

had heard the gentleman say "distinguished." I just wanted to hear him say it again. I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices tomorrow.

On Tuesday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 o'clock p.m.

On Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22, the House will meet at 10 o'clock a.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider the following measures:

H.R. 802, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act;

H.R. 247, the Tornado Shelters Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are working with several committees at this time that may have further business ready for consideration on the floor next week. My office will advise the Democratic leadership and the House as soon as further floor business is ready to be announced this afternoon and tomorrow.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, indicates that there are some possibilities of discussions with some of the committees resulting in bills being reported to the floor.

Would the gentleman be able to inform us as to what those possibilities are, realizing they may or may not come to the floor? Do we know what the possible bills that might come to the floor would be?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his inquiry.

I am working with a lot of committees. Quite frankly, at this point, I cannot tell the gentleman what they might be. I do not see anything that would be controversial in the mix of things that might be available, but we certainly will advise the Members and the leadership as soon as we can find something, whatever it is.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, particularly for his observation that if something came that we did not hear about today, the probability is it would not be controversial.

Mr. ARMEY. I would expect nothing controversial.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when does the leader expect the next tax bill to come to the floor? Do we have any information on that?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, I want to thank the gentleman for his inquiry.

I just spoke with the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He is working out a few details for an announcement he expects to make this afternoon. It will be a very public announcement.

I believe it will serve the interests of the body best for us to wait for the

chairman to make that announcement, rather than for me to speculate at this time.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that response.

Would I be correct, however, in concluding from the gentleman's remarks that there would not be anything controversial coming to the floor next week?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I would expect nothing from the Committee on Ways and Means, certainly not a major tax bill. Perhaps they may have something that would be noncontroversial. That basic characterization of noncontroversial I would apply to anything that we should expect on the floor next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his information.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 19, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 20, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 19, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute speech requests.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE
BATCHELOR, FOUNDER OF THE
BATCHELOR CHILDREN'S CENTER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, George Batchelor, for his wonderful philanthropy and generosity in founding the Batchelor Children's Center, a state-of-the-art facility housing the University of Miami's bench and clinical research programs in childhood diseases.

As one of only a handful of children's research centers in the Nation, the Batchelor Children's Center will enable an unprecedented collaboration among scientists. Scheduled to open in May, 2001, it will attract the best scientific minds and provide an atmosphere conducive to finding cures and treatments for cystic fibrosis, for cancer, leukemia, and other diseases plaguing children.

George Batchelor's son, Falcon, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at the age of 14. Specialists projected that Falcon would only live to age 17; but George, refusing to accept that, began bringing his son to the University of Miami's cystic fibrosis center. Falcon lived to be 35, and George said that the 20 quality years he spent with Falcon after his first visit to UM was a gift that he will never be able to repay.

Today I pay tribute to George for returning the gift of health for his son with the gift of hope for parents and their suffering children.

URGING MEMBERS TO SIGN PETITION
TO REUNIFY KOREAN-
AMERICANS WITH FAMILIES IN
NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Stanfield has not seen her brother for 50 years. She is a symbol of the 500,000 Korean-Americans separated from their families in North Korea.

While substantial progress has been made to reunite South-Korean families with their known relatives, nothing has been done for Korean-Americans living in this country. Her cause is our cause, and we have now formed the Korean-American Coalition of the Midwest.

I issue a call to sign our petition to put the reunification of 500,000 families, Korean-American families, with their known relatives on the U.S. DPRK agenda. Together we can make this humanitarian cause our cause.

I salute our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and his commitment this morning to review this issue.

SUPPORTING THE SMALL BUSINESS
PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I often joke that the only thing I hate worse than taxes is burdensome regulations. But our small

businesses spend at least 1 billion hours a year filling out government forms. As a businessman myself, I understand the impact that this has on business. Every hour that is really spent on filling out this needless paperwork is an hour that our small business owners could use to grow their business.

In a rural district such as mine, almost all of our businesses are small, and this has a very profound effect. Small businesses need to thrive in order for our communities to prosper in rural America.

The Small Business Paperwork Relief Act that we just passed I hope is the beginning of a new era to be friendly to small business. When we support rural small business we support rural hospitals, we support rural schools, and we support the rural infrastructure that is necessary for our communities to prosper.

