

move that as quickly as possible. Obviously, people will want to be planning for the next school year and next Head Start year.

Lastly, Mr. Leader, the highway bill. As we know, the highway bill is now more than 2 years overdue in terms of reauthorization, has been sitting for some period of time. The Senate has now passed that bill. Can you tell us when we might appoint conferees for the highway conference?

Mr. DELAY. As the gentleman knows, this House passed the highway bill some weeks ago and the Senate just finished the highway bill in their Chamber. We will probably have to consider some type of short-term extension next week, hopefully an agreed-to extension bill. And if the Senate requests a conference next week, I believe that the Speaker will be prepared to appoint House conferees next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for that observation and hopefully we can, in fact, move on that. We not only passed it last week but we passed it a number of times before that. Mr. Leader, I would simply observe on our side and, frankly, on your side that the Senate number is a number that I think our committee certainly and this House could well approve.

□ 2030

I know the President does not like that number, but very frankly, as the gentleman knows, our own committee almost unanimously on voice vote passed out an authorization figure at, I think, 375, so \$80 billion more than the Senate-passed bill.

I would certainly hope that the Congress could exercise its will. The Senate was at 218. We were at 284. Now it is a little bit in between that. I would hope that we could move this conference as quickly as possible. It has been held up a long time and has a significant consequence for jobs, as the leader knows, significant consequence for contractors, States, municipalities, localities, and we have been a long time waiting for this passage that is now some 2 years late.

But I appreciate the leader's observation that we will appoint conferees next week, and hopefully perhaps the leader can help accelerate that conference so we can agree. And then the President, of course, will have to do what he thinks is best and make a determination, and then we might have a shocking event and he may veto a bill and send it back to us, and I am relatively confident we would work our will at that point in time.

I do not know whether the leader wants to make an observation.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that the President has been criticized for not vetoing any bills over the last 4½ years, but it has become a

tradition around here to include the President as we do legislation through the House and the Senate and therefore working out any of our differences so that he would not have to veto a bill, and I do not see that the highway bill is any different than anything else we have been doing for the last 4½ years. So he is obviously a major player in this process.

The House, as the gentleman says, has expressed itself at a number. We think the President will sign the bill. The Senate has chosen to do otherwise. Hopefully, we can work this out in the conference committee so that the President will not have to mar his record by vetoing a bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I recall that Democrats, when they were in charge, had a slightly different perspective, believing we were a co-equal branch of the government. We would adopt our policies based upon what we believed to be in the best interests of this country, and that the President, as a co-equal branch of the government, would make his determination, and if we disagreed we would override his veto. As a matter of fact, I voted to override a number of vetoes that the previous Democratic President disagreed with us on.

The gentleman is right. We do not seem to do that. We have a 4½-year unblemished record, as the leader points out, of not doing anything that this President did not want us to do.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's yielding to me.

I would just point out to the gentleman that in the good old days that he refers to, yes, this House had a great reputation for wanting to spend more money, and those days have changed in that the President is adamant about spending and spending the right amount of money to do the job and the House has concurred in that many times and have voted in the House. And it has been a pleasure to work with the President to hold down spending and make sure that every dollar is spent properly.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, does the gentleman by any chance remember the ag bill?

Mr. DELAY. Which ag bill?

Mr. HOYER. The ag bill that was passed some years ago. The President was not too excited about that spending level, as I recall. He signed the bill, nevertheless.

Mr. DELAY. He signed the bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for some period of time, as the leader knows, and the only bill that Ronald Reagan vetoed that was overridden by the Congress was a bill in which he said we did not spend enough money in 1983. He vetoed it because we did not spend enough money.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 23, 2005

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). 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.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY PROTECTING DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-28)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication. This notice states that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as expended in scope by Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, modified in Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, and further modified in Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on May 21, 2004 (60 FR 29409).

The threats of attachment or other judicial process against (i) the Development Fund for Iraq, (ii) Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, or (iii) any accounts, assets, investments, or any other property of any kind owned by, belonging to, or held