

these cases occur in immigrants within five years of arrival into the State.

The State of Hawaii Department of Health Tuberculosis Control Program works closely with the United States Public Health Service Honolulu Quarantine Station (USPHS HQS) to identify communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. The USPHS HQS has been responsible for the identification of communicable TB cases in immigrants that would not have been detected in their native country.

This partnership has been threatened due to recent staff cuts at the USPHS HQS. More quarantine officers are desperately needed to provide protection to the residents of Hawaii and the rest of the United States.

I am hopeful that the passage of this resolution will remind Americans that we must work with all developing nations to combat this horrific disease. We must also keep all U.S. quarantine stations staffed at appropriate levels to limit the spread of TB in our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Texas [SILVESTRE REYES] in order to recognize the need to fight Tuberculosis (TB) across the globe. To many Americans, this is a disease of the past or one that only exists in other countries, far from us. Unfortunately, it is neither gone nor far away. Today, TB remains a dangerous disease impacting 15 million in the United States. If we are to eliminate TB within our own borders, we must work to control TB on a world wide basis.

Nearly 57 million Americans travel in any given year outside of the United States, approximately 1 million people legally immigrate to the United States, and millions of others travel here each year. This continuous movement across borders increases the possible spread of the disease and makes it an international public health threat. While the disease knows no borders, we within our borders can take action and recognize the need to combat tuberculosis globally.

I am greatly concerned that one-third of new TB cases originate in the four Southwest border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, and that minorities are disproportionately hurt by this disease. Tuberculosis occurs along the border at twice the national average. In the United States, Latinos suffer from TB at a rate that is six times that of Anglos. African-Americans suffer from TB at a rate that is eight times that of Anglos.

TB needs to be controlled now before it spreads uncontrollably, or worse yet, becomes resistant to treatments. For most of us it might seem a distant disease that few of us will encounter, but it is a real and threatening disease that can harm many in the United States if we do not take control measures now. I urge you to support this fight against tuberculosis and to support H. Res. 67.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 67, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 41) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001, and February 13, 2001, and supporting ongoing aid efforts.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 41

Whereas on the morning of January 13, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale and a depth of 36 miles occurred off the coast of El Salvador, southwest of San Miguel, killing hundreds of people, injuring thousands of people, and displacing approximately 1,000,000 people;

Whereas the earthquake has left damage throughout the country, having caused significant landslides and destruction in 12 of El Salvador's 14 provinces;

Whereas almost 2,000 aftershocks and tremors have been recorded, and they continue to occur;

Whereas on the morning of February 13, 2001, a second devastating and deadly earthquake occurred with a magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter Scale and an epicenter located 15 miles east-southeast of San Salvador, El Salvador, killing more than 250 people, injuring thousands of people, and leaving thousands of other people homeless;

Whereas the people of El Salvador have displayed strength, courage, and determination in the aftermath of these earthquakes;

Whereas the people of the United States and El Salvador have developed a strong friendship based on mutual interests and respect;

Whereas El Salvador has appealed to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the international community generally for economic assistance to meet the substantial relief and reconstruction needs of that nation in the aftermath of these earthquakes; and

Whereas the United States has offered technical and monetary assistance through the United States Agency for International Development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses—

(A) deep sympathy for the people of El Salvador for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquakes of January 13, 2001, and February 13, 2001; and

(B) support for the efforts of the people of El Salvador to rebuild their homes and lives;

(2) expresses support for continuing and substantially increasing, in connection with these earthquakes, relief and reconstruction assistance provided by relief agencies and the international community, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development;

(3) urges the President to encourage such entities to expedite such assistance; and

(4) encourages assistance by other nations and organizations to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador and to assist them in rebuilding their homes and lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 41.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following letters from the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY):

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, March 19, 2001.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter concerning H. Con. Res. 41, a resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the earthquakes in El Salvador. It is our intention that the House consider this legislation on the suspension calendar. The Committee on Financial Services was granted an additional referral on this resolution based on its jurisdiction over international financial and monetary organizations.

We recognize your jurisdiction, and appreciate your willingness to waive your right to consider this resolution without waiving your jurisdiction over the general subject matter. I will support the Speaker in naming members of your committee as conferees, should it get to conference.

As you have requested, I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of the resolution.

I appreciate your assistance in getting this important legislation to the floor.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2001.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HENRY: I understand that you intend to bring H. Con. Res. 41, a resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the El Salvadoran earthquakes, to the floor for consideration under the suspension calendar. As you know, the Committee on Financial Services was granted an additional referral upon the resolution's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction over international financial and monetary organizations under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Because of the importance of this matter, I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and will waive consideration of the resolution by the Financial Services Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the resolution, the Financial Services Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H. Con. Res. 41. In addition, the Committee on Financial Services reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the resolution that are within the Financial Services Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Financial Services for conferees on H. Con. Res. 41 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3¼ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), and I commend him for this resolution.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), my friend, for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today as the sponsor in support of H. Con. Res. 41, a resolution which expresses sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001, and February 13, 2001, and supports ongoing aid efforts.

Two devastating and deadly earthquakes rocked the Central American nation of El Salvador on January 13 and February 13. The first quake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and had a depth of 96 miles and occurred off the El Salvadoran coastline 65 miles southwest of San Miguel.

The second quake measured 6.6 on the Richter scale and had a depth of about 20 miles, and it occurred 48 miles east of San Salvador. Neighboring countries of Guatemala and Honduras also felt this quake.

These devastating earthquakes were responsible for over 1,100 deaths and more than 8,000 injuries. In addition, the quakes destroyed 150,000 homes and damaged another 185,000 houses. In total, over 1.5 million El Salvadorans have been affected by these national catastrophes.

The humanitarian needs of our neighbors in El Salvador are substantial. El Salvadorans need clean water, health facilities, homes, schools and paved roads. These needs are compounded by severe poverty, particularly in the rural areas, which affects 63 percent of El Salvador's rural families.

The damage assessments continue to rise. The USAID reports that the cost of rebuilding after the two earthquakes will be more than \$2.8 billion. Adding to the devastation are the aftershocks that continue to occur in El Salvador.

