

give notice that I will seek recognition as a question of the privileges of the House to offer a resolution in the following form. The resolution is at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read the resolution for the gentleman from Mississippi.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. —

Whereas clause 1 of rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives states that "Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the House collectively";

Whereas article 1, section 9, clause 7 of the Constitution states that: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law;

Whereas today, December 21, 1995, marks the 81st day that this Congress has been delinquent in fulfilling its statutory responsibility of enacting a budget into law; and

Whereas by failing to enact a budget into law this body has failed to fulfill one of its most basic constitutionally mandated duties, that of appropriating the necessary funds to allow the Government to operate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Rules is authorized and directed to forthwith report a resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 2530 (a bill to provide for deficit reduction and achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2002).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises the gentleman from Mississippi that under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or a place designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days, its being properly noticed. That designation will be announced at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution proffered by the gentleman from Mississippi will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not at this point making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. The determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair be kind enough to give me some indication of how much warning that I would receive as a Member as to when this would be brought before the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will give adequate notice, as has always been the case.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Could the chair give a better definition of "adequate notice"?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Not at this time.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I thank the Chair.

removed as cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 119.

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

There was no objection.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the majority leader about the schedule.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me express my appreciation for the patience of the Members over these days leading up to the holidays. I know that it has been difficult for Members and their families, but today I am more hopeful that the end is in sight.

I am pleased to announce that today there were very productive discussions between senior White House officials and Members of the House and Senate leadership. I am also pleased to announce that starting tomorrow morning budget negotiations will begin between the congressional leadership and the President on balancing the budget.

It is our hope that these negotiations will be successful and expeditious. We believe that these negotiations, if conducted seriously, could be completed very quickly, perhaps in only a few days. It is our intention to bring to the floor as quickly as possible any agreement that balances the budget in 7 years using CBO numbers. At the same time, I do not want to keep Members in town unnecessarily. I will be announcing tomorrow a more definitive schedule for the next several days, but my expectation is to have the House in recess pending word of an agreement.

Depending on how the negotiations go tomorrow morning, the recess could be only for a day or two or it could last until Wednesday. I will recommend that the Members make plane reservations for sometime after 3 tomorrow afternoon, but understand that, if negotiations are moving quickly, we may stay to complete a balanced budget. I am sorry I cannot be more specific at this time.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would like to advise our Members that we have had the last vote of the evening, but we will have important work in the morning. I will be, in a moment, asking unanimous consent for a 9 a.m. time to commence work in the morning. But if that is granted, we would be dealing with House Resolution 299, a proposal for House royalty changes, possibly the ICC conference report. If we can work out all the details related to it, it may be possible tomorrow that we may be able to take up legislation that would affect D.C. government funding and AFDC.

So we still have important work for us to do tomorrow. We hope to be able

to conclude it expeditiously and get Members on their way. Again, let me remind Members, we would be in under those conditions, under recess. We would continue to work, and, as soon as something of import were available, we would give Members ample notice and then bring them back as quickly as possible to reconvene the House and complete that work.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the other day the gentleman assured us that we would have a 24-hour notice on any return during the recess, the one we had prior. Is that still the standard that we could all be able to live with so that we could come from wherever we may be with family?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's point. Mr. Speaker, I should say that I believe, in fact, I assured 12 hours.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, 12 hours did the gentleman say?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, that was the position I took before. I do understand the problems of travel. I can assure that there would be definitely a 12-hour notice before we would convene business. I will try to be as considerate as I possibly can to make sure Members from the most remote locations have an opportunity to get back.

I understand how difficult it is. I would like to be, I would like to guarantee a 24-hour. I am just not sure that I could make such a guarantee and make it stick. But I think I can say with total confidence Members would have a 12-hour notice.

Mr. FAZIO of California. The problem, of course, is going to be that Members are going to be perhaps at greater than normal distance. Their staff is unlikely to be at post here. It may be more difficult for Members to get reservations during the holiday season. All of these things complicate the ability to do a short-time turnaround, and therefore I think, more than last week, we probably will need at least 24 hours for Members to be able to be here for what could be among the most important votes of this session.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman's point is well taken. Let me just say that I will address the issue with all the generosity and advance notice that I am able to give.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the gentleman about the schedule that he has outlined for tomorrow. I have been told that the State of California, that I represent, has a billion and a quarter dollars in Medicaid payments that are needed for us to be able to make our commitments to all the providers and to the people who are beneficiaries of the MediCal Program in our State.

I noticed and I think there is tremendous relief on this side of the aisle that we will be dealing with the AFDC issue that just yesterday we were told was not an issue. Is there any possibility that we could deal with the Medicaid problem in terms of meeting the requirements? At least several of our

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 119

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name