

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.

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

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S
COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest cliches in sports is that you do not want your team to be number two.

However, the same does not hold true in other areas. That is why today I want to congratulate the entire St. Mary's College of Maryland community, including the students, alumni and parents and President Margaret O'Brien and the extraordinary faculty, for being ranked the number two public liberal arts college in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it will surprise no one that St. Mary's College is in my district. Furthermore, for full disclosure, I am on the board of trustees of St. Mary's College. It is an extraordinary institution of higher learning.

In fact, according to the latest college rankings by the magazine U.S. News and World Report, St. Mary's College is again one of the top 100 liberal arts colleges in the Nation, rising to 84 from 87 the year before. So not only is it number two of small colleges; it is number 84 in the entire Nation of all colleges.

When it comes to public liberal arts colleges, St. Mary's finished only behind the Virginia Military Institute in the U.S. News rankings.

Those rankings are based upon several criteria of academic excellence, including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources and peer assessment.

And this year, St. Mary's peer assessment rose to 2.9 out of a possible 5.0, and the freshmen retention rate rose to 88 percent.

Mr. Speaker, with roots going back to 1840, St. Mary's College is the State of Maryland's only public honors college, offering the academic excellence of a top private college with the openness and affordability of public education.

Today, about 1,950 men and women from 35 States and 23 countries attend St. Mary's, and the average SAT score for the entering freshmen is 1,252. The faculty also has distinguished itself, and more than 94 percent hold doctorate degrees.

By combining the virtues of public and private education, St. Mary's provides a unique alternative for students and their families. This special identity underpins the college's success and its reputation for excellence, in a waterfront setting in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay region just 70 miles southeast of Washington. It is an extraordinarily beautiful setting for an extraordinarily excellent college.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the college's board of trustees since 1995, I

have seen this wonderful institution flourish over the last decade, and I am particularly pleased to see St. Mary's is winning national recognition among its peers. This is not the first time that has been the case, but it is a continuing affirmation of the excellence at St. Mary's.

Our 34th President, John F. Kennedy, once said: "Education is the main-spring of our economic and social progress. It is the highest expression of achievement in our society, ennobling and enriching human life."

Mr. Speaker, St. Mary's College of Maryland truly enriches southern Maryland and our entire State. I want to congratulate the entire St. Mary's College community on receiving this latest national recognition. Well done, well deserved.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give my Special Order speech at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PRICE GOUGING

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the markup we had last night in the Committee on Energy and Commerce on the energy bill. The purpose of the energy bill being brought forth by the Republican majority is to address price gouging. We would like to see the price of gasoline go down; and certainly with the excessive profits being demonstrated by the oil companies, especially the refinery companies, we have to do something instead of being gouged at the gas pump.

So last night the committee worked some 16 hours, until well after midnight. What we found was this. This chart was in The Washington Post last Sunday. The price of a gallon of gas in 1 year, the price to take it out of the ground, domestic and foreign countries pump crude from the ground, has increased 46 percent in 12 months.

The refiners, refineries process crude oil and a variety of products, including gasoline. In 1 year, their profit or their increase is 255 percent.

Down here are the distributors. They ship the gasoline from the terminal by truck to the gas station. Their cost has

only gone up 5 percent. The end result is in the last 12 months, gas has gone up 64 percent for the American consumer. Even State, Federal, and local taxes have only gone up 2 pennies, a negligible increase.

When Members look at the chart, if we want to try to control the price of gasoline, you have to look at the crude oil producers and definitely the refiners at a 255 percent increase in their costs and price to a gallon of gas in the last 12 months.

So what happened last night in committee?

The Democrats said let us take a look at the Republican bill that we just saw. What they did was this, and we almost defeated it. It was a 26-24 vote. We lost by two votes. It is a bill we will be discussing next week on the floor.

The Republicans said we are not going to go after the producers; they can make a 46 percent profit in 12 months. We are not going to go after the refiner; they can make a 255 percent increase profit in 12 months. We are going after the gas station dealer, the one at 5 percent. If they increase their profits more than 10 percent, we are going after the gas station operators, but not all gas station operators, only ones located in the area where the President has declared a disaster.

The Republican bill basically says this, we have two disasters in this country, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. So parts of Texas, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, they cannot increase their price for gasoline. But the rest of the Nation and north Louisiana, north Alabama, north Mississippi and north and west Texas, they can still increase their prices, no control. They can gouge 255 percent, 46 percent and that is okay under our bill. We are only concerned about the gas station owner who has the least amount to say about the cost of a gallon of gas.

So once again Big Oil wins out. Big refineries win out, and the poor person trying to make a penny off a gallon of gas at the gas station is going to get nailed by the majority party's legislation.

The Democratic side has our legislation, Free Us From Price Gouging. In our bill we apply all of the way down the chain here every type of oil product: home heating oil, propane, natural gas, gasoline. It all comes under our price gouging legislation. We apply it to producers, refiners, and retailers. We take them all into consideration. We apply our price gouging to the entire Nation.

This winter the Midwest is going to pay a 71 percent increase in the price of natural gas. Underneath the Republican bill, there is nothing you can do about it because it only applies to gasoline and diesel. Under the Democratic bill, we can see if there is excessive profits, then you have a right to do something about price gouging.

Under the Democrats' bill, we are going to have the FTC define what