

out of the Committee on Ways and Means yet this afternoon or this evening.

Mr. Speaker, appropriators are also working hard on additional bills now in conference. It is our hope that additional appropriations conference reports will be available for consideration in the House at some point next week.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the gentleman from Ohio if the aviation security bill is coming to the floor next week.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, we are hopeful it will come to the floor next week. We are still working on this legislation. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and others are working on it. We want to take this bill up with some urgency, but we cannot give the gentleman a firm time at this point.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, let me just say this. We have been very patient here. I have been raising this issue each week at the end of the week with a colloquy with the distinguished majority leader about the aviation security bill, and about the compensation bill for those who were laid off. Every week we have been told, well, we are working on that. We are working on it.

While we are working on it, the American people want some security in their flights. They want to know that their baggage is going to be checked. They want to know that there is a federally-secured inspection system in place. They want to know all of these things.

I must say, with all due respect, we are running out of patience, and I think the American people are running out of patience. That bill ought to have been brought to the floor today. It passed the Senate 100 to 0. There is no reason why we keep delaying and delaying and delaying.

So I want to encourage my friend, the gentleman from Ohio, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, have that bill on the floor as soon as we get back here next week. The American people are ready for it; we are ready for it on our side. I know Members on the gentleman's side are ready for it. There is no reason to continue to delay this important legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just say to the distinguished acting majority leader that in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure we have worked very diligently on a bipartisan basis sharing ideas, coming to agreement on virtually all items in an aviation security bill but one.

I would hope that we would have that legislation, either the majority version or our version. Certainly, I understand bringing up the majority version of this bill on the House floor next week, but with an opportunity for us to offer our package as a substitute, or an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

I know, without going into the detail of it here, there is division over one issue. We ought to have an opportunity to elucidate that issue of who ought to conduct the screening of persons and carry-on baggage and checked baggage at airports. We ought to have a rational discussion on this subject. I hope that the majority will allow that to occur on the House floor next week.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I know we have an important briefing, and Members are waiting to hear the briefing and to catch airplanes and get home with their families, which is also very important.

We totally agree that it is very urgent to bring this measure to the floor. As we know, the Senate completed action only late last night. There are some differences between the President's proposal and the Senate bill. There are some complex issues still to be resolved. But we are very hopeful we can get that to the floor next week and get these issues resolved, and provide the American people an additional sense of security, in addition to the National Guard and other important measures that have been taken in the interim.

I would tell the gentleman that the points are well taken, and we will move with urgency.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would just say to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio, and he is my friend, that the Senate worked last night on the bill we just passed here a few moments ago. The gentleman on his side saw fit to bring it to the floor and get it done today.

There is no reason why we cannot move on this important piece of legislation. It passed the Senate 100 to 0. The American people want security in aviation, in flying in this country. We need it, and we needed it yesterday. So I want to encourage all my colleagues on the other side to pressure their leadership to get it to the floor.

We know what the issue is. The issue is whether we are going to have a professional Federal work force inspecting. Everyone understands that. Why do we not have a debate on that? This is what this is about.

It should not be about one or two people on that side of the aisle who are holding this up because they do not want it. It should be a debate where everybody decides on this floor. If we win, fine. If they win, fine. Let us get on with the business of taking care of the flying public.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3073

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 3073.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2001 for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that 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 Ohio?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOYD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 12:30 p.m. on account of business in the district.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of previously scheduled surgery.

Mr. MILLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for October 9 and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of his house catching on fire.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 68. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles: