

explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 12 noon on Tuesday, November 8, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee on October 27, 2005, which is expected to be filed with the House next week. Members are also advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web sites of both the Judiciary Committee and the Rules Committee by this afternoon, November 4.

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

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Rules Committee, to inquire about the schedule for next week.

Mr. DREIER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Obviously, the House has completed its work for the day and for the week.

We will convene at 12:30 on Monday for morning hour and at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those measures to be scheduled will be getting to Members' offices by the end of the day. Any votes that may be called on those measures will be rolled until 6:30 Monday afternoon or early Monday evening.

For Tuesday and the balance of the week, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the House will consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as two measures, the one I just mentioned, H.R. 1751, and I announced the filing of amendments for that, and also the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which is much talked about here. We also anticipate that the House will next week consider additional appropriations conference reports as they become available.

On Friday, we will not be in session, as Members know, so that there will be an opportunity for all of us to participate in Veterans' Day ceremonies that take place in our districts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding; and I would be happy to entertain any questions he might have.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday is Election Day in many States and localities around the country. Given that we are scheduled to be in session and voting, how do you think votes might be structured that day in order to accommodate Members who have elections in their States?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will tell my col-

leagues that the State I represent is nearly 3,000 miles away, and we are having a very important election in our State. I have voted by absentee ballot. I did that just this week and sent my ballot in.

We have a great deal of work to do, not only on Tuesday but next week, so we will be meeting here, and we have the items that I mentioned, the measures that will be considered under suspension, we have the very important Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act that needs to be considered, and we just have to proceed with our work.

So let me say that we do want every Member to participate in those elections, but I suspect that, in light of the fact that we will have so much work to do here, that Members should plan to be in Washington during the day on Tuesday.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, could the chairman tell me what appropriations conference reports we might expect to see on the floor next week?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, as I said in my remarks earlier today, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has done an absolutely phenomenal job in moving these measures through. As you know, we have just voted on the foreign operations appropriations bill conference report, and we have three conference groups that are continuing to meet on Energy and Water, the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce appropriation bill, and the Military Quality of Life appropriations conference report.

From the conversation I have had with the chairman of the committee, it is his hope that we have those three measures up for consideration at some point next week.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Does the gentleman have any idea of which days they may go to conference?

Mr. DREIER. All three of those bills that I mentioned, the Energy and Water conference report and the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce conference report, and Military Quality of Life, they are all in conference as we speak. It is our hope that those conferences will be completed and those conference reports will be filed in the House. We cannot anticipate exactly when their work will be completed. We just want it to happen as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, on which day next week might we consider the budget reconciliation bill that calls for more than \$50 billion in mandatory spending cuts?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, as I think the gentleman heard in my announcement, I announced that it is our anticipation, we anticipate that we will consider what we call the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, and it is a measure which we will be working on next week.

Late next week or the middle to the latter part of next week, we anticipate

a vote here in the House on that very important measure that is designed to try and reduce the deficit and reform government and ensure that we can do the very important work that the American people sent us here to do.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Is the gentleman suggesting that we not call it mandatory spending cuts? You are calling it reduction, budget reduction?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, what this deals with is mandatory spending, and what this deals with is the deficit challenge which Democrats and Republicans regularly decry here, and we are trying to focus on the reduction of the deficit, and that is the reason that we are appropriately referring to this as the Deficit Reduction Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I would further like to inquire about the majority plan to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. This is an important issue that has had broad bipartisan support in the past, and action is needed because it is scheduled to expire on December 31.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I will say that this very important legislation, which I personally support, is at this moment being discussed by the leadership of the Financial Services Committee. They are working with the Department of the Treasury and Members in the leadership of the Banking Committee on the other side of the aisle, and we do hope very much that we will be able to put together a legislative package that can be considered before that very important December 31 date to which my friend referred.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I really want to thank the gentleman for being patient. I understand that our Financial Services Committee Democrats stand ready to work on a bipartisan basis on this, and they have asked for a markup as soon as possible. Since time is running out, I would like to ask my colleague why we could not simply take up H.R. 1153, a bill that is a largely bipartisan product that the Financial Services Committee reported last fall, but never acted upon.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would say that we are taking that into consideration. We do not have it scheduled at this moment, but I appreciate my friend's raising this issue, and we will certainly take it under advisement and look at your recommendation, I hope from your perspective, favorably.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER, 7, 2005

Mr. DREIER. 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 (Mr. DENT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DREIER. 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 California?

There was no objection.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled by the cruel and short-sighted leadership the Republican Party is giving us in planning to ram through this reconciliation next week. They want to provide an additional \$70 billion to \$100 billion in tax cuts for the privileged and the powerful and their Fortune 500 corporate benefactors. In order to pay for this, they plan to cut \$4.9 billion from child support programs that help collect money from deadbeat dads; \$14.5 billion from student aid programs, \$9.5 billion in Medicaid, and they even want to cut tens of millions of dollars from low-income energy assistance.

