

CONFERENCE TOTAL—WITH COMPARISON

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 2006 recommended

by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2005 amount, the

2006 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 2006 follow:

(in thousands of dollars)

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2005	\$100,210,103
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2006	30,568,748
House bill, fiscal year 2006	31,860,080
Senate bill, fiscal year 2006	33,360,080
Conference agreement, fiscal year 2006	31,860,080
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2005	-68,350,023
budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2006	+1,291,332
House bill, fiscal year 2006	+0
Senate bill, fiscal year 2006	-1,500,000

HAROLD ROGERS,
ZACH WAMP,
TOM LATHAM,
JOANN EMERSON,
JOHN E. SWEENEY,
JIM KOLBE,
ERNEST J. ISTOOR, JR.,
RAY LAHOOD,
ANDER CRENSHAW,
JOHN R. CARTER,
JERRY LEWIS,
MARTIN OLAV SABO,
DAVID E. PRICE,
JOSE E. SERRANO,
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD,
SANFORD D. BISHOP,
CHET EDWARDS,

Managers on the Part of the House.

JUDD GREGG,
THAD COCHRAN,
TED STEVENS,
ARLEN SPECTER,
PETE DOMENICI,
RICHARD C. SHELBY,
LARRY CRAIG,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
WAYNE ALLARD,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
DANIEL K. INOUE,
PATRICK J. LEAHY,
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
HERB KOHL,
HARRY REID,
DIANNE FEINSTEIN,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the leader, for the purpose of informing us of the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding to me, and while I am the temporary majority leader, I am still the whip and always am glad to be called the whip and to refer to the gentleman as the whip.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene Thursday at 10 a.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules, and a final list of those bills will be sent to Members by the end of this week.

We will also consider two measures under a rule, H.R. 2360, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006, and the Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished majority whip and acting leader.

Mr. Leader, so that Members can be certain as to the schedule for next Thursday and Friday, on Thursday the House will begin business at 10 a.m., I understand, with no votes to occur before 2 p.m., and we will consider suspension bills and the conference report on the Homeland Security appropriations bill, and then the House will meet on Friday at 9 a.m. to consider the energy bill. Is that accurate?

Mr. BLUNT. If the gentleman will continue to yield, that is accurate at this point. We have not finalized the absolute sequence of bills, but that is our plan at this time. And the one reason we are starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday is to try to finish our work, even though it is an abbreviated workweek, in a reasonable amount of time.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time and thanking the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman could tell us, because we have discussed with our Members from California, from Washington State, Oregon, and others, if they take a 7:40 a.m. plane, they do not get here much before 4 or a little after 4. Therefore, if those votes are started at 2 p.m., that requires some of our Members to leave the night before.

Some of our Members, as you know, because of their religious observance, cannot leave until after sundown, requiring them to take the red-eye. I discussed this with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) last week, and I am wondering whether or not, because I am sure Members on your side, well, I guess they do not, now that I think about it, have similar problems. But the fact of the matter is that it causes some difficulty for our Members traveling. I wonder if there is a possibility of starting at 10, continuing debate, but rolling votes until after 5 rather than after 2.

Mr. BLUNT. I think the gentleman did have extensive discussion on this last week. I know this week really created a number of challenges for us because of those religious holidays. I believe we have accommodated those in the best way we can and still get Members out of here at a reasonable hour on Friday. And for that reason I think those votes that could be as early as 2 are important in our efforts to get Members on the road Friday.

And, again, our California Members always have so many of the challenges

in travel, but I think this plan accommodates that. I certainly wish we could have perhaps not even come in for these days, but I think the work we have to do on these 2 days is so significant that we do need to come back. And if we do not get started early on Thursday, we will have another problem on Friday with Members who want to get back for what turns out to be a holiday weekend for many of them.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. When we talk about all the Members from California, occasionally some Members there think the western-most county is Hawaii, of California, but I think those of us either from California, the far west in general, and even further west, out in Hawaii, have seldom, if ever, complained about having to make the votes in late afternoon on a Monday or a Tuesday or a Thursday or whatever. But I would just plead for this, and I appreciate the gentleman's yielding to me, but if the gentleman could give those of us west of the Mississippi the opportunity to come and vote, say after 4:30, or about 4:30 or 5, we can do it.

