

across the country. It's time to correct the error in OBRA '90, and I hope we will pass this bill today and the Senate will complete the process quickly so that the legislation can be signed by the President soon.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUNDERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1791, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1791, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

EXTENDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS UNDER ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4083) to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1997.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4083

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) by amending section 166 (42 U.S.C. 6246) to read as follows:

"AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 166. There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1997 such sums as may be necessary to implement this part.":

(2) in section 181 (42 U.S.C. 6251) by striking "June 30, 1996" both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1997";

(3) by adding at the end of section 256(h) (42 U.S.C. 6276(h)) "There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1997 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this part."; and

(4) in section 281 (42 U.S.C. 6285) by striking "June 30, 1996" both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1997";

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER].

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

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

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, this bill reauthorizes certain provisions contained in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act for 1 fiscal year. Specifically, this bill assures that if there is an energy emergency when Congress adjourns, the President's authority to drawdown the strategic petroleum reserve and the ability of U.S. oil companies to participate in the International Energy Agreement without violating antitrust laws is preserved.

The Commerce Committee believes annual reauthorization of these provisions is appropriate as long as the reserve continues to be looked to as a budget balancing tool. For the past 2 years, I have been greatly troubled by the trend of selling oil from the strategic petroleum reserve to meet budgetary goals. When the first sale was authorized, over the objections of the Commerce Committee, we were told it would be a one time sale. Less than 1 year later a second, even larger sale was authorized. And a third sale is currently being considered.

The reserve was not intended to be used in such a manner and is not an effective tool for balancing the budget. The reserve is our first line of defense in an energy emergency. This energy security insurance policy for which we have paid over \$200 billion should not be squandered carelessly to meet short-term budgetary objectives. I urge my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee as they prepare a continuing resolution to resist the temptation to use this strategic oil reserve which is so vital to our national security as a cash reserve.

Finally, I believe these provisions of EPCA are too important for us to adjourn without reauthorizing them. While an energy emergency which would require the reserve to be drawdown while we are adjourned is unlikely, it is not impossible. Consider the implications on our energy security of the recent terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi aggressions into the no-fly zones. I believe this Nation must have the ability to use all its tools to deal with an energy emergency so I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here to support H.R. 4083, which reauthorizes the Energy Policy and Conservation Act for 1 year. This bill has been handled in a bipartisan manner, and was reported from the Commerce Committee on a voice vote. I know of no objection to it from this side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I support the reauthorization of EPCA because it will ensure that the United States and industry are able to fulfill their respective duties in any oil-related emergency. Recent events in the Middle East have underscored, once again, how quickly circumstances can change, and the need for the United States to be self-sufficient during periods of instability.

I want to thank Chairman BLILEY and Chairman SCHAEFER for bringing this important bill to the House floor. The Democrats on the Commerce Committee strongly support their efforts to ensure that the strategic petroleum reserve is used for its intended purpose and not, as some have attempted, sold off for deficit reduction. EPCA is important to our country's economic and energy security, and I am pleased to support this legislation.

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

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I just want to say that I appreciate the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] and also the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], my ranking member, and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] for moving this very, very rapidly as we tail into the end of our session, because it is very important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4083.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4083.

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

There was no objection.

RELATING TO EXTRADITION OF MARTIN PANG FROM BRAZIL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 132) relating to the extradition of Martin Pang from Brazil to the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 132

Whereas it is alleged that Martin Pang intentionally started a warehouse fire in Seattle, Washington on January 5, 1995, that killed four firefighters;

Whereas shortly thereafter Martin Pang fled to Brazil from where he was extradited to the United States on March 1, 1996;

Whereas the extradition decision of the Supreme Court of Brazil states that Martin Pang should stand trial in the United States only for arson and not for felony murder; and

Whereas it is accepted international practice in extradition cases for the executive authorities of the requested state to grant consent for prosecution of offenses other than those for which the fugitive was extradited: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of the Congress that in the interests of justice and furthering good relations between the United States and Brazil, the Government of Brazil should grant its consent to prosecution of Martin Pang for both arson and felony murder.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 132 was introduced by Rep. JENNIFER DUNN and her Washington State colleagues to urge the Government of Brazil to allow Mr. Martin Pang to be extradited to the United States to stand trial for both arson and first degree murder.

Mr. Pang is accused of starting a warehouse blaze in January 1995 in Seattle that took the lives of four firefighters. Since the introduction of this resolution, Mr. Pang has been extradited to Seattle, where he awaits trial.

However, the Brazilian extradition order is written in such a way that Mr. Pang can be tried for arson and not felony murder. Of course, U.S. authorities have a strong interest in trying this man for both crimes—arson and felony murder.

We commend our State Department for working diligently for months to resolve the legal difficulties of this case. In fact, the committee consciously deferred action on this measure in the hope that diplomatic efforts might overcome this problem. That has not happened.

