

troop contingents in Saudi Arabia before Desert Storm, while our young people were gathering there, weapon in hand, as it were, our Government shut down.

What kind of a spectacle is that? This is in December 1990, the troops were already amassing in Saudi Arabia and were poised to launch the eventual Desert Storm activity, and our Government shut down.

Is that not shameful, to have the Government, which is sponsoring the activities of our young members of the Armed Forces, to shut down? They were over in Saudi Arabia without a government back home. Now, that is disgraceful.

Well, prior to that time even, when we sensed the urgency of what happens when the Government shuts down, I introduced a piece of legislation which I want to redescribe here today, which would end shutdowns forever. If we adopted my legislation, I repeat, never again would we witness or experience a Government shutdown. It is so simple in its aspect that the reason that people have told me that it has not passed up until now is because it makes too good sense. It makes common sense, and that is why it cannot get through Congress.

Here is what happens: At the end of the fiscal year on September 30, if the Congress has not adopted a new budget which is due by midnight September 30 or October 1, then my bill, if enacted, would automatically cause an instant replay, as it were, everybody recognizes that, an instant replay of last year's budget.

In its lowest denominator terms, last year's budget, or if the House has passed an appropriations bill that is lower than the last year's bill, or the Senate has, we take the lowest figure and instant replay what occurred the next day, October 1, and our budget would be in place, no shutdown could occur, the employees of the Federal Government would continue with their functions, our Armed Forces would continue in their duties to our people, and everything would go on normally, and the Congress would still have an opportunity with the White House to negotiate the next year's budget. In the meantime, we will have ongoing portions of last year's budget.

Is that not simple? Should we not have that kind of resolution of this vexatious problem?

The bill that I introduced again this cycle was one which became the subject of my entreaties before the Committee on Rules, and an amazing thing happened. In previous times when the Democrat Party controlled the Committee on Rules, I went before them and each time they slammed the door in my face. Only the Republicans supported me on that measure each time I appeared before the Committee on Rules.

The reverse has now happened. It is time to end Government shutdowns forever. Support the Gekas bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WALKER] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Teach us, O God, to make good use of our time, that precious gift that we use to our benefit or to our harm. When we have new opportunities and health we think that time will never end, and when we face the adversities or afflictions that certainly come, our span of days runs out and we yearn for more time. Encourage us, O gracious God, to use our time wisely so that we do not miss Your blessings of faith and hope and love but rather embrace them, hold to them, and never let them go. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

SUPPORT H.R. 497, NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, shortly we will be bringing up a very important

piece of legislation that will be setting up a national commission to study the impact of gambling which is running rampant in the country. Quite frankly the country is turning into one gambling casino as gambling spreads and spreads and spreads. As gambling proliferates in casinos on riverboats, on Indian reservations, dog and horse tracks and elsewhere, problems such as crime, political corruption, cannibalization of existing businesses, gambling addiction, family breakups, and suicides are growing, which is an unfortunate consequence.

This legislation we are about to take up will create an unbiased, bipartisan nine-member commission to finally take a comprehensive look at these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to make sure all the Members know that we have finally been able to bring this bill to fruition. Last Wednesday, July 17, the full Senate passed by unanimous consent H.R. 497 with an amendment and, despite public pronouncements of the gambling industry in support of an unbiased study, tremendous lobbying pressure was brought to bear on Senators to kill or gut this bill. It is a tribute to this deliberative body that such pressures, which clearly represented the opposition of a small but powerful minority, were not able to thwart the will of the vast majority of Congress and the American people.

In the process, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT who, notwithstanding some concerns he had about the legislation, exerted great leadership in bringing H.R. 497 to a vote. He is a man of his word, of honor and integrity.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-248)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of January 22, 1996, concerning the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order No. 12543 of January 7, 1986. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA"), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c).

1. On January 3, 1996, I renewed for another year the national emergency

with respect to Libya pursuant to IEEPA. This renewal extended the current comprehensive financial and trade embargo against Libya in effect since 1986. Under these sanctions, all trade with Libya is prohibited, and all assets owned or controlled by the Libyan Government in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked.

2. There have been no amendments to the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 550 (the "Regulations"), administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury, since my last report on January 22, 1996.

