

humbleness and willingness to work in behalf of those individuals in this society who have no one to fight and to work for them. He is, indeed, a great person already at the age of 30, a remarkable man, a history maker.

Simply because of the fact that he can walk with kings and yet still he can also be very comfortable to walk and lead and participate and fight for the common man, Mr. Speaker, this House of Representatives will not be the same because we have a humble individual, an individual who knows greatness and knows that greatness evolves as a direct byproduct of working on behalf of common people.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. I ask for this time to inquire of the distinguished majority leader about the schedule for today, tomorrow, the weekend, and next week.

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

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to preface my comments by adding my congratulations to those that have gone before me to the gentleman from Illinois. It is always a great thrill to be sworn in for the first time and to have your family here for the event.

Mr. Speaker, there will be no more legislative business today. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the upcoming schedule for the remainder of the week.

Tomorrow, we plan to take up the conference report for H.R. 1530, the Department of Defense Authorization Act. There is also the possibility that the appropriations conference report for the District of Columbia will be ready for consideration tomorrow. We should know more about that possibly later today and will, of course, keep Members advised.

As Members know, it has been 25 days since the House passed our last CR. For over 3 weeks now we have been waiting for the President to become engaged in substantive discussions and present his alternative plan to reach a balanced budget in 7 years. Mr. Speaker, we are still waiting. We are eager to examine his alternative and to commence serious negotiations with the President at the table.

Mr. Speaker, if the President decides to get serious about these balanced budget negotiations, there may be a possibility of a short-term continuing resolution for the weekend. Obviously, we will know more about that this afternoon after negotiations with the administration today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I should note that I will be happy to engage in further discussions tomorrow regarding details of the schedule for next week.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BONIOR. I just say to my friend, the gentleman from Texas, I thank him for his patience in order for us to have this colloquy. I appreciate his patience, and I would also like to yield now to my friend, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LOFGREN], who I think has a concern about the weekend.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I may inquire, I am a freshman Member of this body, and so perhaps this is the way things normally go, and I am certainly not opposed to working hard. But I, as do many parents in the Congress, have a little boy who believes in Santa Claus. I am wondering when I will get to take him to visit Santa Claus, and further, when all of the wonderful things that Santa Claus is going to bring him will actually arrive.

He did point out to me the other day that we did not work last Friday and we did not work this Monday, and we did not start working until late on Tuesday, and now it is 2 o'clock and we are knocking it off for the day.

My question is: Are we going to be working on Saturday to finish the appropriations bills not yet done? If not, why are we leaving now so that myself and the other parents might actually get their children to visit Santa Claus?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, let me just thank the gentlewoman for her observations.

It is a difficult time for all of us. I am amazed at how many Members have children and grandchildren that are dancing in the Nutcracker Suite this weekend all across this Nation, and it is a matter of enormous consequence to all of these families.

My governing principle, Mr. Speaker, is to schedule work when it is ready, to move it as quickly as we can. We had had other work scheduled for today. Unfortunately, the bill that might have been under consideration at this time was withdrawn for reasons that are of the committee's concerns.

The defense appropriations bill is obviously something we must move tomorrow, and can do so. If we have no work, that is, work that must be done on Saturday or Sunday, and I am sure the gentlewoman would agree with me, that should we approach an opportunity to complete the budget on Saturday or Sunday, I am sure she, as well as all the rest of the Members, would more prefer to stay here and do that and finish out the year.

But short of that work on the weekend, especially if it appears that we will be here working next week, it would be my intention, under whatever parliamentary arrangements are possible, for us to have no work on the floor on Saturday and Sunday, so that those Members who are not otherwise engaged, perhaps in a conference or perhaps in the budget negotiations, could indeed grab a couple of days with their families before we come back and commence work on Monday.

I wish I could be more specific and give Members a definitive answer right now. But I think I owe it to all of us to

be certain that I have, in fact, explored every possibility of having that definitive work before us before I close the door on Saturday and Sunday and encourage people.

So for now, I would suggest to the gentlewoman and to all of my colleagues, if you have plans to try to go home for the weekend, that is something that is, indeed, as these things are, very important to you and your family, do not cancel those plans. As soon as I can say something definitive, I will.

Mr. BONIOR. We thank the majority leader for his understanding and his reading of what he sees possible this weekend. We appreciate his concern.

Can the gentleman from Texas give us an indication, if we leave for this weekend or tomorrow, when we will resume on Monday next?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, of course, again, if it is possible, that is to say, unless I am otherwise compelled by compelling work, I would try to enable the Members to have Saturday, Sunday, and, say, Monday until 5 free from any votes on the floor.

Obviously, we all need this time. It is precious. And I would try to make it as extended a period of time as possible and would change from Monday at 5 only if compelled by some work that I thought would justify the inconvenience to the families.

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

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, as the leader knows, this has been a very difficult year on the schedule and its impact upon families, on both sides of the aisle. And as we enter the holidays, Mr. Leader, I would hope that we would have some indication as to how late we are going to be going into the schedule next week. It is a very difficult time to get plane reservations to fly back home to our home districts and see families and spend time with families at the holiday.

Do you have some kind of indication as to how long into the next week we will be proceeding on the budget?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, let me make the observation, we are in very difficult, very serious, and extremely important negotiations with heartfelt differences between the Congress and the White House, and while I am confident that everybody is trying to do their very, very best, and have my own hopes that the week could be shorter instead of longer, I simply could not with any degree of reliability give any intimation to the Members other than to advise you to be prepared to stay for a long, hard work week throughout all of next week, with the hope that perhaps we could reach some agreement that would allow me to come on this floor and enjoy your appreciation with my bringing of the good news, and I would hope that would happen.

