

about where this country was going, where their government was going. And to follow up on what a few speakers have said before me, we are not antigovernment.

This revolution that is sweeping across Washington is not an antigovernment revolution. When Thomas Jefferson said that the government that governs least governs best, he was not saying that being antigovernment. He was saying it being pro-freedom, and that is what this has been about. That is what this 100 days has been about. And this is what we are going to do with the next 100 days and the next 2 years; we are going to restore the American dream and, yes, we must pay tribute to the Federal employees that not only lost their lives but also those that went out and sacrificed and worked throughout this tragedy.

But it is our purpose and our function and our goal to free all Americans from an overbearing centralized bureaucracy, so Federal employees and all citizens can enjoy the American dream and can look back to Thomas Jefferson's statement that the government that governs least governs best as a statement that does not decry Federal Government but praises freedom in America. That is what the American dream is about and that is what we are going to be doing the next 100 days, continuing to revive the American dream.

THE NEXT 100 DAYS

(Mr. TATE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for office going door to door, people would always tell me, do what you said you were going to do. And that is exactly what the House Republicans did when they came to Congress: promises made, promises kept.

As I had town hall meetings throughout my district, talking to people, they said: We appreciate what you are doing. Do not listen to those special interest groups tell you do not do this, do not do that. Stick to your guns.

That is exactly what we are going to be doing over the next 100 days. We are going to take on the deficit. We are going to balance our budget. There is an \$18,500 debt for every man, woman, and child in this country. For my daughter Madeleine, that is unacceptable. She should not be saddled with an \$18,000 debt.

The question really is going to be in the next 100 days, do we borrow or do we balance? Do we borrow or do we balance? The people of my district and the people of this country and the people of American have said they want Congress to balance its budget. That is exactly what we are going to do over the next 100 days.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken after votes on the motion regarding a conference on H.R. 1158.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 53) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 53

Whereas United States diplomatic and economic security interests in East Asia have caused the United States to maintain a policy of recognizing the People's Republic of China while maintaining solidarity with the democratic aspirations of the people of Taiwan;

Whereas the Republic of China on Taiwan (known as Taiwan) is the United States sixth largest trading partner and an economic powerhouse buying more than twice as much annually from the United States as do the 1,200,000,000 Chinese of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the American people are eager for expanded trade opportunities with Taiwan, the possessor of the world's second largest foreign exchange reserves;

Whereas the United States interests are served by supporting democracy and human rights abroad;

Whereas Taiwan is a model emerging democracy, with a free press, free elections, stable democratic institutions, and human rights protections;

Whereas vigorously contested elections conducted on Taiwan in December 1994 were extraordinarily free and fair;

Whereas the United States interests are best served by policies that treat Taiwan's leaders with respect and dignity;

Whereas President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, a Ph.D. graduate of Cornell University, has been invited to pay a private visit to his alma mater and to attend the annual USA-ROC Economic Council Conference in Anchorage, Alaska;

Whereas there are no legitimate grounds for excluding President Lee Teng-hui from paying private visits;

Whereas the Senate of the United States voted several times in 1994 to welcome President Lee to visit the United States; and

Whereas Public Law 103-416 provides that the President of Taiwan shall be welcome in the United States at any time to discuss a host of important bilateral issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should promptly indicate that the United States will welcome a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui to

his alma mater, Cornell University, and will welcome a transit stop by President Lee in Anchorage, Alaska, to attend the USA-ROC Economic Council Conference.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this Member rises in strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 53, expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should grant a visa to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan for a private visit to the United States to receive an honorary degree from his alma mater, Cornell University.

This Member commends the initiative of the author of this resolution, the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS]. This Member would also commend the chairman of the International Relations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for bringing this resolution before this body in a timely manner.

Action of the House International Relations Committee on this resolution has demonstrated overwhelming bipartisan sentiment that the United States should grant a visa to President Lee for such a private visit. On April 5, the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the full Committee on International Relations unanimously endorsed the resolution. It continues to be this Member's view that issuance of a visitor's visa to President Lee is not inconsistent with the United States "One China" policy which limits official contact with Taiwan. Moreover, this Member believes that issuance of the visa is only fitting considering our close economic ties with Taiwan and the democratic strides made by President Lee's government.

The United States pioneered, through the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979 and the establishment of the American Institute in Taiwan, the successful maintenance of unofficial ties with Taiwan. Even as the United States shifted its official recognition in 1979 from Taipei to Beijing, the Congress made it clear to the Chinese that the United States would maintain cultural, commercial, and other unofficial ties with Taiwan. Moreover, as mandated by the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States provides defense material and training to Taiwan to enable it to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.

The question then is: Why the President of Taiwan would not be permitted to make a private visit to the United States to receive an honorary degree at

his alma mater? The State Department's response is that, and I quote, "a visit by a person of President Lee's title and symbolic importance, whether or not the visit were termed 'private,' would unavoidably be seen by the People's Republic of China as removing an essential element of unofficiality in the United States-Taiwan relationship." That may be the case, even though that is not an objective conclusion by the PRC, but that conclusion on their part should not be the determining factor in the administration's decision.

The State Department is obviously correct in noting that we have major interests in maintaining a positive relationship with Beijing. In fact this gentleman is committed to improving and deepening that relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China. In several of my statements as chairman of this subcommittee, for example, this Member has stressed his view that we should not isolate or demonize China. But, at the same time, we cannot let Beijing dictate to us who can or cannot make a private visit to his alma mater in the United States. What this resolution is endorsing is a very reasonable and specifically limited exception from the current U.S. policy. The State Department seems to have ignored one key principle when making this decision. That principle is that our foreign policy, if it is to be sustainable with the American people and Congress, must meet the commonsense test. In this Member's view, refusing to grant a visitor's visa to the President of a thriving democratic friend of the United States, who would enter our country simply to receive an honorary degree at his alma mater, does not make sense. It is not a commonsense, foreign policy judgment. The resolution before us today would call for the administration to make an exception to its policy in this instance so that President Lee can visit Ithaca, NY, to receive an honorary degree from his alma mater, Cornell University.

Mr. Speaker, this Member will vote for House Concurrent Resolution 53 and urges all his colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 53, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States, passed out of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on April 5 on an 8-to-0 vote and was voted out of the full committee on the same day on a 32-to-0 vote.

I was an original cosponsor of the resolution, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], chairman of the subcommittee,

having written the Secretary of State urging a change in our policy.

President Lee, as the first native-born President of Taiwan, represents more than anything else a beacon of hope to Taiwanese eager to gain recognition for their accomplishments. Taiwan has emerged as a major world economic power, becoming the United States sixth largest export market and our second largest market in Asia after Japan. We sell about twice as much to Taiwan as we do to the People's Republic of China.

Taiwan, under the leadership of President Lee, has made dramatic political progress. Democratic elections have been held. In 1996, for the first time there will be direct elections for the President.

Despite these positive developments, we treat Taiwan as a second-class, not a world-class citizen. This resolution attempts to rectify that imbalance by demonstrating congressional support for a change in administration policy.

I think the administration is beginning to understand the need for a policy change. Last September the administration announced a welcome change in our policy toward Taiwan which included permitting high level official visits. During a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister this April, April 17, Secretary of State Christopher, according to the State Department, "made clear that the American public and particularly the American Congress do not understand the Chinese position opposing a Lee visit." He noted that "many people in Congress, including good friends of Beijing, do not understand why a visit to the alma mater to pick up an honorary degree would have to be seen as official in nature."

Allowing President Lee to visit the United States and officially to receive an honorary degree at his alma mater, Cornell University, should not be interpreted by the Chinese as a slap at them but rather a recognition of our continuing friendship with Taiwan. Nor should this be seen as an effort to undermine or alter the administration's One China policy. A change in our policy concerning a visit by the Taiwanese President does not and should not be seen by China as constituting a change in our policy toward China. Nothing in the Taiwan Relations Act or the joint communiques address the issue of high level visits.

Mr. Speaker, if the administration does not change its policy to permit President Lee to make an unofficial visit, I believe Congress will attempt to mandate a change in policy. House Concurrent Resolution 53 sends a strong signal of bipartisan sentiment on this issue that I hope the administration will heed.

I join with the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] in urging this body to pass this resolution unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrence Resolution 53, "Expressing the sense of the Con-

gress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States," passed out of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on April 5 on an 8-to-0 vote and was voted out of the full committee on the same day on a 32-to-0 vote. I was an original cosponsor of the resolution. I have also written the Secretary of State urging a change in our policy.

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Despite these positive developments, we treat Taiwan as a second-class, not a world-class, citizen. This resolution attempts to rectify that imbalance by demonstrating congressional support for a change in administration policy: Let Lee come.

I think the administration is beginning to understand the need for a policy change. Last September, the administration announced a welcome change in our policy toward Taiwan which included permitting high level official visits.

During a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister on April 17, Secretary Christopher, according to the State Department, "made clear that the American public and particularly the American Congress do not understand the Chinese position opposing a Lee visit." He noted that "many people in Congress, including good friends, of Beijing, do not understand why a visit to the alma mater to pick up an honorary degree would have to be seen as official in nature."

If the administration does not change its policy to permit President Lee to make an unofficial visit, I believe Congress may attempt to mandate a change in policy. House Concurrence Resolution 53 sends a strong signal of bipartisan sentiment on this issue that I hope the administration will heed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our good chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], for bringing this important resolution before us today. I also want to commend the author, the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS], for crafting this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 53 regarding approval of a private visit by President Lee or the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Taiwan is a democracy, yet its President cannot visit our Nation.

There are no political prisoners in Taiwan, yet its President is prohibited from visiting our Nation.

When the Charter of the United Nations was signed on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, the nationalist regime in China was one of the cosigners and founding members, yet the head of that Government is not allowed to visit our Nation.

This is unacceptable. This injustice must not be allowed to continue.

And I agree with the minority party in Taiwan, the DPP, that their Nation's President should be welcomed here in a way befitting Taiwan's stature, a visit to receive an honorary degree is a far cry from a visit to the White House.

If President Lee desires to accept an invitation to go to Cornell, then he should be allowed to go to Cornell.

The People's Republic of China can commit acts of aggression against citizens of the Philippines in the South China Sea and yet the State Department has nothing to say about that. But when a leader of a democratic nation wants to peacefully travel to the United States, we find a reason to intervene.

The authorities in Beijing continue to hold Wei Jingsheng, who was arrested after Assistant Secretary John Shattuck met with him, but the State Department does not prevent them from visiting the United States.

The authorities in Beijing continue to engage in proliferation of dangerous weapons to dangerous regimes but the State Department has not stopped visits by Chinese military personnel to our country.

Authorities from the Chinese puppet regime in Tibet have their visit to the United States paid for by USIA with State's approval, yet his holiness the Dalai Lama is given a cold shoulder by the State Department when he visits us.

Enough is enough. We have to put some balance back into our relationship with Taiwan and Beijing.

President Lee should be allowed to visit the United States and we urge the administration to approve his visit.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 9 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS], the sponsor of the legislation and the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on International Relations and Human Rights.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from California [Mr. BEREUTER], and the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for their strong support of this resolution. I think it is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that we are dealing with this issue today at a time when our administration is proposing principled and courageous action with respect to the terrorist regime of Iran. It seems to me that our administration deserves a great deal of support and commendation for its courageous and powerful move against the terrorist regime in Teheran at the same time it merits criticism for continuing an unprincipled and spineless policy towards our friends on Taiwan.

I should point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a new policy. The Reagan administration had the same unprincipled and spineless policy. The Bush administration had the same unprincipled and spineless policy. I profoundly regret that the current administration has chosen not to change that policy, so it is up to the Congress to change that policy.

In 1968 an enormously talented young scholar from Taiwan received a Ph.D. degree from one of our most distinguished universities, Cornell University. That man went on to become the President of our friend, the Republic of China on Taiwan. Now Cornell University has chosen to honor him with an honorary doctorate, and in an unconscionable fashion our Government would want to exclude this distinguished scholar and statesman from going back to his own alma mater to receive an honorary doctorate. This is a policy which is unacceptable to the Congress of the United States.

Some would argue, Mr. Speaker, that there are economic reasons why this policy should be unacceptable, and certainly Taiwan is one of our great trading partners. The small population of Taiwan is buying twice as much from the United States than do the 1 billion 200 million people on the mainland of China, but that is not my reason for submitting this resolution.

