

to remission of liquidated damages, to reflect OMB's delegation of this function to the Secretary of the Treasury.

**SEC. 203. REPEAL.**

Section 203 repeals those portions of section 211 of the 1996 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act that now have been fully implemented and are, therefore, no longer operative. The protections in section 211 for transferred GAO employees, which remain in effect, are retained.

**SEC. 204. AUTHORITY TO RENDER DECISIONS.**

Section 204 amends 31 U.S.C. 3529 to vest in the Director of OMB responsibility to issue advance decisions to government accountable officers on questions involving functions transferred to the Director under any of the provisions of title I or title II. Where the Director has delegated a function to another Federal agency, the Director may also delegate to that agency responsibility for issuing advance decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take time at this moment to praise the chairman of our full committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], the chairman of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN], and also the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS], and also the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY].

This is an example of a good government bill that was arrived at in bipartisan fashion. As the Chair has indicated, there are amendments to the bill. The bill that we consider today is not the same bill that was originally introduced. Rather than butting heads and saying we could not reach agreement, both sides of the aisle came together and produced this H.R. 3864, as amended. I not only want to commend the Members of Congress who worked on the bill but also the staffs of the subcommittee and the full committee on both sides of the aisle.

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

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

I am proud to support the bill, H.R. 3864, as amended. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE] has wisely incorporated an amendment striking title I of the original bill, and I appreciate his taking into consideration the views of the minority. That title contains certain controversial provisions such as changing the term and pension of the Comptroller General and establishing an oversight board for the GAO, thereby possibly restricting some of its necessary independence.

The integrity, independence and quality of the GAO are well established and relied on by the public and Members of Congress. We must be extremely careful not to do anything which might damage that practice, reputation and independence.

This bill as amended is almost identical to the one ordered reported unanimously by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. The GAO worked closely with both the majority and minority in helping to draft this statute.

Mr. Speaker, this bill eliminates many unnecessary congressionally mandated reports. In some cases, the GAO needs flexibility rather than being bound to a fixed reporting schedule. In still other cases, the function eliminated would more properly be performed by some other entity like the inspector general or an independent auditor.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the GAO to be governed by common sense, not statutory and bureaucratic mandates that waste the GAO's time and taxpayers' money.

It eliminates procedures instituted for reasons that few people even remember, and it ends pencil pushing for pencil pushing's sake.

The GAO itself estimates that this bill will save between \$6 and \$10 million. Given the GAO's track record, that estimate is probably accurate. Given the recent cuts eliminating these mandatory reports makes common sense and good sense.

The GAO is Congress's and our Nation's primary watchdog agency, responsible for providing credible objective and nonpartisan reports and evaluations of the programs and management of the executive branch.

The GAO has done an excellent job in fulfilling this mandate in a timely and professional manner and despite recent staff and funding cuts. This bill makes its job easier, saves taxpayer money and allows the GAO to be much more efficient. The bill has broad bipartisan support, and I am proud to support it as well.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 3864.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time urging my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. LATOURETTE], that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3864, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend laws authorizing auditing, reporting, and other functions by the General Accounting Office."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 120) supporting the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and the progress of its political and economic reforms, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 120

Whereas August 24, 1996, marks the fifth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the United Nations and the United Nations has established in Ukraine an office to assist Ukraine in building relations with the international community and in coordinating international assistance for Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the Council of Europe, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Central European Initiative, and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic Alliance, is a participant in the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Alliance, and has entered into a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union;

Whereas the United States recognized Ukraine as an independent State on December 25, 1991;

Whereas Ukraine is a major European nation, having the second largest territory and sixth largest population of all the States of Europe;

Whereas Ukraine has an important geopolitical and economic role to play within Central and Eastern Europe and a strong, stable, and secure Ukraine serves the interests of peace and stability in all of Europe, which is also an important national security interest of the United States;

Whereas Ukraine conducted its first presidential and parliamentary elections as an independent State in 1994, carrying such elections out in a free and fair manner and moving further away from the former communist model of one-party, centralized, totalitarian rule;

Whereas Ukraine's presidential elections of July 1994 resulted in the first peaceful transfer of executive power in any of the independent States of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas on June 28, 1996, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a new constitution for Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine's economic and social stability depend on its ability to build a stable market-based economy and a legal system based on the rule of law, attract foreign investment, improve tax and revenue collection, and build its export sectors;

