Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague. I will rest well this weekend with his assurances.

Let me ask my friend from New York, the Vieques resolution, when does he expect that up on suspensions and what day, if it is under suspension?

Mr. LAZIO. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would say to the gentleman that we are trying to negotiate through and accommodate the minority's concerns on this piece of legislation. We will have a hearing and markup in committee. It will go through regular order, as expected.

We are trying to accommodate the concerns that have been raised by the minority before we see it on the floor.

Mr. BONIOR. Am I to gather from the gentleman's answer that this will be under regular order and not under the Suspension Calendar?

Mr. LAZIO. I would say to the gentleman, I think the plan is to go through the committee process and to have regular hearings, have a markup, and have it on the floor, but not next week. It is not likely to be up on the floor for next week.

Mr. BONIOR. Let me ask the gentleman one other question. Tuesday is Election Day, as my colleague knows, across the country. Will votes occur after a certain time on Tuesday?

Mr. LAZIO. We are trying to ensure that the votes will be held until the afternoon to allow those Members who have the opportunity, that live in the close proximity and have the ability to have a flight to get back after votes on Monday evening, to do that.

So I would say Members should anticipate not having any votes in the morning of Tuesday nor in the early afternoon, but rather in the mid or later afternoon would be the earliest we would have votes. Members should stay in contact, I think, with their respective cloakrooms. We will perhaps be giving more updates on Tuesday.

Mr. BONIOR. Finally, if the gentleman from New York can tell me when he expects to have the conferees named on the Patients' Bill of Rights?

Mr. LAZIO. I would say to the gentleman that we are expecting that would be completed for next week.

Mr. BONIOR. The gentleman expects to name conferees next week?

Mr. LAZIO. Yes, sir.

Mr. BONIOR. How about Friday, next Friday? Do we anticipate votes next Friday?

Mr. LAZIO. Right now I would say to the gentleman that it appears that Members should count on being here for Friday votes. We expect the House to be in session for votes on Friday.

As the gentleman knows, the CR expires on Friday. It would be wonderful if we had an accommodation and agreement that would allow us to conclude our business by Friday, but right now, Members should anticipate being here on Friday.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. 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.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BLUNT. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3140

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the cosponsorship of H.R. 3140.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 2389, COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon a Dear Colleague letter was sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of November 1 to grant a rule for consideration of H.R. 2389, the County Schools Funding Revitalization Act of 1999.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to an amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) which will be printed in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1.

It is the intention of the Committee on Rules to make in order the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) as base text for the purpose of further amendment. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to assure that their amendments are properly drafted, and 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. 1180, TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1180) to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. ARCHER, BLILEY, ARMEY, RANGEL, and DINGELL.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE SENATOR JOHN H. CHAFEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 341, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late John H. Chafee:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island;
Mr. WEYGAND of Rhode Island;
Mr. SHUSTER of Pennsylvania;
Mr. WAXMAN of California; and
Mr. PETRI of Wisconsin.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this time to talk about some important developments in the relationship between the United States and India.

In the past few weeks, the headlines from South Asia have been dominated by the news from India's neighbor Pakistan, where a military coup has deposed the nation's civilian prime minister. This was obviously an important and very disturbing development, one which has been condemned by me and many of my colleagues here in Congress. Unfortunately, there is often a tendency to lump India and Pakistan together, to see all developments in South Asia as a function of the conflicts between India and Pakistan.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, what we now see in South Asia are two nations moving in very different directions. While Pakistan is mired in military coups and economic collapse, India sticks to the path of democracy and economic reform. We must consider India, and take it seriously on its own terms, as the world's largest democracy, the second most populous nation, an important regional player in Asia in its own right, a huge and growing market for American trade and investment, a potential partner on security issues and the fight against terrorism, and as a country with the great potential for cooperation in such areas as environmental protection, energy efficiency, and infrastructure development.

Mr. Speaker, this week we have seen some indications that U.S. policy is beginning to accommodate some of the important distinctions between these two countries. Last year, after India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests, a wide range of economic sanctions were imposed on both countries.