If Taiwan were to buy not a dime's worth of American products, as a matter of principle we should insist that President Lee come to Cornell to receive his honorary doctorate. I find it particularly galling that an administration which can tell our longstanding friend and ally, the United Kingdom, to go fly a kite and receive Gerry Adams in the White House—as I believe he

should have been received in the White House—should kowtow to Beijing, a Government which distinguishes itself with an outrageous human rights record in China, in Tibet, and elsewhere. I think it is long overdue that we stop kowtowing to the Communist butchers in Beijing, and to stand on our own principles. It will be a proud day when the President of Taiwan visits his own alma mater and receives his well-deserved honorary degree, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides to support this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for his outstanding comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now have the pleasure of yielding such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the chairman of the Committee on Rules, and certainly one of the Members most knowledgeable about Taiwanese and Chinese relations, and I look forward to his comments.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I thank him for his yeoman work as the chairman of a subcommittee of the very important Committee on International Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the strongest support of this resolution, and I commend my friends, the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS and Mr. BERMAN] for bringing this very, very important resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the refusal by our Government to permit the distinguished President of the Republic of China on Taiwan to pay a private visit to the United States represents an assault against his dignity and our morality. President Lee has presided over a Democratic political liberalization in his country, a process which has seen Taiwan join the ranks of democratic nations, a process which will reach its culmination early next year when Taiwan holds a direct popular election for President.

Mr. Speaker, the transition to democracy in Taiwan is without precedent in the 4,000 years of recorded Chinese history. This has been achieved with a minimum of confusion, a minimum of disorder, and certainly a minimum of violence.

Indeed, Taiwan has become a model of other countries to follow. But Mr. Speaker, for our country to have a policy of denying admission to someone of President Lee's stature is just an absolute disgrace. It is embarrassing. It is a blatant contradiction of our efforts to promote democracy around the world. That is why the resolution before us is so terribly important. I hope that the House of Representatives will speak today with one unanimous voice in expressing our desire, indeed, our demand, that President Lee be permitted to visit the United States. Taiwan has suffered many indignities at the hands of the United States in our attempts to

pacify and to curry favor with Beijing, but let us recognize once and for all that such weakness on our part does not impress Beijing at all. Let us take a positive stand in support of democracy by allowing President Lee to visit the United States. Here is one important instance in which American interest and American morality go hand in hand.

Mr. Speaker, I helped write the Taiwan Relations Act back in 1979. It was meant to protect one of the strongest democracies in the world which stood with us in the chain of defense against the spread of international atheistic communism around this world.

This resolution is terribly important. It should be passed today. Our President should know that even though this resolution is just an expression of the sense of Congress, if he does not go along with this we will come back with a bill that would have the effect of law. I suggest that our President follow through.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD].

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 53, which calls on President Clinton to welcome a private visit by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to the United States.

The Department of State policy to refuse any visit by the Taiwanese President is misguided. The Department reasons that the United States does not want to offend the sensitivities of the Government of the People's Republic of China, which lays claim to Taiwan as a renegade province. They even went so far as to prevent a stop-over in Hawaii by President Lee last year on his way to Costa Rica.

Sometimes, the United States is prepared to run the risk of offending other nations, even our allies, in order to make a statement of principle. Despite strong objections from the United Kingdom, we admitted Gerry Adams, the leader of the Sinn Fein, to our country earlier this year. In fact, he received a level of attention that a head of state would envy, and the President even welcomed him to the White House on Saint Patrick's Day.

Why should the United States be more willing to offend a democratic ally than a totalitarian nation? Why do we want to pretend as if Taiwan does not exist by refusing to admit President Lee so he can receive an honorary degree at his alma mater Cornell University?

Welcoming President Lee will not jeopardize United States-Chinese relations, but would make an important statement about the future direction of United States-Chinese relations. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 53.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from San Francisco, CA [Ms. PELOSI].

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], for his leadership in offering this amendment, this substitute, to the resolution of the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] for President Lee. I also commend the chairman of the full committee for his leadership, ongoing for many years, on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the debate that we have had for many years in this House on the issue of China is a long and complicated one. Today many parties to both sides of that debate have come together behind this important resolution. It is important because it is about who we are and who will dictate to us who has the hospitality of the United States of America. Will that be determined by the American people, this Congress, this administration, or will it be determined in Beijing? I think it should be determined here.

□ 1145

In preparation for our colleagues coming back from the spring work recess, I sent a group of clips yesterday to each Member of the House called China Clips, our regular series, which goes into the three areas of concern that we have shared in this House on China: Violations of trade, violations of human rights, and the proliferation of weapons.

I call to my colleagues' attention two things: One is why is China always the exception to the administration's rules? Why is it as my colleagues have said that others who have led opposition in other countries are invited here and yet the President, the democratically elected President of Taiwan, educated in the United States, born in Taiwan, not even in China, mainland China, is not allowed to come?

