

multiple substitutes, and assuming that they are legitimate budget resolutions, and we will have a very vigorous debate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I think that is very important for the House and for the American people, and we look forward to that discussion and the substitutes. As the gentleman knows, we will have the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), our ranking member, who will have a substitute. I expect the Black Caucus to have a substitute, and perhaps there will be some other substitutes as well. Certainly the Blue Dogs will have a substitute, all of which I think, in the gentleman's understanding of it, would be very substantive budget resolution proposals, and we anticipate them being made in order so we can debate each of those as well.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other aspects, as the majority leader knows, there has been a lot of discussion about enforcement mechanisms. We believe on this side of the aisle that enforcement mechanisms are critically important if we are going to get to balance at some time in the future, which is our objective and I think the gentleman's objective as well.

Can the gentleman tell me when and in what form enforcement mechanisms will be brought to the floor? I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Obviously, the Committee on the Budget passed out a budget mechanism that will be considered by the Committee on Rules. I have no idea at this point in time when we could schedule such a thing. There are a lot of Members on our side and the gentleman's side that want to participate in this process that have a lot of good ideas. I think this issue needs to ripen a bit. The Committee on Rules claims some jurisdiction in this regard and they want to look at and mark up their own bill.

This is a process that actually just got started yesterday by the Committee on the Budget marking up a bill and moving it out of their committee, so I really cannot say. I do not know when is the earliest. We have a pretty full schedule next week and the following week and then, as the gentleman knows, we break for the spring district work period. But it is vitally important, everybody wants to bring fiscal discipline to the budget process and show that this House can have fiscal responsibility, and we think that is an important bill and we will bring it to the floor as soon as it is ready.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his response. I would observe that, clearly, enforcement mechanisms we believe are critically important as we consider the budget in the mid-2005 budget, but also the outyears as well, whether we use a 5-year or 10-year budget analysis.

Without enforcement mechanisms, obviously, we really do not know what

we are doing. We can say we are doing something, but without enforcement mechanisms to make sure that, in fact, we are controlling spending, controlling revenues, controlling entitlements, we do not have really a budget that is meaningful and enforceable. So we are hopeful that that will come relatively soon.

We would like to do it contemporaneously, but I understand what the gentleman is saying; the Committee on Rules wants to consider that. The Senate I think considered that contemporaneously and, of course, there are some in this country who have made it very clear that an enforcement mechanism that impacts on both spending and on revenues was the only kind of enforcement that would really be meaningful. I know there is a difference of opinion among people on that issue, but we think that needs to be debated fairly soon and fairly proximate to close the consideration of the budget.

Mr. Leader, my last question would be, if the gentleman knows, and I notice we have a member of the Committee on Rules on the floor, when will substitutes need to be filed, if the gentleman knows; or can the gentleman inform us when substitutes will need to be filed?

Mr. DELAY. As soon as we can get back to the Terps game, I think the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is going to stand up and announce when they should be filed.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in a world of priorities, the gentleman just got mine.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2005

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of March 22 to grant a rule which would limit the amendment process for the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2005.

Any Member who wishes to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in Room H-312 of the Capitol, no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23. As in past years, the Committee on Rules intends to give priority to amendments offered as complete substitutes.

Members are advised that the text of the concurrent resolution, as ordered, reported by the Committee on the Budget, should be available on the Web sites of both the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Rules on Friday, March 19.

Mr. Speaker, Members should use the Office of Legislative Council and the Congressional Budget Office to make

sure that their substitute amendments are properly drafted and scored, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at noon on Monday, March 22, 2004.

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

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 22, 2004, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, for morning hour debate.

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. DELAY. 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.