That is why this KENNEDY was very happy to vote for the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act.

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TAX RELIEF IS A HOME RUN FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Will Rogers once said "baseball is a skilled game. It's America's game, it, and high taxes."

Well, it seems that Will Rogers was right.

Currently, Americans are taxed at the highest levels since World War II.

During a time of projected record surpluses, there is absolutely no reason, no justification for these high taxes.

American families deserve a tax break, and according to recent polls, nearly two out of three Americans want, need and deserve a tax break, but the critics of the tax plan want to keep taking more and more money from hard-working Americans just to pay for their growing, yet inefficient, bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, spring is just around the spring, marking the beginning of the baseball season and, unfortunately, the tax season as well.

Let us hit a home run for Americans. Let us pass meaning tax relief and help them pay the mortgage, buy a computer, or simply go to school.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the criticisms of the tax relief which only serve to strike out for America's families trying to realize the American dream.

WE NEED TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of being visited by

the Savannah Christian Middle School, and in the back row of this large crowd of students, there was a young woman named Amy. Amy made about \$20 a day working for her father, but, of course, she only took home about \$16. Mr. Speaker, \$4 going for taxes.

Amy and the other students understood that we in government need taxes to pay for roads and bridges and military and education and all those things. She did not regret that. She did not begrudge that a bit; but I said to her, Amy, if you knew we could do all that, plus debt reduction for \$3.50, what would you want done with the remaining 50 cents? Would you want me to keep it and expand government and take away more rights and privileges from you, or would you like to keep that 50 cents? She said, with all the other students, give it back to me. It is my money.

What a pity that our Washington bureaucracy does not understand this principle. If Amy has that money, what she is going to do is buy more CDs, more hamburgers, more clothes. It adds up.

When she does that, small businesses expand, they create jobs and opportunities for people. More people work. More people are paying taxes, and it is a win-win.

Mr. Speaker, we need tax relief. It will get the economy moving.

FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

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

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Flag Protection Amendment which was introduced earlier this week with the support of 109 of my fellow members.

The Flag amendment embodies the hopes and sacrifices and freedoms of this great Nation. The American flag is more than just a symbol. It is the fabric that binds our Nation, its citizens, and those brave individuals who have sacrificed to preserve our unity and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I remember June 29 of last year, when I was joined by more than 75 Long Island veterans and high school students as we called upon our Federal officials to pass a similar measure.

The meaning of the American flag could be easily seen in the eyes of these veterans. It is easy to be seen in the eyes of our children who every day look upon the flag as they recite their Pledge of Allegiance as the start of each school day begins.

There is not a place setting or an event where the American flag is flown where its true meaning is not understood.

To those in need, when they see the Stars and Stripes, they know America has arrived to help.

To our neighbors around the world, the flag means an ally is not far away.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to once again in overwhelming numbers support the flag protection amendment in the 107th Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

H.R. 918, THE CLEAN DIAMONDS ACT

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), my friend.

Mr. Speaker, a month ago a coalition of 75 respected human rights organizations launched a campaign aimed at eliminating the root cause of the wars in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Angola and the Congo, the trade in conflict diamonds, what we call blood diamonds.

They took action because the diamond industry reneged on its solemn promise that it would do its best to help end this problem. These dedicated advocates have reached out to tens of thousands of people with a simple message, do something.

I am here today to echo the call, and I am pleased to be joined by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), and other dedicated colleagues, certainly the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

I appreciate their commitment to Africa and the support of more than 90 Members in this House that have given their sponsorship to this effort by cosponsoring the Clean Diamonds Act, H.R. 918.

As our colleagues know, for more than a year, we have been looking for a way to do something about the innocent African civilians who are being viciously attacked, simply because they live on diamond-rich land in these countries.

In Sierra Leone, for example, thousands were senselessly punished for voting by having their hand that cast a ballot in the country's first democratic election chopped off by a machete, and countless victims met similar fates as rebels played cruel games with their victims, like betting on the gender of an unborn child and then cutting the struggling mother open to learn who won the bet.

While Sierra Leone's situation has claimed the most headlines, the suffering is equally bad in Angola, the Congo, and now Guinea.

I hope you and our colleagues will take a moment to hear what these dedicated people have to say. I commend them for bringing this to the