We have heard people in the administration say, "We don't need to do anything to improve human rights in China because economic reform is going to take care of that. It's going to lead to political reform." It can. It may. There is no guarantee. But in Taiwan, it happened. And under the leadership of President Lee, it continues to happen, where political reform grows every day because of his policies.

How can we purport to support a principle of economic reform leading to political reform and in the very place that the leadership has allowed that to happen in Taiwan say to the President, "But you're not good enough to come into the United States and avail yourself of their hospitality?"

Another issue, because my colleague the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] brought it out, is the issue of Iran. The President was commended for his policy in Iran and I support that. But in his comments, the President referenced Russia and what they were

doing to sell to Iran, not referencing, and I call to my colleagues' attention something in the clips, "China in Rebuff to United States Defends its Nuclear Dealings with Iran."

If this is a problem, then let us deal with it, Russia, China, and the rest. But let us not let China violate human rights, trade and proliferation and then dictate to us whether the President of Taiwan can come into this country.

I support my colleagues' resolutions.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER], a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Chairman, today we are sending a message to the world. We are sending a message to the people of Taiwan. We are sending a message to the people of China. We are sending a message to the dictators in Beijing.

Today we are extending a hand of friendship to President Lee of the Republic of China. We are doing so because his government on Taiwan has liberalized, has reached out to the opposition and permitted rights to exist there which are consistent with what we as Americans believe should be the rights of citizens everywhere.

We have seen democratization and a respect for human rights in the Republic of China that places that government now in the family of democratic nations.

What we do today is the first step in acknowledging that tremendous step forward that the people of the Republic of China have made, and congratulate the leadership of the Republic of China for believing in those values that are at the heart of the American system and at the soul of the American people.

We are also sending a message to the people of China. That message is on the mainland of China, those hundreds of millions of people who suffer under dictatorship, that we are on their side and we are not on the side of their oppressor. At the very least, the United States should always be on the side of those who long for freedom, long to live at peace with their neighbors but suffer under oppression and tyranny.

The regime in Beijing has sent its message to the world as well. Even though they are trading with the United States, even though their income of their society has increased dramatically, what comes from that kind of trade? We are told liberalization, democracy. But where is it? We have not seen it.

Do the people of Tibet feel freer or more secure because the Chinese Government has been permitted to trade and have a \$24 billion to \$30 billion surplus with us each year? No, the people of Tibet feel the heel of the Chinese Army which is being armed now with the surplus that they have earned from trade with the United States.

The Tiananmen Square heroes whom we remember well are now in prison, or

they have been exiled. There is no democracy. The people of Tiananmen Square still cry out for America's attention. But we do not hear them anymore.

And also, what else happens when you permit a dictatorship to make tens of billions of dollars' worth of revenue off of trade with the United States? What we see is a buildup of the Chinese military that is inexcusable. I recently returned from the Philippines, where they themselves felt the intimidation of Chinese militarism when the Chinese have been bullying them on the issue of the Spratly Islands.

We are sending a message today simply by reaching our hand out to a friend, President Lee, that American policy recognizes the distinctions that I have just made. To the people of Taiwan, to the Republic of China, we express our congratulations. You are our friends. To the regime in Beijing, we say, "Clean up your act, respect human rights, or we indeed will move away from you and into a better relationship with people who agree with our values."

I hope that President Lee will get his chance to come to the United States a friend of the United States. I thus ask my colleagues to join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 53.

[Mr. BERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

In conclusion, I want to thank the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee for his support and assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor. The same is true of the distinguished chairman, the gentleman from New York, and I especially commend my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS], for his initiative in bringing this legislation to the floor, and indeed all of the speakers who have eloquently testified in support of the resolution before us.

I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN] for his remarks regarding the fact that this resolution is not passed in contradiction to the one-China policy that has been the position of previous administrations and this administration. Indeed, we do not seek an additional confrontation with the People's Republic of China. It is this Member's view and the policy of the administration to encourage an improved relationship with the People's Republic of China.

But we also want to sustain and enhance our relationship with the Government of Taiwan, and indeed we want common sense applied in our foreign policy. We will not be intimidated by any kind of concern in eliminating an opportunity for a visit from President Lee to receive an honorary degree from his alma mater.

