

I thank my colleague for letting us know that there is no session tomorrow. I would just say that, as we know, tomorrow was going to be a legislative voting day on an uncontroversial bill and we had announced to our colleagues on this side of the aisle that it was going to be a voting day. In fact, at our whip meeting this morning I made that same announcement. And then later in the morning, less than 24 hours in advance, we received notice that it had been canceled.

Now, I appreciate the gentleman doing that, and I understand that sometimes it is difficult to get a gauge on whether or not we are going to go forward with the rest of the week. But I would hope that, in the spirit of bipartisanship, that we could get a commitment to these changing schedules at least a day in advance so that we could notify our colleagues about their travel plans.

And so I understand it is a common problem, and we had the same problem when we were in the majority, but to the extent that you can help accommodate us with respect to more advance on this, we would indeed appreciate it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would further yield, let me thank the gentleman from Michigan for that observation.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Members do have a very difficult time making arrangements, especially in the face for example of a temporary strike by one of the major carriers, and so forth. We did find out this morning that the markup that we were so dependent upon in one of our committees went well and so expeditiously that we could change plans for tomorrow.

I join the gentleman from Michigan in hoping that we can get that kind of information earlier; and I assure him that as soon as I know that we can change any portion of the printed schedule, I will inform him.

That is why I am so delighted to be able to tell him, as I learned just yesterday, that we will be able to afford every individual an opportunity to know now that we will conclude business on the 25th at 6:00 and there will be no votes as previously announced on that Friday the 26th.

If the gentleman and I can work together and with our committees and with the cooperation of key people within the committees, perhaps we can expedite this information and flow it to our Members more quickly, and I certainly look forward to that opportunity.

□ 1515

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, and one other point: Does the gentleman expect that the week of February 23, those days that we are in any late-evening sessions?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for the inquiry. No, I do not believe so. We do, of course, have a lot of committee work that will be getting done during that week, and we have a good

deal of important legislation we will schedule for, but I do not anticipate any late evenings.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING REPORTS BY POSTMASTER GENERAL ON OFFICIAL MAIL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 705) to make technical corrections with respect to the monthly reports submitted by the Postmaster General on official mail of the House of Representatives, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I have no intention of objecting, but I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for the purposes of explaining the bill in question.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 705 improves the efficiency of mail reporting for Members by removing the requirement that the percentage of the mail allowance expended each month be reported. As our Committee on House Administration has increased the flexibility of Members with regard to the Member's allowance, this percentage report has become unnecessary and also creates inefficient paperwork. The actual amount used for mail each month will be reported, but this will remove the monthly reporting requirement and increase the administrative efficiency of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his explanation.

As this technical amendment was explained to me, Mr. Speaker, current Postal Service reporting requirements are continued with a modification which conforms those reports to the way the House now administers Members' allowances. I understand that there are additional technical amendments to this section which need to be worked out but that this particular amendment is time-sensitive, and that staff will present additional amendments for committee consideration in the next few months.

Is that the gentleman's understanding?

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Maryland would continue to yield, that is my understanding, and I believe it is a good action that we should take at this point.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), and, Mr. Speaker, based upon the gentleman's representation, if that is all this technical amendment does, then I will certainly withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 705

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING REPORTS BY POSTMASTER GENERAL ON OFFICIAL MAIL OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 311(b)(2) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 59e(b)(2)) is amended by striking “any person with an allocation under subsection (a)(2)” and inserting the following: “any person with an allocation under subsection (a)(2)(A) as to the amount that has been used and any person with an allocation under subsection (a)(2)(B)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to January 1999 and each succeeding month.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, February 23, 1999, the Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, February 24, 1999.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT CEREMONIES FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order for the Speaker to appoint two Members of the House, one upon the