The United States Geological Survey reports that hundreds of landslides have occurred, making the roads im-

passable in many places around lakes, while debris flowing around such lakes have altered drainage patterns which will cause sediment dams to form during the rainy season. In addition, many roads and bridges have been washed out or blocked by landslides or mudslides.

As of March 15, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that over 70,000 people lack adequate drinking water and must depend on clean water transported by trucks.

□ 1445

Currently, UNICEF is organizing the distribution of water and working closely with the Pan-American Health Organization and the World Health Organization.

After years of brutal civil war and unrest, El Salvador has emerged as one of the most stable nations in Latin America. Not only has El Salvador developed a thriving economy, but it also has instituted many significant democratic reforms. I am deeply concerned that the damage and human suffering caused by these earthquakes may threaten the future stability and economic success of El Salvador. We cannot allow this tragedy to result in socio-political backsliding.

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is home to approximately 135,000 Salvadoran-Americans, which is the second-largest Salvadoran community in the United States, only behind Los Angeles, California. I want to take this opportunity to commend the El Salvadoran immigrants who live in America, work honest jobs, contribute to our local economies, and also save enough to send home to their families in El Salvador. Salvadoran immigrants' contributions to their home land is laudable and substantial. They send an estimated \$2 billion annually to their families, making their remittances El Salvador's main source of foreign exchange.

Saint Anthony's of Padua Catholic Church in Falls Church, Virginia, is a shining example of the community and the Church working together to bring relief to those who need it most. The congregation is where 5,000 Salvadoran-Americans worship weekly.

By the end of January, almost \$93,000 was collected during the Sunday services. Subsequent to this collection, Reverend Father Jose E. Hoyos and his congregation have collected food, drinking water, blankets, and other basic necessities to distribute to earthquake victims.

Father Hoyos traveled to El Salvador in early February to inspect the damage and to report back to his parishioners on recovery efforts. In addition, Father Hoyos brought a check for \$88,276 made out to the Catholic charity, Caritas, for the archdiocese of San Salvador.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman BALLENGER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and

the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) for their support in quickly moving this resolution through their committees.

Finally, I believe H. Con. Res. 41 is an important resolution that deserves the support of every Member, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I first would like to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) for introducing this important resolution. I rise in strong support of the resolution.

El Salvador has suffered two devastating earthquakes within the span of one single month. The first of these was on the 13th of January at a magnitude of 7.6. It killed 827 people, injured about 5,000 others, and destroyed or damaged 222,000 homes.

On February 13, the second earthquake, measuring 6.6, struck El Salvador again, causing more death and destruction in this beleaguered nation.

About a million and a half Salvadorans have been affected, almost one in every four of the country's population. The equivalent in the United States, Madam Speaker, would be that the entire populations of Florida and New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois would have been affected.

On top of these two massive earthquakes, Salvadorans are coping with scores of smaller quakes, now over 5,000 aftershocks. Of course this follows Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and years of civil war preceding it.

We must respond on a scale befitting both of the disasters and the respect and friendship we have for the people of El Salvador.

Now, the administration recently announced some additional assistance for El Salvador. But many of us feel that this has not been anywhere nearly adequate. We were even more surprised and concerned to learn that the earthquake aid that President Bush has pledged has simply taken away from other priorities in El Salvador and the entire region at a time when Latin America has been suffering from a spate of natural disasters.

How long, Madam Speaker, are we going to continue this policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul?

The economies of the affected countries are strained beyond endurance, and much of the progress we have made over the past 2 decades has been reversed. We spent billions during the 1980s to promote democracy in these countries. Now is the time to help them move forward.

The President declared our relationship in the Western Hemisphere to be a foreign policy priority. Yet, I ask what real commitment is there in terms of economic development assistance that we intend to put into this region?

We should vote to pass this resolution today. But more importantly, we should commit ourselves to do more and to do it soon.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 41.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we have the resolution before us, H. Con. Res. 41, which expresses sympathy for all the victims of the two devastating earthquakes.

I would like to say that my wife and I have been working in El Salvador for 35 years and have many friends there. A few days after the earthquake, we were in our hotel, 10:33 in the evening, and that time can be confirmed by several of us that were there, we had an aftershock on the seventh floor of the hotel which was rather a fascinating way to spend the evening.

These quakes on the Richter scale, we have all discussed that. I would just like to say that, after this disaster and we got back to the United States, people in North Carolina have come forward. And this people do not know: it was the beginning of their school year. Their first school day almost, the earthquake came, and it destroyed over 1,000 of their schools. So I was able to get volunteers in North Carolina to provide three container-loads of school furniture and three container-loads of baby diapers. I look forward to this being able to help those people, because it truly is a disaster.

These quakes could not have come at a worse time. Since the end of its protracted civil war, El Salvador has been developing a thriving economy and instituting democratic reforms, making it one of the most promising nations in the region. However, the damage and human suffering caused by the earthquakes now threatens the future stability and economic success of this nation. Without immediately helping, we in the U.S. and elsewhere, the efforts made by El Salvador and its people have been made in vain.

The Department of State and USAID have informed Congress that the Bush administration intends to provide \$100 million in assistance. Additionally, and a very important thing, U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft has provided temporary protective status for some 100,000 undocumented Salvadorans, which allows them to stay here and continue to work without the fear of being sent back.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 6 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, as others have indicated, this past January and February El Salvador was rocked by two major earthquakes and thousands of smaller

aftershocks. I think it was the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) who sponsored the resolution who indicated that some 1,200 people were killed and almost 10,000 were injured.

Thousands of homes have been destroyed, and the country's infrastructure has been severely impacted. The property damage alone is estimated to be at least \$3 billion, according to the most recent estimates; and these numbers, while horrific, do not tell the entire story.

I traveled with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), my friend and the chairman of the subcommittee, to El Salvador in January and witnessed the devastation firsthand. We saw people's homes destroyed. We saw a neighborhood buried under a side of a mountain. We handed out survival packages provided by USAID to hungry and homeless families. That was before the February 13 earthquake.