Whereas Ukraine was the first of the independent states of the former Soviet Union to have appointed a civilian to the office of Minister of Defense, an historic precedent in support of civilian control and oversight of the armed forces of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine is pursuing political and economic reforms intended to ensure its future strength, stability, and security and to ensure that it will assume its rightful place among the international community of democratic States and in European and trans-Atlantic institutions;

Whereas through the agreement by the Government of Ukraine to the establishment of a mission from the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the region of Crimea, Ukraine has shown its interest in avoiding the use of force in resolving ethnic and regional disputes within Ukraine;

Whereas all nuclear weapons were removed from Ukraine by June 1, 1996, and Ukraine has taken very positive steps in supporting

efforts to stem proliferation of nuclear weapons by ratifying the START-I Treaty on nuclear disarmament and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas in December 1994, the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of Great Britain signed a Memorandum on National Security Assurances for Ukraine as depository States under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense of the United States and the Minister of Defense of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of defense and military relations on July 27, 1993;

Whereas Ukraine has sought to promote constructive cooperation with its neighbors through humanitarian assistance and through mediation of disputes;

Whereas Ukraine has provided Ukrainian troops as part of the international peace-keeping force meant to prevent the spread of conflict in the states of the former Yugoslavia; and

Whereas Ukraine has acted in defense of its sovereignty and that of other newly independent states by opposing the emergence of any political or military organization which has the potential to promote the reintegration of the states of the former Soviet Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

(1) Ukraine has made significant progress in political reform in its first 5 years of independence and that it is to be congratulated for the successful conduct of free and fair elections for the presidency and parliament and for the adoption of a new constitution;

(2) the territorial integrity of Ukraine in its existing borders is an important element of European peace and stability;

(3) the President and Parliament of Ukraine should focus their efforts on passing legislation needed to implement the new democratic constitution;

(4) the Government of Ukraine should continue its efforts to ensure the rights of all citizens of Ukraine regardless of their ethnic or religious background;

(5) the Government of Ukraine should make its first priority the dismantling of the remaining socialist sectors of its economy, particularly by speedily privatizing medium and large state-owned enterprises, privatizing state and collective farms and ending their monopolistic control of the agro-industrial sector, and fostering a competitive market-based energy sector;

(6) the Government of Ukraine should make the necessary institutional and legal reforms to create a stable tax regime, foster market-based competition, protect the right to private property, and make other changes that build a positive climate for foreign investment;

(7) the Government of Ukraine should make it a priority to build the institutional capacity and legal framework needed to fight crime and corruption effectively in a democratic environment;

(8) the Government of Ukraine should continue its cooperative efforts with the "G-7" group of States to safely and expeditiously shut down the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl, Ukraine;

(9) the President of the United States should support continued United States assistance to Ukraine for its political and economic reforms, for efforts associated with the safe and secure dismantlement of its weapons of mass destruction, and for the increased safety of operation of its civilian nuclear reactors, and assistance for the establishment of rule of law, for criminal justice and law enforcement training, and for the

promotion of trade and investment, and in this regard United States assistance to the Ukraine should leverage private-sector involvement as much as possible;

(10) the President of the United States should urge that the Government of the Russian Federation, in line with the assurances for the security of Ukraine made by the President of the Russian Federation in the January 1994 Trilateral Statement on Nuclear Disarmament in Ukraine, offer Ukraine its promised highest possible cooperation, fully and finally recognizing Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and refraining from any economic coercion of Ukraine;

(11) the Government of Ukraine should continue to act in defense of its sovereignty and that of the other independent states of the former Soviet Union by opposing the emergence of any political or military organization which would have the potential to promote the reintegration of the states of the former Soviet Union;

(12) the President of the United States should ensure that Ukraine's national security interests are fully considered in any review of European security arrangements and understandings;

(13) the President of the United States should support continued United States security assistance for Ukraine, including assistance for training of military officers, military exercises as part of the North Atlantic Alliance's Partnership for Peace program, and appropriate military equipment to assist Ukraine in maintaining its defensive capabilities as it reduces its military force levels;

(14) the President of the United States should ensure the United States Government's continued efforts to assist Ukraine in its accession to the World Trade Organization; and should ensure, in particular, that the potential for aerospace and space cooperation and commerce between the United States and Ukraine is fully and appropriately exploited; and

(15) as a leader of the democratic nations of the world, the United States should continue to support the people of Ukraine in their struggle to bring peace, prosperity, and democracy to Ukraine and to the other independent states of the former Soviet Union.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the House is today taking up House Concurrent Resolution 120, a measure that recognizes the important role that the nation of Ukraine now plays in Europe and that recognizes the progress of political reforms in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution—along with my colleagues, Mr. GOODLING of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOLOMON of New York, and Mr. HOKE of Ohio—simply because events in Ukraine will inevitably have consequences for all of Europe—both East and West.

