

will not have votes. My best advice to all of us is to plan on votes next Friday; and as soon as it becomes evident that we will not have business to conduct on Friday, I will advise all the Members and the leadership on the gentlewoman's side of the aisle as soon as possible.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman anticipate and expect the bankruptcy conference report to come up next week?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the gentlewoman for the inquiry.

I believe it is very possible we might be able to bring that to the floor next week, so I would expect Members to anticipate it being on the schedule. I have not worked out the final clearances on that bill, but I do think I will by the end of the day.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an inquiry about the Labor-HHS bill. As our kids are back to school, education is the number one issue that faces the country. The bill that is before us cuts education about \$7.2 billion below H.R. 1, the authorization bill the President signed last year; and it does not have an increase for inflation and no increase for school enrollment in it.

When does the gentleman expect the Labor-HHS bill to come to the floor of the House?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman again for the inquiry.

The President's budget and our own budget allows us to bring that bill to the floor with a 5 percent increase over last year's appropriation. We will be working with the committee of jurisdiction on that, and it is my anticipation we can move so; but I do not see the possibility right now to announce any scheduling of it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the answer to the scheduling question, but I might add that there really is a freeze on education, so that is an elusive 5 percent.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield further, I would just mention that the gentlewoman makes the debate entertaining and informative, and I do appreciate it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

This is an institution where rumors fly all of the time. This is about rumors of a lame duck session. Would it not be better if we tried to get the work that we need to get done, and I understand that there is a lot of work to get done, and that we get it done as we try to meet an October deadline? So my question is, will there be a lame duck session? Does the gentleman anticipate that is what we are going to be faced with?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again I thank the gentlewoman for her inquiry. At least I can speak for this Member and say in pointing out that any discussions of lame ducks are somewhat unnerving to this Member at least. Obviously, we are disconcerted a

little bit for the failure of the other body to produce a budget and maintain some basis by which we might work out some of our differences.

I, for one, am not ready to concede that a lame duck will be necessary or in fact will be part of our experience. I believe that at some point between now and, say, the middle of October, we will come to a point where we will be able to complete our work for the year and perhaps even for this Congress. So at this point I do not speak in terms of a high probability for what is referred to as a lame duck session.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I think we concur on the issue to avoid a lame duck session. But does the gentleman think we will go beyond October 4 in terms of adjournment?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, again, if the gentlewoman will yield, it has been my experience in the years I have been here that it is most probable that we will in fact be in session for at least a week beyond the 4th. That is just a matter of sort of practical prognosis, given the experience.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next 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.

EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALYNE BYRD

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this body join me in wishing my mother-in-law, Alyne Byrd, a most happy birthday this weekend.

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

There was no objection.

GROWING HUBRIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend

his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the European Union is threatening to refuse food and livestock exports from African countries now facing famine which also accept any food assistance from the United States that might include genetically modified grains. This is economic blackmail, and many people in Africa will be forced to pay with their lives because of starvation.

In EU countries, where healthful food is plentiful and is subsidized to a degree that is unmatched elsewhere in the world, it is easy to spread harsh, emotional rhetoric on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs. However, EU countries must examine the issue of GMOs from the perspective of Third World countries which face debilitating famines. Third World countries desperately need enriched, disease-resistant, drought-tolerant GMO seed to provide a steady, nutritional food source to feed their people.

We Americans have too passively watched the Luddites in the EU use their emotion-driven fears to stop American GMO exports, but it is absolutely intolerable that they are blackmailing African leaders to reject American food aid in the face of famine in that continent.

European Union countries certainly have a moral obligation to investigate GMOs through sound science techniques, not simply passing regulations on the basis of opinions of the European mass media and popular culture.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Sept. 4, 2002]

U.S. CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR

Some African nations choose ignorance and death.

What a wrenching picture starving Zambians standing outside a bulging grain distribution warehouse, grain sacks empty. "Please give us the food," an elderly blind man pleads with aid workers. "We don't care if it is poisonous because we are dying anyway."

Ironically—if that word is strong enough to cover impending death—the food isn't "poisonous" at all. It is the same food that Americans, Canadians and people from many other countries eat daily. It contains some grain that is genetically modified, but the major safety concern is the remote possibility of allergic reactions in some people.

Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has told the United Nations and the United States that his nation would "rather starve" than feed biotech corn to its people. He personally, of course, is not starving.

The country has turned down more than 50,000 tons of corn from the United States. About 2.5 million Zambians are in danger of dying if help doesn't come quickly. In rural areas of the country, where drought and government mismanagement have devastated the fields, many people are reduced to eating leaves and twigs.

Estimates indicate that 13 million people in six southern African nations, including Zambia, are facing famine. Zimbabwe and Mozambique have also refused American help. Malawi, Leostho and Swaziland have taken U.S. food aid.

As usual, it is the United States that stepped up to help these countries, not the well-fed European nations that are leading