I think it is very important to understand that these people live in desperate fear of continued aftershocks in the coming rainy season, which only can mean further devastation in their lives. That psychological fear was truly palpable.

After the brutal civil war and the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch, these latest disasters may seem like more than a people can bear. But I want to let my colleagues know that these people are resilient. They are brave. They are meeting the challenges. But it is so clear that they need additional assistance.

I think every American, too, should know that all Salvadorans are cooperating to rebuild their nation. Everyone from local officials to the president is working with one goal in mind, to get El Salvador back on its feet.

As part of that recovery effort, the national government, led by the center-right party, the ARENA Party, is working closely with local mayors, many of whom are FMLN, a center-left party which includes many former guerrillas.

These are the people who, 15 years ago, were literally at war with each other, and they are now working together in close coordination to recover from these earthquakes. Of course they have their differences, but they are resolving them through a democratic dialogue, much like we do every day in this institution.

So from that perspective, and I know the chairman shares my viewpoint, it was a most encouraging trip. The Salvadoran leadership representing many diverse political perspectives deserves to be commended. After many years, democracy has finally taken root in El Salvador. It is in our national interest, and I would submit it is our moral responsibility, given our long history and involvement in El Salvador to nurture that democracy, to assist them in repairing the infrastructure so necessary to advance their economy and their fledgling democratic institutions.

Salvadorans have the will to repair their country, but they need our help to do so. So much has been wrecked that they simply cannot repair the damage on their own. Now that El Salvador is finally a democracy, the kind of democracy that its people dreamed of for years, let us not turn our back on them.

So I urge my colleagues to come together as the Salvadoran people have done.

Madam Speaker, before I sit down, I would be remiss not to note the special relationship that two Members of this institution have with the people of El Salvador. One, of course, is the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere. He indicated earlier that he has spent 35 years on El Salvador. What he did not speak to is the fact that those 35 years that he has been providing diapers and roofs and schoolhouses and desks were from his own resources. It is truly a labor of love. I think it is important that our colleagues know that the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman BALLENGER) and his wife, Donna, are truly held in high regard by the Salvadoran people.

Of course, I also would be remiss not to acknowledge the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), my friend and the leader of the Massachusetts delegation. His name is as well known in El Salvador as it is in South Boston, for it was the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), more than any other American, that helped to bring an end to the bloodshed in El Salvador.

So in his absence, I simply want to acknowledge that and to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) for his courage, for his leadership, to let him know that we are proud of him, all of us, and to report to him that the Salvadoran people continue to be profoundly grateful to his contribution to that nation.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I merely wish to identify myself with the comments concerning the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY).

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) be allowed to control the balance of the time on the Democratic side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1500

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I rise as a Member of the majority of the

Committee on Financial Services and on its behalf to support the resolution, H. Con. Res. 41, before us which expresses sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador on both January 13 and February 13 and to express our support for the ongoing aid efforts.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank and commend the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), for introducing this sense of the Congress resolution and for his efforts in bringing this measure to the House floor today.

As noted, this expresses sympathy to the people of El Salvador for the tragic losses which they have incurred. The gentleman from California (Mr. LAN-TOS) and other Members have referred to the two massive earthquakes and the hundreds of aftershocks, and also the civil war and the hurricane that have been visited upon the people of El Salvador.

Those of us who have visited that country over the years have known about the optimism and especially the energy of the Salvadoran people. No one knows it better than the gentleman from North Carolina and his wife; and as the gentleman from Massachusetts has indicated, they have done so much to assist out of their own financial resources and their own time.

As a member of the Committee on Financial Services, we are urging the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and U.S. Agency for International Development to accentuate their aid. This Member has been in contact and will further contact the executive directors of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as the leadership of the former, to see what we can do to be of assistance.

As a member of both the Committee on Financial Services and a member of the Committee on International Relations, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 41, and thank my colleagues for all they have done in their efforts in working with the people of El Salvador.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Committee on International Relations for bringing this resolution to the floor. I have a particular interest in this resolution because I represent well over 10,000 Salvadorans who live in my district in Los Angeles, but more importantly, because of the suffering that this poor country has endured over the last 10 years, whether it be civil wars, Hurricane Mitch, or with the recent earthquakes which continue in El Salvador.

I had the opportunity of meeting with the president of El Salvador, along with other colleagues here, to discuss some of the problems that they face there; and what I ascertained from that discussion is that we need to do better than just provide \$52 million in

aid that the President is going to allow this year, and more than \$58 million in the following year. We need to put up at least \$2 billion to help to restore that country's infrastructure.

Something that I really want to share with Members here, in my discussion with President Francisco Flores, he mentioned that yes, they are receiving aid from other countries, far more than from our very own country; and one of the problems that they are facing is transporting those items and goods and disseminating them in the municipalities. So while we hear that there is a need to coordinate and work with different factions of that country, we still find that there is a stifling effect in terms of disseminating that aid.

I would ask that the United States and our government work quickly to provide humanitarian aid, but human resource aid as well to help deliver those particular needed items to those many children and elderly and people who are now going without protection over their heads because they have no roof, they have no shelter.

Madam Speaker, I want to urge the House to go a step further and really work in partnership with the country of El Salvador. El Salvador has many, many residents here who are hard-working taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, I would close my statement by also thanking President Bush for granting TPS for an 18-month period because it is very important. It is in this spirit that I ask my colleagues to move forward and ask for more assistance, to the tune of at least \$2 billion, for those Salvadorans who are in current need of restoration and support.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to offer to the gentlewoman from California that Myers Shipping Lines, out of California and out of the East Coast, will be happy to deliver at a cut rate, not a free rate, anything that the gentlewoman might collect in California.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on International Relations, I rise today to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 41. It is a resolution that expresses sympathy for the victims of the recent and terrible earthquakes in El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, many people are unaware and uninformed about the recent earthquakes. On January 13, 2001, the earthquake struck with a terrible thunder; and without a doubt the aftermath shall be felt for many years. Landslides, mudslides, aftershocks and tremors continued after the first earthquake. Then exactly 1 month later on February 13, a second devastating earthquake shook El Salvador.