It is perhaps understandable, but it is indeed unfortunate, that we here in the

United States have most often focused our attention on Russia to the exclusion of Ukraine. Certainly, Russia is an important country undergoing tremendous changes, but we should not overlook the important role that Ukraine will play in the region of the former Soviet Union and in Europe—or overlook the developments that have taken place in that country since 1991. Ukraine has the second largest territory, after Russia, and the sixth largest population of all the states of Europe.

As this resolution notes, Ukraine celebrated the fifth anniversary of its new independence on August 24.

The resolution then notes many of the positive developments regarding Ukraine that have taken place in the last 5 years, including:

The peaceful transfer of executive power after free and fair elections for the Presidency were held in July 1994—the first such peaceful transfer of executive power in any of the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union;

The first appointment of a civilian to the post of Minister of Defense—an historic precedent for the region of the former Soviet Union in support of civilian control of military forces;

Ukraine's recent adoption of a new, democratic constitution;

Ukraine's decision to relinquish all of its Soviet-era nuclear warheads—a commitment it has now fulfilled;

Ukraine's continuing program of economic reform;

Ukraine's membership in the NATO Alliance's Partnership for Peace Program; and

Ukraine's efforts to ensure that no political or military organization emerges with the potential to recreate the former Soviet state.

Given the importance of Ukraine to the future stability and security of Europe, the resolution calls on the President of the United States to support continued United States assistance to that country, including security assistance; insist that Russia fully recognize Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; and ensure that Ukraine's interests are considered in any review of European security arrangements.

House Concurrent Resolution 120 also calls on Ukraine itself to continue with badly needed economic reforms—including reforms that will address the serious problem of corruption within the government bureaucracy. It also notes that Ukraine should continue its opposition to any efforts to reintegrate the states of the former Soviet Union and it calls on Ukraine to continue its efforts to close the unsafe nuclear reactors at Chernobyl.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is important for all us to recognize that we cannot take future developments in Russia, Ukraine, or any of the other New Independent States of the former Soviet Union for granted.

Even now, 5 years after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the region of that former state contains the seeds for potential conflict that could dwarf the

bloodshed that has accompanied the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. As the recent assassination attempt against Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko demonstrates, Ukraine is by no means exempt from the possibility of such internal or external conflicts.

It would be helpful to the continued stability of Ukraine and to its integration into post-cold war Europe for this Congress to recognize what Ukraine has accomplished in its first 5 years of independence—and to encourage it forward in its ongoing political and economic transformation.

It is hoped that this resolution—stating America's strong support for Ukraine—will merit the support of my colleagues.

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.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to express my appreciation to Chairman GILMAN for bringing this resolution to the floor of the House. I want him to know I especially appreciate the time and effort he made to make this a bipartisan project. Both he and his staff consulted very carefully with the minority and we appreciate that.

This resolution, as the chairman has said, recognizes Ukraine's political reforms over the last 4 years, supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, congratulates Ukraine on passing a new reform-oriented Constitution on June 28 of this year.

The resolution also recognizes Ukraine for removing all nuclear weapons from its territory by June 1 of this year and for its humanitarian assistance in the region of the former Soviet Union. The resolution calls upon the President of the United States to provide continued security and reform-oriented assistance to Ukraine, support Ukraine's interests in the context of European security arrangements, support Ukraine's leadership in opposing any political or military organization which has the potential to promote the reintegration of the states of the former Soviet Union.

The resolution also calls on Ukraine to focus its efforts on dismantling the remaining Socialist sectors of its economy and to institute the reforms needed to foster market-based competition, attract foreign investment, fight crime and corruption effectively in a democratic environment.

Ukraine has made progress on reform. Achieving reform has been difficult, and we all recognize that Ukraine faces enormous economic and social challenges.

The resolution calls on Ukraine to continue on the path of reform. This course best serves the interests of the Ukrainian people and promotes strong United States-Ukrainian relations.

Again, I commend Chairman GILMAN for his willingness to work with this

side of the aisle in making this a strong bipartisan resolution. It was reported by voice vote unanimously, I believe, from the committee. It has the support of the administration. I urge the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 120.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking minority member, Mr. HAMILTON, for his supportive comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT].

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 120, honoring the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and the progress of its political and economic reform.

June 26, 1996 will be a day that Ukrainians will honor for generations to come, for on this day the Ukrainian Parliament finally approved a new post-Soviet constitution for the people of Ukraine. This constitution guarantees for the first time the right to private ownership, including the right to own land.

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It may be hard for many of us to understand what a significant achievement this is for the Ukrainian people who have struggled under various rulers for more than 300 years. We need only to listen to Walter Monastaryski of Margaretville, NY, a proud son of Ukrainian immigrants, or visit the parishioners of Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church or St. Peter and Paul's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, both in Utica, NY, my hometown.

They will tell you the stories of their courageous families and friends who gave their lives fighting against Stalin and the Nazis before and during World War II. Few people know more than 10 million Ukrainians died fighting for independence, but now the people of Ukraine and their descendants all over the world can hold their heads up high as Ukraine moves forward to ensure the rights of all citizens to transform its economy to privatize state-owned enterprise and to work in concert with G-7 nations to shut down the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl.

This resolution tells the people of Ukraine several things. It tells them we know reform is difficult, it tells them we want to praise them for their sacrifices and for their efforts, and it also tells them that we stand committed to helping them achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure for the people of the Ukraine, and I thank my chairman for yielding.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this resolution, I congratulate Ukraine on its independence and commend it on its outstanding progress since emerging from Soviet tyranny.

Harsh Soviet rule tried the will and strength of the Ukrainian people, trampling free speech and worship, and threatening any who would oppose the repressive regime. But the resolve of Ukrainians was rewarded, and today, Ukrainians control their own destiny. Perhaps the most telling signs of Ukrainian independence are the legislative and presidential elections held just 2 years ago. Democracy is planted once again, and people can breathe free.

For over 40 years, the cold war dominated international relations as the United States and the Soviet Union focused their energies and resources on attempts to outdo each other. During this time, Ukraine became a repository for Soviet nuclear weapons.

Since being freed from Soviet oppression, Ukraine has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to nuclear disarmament. Ukraine joined international arms control regimes such as START I and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ukraine truly demonstrated its commitment to disarmament, however, when it chose to discard remaining Soviet nuclear weapons.

Free elections and the rejection of nuclear weapons are cause for celebration. These milestone events help reinforce that yes, the cold war and its accompanying fear really are over. The United States must recognize the tremendous achievement of Ukrainians and reward their resolve with more than words. We must provide the help needed to establish free markets, strengthen democratic institutions, and ensure that Ukraine will continue on the historic path it has pursued since winning independence in 1991.

We commend Ukraine on its independence, elections, and truly historic progress. At the same time, we pledge our steadfast support as Ukrainians build a free and prosperous nation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 120 which commends Ukraine for its significant progress toward democratic and economic reform since it declared its independence 5 years ago.

Under the able leadership of President Leonid Kuchma and the Parliament, Ukraine has made great strides in reform. Namely, they adopted a new constitution in June and stayed on the course of a vigorous economic reform initiative that has set the country on the track toward strength and stability.

Under the economic plan, inflation has gone from the overwhelming level of 10,000 percent in 1993 to 181 percent in 1995 to an anticipated level of about 40 to 45 percent by the end of this year. Privatization efforts in Ukraine, while moving slowly, are now gaining momentum. By the end of 1995, the state had sold off 38 percent of its assets and privatized small enterprises at a rate of 400 per month. By the end of this year, Ukrainian officials hope to have five of Ukraine's largest enterprises sold off. Because of such efforts GDP has grown by 5 percent and average income levels have risen by over 100 percent.

In addition to its economic achievements, Ukraine has also become an important factor in the new security arrangement in Europe. The country has fully complied with all reductions in force under the Conventional Forces

in Europe Agreement. Furthermore, Ukraine is an active participant in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Most importantly, Ukraine has dismantled its nuclear arsenal which it inherited from the Soviet Union and has signed onto the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The new constitution adopted overwhelmingly in June by Ukraine's Rada by a vote of 315 to 36 with 12 members abstaining, establishes Ukraine as an independent and democratic state. The new constitution guarantees the rights of minorities, including allowing for the autonomy of the Republic of Crimea within its borders. Furthermore, it sets the stage for that country's next elections to take place for Parliament in 1998 and for President in 1999.

While Ukraine still has many problems to deal with, in particular commercial law reform, Chernobyl, and its energy shortfall, the framework now exists with the new constitution to make even more substantial progress over the next few years. Such progress deserves the support of the United States.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for the resolution and take a good hard look at Ukraine. Congress needs to provide assistance to ensure that this country remains on the path toward democracy and a free market economy.

