

observations, and perhaps I will take him up on that offer. That might be instructive for both of us and perhaps for the American people as well. I understand the gentleman's perspective. We differ. That is not surprising, I am sure, to the viewers.

But I will say this, Mr. Leader, if I can, that this is about discussing the schedule. We have a very short time frame. We have 14 days left that are scheduled in this session before the election, and we are coming back for a lame duck session. I understand that. But I was simply inquiring of you whether or not those matters which we believe are important might be on the schedule. I am not debating their merits or demerits at this point in time. I can do that and, as a matter of fact, look forward to discussing that in a Special Order with you. But we do believe it was in the realm of a discussion about what might be scheduled.

And I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague. And while we may differ on whether the glass is half full or half empty, I do have great respect for my colleague from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006, TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. tomorrow and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. 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 Ohio?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2965, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING ACT

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of September 11 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment proc-

ess for floor consideration of H.R. 2965, the Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by noon on Tuesday, September 12, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as ordered reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, which was filed with the House on July 21, 2006.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format, and they should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 5122, G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HUNTER, WELDON of Pennsylvania, HEFLEY, SAXTON, MCHUGH, EVERETT, BARTLETT of Maryland, THORBERRY, HOSTETTLER, JONES of North Carolina, RYUN of Kansas, GIBBONS, HAYES, CALVERT, SIMMONS, Mrs. DRAKE, Messrs. DAVIS of Kentucky, SKELTON, SPRATT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR of Mississippi, ABERCROMBIE, MEEHAN, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ANDREWS.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LAHOOD, and Ms. HARMAN.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 571 and 572 of the House bill, and sections 571, 572, 1081, and 1104 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MCKEON, KLINE, and GEORGE MILLER of California.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 314, 601, 602, 710, 3115, 3117, and 3201 of the House bill, and sections 332-335, 352, 601, 722, 2842, 3115, and 3201 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BARTON of Texas, GILLMOR, and DINGELL.

From the Committee on Government Reform, for consideration of sections 343, 721, 811, 823, 824, 1103, 1104, and 3115

of the House bill, and sections 371, 619, 806, 823, 922, 1007, 1043, 1054, 1088, 1089, 1101, and 3115 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, SHAYS, and WAXMAN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of section 1026 of the House bill, and section 1044 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. KING of New York, REICHERT, and THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on International Relations, for consideration of sections 1021-1023, 1201-1204, 1206, title XIII, sections 3113 and 3114 of the House bill, and sections 1014, 1021-1023, 1054, 1092, 1201-1208, 1210, 1214, title XIII, sections 3112 and 3113 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HYDE, LEACH, and LANTOS.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of section 1021 of the House bill, and sections 666, 1044, 1086, 1089, 1091, and 1094 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, COBLE, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Resources, for consideration of sections 601, 602, and 1036 of the House bill, and section 601 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. POMBO, WALDEN of Oregon, and GRIJALVA.

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of sections 312 and 911 of the House bill, and sections 333, 874, and 1082 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BOEHLERT, SODREL, and GORDON.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 874 and 1093 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. KELLY, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 312, 551, 601, 602, and 2845 of the House bill, and sections 333, 584, 601, 1042, 1095, 2842, 2851-2853, and 2855 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Alaska, LOBIONDO, and OBERSTAR.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of sections 666, 682, 683, 687, 721, and 923 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BUYER, BOOZMAN, and Ms. HERSETH.

There was no objection.

□ 1545

HONORING THE AHWATUKKEE ALL-STARS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is a ritual of the school year where millions of American students return to class and offer an essay entitled, "What I Did on My Summer Vacation."

Mr. Speaker, for a special group of 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds from the Fifth Congressional District of Arizona, it is quite a daunting challenge, because, Mr. Speaker, that select group of young men, nicknamed The Dawgs, the all-stars of Ahwatukee's Little League advanced all the way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

This special team went out as winners. They won their final game but due to a rule for a tie-breaker had the unfortunate experience of not advancing. In fact, of the nine teams that won two games at Williamsport, sadly only the team from Ahwatukee did not advance. But they are more than exceptions, Mr. Speaker; they are true champions, not only the best in the west but a team that went out winners in Williamsport.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the roster of this team and their championship season and would remark as I close, Mr. Speaker, with the observation that they have now entered the history of this House as well as the history of the Little League World Series.

