

leader has said, the appropriators will be meeting through the weekend, as we have been for nearly a month, on this last remaining bill with the White House, and we are going around in circles. If they cannot have it their way, they do not want it any way.

But I have a friendly question for both sides. Since the majority leader and the House and I confirm we will be working through the weekend, is it okay, based on some of the debate that we have heard so far in the last couple of weeks, is it okay if we work in the dark of night? Because it is going to take more than the daylight hours to get this done. And if it does, my Democrat colleagues should not criticize us next week for having made decisions in the dark of night.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida for his genteel observations. Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, the President has agreed to 1-day CRs until we complete this work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask our body to just take a moment and appreciate the appropriators for their continuous work in negotiation. They are, in fact, continuing to work.

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate continuing with this so that I could yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, for yielding me this time. I would just note that I welcome the comments of the gentleman from Florida, although I would say they are at some variance with the fact that we were just told at about 11:30 by one of the key conferees that he did not intend to meet either Saturday or Sunday. I am hoping that that comment was made in a momentary expression of frustration.

But, nonetheless, I would like for purposes of clarification to follow up on a question asked by, I think, the gentleman from Texas. We are trying in the conference, we are trying to determine what is going to happen with the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary bill and what is going to happen with the tax bill, because that impacts the final negotiations on the Labor-HHS bill.

□ 1330

I would like to ask the distinguished majority leader if he could explain to us his understanding of whether and when the Senate is intending to send either of those bills to the White House. Because there are interesting implications for the Labor-HHS bill if the tax bill, for instance, does not go to the White House.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and there are many aspects to his observations.

On the question of the difficulty we have in scheduling the continuing ne-

gotiations, I know it was frustrating for a lot of our members on the Committee on Appropriations in both bodies who were here working last night to see that both the President and his chief of staff, his principle negotiator, were there at the World Series.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Yankees for their victory last night. Certainly that made it difficult to work last night.

I understand that the President is traveling to California. Whether or not his chief of staff and chief negotiator goes with him to California or not, I do not know. But we will continue to encourage everybody to be at the table.

In the meantime, the Senate, the other body, Mr. Speaker, continues to have its frustrations within the context of their rules. The minority is, as my colleagues know, are quite empowered to prevent things from happening in both of the bills that the gentleman referred to, are being held up in the other body by the minority in their effort to do whatever it is they are doing. They are frustrated in their inability to get those two bills to the floor for a vote. We will obviously encourage them to proceed as much as possible.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, recognizing that we have no idea of what will happen to those other bills, I would say we need to have some clarification of that before we know what matters have to be included in the Labor-HHS bill, especially with respect to school construction.

The other thing I would simply say in response to the comments of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) about Mr. Lew. Mr. Lew has been in this city. He has been in this building, prepared to negotiate virtually every day since Labor Day. He has been working 12, 14, 16 hours a day.

My colleagues can laugh. My colleagues on the other side can laugh if they want, but he has been here a lot more than any of them have.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me just respond to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). Again, let me remind him, insofar as it is possible, Mr. Speaker, I do control the time. I want to acknowledge the point just made by the gentleman from Wisconsin. We are all working hard. We do want to appreciate one another. In that regard, even I myself was just so pleased that I managed to get back to my office at least to watch the last inning of last night's game. So I know how important that is to Mr. Lew.

I just want to say we do want to encourage everybody. My purpose here is that, understand this is important work we are talking about. The differences between ourselves on education are important business that is before the American people. They are going to take time because our differences are so heartfelt. I will not

take the time to outline those right now.

What I am saying is let us take a moment to appreciate one another. We are committed to this hard work. We are as committed to our purposes as the White House and the minority are to theirs. This will take some time. So I am sure we will all enjoy each other as we continue to encourage the appropriators.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I really think for the purpose to which I asked for this time, I have really completed what I need to do. I am happy to yield back my time.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the request.

ARTHUR "PAPPY" KENNEDY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4399, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4399, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the 'Arthur "Pappy" Kennedy Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDDIE MAE STEWARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4400, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4400, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: