

about the schedule of next week, and I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, October 1 at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and 12 o'clock noon for legislative business. The majority leader will schedule a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to the Members' offices tomorrow. Recorded votes on Tuesday will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

For Wednesday and the balance of the week, the majority leader has scheduled the following measures for consideration in the House:

H. Res. 559, a House resolution on expedited special elections;

H. Res. 543, expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on H.R. 4019, making marriage penalty tax relief permanent; a continuing resolutions; and S. 2690, the Pledge of Allegiance Reaffirmation Act; and Conferees are also working hard to complete work on the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act conference report. It is our hope that the conference report will be available for consideration in the House next week as well.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

From what I can tell from what he read, next week we will have another week of heavy lifting: a House resolution on special elections, sense of the Congress on making tax relief permanent, a continuing resolution reflecting the fact that we have not finished our business, and the Pledge of Allegiance Reaffirmation Act.

We all want to reaffirm our Pledge of Allegiance, but we can do that by pledging allegiance not only to the Flag but to the American people. They are still crying out for us to take action, to grow the economy, to create jobs, to educate our children, to provide a prescription drug benefit, access to health care, protect Social Security, preserve Medicare, give us a prescription drug benefit under Medicare; and we are having resolutions and hoping to complete our work on the defense bill.

I have some questions for the gentleman. Will the resolution on Iraq be brought up on the floor next week? If not, when do you think it will be brought up?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in response to my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), I would like to say that on the list of things she mentioned, the House of Representatives passed virtually all of that legislation, sent it to the Senate. We would like to

see it come back and would like to take final action on it and hope that the conference reports on defense and military construction and other conference reports would produce some of that work next week.

In terms of Iraq, there is hard work on a bipartisan bicameral basis to get a resolution that I personally would be pleased to see come to the House next week, but we are working hard to have a resolution that has broad agreement to deal with this very important question.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Can the distinguished gentleman inform us when H.R. 3450, to reauthorize community health centers, might be scheduled? Twelve million Americans who are served by the centers are waiting to hear. I was hoping it might be a suspension on Tuesday.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, at the gentlewoman's request, I am told it will be on suspension on Tuesday, and I look forward to seeing that bill come to the floor as well.

Ms. PELOSI. To the best of the gentleman's knowledge, will there be votes next Friday?

Mr. BLUNT. I think there very likely will be votes next Friday; and certainly if we are able to move on the Iraq resolution, there will definitely be votes on Friday.

Ms. PELOSI. We have given up Monday of next week already?

Mr. BLUNT. We are working Tuesday, not Monday.

Ms. PELOSI. What is the leader's latest prediction on when the House will adjourn before the election? Closer to October 11 or 18? And when do you believe we will return for a lame duck session?

Mr. BLUNT. I am certainly in no position to predict that. I think there is a discussion with the leaders on both sides of the building. We want to adjourn, of course, in conjunction with our friends on the other side of the building. I would anticipate that the continuing resolution next week will go through the 11th; and hopefully by the time we get into that period, we will have either resolved some of the appropriations concerns, or we will be looking at the time between now and the election in a more definite way.

Ms. PELOSI. I certainly hope so. And I hope that we can work together to pass more of these appropriations bills. We have taken them up in committee. Some of them are ready. In fact, the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs last Thursday on the floor asked when his bill would be taken up. We are working on transportation, but we passed District of Columbia today. So many of these bills are ripe for coming to the floor. That is why I am disappointed not to see them on the schedule because when we pass up votes on Monday, I remind my colleagues that is September 30, the last day of the fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, and

once again there are no appropriations bills scheduled to be on the floor. We used to say, and you know the expression, you are a young man, "Thank God it's Friday." Around here it is "Thank God it's Thursday." Now the Republican leadership is giving us a work week that ends on Thursday afternoon. I am sure hard-working Americans who are holding down two jobs to support their families and work more than 40 hours a week would appreciate a schedule like this.

We spent weeks telling the other body that they have made no progress taking care of business we think they should be doing, and yet we have neglected so many of our own responsibilities. We have eight appropriations bills to fund the entire government that the House has yet to consider: education, veterans' medical care, transportation, agriculture, energy. The list goes on and on. And the disappointment is that these are being held up because an element, not the entire, but an element in the Republican Party wants to cut \$7 billion out of education and you do not have the votes to do that; so you cannot bring it to the floor and therefore we are engaged in this business of one CR after another.

I thank the gentleman for the information.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 559, EXPEDITED SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time to consider in the House H. Res. 559; the resolution shall be considered as read for amendment; the resolution shall be debatable for 90 minutes, equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, Representative COX of California and Representative FROST of Texas; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, September 30, 2002,