El Salvador is a country that is no longer itself. It is a country that has been transformed by terrible and irre-

versible events. Without our help, it will be unable to recover, and the result will be thousands upon thousands of displaced persons.

Throughout our history, Americans have always been a people who extended their hands to those in need. After World War II, we extended our hands through the Marshall Plan. After the Korean War, we helped to rebuild South Korea. Now after this tragedy, we must help El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, this concurrent resolution accomplishes two basic goals. It expresses our sympathy and solidarity with the people of El Salvador. At the same time, it encourages support for ongoing relief and reconstruction assistance offered by the United States, other nations, and multinational organizations.

I am not one to blindly support the efforts of these multinational organizations, but in this case the direct reconstruction aid offered by them can only result in good. At the same time, I must clarify that I am strongly opposed to the United Nations' population fund effort in El Salvador to distribute reproductive health kits.

Madam Speaker, 1,159 people have lost their lives and 70,000 people are without drinking water. Only by offering the real assistance required and so easily provided by a country with our resources shall we be able to preserve and expand democracy for our posterity.

Madam Speaker, now is the time. We must pass House Concurrent Resolution 41. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) has given us this opportunity to extend our own hand in friendship to a neighbor. We must reach out and grasp theirs.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI).

Mr. BALDACCI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for that generous introduction.

I would also like to thank the ranking member from Massachusetts for his leadership here on the floor, and also for the leadership that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) has given all of us in regards to El Salvador and so many other issues for a long time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and offer my strong support to the people of El Salvador as they rebuild their lives, their homes, and their communities from the havoc created by two disastrous earthquakes, one on January 13 and the other on February 13. These disasters resulted in the deaths of several hundred people, with thousands of injured, and over a million homeless or displaced.

I had the opportunity to meet yesterday with a group of young people in my district who are members of a youth organization affiliated with Peace through Inter-American Action based in Bangor, Maine. These students are working with their counterparts in El

Salvador to forge practical solutions to a range of domestic and foreign policy problems.

Last year, they hosted three young people from El Salvador, and the group plans to send a delegation there this summer. The importance of their mission is heightened by the current efforts to rebuild El Salvador after these devastating earthquakes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important humanitarian resolution.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of voices from this House expressing our condolences to the people of El Salvador. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, those who died, were injured, displaced by the earthquake and aftershocks last January and February. Our thoughts are also with those worldwide who have committed to lend relief and assistance to those affected by this disaster.

We in the United States appreciate the support of other countries when such disasters happen here, and I am proud that Americans are among those who are helping El Salvador, both by providing immediate relief but also by studying what happened during and after the quakes. By increasing our understanding of the mechanics of earthquakes, we increase our chances of mitigating the damage of future quakes worldwide.

Inevitably, there will be lessons learned from these disasters, as there are with others, including our own. It is important for us in the United States to continue to study these quakes to help mitigate the risks they pose. Let us not forget, earthquakes are a threat to nearly 75 million people in 39 States in the U.S.

Institutions and Federal programs, like the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, do a credible job of contributing to our store of knowledge about the causes and effects of earthquakes and can reduce vulnerability to them through engineering research and new building design.

Technology also holds the promise of providing additional real-time warning of an earthquake to countries around the world. Indeed, countries working together have the potential of improving earthquake advance warnings. Additional seconds of advanced warning can mean the mitigation of destruction and can mean the difference between life and death. Our Subcommittee on Research, in the Committee on Science, will address some of these issues at a hearing tomorrow in room 2318 at 2 p.m.

The point I make, Madam Speaker, is we must not only help now but develop and share new technology with the rest of the world. The people of El Salvador have shown great courage and strength in dealing with the effects of this disaster. They deserve our deep sympathy and support, and I join my colleagues in supporting this resolution.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding me this time, who has shown such an interest throughout Latin America, and to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), who has really personally extended himself to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people in Latin America and particularly in El Salvador.

I am glad to obviously support this resolution expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquakes, two of them, with approximately 1,200 people having been killed, injuring thousands more, and displacing over a million individuals. El Salvador has faced unbelievable hardships and challenges over the last several years. Think about Hurricane Mitch just 2 years ago, and now two deadly earthquakes just seem like a horrible twist of fate.

It is encouraging to see that the Bush administration is granting extension of the temporary protected status for Salvadorans living in the United States. That affects thousands of Salvadorans in my district alone, who are working very hard not just to make ends meet for their own families but to give everything they can possibly afford back to their country people in El Salvador. In yesterday's Washington Post, they estimated that as much as \$2 billion is being sent home.

Now, that might be one thing if it was coming from some constituents, for example the Irish in America, who by now ought to be doing pretty well, but this is coming from the Salvadorans, who are in very low-paid work. I caused a little laugh there; but everybody knows it is true, and we ought to do more. But this is coming from people who are really providing underpinning for our economy. They are certainly contributing more than they are taking out of our economy; and yet with everything they can afford, they are sending it back.

My point is they are doing their part. We need to do our part for our neighbors. What we really need, as important as this resolution of sympathy is, we need a supplemental of a substantial amount to help the people in El Salvador. We ought to do it now. We put \$6 billion into supporting right-wing dictatorships. Now that they have a stable economy and society, we ought to provide substantial funds to help our neighbors.

□ 1515

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his sponsorship of this legislation, as I also thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), who has also been a leader in this, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) and the others.

I am a sponsor of this legislation and have, like many of my colleagues, been to El Salvador and seen the difficulties that these very brave people have every single day. To think that they believe in *esperanza*, hope, demonstrates how brave they are. They believe in family. They believe in hard work. They believe in sharing.

I want to join my colleagues in expressing my sympathy for the victims and their families of this devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador in January.

As of February 2, the National Emergency Committee of El Salvador reported over 1,000 deaths, over 4,000 injured, and over 1 million people that have been made homeless. This earthquake was particularly destructive because of its widespread impact which caused damage throughout 12 of the country's 14 provinces. In fact, the earthquake has affected 20 percent of El Salvador's citizens.