ROSTER FOR AHWATUKEE DAWGS

#18 Michael Anderson, #16 Eric Camarillo, #3 Shaun Chase, #5 Max Harden, #9 Justin Hyden, #44 David Hulls, #11 Connor Kelly, #25 Sam Kingery, #17 Scott Kingery, #14 Chase Knox, #7 Ryan Modi, and #10 Hunter Rodriguez.

Overall Record: 4 Tournaments, 22-2.

Record in Williamsport: 2-1. Dawgs vs. Lemont, Illinois 1-0 (Win); Dawgs vs. Columbus, Georgia 4-1 (Loss); and Dawgs vs. Staten Island, New York 4-1 (Win).

TRUTH SQUAD ON WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, the Truth Squad on Waste, Fraud and Abuse is charged with holding the Bush administration accountable for its mishandling of taxpayer dollars.

That is something that this Republican Congress has failed to do. On issue after issue, from Katrina to Iraq to border security, to health care, we have seen outrageous waste of American tax dollars. And this Congress has repeatedly failed to hold the administration accountable for it.

Today, the Truth Squad is unveiling the Golden Drain Award, which you see next to me in this picture. The Golden Drain is an award that will be displayed in my office, and it will be given each week to a recipient who has been most derelict in their duty as stewards of American taxpayer dollars. We will award this award next week for the first time.

All told, the Truth Squad has identified over \$150 billion of American tax dollars that have gone down the drain of waste, fraud and abuse. Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. It is time for accountability. It is time for a new direction. It is time to audit America's books.

NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans are frustrated. Back in May, the Senate passed the "No Illegal Alien Left Behind" bill which hands rights and benefits to lawbreakers on a silver platter. Clearly we have a large hurdle to overcome in compromising with this very atrocious bill.

However, with each day that we fail to pass meaningful border security reform, Americans become anxious that we will do nothing or even worse that we may cave in to the Senate. I heard from more than 14,000 constituents over the last month who emphatically told me that they do not want amnesty for law breakers.

Listen up America: We must stand united behind the border security bill passed by the House, H.R. 4437, and to proclaim to Americans that we agree with them and we will never give amnesty to illegal aliens.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.S. MILITARY'S READINESS PROBLEMS

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on July 5, 1950, near the city of Osan in South Korea, North Korean forces faced a battalion of American soldiers who had been sent to stop the Korean advance. This battalion of 406 soldiers was undermanned, under-trained and poorly equipped. These soldiers fought a 7-hour battle that ended in retreat, and with 150 American infantrymen killed, wounded or missing.

This battalion was known as Task Force Smith, and its failure was due to a lack of readiness on the part of our military after World War II. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the low readiness levels of the Army and the Marine Corps are going to once again endanger our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about readiness problems before. And it continues to concern me as this situation worsens. Let me be blunt. Our ground forces and their reserves face a crisis with manpower and equipment shortages and will be challenged to complete their missions should they be called to respond to an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I have used the word "readiness" many times before. But I feel it necessary to clearly define its meaning. Readiness describes the condition of our military forces. It is a measure of how well they are manned, trained and equipped to complete the full range of missions necessary to defend our Nation.

This is why the falling readiness levels of our Army and our Marine Corps are so disturbing. They indicate that we may not be able to defend our Nation's interests wherever they may face challenges. The most striking example of this problem is with equipment. Over 40 percent of the Army and Marine Corps ground equipment is now deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. It is wearing out as much as nine times faster than normal. Only 3 years in Iraq has placed as much as 27 years of wear on our equipment, forcing the Department of Defense to cannibalize the equipment of non-deployed units and the National Guard.

This cannibalization of equipment has left the Army without a single combat brigade in the Continental United States ready for all of their war-time missions.

Simply put, the war in Iraq is sapping our strategic base and leaving us with a broken Army. The Armed Services Committee is nearing agreement to add \$20 billion to the Defense Authorization Act for next year to try to help fix this grave situation.

This will help, but the Department's readiness problems are too large to be fixed by a one-time investment. Together, the Army and Marine Corps need an astounding \$29 billion in 2007 to repair or replace equipment damaged in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amount is only part of the overall bill that represents a snapshot in time of a problem that is large and continues to grow.

The problem has developed over time due to mismanagement and a failure on the part of the administration to adequately plan for Iraq. It cannot be solved overnight. Congress can continue to provide band-aids for readiness shortfalls by funding through supplementals, but the Army and Marine Corps are limping along. They cannot keep pace with falling readiness levels.

The only way to truly solve this problem is for the administration to commit to fully funding the needs of the Department of Defense. This country is at war. Americans have a right to expect the administration to realistically budget for national defense.