

Hastings (WA) McCaul (TX) Royce
 Hayes McCotter Ryan (WI)
 Hayworth McCrery Ryan (KS)
 Hefley McHenry Saxton
 Hensarling McHugh Schmidt
 Herger McKeon Schwarz (MI)
 Hobson McMorris Sensenbrenner
 Hoekstra Mica Sessions
 Hostettler Miller (FL) Shadegg
 Hulshof Miller (MI) Shaw
 Hunter Moran (KS) Shays
 Hyde Murphy Sherwood
 Inglis (SC) Myrick Shimkus
 Issa Neugebauer Shuster
 Jenkins Ney Simmons
 Jindal Northup Simpson
 Johnson (CT) Norwood Smith (NJ)
 Johnson (IL) Nunes Smith (TX)
 Johnson, Sam Nussle Sodrel
 Jones (NC) Osborne Souder
 Keller Otter Stearns
 Kelly Oxley Sullivan
 Kennedy (MN) Paul Sweeney
 King (IA) Pearce Tancredo
 King (NY) Pence Taylor (MS)
 Kingston Peterson (MN) Terry
 Kirk Peterson (PA) Thomas
 Kline Petri Thornberry
 Knollenberg Pitts Tiaht
 Kolbe Platts Tiberi
 Kuhl (NY) Poe Turner
 LaHood Pombo Upton
 Latham Porter Walden (OR)
 LaTourette Price (GA) Walsh
 Leach Pryce (OH) Wamp
 Lewis (CA) Putnam Weldon (FL)
 Lewis (KY) Radanovich Weldon (PA)
 Linder Ramstad Weller
 LoBiondo Regula Westmoreland
 Lucas Rehberg Wicker
 Lungren, Daniel Reichert Wilson (NM)
 E. Renzi Wilson (SC)
 Mack Reynolds Wolf
 Manzullo Rogers (AL) Young (AK)
 Marchant Rogers (KY) Young (FL)
 Marshall Rohrabacher
 Matheson Ros-Lehtinen

NAYS—188

Abercrombie Edwards Lofgren, Zoe
 Ackerman Emanuel Lowey
 Allen Engel Lynch
 Andrews Eshoo Maloney
 Baird Etheridge Markey
 Baldwin Evans Matsui
 Bean Farr McCarthy
 Becerra Fattah McCollum (MN)
 Berkley Filner McDermott
 Berry Frank (MA) McGovern
 Bishop (GA) Gonzalez McIntyre
 Bishop (NY) Gordon McKinney
 Blumenauer Green, Al McNulty
 Boren Green, Gene Meehan
 Boswell Grijalva Meek (FL)
 Boucher Gutierrez Meeks (NY)
 Boyd Harman Menendez
 Brady (PA) Hastings (FL) Michaud
 Brown (OH) Herseth Millender-
 Brown, Corrine Higgins McDonald
 Butterfield Hinchey Miller (NC)
 Capps Hinojosa Miller, George
 Capuano Holden Mollohan
 Cardin Holt Moore (KS)
 Cardoza Honda Moore (WI)
 Carnahan Hooley Moran (VA)
 Carson Hoyer Murtha
 Case Inslee Napolitano
 Chandler Israel Neal (MA)
 Clay Jackson (IL) Oberstar
 Cleaver Jackson-Lee Obey
 Clyburn (TX) Ortiz
 Conyers Jefferson Owens
 Costa Johnson, E. B. Pallone
 Costello Jones (OH) Pascrell
 Cramer Kanjorski Pastor
 Crowley Kaptur Payne
 Cuellar Kennedy (RI) Pelosi
 Cummings Kildee Pomeroy
 Davis (AL) Kilpatrick (MI) Price (NC)
 Davis (CA) Kind Rahall
 Davis (IL) Kucinich Rangel
 DeFazio Langevin Reyes
 DeGette Lantos Ross
 Delahunt Larsen (WA) Roybal-Allard
 DeLauro Larson (CT) Ruppersberger
 Dicks Lee Rush
 Dingell Levin Ryan (OH)
 Doggett Lewis (GA) Sabo
 Doyle Lipinski Salazar