In close consultation with the ranking Democratic Member, Mr. HAMILTON, the committee has approved a resolution intended to encourage Brazilian authorities to redouble their efforts to formally grant its consent to prosecution of Martin Pang for both arson and felony murder.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our colleague from Washington, JENNIFER DUNN, for the initiative she has shown in introducing this resolution. We certainly hope that our Brazilian friends will accept this resolution and act in the spirit of good relations and justice.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of the resolution. I commend the Washington delegation for drafting a timely, bipartisan resolution on a sensitive issue in United States-Brazilian relationships. I also commend Chairman GILMAN for having his staff work with us to update the language of the resolution. The resolution provides an opportunity for the United States Congress to urge that negotiations between the United States and Brazil move forward. I urge its adoption.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the

gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN].

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of House Concurrent Resolution 132 relating to the extradition of Martin Pang from Brazil to the United States and to thank and praise the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the members of the Committee on International Relations for recognizing the importance of this case and for moving the resolution forward. For the benefit of my colleagues who have not been able to follow this horrible tragedy, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for giving a brief history earlier on the matter in the Pang case.

Let me just add that when Martin Pang set fire to that warehouse, a warehouse that belonged to his parents to Seattle, WA, that blaze ultimately took the lives of four brave firefighters.

Immediately after the blaze, Pang fled to Brazil, where he later admitted his guilt to the FBI. After serious and lengthy negotiations, he was extradited to the United States on March 1, 1996, but he was extradited under the Brazil Supreme Court stipulation that he be tried for arson only and not for murder.

This past February, as the chairman noted, I introduced the original version of today's resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Brazil should reverse its court decision and allow Pang to be tried both for arson and for murder.

We must pass this resolution. Pang's pretrial hearing is set for October 8, and that is why it is so critical to do this today. We must try to persuade the Brazilian Government to amend its extradition order prior to October 8.

They say that justice delayed is justice denied. Mr. Speaker, if we delay justice much longer, then justice literally will be denied in this case. We have waited some 20 months for justice. Now justice will only be served if Martin Pang is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the U.S. law. The four families who lost loved ones deserve what is right.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members to do what is right, take a positive step toward justice.

Make no mistake; our action today will send a substantial message to the Government of Brazil in a strong bipartisan fashion. Indeed, my office has already been contacted by the Embassy with regard to this matter, so we know our message is being heard.

Mr. Speaker, justice demands that Mr. Pang be tried for the murders of the courageous men who gave their lives in the line of duty. Today this House can do what is right for the families who lost loved ones. They deserve that much.

I urge my colleagues to follow the bipartisan lead of the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] of the Committee on International Relations. Let us do what is right for the families af-

fectured by this tragedy and for the entire Northwest community by passing this resolution urging Brazil to reconsider and allowing us to try Martin Pang for both arson and murder.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, Martin Pang stands accused of deliberately lighting the fire which led to the deaths of four Seattle firefighters. After allegedly committing this act, Pang fled to Brazil, where he was captured by Brazilian authorities.

Although the Brazilian Government has allowed the extradition of Pang on charges of arson, Brazilian law and their constitution does not allow him to be extradited on charges of murder—charges for which he can and should be tried under United States law. To charge Martin Pang with murder, a waiver must be granted from the Brazilian Government.

I would like to thank the gentlelady from Washington for introducing this legislation, which expresses to the Government of Brazil just how important this case is to the United States Congress and to the people of Washington State. I am hopeful that our efforts today, along with continued work by myself, the gentlelady, and the Justice Department, will lead to an agreement with the Brazilian Government which will allow justice to finally be done on behalf of the four firefighters and their families who were the victims of this terrible crime.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 132 I rise in strong support of this legislation. I would like to thank the gentlelady from Washington State, Congresswoman DUNN, for her leadership on this issue and congratulate her on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard today by the previous speakers House Concurrent Resolution 132 expresses the sense of Congress that Martin Pang should stand trial for felony arson charges and first degree murder charges because of his alleged involvement in the fire on January 5, 1995, that killed four firefighters in Seattle WA. This bill should be unnecessary, because our judicial system has charged Mr. Pang with these crimes. However, the supreme court of Brazil has ruled that Mr. Pang may only be charged with felony arson.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that if this decision by the Brazilian supreme court is allowed to stand the families of the firefighters who gave their lives to protect our community will never receive the justice they deserve. The United States cannot allow another country veto power over the decisions of our judicial system.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the House that Mr. Pang allegedly committed a crime in the United States and then fled to Brazil and was returned to this country for trial. The involvement of the Brazilian Government in any aspect of this case beside ensuring the safe passage of Mr. Pang to the United States is misplaced at best. The United States as a sovereign nation must maintain the ability to prosecute those persons who are accused of crime without interference from a foreign country.

