Pro forma amendments offered at any point by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate; amendment 1; amendment 2, which shall be debatable for 1 hour; amendment 5, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) regarding GSA; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) regarding Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) regarding the IRS or regarding election reform, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) regarding the definition of manufacturing; an amendment by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) regarding OMB circular A–76, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) regarding private collection, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) regarding Cuba, which shall be debatable for 1 hour; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) regarding the debt limit, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) regarding the Comptroller of the Currency, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) regarding chapter 89 of title 5 of the United States Code, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) on disadvantaged business enterprises; and an amendment by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) regarding federal employee health benefit plans.

Each amendment may be offered only by the Member named in the request or a designee or the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee; shall be considered as read; shall not be subject to amendment except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Except as specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. An amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it addresses in whole or in part the object described.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, at this point, this bill looks like an accident that started out to happen to somebody else.

I would like to ask one question of the gentleman from Oklahoma. It is my understanding that, with this unanimous consent agreement, that Members can count on the fact that the last vote on this bill will begin at noon tomorrow. It is my understanding that the leadership intends to bring up a suspension bill after consideration of this bill but that the last vote on this bill will start around noon tomorrow. Is that not correct?

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

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the same as the gentleman's, that indeed the last vote on this bill tomorrow will be at noon and that we will complete consideration of this bill this following Tuesday.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, with that understanding, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that I inadvertently missed a vote this afternoon on H.R. 4571. If I had voted, I would have voted ''no.''

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will read an article that was written by Joan Ryan, a columnist at the San Francisco Chronicle, that was in the newspaper on September 9, 2004. Joan was talking before a TV show, and she wrote an article about the conversation she had with Dolores Kesterson, and these are Joan's words: ''Dolores Kesterson wanted to know if I had read about the father in Florida. Dolores's 29-year-old son, Erik, her only child, was killed almost 10 months ago when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Mosul during a firefight. He had been in Iraq just 8 days.

''She found out the ways parents always find out, a knock on their door. For her, it came around 8:25 the night of November 15 as she was washing her dinner dishes. A man and a woman from the Army stood in the doorway. They gently suggested she sit down. 'This father in Florida,' she was telling me, 'when the Marines came to the door to tell him his son had died, took a hammer to their van, poured gasoline into it, set it on fire and got in.' ''

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Her face remained expressionless, but her eyes lifted to meet mine as if to say, do you get it? That is what it feels like.

Later, during the show, I saw a picture of Eric: good-looking, square-jawed, and smiling. But what I really saw on the screen was my own son, my own only child.

That is why we do not look too closely, I think, on those occasions when the names and photos of the dead appear in print. We do not want to get too close to that pain. That is why neighbors have been giving Kesterson a wide berth. They do not know what to say, but they also do not want to think too hard about what she has lost: not a soldier, but a boy, who once slept in footie pajamas, who waved at her from the merry-go-round, who liked her cooking more than any on Earth.

The only way to make this war at all tolerable is to allow it to be a televised blur of road-side bombings, insurgent militia and thick reports issued from Washington at regular enough intervals to keep the talking heads occupied on the Sunday morning shows.

When embedded reporters covered the start of this war, the big picture issues, namely, the shaky rationale for the war, were buried beneath the stories of individual military units. This is why embedding reporters was such a brilliant stroke. The unwavering focus on the grit and courage of the American soldiers made it nearly impossible to criticize the war publicly.

Now that those soldiers are dying, the lens has gone panoramic. The farther we stay from Erik Kesterson and Steven Bridges and Jimmy Arroyave and Arron Clark and Ken Ballard, the easier to imagine that this war is not a horrifying disaster.

The Bush administration is so determined to keep us from thinking about dead soldiers that it even will not allow photographs of flag-draped coffins being transported back to the United States. ''Maybe if everyone could see them, they would realize that they are somebody's children,'' one parent at the town hall meeting said, which is exactly the point. This administration would rather we not listen