

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1802.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1802, FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1999

Ms. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1802, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2056

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2056.

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

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inquire about next week's schedule. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) who agrees with me that our beloved Dallas Stars did in fact win that sixth game in triple overtime with a legal goal and thereby win the Stanley Cup.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding to me for the purposes of the schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that we have concluded legislative business for the week. Mr. Speaker, Members should note that the House will not be in session on Monday, June 28.

The House will next meet on Tuesday, June 29 at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices this afternoon.

Members should note that we expect recorded votes after 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29. On Wednesday, June 30, and the balance of the week, the House will take up the following bills, all of which will be subject to rules:

H.R. 1218, the Child Custody Protection Act;

H.R. 10, the Financial Services Act of 1999;

and we expect the conference report on H.R. 775, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act to be ready next week.

Mr. Speaker, we expect to conclude legislative business by 2 p.m. on Friday, July 2.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, if I could, I would like to ask the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) a few questions. I would ask the majority leader, next Friday has become a tremendous problem for families, trying to get home for the July 4th weekend. There are literally no flights available. Is the gentleman going to keep votes on Friday?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his inquiry, and I do understand the concerns we have. We have tried the best we can to adjust the legislative schedule to the convenience of the Members. It is our expectation that work might carry us over to Friday. If at any time I can know with any certainty earlier, I will inform the Members as soon as possible.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, if I could inquire of the majority leader further, when can we expect conferees to be appointed on juvenile justice and gun safety, critically important legislation that should not be left to languish?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) for his concern, and I share his concern about the importance of this legislation. We worked very hard on it, and we have the committees working, and the conferees are doing some preliminary work. We expect to appoint those conferees. But at this point, we are not prepared to make an announcement.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would further ask the majority leader, in the wake of our victory against Milosevic and his atrocities in Kosovo, we need a resolution to commend our troops and the President for that accomplishment. We did that for President Bush after the Gulf War, and the Senate has already passed such a resolution unanimously. When can we expect a resolution congratulating our troops in the House?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas again for his inquiry. I know the committees of jurisdiction are looking at that. There have been some discussion among Members on both sides of the aisle. I am sure that the correct resolution will make its way to the floor before too long.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) expect that to be next week before the break?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas again for his inquiry, but I can see nothing on the schedule on that subject for next week.

□ 1145

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Capitol.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective immediately, I hereby resign from the House Judiciary Committee.

Yours truly,

ED BRYANT.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,

J.C. WATTS, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Cordially,

JOHN T. DOOLITTLE,
U.S. Representative.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 223), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 223

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. VITTER.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. VITTER.
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. VITTER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there any objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY,
JUNE 29, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, 1999, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BLUNT. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h and clause 10 of rule I, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, in addition to Mr. KOLBE Arizona, Chairman, appointed on February 11, 1999:

Mr. GILMAN of New York, Vice Chairman,

Mr. DREIER of California,

Mr. BARTON of Texas,

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina,

Mr. STENHOLM of Texas,

Mr. FILNER of California,

Mr. REYES of Texas, and

Mrs. NAPOLITANO of California.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MORE DEBATE ON GUN SAFETY
AND INSTANT CHECKS REQUIRED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some might read the headline in The Washington Post as another attempt to blame the FBI. The headline reads, "Delays in FBI Checks Put 1,700 Guns in the Wrong Hands." What the headline means is that guns, 1,700 of them, 1,700 persons or maybe a little less, 1,700 criminals or people who may be with other problems that would suggest they should not have guns, have gotten guns.

The reason why this is an extremely important announcement, and I am wondering what happened with this report in the debate last week, is that last week this House attempted to even lower the time frame for the instant check on gun shows to 24 hours, and it is clear that this loophole is an enormous loophole to give guns to criminals, guns to criminals.

This article indicates that the process is that after 3 days, if there has been no determination on the individual trying to seek the gun, then it automatically goes to that person. So, 1,700 guns got in the hands of criminals. And the real element is what would we have done with a 24-hour check when that allows for the very problem that we are talking about.

Just this morning a tragedy was reported about someone who got a gun and killed their three children, three daughters, because the restraining order that had been issued against this father did not get on the computer in time. And in the State of Colorado he was able to get the gun and shoot his three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would not let the gun lobby take this issue from us because of all the money that they have. It is reasonable, it is rational, and the American people see the basis in it.

We cannot fight technological problems. We hope the FBI fixes its system, but glaringly we can tell that the fact that there is a 3-day instant check is not even enough. There are problems with the system to the extent that even if we had 3 days we are not getting all of the guns out of the hands of criminals. What would happen if we had a 24-hour instant check; and after the 24 hours expired, the individual could get a gun?

Mr. Speaker, I would simply hope that this House would take up again gun safety legislation to keep the guns out of the hands of criminals. Does this headline need to be even more glaring by showing us the tragedies and loss of life because criminals have guns? Criminals have guns.

I hope that we will come to our senses and stand up for the American people.

NATO GOT IT RIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday one of the newspapers in my home State of New Jersey, the Newark Star-Ledger summed up the outcome of the Kosovo conflict in an insightful editorial. The headline of the editorial says it all, in my opinion: "NATO Got It Right."

I would like to read a few passages from the editorial. It begins, and I quote,

The case for our intervention in Kosovo is still being made. The evidence turns up daily corpse by corpse, mass grave by mass grave, massacre by massacre. Claims of ethnic cleansing were treated with a certain skepticism when the bombing went on. Were the atrocities really that bad or was this just a case of war-time exaggeration? We now have our answer.

The editorial goes on to cite an estimate by the British Foreign Office that 10,000 Kosovars were the victims of mass executions by the Serbs. Then the editorial poses perhaps the most important question of all, and I quote, "Still, how much worse would it have been if NATO had not intervened? The dimensions of unchecked genocides are a matter of guesswork."

What we have seen, Mr. Speaker, in Kosovo is a genocidal campaign by the Serb forces that was halted by NATO's intervention. Moreover, the success of our military intervention resulting in the quick withdrawal of the Serb forces has allowed for the genocide to be documented essentially in real time. Yes, there were some crude efforts by the Serbs to conceal the evidence of the atrocities that they had committed, but the grizzly discoveries being made every day by the allied troops offer compelling proof, irrefutable testimony of what happened. It will be difficult for future revisionist historians to deny what happened in the villages and fields of Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important development. Throughout the 20th century genocide has occurred while the world looked the other way. It is, of course, impossible to conceal all evidence of the mass murders of thousands or millions of people. But in past cases of genocide, the world only found out what happened after the fact. For example, in the years during and after World War I, 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. At that time the term genocide had not yet been coined to describe mass murder of a civilian population as part of a government policy.

During the Armenian genocide, word started to filter out about mass atrocities and a flood of refugees into neighboring countries offered firsthand testimony. Relief operations were set up, but the Ottoman forces were able to cover up much of the evidence, not only while the genocide was occurring but also after the fact. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, there