

sides of the aisle that we have had the final vote for this evening. In just a few minutes we will be making a unanimous consent request that has been cleared on both sides of the aisle, that has been fully vetted, that would allow us, if accepted, to proceed with 2 hours of general debate this evening on the welfare reform bill.

We would then come back in the morning to open business at 9 a.m. We would have an agreed-upon number of 1-minute at the outset of our morning's work and we would then go back to this bill for further debate, consideration of the amendments made in order under the rule, and then continue on that bill with the expectation of completing our work between 5 and 6, but certainly enabling everybody to make their 6 o'clock departure time tomorrow evening.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, if the majority leader would yield, my understanding is that the rule is likely to have 2 hours of general debate for tomorrow also; is that accurate?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. SABO. And 1 hour on the Castle-Tanner substitute?

Mr. ARMEY. There will be 1 hour on a majority substitute, whatever that should be.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, one final point. I should also advise Members that in the matter of rearranging the schedule for the orderly conduct of our business, we have deferred consideration of campaign finance reform until Wednesday of next week.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3734, WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time for the Speaker, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, that the first reading of the bill be dispensed with, that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived, that general debate be confined to the bill and be limited to 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, that after general debate the Committee of the Whole rise without motion, and that no further consideration of the bill be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 359

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 359.

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

There was no objection.

WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3734.

□ 1640

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, with Mr. GREENE of Utah in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO], will each control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH].

Mr. KASICH. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, today we have the beginning of a debate that really represents wonderful news for America. Frankly, the third time, they say in lore, is always a charm. Well, this is the third time we are going to bring to the floor, and we are going to pass, a welfare reform bill that ends welfare as we know it and provides a new level of opportunity for all Americans, opportunity for people who find themselves in need of assistance and opportunity for those folks who get up and go to work every morning and ask nothing from their government other than to have their level of taxation kept at a minimum and to have the maximum amount of personal liberty.

Now, Madam Chairman, this welfare bill that we are about to consider today is something that I think Americans have been asking for virtually all

of my adult life. And let me tell my colleagues what it is about. It is founded on the basis of Judeo-Christianity. Judeo-Christianity says it is a sin not to help people who need help, but it also says it is equally a sin to continue to help people who need to learn how to help themselves.

What we have in this bill is a generous amount of continued assistance for those people who find themselves in real need. I was born and raised in a community where we had a public housing development just down the street, and we always believed that it was necessary that people get the kind of help they need to lift themselves up by their bootstraps, to get the kind of help from those people in our society who have been successful, who have been blessed; and that from those people who are the most successful there is a need and a reason and, frankly, an ultimatum in some respects to make sure that we help those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves dependent.

Now, at the same time, we also believed in the community where I was born and raised that we need to give people an opportunity to be able to lift themselves out of these situations that make them dependent. I think we all recognize in this country that if we have a program that traps people in dependence, it is wrong.

In other words, we do not want to have created a welfare system in our country where people have learned to depend on it and not to be able to depend on themselves.

□ 1845

Frankly, it is not fair to those folks. It is certainly not fair to their children who get raised in an environment where they seem to get confused about the issue of dependency and independence. I believe virtually everybody in this country wants to be independent from help from others. I believe that virtually everybody in this country wants to have a job. But I think that we have created some systems, including the current welfare system, that have provided too many of the wrong incentives for people to avoid work or to be lulled into a sense of dependency. It is wrong. It is wrong for the people on the system. It is wrong for their children.

So what we attempt to do in this welfare bill is to provide generous amounts of money so that the children of people on welfare can be taken care of while the people who are on welfare get trained and get a job. We say at the end of the day, you must go and find a job. We will train you. We will help you find a job. And at the end of the day, you are going to have to get off of welfare and you are going to have to go to work. I think that is what most people in this country want.

Second, however, it will not just be a victory for those who have found themselves trapped in the system that in some respects has robbed themselves