Mr. ROEMER. As the leader knows, I want a balanced budget. I have been

working hard for the last 11 months to achieve one, and certainly if we see progress, which I hope we see more of in the ensuing days, we are willing to work hard next week to achieve that final outcome in a bipartisan manner.

But as the leader knows, we also, if he could indicate to us, if that is going to be December 24 or 23, that is helpful for us as we make plans. It is also helpful for us in many ways as we try to plan out our work schedule and our family schedules.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, I appreciate the point the gentleman makes.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, what I see and what we see expressed here, we have 435 people here that share a commitment to their families and a commitment to the Nation through their work here, and we are all caught in a period of dire consequences and serious stress, trying to find a way, as the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] said so eloquently a few years back, to get home and love our children, and I can only say that insofar as I can do anything to accommodate the Members and their families while also accommodating to their sincere desire to complete the year's work in a responsible fashion, I will make that effort, and I will try to keep the Members as advised and as current as I can possibly do with any certainty at any time.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank the gentleman for that, Mr. Leader. I just have one final question.

Two days ago the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct conducted a rule change concerning the book royalty issue. It is a long-overdue reform. It was unanimously approved by the committee. The chairwoman has clearly indicated that the bill would be considered before the end of this session.

We are concerned by press reports we saw in the paper this morning indicating that the leadership on your side of the aisle may be blocking the committee's unanimous recommendation, and I guess my question to you this afternoon is will the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct recommendation for immediate action be honored by the Republican leadership? And can we see this bill within the next week?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for your inquiry.

As the gentleman knows, a bill has been drafted and has been submitted, assigned to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules has the bill under consideration, and I cannot tell you with any degree of certainty what will be the dispatch of that bill by the committee, but I am confident that the Committee on Rules will act on this bill in full regard to its own fine traditions as a committee and the kind of consideration that such legislation takes, and I have to tell you I have had only a very, very brief discussion with the chairman of the Committee on Rules and a discussion in which he has assured me that the bill would get all

the serious consideration in the due course of time that is appropriate within the traditions of this fine committee.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. So I guess the other question is, though, when will this be acted on? Because the hope had been, by this unanimous decision of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to move on this, that it would be done before we went home. And since we have all of this extra time and the budget has not been solved, is there anything blocking this from coming up right now?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will yield further, I will just say to the gentlewoman, the bill is in the committee of jurisdiction. The committee of jurisdiction has the jurisdiction. It is not at all unusual, I dare say, every individual Member who drops a bill in the hopper does so with the sincere hope that it will be acted on immediately. That rarely is the case, and there are procedures known best to the committee, and I do not think it is appropriate for me as a Member or as the majority leader to second-guess how a committee will exercise its jurisdiction.

I think we have committees, and each committee has its own manner of operating, and I do not think that it would be appropriate for me to speculate on the manner in which this committee nor any other committee would dispense with a bill.

□ 1415

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina).

Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, 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 Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WEI JINGSHENG'S SENTENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the People's Republic of China imposed a harsh new prison sentence on its most prominent human rights campaigner, Wei Jingsheng. Today the New York Times in translation has presented us with the reasons that the People's Republic of China has meted out this draconian

sentence against its leading human rights activist. The charge, according to the People's Republic of China, was overthrowing the government, overthrowing the government, and what did this man who is nominated by many in this body for the Nobel Peace Prize do to cause the People's Republic of China to charge him, and convict him, and sentence him for overthrowing the government? Let me read from the Chinese Government statement about the conviction, quote:

The court's investigation showed that Wei, in attempting to overthrow the government, developed a plan of action which included establishing an organization to raise funds to support democratic movement activities.

Well, that is true enough. Wei Jingsheng has long been an advocate for democracy in the People's Republic of China. He was a leader in the democracy wall movement which took its name from the wall near the city where democratic activists hung their pro-freedom manifestos. He served over 14 years in prison labor camps in China where, according to reliable reports, he was beaten and tortured. Now having been out of prison for only a few months, Mr. Speaker, he was charged and convicted again for promoting democracy.

Let me read further from the government's statement:

He is responsible for purchasing newspapers, setting up a company in charge of organizing cultural activities.

All of these things got him a prison sentence, keep in mind, colleagues: Organizing nongovernmental painting exhibitions, performances, and publications.

Wei Jingsheng worked actively to implement the above plans, quoted the Chinese Government. He bought 12½ percent of the shares of an urban credit cooperative in Beijing to start setting up a democracy movement bank, and he wrote and set an introduction to projects for assistance to people in charge of an overseas organization and asked for hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars to fund his activities. He also registered a company in Hong Kong and used the name of the company to prepare art exhibitions in Beijing so as to recruit people in organizations that would be sympathetic to him. Wei Jingsheng also secretly connected some people both in China and abroad to study struggle strategies, conspiring to unite the illegal organizations in China, by which they mean the illegal pro-democracy organizations in China, and act when the right moment comes. He also used illegal means—now I am again quoting from the People's Republic of China official statement of yesterday:

“* * * and published a series of articles overseas to slander and attack the Chinese Government, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the Socialist system, and to advocate the independence of Tibet, something that another Nobel laureate, another Nobel Peace Prize winner, is guilty of. He and the enemy forces overseas, among which we may number ourselves in this body, echo