

Mr. ARMEY. I thank him and I hope you all have a good weekend.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 15, 1999

Mr. ARMEY. 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 (Mr. GIBBONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304 as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

- Mr. WOLF of Virginia;
- Mr. SALMON of Arizona;
- Mr. GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania; and
- Mr. FORBES of New York.

There was no objection.

GAMBLING EFFORT DIES IN
PENNSYLVANIA SENATE

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the Members of the House today the following Philadelphia Inquirer headline where it says gambling efforts die in Pennsylvania Senate. This Monday, the Pennsylvania State Senate rejected a resolution by the vote of 28 to 21 calling for three statewide gambling referendums. Gambling was rejected despite the gambling lobby's political campaign contribution of \$606,000. This is a very large amount of money for a State with no gambling except for horse racing and State lotteries.

Mr. Speaker, people got involved at the grass roots level. The people learned the truth about how gambling is bad for families and communities, especially the poor and the Nation's

youth. Also, the newspapers had the courage to speak out about how gambling brings crime, and corruption, and cannibalizes local businesses and breaks up families.

What took place in Pennsylvania should give great hope to any community that if it wants to eradicate and remove gambling or keep it out, it can do it. I congratulate the Pennsylvania State Senate for its actions on Monday.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 8, 1999]

GAMBLING CONTRIBUTIONS

GAMBLING INTERESTS HAVE DONATED
GENEROUSLY TO RIDGE, LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

HARRISBURG.—Gov. Tom Ridge and legislative leaders have accepted at least \$606,000 in contributions from gambling interests and their lobbyists in recent years, according to a report published Monday.

Ridge received about \$240,000 from gambling interests, including lobbyists, since he began raising money for his 1995 campaign. Legislative leaders and their committees took in \$366,100, according to the analysis by The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Lawmakers and lobbyists rejected the notion of any link between campaign money and legislative action. Further, they said the gambling interests have been relatively restrained in their giving, compared with what has taken place in other states.

"I don't think the industry really felt that (large contributions) was the approach they wanted to take," said Obra S. Kernodle 3d, a lawyer-lobbyist who is a principal in a Philadelphia company that wants to build a riverboat casino.

"I can't see a relationship between the contributions and a vote on any issue—especially this issue," said Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Mellow, D-Lackawanna.

Anti-gambling activists say the contributions are unseemly and that the money at least helped push gambling to the top of the 1999 legislative agenda.

Gambling legislation "is being passed on a cash and carry basis," said Tom Grey, a national antigambling activist who has been involved in efforts to defeat the referendum bill. "Legalized gambling gives (lawmakers) the cash, and they carry the bill."

"Special interests, through campaign contributions and hiring every lobbyist in town, are driving the system with the pedal to the metal," said Barry Kauffmann, executive director of Pennsylvania Common Cause. "It's an increasingly troubling part of the way the process is being run."

The referendum bill, which the House approved last month, would let voters state their opinions about three potential expansions of legalized gambling: riverboat casinos, video poker in bars and slot machines at four horse tracks. Lawmakers then must shape legislation to legalize any new games.

Ridge has said he would sign the bill, but also says he will demand that any actual expansion of gambling would have to be approved, project by project, in subsequent local referendums.

It is impossible to determine how much gambling interest spend on lobbying, because current disclosure laws provide no meaningful information. A tough new disclosure law takes effect in June.

Among the campaign-finance reports examined by The Inquirer were those listing contributions during the two election cycles to Ridge, the Republican and Democratic

leaders in both houses, House and Senate campaign committees controlled by the leaders, and funds maintained by the Republican and Democratic state committees.

Most of the gaming-related contributions to Harrisburg leaders in recent years, about \$438,000, came from the horse-racing industry and its lobbyist, records show.

And most of that came from four lobbying firms with horse-racing clients—Pugliese Associates, Greenlee Associates, S.R. Wojdak & Associates and the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll—that contributed a total of \$311,000 to the governor and top lawmakers, records show.

Riverboat-gaming advocates gave about \$85,000; casino companies donated a total of \$58,000; and video-poker interests gave about \$25,000, The Inquirer reported.

SWIFT VOTE DOOMS BID FOR BALLOT QUESTION
(By Glen Justice, Ken Dilanian and Rena Singer)

HARRISBURG.—With virtually no debate, the Pennsylvania Senate yesterday killed the effort to expand legalized gambling in the state and left little room for the issue to be resurrected anytime soon.

The Senate voted, 28-21, to declare as unconstitutional the bill passed last month by the House that would have authorized a public vote on the gaming issue. By doing so, the Senate essentially eliminated any chance of legalizing gambling while Gov. Ridge is in office. Ridge, whose term ends in January 2003, has insisted on a referendum before he would consider signing any gambling bill.

"If gambling isn't dead, it is in a pretty deep coma, and I don't see it coming out," Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Jubelirer (R., Blair) said after the vote.

The governor echoed that view, saying it was "time to move on" to other issues. And one longtime supporter of legalized gaming, Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R., Bucks), conceded "it's going to be a long time" before any new forms of gambling come to the state.

The end came swiftly to the proposal to ask voters in the May 18 primary whether they approved of riverboat gambling, slot machines at horse-racing tracks, and video poker in taverns. The House had debated for 10 hours over two days last month before approving the proposal to place the nonbinding questions on the ballot.

But the Senate wasted little time in dispatching the issue. As soon as the issue came to the floor, a gaming opponent, Sen. David Brightbill (R., Lebanon), invoked a parliamentary maneuver by asking the Senate to consider the bill's legality under the state constitution. One senator rose briefly to oppose the move, and then the roll-call vote was taken.

Within minutes, the issue that had commanded the legislature's attention since January was over.

The vote was a blow to the horseracing industry, which has been losing customers to Delaware and West Virginia, where slots are legal. Another loser was the tavern industry, which saw the video-poker proposal as a way to boost what it says are sagging sales. Mayor Rendell saw riverboat gambling as a way to raise money for Philadelphia's schools.

"There is nothing on the horizon that will provide our kids with adequate funding for education," Rendell said yesterday, with resignation and a touch of bitterness in his voice. "I'd like to ask the senators who voted this way: Where is funding for our kids going to come from? I'm just perplexed."