

have been concerned and am concerned for the staff of the House. It has been a tough week, it will continue to be, their working on Saturday and Sunday, and it had been my intention to adjourn the House in their interest and that of their families.

Mr. BONIOR. Let me, if I might, ask the gentleman from Texas to reconsider that, because let me make the case that with respect to fast track, a highly controversial, momentous piece of legislation, probably one of the most important bills that we will have faced, certainly in this Congress, the Committee on Rules has only allowed 2 hours of debate on this bill. We have hundreds of Members who want to speak on this issue. We are boxed in a situation which the gentleman knows is a difficult situation. People need to be able to express themselves on this, and so we ask the opportunity on this side of the aisle to engage in special orders this evening for those who want to discuss this or any other issue.

We even ask that the Committee on Rules, which we understand will go back and come out with another rule, expand that debate time. It is not only on our side. The gentleman is going to have tens, if not hundreds of Members on his side of the aisle, certainly 100 members on his side of the aisle, who will not have an opportunity to speak on this. We cannot put together a cogent argument, we cannot put together a rational debate when we are given 30 seconds or a minute. I would ask my friend from Texas to reconsider the time on the bill in general debate, and I would also ask him to allow special orders without going ahead and adjourning this evening.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Michigan knows, I am sympathetic to his cause, but let me just cite to the gentleman the traditional rule that has been made in order on other GATT agreements. In 1988 there were 2 hours of debate only. In 1993 there was 1 hour of debate only. With the 1 hour that will be extended on the rule and 2 hours of general debate, it gives 3 hours on the issue. I know that there are some on the gentleman's side that thought that that was not enough. There were also a number, including some Democrats on the Committee on Ways and Means, that thought that that was ample time. But traditionally that is the amount of time.

Keep in mind this is not the agreement. When the agreement comes back, the gentleman and I and others will probably have about 8 hours to debate that agreement and even to amend it, as the gentleman knows.

Mr. BONIOR. The gentleman from New York to whom I will yield in a second, the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, requested 8 hours. I think the gen-

tleman understands quite well that it is not just Members on our side of the aisle. We are going to have many Members on his side of the aisle who are going to want to speak and who will not be able to speak on this issue.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, perhaps I could offer something on this.

I do appreciate the gentleman from Michigan's point about the special orders. I am sure the gentleman from Michigan would understand the natural concern I have had with respect to the members of the floor staff and their families, but I understand the gentleman's point, there are some folks on this side of the aisle who are interested, and I would not preempt their right to have the special order opportunities this evening.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman. Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a special appeal to my friend, the leader of the New York delegation, a leader in the House, and the chairman of the Committee on Rules. Under the rule, the Democrats that are in opposition to the fast track would have only 30 minutes. I know that the gentleman wants to stick by the tradition in how they have handled these things before, but I cannot begin to tell him the number of Members that are asking just to be heard to express themselves. There is a frustration that exists in the House where I truly believe that people do want to hear the debate. But in addition to this, I think that people want to explain their vote. Whether they vote for it, whether they vote against it, they want to have an opportunity to explain through whatever way to their constituents why they are voting that way on a subject matter which I truly do not believe is that well known to the American people. I know it is extraordinary action to take a review of the decision that the full committee has made, but in view of the fact that he has said more than once that senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have said this is appropriate time, I can tell the gentleman that senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have asked for a half-hour themselves to be able to debate. I hope whomever they are, they will stand up, because we are catching the devil trying to allocate time. The gentleman would do this House a great service if he could be more flexible in tradition of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. PEASE. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding. As the majority leader and minority leader are aware, the leadership of the freshman Democrats and the freshman Republicans, once the schedule for the week-

end was announced, conferred and would like to offer as a service to our colleagues, in light of the fact that most of us return home on weekends and do not have a church home here in Washington, a joint service provided by the freshman Democrats and the freshman Republicans at 1 o'clock Sunday in 1100 Longworth for Members and their families.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California, the Caucus chair.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I simply wanted to add my voice to those on this side who have a desire to have more time to debate this issue. There is no question that both caucuses, the caucus and the conference are divided on this but Members feel deeply about it and want to be able to make their case directly to their colleagues and to their constituents. I do not think the rule, as I have heard it described, is an adequate amount of time, and so I want to make that statement, because I support the request that has been made by the whip.

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#### HOUR OF MEETING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

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#### ADJOURNMENT FROM SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1997, TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Saturday, November 8, 1997, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, 1997.

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

There was no objection.

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#### AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DESIGNATE TIME FOR RESUMPTION OF PROCEEDINGS ON REMAINING MOTIONS TO SUSPEND RULES CONSIDERED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1997

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to designate a time not later than November 9, 1997, for resumption of proceedings on the seven remaining motions to suspend the rules originally debated on September 29, 1997.

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

There was no objection.