# CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

Ruppersberger Rush

Sánchez, Linda

Ryan (OH)

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Schiff

Sarbanes

Schakowsky

Scott (VA)

Serrano

Sherman

Slaughter

Smith (NJ)

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Meadows

Scott, David

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December 11, 2015 Roe (TN) Larsen (WA) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rohrabacher Rokita Rooney (FL) Loudermilk Ros-Lehtinen Roskam Ross Luetkemever Rothfus Rouzer MacArthur Rovce Russell Salmon Sanford Scalise Scott, Austin McClintock Sensenbrenner Sewell (AL) Shimkus Shuster Simpson Sinema Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (TX) Stefanik Miller (FL) Stewart Miller (MI) Stutzman Thompson (PA) Mooney (WV) Thornberry Tiberi Tipton Murphy (PA) Trott Neugebauer Turner Upton Valadao Visclosky Wagner Walberg Walden Walker Walorski Walters, Mimi Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Whitfield Williams Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Woodall Yoder Yoho Young (AK)

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Fincher

Harper

Green, Gene

Murphy (FL)

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Thompson (CA)

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So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 693 I was unable to vote due to the death of my wife Shirley. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 687 on the motion to suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015. I am not recorded. Had I been present. I would have voted "ave."

On rollcall No. 688 on the motion to Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 689 on the motion to suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "ave."

On rollcall No. 690 on ordering the previous question on the rule providing for consideration of both the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644-Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 and the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250-Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "ave."

On rollcall No. 691 on the rule providing for consideration of both the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644-Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 and the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250-Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "ave."

On rollcall No. 692 on the Motion to Recommit with instructions, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay.

On rollcall No. 693 on the Adoption of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 644-Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on December 11, 2015 due to recovery from eye surgery and missed the following votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

On vote 690, On Ordering the Previous Question for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act, and for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250, I would have voted "no."

On vote 691, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644 and for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 2250, I would have voted "no."

On vote 692. On the Motion to Recommit Conference Report with Instructions of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, I would have voted "aye."

On vote 693, On Agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, I would have voted "no."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, December 11, 2015 on the five-day Continuing Resolution and the Conference Report for the Customs bill due to a family engagement in my district in Houston.

If I had been able to vote that day, I would have voted as follows: on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2250, I would have voted "no."

On H. Res. 560, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2250 and Conference Report to H.R. 644, I would have voted "no."

On the Democratic Motion to Recommit the Conference Report to H.R. 644, I would have voted "vea."

On Agreeing to the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 644-Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (H. Rept. 114-376), I would have vote "no."

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1301

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1301.

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

There was no objection.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON-ORABLE JACKIE SPEIER, MEM-BER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JACKIE SPEIER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC, December 11, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN, Speaker, House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena issued in connection with court-martial proceedings.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel regarding the subpoena, I will make the determinations required under Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JACKIE SPEIER, Member of Congress.

## 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) for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, before we get started, I would like to discuss a matter of deep importance to the gentleman and myself, of a dear friend, John Stipicevic. He is a trusted aide for many years on this floor, and he will be departing us. He wants to spend more time with his wife, Kristin, and their new baby, Lucy Grace. I would like to thank him for his service to this country and his service to this conference. I know he is a good friend, also, to the gentleman across the aisle.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the public's perception—because that is what is covered most—is the confrontation that occurs between the parties, the differences that we have. But one thing that is a reality that the public ought to feel good about is they have extraordinarily good staffers, staffers who are committed to their country, to the House, and to the American people, who do wonderful work.

Stip is a wonderful, wonderful positive participant, who made this House a better place in which to work, who made the substance of what we did more understandable for Members. He facilitated cooperation. He did not create confrontation. And we will miss it.

We wish him the best, of course, as he leaves the House of Representatives, like so many of our staffers do, who go on to do better than most of us are doing, at least from a certain perspective. I want to wish him the very, very best. I want to thank him on behalf of not only myself, because he is a good friend, but also on behalf of my staff with whom he has worked very closely over the years. I know all of them appreciated the relationship they had, and have, with him. So I want to congratulate him and wish him good luck and great success.

I yield, again, to my friend, the majority leader. Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his kind words about Stip.

Let me get to the schedule.

(Mr. McCARTHY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, no votes are expected in the House on Monday.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Members are advised that first votes of the week are expected at 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and the remainder of the week, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

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.

Mr. Speaker, the House may also consider a bill to extend certain provisions of the Tax Code.

Additionally, I expect the House to consider an omnibus appropriations bill.

Mr. HOYER. Just to repeat—of course, the majority leader announced it yesterday, and again today—we will not be having votes on Monday.

Has the gentleman decided whether there will be a pro forma session yet on Monday?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We are still looking at that, and I will let the gentleman know as soon as possible.

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Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for that information.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, the Members, as the majority leader has indicated, will not be having votes until, at the earliest, 6:30 on Tuesday.

I believe that the balance of the week—or such time as may be necessary in order to complete the work of this session of the Congress—will dictate the length of time that we go on the schedule. Is that accurate?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. McCARTHY. Yes. It is my intention that we will stay until we get our work done, but when we get our work done, we will depart for the holiday season.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

To further clarify, I know there has been some talk about a CR that may be sufficient to get us into next year. As I understand what the majority leader is saying, it is our intention not to do that, but to, in fact, complete the appropriations process and the funding of government for the balance of the year until September 30 of next year. Is that accurate, sir?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding again.

Yes. As the gentleman knows, we just passed a CR moving into next Wednesday. It is our intention to have our work done and to not need to pass any further CRs.

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

I would say to him that—and I think he knows and I know—although I don't think either of us is directly involved in the hour-to-hour negotiations that are going on—but, nevertheless, negotiations still go on, Mr. Speaker—I am hopeful that, on both sides, we can see that which is unacceptable to the other side and put that aside for a later day.

The appropriations process, of course, is about funding government. The appropriations process is about keeping government open. The appropriations process is about how do we best serve the American people.

I am hopeful that that will not get mired down or prevent our success in coming to an agreement on the omnibus because of issues on which, clearly, there are significant policy differences and which can be argued on another day and in another bill, but will not undermine the completion of the appropriations process.

I presume the majority leader hopes that as well. Hopefully, over the next few hours and, really, over the next couple of days, we will work on that because, if we don't, we are going to be here on the 17th, the 18th, the 19th, or the 20th, according to what the majority leader said, in order to get our work done.

Is that accurate, Mr. Leader?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding again.

It is our intention to get an omnibus done in a bipartisan manner. Those are the negotiations that are going on now. I'm hopeful that we can get that done and finished by next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that comment.

The only thing I would add, Mr. Speaker, is there is also a tax extender bill that is being discussed. The tax extenders are some of the items that Members on both sides of the aisle believe are appropriate and necessary to help grow our economy and create jobs, which has support on both sides of the aisle.

But it is clear that the extender bill, as I understand it, is a bill that can be very, very large—as large as \$800 billion in unpaid tax cuts—which, from our perspective on our side in the House of Representatives, will substantially exacerbate our deficit, and that will undermine the viability of getting tax reform done in the next session or in the years to come.

We think, therefore, that it would be far preferable to have pending getting tax reform done—hopefully, next year if we can do so in a bipartisan fashion and to have a shorter term. The Senate passed a 2-year bill, which is really a 1year lookback to 2015 and a year forward to 2016. We need to certainly do that. I think we could get a bipartisan vote for that. I don't know where the negotiations are on that bill.