

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was absent for votes on Thursday, February 27, 2003 as a result of the passing of my mother, Mrs. Eleanore Hoeffel. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: rollcall vote No. 37 "nay," rollcall vote No. 38 "aye," rollcall vote No. 39 "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable conflict in my schedule, I was unable to be present during rollcall votes 37–39. Had I voted, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 37–38, and "yea" on rollcall vote 39.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 534, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader, for the purposes of asking the majority leader the schedule for the coming week.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding. I am told that the airports are still open. I know all of our Members are rushing to catch their planes to go back to their districts, and I wish them a very good weekend. But, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules, and a final list of those bills will be sent to the Members' offices early next week. There will be no votes in the House before 6:30 on Tuesday.

On Wednesday we expect to consider two bills from the Committee on Ways and Means: the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2003 and H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003.

On Thursday we expect to consider H.R. 878, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I will be happy to answer any questions the gentleman may have.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments. Reclaiming my time, the first question I have, Mr. Leader, am I correct that the two tax

bills that you refer to as Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections and Social Security Protection Act are essentially technical in nature?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, that is correct.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Majority Leader, could you advise the House of when your expectation is that the medical malpractice legislation would be coming to the floor?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, I appreciate the gentleman asking. My understanding is that the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Energy and Commerce have tentative plans to mark up the medical liability bills sponsored by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) sometime next week. Once that bill is reported by the two committees, I would expect quick action in this House. I would also note that the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means have held mark-ups of legislation dealing with medical errors. I would expect legislation dealing with medical errors to be considered soon by the House as well, probably in the same week as the medical liability bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, would I be correct that the soonest that would be done would be the week after next?

Mr. DELAY. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Secondly, could the majority leader tell me when he expects the budget resolution to be scheduled for the floor? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I will say we will be as ambitious as I have seen in a long time in trying to bring the budget to the floor of the House, get the budget process done in an expedited manner. The Committee on the Budget is continuing to hold hearings with administration officials, economists and other budget experts; but we expect the House to consider the budget resolution actually on a schedule that allows us to have the conference report completed by April 15, as the Budget Act requires.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that answer; and reclaiming my time, I would ask the gentleman if he expects the President's tax proposal, or the majority's tax proposal, to be included within the budget document. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I would expect that there would be a tremendous debate over the size of the Economic Growth and Jobs Creation Act, and whatever that size is would be included in the budget that comes out of the Committee on the Budget, yes.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. One additional question, Mr. Leader, with reference to the budget. Has the majority made a determination yet as to whether or not it will be a 5-year or a 10-year budget projection?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, that decision has not been made yet. I know there are ongoing consultations with the chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the other body and also with the majority leader in the other body. The Speaker and the leadership on this side are consulting with them. That decision has not been made yet, but probably will be made fairly soon, certainly by the time the chairman lays out his mark.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for that observation, and unfortunately I think I agree with him. But very frankly, Mr. Leader, if we could get maybe a little advice prior to the mark being laid on the table, it would be helpful for us to fairly consider the chairman's mark.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, as the gentleman knows, it will probably be in the press before we even make the decision, so the gentleman can probably read it there.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. And if he thinks the press will be dispositive of that issue, I will take that to heart.

Mr. Leader, could you also tell me the status of the Partial Birth Abortion Bill that we had understood would be considered early, perhaps as early as next week? And there was some discussion about it this week, but now we hear there may be an intent to wait on the other body's acting on this and sending it to the House. Can you bring us up to date on what the plans are on this?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me. At this time I do not believe the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) has scheduled any action on this legislation, the partial birth abortion ban. Having said that, I do believe that this is really important legislation. This is something that the Senate has indicated they will move early this year, and it is certainly something that I would expect the House to vote on at least by the beginning of the summer.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for the information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 3, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it stand adjourned to meet at noon on Monday, March 3, 2003.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, it stand adjourned to meet at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2003 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. DELAY. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

CONTINUING NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA AND REGULATION, ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-42)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2003, to the Federal Register for publication.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 27, 2003.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2003.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 27, 2003, I hereby take a leave of absence from my position on the House Small Business Committee due to my appointment to the Committee on House Administration.