Emergency relief to our neighbors has not been sufficient to deal with the extent of the destruction and human suffering that the people of El Salvador continue to endure. Beyond simply providing emergency relief, the cost of reconstruction will be extensive and long lasting. In my community, there are many Salvadorans, many who are now American citizens, who are helping. Also, my county and State have joined forces, just as all Americans should, to help.

I want to commend the President for his demonstration of kindness to the President of El Salvador, Francisco Flores, when he granted temporary protected status to the nationals of El Salvador who are currently residing in the United States.

We, too, can lend a hand to those suffering from this tragedy. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and any further efforts to improve the conditions for our neighbors in need.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who has had a long and abiding interest in matters in Central and Latin America and the former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership in providing assistance to the people in El Salvador at this very difficult time. I want to commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) as well for his leadership on this. It is a very important issue.

I know about earthquakes, coming from San Francisco, and I know about El Salvador because I have had a long interest there. In fact, Madam Speaker, my first speech on the floor was about

El Salvador, following the lead of our great chairman then of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY).

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) has again exercised leadership, sending a letter signed by 75 colleagues to President Bush asking for significant multiyear assistance for El Salvador. While there is a strong initial response to the crisis, we go through this, those of us in earthquake territory, the emergency response and a strong emotional response from the world, there is no initiative to assist in a longer term with assistance and reconstruction. President Flores has estimated that the relief and reconstruction efforts will cost well over a billion dollars from the international community.

El Salvador has a special significance for the American people. Approximately 1 million Salvadorans live in the United States, thousands of them in my district, I am proud to say. Our nations have close historical ties. We should do everything in our power, and that is significant, everything in our power, to provide sustainable development assistance to lift up the Salvadoran people out of this devastation.

Our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), earlier mentioned, and many of us who visited El Salvador can agree, about the optimism and the spirit of the Salvadoran people. They are ready to lift themselves up, but they need some help. In coordination with the international community, we must provide a long-term reconstruction assistance package aimed at the areas of housing, crop assistance, clean water and health care.

Madam Speaker, there are many heroes involved in this effort. I named the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), who has long been a hero on the subject of El Salvador, actually joined by his staff person, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), when he was on his staff, now a hero in the Congress on this issue in his own right. I commend them, USAID, the Red Cross, the World Bank, UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNDP, OXFAM and World Vision for the important roles that they play.

I once again commend the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) for his very important leadership on this issue.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my dear friend and also a leader prior to his coming to Congress on issues involving El Salvador.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), for yielding me the time and for his incredible leadership on this issue. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), for his leadership.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I have often thought that the people of El Salvador are constantly being tested. After having survived more than 12 years of a brutal civil war, a peace agreement was reached; and the people of El Salvador began to rebuild their country. In October of 1998, the country was hit by Hurricane Mitch. In November of 1999, I traveled with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) to the region of the Lower Lempa River. There we saw firsthand how hard the people, very poor people, were working to rebuild their communities. Quite frankly, their courage, commitment and community spirit was inspiring. And, while still in the throes of recovering from Hurricane Mitch, El Salvador, in the space of 30 days, was brutally battered not by just one major earthquake but by two. In addition, over 2,000 aftershocks have rocked this tiny country.

We have heard the statistics from previous speakers. As the facts come in, the harsh reality is that once again the poorest sector of the country, the most vulnerable, and the rural poor have suffered the greatest loss in terms of housing and economic survival. Nearly 20 percent of the population was rendered homeless by the two earthquakes, and finding adequate housing for them will be a major challenge. If we do not do something to help reactivate the rural community, the rural poor will move even more quickly to the slums of San Salvador and to the United States.

To revive the local economy, people need houses and help to plant their next harvest, to restart their small microenterprises and a long-term plan to lift them out of poverty. And worse is yet to come. Soon the rainy season will start. Over 570 landslides resulted from the first earthquake in January. More followed the second earthquake.

This bill calls upon the international community to respond, quickly and generously. It also calls upon us all to respond not only to the urgent emergency needs of El Salvador but to commit ourselves to the longer term work of reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this call. I want to urgently underscore the need for the United States to lead the international community in the effort to rebuild El Salvador by providing our own long-term and generous contribution to El Salvador's recovery, reconstruction and development. As my colleague from Virginia said earlier, the United States played a very major role in El Salvador in the 1980s, a role, quite frankly, that I questioned whether it was the right role for us to play, but we owe this country a great deal, and I think the very least we need to do is come forward and help them during this very difficult time.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 41, and I wish to thank the strong bipartisan coalition of members who have worked to bring this bill to the floor especially Representative DAVIS of

Virginia, Representatives BALLENGER and DELAHUNT, Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS.

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And worse is yet to come. Soon the rainy season will start. Over 570 landslides resulted from the first earthquake in January. With the rains, earth barely holding onto the tops and sides of hills and mountains will slide down on rural communities. The homeless, protected now only by plastic sheeting, will be even more vulnerable to the elements.

This bill calls upon the international community to respond—quickly and generously. It also calls upon us all to respond not only to the urgent emergency needs of El Salvador, but to commit ourselves to the longer-term work of reconstruction.

I support this call.

After the 1986 earthquake, President Reagan approved \$50 million in emergency aid. Three months later, the Congress approved an additional \$98 million. We can do no less now when the nation-wide effects of the January and February 2001 earthquakes are so much more severe than those experienced in 1986.

I want to urgently underscore the need for the United States to lead the international community in the effort to rebuild El Salvador by providing our own long term and generous contribution to El Salvador's recovery, reconstruction and development.

I urge support of this important bill.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 23, 2001]

SUPPORTING EL SALVADOR

It wasn't so long ago that day-to-day events in El Salvador were capable of commanding Washington's attention. Now even a major natural disaster in that country close to our borders can go virtually unheeded. In

the past six weeks El Salvador has suffered not one but two large earthquakes that have destroyed a large part of the country outside San Salvador, killed at least 1,100 people and left at least 1.3 million homeless in a population of only 6 million. Yet so far the country that has taken the lead in foreign assistance is . . . Spain, which has contributed \$25 million in emergency relief and organized a donor conference in Madrid next month. The United States, in contrast, has offered only \$10 million so far; the Bush administration says that any additional aid will have to be drawn from existing aid budgets.

