ago with all of the hearings in Energy and Commerce and knowing what the schedule said that this week would be the markup of the cap-and-trade bill but this week being canceled in the markup, does the gentleman see Energy and Commerce bringing up cap-and-trade or that coming to the floor within the next 3 weeks before we go on recess?

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Looking down the road, we will be working on energy and climate change. We would like to see these bills on the floor in the near future.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. So in the next 3 weeks do you not see Energy and Commerce bringing up or bringing to the floor a cap-and-trade bill?

I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. That is correct, my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. If I might just further ask another question of inquiry to my friend from Atlanta.

The Card Check bill has been out there for quite some time. Knowing the number of cosponsors on the majority side, do you envision that coming up in the near future?

And I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. We do not expect to see it coming up anytime within the next few weeks.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Does the gentleman believe that the Card Check bill would come to the House before it moves in the Senate?

I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Thank you, my friend, for raising the question.

I must tell you that we cannot make any type of commitment on that. We're working on it, and we will continue to work on it, and we hope to work with you and others in a bipartisan fashion before we act.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I appreciate you bringing up bipartisan-ship.

Yesterday was the hundredth day of our new President, and one of our big goals together was to work in a bipartisan way and forge that effort, and as everybody knows in this House, unfortunately that did not take place. And it is regrettable. But Republicans on this side want to make sure that we do forge in a bipartisan matter, and I would like to bring up a few items that we could work together on.

I will tell you—and I was very proud at the very beginning of this session when we, the minority, the Republicans, invited the President to our conference, and we actually had a very good discussion about the stimulus bill. It was unfortunate that a bill was introduced while he was talking to us and was not able to be bipartisan in that nature. But I was wondering about a couple of items that we could work closely together.

Recently, the President came forward and asked his Cabinet to find \$100 million in waste and abuse and duplication, and this is a place that I know we can all work together. I know our leadership, Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. CANTOR, personally talked to the President. The President asked us to produce a list.

□ 1545

I would ask our good friend from Georgia if the House Democrats would be willing to work with the Republicans to bring something to the floor before this May recess where we could eliminate waste, fraud and duplication and actually save the taxpayers and America. And I yield back.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend again for yielding.

If you turn the pages of the past few days and the past few weeks, I think we have a record of bipartisanship. First, I am happy to remind my friend that we have passed a number of bills recently with bipartisan support, including the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act. The vote was 410-13. Today we passed credit card legislation, 357-70. And the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, which we expect on the floor next week, passed out of committee on a bipartisan vote of 49-21, with eight Republicans supporting it.

So I say to my friend, I hope there are many more opportunities in the future to continue to build on our record of bipartisanship, and I look forward to working with you to find opportunities to do much more. We want to work with the President. We want to work with you to cut waste.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate that. And when I look at bipartisanship, I look at the biggest bills that have transferred through this House in such a short amount of time. Just yesterday, on the 100-day anniversary, on the budget that would double the debt in less than 5 years and triple it in 10, the bipartisan vote, unfortunately, was a number of Democrats—17—joining with all the Republicans and saying there was a better way, and no.

I think the American people would like to see another version, such as when you saw the stimulus bill. Unfortunately, the bipartisanship was a direction that we wanted to have another way to go. It is unfortunate that you would find only one party voting “yes” when you had both parties saying “no.”

So in areas that I think we can really come together, where the President has laid out that he wants to find ways that we can eliminate waste and duplication, we have our hand out, we want to work with you.

And so I just ask you one more time, is there an opportunity—and I know you’ve talked about bipartisanship. We will provide a list to the President. We will provide a list to you as well. Could we bring that to the floor within the next 3 weeks before we go on the Memorial Day recess and show the American people that we are very serious about eliminating waste, fraud, and duplication?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I think our leadership and the Chairs of committees are prepared and ready to work with your side and to work with the President in finding a way to cut waste.

I must say to you, my friend, while \$100 million may be only a small fraction of the overall Federal budget, I remind you that it is \$100 million more than the previous administration cut in 8 years, with the help of the Republican-controlled Congress. In fact, with the Republicans, we went from a surplus of \$5.6 trillion to a deficit of \$4.5 trillion, a turnaround of almost \$10 trillion.

We are going to work with you. We are prepared to do what we can to work in a bipartisan fashion to cut waste and to save the taxpayers’ dollars.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Well, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman. And I will tell you, \$100 million, when I look at the budget being passed, in a few short years I think of my children and America paying \$1 billion in interest a day. I know the American people care as much about their children as I care about mine, and we do not want that to continue.

So I take your hand being out to us in bipartisanship, and I look forward to working with you that we can eliminate waste. I look forward that we can come together with this President and bring it to the floor before Memorial Day. I think there is a way we can reach for greatness; there is a way that we can come together.

Another area that I think we can work well together on is trade. House Republicans stand ready to work with this President. This President has signaled his desire to have a vote on the Panama trade agreement and to begin moving forward with the Colombia free trade. I even know the leadership on the majority side, Majority Leader STENY HOYER, during the last recess he traveled to Panama, he traveled to Colombia.

So my question to the House Democrats, would there be an opportunity to have a vote before the July 4 recess on the Panama trade agreement that the President asked to have? I yield.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank my friend for yielding.

I am so glad and pleased that you are raising the issue of trade agreements. It is an issue that Democrats and Republicans have a history—and a long and rich and gloried history—of working together, and we will work together.

I know that the Majority Leader, Mr. HOYER, is very focused on the issue of trade, Panama FTA, and that he is working with the administration and with Members on your side of the aisle—including Mr. KIRK and your leadership—to get this trade agreement done in a timely manner. I promise you that. And I know if Mr. HOYER was standing here, he would make the same promise.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman. Because when I sit back and I think of the time of the President going to Peoria, going to Caterpillar, and I listened to those individuals that work there and I listened to their Representative, Congressman AARON SCHOCK, when he sat there and talked to them and they said the number of tractors they would sell, that the actual tariffs would be brought down automatically as soon as these trade agreements go forward.

But when you think of America, where we continue to lose jobs and we are thinking about job creation and small business, these trade agreements are nothing but a benefit to America, we want to work with you. And I just ask the gentleman, I appreciate his willingness to work with us, but could we do this by July 4? The President has signaled that he would like that done. Does the gentleman believe we can have it done by July 4?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I cannot assure you, I cannot guarantee you that we will have it done by July 4. But I will assure you that we are going to work

together, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and I am sure the Chair of our subcommittee, Mr. LEVIN, is going to work with the ranking member and others, and the full committee Chair and the full ranking member, to get it done as soon as possible, but hopefully in a timely fashion.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, I was very hopeful in the last term that we could have gotten these done, knowing that the recession that we moved into and the number of jobs that are being laid off, even in my own State, knowing the double-digit unemployment, that anything we can do, especially when it has been sitting on the table, been negotiating, and it is a positive agreement for America, the job creation, that we should come together. The President has signaled. The Republicans are saying, we are there. We want to help him. We want to pass this. We are asking the majority party to join with us.

I will yield for a final comment from the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. We all must work together in a timely fashion to save the jobs, create more jobs, and put all of our people back to work.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, we just wrapped up 100 days, and I think America is going to look to, what does America look like 100 days from now, 200 more days, 300 more days?

Today we talked about numerous different bills, from trade agreements that create jobs, from eliminating waste, lowering the deficit. Those are areas that we stand ready to work with this President and work with this majority party. So I thank you for the time that you spent, and I thank you for your answers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. 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 (Mr. MASSA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 627, CREDIT CARDHOLDERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 627, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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