

took the first plane out on Tuesday morning. I find, when I get here at 4:30 that the House concluded business at 2:30 in the afternoon, and I missed the votes, as did some other people from the West Coast. I saw the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN) from not even quite the west coast on the plane on Tuesday also.

I would hope that the majority will consider this schedule in the future. I would further note, and no one should take offense at this, because even though my name is DEFAZIO, my mother is an O'Shea, and I come from the O'Sheas and Crowleys, I note that, on Wednesday, the House of Representatives delayed all votes until after 3 o'clock this afternoon because there was a Saint Patrick's Day parade in New York.

Now for some reason, we can delay all the proceedings of the House of Representatives until after 3 o'clock in the afternoon for a joyous occasion, a parade, but for regular business and accommodating the schedules of West Coast Members, who constitute a significant minority of this body, they apparently can do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask the gentleman if there is any consideration going to be given on that side to putting those votes, the two or three votes that were done by 2:30 in the afternoon later in the day on Tuesday?

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) yield?

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would say, first of all, I am very sympathetic to the gentleman's plight. I am lucky enough to live in New York and be able to shuttle down here. There is difficulty. The majority and the minority have been working with Members to try to increase the predictability of the schedule. There has been more sensitivity.

This week in particular, there will be no votes on Monday. We will not come in until 12 o'clock, or we expect no votes until 12 o'clock on Tuesday. We will be out by 2 p.m. on Friday. Of course, 2 weeks thereafter we will be in recess. So we have a difficult week in terms of trying to ensure that a budget resolution and some other legislation is done in a 4-day period.

I can only tell the gentleman that we are trying to be sensitive to those colleagues who are on the West Coast. There has been some significant modification of the schedule to reflect that sensitivity over the last several weeks. I think that we are going to continue to try and work on it.

But, again, this week in particular, we have a 4-day week. We are not in at all on Monday, and we have the 2 weeks of recess thereafter. It is important that we get our work done. We will do the best that we can.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from New Jersey yield further?

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am pretty sure of next week before a recess. But, again, just pointing to this week, votes were done by 2:30 on Tuesday. Clearly, the House could have gone in at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and been done by 6:30 on Tuesday and accommodated Members from the West Coast.

Then on Wednesday, we reversed the entire schedule and did not vote until after 3:00 because of a parade for people on the East Coast. I mean, some of us might have liked to go to Saint Patrick's Day parades on the West Coast, but the gentleman would have had to give us 2 days to do it. In any case, I do not see great sensitivity in last week's schedule. I hope, after we come back from the recess, they can do a little better by West Coast Members.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO). Hopefully we can look into that after that recess.

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will be happy to, and we will continue to try and show sensitivity for this issue.

The other point, of course, in all of this is to make sure that the committees have Members here on both sides of the aisle. There has been concern expressed by the committee chairmen, so that Members are here, they attend to their business, we get our work done, it is on the legislative floor here. We will try to work to ensure that there is better predictability and good communication on both sides of the aisle.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 22, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. 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 New York?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. LAZIO. 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
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provi-

sions of 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. SANFORD of South Carolina,
Mr. DOOLITTLE of California,
Mr. CAMPBELL of California,
Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, and
Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JOHN
F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

Mr. GEPHARDT of Missouri.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 17, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 801(b)(6) and (8) of Public Law 100-696, I hereby appoint the following individual to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. Pastor, AZ.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

□ 1715

REPORT OF CORPORATION FOR
PUBLIC BROADCASTING—MES-
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) 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 Commerce.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-356), I transmit herewith a report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This report outlines, first, the Corporation's efforts to facilitate the continued development of superior, diverse, and innovative programming and, second, the Corporation's efforts to solicit the views of the public on current programming initiatives.

This report summarizes 1997 programming decisions and outlines how

Corporation funds were distributed—\$47.9 million for television program development, \$18.8 million for radio programming development, and \$15.6 million for general system support. The report also reviews the Corporation's Open to the Public campaign, which allows the public to submit comments via mail, a 24-hour toll-free telephone line, or the Corporation's Internet website.

I am confident this year's report will meet with your approval and commend, as always, the Corporation's efforts to deliver consistently high quality programming that brings together American families and enriches all our lives.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 18, 1999.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY, 1998—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the provisions of section 504(h) of Public Law 98-164, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4413(i)), I transmit herewith the 15th Annual Report of the National Endowment for Democracy, which covers fiscal year 1998.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 18, 1999.

