

Mr. ARMEY. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the sentiment of the gentleman. I must say in all candor that the President's offering was so meager that I do not believe a clean continuing resolution is an option under consideration.

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

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman, as I understood it, his earlier announcement was that in a short period of time we would go into recess.

Is the gentleman planning to, along with that notification of recess, give us, give Members the notification time frame for which we will be back; in other words, 15 minutes, 2 hours, 1 hour? Or are we just dangling out here?

Mr. ARMEY. Obviously there will be a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, and we will work as quickly as we can, and certainly every Member will have the 15-minute notice.

Mr. VOLKMER. You are going to leave it at 15 minutes?

Mr. ARMEY. Fifteen.

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

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the majority leader, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS], the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA], and myself and several others have proposed legislation that we understand was acceptable to the leadership that would avoid a situation that occurred last time we had a Government shutdown with Federal employees, where Federal employees were paid for not working. This legislation would ensure that at least they work and then be subsequently reimbursed. We understood that that might be put on an expeditious track.

Could the gentleman clarify that situation and give us some idea whether we would be able to expect that?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if I may clarify the situation, the gentleman's optimism, I am sure, is understandable. I think the gentleman, though, is excessively optimistic to report that the option that he referred to is acceptable to the leadership at this time, but I can report that it is one of the matters that is being considered. As soon as we can resolve it, we will be back with an announcement.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will yield again, there are a number of Members perhaps on both sides, I have not seen the list, who are interested in doing special orders, either 5-minute or hour special orders. I am wondering whether or not you intend, as we have done in the past, to go into special orders and then if we run out of special orders, to recess at that point in time? In other words, will there be a provision at the end of our business to allow for special orders?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to the gentleman that that is

a very difficult question to address, since we do not know exactly under what parliamentary basis we may end our business for the day. So let me just say I full respect the Members' interests in special orders, and we certainly would not engage in a parliamentary option that would have as an objective to prevent special orders. It is not inconceivable that special orders could be, or the loss of special orders could be, the consequence of a necessary parliamentary method that we may use later, so again, I would just ask the gentleman if he could just be patient and trust me. We will try to get it worked out.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, I respect the gentleman and like him. I want him to know that I continue that.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, before I suffer any more abuse, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Seriously, Mr. Speaker, before the gentleman yields back his time, my point was that historically, in many instances, what we do is we go to special orders while we wait for the negotiations or other items to go on. If special orders concludes and there is still a reason that the majority would want to stay here pending negotiations, or perhaps come back to the floor to do additional legislative business, to have that time filled up by Members on both sides of the aisle going back and forth who want to do special orders.

□ 1445

My question was a legitimate question, since as we do have Members who had signed up to do special orders, whether or not they might accomplish that objective within the time frame that we are waiting for the negotiations or other decisions to be made by the leadership.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I will get back to the gentleman on that.

Mr. Speaker, for the time being, at least, let me yield back the balance of my time.

EXTENSION OF AU PAIR PROGRAMS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2767) to extend au pair programs, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, I am pleased that the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and I were able to work on this bill to extend the authority of USIA to run the au pair program for another 2 years, and I yield to the gentleman to explain the bill.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to bring to the floor H.R. 2767, a 2-year extension of the au pair program. I know this is a program of interest to a number of our Members, many of whom have heard from their constituents that have been affected by the expiration of the program. Through a bipartisan effort, we have cleared the way to quickly pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the key role that the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], the distinguished ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations, played in drafting the bill and moving it through the committee. I urge the support of H.R. 2767.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, with regard to this bill, I want to rise in support of the extension of the au pair program for 2 more years under the auspices of the United States Information Agency. I know that this is a minor issue in the context of a much more important issue with regard to the Government shutdown, but many Members have asked us to bring forward this bill.

The program, a very successful cultural program, not only benefits young people wishing to learn more about the United States, but it benefits also a great many families throughout the country in providing important child care and the opportunity to learn from the au pair about the traditions and cultural differences in their home country.

Now, I understand that Mr. JOHNSTON and others have some concern over whether this is a family-friendly measure, with some very attractive au pairs coming from Scandinavian countries, particularly. I do not think that is a particular reason to oppose the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we pass this legislation today because it would expire otherwise. We have many families across the country that have been left hanging, waiting for their au pair to arrive, so they are trying to find temporary child care, hoping that it will not have a negative impact on their children. Many families, particularly with two parents working, are struggling to make ends meet and are dependent upon these au pairs. The visas cannot be issued to these young people until Congress passes this legislation.