Other than that, it really changes the entire day and night, in my instance the night before, because I come directly from the plane to vote, and many Members of the California, Oregon, Washington, and even some of the other western States who have interconnections they have to make north and south before they come east have to do that.

That is the only reason we ask about that. Maybe we could start a little earlier on Friday and still accommodate what needs to be done. But it is not self-indulgent, it is really a practical question of scheduling.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and perhaps the gentleman and I can discuss this after the colloquy.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to discuss it further. At the same time, I do think that this particular week and the way the holidays fell in this week have created a unique set of circumstances, and our planning for those have been a challenge, there is no question about that.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate those problems. Perhaps we will discuss that. I

believe that starting at 10 makes sense. I understand we want to use all of the time that is available that day, so I am not suggesting that we change that. It is the time when we start votes, and then I am sure there will be a series of votes at some point in time that evening, as we have every Tuesday when we return at night.

But perhaps we can discuss it a little further after the colloquy, and then perhaps, if there is any change, inform Members of that change.

Regarding the energy bill, under what type of rule would the gentleman expect that to be considered; and how late would the gentleman expect votes to go on Friday? First of all, the energy bill and the kind of rule the gentleman expects on the energy bill.

And I say that to my friend in the context, as the gentleman knows, that the bill was introduced Monday of this week. It is my understanding there were 16 hours of markup yesterday, going until 1 a.m. this morning. So there has been little time, really, to review this bill.

Obviously, there will be over the week, and we will not get back until Thursday, so there will be that time. But can the gentleman tell us what kind of rule he might expect on that bill? I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I appreciate the question. In fact, I serve on that committee and that committee was voting until after midnight last night.

The bill is available and will be available for Members to look at during the week. In terms of the rule, we will have to defer that, I think, to the Committee on Rules, and I expect they will go through their normal evaluation of the bill and determine the rule at that time.

In terms of Friday, we are really trying to move to the earliest possible conclusion on Friday, which is one of the reasons, again, to try to be sure we are getting our work done on Thursday. Another reason for Thursday, not only the 10 a.m. start but the effort for Members to return, is I know a number of chairmen are hoping to take advantage of that day in their committees as well. And our friends from the west coast would want to be and I hope are able to be part of that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information, and I am sure the Members will be pleased about that objective as well.

The week of October 17. I know that is some time away, but we will not be having a scheduling colloquy next Friday, probably. Can you give us any indication as to what bills may be on the floor?

Mr. BLUNT. We have not finalized our plan for the week of October 17 yet, Mr. Speaker, but there are a number of litigation reform bills coming out of the Judiciary Committee. I think those are likely candidates for that week, and there may be some other legislation develop. But those bills from the

Committee on the Judiciary are likely to be ready and be coming to the floor that week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 6, 2005

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through October 6, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Canada-United States Inter-parliamentary Group in addition to Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois, Chairman, and Mr. MCCOTTER of Michigan, Vice Chairman, appointed on March 8, 2005:

Mr. OBERSTAR, Minnesota
Mr. SHAW, Florida
Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York
Mr. STEARNS, Florida
Mr. ENGLISH, Pennsylvania
Mr. SOUDER, Indiana
Mr. TANCREDO, Colorado
Mr. LIPINSKI, Illinois

NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDS PROVIDED TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-58)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message *To the Congress of the United States*:

Consistent with title I of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108-335, I am notifying the Congress of the proposed use of \$10,151,538 provided in title I under the heading "Federal Payment for Emer-

gency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia." This will reimburse the District for the costs of public safety expenses related to security events and responses to terrorist threats.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 29, 2005.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN TOM DELAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Congressman TOM DELAY has been one of the most effective leaders in the history of the House of Representatives. Under his leadership, over 4 million Americans have found new jobs, Medicare beneficiaries have gained prescription drug coverage, and U.S. troops have received unprecedented support to protect American families. I am proud of his accomplishments and grateful for his service.

While Congressman DELAY's effectiveness has greatly helped American families, it has unfortunately motivated his critics. By issuing an indictment yesterday against Mr. DELAY, liberal Democrat Ronnie Earle is demonstrating politics at its worst by politicizing his position as prosecutor and is continuing his personal vendetta against Republican leaders.

In 1994, Earle indicted U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and his charges were proved false. I am confident that Congressman DELAY will also be vindicated from this blatant partisan attack.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). 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.

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