

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

Mr. Speaker, the majority leader mentioned two appropriations bills, the District of Columbia and the Military Construction bill. Can the gentleman give me an estimate, if he knows, of what days those two bills will be considered?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. I would expect to see the stock options bill legislation and the D.C. and Military Construction appropriations bills earlier in the week. The U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement and the Marriage Protection Act would be Thursday or Friday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman said the Morocco Free Trade will be early or later?

Mr. DELAY. Later.

Mr. HOYER. Later.

Mr. DELAY. Thursday or Friday.

Mr. HOYER. The gentleman anticipated my two questions, I see.

The conference reports, will we be considering the DOD appropriations conference report next week?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. I have every expectation that the DOD conference will be finished and ready to go and voted on sometime next week, but I am not advised as to when during the week that we might anticipate voting on it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, there has been a lot of discussion, and I have read some things in the newspaper and heard discussions, about the child tax credit bill which has been pending for some time in conference.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not there is an intention to move that out of conference; and, if so, what condition will it be in in terms of what will there be in the bill, if the gentleman knows, in addition to the originally passed child tax credit? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. We have been working to extend the child tax credit, the 10 percent tax bracket, and the marriage penalty tax relief provisions from the 2001 and 2003 tax bills. I would anticipate that the bill, well, I cannot say what else might be in the bill. The conference has yet to be called into a meeting, but in discussions with the other body, it seems to be that most want to keep this bill as simple as possible; and I hope we can find a way to send these tax measures to the President before the August recess.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have a view that if there was some disagreement and an agreement could not be reached on the other matters above and beyond the child tax credit, would the gentleman's expectation be that the child tax credit might be moved independently? Could the gentleman see a scenario that would result in that? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, that is speculation and I hate to speculate, but I know that this House has voted several times on these issues, and I know that the House wants to see a 10 percent tax bracket, the marriage penalty, and the child tax credit provisions to be extended and funded; and I would tend to think that the bill would have to come back with at least those provisions in it.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3313, what day does the gentleman anticipate we will consider this bill? That is the Defense of Marriage Act. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I expect that that will come on Thursday. As the gentleman knows, sometimes these appropriations bills take longer than we anticipate. If they do, then it could be pushed over into Friday, but our intention is to bring that bill to the floor on Thursday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would hope that during the consideration of the child tax credit, assuming the conference is going to meet, that our conferees be included in that conference. As the gentleman knows, we feel pretty strongly about the fact that if conferences are held, those Democratic conferees that have been appointed by the Speaker need to be invited and to be able to participate in those. So I would urge that to occur when and if that conference is convened.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield.

Mr. HOYER. I am glad to yield.

Mr. DELAY. I would have every reason to believe that if we can get the other body to call the meeting, then, surely, the Democrats on the conference committee, along with the Republicans, would all have invitations to that meeting.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

Mr. DELAY. 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 debate.

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. DELAY. 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 COMMITTEE ON RULES ON AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3313, MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of July 19, 2004, to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act of 2004. The Committee on the Judiciary ordered H.R. 3313 reported on July 14, 2004, and is expected to file its report with the House on July 19, 2004.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment to the bill should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2004. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. Members also are advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web sites of both the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Rules by Friday, July 16, 2004.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

#### UNITED STATES-MOROCCO FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-201)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents prepared by my Administration to implement the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement" or the "FTA"). This Agreement enhances our bilateral relationship with a long-standing partnership in the North Africa and Middle East region. The Agreement will benefit the people of the United States and Morocco, illustrating to other developing countries the advantage of open markets.

This Agreement is a strong demonstration of my Administration's commitment to opening markets, leveling the playing field, and expanding opportunities for American workers, manufacturers, businesses, farmers, and consumers. In negotiating this