

House Joint Resolution 79, to Disapprove Most-Favored-Nation Treatment to the Products of the People's Republic of China, which will be subject to a rule; and the House will then continue consideration of H.R. 1119, the National Defense Authorization Act. We hope to finish DOD on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, June 25, and Thursday, June 26, the House will meet at 10 a.m. to consider the fiscal year 1998 budget reconciliation. We expect to take up the spending component of reconciliation on Wednesday and the tax cut component on Thursday. We should finish the week's business by 6 p.m. on Thursday and have Members on their way back to their districts for the July Fourth district work period.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, if I could ask the distinguished majority leader, we have just been informed by the colloquy between the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] about the concern that a number have, I am sure on both sides of the aisle, about extremely important amendments being voted on on the defense authorization bill late Monday night.

Is it possible that since we have some time on Tuesday dedicated for the defense bill, we could take the 3 items that the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] mentioned: Bosnia, the depot issue, and the B-2, and designate them on Tuesday, so that the majority of the Members who might not make it on Monday, certainly maybe the overwhelming share of them, would be here for those three very important debates.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again, if the gentleman would yield, obviously the management of the bill within the time slots granted to it is at the direction, and should be, of the committee floor managers. This office is always ready to stand willing to work with the floor managers of a bill to assist in any way to help them achieve the flexibility that will give them the greatest opportunity to manage their bill in the most effective and responsive way possible, and we will do that in this case on this subject as well.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. Since the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] believes that the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] may be able to accommodate the concerns expressed about so many important votes so late Monday night, I would hope that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] would intercede with the chairman and we could assure the Members, who may not have been prepared to come back on Monday, that they will have an opportunity on the key issues and final passage perhaps on Tuesday.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I will encourage the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] in every way possible and assist him in any way that I may.

If I might just add, I certainly would like to do everything I can on behalf of

my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS], to have the body fully informed about his amendments that it might make the most judicious vote possible, and I am sure he appreciates my interest in the matter.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] says he understands, Mr. Leader, and I appreciate the fact that you did not further reference the depot issue.

I would like to inquire a bit about reconciliation and the tax bill. It has been my understanding and I think the understanding of many Members that we were going to have separate votes on the reconciliation package and the tax package.

Just to clarify, is there a continuation of that commitment, or is there some move afoot to perhaps combine two separate bills into one and have one vote on the package?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, our current plan is to take the two components, reduction in spending and reduction in taxes of reconciliation as two separate bills. The House has retained the option to treat that as a single reconciliation bill and we do that, although I must say I have no indication now that there would be a movement in that direction.

I do think it is only fair, though, to recognize that while we currently plan to have them in two bills, that that option still remains and should there be a decision to make a change, obviously we would notify the minority as quickly as possible.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, so it is fair to say at the moment there is no intention of doing so, but the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] retains, he believes, the option of doing so?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman understands that Members on this side of the aisle feel very strongly about the commitment that they believe has been made that we deal with them on a separate level, and I think that is a broadly-believed feeling on this side from one end of the political spectrum on the other.

The gentleman has indicated that we are going to be having very late nights next week. What nights would we be expected to be here and how late would we be?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I believe Monday night would probably, as I anticipate, be the only night where we would expect to stay late. Of course partially because in order to accommodate the people's travel requirements, we really effectively begin the day late, but the other evenings of next week I do not believe our work requirements would require us to go late, and I do not anticipate that there would be anything that would cause that to happen.

So I would think that generally 6, 7 p.m. on the other evenings would be approximately, until Thursday, of course, where it is our hard and fast hope to complete our work by 6 p.m. in order to accommodate the travel arrangements that Members like to make.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader. I believe Members appreciate the firm commitment for departure time, and I appreciate the degree to which the gentleman has been sticking to that. On behalf of the minority we appreciate very much that commitment consistently being made and kept.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO], who helped all of us Richards get it right, and I encourage people to understand the importance of the name Richard in the lives of little children.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have had this colloquy.

ADJOURNMENT FROM SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1997, TO MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1997

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Saturday, June 21, 1997, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 23, 1997, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR CHINA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues an extraordinary letter that I received last night. Over the past several weeks there has been a perception that virtually all Christian leaders in this country support revocation of Most Favored Nation trading status for the People's Republic of China.

Just yesterday we heard here in the Capitol from many Christian missionaries who have been on the ground in