I urge my colleagues to give their unanimous support to House Concurrent Resolution 53.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the cold war is over and the United States is struggling to reshape its foreign policy. I believe there is a clear principle we should use as our guiding light in this effort—shared values.

We are the only remaining superpower, and we have an unprecedented opportunity to shed our old policies and base our relations with other nations on their willingness to embrace the tenets that are the founding principles of our country—democracy, human rights, rule of law, and free markets.

I believe the United States should cultivate relations with nations that share these values and are moving toward them. At the same time, we should make abundantly clear that we have no interest in cooperating with nor assisting nations that do not share our values.

One nation that clearly shares our values is Taiwan.

Taiwan has followed a pattern that I believe is the best path for the development of stable, deeply rooted democracies. Taiwan focused initially on economic growth, the development of free markets and capitalism, an aggressive financial sector, access to credit—in short, economic freedom. This base of economic freedom led to a growing middle class that demanded a greater say in government and greater personal freedoms.

The Taiwanese Government has responded positively and undertaken broad and deep reforms. The commitment to the values we hold dear is strong in Taiwan. Although there is still room for improvement—including a need for greater diversity in television broadcasting—I believe Taiwan is firmly on the path of democracy.

Taiwan should take its rightful place among all the nations of the world in trade, culture, science, finance, and diplomacy. We should be working to strengthen ties with Taiwan and help it promote its interests overseas. Taiwan should have a seat in the United Nations, should have its application to GATT adopted, and the status of the Taiwanese mission in Washington, DC, should be upgraded, and, as the resolution we are debating today states, the United States should grant President Lee a visa to visit us. It is outrageous that we have not done so.

I commend the gentleman from California for introducing this resolution and I urge Members to support this important statement of Congress' commitment to promote our values overseas.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Concurrent Resolution 53, to allow a private visit to the United States by Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui. I have long supported the goals of this resolution, and I am greatly pleased that Congress is acting on this issue.

There are no longer any legitimate policy grounds for prohibiting the democratic leader of one of Asia's oldest republics from paying a private visit to the United States to visit his alma mater, Cornell University. American universities sometimes have the privilege of providing the formal education for future leaders from different parts of the world. It is only right that Cornell University be allowed to invite Mr. Lee back to recognize his contribution to public life in Taiwan by granting him an honorary degree.

Taiwan has done everything which we expect of a democratic society over the last years. It has free elections, a free press, and is a model of an open society with democratic institutions in an Asian context. Why not recognize and encourage these significant accomplishments by allowing this private visit?

Taiwan has also liberalized its economic policies, has built a resilient market economy, and has become a dependable trading partner. It is the United States' sixth largest trading partner, and buys twice as much annually from the United States as does the People's Republic of China.

President Lee has been invited to the United States on a private visit. Some are concerned that even a private visit would offend leaders in the People's Republic of China. So what? Why should we worry about offending the sensitivities of those leaders whose actions have often offended our own sense of human rights and democracy?

Concurrent Resolution 53 will send a clear message to the administration and to the State Department that it is time for a change in this policy. It will also send a message to the rest of the world that the United States Congress appreciates and supports democratic political developments in Taiwan. I strongly urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly support it.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 53. I commend the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] for his leadership and the committee for bringing this resolution to the floor in a timely fashion.

Clearly, a broad, bipartisan majority of Members favors the idea of a visit to the United States by President Lee. I wish to point out, however, that this resolution does raise complex issues concerning the United States relationship with China and Taiwan.

On the merits, I think a private visit by President Lee to his alma mater should not be a problem. He has helped bring democracy to Taiwan, and I would like to think that his American education played a part in that accomplishment.

The problem, of course, is the potential implication of a Lee visit for the United States relationship with China. For decades, the United States has had good relations with both Taiwan and China by maintaining an ambiguity about Taiwan's political status.

The Chinese Government has a firm position that Taiwan is a part of China. It rejects the idea that Taiwan is a sovereign entity. More and more, China rightly or wrongly believes that President Lee is working to create a Taiwan independent from China, and that he is doing so by making trips to places like the United States. China believes that any visit by President Lee to the United States would, by definition, be political. Whether the visit is called "private" is immaterial to China. Now, I disagree with how the Chinese view a visit by President Lee, but I believe we still need to understand China's perspective.