This is a poor showing, given both the needs and the past and present ties of the United States to El Salvador. The earthquake threatens to reverse years of recent progress: Officials say that some 120,000 homes have been destroyed, along with scores of schools, local health clinics, roads and agricultural crops. Preliminary studies by the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development suggest that reconstruction costs could rise to \$3 billion—or about \$2,000 for every person in a country where the per capita income is only \$1,100. Unless a vigorous reconstruction program is launched in the coming months, much of the country's economy may simply collapse—likely sending a large new wave of refugees northward.

In 1986, when Central America was at war and a focus of U.S. policy, a smaller earthquake struck San Salvador. Then-Secretary of State George Shultz immediately visited the country to pledge \$50 million in emergency aid, and Congress followed up with another \$98 million in reconstruction funds. With U.S. help, San Salvador rebuilt and over the next few years successfully ended its war with Marxist insurgents, establishing a democracy that has remained stable. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans have settled in the United States, and the \$1.7 billion they send home every year is a mainstay of the economy.

Salvadoran President Francisco Flores will be visiting Washington next week in search not only of U.S. help for reconstruction but an administration decision to grant “temporary protected status” to undocumented Salvadorans now in the United States. This measure, which would shield Salvadorans from deportation and allow them to work legally for a limited time, would likely lead to a large increase in remittances; it was used to help Honduras and Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The Bush administration should embrace this legal relief as well as substantial new aid—and demonstrate that the United States is committed to an El Salvador that is peaceful and democratic, and not only to one at war.

FEBRUARY 20, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: The earthquake that shook El Salvador on January 13th and February 13th have had devastating consequences for a country recently hit by Hurricane Mitch, and only beginning to recover from twelve years of civil war. More than 1200 people were killed in the earthquake. Estimates vary about how many homes were destroyed—although recent estimates put the number at about 300,000. This means that over a million people, more than 15% of the population, are homeless. Some are living in refugee camps and shelters, and some are simply sleeping outdoors. There are tremendous humanitarian needs.

This tragedy has a special meaning for U.S. citizens—as many as a million Salvadorans live here, and El Salvador is one of

our closest neighbors. What happens there will affect us, and we should do what we can to help our neighbor recover.

We applaud the efforts that USAID and other agencies of the U.S. government undertook in response to the immediate emergency in El Salvador: sending teams to help dig people out of the rubble, helping with air transport to areas blocked off by landslides, providing emergency food packages, providing temporary housing, etc.

But El Salvador faces difficult long-term challenges. Housing must be re-built, infrastructure repaired and replaced. Environmental problems that increased the severity of the impact of the earthquake must be addressed. And the long-term problems of poverty, especially rural poverty, which have made El Salvador so vulnerable to natural disasters, must be overcome. Rebuilding El Salvador after the earthquake will require a long-term commitment by the Salvadoran people and the Salvadoran government.

Following Hurricane Mitch in October, 1998, the United States joined with other international donors to make a substantial commitment to reconstruction in the region. In addition to generous financial support, the donors adopted a set of important principles to guide their reconstruction efforts. According to these principles, reduction of social and environmental vulnerability, transparency and accountability, decentralization, democracy, debt relief, and human rights are key to the effective reconstruction and transformation of the region. We believe that the same generosity and the same principles should guide our response to the earthquake in El Salvador.

We urge you to support mid-term and long-term development assistance that will enable economically and environmentally sustainable reconstruction in El Salvador.

This will require Congressional support for increased funding of USAID programs for reconstruction in El Salvador over a period of several years.

In addition, it is our view that the extensive damage and negative effects of the earthquake warrant a designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador. As you know, Congress has authorized the Attorney General to grant TPS to nationals of a country if they would face “ongoing armed conflict,” “natural disaster,” or “extraordinary temporary conditions” if returned to their homeland. A TPS designation stays deportation of designated nationals and grants them work authorization for a specific amount of time, either six, twelve, or eighteen months. In this situation, a TPS designation would ensure that Salvadorans in this country could work and send important remittances back to relatives in El Salvador to assist in the reconstruction.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns, and for your support of our neighbors in El Salvador.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Robert E. White, President, Center for International Policy.

Jose Artiga, Executive Director, SHARE Foundation.

Raymond C. Offenheiser, President, Oxfam America.

Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory, Director, Washington Office, Presbyterian Church (USA).

Jim Winkler, General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church.

Raul Yzaguirre, President, National Council of La Raza.

Rev. Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Nancy Lindborg, Acting CEO, MercyCorps.
Father Charles Currie, SJ, Director, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Rabbi Dan Polish, Director, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Rev. John McCullough, Executive Director, Church World Service.

Marie Dennis, Director, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

George Vickers, Executive Director, Washington Office on Latin America.

Kathy Thornton, RSM, National Coordinator, NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

Bev Abma, Disaster Response Administrator, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

Tom Hart, Director of Government Relations, The Episcopal Church.

Wesley P. Callender, Director, Voices on the Border.

Jim Matlack, Director, Washington Office American Friends Service Committee.

Rev. Mark B. Brown, Asst. Director, International Affairs and Human Rights, Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dr. John L. Williams, President & CEO, Holt International Children's Services.

Steve Bennett, Executive Director, Witness for Peace.

Linda Shelly, Program Director for Latin America/Caribbean, Mennonite Central Committee.

Dr. Valora Washington, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Kathryn Wolford, President, Lutheran World Relief.

Paul Montacute, Director, Baptist World Aid, Baptist World Alliance.

Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, President, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

William Goodfellow, Executive Director, Center for International Policy.

Angela Kelley, Deputy Director, National Immigration Forum.

Barbara Larcom, Coordinator, Casa Baltimore/Limay.