Sánchez, Linda Snyder Velázquez
 T. Solis Visclosky
 Sanchez, Loretta Spratt Wasserman
 Sanders Stark Schultz
 Schakowsky Strickland Waters
 Schiff Stupak Watson
 Schwartz (PA) Tauscher Watt
 Scott (GA) Thompson (CA) Waxman
 Scott (VA) Thompson (MS) Weiner
 Serrano Tierney Wexler
 Sherman Towns Whitfield
 Skelton Udall (CO) Woolsey
 Slaughter Udall (NM) Wu
 Smith (WA) Van Hollen Wynn

NOT VOTING—21

Baca Cunningham Nadler
 Barton (TX) Ford Olver
 Beauprez Gallegly Pickering
 Berman Istook Rogers (MI)
 Bishop (UT) Melancon Rothman
 Calvert Miller, Gary Tanner
 Cooper Musgrave Taylor (NC)

□ 1706

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 889, 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. PUTNAM). 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. 889.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of September 19 to grant a rule which would limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2123, the School Readiness Act of 2005. The Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered the bill reported on May 18 and filed its report with the House on June 16.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the

Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 1 o'clock on Tuesday, September 20. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purposes of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come, and I am pleased to yield to the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished whip 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. The final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as two measures under a rule: H.R. 2123, the School Readiness Act of 2005, and H.R. 250, Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for that information.

First of all, on the general proposition for the month of October, we had had discussions last week; and it is clear that the second week of October, it will not be practical to meet because of the various important dates on that week. The first week was somewhat in flux at that point in time.

Could the majority leader bring us up to date on where currently the thinking of the leader's office is on where we will be on the first week of October?

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. As the gentlemen knows, the Rosh Hashanah holiday falls in the middle of that week; and while we wanted to plan the voting schedule for that week around that holiday, and we are still trying to do that, we still believe it may be necessary for the House to be in session at some point in that week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I realize the problems of doing that; but many of our Members, particularly those who come from

far away, are concerned about traveling on that Wednesday, as the gentleman knows, which makes it problematic because we will have to be very late Thursday. We will obviously accommodate what the majority believes it is going to do.

In that regard, last week, we had thought we probably, or might, be in tomorrow. We are not going to be in tomorrow. Can the majority leader give us a view on what might be the status of next Friday? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. At this point we believe that we can complete the legislation we have scheduled for next week by Thursday night of next week. However, however, given the still fluid situation in the gulf coast area, we are not yet prepared to cancel the session next Friday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I am presuming, and there was some discussion about this last week, that at some point in time in the next couple of weeks, we are going to have to do some sort of continuing resolution. Is that the gentleman's belief as well? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. Yes, the way things look, the gentleman knows that we have passed all of our appropriations bills out of the House and did so before July 4. The Senate does not have the same schedule, and it is quite obvious to all of us that they will not be able to get all of their appropriations bills across their floor in a timely manner. So we do anticipate to do some sort of CR before the end of this month. Whether it is next week or the following week, we do not know yet.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have any thoughts at this point in time regarding the length of time of the initial CR that we would consider? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. No, I have not been advised by the Committee on Appropriations as to what they are thinking. I am sure they will start having those discussions with the Senate and the gentleman's leadership starting next week, because we are going to have to deal with that issue.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

The GSE, the GSE bill was initially, our thought was that would be on the floor this coming week.

□ 1715

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Financial Services, is on the floor and has been very involved in this bill.

I am not sure you even know this, but the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) informs me that there are very significant sums that would be available to the gulf area for housing in the GSE bill, which will be regular order, and the benefit would be that this money would be available, and we know we are going to have to spend money in that area.

Can you tell me why the GSE bill is not on the floor? This deals, as you know, with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mr. DELAY. Well, we do understand that this bill came out of the Committee on Financial Services I think with a vote of 65 to 5.

It is a bill that is anticipated, and we really want to bring it to the floor. To be quite honest with you, we have some Members on this side of the aisle that are still wanting to negotiate some changes in that bill before we bring it to the floor; and we are in that process. As soon as we can get a consensus of where our Members are on that bill, then we will bring it to the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlemen from Texas (Mr. DELAY) does not object, let me yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking member, because I know he has worked very hard with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), as you well know, in a very bipartisan way. You mentioned 63 to 5, 65 to 5; and so we did not perceive there to be much opposition to the bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we did obviously get overwhelming consensus in the committee; and the vote among the Republican members of the committee was something 6 to 1 in favor of the bill. By the way, we have had some negotiation since, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) knows because he has been participating in them.

