

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Wednesday, May 24, and was not present for two recorded votes on the bill, H.R. 1561. I wish to have it included in the RECORD that had I been present, I would have vote "yes" on rollcall vote No. 354 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 353.

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order for 1 minute in order to question the distinguished majority leader about the schedule for next week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished majority leader to ask about the schedule for next week and the week after.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me predicate my remarks about the coming schedule by making a few observations about the American Overseas Interests Act that we have had under consideration, and to provide some explanation for why we are holding the bill over to the week following.

□ 1145

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that without being too poetic, that it is amusing how confusing it has been for so many people that a purely logistical decision, made out of consideration for the work requirements of the House and the desire to have full participation by the Members, has been written up in the newspapers as something that is completely different than in fact what it was.

Therefore, out of regard for this lack of understanding, let me just make these points. On this bill, we have 100 amendments filed. We considered nine amendments in 9 hours. Ninety-one were left to be considered, many to be en bloc. That is over 25 Members that have amendments left to be considered in the bill. By the time we finished last night we had only 35 minutes left under the existing rule. Those 25 Members deserve regard, Members from both sides of the aisle, on the bill.

We had thought yesterday at the time the decision was made that we would do not only the conference for Medicare Select, but that for the budget as well today. I was not prepared to take as much as 3½ hours away from our Members who might otherwise have had that time available for this bill. For that reason, I made the decision to hold the bill over, and to in fact, because time was available, increase the time available for those amendments, this done wholly in the spirit of our desire to include as many Members as possible on every bill as we can.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we made a decision to add from those amendments already printed in the RECORD the option, placed in the hands of the committee chairman, to have a chairman's amendment insofar as he may find an opportunity available to improve his bill. There was no consideration given to a doubt about the vote outcome. It was all done out of concern for the logistics of the House's business with this bill and other bills, and a desire to improve the participation opportunities for all our Members on both sides of the aisle.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, let me just say that the House will stand in adjournment through Monday, June 5. On Tuesday, June 6, the House will meet at 12 o'clock in a pro forma session. There will be no recorded votes on Tuesday. On Wednesday, June 7, the House will meet at 12 o'clock for legislative business. We plan to take up a rule governing further consideration of H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interests Act of 1995, and then complete consideration of that legislation and pass it that day. We then hope to complete three hatchery bills under rules previously adopted by the House. These bills are H.R. 614, the New London National Fish Hatchery Conveyance; H.R. 584, the Fairport National Fish Hatchery Conveyance; and H.R. 535, the Corning National Fish Hatchery Conveyance.

The House will meet at 10 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, June 8. It is our hope to have Members on their way home, Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 8, it is our hope to have the Members on their way home to their families and their districts by 6 o'clock p.m. on that Thursday.

The House will not be in session on Friday, June 9.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I want to again note that we have these three fish hatchery bills. I know the gentleman's great interest in fishing, and I know that he wants these fish to be hatched as much as I do, so we are all looking forward to getting these three bills passed next week or the week after next.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observation. I guess we cannot catch them and kiss them if we do not hatch them.

Mr. GEPHARDT. That is right. I know the gentleman is interested in doing that. Maybe the gentleman and I can figure out how to catch and throw back some of these fish.

Mr. Speaker, let me just simply report what the gentleman said, so Members who may not have been paying as close attention as they might will understand this. As I get it, we will not expect votes on Monday, Tuesday, or Friday of the week we get back from the Memorial Day recess.

Mr. ARMEY. That is right.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I understand the gentleman will be asking unanimous consent that the Committee on National Security will be allowed to file the Defense authorization bill during the recess. Would the gentleman tell us when he expects that important bill to be considered by the House?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, we would hope to begin consideration the week following the week ending on June 9.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and wish him a prosperous, effective, and successful district work period.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker. I wish the same for him and all the Members of his party.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1995, OR UNTIL NOON ON THE SECOND DAY AFTER MEMBERS ARE NOTIFIED TO REASSEMBLE, AND RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1995, OR SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1995, TO MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1995, OR UNTIL NOON ON THE SECOND DAY AFTER MEMBERS ARE NOTIFIED TO REASSEMBLE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 72) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 72

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, May 25, 1995, it stand adjourned until noon on Tuesday, June 6, 1995, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reconvene pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, May 25, 1995, Friday, May 26, 1995, or Saturday, May 27, 1995, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee, in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until 10 a.m. on Monday, June 5, 1995, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reconvene pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reconvene whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 157) and ask for its immediate consideration.