

working hard for the last 11 months to achieve one, and certainly if we see progress, which I hope we see more of in the ensuing days, we are willing to work hard next week to achieve that final outcome in a bipartisan manner.

But as the leader knows, we also, if he could indicate to us, if that is going to be December 24 or 23, that is helpful for us as we make plans. It is also helpful for us in many ways as we try to plan out our work schedule and our family schedules.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, I appreciate the point the gentleman makes.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, what I see and what we see expressed here, we have 435 people here that share a commitment to their families and a commitment to the Nation through their work here, and we are all caught in a period of dire consequences and serious stress, trying to find a way, as the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] said so eloquently a few years back, to get home and love our children, and I can only say that insofar as I can do anything to accommodate the Members and their families while also accommodating to their sincere desire to complete the year's work in a responsible fashion, I will make that effort, and I will try to keep the Members as advised and as current as I can possibly do with any certainty at any time.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman for that, Mr. Leader. I just have one final question.

Two days ago the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct conducted a rule change concerning the book royalty issue. It is a long-overdue reform. It was unanimously approved by the committee. The chairwoman has clearly indicated that the bill would be considered before the end of this session.

We are concerned by press reports we saw in the paper this morning indicating that the leadership on your side of the aisle may be blocking the committee's unanimous recommendation, and I guess my question to you this afternoon is will the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct recommendation for immediate action be honored by the Republican leadership? And can we see this bill within the next week?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for your inquiry.

As the gentleman knows, a bill has been drafted and has been submitted, assigned to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules has the bill under consideration, and I cannot tell you with any degree of certainty what will be the dispatch of that bill by the committee, but I am confident that the Committee on Rules will act on this bill in full regard to its own fine traditions as a committee and the kind of consideration that such legislation takes, and I have to tell you I have had only a very, very brief discussion with the chairman of the Committee on Rules and a discussion in which he has assured me that the bill would get all

the serious consideration in the due course of time that is appropriate within the traditions of this fine committee.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. So I guess the other question is, though, when will this be acted on? Because the hope had been, by this unanimous decision of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to move on this, that it would be done before we went home. And since we have all of this extra time and the budget has not been solved, is there anything blocking this from coming up right now?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, I will just say to the gentlewoman, the bill is in the committee of jurisdiction. The committee of jurisdiction has the jurisdiction. It is not at all unusual, I dare say, every individual Member who drops a bill in the hopper does so with the sincere hope that it will be acted on immediately. That rarely is the case, and there are procedures known best to the committee, and I do not think it is appropriate for me as a Member or as the majority leader to second-guess how a committee will exercise its jurisdiction.

I think we have committees, and each committee has its own manner of operating, and I do not think that it would be appropriate for me to speculate on the manner in which this committee nor any other committee would dispense with a bill.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina).

Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, 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 Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WEI JINGSHENG'S SENTENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the People's Republic of China imposed a harsh new prison sentence on its most prominent human rights campaigner, Wei Jingsheng. Today the New York Times in translation has presented us with the reasons that the People's Republic of China has meted out this draconian

sentence against its leading human rights activist. The charge, according to the People's Republic of China, was overthrowing the government, overthrowing the government, and what did this man who is nominated by many in this body for the Nobel Peace Prize do to cause the People's Republic of China to charge him, and convict him, and sentence him for overthrowing the government? Let me read from the Chinese Government statement about the conviction, quote:

The court's investigation showed that Wei, in attempting to overthrow the government, developed a plan of action which included establishing an organization to raise funds to support democratic movement activities.

Well, that is true enough. Wei Jingsheng has long been an advocate for democracy in the People's Republic of China. He was a leader in the democracy wall movement which took its name from the wall near the city where democratic activists hung their pro-freedom manifestos. He served over 14 years in prison labor camps in China where, according to reliable reports, he was beaten and tortured. Now having been out of prison for only a few months, Mr. Speaker, he was charged and convicted again for promoting democracy.

Let me read further from the government's statement:

He is responsible for purchasing newspapers, setting up a company in charge of organizing cultural activities.

All of these things got him a prison sentence, keep in mind, colleagues: Organizing nongovernmental painting exhibitions, performances, and publications.

Wei Jingsheng worked actively to implement the above plans, quoted the Chinese Government. He bought 12½ percent of the shares of an urban credit cooperative in Beijing to start setting up a democracy movement bank, and he wrote and set an introduction to projects for assistance to people in charge of an overseas organization and asked for hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars to fund his activities. He also registered a company in Hong Kong and used the name of the company to prepare art exhibitions in Beijing so as to recruit people in organizations that would be sympathetic to him. Wei Jingsheng also secretly connected some people both in China and abroad to study struggle strategies, conspiring to unite the illegal organizations in China, by which they mean the illegal pro-democracy organizations in China, and act when the right moment comes. He also used illegal means—now I am again quoting from the People's Republic of China official statement of yesterday:

“* * * and published a series of articles overseas to slander and attack the Chinese Government, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the Socialist system, and to advocate the independence of Tibet, something that another Nobel laureate, another Nobel Peace Prize winner, is guilty of. He and the enemy forces overseas, among which we may number ourselves in this body, echo