

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on H.R. 5759, I inadvertently missed that vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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 California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business, but no votes are expected. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today.

On Monday, in addition to our usual suspensions, the House will consider H.R. 5781, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, authored by my good friend, Representative DAVID VALADAO.

California is facing the worst drought in over a century, and that has a negative impact not only on our State's economy, but on the entire Nation's food supply. This legislation is critical so that we don't let precious water from current and future storms wash away to the ocean.

Mr. Speaker, the House is also expected to consider legislation to address the upcoming expiration of our current continuing resolution, as well as legislation on the expiration of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information.

I note in his comments, with respect to next Thursday, that we do not expect to meet on Friday, which I understand, but it does not specifically reference that that will be the end of the session of this Congress and, therefore, conclude the 113th Congress.

Is the expectation, Mr. Leader, that, in fact, Thursday will be the adjournment date for the 113th Congress?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The answer to his question is: yes, it is.

Mr. HOYER. As the gentleman has just announced, therefore, we have 4 days left to go in this session, three of which will be voting days. I know that we have a number of things yet to come, one of which, of course, is the funding of the government.

I know there have been a lot of discussions about what form that bill will take: whether it will be an omnibus; whether it will be a CR, a continuing resolution; whether it will be a combination of those two. There is concern on our side of the aisle.

Mr. PRICE, who is the ranking member on the Homeland Security Committee, is very concerned that some of the security needs of the country will be put, if not at risk, then in doubt if there is a short-term funding of that part of the one-twelfth of the appropriations bills.

Does the gentleman know whether or not we are going to have an omnibus, which will cover all 12 of the appropriations bills and departments, or whether or not it may be a combination of some shorter-term funding and longer-term funding?

I yield to my friend.

□ 1445

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank my friend for yielding.

As my friend knows, negotiations are ongoing between the Appropriations of the House and the Senate; and as soon as the conclusion of the negotiations is done, we will notify everyone and post what comes out.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information.

I have had a brief discussion with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), with whom I have served for, I guess, about two decades while I was on the Appropriations Committee. While you and I have had conversations—I won't disclose the substance of those conversations—I believe strongly that an omnibus will give greater stability and confidence to those who carry out the programs that the Congress has set forth.

So we are very hopeful that we can reach an agreement both on—we have already reached agreement, as you know, on funding levels in the Ryan-Murray budget agreement that related to last year's fiscal year and this year's fiscal year, fiscal year 2015. So we have agreed-upon numbers.

The only thing we need now agree on, I think, specifically, is riders. Those are legislative provisions in the appropriations bills. I know that we are having a lot of discussions about those, and I know we have negotiations about those. In those negotiations, Mr. Leader, I would urge you, as the majority leader of your party, to do what you can to provide for full-year funding for the entire government because I think that will give confidence to people.

With respect to Homeland Security, it will put us in a better security position—less doubt, more ability to plan, more ability to respond effectively. So I would hope that the leader could lend his very, very substantial influence and intellect and judgment to that process, which I think will be good for the country.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for always being

willing to give advice, and as soon as we get the negotiations done, we will keep you abreast.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for being pleased that I continue to give advice, and encouraged by that, I will continue to do so.

One of the gentleman's colleagues that I know is very close to the Speaker, Senator BURR from North Carolina, said: "Shutting down the entire government over something never did make sense to the American people, still doesn't and won't in the future."

I know that you are committed and the Speaker is committed to not shutting down the government. I share that view with you and want to work towards that end. But there are those who do; and to the extent, therefore, that we get the government fully funded through September 30, we will not have that confrontation. I suggest, with all due respect to the leader, that if we delay a portion of that funding requirement, we are just going to have that fight 60 days from now or 90 days from now or however long this is put off when we have already agreed upon the numbers that those agencies will be funded at. But I understand what the gentleman says.

There are two other issues that I think are very, very important, one of which is TRIA. You referenced TRIA in your comments. We are very hopeful that we will follow the Senate in terms of a bipartisan engagement on this issue.

As you know, Mr. Leader, the Senate passed the TRIA bill, which extended the Federal reinsurance program for 7 years by a 93-4 vote. It was not close. There was an overwhelmingly bipartisan judgment that extending this would be good for business, good for insurers, good for contractors, good for jobs, and good for our economy to give, again, confidence that there would be the insurance available so that people could undertake construction projects either in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

I would hope very much that we could bring a bill to the floor next week, Mr. Leader, that extends for no less than 2 years—I would pull that out of it because it is less than, because I know you have the chairman of the Financial Services Committee who does not want to do the 5 years or 7 years. But the way we are going to give confidence to people in this economy is to give them some ability for long-term thinking.

If TRIA ends, there are going to be many, many projects that will not be undertaken in the private sector—forget about the public sector—which I know the gentleman from California wants to see, additional economic activity in the private sector.

As you know, 45 House Republicans have written to Speaker BOEHNER, and in that they said: "We respectfully urge you to schedule action on a multiyear extension." That would be at least 2 years. "Businesses with terrorism coverage are being told that