

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 3, TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 3, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references, and to make such other necessary technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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. 3.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mrs. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to ask the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) about the schedule for next week.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as Members have noticed, we have completed our legislative work for the week, and the House will convene on Monday at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of this week. Any votes on those measures that are debated on Monday will be taken at 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

On Tuesday and the balance of the week, the House will convene at 10 a.m.; it is important to know that it is 10 a.m. on Tuesday, for legislative business. We expect to consider two bills under a rule, the Emergency Wartime Supplemental and the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006.

Finally, I would like to remind all Members that next week is a 5-day work week. We will have votes on Monday, and it will be a very, very active week as we head into the recess. We

may work some late nights next week. It is quite possible that there will be votes; Members should expect them on Friday as we head into the spring district work period.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like for my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), if he could, to be a little more definite about next Friday.

Mr. DREIER. As the gentleman knows, we have these two critically important measures that need to be considered next week, the supplemental appropriations bill, which is a very high priority to ensure that our men and women in uniform in Iraq have the resources necessary to complete their very important job over there. We all know there is strong bipartisan support for our troops. And of course, making sure that we complete the important budget resolution.

In light of the fact that we have those two priorities that need to be addressed next week, I am saying I think it is quite possible that Members could anticipate votes on Friday.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Is the gentleman telling us that the supplemental appropriations will come up next Tuesday?

Mr. DREIER. I would say we anticipate that we will see the supplemental bill considered before we consider the budget resolution. And the Committee on Rules is planning to meet Monday evening for consideration of the supplemental appropriation bill. We cannot say with absolute certainty when exactly it will come up, but it is the first thing scheduled legislatively beyond the measures that we will consider under suspension of the rules. I think it is quite possible it will be on Tuesday.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. What kind of rule will we have? Will it be an open rule or a restricted rule?

Mr. DREIER. I am privileged to serve as chairman of the Committee on Rules, but it is impossible for me at this juncture to predict exactly what this 13-member committee that spends hours deliberating over major public policy issues will do at the end of the day on this. I can assure the gentleman it will be a fair and balanced rule. But I will oppose putting it out unless it is a fair and balanced rule that allows for consideration of very important measures.

I know my colleague joins me in wanting to ensure that we get the resources necessary to our men and women in uniform who are having such great success in Iraq. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I ask my friend from California which day would he expect us to consider the budget and what type of rule would he anticipate for considering the budget?

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to say that, again, that we anticipate that the first major measure of the week that we will consider, following suspensions, will be the supplemental appropriations bill.

And the budget itself will likely be considered in the Committee on Rules on Tuesday evening. And again, I cannot predict exactly what shape the rule will take. In fact, when we are completed here, I will be making an announcement for the deadline for consideration of amendments. I will tell the gentleman, as in the past, the Committee on Rules has had a tendency, and I hope to continue that pattern, for actually showing preference for substitute packages that would be offered by Members. And we want to encourage Members who would like to offer budget substitutes to get those to us just as quickly as we possibly can.

Again, it is difficult to say at this moment exactly what that rule will consist of.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. If we have consideration of the rule on Tuesday, what day does the gentleman expect the budget to come to the Floor?

Mr. DREIER. Well, again, the supplemental appropriations bill is the first item that we will be working on, and then it will be some time later in the week. Obviously, if we do as I suspect, the Committee on Rules will make in order different substitutes; we will need to have time for that. So it will be later in the week next week. So I cannot tell the gentleman exactly what day it will be, but it will be into the week. And again, quite possibly, it could extend until Friday.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if my friend from California expects the rule to be on the floor Wednesday of next week?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say to the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget that it is our plan to consider the rule on the budget in the Committee on Rules probably late Tuesday afternoon. So depending on exactly what happens time-wise on consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill, it is quite possible that we could begin work on this on Wednesday, but I am not absolutely certain at this juncture what day it would be.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, will the deadline for filing proposed substitutes or amendments be 5 o'clock on Monday?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is our intention in light of the fact that we are discussing this Thursday afternoon that the announcement that I plan to make when we complete this colloquy is that we will ask for the amendments to the budget to be submitted to the Committee on Rules by 10 a.m. on Tuesday which will allow us to meet Tuesday afternoon. So I would encourage, we are now before 3