

issues that need to be resolved. But we are hopeful, in answer to your question, that appropriation bills will be on the floor and will be passed and will be sent to the President prior to the 16th of November. And as I have told my friend before, we have no intention of getting to a place where the government is shut down. The best way to do that is passing our 12 appropriation bills and having the President sign them. We hope we can reach that objective, but obviously at this point in time, much work remains to be done. But we hope to be doing it.

The Senate, as you know, was not in session this week and we are here in an abbreviated session because of the untimely and sad death of our colleague Jo Ann Davis. But we hope to move appropriation bills and we hope to have them on the floor, as the gentleman asked, prior to November 16.

Mr. BLUNT. I would hope so.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. BLUNT. I will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I don't want that read as saying I believe that we can get all 12 appropriation bills before November 16 because the Senate has only passed, as you point out, four of the 12 at this point in time. We are hopeful that they will have bills on the floor next week and can get through those bills in a relatively short period of time so that we can move ahead. But I didn't want to leave the impression I thought that all 12 would possibly be moved through by the 16th of November.

Thank you.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for those observations.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I have been in the job he is doing now and in the whip's job on the majority side, and I do know that waiting for the Senate to pass their bills and taking blame, as we did and as others will in the future, for not getting our work done is a frustrating thing. But if we can move some of these along, I believe it's better.

I also, in response to the gentleman's comments about having the President sign the bills, hope that we are dealing with the reality that the President actually does have to sign those bills, and if he is not willing to sign the bill, we can go through the efforts of a veto and sustaining or overriding and all those sorts of things, but before we can get next year's business started, we actually have to have the President sign a bill. And I hope we are developing a strategy to do that.

On FTA, the Peru FTA has been through the markup phase in the Ways and Means Committee, and I'm wondering when the gentleman expects that, the first of four pending trade agreements, to come to the House floor.

And I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And I say to him that we had discussions on that today with Chairman RANGEL and we are going to try to

move Trade Assistance Adjustment to provide for any dislocations that might occur that Members are concerned about. And I'm hopeful that we can move as well the Peru FTA hopefully by the end of the month, but in no event later than November 16. So it is very much my hope between now and then. But we will certainly pass at least the Peru FTA along with the Trade Assistance Adjustment.

I will say to my friend that Panama is another bill that I think might be possible; however, the gentleman knows there is a problem that has arisen unrelated to the provisions of the trade bill but which are of great concern to many Members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. BLUNT. I understand that. And, of course, I also understand that up until now, we have always done these trade bills in sequence based on the time they were negotiated, at least under the TPA regimen we have when the House has been involved in trade bills. And Colombia, Panama, South Korea are all out there. I hope we can figure out a way to have the kind of debate those bills deserve.

I would also like to say to my friend I appreciate the accommodation of the House schedule this week based on the loss of our colleague from the First District of Virginia, Jo Ann Davis. She cared about the things this Congress does. She was a great Member of Congress. I think it's fair to say she was particularly focused on the armed services and on Federal employees, both of which she had a real opportunity to impact.

And I would say that I remember her seat over here where she almost always sat, that last week she was able to be here with us, just looking, and it was obvious the great health challenge she was facing and the incredible effort she was making to be here to cast the last week of votes she was able to cast. And for your quick accommodation of the schedule so that we could participate in her memorial service tomorrow and also, frankly, recognize her service by the House not being in session tomorrow, I am grateful to you for that.

I would yield for any comments you might want to make.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for yielding, and I want to join him in commending Jo Ann Davis and sending our sympathies from this side of the aisle to her family.

I had the opportunity of working with her on a number of Federal employee issues. She and I both represented large numbers of Federal employees. She was very conscientious, hard working, focused, obviously very concerned about our national security, represented very substantial defense establishments, Navy establishments in her district. Her district was across the Potomac River from mine, as the gentleman probably knows, and we will miss her. I know that her constituents will miss her. And we were certainly pleased to have the opportunity to

make sure that any and all Members who could go and wanted to go would be able to attend the services that will be held for her tomorrow at 1 p.m.

I thank the gentleman for his observations and join him in my commendations to her.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate your efforts to do that. She was an example of public service and personal courage.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON  
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Madam 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 (Ms. CLARKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 12, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 12, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, October 15, for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR EXPENSES OF SELECT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER H. RES. 611

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 723) providing for the expenses of the select committee established under House Resolution 611.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 723

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. EXPENSES OF SELECT COMMITTEE.**

(a) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than \$300,000 for the expenses of the select committee established under House Resolution 611, as agreed to August, 3, 2007 (hereafter referred to as the "select committee").

(b) CONSULTANTS.—The select committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the House for purposes of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i)).

(c) VOUCHERS.—Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the select committee, signed by the chairman of such committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PRAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CLEVELAND SHOOTING

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, Members of the House that are still here this afternoon, and people of America, I ask you to join with me in a moment to say prayers for the families of the victims from the Cleveland shooting this afternoon.

