

month in meetings trying to come to a place where we could reach agreement. Obviously, we're not there in terms of sufficient numbers to think that we can, or are ready to, introduce a new bill. That would be our preference, to introduce a bill that, after these long discussions, that would enjoy hopefully 60, 70, 80 Members, which is the number your leader used as possible to vote for such legislation and move that through the Senate and send it to the President. That would be our hope.

Mr. BLUNT. I appreciate the gentleman's work on this. I do know that in terms of a bill that would continue this program, that a significant majority of our Members would vote for that; and the bill that would even expand the program, a number of our Members might vote for that. But it has to be the right bill, structured in the right way.

I know you've spent a lot of time on that. I hope you can negotiate even further from where you've been. But I also know that my staff and your staff hopefully are even working together on this to determine that exact right number that would continue the existing program to be sure that shortfalls are met, and that the existing program and the impact of that potential guideline on the existing program, and I think I can assure my friend that there will be enough votes in the House, including votes on our side, to easily extend the existing program and cover those shortfalls while we work for a better program.

The last question I have is the gentleman's certainty about Friday. I know a few weeks ago we had scheduled that these 2 weeks would be 3-day weeks and the Members would be able to schedule things in their districts on Mondays and Fridays. I think your sense is today that we might very well be here on Friday, and I would appreciate some clarification on that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that question. As the gentleman knows, and I've been involved in this business for a long time, four decades about, and whether it was in the State Senate, which had a constitutional ending date, or in the House of Representatives, it's very difficult to predict the last days of a session.

Now, I will tell you that the Speaker and I are working around the clock, almost literally, to ensure that we can adjourn this first session of the Congress of the United States on the 14th. We had hoped the 13th, but we're letting Members know that the 14th, that's only 4 days from now. We've just gone through some pretty heavy lifting in terms of the appropriation bills, in terms of the AMT, in terms of SCHIP, in terms of Iraq and in terms of other matters that we need to address before we leave here. But we think we can do it, and it is our intention to do it.

But, obviously, there are things that are pending that we cannot leave without doing, so that if we cannot get that done in that time frame, we will have to see where we go from there.

But I want to make it very, very clear to everybody that the Speaker, Senator REID, and I have talked; and we are all very focused on the 14th being the day that we adjourn. The following week is the week before Christmas. We believe that individuals need to be home. I need to do shopping and decorating because all my family's coming to my house from some parts of the country, so I need to be home. And I'm sure every other Member shares that view.

So all I can tell my friend, and he knows this as well as I do, that the unpredictability of the next 4 legislative days is such that I can't make any guarantees, other than we are doing everything we can to get the business that we've just discussed done. We may have some very late nights on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; but we are hopeful that we will get this done and not have to ask Members to come back the week before Christmas.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I'm hopeful that my friend has mentioned that date again. Even after the experience of this week, we're still looking at that date. It may be the triumph of hope over experience, but we may all be motivated enough to get that done.

Mr. HOYER. Well, we've had some success this week. As you know, we think we've passed a historic energy bill. Not only that, as my friend knows, because he's from the State of our distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, we were able to go to conference today, which has been somewhat contentious for a few days. We expect that conference to be on the floor early next week. So we are moving ahead.

But as we've discussed, there are some issues of difficulty that we haven't resolved that we need to resolve, and so we'll have to see whether or not we will be successful.

Mr. BLUNT. Hopefully next Friday we won't even have to have a discussion about the week's work coming up because we will be done. And I appreciate the information of the gentleman.

I yield back.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have been unavoidably detained and away on official business on a number of rollcalls which I would like to place in the RECORD at this time.

In particular, I'd like to take note of December 5, 2007. Due to the tragic death of Reserve Deputy Constable Odum in my district, I was attending his funeral. On rollcall vote No. 1127, if I was present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote No. 1128, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote No. 1129, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 1130, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 1131, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 1132, I would have voted "aye."

And Rollcall No. 1133, I would have voted "aye." That is on December 5, 2007.

For September 20, 2007, on rollcall vote 890, I would have voted "aye"; No. 889, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 888, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 887, I would have voted "aye."

And on rollcall No. 886, a motion to adjourn. I would have voted "no."

On July 16, 2007, rollcall vote No. 632, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 631, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 630, I would have voted "aye."

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet to 3 p.m. on Monday next, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Ms. LEE. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

November 29, 2007.

The Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to section 1238(6)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. (22 U.S.C. 7002) amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901). I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Mr. Peter T.R. Brookes of Virginia (re-appointment).

Mr. Daniel M. Slane of Ohio.

These individuals have expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill their requests.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.