About a year ago, Congress and the President acted to waive these sanctions for 1 year. This week, under the renewed waiver authority, President Clinton has waived the economic sanctions on India, but kept most of the sanctions against Pakistan in response to the coup.

Under the President's determination, Pakistan would be ineligible for loans from the Export-Import Bank and unable to participate in the International Military Education and Training, IMET, program. It also means that the U.S.-backed Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC, and the Trade Development Agency would not be able to operate in Pakistan.

A White House National Security Council spokesman stated that the different treatment of the two countries reflects the reality that things have changed for the worst in Pakistan, and that there can be no business as usual in Pakistan until an elected government is restored. I hope that our government will stick with that policy.

More important, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the administration not to use the prospect of reopening military assistance to Pakistan as an inducement to the military coup leaders. This is particularly timely in light of recent reports of serious border attacks against India by Pakistani troops in Kashmir.

Secretary of State Albright has called on the Pakistani side to withdraw from the line of control in Kashmir. Given the evidence that the hardliners now in charge of Pakistan were in large part responsible for launching the aggression against India last spring, maintaining the ban on military assistance to Pakistan makes very good sense.

Following the recent nationwide elections in India, a new governing coalition led by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of the BJP has been sworn in. While Mr. Vajpayee and his party were in power prior to last month's voting, the recent elections have given him a stronger majority, allowing for greater political stability.

The new government has wasted no time in demonstrating its commitment to move forward on a bold economic agenda. The government will review the existing foreign direct investment regime to bring in greater transparency, cut delays in project implementation, and create a policy to insure an investment inflow of at least 10 billion U.S. dollars.

In the energy and power sector, the central government will work closely with the State governments on privatization and regulatory overhauls. The government will work to dismantle the administrative price regime. Improvement and expansion of transportation and telecom infrastructure is another major priority.

In the energy sector in particular, the potential for U.S.-India cooperation is great. During his trip to India, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh signed a joint declaration on energy cooperation, which calls for cooperation in conventional energy projects, renewable energy, and clean coal technology. Secretary Richardson has also reported progress with his India counterparts in discussions on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I hope that we will see continued progress in these and other areas, and that the upcoming planned visit to South Asia by President Clinton will further advance the process of establishing a U.S.-India relationship based on shared goals, mutual respect, and appreciation for each other's vital interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

FOLLOW THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I am asking the Speaker of the House and the leadership of the Republican Party to respect the will of the American people, respect the demands of the American people, respect the vote of this House of Representatives, and quickly appoint conferees on H.R. 2723, the Patients' Bill of Rights.

This country cannot wait any longer for the vital health protections included in its important legislation. We cannot afford to have only those opposed to those protections at the table negotiating. To do so would guarantee that these hard-fought protections would just be negotiated away.

It would be criminal not to include Members from the majority who listened to the pleas from their constituents. It would signal the intent of the leadership of this House to ignore the protections that we fought so hard to include in the bipartisan patient protection plan.

So I ask the Speaker, I ask the House leaders not to prejudice the conference from the beginning. The Patients' Bill of Rights included life-saving protections that must be embraced and not thrown out. The people have spoken, and we must listen.

They said they wanted their HMOs to be accountable for decisions that HMO bureaucrats forced, and we listened. They said they wanted an effective appeals process so that decisions could be challenged and lives saved, and this House listened.

They pointed to States like Texas that have had both strong appeals process and accountability. The result of these protections is that few plans and no employers have been sued. This House listened. We took note, and we took action.

The people said that they wanted to continue with their cancer doctors and obstetricians during the course of treatment or pregnancy, and this House listened. They said they wanted to be able to take their children to the closest emergency room when an emergency struck, and this House listened.

They said they wanted their doctors to be able to talk freely with them about their treatment and the medications they needed without feeling gagged by their health plan, and this House listened.

Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives listened to the American people. Please do not turn a deaf ear to those pleas. This life and death issue is too important to play politics with.

I urge that a conference that includes supporters of Patients' Bill of Rights from the majority party be held. They listened, Mr. Speaker. Will you listen? I yield back so that the Speaker and the majority will listen to the American people.