Sincerely,

ROBERT BRADY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speeches.

HONORING G. FRANKLIN
CRUMPLER, HOKE COUNTY CORONER

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of G. Franklin Crumpler, coroner for Hoke County, North Carolina. Mr. Crumpler holds the distinction of being the longest-serving elected official in North Carolina.

In 1960, G. Franklin Crumpler was appointed coroner for Hoke County after the serving coroner moved away. He served the unexpired term for 3 years and then ran for the office to which he was elected and has served in this capacity consecutively for the past 42 years.

He is married to the former Dayne Capps and has two sons, a daughter, and 11 grandchildren. Frank and his wife moved to Raeford in April of 1960 and opened a funeral home. Since then they have purchased a funeral home in Red Springs, North Carolina, and are part owners of LaFayette Funeral Home in Fayetteville.

Frank was born in nearby Sampson County in 1934 to the late Margaret Bradshaw and Gordon Crumpler. Frank graduated from Clinton High School in Clinton, North Carolina; Cincinnati College of Embalming; and Missouri Auction School in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a funeral service licensee, an auctioneer, and sells insurance.

He is a member and lifetime deacon of Raeford Baptist Church, past president and lieutenant governor of Raeford Kiwanis Club of which he was awarded "Man of the Year." He is on the board of directors of Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and past president of Red Springs Chamber of Commerce. He is also a mason and a Shriner.

Please join me in expressing the appreciation of the House to Mr. G. Franklin Crumpler for over 4 decades of dedicated service to the citizens of Hoke County, North Carolina.

□ 1745

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF
MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ
RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, \$100 billion, thousands of innocent lives of Iraqi women and children and the lives of our United States military and other military, I do not consider that to be collateral damage. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that this Congress engage in a debate that is being asked of the United Nations Security Council.

So today I am asking the Speaker to bring to the floor for our debate H. Con. Res. 2, a simple resolution that simply allows us to re-debate the Iraqi war resolution in light of the information regarding North Korea, in light of the information and question as to whether or not the United States is under imminent danger of attack, in light of the question being raised whether the United States should engage in a preemptive unilateral attack against Iraq, and in light of the fact that the Constitution does say that it is the United States Congress under Article I, section 8 that should declare war, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, in order to save lives.

It is imperative for this Congress to stand up and be heard and be counted and not to abdicate its duty to save lives on behalf of the American people and on behalf of world peace.

I include this letter for the RECORD.

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2003.

The Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: We are writing to request floor consideration for H. Con. Res. 2, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 be repealed. I introduced this legislation on January 7, 2003 to bring renewed debate and to re-examine the decision to authorize force against Iraq.

Since the passage of Public Law 107-243, which authorizes the President to use force against Iraq, the world is a different place. We have a dire situation in North Korea and our policies dealing with nations accused of having weapons of mass destruction should be consistent. In addition, many of our long-time allies are advocating that the U.N. inspections should be given more time to continue their work in Iraq. If the President intends to seek a new resolution in the United Nations, thereby allowing the U.N. Security Council to re-debate the question of force against Iraq, then it is more than reasonable for Congress to re-examine its decision based upon all the information available now, so as not to abdicate its constitutional duty.

Congress is constitutionally obligated to debate and to vote on any decision to go to war. Article I, 8 of the U.S. Constitution vests the authority to declare war solely with Congress. We are calling for a vigorous debate before we launch a probable preemptive unilateral strike against Iraq. It is Congress that must ultimately decide to go to war.

We would like to request that H. Con. Res. 2 be brought to the floor for debate. Before the President uses force against Iraq, approval and considered debate should occur in the Congress.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson-Lee, Diane E. Watson,
John Conyers, Jr., Raúl M. Grijalva,
Danny K. Davis, Jim McDermott, Bob
Filner, Bert Saunders, José E. Serrano,