The United States has stated its policy that there is one China, whose Government is the PRC Government in Beijing. We also acknowledged the Chinese position that there is one China and Taiwan is part of China. For six administrations, the United States has sought both to develop relations with China and maintain and develop substantive ties with Taiwan. We have, for example, helped Taiwan build a

defense deterrent. And as Taiwan has played a greater role in world affairs, the United States has adjusted the way in which it deals with Taiwan. United States cabinet-level officials in economic areas have visited Taiwan.

The point is that the United States shares important interests with China. Consequently, we should not ignore China's reaction on this issue. Right now, for example, the administration is engaged in sensitive negotiations with North Korea over what kind of reactor the North will accept in return for abandoning its nuclear weapons program. China reportedly is urging North Korea to accept a South Korean-model reactor and so defuse the current crisis. We need that kind of help. We also have an interest in peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. But I also hope that we can summon the creativity to manage this situation so that we may both express our historic friendship with Taiwan and, at the same time, preserve our interests. This visit should be truly nonpolitical in the way it is conducted. We should make clear to Beijing that a short visit by President Lee in no way changes the United States view of Taiwan's status. And I think it is clear that there needs to be some confidence-building between Beijing and Taipei so that neither side overreacts to the actions of the other.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 53, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Given the fact that President Lee Teng-hui is the freely elected leader of the Republic of China on Taiwan—a United States ally and important trading partner—it would seem self-evident that he would be welcome at any time for private visits to the United States. Yet this is not the case. Frankly, President Lee has been subjected to some rather shoddy treatment by the Clinton administration, which, of course, is the impetus behind this concurrent resolution.

I want to make it clear that President Lee is a reform-minded democrat who is offering just the kind of leadership the United States should wish to encourage in Asia. While I am certainly in favor of maintaining a constructive relationship with the People's Republic of China, I see no reason why the two policies should be mutually exclusive. Surely the situation calls for a degree of tact and diplomacy, two qualities which this administration has lacked in its dealings with President Lee.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution, and I hope the administration will take note of the position of the House.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, the decision to allow the elected leadership of Taiwan access to the United States was made when Taiwan decided to have free elections, a free press and pluralistic political systems. This isn't simply an issue to the people of Taiwan. As a matter of policy, the United States should never exclude the elected and legitimate leader of any nation seeking to come to our country. The views of nations with whom we have relations, and those nations that play a disproportionate role in world affairs, should always be heard by our Government. They can, however, never be controlling upon our Government.

The Government in Beijing has received all due deference. In the final analysis, it is the policy of the U.S. Government to allow all freely elected governments to come to this

country and be heard. The people of the United States do not need to be protected from the views of freely elected peoples.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to add that it would be an extraordinary statement that, after receiving in the last decade a range of leaders from Roberto D'Aubuisson, the leader of the death squads in El Salvador, to Deng Xiaoping, the leader of the world's largest totalitarian government, that any freely elected official is denied access to our country. I hope this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 53, succeeds in convincing the administration of the strength of our bipartisan views. But I would remind the administration, if they do not after considerable negotiations, that I have a common resolution to amend the Taiwan Relations Act as a matter of law to allow access and visas to the United States. If discretion is not used properly by the administration, discretion will be lost by the administration. We will proceed with our amendment and change the law.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 53, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China to the United States. I was pleased to offer my strong support for this measure, and am delighted that the House of Representatives endorsed this important resolution.

This resolution is a sensible request. We should all recognize that the Republic of China is a full-fledged democracy, and its government policies conform to those of other democratic nations. Additionally, the Republic of China is one of the most important economic powers in the world. Specifically, the Republic of China has established a program of economic assistance to many underdeveloped nations, and has joined major international organizations such as the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum. The Republic of China has also been involved in international humanitarian relief efforts, such as helping the refugees of the Persian Gulf war. More importantly though, the Republic of China is willing to be a helpful partner in the international community.

While the United States does not want to jeopardize its relations with other governments, we should grant an exception to allow the President of the Republic of China to make a private visit to our country. The nature of the visit by President Lee Teng-hui, to receive an honorary degree from Cornell University, is a reasonable appeal, and should be so recognized by our government.

As Members of Congress, I would believe that we would want to maintain our relations with the Republic of China, and am pleased that the House passed this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMBEST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 53, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's

prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 53.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO SIT ON TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

The Committee on Banking and Financial Services;

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities;

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; and

The Committee on International Relations.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material, on H.R. 1158.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1158, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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