Some of the objections of some of the more conservative Members have been accommodated. Some safeguards were put in. Not everything was done that we liked on our side. We have been trying to be conciliatory, although people obviously had the power to go ahead.

Then, most recently, we decided this is a way to get money, if this bill were to pass quickly, to do housing so badly needed in the gulf area, frankly bypassing some of the normal problems you would have in terms of the need for regulations at OMB.

It would not go on the deficit. There has been a lot of concern about relief efforts that add to the deficit. This would be hundreds of millions of dollars, because it comes from the profits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, not on the deficit.

The only other point I would say, and I would hope the majority would have something to say about it, he said people do not like some things about the bill. Well, as I read the Constitution, I did not find the word negotiation in private among the majority party as part of article I.

I thought bringing bills to the floor and having debates and votes was the way to do it. Now I understand you want to establish some limits. But I do think we are reaching the point where democracy is suffering.

A bill adopted in an open process with hearings and debates in committee and amendments passes 65 to 5.

It has been, what, months since that bill was voted out of committee; and there have been some negotiations.

The notion that the bill cannot come to the floor until all but three Members of the majority are satisfied really flies in the face of democracy. If there are differences, what is the objection to letting the majority of the House of Representatives vote? We are not enormously far apart.

I have voted in the past for this thing called Reg-Neg, negotiated regulations. I do not think it ought to displace democracy. We have a bill that has an overwhelming vote in committee. There are some legitimate differences. Why cannot we let democracy work, and then, whichever side wins, the bill passes and hundreds of millions of dollars are available for the gulf.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I know the leader understands those were largely rhetorical questions.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), however, does express a view that a bill that can be very helpful to us that came out 65 to 5, overwhelming agreement, came out months ago. We do hope that this bill can be brought to the floor, certainly before, hopefully if not the end of next week, the week following. Because we believe it is the kind of legislation that people would be proud of. Democrats and Republicans came together, worked on it, came out with a bill, and it is a very good bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Housing, has said giving assurance to the people of New Orleans, the poorer people in particular of New Orleans, and, frankly, a lot of African American people, that we will be committed to rebuilding the city so they can come back home is very important. The longer we delay on this bill, the longer we delay giving people what is very important reassurance at a critical time.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

The bill that passed out of committee, by the way, would do nothing for New Orleans, nor would it do anything for the disaster relief in Alabama or Mississippi either.

What the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is referring to is a negotiation that has been ongoing to create, out of this building fund, at the GSEs an opportunity to change the bill and allow housing to be built in these devastated areas. That is the process around here. It is democracy when Members are negotiating a change to the bill; and in changing that bill in the way that has been suggested and

supported, obviously, by the gentlemen from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) other Members ought to have the opportunity to look at this bill and negotiate a bill that would receive the same sort of ratio here on the floor, rather than having a contentious battle on the floor and writing the bill on the floor.

We try our best to write bills in committee, but when the bill changes from committee to the floor, negotiations are created, and we are in the process of those negotiations, and that is the way this process works. The gentleman from Massachusetts has been here a lot longer than me, and he understands that.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I have been terribly worried about is the inability of Congress to move quickly to do something about the victims of Katrina. I am very, very worried that we are going to be seen as a body that cannot get its act together when we are confronted with this terrible disaster. We have an opportunity to utilize resources that will not be taken from our budget. We have an opportunity to use substantial resources that could be applied toward the rebuilding of homes, to getting people started again; and if we keep fumbling and if we keep fiddling, then we are going to come under great criticism because we are not doing what we can do.

So I would just simply urge all of my colleagues, do not play with this. There are people who are suffering and people who are depending on us. We have got a great way by which to provide real assistance. Let us get it done.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. I guess the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) forgets or has a short memory. I think we came into special session to spend \$10.5 billion just a few days after the disaster hit, came back the next week and spent \$51 billion to go to immediate relief.

We have passed some six to eight bills in the last few days that directly affect people and their ability to get their lives back together. I do not think anybody, and certainly not this House, is dragging its feet on anything.

What the gentlewoman is talking about is a process that, frankly, will take months to get the money that we are talking about in order to build the houses that she wants; and being able to negotiate a few weeks or days to get this bill right and not get it wrong I think is very much the responsible way to proceed.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time.

