So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet on Monday, June 19, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members’ offices tomorrow. On Monday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 p.m. We will also consider H.R. 4635, VA-HUD appropriations for fiscal year 2001 on Monday under an open rule. Members should expect to work until about 9 p.m. on VA-HUD Monday evening.

On Tuesday, June 20 and the balance of the week, the House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 4601, the Debt Reduction and Reconciliation Act of 2000;

H.R. 4201, the Noncommercial Broadcasting Freedom of Expression Act of 2000;

H.J. Res. 90, withdrawing the approval of the United States from the agreement established in the World Trade Organization;

H.R. 4516, Legislative Branch appropriations for fiscal year 2001;

H.R. 4461, Agricultural Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2001;


Mr. Speaker, we have just completed a very productive week in the House. I want to thank my colleagues for all their hard work. Obviously, next week we have laid out another very ambitious schedule for the House; and so I would caution my colleagues to be prepared to work late nights Monday through Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all my colleagues a good weekend back in their districts and a happy Father’s Day.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for the information. I note that the prescription drug bill is not on the calendar for next week, Mr. Leader; but I am wondering, notably, whether the gentleman confirm for us the discussions we have had that, because this is a matter of such importance to the American people, that when the bill does come up, that the minority will at a minimum have the opportunity to offer our substitute proposal that has brought this issue to the floor when it does come to the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for that inquiry, and the gentleman is absolutely correct. It is an important issue. The committee expects to mark it up and prepare it for the House by Wednesday of next week.

We would hope to have it on the floor by the following week. And, of course, the Committee on Rules will deliberate on that. And I am sorry I cannot answer at this time what rule will be reported.

I do appreciate the concern the minority has, and I will relay that on to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his reply, and I understand the fact that he may not be able to predict what the Committee on Rules would do, but can the distinguished Leader, based upon what I understand are conversations that I have not participated in, but I think some have, can the Leader advise me whether or not it would be his intention to advise the Committee on Rules that the minority have the opportunity to offer its substitute on an issue of such magnitude to the American people?

Mr. ARMEY. Let me again thank the gentleman for his inquiry. I have not participated in the discussions to which the gentleman refers. I will consult with those Members of our leadership that have been involved in those discussions and then act in accordance with what I understand from those discussions.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his response, and, again, would hope very sincerely that on a matter of this magnitude that the House would have the opportunity of considering at least two substantive alternatives and the substantive alternative offered by the minority party (fit to offer it.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman’s interests; and certainly I understand, having been in the minority, myself, how strongly you must feel about that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

AUTHORIZING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K. OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

(a) INAPPLICABILITY OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to the persons specified in subsection (b) for the acts specified in that subsection, the award of the Medal of Honor to such persons having been determined by the Secretary of the Army to be warranted in accordance with section 1130 of such title.

(b) PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR.—The persons referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Ed W. Freeman, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on November 14, 1965, as flight leader and second-in-command of a helicopter lift unit at landing zone X-Ray in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, while serving in the grade of Captain in Alpha Company, 299th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Cavalry Division (Air-mobile).

(2) James K. Okubo, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on October 28 and 29, and November 4, 1944, at Pevot Domaniale de Champ, near Biffontaine, during World War II, while serving as an Army medic in the grade of Technician Fifth Grade in the medical detachment, 442d Regimental Combat Team.

Andrew J. Smith, for conspicuous acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty on November 30, 1864, in the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, during the Civil War, while serving as a corporal in the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

(c) POSTHUMOUS AWARD.—The Medal of Honor may be awarded under this section posthumously, as provided in section 3752 of such title, to the persons specified in subsection (b).

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2722

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K. OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2722 authorizes the award of the Medal of Honor to Ed. W. Freeman, James K. Okubo, and Andrew J. Smith, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2722

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO ED W. FREEMAN, JAMES K. OKUBO, AND ANDREW J. SMITH.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

June 15, 2000

Linder

Legg

Martinez

McCulloch

McKenty

Meeke (PL)

Meeke (NY)

Millender-McDonald

Miller, Gary

Maderos

Neal

Owens

Oxley

Payne

Rangel

Rainey

Ryan, Larry

Serrano

Shuster

Skelton

Toomey

Townsend

Velazquez

Vento

Watt (NC)

Shuster

Watt (NC)

Watt (NY)

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Watt (NY)

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the law for the award of the Medal of Honor. The three cases involve extraordinary valor in combat and represent well the high standard for bravery that is the hallmark of our Nation's most cherished decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Corporal Andrew J. Smith, 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, saved the regimental colors from capture on November 30, 1864, during the Battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina, when an assault left one-half of the regiment's officers and a third of the enlisted men killed or wounded.

Technician Fifth grade, James K. Okubo, Medical Detachment 422nd Regimental Combat Team, rescued several badly wounded members of his unit while under heavy enemy fire on October 28, 29, and November 4, 1944, near Biffontaine, France.

Captain Ed. W. Freeman, 229 Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, repeatedly flew into one of the hottest and most embattled landing zones of the Vietnam War to provide essential supplies and evacuate wounded on November 14, 1963, at landing zone X-ray during the battle of the LaDrang Valley, Republic of Vietnam.

The legislation would provide the appropriate honors posthumously to three valiant Americans of very different backgrounds, engaged in three very different battles. No matter how different the men, no matter how different the tactical or technological aspects of the conflicts in which they found themselves, they each reflected the best character of the American soldier.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that this legislation would, if adopted by the House, permit Mr. Okubo's family to receive his medal along with other officers and a third of the enlisted men killed or wounded.

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Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to ap-

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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 debates.

Mr. Speaker, I thank in particular Mike Higgins and Phil Grone, Ashley Godwin and Deborah Watta for making it possible for the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and myself to appear on the floor in such an expeditious manner. They have done a terrific job with this, Mr. Speaker, and I am very grateful. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2722.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

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 debates.

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There was no objection.