

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for when we are coming back and what the majority perceives to be the business as we come back.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this marks the last vote for the day and the beginning of the April district work period. As the adjournment resolution indicated, we will be back on April 15, and we expect to have votes after 5 p.m. on Monday, April 15. We would at that time be taking up for consideration H.J. Res. 159, proposed constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote to raise taxes, the taxpayer bill of rights; and H.R. 842, to provide off-budget treatment for transportation trust funds, both subject to a rule. During the course of that week we would consider these items. Of course, conference reports, if they are available. We would expect to be out by 6 p.m. on Thursday, with no votes on Friday.

I should also mention we will have some suspensions which we will make available to both the minority and majority Members on the first day back.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the majority leader and wish he and his colleagues the very best and hope that as we come back, we will come back to a productive session, particularly as it relates to getting the business of the CR completed and moving on to the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield again.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. It has been my privilege to work with and to observe the extraordinarily hard work that has been put out by Members from both sides of the aisle, from both parties, on the appropriations process these past couple of weeks. I think we can all, the entire body can be proud of all of these Members for their willingness to work on that, and the effort made by the staff as well. I have every confidence that we will be able to come back in 2 weeks and see some renewed effort that will be fruitful.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments and wish him well.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBERS TO  
EXTEND THEIR REMARKS IN  
THE RECORD FOR TODAY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the RECORD entitled "Extension of Remarks."

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER AND  
MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT  
RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE AP-  
POINTMENTS, NOTWITHSTAND-  
ING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Monday, April 15, 1996, the Speaker and the minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1996

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 17, 1996.

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

There was no objection.

DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE  
BILL EMERSON TO ACT AS  
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO  
SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND  
JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH  
APRIL 15, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 29, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable BILL EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Monday, April 15, 1996.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objections, the designation is agreed to.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION OF THE HONOR-  
ABLE KENNETH E. BENTSEN, JR.,  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KENNETH E. BENTSEN, Jr., Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 26, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that a member of my staff has been served with a subpoena issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. This subpoena relates to her employment by a former Member of the House.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and procedures of the House.

With kindest personal regards,  
Sincerely,

KENNETH E. BENTSEN, JR.,  
Member of Congress.

UNITED STATES ON SLIPPERY  
SLOPE TOWARD EXTENDED DE-  
PLOYMENT

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth in a series of speeches I am giving on the status of the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Our troops continue to do an outstanding job. They are fully deployed. They are completing tasks according to schedule, although not always under optimum circumstances.

However, I have concerns about three conditions that may cause us to stay in Bosnia past our scheduled departure at the end of 1996. I outlined these three concerns in a letter I sent to the President this morning. I will place the letter into the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

First, the March 21 edition of the New York Times reported the United States and NATO are being urged to keep our forces in Bosnia after the end of the year. International civilian and military authorities are alleged to be pressing for continued NATO presence beyond our scheduled departure.

To keep American troops in Bosnia past the end of 1996 would be a major mistake. It flies in the face of a clear statement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who said:

This is not a permanent commitment. This is approximately a 1-year commitment. If it can't be done in a year, perhaps it can't be done in a longer period of time.

Staying in Bosnia breaks faith with our American troops who are presently stationed in Bosnia, who expect to return to their families in 9 months. It also contradicts what the American people were told about the duration of the mission.

American forces are facing a difficult and challenging assignment in the NATO peacekeeping mission. The 1-year deployment was intended to provide an opportunity for peace, not a guarantee of it. The people of Bosnia must assume the responsibility of ensuring their own peace.

Second, American and NATO peacekeepers are being diverted from their original mission to the task of rebuilding Bosnia. This assignment shifts the focus of our military forces from peacekeeping to assisting in civil projects.

Third, and finally, by several accounts, a cornerstone of the Dayton agreement—the continuance of the Muslim-Croat federation—appears severely weakened. The U.S. and NATO could well be in a quandary if that alliance should crumble.

The push to keep United States and NATO forces in Bosnia, the expansion