The House should soon get its chance if an agreement is reached on the fiscal year 1997 Foreign Operations appropriation which will hopefully include \$225 million in earmarked aid for Ukraine. This money will be used to help support needed infrastructure changes within Ukraine and help to shore up Ukraine's nuclear energy program.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 120, a resolution acknowledging Ukraine's commitment to democracy. Ukraine is one of our most important allies among the New Independent States [NIS] of the former Soviet Union. Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine has instituted democratic reforms, making it the most stable country in the region.

In 1994, Ukraine held democratic elections, voting in a new parliament and a new president. Ukraine has accepted all of our requests, including the ratification of START and NPT, and instituted economic reforms that have won praise from the IMF and G-7.

I am proud to congratulate Ukraine on its democratic record. Ukraine has the sixth largest population in Europe, and plays an integral role in European peace and stability. Given Ukraine's importance in the region, it is critical that the United States show strong economic support for Ukraine.

Although there have been reductions in the foreign aid budget, we must continue to make our international priorities very clear. We must send a clear signal to Ukraine, and other emerging democracies, that the United States supports efforts to adopt democratic reforms, maintain a good human rights record, progress with economic reforms, and unilaterally disarm their nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine is deserving of our respect, praise, and commitment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the International Relations Committee for his effort and insight in bringing this important resolution to the floor of the House today. I am pleased to join him as a cosponsor of this important resolution congratulating Ukraine on the progress that this newly independent country has made toward achieving a

democratic society and a functioning market economy.

Mr. Speaker, we in the United States have an important stake in the future success and prosperity and democratic progress of the Ukraine—and what takes place in Ukraine will reverberate well beyond the borders of that country. It can rightfully be said, Mr. Speaker, that as Ukraine goes, so will go the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, including Russia.

With the exception of Russia, Ukraine has the largest population of the former Soviet republics. It also has the largest, most advanced and most highly diversified economy of all of the independent former Soviet Republics. If Ukraine is able to maintain its sovereignty and its independence from Russia while at the same time establishing the economic and political ties with its closest and largest neighbor, this will bring us a good deal closer to our goal of seeing democracy take root throughout the former Soviet Union. We must encourage Russia to recognize, respect, and observe in practice the full sovereignty of Ukraine. This is as important a consideration for the policy of the United States toward Russia as it is of our policy toward Ukraine.

We have reason for considerable optimism in regard to the progress of democracy in Ukraine, Mr. Speaker. The Presidential election on July 19, 1994, and parliamentary elections that took place just a few months earlier on March 27, 1994, are important milestones in democracy in Ukraine. For a population that has not had the benefit of a tradition of a free and open and democratic electoral process, the people of Ukraine have shown a remarkable commitment to democracy through their participation in these elections.

Mr. Speaker, an important marker that is on the horizon is the adoption of a new constitution for Ukraine. As the people and the Government of Ukraine make progress in working on their new constitution, it is important that they provide assurances of full civil and human rights for all peoples of Ukraine. That is of vital importance to the future of that country, and it is vital for the future of relations between the United States and Ukraine. We in the United States have a strong commitment to respect for civil and human rights, and—as is evident from the attention and focus we give to the annual "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices"—our relationship with other countries is very much conditioned upon their respect for these important rights. We in the United States wish President Kuchma, the Government, and the Parliament success as they work out the details of this fundamental charter of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we in the United States also have a strong interest in the success of economic reform in Ukraine. Moving ahead quickly to transform the economy is essential for democratic progress and for the prosperity of the Ukrainian people. The social and economic and political change in Ukraine has not been easy on the citizens of that country, and for this reason it is important that economic growth provide material benefits for the people. We in the United States have a stake in that success, and it is important that we here undertake all efforts to assure victory in that process.

Mr. Speaker, I join in urging continued support for the Ukrainian people in their ongoing fight to bring peace, economic success, and political democracy to Ukraine.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his supportive remarks.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). 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, House Concurrent Resolution 120, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### 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 concurrent resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### VOICE OF AMERICA RECORDINGS

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3916) to make available certain Voice of America and Radio Marti multilingual computer readable text and voice recordings.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3916

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

#### SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO MARTI MULTILINGUAL COMPUTER READABLE TEXT AND VOICE RECORDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 208 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987 (22 U.S.C. 1461-1a) and the second sentence of section 501 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461), the Director of the United States Information Agency is authorized to make available, upon request, to the Linguistic Data Consortium of the University of Pennsylvania computer readable multilingual text and recorded speech in various languages. The Consortium shall, directly or indirectly as appropriate, reimburse the Director for any expenses involved in making such materials available.

(b) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall cease to have effect 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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