Mr. Speaker, we have typically enjoyed favorable relations with the country of Brazil and we will continue to work toward that goal. But they must drop demands that infringe on our judicial system and U.S. sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has the support of the local prosecution team, the local government, the Attorney General of the United States, the State Department, and the White House. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that justice be served. I urge passage of this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 132, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution relating to the trial of Martin Pang for arson and felony murder."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of H. Con. Res. 132, the measure just considered.

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

There was no objection.

REGARDING TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 212) endorsing the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 212

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress endorses the adoption by the European Parliament on July 18, 1996, of resolution supporting the Republic of China on Taiwan's efforts at joining the community of nations, which is substantially as follows:

"The European Parliament,
—having regard to Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union,

"(A) satisfied with the current state of Taiwan's democracy and Taiwan's respect for the principles of justice, human rights and fundamental freedom;

"(B) welcoming the fact that the elections in Taiwan were conducted democratically and peacefully despite the overt aggression and provocation by the People's Republic of China;

"(C) having regard to Taiwan's wish to participate in international aid to developing countries;

"(D) having regard to the significance of developments in the political situation in Taiwan for the whole of East Asia at a geopolitical and economic level and in terms of a policy of stability, security and peace in the Western Pacific region;

"(E) welcoming the attitude of reconciliation displayed by President Lee Tang-hui towards the People's Republic of China and looking forward to a dialogue spanning both sides of the Taiwan Straits;

"(F) convinced that the people of Taiwan ought to be better represented in international organizations than they are at present, which would benefit both Taiwan and the whole of the international community;

"(G) whereas neither the European Union nor any of its Member States have diplomatic relations with the Government of Taiwan, recognizing only the People's Republic of China;

"(H) whereas Taiwan is very important to the European Union and its Member States as a trade partner;

"(I) whereas it is important for the European Union and its Member States to develop their relations with the governments of both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan in an amicable and constructive spirit.

"(J) urging the governments of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to intensify their cooperation;

"(K) stressing that participation by Taiwan in certain international organizations can assist with finding common ground between China and Taiwan and facilitate reconciliation between the two sides;

"(L) regretting the fact that Taiwan at present is prevented from making a full contribution to the United Nations and its agencies, and stressing that, for the efficiency of the United Nations, Taiwan's participation would be desirable and valuable;

"1. Urges:

"(a) the Council and Member States to support Taiwan's attempts to secure better representation than it currently enjoys in international organizations in the fields of human and labour rights, economic affairs, the environment and development cooperation . . .

"(b) the Council and Member States to ask the United Nations to investigate the possibility of setting up a United Nations working group to study the scope for Taiwan to participate in the activities of bodies answerable to the United Nations General Assembly;

"(c) the Council and Member States to encourage the governments of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to intensify their cooperation in a constructive and peaceful spirit;

"(d) the Council to urge the Commission to adopt measures with a view to opening a European Union information office in Taipei;

"(2) Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the Commission."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Congressman BEREUTER, and the ranking minority member, Congressman BERMAN, for their support for House Concurrent Resolution 212. I would also like to commend the chair-

man of the Rules Committee, Mr. SOLOMAN, for drafting the resolution.

On July 18, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that supports Taiwan's efforts at joining the United Nations. House Concurrent Resolution 212 endorses the European Parliament's initiative.

Taiwan is a free democracy, where people can express their thoughts and practice their religious beliefs. Through the long years, it has remained a loyal friend and steadfast ally of the United States.

Taiwan is also one of Asia's economic miracles, featuring a strong and growing economy with less than 1 percent unemployment. It is the type of free and democratic society we need to support in the region and around the world.

It is a stark contrast to the People's Republic of China. The Beijing leadership has repeatedly shown itself over the years to be a brutal dictatorship with little regard for human and religious rights, much less political freedom.

Taiwan's government has repeatedly asked for our help in their quest for their people to have the last word in their own future.

Now it is the time to help our friends on Taiwan. We have been waiting far too long to respond to their aspirations and hope.

House Concurrent Resolution 212 is a good step in that direction. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution, but I do have some concerns about it. I do view the resolution as a friendly gesture to Taiwan, and certainly Taiwan deserves to be recognized for the remarkable strides it has made in recent years in transforming itself from an authoritarian system with a decrepit economy into a vibrant and prosperous democracy. I want to simply remind my colleagues that Taiwan has flourished under the status quo in East Asia. I would urge my colleagues to proceed with caution on this measure, on any measure that calls for a change in that status quo.

Having expressed that reservation, Mr. Speaker, I do support the resolution.

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

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Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules and the author of this resolution.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, and certainly the ranking member of the committee a committee I spent many, many years on, and we have great admiration and respect for the job that both of these gentlemen do.