PRAISE TO STUDENTS FROM COVENANT CHRISTIAN AND CLINTON HIGH SCHOOLS FOLLOWING AFTERMATH OF AMTRAK TRAIN CRASH

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before the American people and my colleagues to comment on the fatal Amtrak train crash that occurred earlier this week. I am saddened this terrible tragedy took place. In their slumber, over late night snacks and conversations, fellow Americans aboard Amtrak's City of New Orleans were jolted into a reality of death and injury.

Today we mourn with our fellow Americans. In particular, I pause to offer condolences to fellow Mississippians who suffered losses in this crash. We pause to give thanks for life while seeking to understand why bad things happen. The American family stands with all those who have suffered.

Out of the tragedy came several stories of heroism. We can find the strength and endurance of the Amer-

ican spirit in many of the passengers who worked to protect and save the lives of others during this crash. I want to tell my colleagues about students from Mississippi who were on this train.

Young Mississippians from Covenant Christian School and Clinton High School were returning from a spring break trip. Out of the chaos and heartbreak, these Mississippi teenagers went to work securing the safety and well-being of fellow passengers. These students were courageous, caring, heroic, and brave.

I want all Americans to know about these teenagers from Clinton High School and Covenant Christian School. Why? Because we can all stand a little taller and feel a little better about our Nation and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I provide the names of these students for inclusion in the RECORD.

List of Students: Danielle Bell, Drew Bilbo, Chris Carter, Suzanne Cole, Emily Diffenderfer, Tim Farrar, Michael Freeman, Anna Fulgham, Stephanie Ly, Jeff Sartor, Shadia Slaieh, Jessica Switzer, Anshika Singh, Caleb McNair, Melissa Watson, and Christina Bomgaars.

Chaperones: Delores Bell, John Farrar, and Phyllis Hurlley.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO BRING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UP-TO-DATE ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the characteristics of a livable community is the desire to promote the safety, health, and economic security of our families.

Today, in the newspapers around the country, people read of the expected flooding that is about to occur this spring. I, obviously, come from an area of the Pacific Northwest that will be particularly hard hit, although we are often under water even in the best of times, and it may be less of a wrenching experience for some of us than around the country.

We are going to watch for an unusually harsh spring in the Pacific Northwest, in the Southwest, in the East, and it is an item that the Federal Government has been concerned about for a number of years. The Federal Government has been a partner working to protect against flood damage since 1960. Over \$40 billion Federal dollars have been invested in this effort.

Ironically, the losses from flood damage today, adjusted for inflation, are three times greater than before we started in 1960 and spent the \$40 billion. Why? In part, because we have not been as wise as we should have been in the expenditure of these funds. We have taken rivers across the country, we have narrowed and channelized them, we have encouraged people to live up to the river's edge with a false sense of security, we have paved over half our Nation's wetlands and, consequently, in many of these areas, there is simply no place for the water to go.

The result of our Federal disaster policy has been massive damage to a number of the same properties at a great cost to the taxpayer. One home in Houston that is appraised at less than \$115,000 has received over \$800,000 in federal flood insurance in less than 20 years.

There is, in fact, a smarter way to promote community livability. I have introduced legislation today, with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), H.R. 1186, to bring the Federal Government up-to-date on water resource management.

The current system simply does not work well. The Corps of Engineers does cost-benefit analysis that simply does not recognize the benefit of flood damage avoided by moving communities out of harm's way and it, consequently, produces a flawed analysis.

Likewise, Federal financial assistance has a current cost-share formula that penalizes communities that make special efforts to develop and implement hazard mitigation and floodplain management.

Lastly, we do not give communities enough flexibility to fine-tune the projects that we have previously authorized.

As a result, on the books we have projects that are often expensive and do not adequately address the threat in today's needs, and communities are not allowed to be involved in this process directly.

Our legislation, H.R. 1186, would correct all of these items. It changes the cost-benefit ratio to fully reflect the benefits including avoided costs of moving people out of harm's way. It will provide the same financial incentives for the low-cost, innovative, less intrusive approaches to floodplain management as if people are going to use traditional dams, dikes and levees.

Finally, it will allow the private and public local partners, who are working with the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Government, to provide cost-effective solutions and to be able to refine and fine-tune those plans without having to go back through the reauthorization process.

We talk a lot on the floor of this House about reducing Federal redtape. This is a simple item that we, by legislation, can permit our communities to