It is unfortunate that we as a Nation once again face a shooting in a public schoolhouse. It is unfortunate that we once again face children who have access to guns in an educational environment.

I ask you to pray for the family of the young man who was the shooter. I ask you to pray for the families of the persons who were injured in this shooting.

Day after day we will get all kinds of questions about what happened and how it happened and what we could have done. But today is a day when we should stop and just for a moment say prayers on behalf of all those families.

The city of Cleveland is my home. I grew up there. I currently represent it, and I ask you to hold us in your thoughts and prayers and pray that God will give us the strength and the ability to work through this difficult time.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TODAY MARKS A TRAGIC DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today marks a sad and tragic day in American history. Today is the fifth anniversary of the House joint resolution which authorized the use of American Armed Forces against Iraq.

I was among the 133 Members of the House who voted "no" on that resolu-

tion. But our voices could not be heard over the deafening spin machine of fear and misinformation that came from the administration.

We were told about mushroom clouds, yellow cake, and weapons of mass destruction. They all turned out to be fairytales. But they became the rationale of something America should never, never do: wage a war of choice.

But now the American people know that our involvement in Iraq is folly, and in 2006 they sent us to Congress to end the occupation.

Iraq is not the American people's war; it is the administration's war. And it goes on because the administration has turned a deaf ear to the will of the people. The administration looks to our involvement in South Korea as the model for Iraq. That means a permanent occupation that may last half a century or more.

Who wants this? The American people don't want it. The Iraqi people don't want it. The people of the Middle East don't want it. Our allies don't want it. The world does not want it. Iraq is the symptom of a foreign policy that is fatally flawed. We have turned our backs on the structure of international cooperation and agreement that is the best way to stop terrorism, ensure our national security, and keep the peace.

Our leaders have told us to wait for history to judge the wisdom of our involvement in Iraq, but we don't have to wait; 5 years is long enough to judge. And we already know what the occupation has done; it has shattered the lives of millions through death, injury, and displacement. It has wrecked our moral leadership, it has wrecked our standing in the world. It has distracted us from fighting the poverty and hopelessness that give rise to terrorism, and from working with other nations to dismantle terrorist networks. It has made us foreign occupiers in the eyes of the people of the Middle East, making it virtually impossible for us to be partners for peace in that very volatile region.

The occupation broke faith with our brave troops. We told them they were going to fight America's enemies, and then we left them to police a civil war that has nothing to do with America. The occupation has undermined our commitment to civil liberties and human rights. America should be known as the great champion of democracy; instead, we are known for Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, illegal wiretapping, and the PATRIOT Act.

The occupation has squandered nearly half a trillion dollars from our Treasury, robbing money from domestic needs. And the occupation has not made our Nation safer. Our intelligence community has warned us that al Qaeda is using the occupation to recruit operatives for attacks on the United States.

So how should we mark this fifth anniversary day? Let us use October 10, 2007 to correct the mistake this House

made on October 10, 2002. Let us use this day to commit ourselves to a bold new course of action. Congress must rescind the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq. Congress must use its power of the purse to defund the occupation and, instead, fully fund the safe, orderly, and responsible redeployment of our troops and withdrawal of all military contractors now. And Congress must resist the new drumbeat of war, this time against Iran.

The occupation of Iraq represents a failure of national policy. America's true strengths lie in our commitment to moral action, lies in our compassion for the people of the world, and a government based on the rule of law. Let us use this day to return to those values and ensure the safety of our country and our people. And let us be committed to bring our troops home from Iraq.

□ 1815

#### HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to commend Homes for Our Troops, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, for its remarkable service to military men and women who have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries.

Homes for Our Troops was founded in 2004 to assist severely injured service men and women and their families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor, and coordinating the process of building a new home or adapting an existing home for handicap accessibility.

Homes for Our Troops has been awarded the Seal of Excellence by Independent Charities of America, and all services provided by the organization are at no cost to the veteran it serves.

This Saturday, I happened to be fortunate enough to witness firsthand the great work of this organization when U.S. Sergeant Edmundson and his family received keys to their new home in New Bern, North Carolina.

Sergeant Edmundson was severely wounded on October 2, 2005 in an IED attack in Iraq. His injuries include shrapnel wounds to his abdomen and right leg, and fractured vertebrae. Sergeant Edmundson has not been able to walk since the explosion, and he still cannot talk. He has worked very hard the past 2 years to regain quality of life, and just recently returned to his family after a 6-month rehabilitation stay in Chicago.

After Sergeant Edmundson was discharged, he and his family relocated to New Bern, North Carolina. Sergeant Edmundson and his family were selected to receive a new home after they encountered John Gonsalves, the president and founder of Homes for Our Troops. Sergeant Edmundson was at a