

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. He has now said both initially and again about the budget. You have indicated there will be votes on Friday, obviously.

Mr. BOEHNER. I am very sure that next week there will be votes on Friday.

Mr. HOYER. So no doubt in your mind about that?

Mr. BOEHNER. With three appropriations bills and several other bills, and the possibility of doing the budget, we will have our hands full.

Mr. HOYER. I thank you for that. On the energy bills, do you expect any energy-related legislation on the floor next week, refinery siting, for example?

Mr. BOEHNER. It is not likely we will have any energy bills up next week, but there are a number of energy bills that are in the pipeline with regard to the possibility of drilling in ANWR, the CAFE bill continues to move along, and the refinery legislation that did not receive a two-thirds vote under suspension is likely to be back in some form.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. The telecom bill which was reported out of committee, I know it is not on this calendar for the coming week. Could you tell us your expectations of when that might be scheduled?

Mr. BOEHNER. After that bill came out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Judiciary Committee filed a request for a referral on that bill. It has been under consideration this week with the Parliamentarians, and we are hopeful that we will have an answer from the Parliamentarians about this jurisdiction which is holding up the consideration of the bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, would it be your expectation then, once the Parliamentarians make their judgment, that the bill will then be referred to the Judiciary Committee, if that was their judgment, so that it might be some time before that bill came to the floor? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. It depends on the ruling of the Parliamentarians; and until they rule whether there is a jurisdictional claim or not, there is not much that we can do.

Mr. HOYER. All right. Thank you very much for that.

The Voting Rights Act reauthorization, quite clearly that got overwhelming bipartisan support. I know the chairman has worked very hard on that. MEL WATT and other members of the Judiciary Committee have worked very hard on that. Can you tell me when you expect that to come to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I have talked to Chairman SENSENBRENNER and others about the bill. We don't have it scheduled as yet, but we are hopeful that it will be coming to the floor in the near future.

Mr. HOYER. If the budget does come to the floor next week, would you bring

it in the early part of the week or the latter part of the week; do you know? I know you have had some hard work on this. I understand that.

Mr. BOEHNER. As I have indicated, when we think we have the votes to pass the budget, we will bring it up, sooner rather than later, I hope.

□ 1700

Mr. HOYER. That is such a pragmatic approach, and I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Leader, I don't want to end the week on an unhappy note, but you and I had discussions in these colloquies the last 2 weeks in a row. After the tax reconciliation bill was reported out, I asked Mr. RANGEL had he been included in the conferences in any meaningful way. It was his view that he had not. You had made assurances that would happen; I don't mean that you could guarantee that it would happen.

I will tell my friend that the ranking member of the committee does not believe there was meaningful participation by the minority in the consideration of that bill which obviously was a bill of some significant import.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my friend for yielding. You and I did have a conversation about participation. The conversation was centered around the pension reform bill, only because I am a conferee on the pension bill. What happens in other committees and some of these conferences, they all have their own style and own way of doing their conferences. I understand the gentleman's concern, but that was not the reference that I was making when you and I were having a discussion about the pension bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, and I accept the gentleman's explanation. It was my thought that we were talking about both conferences that were then pending. I raised both conferences, but I take the gentleman at his word, he has always been truthful with me, that he was referring to the pension conference. I understand that.

I also understand that he is not in control of everything any more than we are on this side. But I will again reiterate, Mr. Leader, your experience and your performance in terms of dealing in a bipartisan way has been different than some, and we appreciate your view on this.

Whether it is the pension conference or any other conference, particularly bills of significance, we would hope that you would use your good offices to encourage and frankly request that the Chairs of the conferences make sure that the minority is included. After all, as I have said, we represent about 125 million people in this country, maybe more than that, and they should not be excluded.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate your concern. As the gentleman is well

aware, these conferences that occur between the House and Senate trying to resolve the differences in these bills are sometimes dealt with by the majority. I saw it when I was a minority Member of the House. I understand the gentleman's concern.

I will urge my colleagues, my chairmen, to be more open. I share the gentleman's view that we all have a role to play in this institution and having people at the table gives usually a much better product and everyone has a right to voice their approval or disapproval of the actions that the conference is taking.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I think we certainly agree on that.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. 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 (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW,
ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY,
MAY 12, 2006, TO MONDAY,
MAY 15, 2006, AND HOUR OF
MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 16,
2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow; that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R.
4200, FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY
AND RESEARCH ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of May 15 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. The bill was ordered reported by both the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Agriculture.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the