

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
If we're not home by 7,
We're in deep stew.

We would encourage the gentleman to give us a more definite time on Tuesday night.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the sentiment. Let me just say, I believe that we will probably work hard and late Monday night and I think with good cooperation we can all have a high confidence that we will be able to make what I am sure for all of us will be a lovely dinner on Tuesday night.

Mr. ROEMER. So we still do not have an assurance of 7 yet?

Mr. ARMEY. This gentleman just needs to see how deep it will be, that to which you earlier referred.

Mr. ROEMER. I do not want to be in any.

Mr. ARMEY. I assure the gentleman, I appreciate your point of view. To be as assertive as prudence would allow me to be, let me just say, I have high hopes and great expectations that we will accommodate to an early enough evening on Tuesday so that we can all have a lovely dinner with a lovely person.

Mr. ROEMER. If we do not, you are buying the roses for all of us to get us out of that deep stew?

Mr. ARMEY. I am sure I understand the point.

Mr. ROEMER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, now that we have all survived Tuesday, we can move on to Wednesday, February 15.

The House will meet at 11 a.m. and will begin consideration of H.R. 7, the National Security Restoration Act, subject to a rule. Once again Members should be advised that the House may work late on Wednesday night.

On Thursday, February 16, the House will meet at 10 a.m. to complete consideration of H.R. 7. We expect to have Members on their way home around 3 p.m. for the Presidents' Day district work period.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentleman.

I have a couple of questions. First, I want to reiterate the 3 p.m. time on Thursday. I know a lot of Members on both sides have travel plans, and so you are really trying as we did today to get done by 3. Is that my understanding?

Mr. ARMEY. Yes, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Could the gentleman give us some sense of what kind of rule? Would there be an open rule providing for consideration of the National Security Restoration Act?

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman might address the question.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SOLOMON. I would be glad to. As a matter of fact, I was just about to

enter into consultation with the minority ranking member of the Committee on National Security, the very distinguished and respected gentleman, to talk about that. But we certainly want to consult with the minority. We would like to have an open rule. Because of time constraints, it is going to be necessary to follow the orders of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] over here and move these bills. So that I think you would be happy with the final result and we intend to talk about it and see if we can work out an agreement.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentleman. Obviously we want as open a rule I think as can be put together. We would be happy to consult with you. The gentleman from California is well equipped to do that and we will hope for a good result.

Can I just make one other comment and perhaps pose a question. I want to say to the gentleman that we have encountered a continuation of serious problems with committees meeting at the same time that committees are on the floor. I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] for negotiating with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] in trying to work out a hearing schedule in their committee that would accommodate both of them and many of their members being on the floor through the continuation of the consideration of these crime bills. But I would say to the gentleman that as you know, having this 100-day calendar requirement, which we do not necessarily share—we understand the majority's desire to meet this promise, but I do not think any of us should believe that meeting that promise should get in the way of what is a reasonable schedule for Members to be able to meet. It is not reasonable if we cannot work out accommodations so that Members can both make their assignments in committee and meet their responsibilities here on the floor.

In that regard, and in a spirit of trying to work this out, it would be very helpful to the minority if the majority when they are able to do it could give us a complete calendar schedule of how you are trying to meet this 100-day requirement so that we can make sensible suggestions to the extent we can for how all of this can work.

□ 1520

I am getting very spirited objections from my Members who are truly distraught because they are not able to meet their responsibilities to vote in the committee, and we all know we banned proxy voting, and that is the regime we are operating under, and also meet the responsibilities on the floor. And the gentleman knows the tension is high on these matters, and we will do everything in our power to work this out. But we need as much advance information as we can get.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, I thank the gentleman for that

observation. Many Members from both sides of the aisle have again brought that to my attention.

Again I think the gentleman has made a good suggestion. We will try to share Monday morning as much information as we can and continue to try to work on that.

However, as I have said before, we are, of course, all of us engaged in hard work, very hard work in a short period of time, and we are trying to make a big change and keep our promises. And while I thank the Members on both sides of the aisle for their patience and their diligence, I agree with the gentleman from Missouri, we need to continue working on finding ways to relieve people of some of these pressures, and we will continue to do so.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Just one additional question. Could the gentleman tell us what time votes will begin on Tuesday, February 21, which is the first day back after the President's Day recess? The schedule says 5 p.m. I am wondering if that is something that we can rely on at this point.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, yes, we can rely on that, 5 o'clock on Tuesday, the day we return.

If I might bet the indulgence of the gentleman from Missouri, I see Grandfather DELLUMS is with us here on the floor. I hope he did have an opportunity to see his new grandbaby last weekend, and that is in light of the remarks we made earlier here about the things that we hold most dear. And I am proud that the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] has a grandbaby, and can only wish I had one too.

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ROEMER. Could the gentleman just whisper in my ear or tell me now if he has a reservation what time that reservation is on Tuesday night so I can make that with my wife Tuesday night so I can make that with my wife Tuesday night for a restaurant?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield, let me say I have just checked with Dan Cupid here, and he has assured me that by 7 o'clock on Tuesday, Valentine's Eve, we should be able to join our loved ones for dinner.

Mr. ROEMER. I thank the majority leader, and we all thank him.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.