Mr. Speaker, you will hear more from the Progressive Caucus, more from the Democratic Party next week about just how unfair these cuts will be to real moderate-income people and the very poor people in this country and how much they will benefit the very, very wealthy people in this country.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, well, next week the Republicans have discovered that we are awash in a sea of red ink, supposedly. Under the Bush watch, with the Republicans in charge of both Houses of Congress, the national debt has increased by 62 percent, to \$8 trillion in 5 short years, quite an accomplishment. We are borrowing \$1.3 billion a day to run the government. If we eliminated everything the government does except for homeland security and defense, we would still have a deficit.

□ 1130

They say they are going to make some infinitesimal cuts and little

phony baloney and that is fiscal responsibility. Let us talk about what they are proposing to cut.

Well, the biggest whack they are taking is at students. They do not know any students who have to borrow money or get scholarships to go to school. Why, the children of the rich, they just write out a check and pay cash; they are legacy students at the best schools. \$14.3 billion of additional costs on students who want to borrow a little money to get a better education and get ahead, doubling the origination fee, costing them as much as \$6,000 over the life of their loans.

Kids are graduating with mountains of debt. That is a responsible cut, according to the Republicans. Well then there are those little guys in the elementary and secondary schools who are eating too much. They are eating too much. They are going to cut back on the school nutrition program and the breakfast program and the eligibility of poor kids to eat.

They are just eating too much. They do not know anybody who is hungry in this country. And then the phony baloney. I am on the Resources Committee. They are assuming over \$3 billion for leasing the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, 50 times as much per acre as the Naval Petroleum Reserve was just leased for, where there is known oil, in an area where there is no known oil.

So we got phony baloney and mean spirited cuts. Now, why? Are they really fiscally responsible? Well, this would be a big, you know, almost one-tenth of 1 percent of the projected deficit over the next 5 years. I guess that is better than nothing. Except that there are ways to make much bigger cuts. We could roll back the 2001-2003 tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent, those who earn over \$350,000 a year. That would bring in \$327 billion, six times what they are pretending to save here.

We could do away with some offshore tax shelters, \$65 billion more than what they are talking about here. We could cancel the President's mission to Mars. That is \$1 trillion over the next 20 years, \$100 billion to go back to the Moon again. That would save twice as much money. No, those things go after the powerful special interests or the contributor class, and God forbid they should take them on.

But they can get the little kids in the schools and take the food off their plates. They can go off the students struggling to rise up or stay in the middle class and double their origination fees for their loans.

But they will not make these kinds of real cuts, ones that would hit at those who earn over \$300,000 a year or hit at the powerful special interests who are, you know, who are involved in the Federal contracting with NASA.

And then there is waste and abuse. What about the waste and abuse? Apparently, the Bush administration, Brownie is still writing, Brownie, you are doing a heck of a job. He is still on the Federal payroll for \$150,000, and he

is letting out contracts, such as a contract, put a blue tarp on a roof. A lot of people in Oregon do that when they find out they got a leak when it starts to rain, they go up, climb up on the roof, put up a tarp. The tarp costs \$8.

Well, the Federal Government is paying a contractor \$2,500 to put blue tarps per roof down there in the Southeast, yet another great job by heck-of-a-job Brownie, who is still pulling down \$150,000 a year from the Federal taxpayers.

So there is a little waste, fraud, and abuse that they can go after. No. But these are the big contractors, Fluor and others, who are benefiting and profiting immensely from gouging the Federal taxpayer.

So we should have real fiscal responsibility; but they have no sense of it, because the real money goes to the powerful and the special interests in this country. They are the ones looting the Federal Treasury, and they have the gall to come to the floor of the House and say it is the Democrats. You have been in charge for 5 years. Five years. The Presidency, the House, and the Senate for almost that whole time, and you have increased the debt by 62 percent.

You have done nothing about the waste, fraud and abuse. In fact, it has gotten worse on your watch, and now you want to stick it to the kids who want to get an education and to hungry children and primary and secondary schools and pretend you are going to sell leases for a heck of a lot more than you will.

You should be ashamed. The sea of red ink spreads, and it grows deeper. Most Americans are drowning, but the yachts of the wealthy are floating high.

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

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

PROPOSED LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT

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, today I would like to share a letter that I will be sending to President Bush next week. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in signing this important letter, because it is time for Congress to end the war in Iraq and bring the troops home.

Here is the letter: Dear Mr. President. Despite 2½ years of warfare, including the deaths of over 2,000 soldiers and injuries to 15,000 others, Iraq remains as unstable as it was when you