

their weekend schedules in their various districts, but I must make this observation, that I cannot remember a Monday night in this session that we have worked, and if we have, not a bill of this extraordinary magnitude.

The gentleman has laid out a number of significant and important, often contentious, difficult issues that we must deal with. This gentleman will be here prepared to do a job; that is what I have to do. But I want to say on behalf of myself and other Members that the fact that we are now suddenly finding ourselves in such a constrained schedule, that we have to push all of these issues into a Monday night I think flies in the face of what I think is reasonableness.

Now, I understand that there may be some time left over on Tuesday, but we now rush to judgment on a whole range of issues. I just want to make the observation, Mr. Chairman, and to my colleague, that I am not comfortable with the way this is proceeding. I have said at the outset, I do not like the rush to judgment on a \$263 billion budget, and now we are constrained into one day. When we went before the Committee on Rules, they said Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday, try to finish this bill up on Tuesday. Now maybe there is an hour or two on Tuesday. We are forced to deal with a myriad of incredible issues.

Now, the reality is that 300 or 400 of our colleagues are already gone, heading home; many of them are going to fly back in here to be back on the floor at 5 o'clock. They are not going to know what we are debating. Many of them will be tired from the weekend and tired from their flights, and we are going to get into issues like the B-2 bomber, like Bosnia, like the whole range of critical questions that are very contentious and important here.

I think we ought to be at our best when we are dealing with these issues, not when we are tired and not when we are making votes based on our ignorance by not being here. I just want to make that statement. I am not running the show here, those folks are, but I just want my colleagues to know from this side of the aisle that I am very uncomfortable with the way this process is going. It is the first Monday that we are dealing with this level of significance, and I would like for my colleague to at least respond in some manner to that concern.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS]. Let me just say personally, as the gentleman who has engaged the gentleman in these major arms control issues and the B-2 bomber issue for a number of years, I too look forward to a robust debate on the B-2 bomber, and I think it is our duty to force as many colleagues as we can to listen to us one more time on that issue, and I think we will be able to do that.

I understand that the reason that we are trying to keep this thing out of Tuesday's schedule as much as pos-

sible, that the chairman has that desire; it is because we have got another issue coming up that is supposed to be engaged on Tuesday. So we may be bumping up against the schedule.

I want to assure my colleague that it is my desire to have a robust debate, especially on the B-2 issue, and I know the depot issue is one that has a lot of claimants and will have a great deal of debate offered, and the chairman of the full committee is a very gracious individual, and I am sure if the gentleman talks to him, if we can get an extra hour or two on Tuesday morning from the leadership and maybe push that other issue up a little bit, we can have a more robust debate on B-2, Bosnia and the depot issue.

So the gentleman has got my assurance that I will sit with him and the chairman, and my desire is to have as big a debate and as full a debate as possible.

So that is what I would offer to the gentleman, but I understand that the chairman of the full committee had the problem of bumping up against the next bill, and that is why he is trying to get our amendments finished and get the bill finished by Tuesday morning.

Mr. DELLUMS. If the gentleman will yield, I appreciate his response. I understand that this committee is operating within the framework of a much larger structure. I just felt compelled to make that observation. I think that disadvantages a number of Members on both sides of the aisle, but that is just my observation, and leadership going to have to make the judgment that they choose to make. Unfortunately, we will of to live with them, but I do not think that they are good judgments.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS].

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

□ 1400

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CALVERT] having assumed the chair, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1119) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1119.

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

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 yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Arme), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for next week.

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

Mr. Speaker, before proceeding to the House schedule, I would like to have everyone's attention for a very important announcement.

My son and my lovely daughter-in-law last night graced me with a new little fishing buddy. David and Laurie Arme became the proud parents of a beautiful baby boy, as yet without a name, my first grandson, my first grandchild. And even though I am not a registered lobbyist, I would like to make a pitch to the new parents. Richard, a great name, a name of kings, presidents, race car drivers and country music singers. I would hope that the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the distinguished minority leader, would join me in this lobbying effort to add one more Richard to this world.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Reclaiming my time, I would certainly like to indicate I will intercede with him, and the gentleman from Texas has my commitment to help him in the lobbying for another little Richard.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman, and I thank him for his timely reminder of even one more classification, pop singers named Richard as well as country singers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I can return to less important matters, the business of this House, we have finished the last vote for the week. We will meet for legislative business on Monday, June 23; let me reiterate, we will meet for legislative business on Monday, June 23. We will start morning hour at 10:30 a.m. and consideration of legislation will commence at 12 noon.

