

Platts, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. McHenry, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Jordan of Ohio, Mr. Flake, Mr. Fortenberry, and Mr. Chaffetz.

COMMITTEE ON RULES—Mr. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida and Mr. Sessions.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Smith of Texas, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Biggert, Mr. Akin, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Inglis, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Broun of Georgia, and Mr. Olson.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS—Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Akin, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Gohmert, Ms. Fallin, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Schock, and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT—Mr. Bonner, Mr. Barrett of South Carolina, Mr. Kline of Minnesota, Mr. Conaway, and Mr. Dent.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Petri, Mr. Coble, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Gary G. Miller of California, Mr. Brown of South Carolina, Mr. Johnson of Illinois, Mr. Platts, Mr. Graves, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Dent, Mr. Mack, Mr. Westmoreland, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Miller of Michigan, Ms. Fallin, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Latta, Mr. Scalise, Mr. Cao, Mr. Guthrie, and Mr. Schock.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS—Mr. Stearns, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Brown of South Carolina, Mr. Miller of Florida, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Turner, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Scalise.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS—Mr. Herger, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin, Mr. Cantor, Mr. Linder, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Tiberi, Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, Mr. Davis of Kentucky, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Boustany, Mr. Heller, and Mr. Roskam.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, before I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, I'd like to thank him for extending the gratitude he has this week to me. I'm very grateful for that, for his spirit of bipartisanship and his pledge to me to work with us on this side of the aisle. I look forward to building a constructive working relationship with the gentleman. This is our first colloquy together. I look forward to the successive colloquies. And at this time, I yield to my friend from Maryland, the majority leader, for purposes of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and before getting into

the schedule let me follow up on his remarks.

As all of the Members of this House know, Mr. CANTOR's predecessor, Mr. BLUNT, and I are very good friends and worked closely together. We often disagree on policy, but we have had a long-term ability to work together closely on behalf of the institution, on behalf of the House. The relationship I think was one that was to the benefit of the House of Representatives and to our Members.

I want to thank Mr. CANTOR for visiting with me and talking about how we go forward working together on behalf of the American people and on behalf of this institution. We know that we'll disagree, perhaps more times than not, on major issues, but we also know that the objective that he has and the objective I have and the Members of this House on both sides of the aisle have is a stronger country, with greater opportunity for our people.

□ 1345

I want to congratulate him on his selection as the Republican whip and reiterate his comment that I look forward to working with him in a constructive and positive way.

Madam Speaker, on Monday the House is not in session. On Tuesday the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, no votes are expected.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspensions, as is the practice, will be announced by the close of business today.

We will also consider a bill to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program. We will also consider a House resolution requiring committees to hold hearings upon receipt of certain reports from an inspector general or the Comptroller General of the United States. The President-elect has made it very clear he wants to look at programs and ensure that the money is being spent effectively and that the programs the money supports are effective.

In addition, we will consider the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, which we hope will set parameters, accountability, transparency and expectations for help with the mortgages for any legislation that might be submitted either by the Bush administration or the Obama administration as it relates to the second phase, the second \$350 billion previously authorized in the Troubled Asset Recovery Program.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. I will say to the gentleman that you have announced a bill, again, limiting the uses of the TARP funds. I know the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, the gentleman from Massachusetts, has also announced a broad

outline for his bill and scheduled a hearing. I would ask the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader, will the bill be marked up prior to coming to the floor and what sort of rule can we expect?

Mr. HOYER. I believe we will have a rule that will certainly allow amendments. As you know, that's Mr. FRANK's practice. We believe, I believe, it's a good practice.

Whether or not he will have a markup will depend upon the timeframe. The problem is, as the gentleman probably knows, the American public and the Congress on both sides of the aisle are very concerned that if we have to consider within a constricted timeframe the request, either of the Bush administration during the latter days of its term, or the beginning of the Obama administration, we get to have a second request for the second phase of the TARP funding. We want to have in place conditions for the expenditure of that money similar to what we have imposed or the administration imposed, but we also legislatively imposed, it didn't pass, on the automobile companies for the receipt of money.

So the answer to your question is we may not have the time to do the markup, because we are not sure when that second request is coming down. I don't expect it to come down before we consider this legislation, but it may come down shortly thereafter.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. I would like to ask specifically, would anything in Chairman FRANK's bill prevent our Members from having a vote to stop the additional \$350 billion in bailout funds from being spent?

Mr. HOYER. No, it will not. Obviously the legislation provides for a resolution of disapproval, provides a tight timeframe in which that resolution should be considered, and nothing in this bill will impact on that.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

I would ask the gentleman, Madam Speaker, regarding the SCHIP bill, does the Energy and Commerce Committee or the Ways and Means Committee plan on holding a hearing or markup on that bill?

Mr. HOYER. The answer to that is I think not. The bill, however, will be very, very much like, perhaps not exactly, because some of the costs have changed and some of the numbers may need to be adjusted, but very much like the bill that we passed, in a bipartisan way, with very substantial votes, I think somewhere in the neighborhood of 270 votes through this House, just some 6, 7 months ago. We believe the President-elect is very concerned that, particularly as the economic times confront us, we saw another 525,000 jobs lost this past month. That's more than 1 million jobs lost over the last 60 days.

Obviously we all know that one of the aspects of losing a job is, in many instances, losing your health insurance as well. We are very concerned that we will have a lot of children vulnerable in America.