Greg Laszakovits, Director, Church of the Brethren, Washington Office.

John Lindsay-Poland, Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Kathy Ogle, Coordinator, Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA).

The Rev. Dr. Theodore F. Schneider, Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, DC, Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Margaret Swedish, Director, Religious Task Force on Central America and Mexico.

Edith Villastrigo, Legislative Director, Women Strike for Peace.

David A. Velasquez, President & CEO, DBFS International, LLC.

Rev. Bill Quigly, Missionhurst-CICM, Office of the Provincial.

Deborah Sanders, Capitol Area Immigrants' Rights, Coalition.

Martha Pierce, Director, Chicago Metropolitan Sanctuary Alliance.

Gary Cozette, Director, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America.

Alice Zachman, Director, Guatemala Human Rights, Commission/USA.

Cristina Espinel and Barbara Gerlach, Co-Chair, Colombia Human Rights Committee.

Rev. Kim Erno, Chair, The Latin America Task Force of the Metropolitan Washington, DC, Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the important resolution considered on the Floor of the House today expressing the deep sympathy of Congress for the people of El Salvador and for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquakes of January 13 and February 13, 2001.

I strongly support the continuing and substantial increase of relief and reconstruction

assistance provided by representatives of the international community as well as the United States.

As we all know, in a cruel act of fate, two powerful earthquakes hit Central America this winter causing catastrophic losses in El Salvador. The full extent of the damage is still difficult to fathom. In all, these catastrophic natural occurrences left at least 1,200 people dead. More than one million people have been declared homeless. An estimated 200,000 homes were destroyed. Roads and bridges were completely washed out or severely damaged by the landslides. Many school and health care facilities had to be closed. Running and clean water is much needed. Most of the agricultural supply has been severely threatened. Moreover, survivors are threatened by serious epidemic and disease. Such an environmental disaster has resulted in a substantial and immediate disruption of living conditions in El Salvador and warrants our government's continued support and assistance. In short, the needs of El Salvador at this time are enormous and we need to act accordingly and generously.

I applaud the decision announced by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) following this tragedy to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to all Salvadoran nationals living in this country. This will be a relief for many Salvadorans who depend financially on their relatives living in the United States.

On March 7, I joined more than fifty of my colleagues to ask the President to address the needs of El Salvador in this time of need. We requested that the administration develop a significant multi-year relief package for El Salvador, targeted toward areas of housing, crop assistance, clean water and health care. We suggest that this plan be considered as part of an emergency supplemental appropriations bill. We will continue to press the administration to act accordingly.

The resolution we are adopting today is a step in the right direction and one of many that should be taken by this House to provide a compassionate and generous response from the United States toward El Salvador to help maintain the stability of the entire region.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those I represent for the people of El Salvador. I am saddened that El Salvador was struck by the devastating earthquake on January 13th and February 13th of this year. These earthquakes tragically ripped through El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, this earthquake is not the first time in recent memory that a natural disaster has brought devastation on such a wide scale to the people of El Salvador. In addition to this terrible earthquake, there has also been a serious outbreak of dengue fever, which is a very debilitating disease. And it was only two years ago that Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, leaving an unbearable toll on an already fragile region. In the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, more than 11,000 lives were swept away in the rain, winds, and massive landslides that Mitch wrought. In some areas, more than 70 percent of crops were demolished. The price tag of that devastating hurricane soared to more than \$4 billion once a full accounting was made.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador never lost hope in the wake of the devastation

wrought by Mitch. They worked to improve their lives. They rebuilt roads, and schools, and homes. They began to address the needs of citizens dealing with painful losses and an uncertain future. They began to pull themselves, with the help of international monetary and humanitarian assistance. These earthquakes simply threaten to stifle the development and progress El Salvador has made.

We cannot and should not ask the government of El Salvador, or their people, to walk the path toward recovery alone. We must not turn away from their suffering, but rather must respond swiftly and effectively.

I am pleased that the United States Government is actively participating in these international efforts through the work of USAID. To date, USAID assistance to El Salvador totals more than \$5 million, the majority of which was allocated for temporary shelter programs. In addition, the World Food Programme has provided 900 metric tons of rations, the International Federation of the Red Cross has released \$100,000 of disaster relief funds as well as sent a delegation of relief workers to assist the 1,200 person Salvadoran Red Cross. Every ounce of help from the international community helps.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador need our help. We have assisted many nations in desperate times of need. As a Nation of immigrants, we are well aware of the strong ties between El Salvador and the United States. Those ties have flourished in our Nation as the Salvadoran community has grown and prospered. Let us all do our share in helping rebuild and develop the affected areas that were struck by the earthquake.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to in strong support of H. Con. Res 41, of which I am a proud sponsor. This resolution sends an important message of support to the people of El Salvador, who are experiencing great hardship as a result of recent earthquakes.

Most of us will never know the heart-breaking trauma of losing everything important to us—possessions, homes, and especially loved ones—within a span of 30 seconds.

This resolution is necessary to publicly express our country's deep sympathy for the plight of El Salvadorans and to highlight the critical need for the timely delivery of much-needed relief and reconstruction assistance from the international community.

The United States is a Nation fortunate enough to be rich in resources and, I believe, rich in compassion. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our own Federal Government and others across the Nation to join international efforts to provide El Salvador with needed resources for recovery.

In this time of crisis, the Salvadorans have acted with amazing courage and strength. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in expressing our support to the people of El Salvador who are trying to rebuild their lives and their communities, by passing this resolution.

Mr. FALCOMA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House, H. Con. Res. 41, which speaks on behalf of the good people of El Salvador who are struggling to recover from two devastating earthquakes that struck the nation in January and February of this year.

I commend the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, and the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of

the House International Relations Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Mr. BALLENGER and Mr. MENENDEZ, for introducing this important measure. I further commend the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of the International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE and Mr. LANTOS, for their leadership in bringing the legislation to the floor. I am honored to join our colleagues in expressing concern and sympathy for the victims of the earthquakes in El Salvador and to support ongoing aid and relief efforts.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador have had more than their share of suffering. In recent decades, El Salvador has been torn apart by civil war, a deadly and costly conflict which claimed the lives of more than 70,000 men, women and children before a peace accord was reached in 1992.