It is really not fair to them in other European allied countries that have tried to participate in this program months ago to have their visas held because of congressional inaction. They

leave their jobs, they move from their apartments when they are accepted into the program. So I would urge my colleagues to support this bill to extend the au pair program and stop the uncertainty facing many American families.

I understand there is greater uncertainty facing a greater number of families that I would hope we could deal with as well, but there is no reason to object to this legislation, and I would urge its consideration and passage.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, let me inquire, do I understand this is a unanimous-consent request where you are asking everyone in good faith, in goodwill, to permit you to take up this measure to continue a statute that is about to expire; is that right?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct. It is a unanimous-consent request because it does expire on the 30th of this month.

Mr. DOGGETT. The gentleman from Maryland, just before you arose, was asking for the same type of good faith and goodwill with regard to the standard procedure in this body when we recess, giving other Members an opportunity to get up on special orders and have their say with reference to what is occurring here.

I am wondering if we could have any more guidance as to whether, when we complete this measure, we will have that opportunity, if we showed good faith and goodwill with reference to this unanimous consent request, if there will be an opportunity for Members on both sides of the aisle to have their say this afternoon about some of the things that are occurring here, or whether we are to be muzzled.

Mr. GILMAN. If the gentleman would yield, I regret that I cannot speak for the leadership with regard to the special orders.

Mr. DOGGETT. You are going to inquire about that?

Mr. GILMAN. I think the inquiry was made, and if the gentleman would further yield, I believe the inquiry was made and the majority leader said he would get back to us with the answer.

Mr. DOGGETT. That is what I am concerned about, through he is an amicable fellow and a fellow Texan, I do not know what he means by that. He may mean never.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague from Texas in making a similar kind of inquiry. The normal procedure has been that when we do go into recess, that we all, in a bipartisan way, on both sides of the

aisle, have the opportunity to go into special orders; and sometimes we have a dialog amongst all of us, and sometimes we just share the time. But it would seem to me that that is the procedure that we ought to follow here so that in fact we are not sitting around here doing nothing while we are waiting for the opportunity to come back and find out what the rest of the schedule is going to be, and that people in the peoples House have that opportunity to make known their concerns, their interests, and take this time, which I think we all agree is used usefully on behalf of both parties.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, because I want it crystal-clear on the record that I want special orders tonight. I have an hour on Bosnia; some of your Members are going to join me, and if you would like to form some kind of unofficial ad hoc committee of three, I will join you in the name of freedom of speech. I was in the minority for 16 years.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman who has often utilized that freedom of speech to provide some of the more interesting special orders here, and perhaps as we carry on this reservation with some discussion about the implications of doing this, you can get some indication from your leadership whether both sides will have that opportunity.

Mr. DORNAN. Form an ad hoc committee. I have the key to the Speaker's door, and we will go down and see him.

Mr. DOGGETT. He has never given me that key, but I invite your doing that, because I think there are going to be some other people that want to be heard on my reservation, and I cannot yield the floor on this point, but I think we will be here long enough to give you time to get some answer.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with great interest to the gentleman's reservation, and I think he is making an excellent point, and I am pleased to see this Doggett-Dornan alliance.

Mr. DOGGETT. It is the second time this week, although Mr. DORNAN may not know it.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, since you have to stay here, I would hope that maybe Mr. DORNAN would take his key and go find his leadership. I do not think anyone over here has a key, but if he could go find his leadership, that would be very, very helpful. Maybe he can come back and a lot of us can keep talking about how bad it is that we are constantly gagged over here, and one more time, we are going to be gagged if the gentleman from California cannot find them.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Regular order is demanded.

Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. DOGGETT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members can no longer reserve the right to object on the request for regular order.

Members must object or not object.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. DOGGETT. In that regard then, if I am no longer able to do my reservation and I make objection at this time, will the gentleman be able to make his unanimous consent request again later in the day?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair can entertain that request later if the gentleman is withdrawing his reservation.

Mr. DOGGETT. No; I am not withdrawing. I am going to make an objection, if that is the case.

I object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

□ 1500

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. BENTSEN. Under the rules of the House, is only one Member allowed to reserve the right to object to a unanimous-consent request?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Any Member may demand regular order. At that point, the Chair must put the unanimous-consent request to the office immediately.

Mr. BENTSEN. So a demand for regular order is superior to a reservation of a right to object?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from Texas has objected.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have a unanimous-consent request.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1845. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the semiannual report on