3. During the current 6-month period, OFAC reviewed numerous applications for licenses to authorize transactions under the Regulations. Consistent with OFAC's ongoing scrutiny of banking transactions, the largest category of license approvals (91) concerned requests by non-Libyan persons or entities to unblock transfers interdicted because of what appeared to be Government of Libya interests. Three licenses were issued for the expenditure of funds and acquisition of goods and services in the United States by or on behalf of accredited persons and athletes of Libya in connection with participation in the 1996 Paralympic Games. One license was issued to authorize a U.S. company to initiate litigation against an entity of the Government of Libya.

4. During the current 6-month period, OFAC continued to emphasize to the international banking community in the United States the importance of identifying and blocking payments made by or on behalf of Libya. The Office worked closely with the banks to assure the effectiveness of interdiction software systems used to identify such payments. During the reporting period, more than 129 transactions potentially involving Libya were interdicted, with an additional \$7 million held blocked as of May 15.

5. Since my last report, OFAC collected eight civil monetary penalties totaling more than \$51,000 for violations of the U.S. sanctions against Libya. Two of the violations involved the failure of banks to block funds transfers to Libyan-owned or Libyan-controlled banks. Two other penalties were received from corporations for export violations, including one received as part of a plea agreement before a U.S. district judge. Four additional penalties were paid by U.S. citizens engaging in Libyan oilfield-related transactions while another 30 cases involving similar violations are in active penalty processing.

On February 6, 1996, a jury sitting in the District of Connecticut found two Connecticut businessmen guilty on charges of false statements, conspiracy, and illegally diverting U.S.-origin technology to Libya between 1987 and 1993 in violation of U.S. sanctions. On May 22, 1996, a major manufacturer of farm and construction equipment entered a guilty plea in the United States

District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for Libyan sanctions violations. A three-count information charged the company with aiding and abetting the sale of construction equipment and parts from a foreign affiliate to Libya. The company paid \$1,810,000 in criminal fines and \$190,000 in civil penalties. Numerous investigations carried over from prior reporting periods are continuing and new reports of violations are being pursued.

6. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from January 6 through July 6, 1996, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of the Libyan national emergency are estimated at approximately \$730,000. Personnel costs were largely centered in the Department of the Treasury (particularly in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Office of the General Counsel, and the U.S. Customs Service), the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce.

7. The policies and actions of the Government of Libya continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. In adopting United Nations Security Council Resolution 883 in November 1993, the Security Council determined that the continued failure of the Government of Libya to demonstrate by concrete actions its renunciation of terrorism, and in particular its continued failure to respond fully and effectively to the requests and decisions of the Security Council in Resolutions 731 and 748, concerning the bombing of the Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 flights, constituted a threat to international peace and security. The United States will continue to coordinate its comprehensive sanctions enforcement efforts with those of other U.N. member states. We remain determined to ensure that the perpetrators of the terrorist acts against Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 are brought to justice. The families of the victims in the murderous Lockerbie bombing and other acts of Libyan terrorism deserve nothing less. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against Libya fully and effectively, so long as those measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments as required by law.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 22, 1996.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each 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 votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 497) to create the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the most recent Federal study of gambling in the United States was completed in 1976;

(2) legalization of gambling has increased substantially over the past 20 years, and State, local, and Native American tribal governments have established gambling as a source of jobs and additional revenue;

(3) the growth of various forms of gambling, including electronic gambling and gambling over the Internet, could affect interstate and international matters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government;

(4) questions have been raised regarding the social and economic impacts of gambling, and Federal, State, local, and Native American tribal governments lack recent, comprehensive information regarding those impacts; and

(5) a Federal commission should be established to conduct a comprehensive study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in the United States.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—There is established a commission to be known as the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (hereinafter referred to in this Act as "the Commission"). The Commission shall—

(1) be composed of 9 members appointed in accordance with subsection (b); and

(2) conduct its business in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioners shall be appointed for the life of the Commission as follows:

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President of the United States.

(B) 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(C) 3 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(2) PERSONS ELIGIBLE.—The members of the Commission shall be individuals who have knowledge or expertise, whether by experience or training, in matters to be studied by the Commission under section 4. The members may be from the public or private sector, and may include Federal, State, local, or Native American tribal officers or employees, members of academia, non-profit organizations, or industry, or other interested individuals.

(3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall consult among themselves prior to the appointment of the members of the Commission in order to achieve, to the maximum extent possible, fair and equitable representation of various points of view with respect to the matters to be studied by the Commission under section 4.

(4) COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS; VACANCIES.—The President, the Speaker of the House