

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall votes 547 and 548.

Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have cast the following votes on H.R. 2771: to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for the Legislative Branch. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the motion to recommit with instructions, roll No. 547, I would have voted "no." On passage roll No. 548, I would have voted "yes".

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2764, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008; AND H.R. 2771, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 2764 and H.R. 2771, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section number and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 2829, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-207) on the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield to my friend the majority leader for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for next week.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

On Monday the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour business and at 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes rolled until 6 p.m.

I want to reiterate that, as we did the other day. It will be 6 p.m. I would hope that the offices that are covering the floor, that they remind their Members 6 p.m. on Monday will be the votes. The congressional baseball game

is at 7:30, and we want to give Members time to get to the game. It is a fun event and a collegial event, and we are going to accommodate that by accelerating by half an hour the votes on Monday at 6 p.m.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A complete list of those bills will be announced later today.

On Tuesday the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour business and 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m., and on Friday the House will meet at 9 a.m. We will consider the following fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills: Interior and Environment; Financial Services.

I will say to my friends that those two bills will be considered, and we will obviously, consistent, hopefully, with our agreement, try to enter into unanimous consent agreements in terms of the amendments and the timing of those amendments. And we will see how the balance of the schedule goes Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for that information.

And from the fact that you said we will see how the week goes Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, I think that anticipates that at least there is a chance that with the State-Justice-Commerce bill's not being next week, we may be able to be done on Thursday, and the Members can start their work period on Friday. Would that be one of the options that would be a possibility at least?

And I yield.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

The answer to that is yes. Again, we are going to complete those two bills at least. There may be some other legislative business. We don't know whether there will be conference reports. As you know, there is a conference on the 9/11 bill and some other conference reports on other items that may come forward. But the answer to your question, I think, is essentially yes. If we can complete the work that we have before us prior to Friday, there may not be a need to meet on Friday.

Mr. BLUNT. Reclaiming my time, a couple of other thoughts. I thank you for that information.

On the conference reports that are upcoming, the 9/11 conference report is there.

Mr. HOYER. Lobbying disclosure is the other.

Mr. BLUNT. I was going to ask about lobbying reform, if you thought there was a chance for that. Water Resources or the competitive science bills, do you have a report on where those might be?

Mr. HOYER. I really don't. But because I don't have a report, my speculation is that there is not anticipation that those conferences will be completed in time to consider conference reports next week. We don't have any report on that.

I am looking at the person who knows so much on my staff, Mr. Cogorno, to make sure that I am making a correct representation, but that is accurate.

Mr. BLUNT. I would also ask, I believe we announced last week, Madam Speaker, we thought that we were going to have the Science-State-Justice-Commerce bill up next week, and now we are not. Is there any particular reason for that that you can share with me on that?

I yield for a response.

Mr. HOYER. Yes, there is. We had a lot of discussion about this. As Mr. OBEY has represented, because of the reforms that have been adopted and the transparency that we want to effect, but also the certification that is necessary for the legitimacy of projects, the time frame necessary to do the State-Justice-Commerce was more than could be accomplished within the time frame that the staff had available. As you know, they had to deal with the Interior and the Financial Services as well. Science-State-Justice-Commerce was such that they simply could not get it done in time. Regrettably, therefore, it, too, as the other four bills, one of which was already scheduled for July, the defense appropriations bill, had to be moved to July.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for that. And I do believe that the protracted discussion we had and the agreement we made on transparency on these bills is a good thing.

Next week's being a week where we will be leaving for a district work period, we won't have a chance for this colloquy, and I am wondering if you have any sense yet of where we will be the week we come back after the Independence Day break. Should we anticipate any appropriations bills that week or do you have other work that we might get to that week?

And I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, Madam Speaker.

It is our expectation that the first week back, which will be the week of July 9, I believe, Tuesday, the 10th, at 6:30 p.m., we will not have appropriation bills that week. There will be legislation that week, and we will give notice of that next week so that one can anticipate it for the week that we come back from the July break. But we do not expect appropriation bills to start until the following week, the week of July 16.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate that. And I appreciate also that generally that is the way that it usually works out on a week where we are coming back from being in our districts the week before.

Last week you said that we should anticipate an announcement on an omnibus energy bill by the Fourth of July recess. I am wondering if you have any more information on that.

And I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Yes. What I said was it is my expectation that at the end of next