I appreciate the majority leader's response. There obviously is a difference of view of how soon that those dollars

could flow from the ranking member of the subcommittee and the ranking member of the full committee.

You mentioned days. I would certainly hope it could be days. Because I think we would all be advantaged in a bill, particularly if we could pass it with the overwhelming majority that was received both in the subcommittee and in the full committee.

Moving on, Mr. Leader, in addition to the bills you have listed for next week, do you anticipate any Hurricane Katrina-related legislation will come to floor? And if so, will those bills go through the committee of jurisdiction and be considered under rules on the floor that allow full debate?

You mentioned, as a preface to that, obviously almost all of us voted for the \$52 billion. But I think everybody on the floor was concerned about the level of information we had about what had been spent of the \$10 billion, how much was going to be spent, on what, of the \$52 billion.

In that context I ask that question.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the total of \$62 billion that we have authorized FEMA to spend is designated already in present law. FEMA already knows what they can and cannot spend that money on, and that I know has created some frustrations with people. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say this is too much money, and we do not know how to spend it, yet be frustrated when FEMA is complying with the law and when they are spending the money. That creates a problem.

As the gentleman knows, the problem is we have a disaster unlike we have seen in this country, not just the hurricane but the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people for a very long period of time and displaced not just out of the area but out of their State, which has created new concerns and new problems; and we are trying to address those immediately.

But the administration is addressing many of these issues within the law through waivers or redesigning certain programs, and a lot of it is being taken that way. But there are some things that we must do. The committees, hopefully working in a bipartisan way, are looking at all of those kinds of issues; and that is where the six or eight bills that we have passed over the last 2 weeks have been coming from.

Understanding that those students, for instance, that may have lost their Pell Grants, in anticipation of going to universities that have closed, need some fix. We fixed that. We tried to develop a system where we could make available more TANF funds earlier, and we fixed that. We went down the line fixing those things that we thought needed fixing immediately. We are still working on others.

I have to tell you that the Senate does not see it the same way, and they

are sitting on these bills and not passing them, and I would urge all Members of the House to contact their Senators and talk to them about picking up these bills and passing them, because they are incredibly important to people that need these changes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time. I thank the leader for that observation and information.

I would urge the leader, as we bring additional bills to the floor, that we give the opportunity to have these bills fully considered by the floor. We want to move them. We want to move them quickly.

The overwhelming majority of us on both sides of the aisle have voted for all of the bills that you just referenced on the theory, as you said, that we need to move ahead on the Pell Grants and TANF and on the dollars themselves, on liability issues.

But the failure to give full consideration to them, assuming full consideration does not mean days and weeks delay but a full day of consideration of these pieces of legislation, we believe is appropriate, particularly if we deal with another very large money bill.

We hope it goes through committee, and we hope it comes to the floor with an opportunity for Members to make suggestions in forms of amendment, either cutting or adding or shifting, as the case may be, those resources. Because we think that is, you know, the theory of the process is, our collective judgments are better than our individual judgments. And that is what democracy is.

□ 1730

Mr. DELAY. The gentleman is absolutely right, and I hope Members will pay attention to this unusual process that we are using. The gentleman is right. To what extent we can, we ought to use regular order, but these are unusual times. And there are things that need to be done immediately. And I do not think the people that have been devastated by this disaster want us to wait a week to vet things and that kind of stuff, particularly if you were one of those students that was trying to get into another university and could not transfer your Pell grant to that other university. I think they are appreciating that we are trying to move as quickly as possible so they can do that. That is just one example of many examples.

The point is that we are trying to do this in a bipartisan way. If there are ranking members that are not being consulted, then I want to hear about it. Members should understand that we are trying to get it out to the Members and we are more than willing to hear anything from anybody, so they should be working through their ranking member and on our side of the aisle, their full committee chairman. But there are some things that we need to get to the floor as quickly as possible.

At any rate, it is taking several days to get these bills done so Members have

an opportunity to participate and have their input. We are going regular order on most of the bills, but there are some that need attention immediately; and that is why we moved quickly in consultation and cooperation with the other side of the aisle. And we thought these were all bills that had everybody's consent because we even checked with the Senate, we checked with the administration, and we thought these bills could move quickly. Unfortunately, the Senate sees it differently.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I would simply add again that as the gentleman indicated, trying to go regular order, obviously, both sides understand that these are things we need to move with great dispatch so we can help the people that need help and get it to them when they need the help. We are all for that.