I think there is certainly a majority opinion. Indeed, President Bush expressed his own thoughts on that as to wanting to include children. So we think this is another matter that we need to move very quickly. But it will be almost exactly like, not exactly like, but very, very much like, very, from a substantive standpoint, very little different than the bill that we passed overwhelmingly in the House. And, of course, two-thirds of the Senate voted for it as well.

Mr. CANTOR. I would ask, Madam Speaker, along those lines, if nothing else, the budget window has changed, as the gentleman recognized, and the costs will likely be more substantial. We do have, obviously, 55 new Members of this Congress that have not had a chance to vote on this bill or even be a part of the discussion, may not have any experience on this issue.

While we have very little time to review a multibillion dollar authorization, I would ask the gentleman if the bill is coming to the floor in the form of a suspension. He noted, Madam Speaker, that it was a bipartisan vote. It was maybe 40 Members on our side.

I think the majority of those Members on our side support the extension of the existing SCHIP program. I was wondering, again, if the bill is coming to the floor as a suspension, or will we have an opportunity to offer our amendments and suggestions under a rule?

Mr. HOYER. The bill will come under a rule. That rule, I haven't talked to the committee Chair, I haven't talked to Mr. WAXMAN, nor have I talked to Ms. SLAUGHTER about the rule, so I don't want to represent what form the rule will be in. But it will not be a suspension bill.

Furthermore, I think the gentleman's observation is a valid observation. We have many new Members who did not consider it. We are hopeful and working towards having that bill online available on Monday for a full 48 hours before we would bring it forward on the floor for Members to see and the public to see and all the Members of the House to see.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for that.

The Republicans under the leadership of our leader, JOHN BOEHNER, will be sending a letter later today outlining our ideas for improving the SCHIP program. I am hopeful that under the rule that we will have the ability to have those ideas considered on the House floor, just as President-elect Obama has advised us to proceed when the gentleman and I and several others met with him earlier this week.

Madam Speaker, I would now like just to make one additional inquiry to the gentleman that three suspensions were considered on Wednesday. I would say to the gentleman votes were over by 1 p.m.

Yesterday we counted electoral ballots for the historical election of Barack Obama. We were finished by 2 p.m.

Since no legislative business was conducted and no votes were taken after that, can we expect this to be the manner in which the floor will be scheduled each week?

Mr. HOYER. It's hard to predict what every week will look like, as the gentleman will soon find out. If you talk to your leaders and the majority, they will tell you it is more daunting than it first appears.

Having said that, obviously, the schedule has been submitted to all the Members, all the Members know what we have scheduled in terms of days to be in session. Hopefully they have notice of that, they are cognizant of that, particularly their schedulers are cognizant of that.

We have provided, we believe, sufficient days in which to do the work that the American public expects us to get done and that we expect that needs to be done. If there are more days, we will add days.

Having said that, we are in, obviously, the first weeks of the session. A lot has been going on, which is not on the floor, simply in getting organized, the committees getting organized, getting committee members appointed by both the Republican and the Democratic sides so that much has been going on, notwithstanding the fact there have been long days on the floor. But in the early days of the session, obviously, much is going on to get ready for future floor action.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. I would also like to just point out and make a comment and suggestion that we do promote the efficient operation of this House, because we have new Members who have inquired as to why we would be finishing up so early each day and not working more so that maybe we could return to our districts and be with our constituents on a day that perhaps we could save by working more on others.

There are 5 legislative weeks scheduled between now and President's Day. I would ask the gentleman if he could lay out the calendar, the legislative calendar for those 5 weeks.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his question. As you know, the President-elect was here this week to discuss and has discussed, gave a speech regarding the recovery package. Obviously that is an important item that we will be considering.

You have heard the agenda for next week. We also need to do the omnibus at some point in time in the near term. We will hopefully do that before the President's break.

We will have other legislation, but they will be the two major items that we will be focused on, the recovery package and the omnibus appropriation bill. Clearly, as you know, there are nine appropriation bills which were not completed last year that need to be completed so that agencies will have the funding they need to accomplish the objectives we have given them.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, the majority

leader. I look forward to continuing this dialogue with him on a weekly basis, and I yield back my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

#### NATION'S BEST UNDEFEATED TEAM

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, last night was another BCS bowl game. I congratulate two fine educational institutions and football teams, Florida and Oklahoma. Florida won a hard-fought and deserved victory. However, there is still only one ranked undefeated team in the Nation, and, yes, I am an alumnus of the University of Utah, the two-time BCS buster.

The problem is clearly the BCS. According to the BCS, a system with one too many initials, having a tough competition and going undefeated is not good enough. Using the BCS system, Germany won World War II, HILLARY CLINTON is still the leading Presidential candidate and winning all your games is apparently not the same thing as—winning all your games.

With no intention of disparaging a wonderful Florida football team and program, I still have to commend the achievements of the University of Utah. They are commendable, and I wish to recognize the Nation's best undefeated team. Certainly with the BCS, this Nation can do a whole lot better.

#### FOOTBALL BOWL VICTORIES FOR RICE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, well, in talking about bowl games, I have certainly got to rise and salute the City of Houston, the fourth largest city in the Nation. We had two universities win their bowl games.

Rice University and the University of Houston proudly won their bowl games and showed the world that football is played in large cities. Let me congratulate Rice University, which has one of the highest academic standards and standings in the United States of America, along with the pride of their football team, and, yes, the University of Houston that is now reaching