

Mr. Speaker, we have completed our work on 12 of the 13 appropriations bills. We expect to complete the Labor-HHS appropriations bill and consider the D.C. appropriations conference report sometime early next week.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all of my colleagues safe travel home tonight, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the gentleman two additional questions. First of all, could the gentleman tell me whether or not he expects to take up the minimum wage bill next week.

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

Mr. Speaker, we do have that scheduled, but I must say it is tentatively scheduled. There have been a great many people working on that. We believe their work is coming together; and should it do so, we should expect to have it on the floor next week.

I would just say that my best prediction is that it will be there next week.

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

Could the gentleman also answer another question.

Which day does the gentleman expect the Labor Health conference report, which has never been voted on in the House, to be before the House for consideration?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for the inquiry, Mr. Speaker; and I do appreciate the gentleman's inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, of course, as we all know, we had a very good meeting at the White House the other night. We all agreed to try to complete this work as quickly as possible. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) certainly knows the Labor-HHS appropriations bill is one of the more difficult ones. They are continuing work on that; and as that progress continues, we will be able to give a more complete report.

I can only say that it is my expectation at this time on the basis of progress we see that it should be fairly early in the week next week.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the gentleman further, and let me explain first why I ask the question.

We have been told for most of the evening that it was the expectation, and in fact I was told by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules earlier this evening that it was his expectation that the Committee on Rules would be filing tonight the District of Columbia new conference report to which they expected to see attached the Labor, Health, Education appropriation bill and that they expected to bring that up tonight. It is now not going to be up tonight.

The problem is that we are supposed to have negotiations tomorrow or at least preliminary discussions on a number of the outstanding bills that we still have to pass.

□ 2300

It is very difficult to discuss a bill that we do not know the contents of,

and without going on any further on that, I would simply ask the gentleman, can the gentleman give us some idea of how much time we will have to examine that bill after it is filed so that everyone on both sides of the aisle is familiar with what they are voting on, since the House has never seen this legislation.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman for his inquiry, and I appreciate the gentleman's reminder. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield.

Mr. OBEY. Surely.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate that we advise the Committee on Rules that they will not have that meeting that the gentleman referred to tonight. The work is still in progress. The gentleman's schedule, as the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Appropriations I am sure will be communicated to him by the Chairman as the committee continues its work, and I expect that there will be work that will proceed tomorrow. I just have to tell the gentleman, frankly, I just do not know the committee's schedule. I wish I could tell the gentleman more.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, let me simply urge the gentleman, those of us on the Committee on Appropriations, such as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and myself, we will probably have at least a few minutes to review the bill before it is before us. But for the average Member who is not on the committee, I do not want them on either side of the aisle to be in a position where they do not know what the contents of that bill are, since it is the most important domestic appropriation bill that we will handle this year. So I would urge that there be enough time for your folks and ours to be able to review the contents before it is put to a vote.

Mr. ARMEY. Again, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me say that I do again appreciate the point the gentleman has made. The point is made well, and I think the point is an important point. We certainly want to do exactly what the gentleman does, and that is to give everybody as much opportunity as we can to review the legislation. I am confident in my mind that the gentleman from Wisconsin will attend to that, and I will do my best to attend to it, and I expect that if the gentleman from Wisconsin is not satisfied that we have done the very best possible, he will let me know about it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is probably true, I would say. I guess I have no further questions. I would simply observe that I am sorry, but I do not wish the Dallas Cowboys well this weekend.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield for one last retort, we in Dallas, of course, have nothing but the highest regard for the Green Bay Packers, and we hope them the best of luck this weekend.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 25, 1999

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

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 NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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 (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DECLARING DALLAS COWBOYS  
AMERICA'S TEAM

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this body declare the Dallas Cowboys America's team.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on and include extraneous material on H.R. 2300.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO  
MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-  
GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2300, ACA-  
DEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL  
STUDENTS ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2300, 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, due to attendance at a funeral in Atlanta this morning I missed two rollcall votes, rollcall No. 520 and 522. Had I been in attendance I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 520 and "yes" on rollcall 521.