On the supplemental, the President has indicated there is going to be a need for another supplemental. Do you know when we might consider such a supplemental; how much that supplemental might be for? And if we start considering it early, while the \$52 billion is still available to be expended to assist those, it will give us a little bit of time to go through the process that the gentleman indicates is the best process.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I do not know, other than in the press, and in many of these issues the press has gotten it wrong, that there has been any supplemental suggested by the President of the United States. He has not contacted my office. As far as I know, he has not contacted the Speaker's office, nor the chairman of the appropriations office about another supplemental. Quite the contrary. They are trying to avoid having another supplemental and trying to spend the money properly and get it to the people that need it. So I am not aware of any supplemental certainly in the short term.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Now, there is some speculation about an energy bill being considered. Obviously, gasoline prices are extraordinarily high. The American public is very concerned about their energy costs, about the policies of this country. Do you anticipate an energy bill coming to the floor any time within the next 2 weeks or 3 weeks?

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the question, because Members need to be aware that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is working on a fuel bill to try to address the concerns, particularly of supply and the lack of refining in this country.

The gentleman knows that there were a lot of issues that were dropped out of the energy bill that was signed by the President about a month ago that would be having an effect right now. We are going to revisit those issues.

There are other issues that have come to mind. People are starting to understand that as the cold weather starts closing in on us that the cost of fuel oil is going to be astronomical, that the increase in electricity costs are going to be astronomical. The cost of natural gas is going up, and we all understand that supply is the real problem; and we are going to try to address that and hopefully address it as soon as we can, do it in regular order, and bring it to the floor for consideration of this House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Do you have any idea what "as soon as possible" is, the time frame? Next 3 weeks, next month, late October, November? Do you have any idea on that?

Mr. DELAY. There is really no way of knowing. It is really up to the committee and how fast they can do their work. I might say that the chairman of the committee's wife is having a baby today so that has created a problem. Not for him, but for our schedule. So they are working as hard and as fast as they can, and it is incredibly important for us to deal with this issue as soon as possible.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, and I agree with you that is not a problem. Please convey the Democratic congratulations to the chairman and more importantly his wife, the mother.

Two last bills I will ask you about, Mr. Leader, and I appreciate the time we are taking on this. Reconciliation: There was a discussion about putting off reconciliation. We have put off reconciliation at least until the end of the month, as I understand it probably until October. Can you tell me whether or not we still anticipate reconciliation moving forward and, if so, are there going to be two bills? One the \$35 billion in mandatory spending cuts among which is \$10 billion in Medicaid cuts, and/or the \$70 billion in tax cuts that was included in the budget reconciliation instructions.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding and for the question. The gentleman probably knows that I think today the Committee on the Budget has sent a notice to the House that they have postponed the process until the end of October because of what is facing us now. We thought it would be better to do that, and the Committee on the Budget agreed. And so this process will not even be started until the middle of October.

As the gentleman also knows, the budget that was passed by the House allows for two bills, one an entitlement reform bill and another a tax bill. We anticipate taking advantage of both and trying to reform entitlement spending so that real money is getting to real people that need it. And we also anticipate some sort of tax bill because we feel like, particularly under the present circumstances, to continue this good economy that we have got, we hope to enhance it even more.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, the last bill I would ask you about is

the subject matter that has been one of the biggest subjects that we have been considering this year. The President put it on the agenda, the Social Security privatization, private accounts act. Can you tell me whether or not we anticipate a Social Security bill coming to create private accounts or privatize in some way Social Security coming to the floor this year.

Mr. DELAY. The Committee on Ways and Means remains focused on developing a comprehensive retirement security package. And I still hope that the House will be able to consider legislation in this area before we end this session. That is about as much as I am informed as to where the bill is, what is in it, and when it will come.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Let me say on behalf of the minority, the Democrat side of the aisle shares your concern and commitment to assuring retirement security for our people. As you know, we strongly disagree with the suggestion that has been made by the administration with reference to the creation of private accounts and what we perceive as privatizing parts of Social Security. But I want you to be assured that we share your view that we want to make sure that retirement accounts are secure and that Americans have opportunities to participate in the creation of retirement accounts. I thank the gentleman for his observation.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). 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.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 445) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.