

my question, I believe that the Members of your conference have confidence in you, Mr. Leader, and I believe the Members of our caucus have confidence in the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT]. I think if the two of you agree that this can be moved forward, with the Speaker's concurrence as well, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is echoing what I said, that we ought to be able to do that, it seems to me, by unanimous consent and put the Government back to work at least through January 2, which after all is a very short time.

But what it does is, it solves the problem that the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] has referenced with reference to getting paychecks to people for the second half of this month. We are running into a time now where we are not going to be able to pay people, not going to be able to send out checks except for the exceptions we have made.

I thank the gentleman for his comments and would concur with him. I do not believe, very honestly, Mr. Leader, that that takes any pressure off because of the short-term nature of that action.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, perhaps we could delegate this responsibility to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS].

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I appreciate the observation of the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] about the enormous confidence my colleagues have in me, and I am sure they would agree that they have every confidence that I would not deny them their right to vote on a matter of such consequence as a continuing resolution in any shape.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Leader, let me at this point yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY], who I believe is seeking recognition. Is the gentleman still interested in commenting?

Mr. FOLEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to see if the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the chairman of the Committee on Rules, will engage in just 1 minute of question.

I want to be certain, and I have received a number of phone calls to my office both in the district and in Washington, inquiring as to whether veterans of wars, disabled veterans, and others, would receive a check on January 1. There has been a lot of stress on the phone of some people who are deeply, deeply concerned. I just want to make certain we are taking care of those men and women who have spilled blood for this Nation for the freedoms that we enjoy.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I am more than happy to yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] for a response.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just assure the gentleman that in the recently passed continuing

resolution over in the Senate, that the veterans provisions that guaranteed that those checks would go out for medical compensation, medical disability compensation, for GI bill, all of those checks are provided for in the Senate bill. In the bill just passed by the House the same is true.

There is one little difference, that the Medicaid provision that passed over in the Senate is not in our bill, so there is still a difference. As I understand, we are protected because the veterans are in both bills. But what it does mean is that one of the Houses will have to act on the other's bill before we go home this evening. That will be done by unanimous consent. But whichever way it works out, it guarantees that those checks for veterans will go out in a timely manner.

Mr. FOLEY. If the gentleman would continue to yield, that means the Senate must act today on the appropriations matter before them in order for those checks to be delivered?

Mr. SOLOMON. That is correct.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I will reclaim my time, unless the leader has any further comments he may wish to make. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

I would just like to announce to my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle that the most updated schedule, that will be updated daily, will be available through our Cloakroom, and Members should call that number at any point to receive the latest information on a regularly updated recording.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. 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 (Mr. COBLE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### DESIGNATING OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR RE- MAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF 104TH CONGRESS.

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 22, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is approved. There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL ORDER ON TODAY

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to do a 60-minute special order in a few moments here after a few 5-minutes. I raced in this morning and missed the 1-minute.

I just wanted to say that since there is a 50-50 chance we will not have any votes next week, and I hope to head off to Europe to visit with our troops in the field, I wanted to do a tribute for a half hour to our men and women in uniform today as we close out 1945, the last year of World War II.

I also want to do a half hour on execution-style, a few inches from infanticide, partial-birth coupe de grace abortion. We may not think that is proper at this time of year, but on December 28, which we may miss, it is the Feast of the Holy Innocents to remind us of the Herod slaughter of innocent children, trying to kill the Messiah, whose birth many of us will celebrate next Monday.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). The Chair will recognize special orders but not beyond 6 p.m. today at this point.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

#### SALE OF ATACMS MISSILES TO TURKEY.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as soon as today, or at least by the middle of next week, our Department of Defense will sign a letter of offer and acceptance [LOA] with the Government of Turkey, to complete the sale of 120 Army Tactical Missile Systems [ATACMS]. The ATACMS—pronounced attacks 'ems—is a ground-launched surface-to-surface, conventional, semiguided ballistic missile which carries an antipersonnel/antimateriel cluster warhead capable of spraying shrapnel over a 150-square-meter area. Turkey already has the multiple launch rocket system from which to launch these very nasty, destructive weapons. What this weapon does is essentially deliver 950 small bombs, some of which do not immediately detonate and remain on the ground, posing a threat to noncombatants—including children.