A little over two years ago, one of the most destructive natural disasters ever to hit the region, Hurricane Mitch, wreaked havoc on El Salvador. In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch's 180 mph winds and massive flooding, El Salvador and her neighbors, Nicaragua and Honduras, lost over 11,000 citizens with damages totaling over \$4 billion.

Madam Speaker, despite these major setbacks, the people of El Salvador have worked diligently and courageously to rebuild their nation and democracy. It is a tragedy and cruel fate that they have had to suffer once again.

On January 13th of this year, a huge earthquake registering 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck off the coast of El Salvador, southwest of the city of San Miguel. Exactly a month later, a second crushing earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck east of San Salvador.

Madam Speaker, these devastating earthquakes have taken a tremendous toll on the people of El Salvador and resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe.

Over 1,500 Salvadorans have lost their lives, with thousands more injured. At least 200,000 homes have been destroyed, displacing over a million Salvadorans. More than fifteen hundred schools and dozens of hospitals, as well as essential segments of the country's infrastructure including water systems and the Pan-American Highway, have been badly damaged.

The destruction to El Salvador is estimated to exceed \$2 billion in costs.

Madam Speaker, I would urge our colleagues to adopt this legislation which evidences our heartfelt concern for the people of El Salvador and their tragic losses.

The legislation further supports relief efforts of the United States Agency for International Development for El Salvador's reconstruction, along with the assistance of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the international community.

To this effect, I commend President Bush for committing \$110 million in relief aid when meeting early this month with the President of El Salvador, Francisco Flores. This is a good beginning but more aid is needed. Also important has been President Bush's work permit initiative for Salvadoran immigrants, which has allowed many Salvadorans to continue sending home substantial sums for reconstruction efforts in El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the measure before us.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I must vote against HCR 41. While I certainly offer my personal sympathy to the victims in El Salvador, and also join in encouraging relief

agencies to increase their assistance to these individuals, I cannot support this resolution.

In the past I have complained that similar bills have come to the House Floor without going through the committee process. In this instance the committees were included and I applaud the Chairman for ensuring we had an opportunity to discuss this issue at committee. I am also grateful to the committee staff who worked with me in helping facilitate that discussion.

At the subcommittee I introduced an amendment for discussion purposes only. That amendment would have deleted the specific references to governmental assistance contained in this bill. Had that amendment been adopted I could have supported this resolution. Simply, I believe it is not proper for us to force taxpayers in this country to provide this kind of assistance by having the IRS collect these funds. Next, I believe that the Red Cross, for example, would not only be a more sympathetic entity for the purposes of collecting funds used for relief, but also that it would be a more efficient distributor of such funds than are the plethora of government agencies referenced in this resolution.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.Con.Res. 41.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 NOTE), the Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment of the following Member of the House to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission:

Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (P.L. 106-173), I hereby appoint the following individual to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. Phelps, IL.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary group:

Mr. HOUGHTON of New York, Chairman.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(d) of Public Law 93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri; and

Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 67, by the yeas and nays; and H. Con. Res. 41, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 67, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 67, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 2, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 51]

YEAS—405

Abercrombie	Coyne	Hall (OH)
Ackerman	Crane	Hall (TX)
Aderholt	Crenshaw	Hansen
Akin	Crowley	Harman
Allen	Cubin	Hart
Andrews	Culberson	Hastings (FL)
Armey	Cummings	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Cunningham	Hayes
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Hayworth
Baird	Davis (FL)	Hefley
Baker	Davis (IL)	Hergert
Baldacci	Davis, Jo Ann	Hill
Baldwin	Davis, Tom	Hilliard
Ballenger	Deal	Hinchey
Barcia	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Barr	DeGette	Hobson
Barrett	Delahunt	Hoefel
Bartlett	DeLauro	Hoekstra
Barton	DeLay	Holden
Bass	DeMint	Holt
Bentsen	Deutsch	Honda
Bereuter	Diaz-Balart	Hooley
Berkley	Dicks	Horn
Berman	Dingell	Hostettler
Berry	Doggett	Houghton
Biggert	Dooley	Hoyer
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Hulshof
Bishop	Doyle	Hunter
Blagojevich	Dreier	Hutchinson
Blumenauer	Duncan	Hyde
Blunt	Dunn	Inslee
Boehler	Edwards	Isakson
Boehner	Ehlers	Israel
Bonilla	Ehrlich	Issa
Bonior	Emerson	Istook
Bono	Engel	Jackson (IL)
Borski	English	Jackson-Lee
Boswell	Eshoo	(TX)
Boucher	Etheridge	Jefferson
Boyd	Evans	Jenkins
Brady (TX)	Everett	John
Brown (OH)	Farr	Johnson (CT)
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Johnson (IL)
Bryant	Flake	Johnson, E. B.
Burr	Fletcher	Johnson, Sam
Burton	Foley	Jones (NC)
Buyer	Ford	Jones (OH)
Callahan	Fossella	Kanjorski
Calvert	Frank	Kaptur
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Kelly
Cantor	Frost	Kennedy (MN)
Capito	Gallegly	Kennedy (RI)
Capps	Ganske	Kerns
Capuano	Gekas	Kildee
Cardin	Gephardt	Kilpatrick
Carson (IN)	Gibbons	Kind (WI)
Carson (OK)	Gilchrest	King (NY)
Castle	Gillmor	Kingston
Chabot	Gilman	Kirk
Chambliss	Gonzalez	Kleccka
Clay	Goodlatte	Knollenberg
Clayton	Gordon	Kolbe
Clement	Goss	Kucinich
Clyburn	Graham	LaFalce
Coble	Granger	LaHood
Collins	Graves	Lampson
Combest	Green (TX)	Langevin
Condit	Green (WI)	Lantos
Conyers	Greenwood	Largent
Cooksey	Grucci	Larsen (WA)
Costello	Gutierrez	Larson (CT)
Cox	Gutknecht	Latham