Members should note that we will not hold any recorded votes before 5 p.m. on Monday. On Monday, June 23, we plan to take up a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices this afternoon. The House will then resume consideration of H.R. 1119, the National Defense Authorization Act, for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. We expect to work well into the evening on Monday, probably until 10 or 11 p.m., on DOD amendments.

On Tuesday, June 24, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business. We will take up the following bills: H.R. 1316, the Federal Fishery Clarification Act on the Corrections Day Calendar;

House Joint Resolution 79, to Disapprove Most-Favored-Nation Treatment to the Products of the People's Republic of China, which will be subject to a rule; and the House will then continue consideration of H.R. 1119, the National Defense Authorization Act. We hope to finish DOD on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, June 25, and Thursday, June 26, the House will meet at 10 a.m. to consider the fiscal year 1998 budget reconciliation. We expect to take up the spending component of reconciliation on Wednesday and the tax cut component on Thursday. We should finish the week's business by 6 p.m. on Thursday and have Members on their way back to their districts for the July Fourth district work period.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could ask the distinguished majority leader, we have just been informed by the colloquy between the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] about the concern that a number have, I am sure on both sides of the aisle, about extremely important amendments being voted on on the defense authorization bill late Monday night.

Is it possible that since we have some time on Tuesday dedicated for the defense bill, we could take the 3 items that the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] mentioned: Bosnia, the depot issue, and the B-2, and designate them on Tuesday, so that the majority of the Members who might not make it on Monday, certainly maybe the overwhelming share of them, would be here for those three very important debates.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again, if the gentleman would yield, obviously the management of the bill within the time slots granted to it is at the direction, and should be, of the committee floor managers. This office is always ready to stand willing to work with the floor managers of a bill to assist in any way to help them achieve the flexibility that will give them the greatest opportunity to manage their bill in the most effective and responsive way possible, and we will do that in this case on this subject as well.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. Since the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] believes that the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] may be able to accommodate the concerns expressed about so many important votes so late Monday night, I would hope that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] would intercede with the chairman and we could assure the Members, who may not have been prepared to come back on Monday, that they will have an opportunity on the key issues and final passage perhaps on Tuesday.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I will encourage the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] in every way possible and assist him in any way that I may.

If I might just add, I certainly would like to do everything I can on behalf of

my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS], to have the body fully informed about his amendments that it might make the most judicious vote possible, and I am sure he appreciates my interest in the matter.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] says he understands, Mr. Leader, and I appreciate the fact that you did not further reference the depot issue.

I would like to inquire a bit about reconciliation and the tax bill. It has been my understanding and I think the understanding of many Members that we were going to have separate votes on the reconciliation package and the tax package.

Just to clarify, is there a continuation of that commitment, or is there some move afoot to perhaps combine two separate bills into one and have one vote on the package?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, our current plan is to take the two components, reduction in spending and reduction in taxes of reconciliation as two separate bills. The House has retained the option to treat that as a single reconciliation bill and we do that, although I must say I have no indication now that there would be a movement in that direction.

I do think it is only fair, though, to recognize that while we currently plan to have them in two bills, that that option still remains and should there be a decision to make a change, obviously we would notify the minority as quickly as possible.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, so it is fair to say at the moment there is no intention of doing so, but the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] retains, he believes, the option of doing so?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman understands that Members on this side of the aisle feel very strongly about the commitment that they believe has been made that we deal with them on a separate level, and I think that is a broadly-believed feeling on this side from one end of the political spectrum on the other.

The gentleman has indicated that we are going to be having very late nights next week. What nights would we be expected to be here and how late would we be?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I believe Monday night would probably, as I anticipate, be the only night where we would expect to stay late. Of course partially because in order to accommodate the people's travel requirements, we really effectively begin the day late, but the other evenings of next week I do not believe our work requirements would require us to go late, and I do not anticipate that there would be anything that would cause that to happen.

So I would think that generally 6, 7 p.m. on the other evenings would be approximately, until Thursday, of course, where it is our hard and fast hope to complete our work by 6 p.m. in order to accommodate the travel arrangements that Members like to make.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader. I believe Members appreciate the firm commitment for departure time, and I appreciate the degree to which the gentleman has been sticking to that. On behalf of the minority we appreciate very much that commitment consistently being made and kept.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO], who helped all of us Richards get it right, and I encourage people to understand the importance of the name Richard in the lives of little children.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have had this colloquy.

ADJOURNMENT FROM SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1997, TO MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Saturday, June 21, 1997, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 23, 1997, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. 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 Minnesota?

There was no objection.

MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR CHINA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues an extraordinary letter that I received last night. Over the past several weeks there has been a perception that virtually all Christian leaders in this country support revocation of Most Favored Nation trading status for the People's Republic of China.

Just yesterday we heard here in the Capitol from many Christian missionaries who have been on the ground in