

and we hope to get out by 6. I presume we are going in at 10 on Thursday?

Mr. ARMEY. Yes.

Mr. HOYER. Does the gentleman have any idea as to how much debate will be allowed on the Medicare bill on Thursday? Under the rule?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I cannot say for certain because the Committee on Rules has not met, but it would certainly be a couple hours at least.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I say in all due respect to my friend, the majority leader, this is a bill that I understand exceeds 450 pages. The bill has not received any days of hearings because it was not drafted. But there were no hearings in the Committee on Commerce.

I say with all due respect to my friend, the majority leader, does the majority leader believe that 2 hours or so of debate on a bill of this magnitude is sufficient to fully inform the Members on all the issues that will be incorporated in the bill?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, yes.

Mr. HOYER. The problem we have on this side is that we do perceive this as a bill which will have very serious impact on millions of people in this country. Obviously, we have had bills on this floor of relatively small consequence which have been debated, frankly, for days on this floor. Is there any possibility that we might get at least a guarantee of maybe 4 hours of general debate on this bill?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, of course, I can understand the gentleman is interested in such a request. I think the appropriate place to make the request would be before the Committee on Rules. They will write the rules, and I would welcome the gentleman to make his case before the committee.

Mr. HOYER. Well, Mr. Speaker, I will tell the majority leader that we certainly intend to ask the Committee on Rules, and I hope the majority leader and the Speaker who, of course, will advise the Committee on Rules, as we did, as to what they believe to be the appropriate time and rule under which the Medicare bill ought to be considered. But I hope, in all seriousness, that the majority leader and the Speaker would advise the Committee on Rules that a sufficient time be allotted for debate on this bill which gives the Congress the opportunity to fully explore the effects of the legislation on each of its parts on the people of this country and on the budget and on the health care security of our senior citizens.

I would urge the leader to do that this week and next week when we talk to members of the Committee on Rules.

Furthermore, nearly 2 weeks have passed since this body passed a continuing resolution. We have approximately a month remaining until that continuing resolution expires.

To date, only one bill, appropriation bill, has been signed by the President,

as we all know, which means that 12 still remain unsigned. The last bill, last week, only one bill has passed the House. As a member of, for instance of the Treasury Postal bill, that bill has been ready, in my opinion, to pass out of conference for the last 15 days. And it is my understanding that the President has indicated, if the bill passes without the Istook amendment, that it will be signed.

Now, it seems to me, the gentleman talked a little bit on NPR this morning about cooperation and about moving ahead on those issues where we could reach agreement. That bill and some other appropriation bills, if they could move forward, we would serve the American public's interest in having their government funded in a timely fashion.

The fiscal year, of course, ended 2 weeks ago. We had no appropriation bills signed by then. And is the majority leader aware of what the plans are to see that appropriation bills move in a timely fashion so that we do not have to be confronted on November 16 with the necessity to pass another continuing resolution?

I know the majority leader in the past has stated his deep concern about continuing resolutions. I tend to share that concern. I am wondering whether or not we have plans to preclude that from happening.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observations. Let me just say, we are working on all these bills. We are making good progress. Having just completed foreign operations today, I am pleased to hear that the President has stipulated the conditions under which he might sign one of the other bills. I look forward to hearing from the President on that matter. I am sure he will want to communicate that to me.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I will tell the majority leader that I believe that has been essentially communicated to the committee.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I will look into it.

Mr. HOYER. I will certainly see if we can get information directly to the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information and would simply again urge him to provide for the opportunity for this House to fully debate a bill on the consequence of the Medicare proposal.

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PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1995 TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means may have until midnight on Monday, October 16, 1995, to file reports to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1995 TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, October 13, 1995, it adjourns to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

THE OTHER AMERICA

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

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I know that some of you may have seen the "60 Minutes" report on CBS Sunday night about what was called the other America, a report about the shameful developments along our border known as colonias.

I only wanted to take this time this morning to come before my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and to simply say on behalf of so many men, women, and children who have been helped by the action of this Congress, thank you. It is true that Democrats and Republicans have come together on an issue of extreme importance, and that is to provide water and sewer service, the basic necessities of life to so many in the United States who live along the United States-Mexico border, who are indeed American citizens, but who have been the subject of much greed by developers who sold them land without having dedicated the very basic necessities of life for their future habitation.

Unfortunately, the "60 Minutes" report did cloud the issue somewhat by suggesting that our dollars were going to help the developers. Nothing could be further from the truth. What we have done on both sides of this aisle is to provide the services to the people who really need it, and for that I say thank you.

Some of you may have seen the "60 Minutes" report on CBS Sunday night about the other America—a report about the shameful