

I'd like to end my statement by quoting from a letter written to the Governor of New Mexico from a Ph.D. rangeland scientist who just happens to be a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. The Cato Institute, as you know, is a well-respected, fiscally conservative, free market think tank. Karl Hess from Cato writes:

ADC subsidies effectively shoulder what should be part of the costs of operating a business . . . ADC is a gross intervention in the market place. The wonderful feature of America is the freedom of opportunity each of us has to make it on our own merits and to do so in the arena of the free market. I am, as you might surmise, a fan of the free markets, just as I am a great believer in individual freedom. I am certain you are too. Let's make sure that ranchers can defend themselves against predators, but let's not ask taxpayers to pay the bill. It's only fair.

I couldn't have said it better myself. Please join me in reducing the animal damage control subsidy for private livestock owners in the West. Send the signal to ADC that they need to clean up their act. And give the American taxpayers a break.

Vote "yes" on the Furse amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 307. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 307.

INTRODUCING A HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CRISIS IN CAMBODIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today House Resolution 185 which addresses the current crisis in Cambodia and calls for definitive action to put that country back on the road to peace, democracy, and stability.

As you know, the Cambodian people suffered terribly through two decades of political conflicts, civil war, foreign invasion, protracted violence, and the horrific genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. The nightmare finally ended with the 1991 Paris peace accords which, through a massive and historic international effort, brought peace to Cambodia. The peace accords set the stage for a process of political accommodation, national reconciliation, and the founding of a nation based on democratic principles.

The successful national elections held in Cambodia in 1993 under U.N. supervision—in which over 90 percent of the eligible voters participated—demonstrated the firm commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy. Regrettably, earlier this month, a military coup by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen forcefully wrested democracy from the Cambodian people. This must not stand.

Since the signing of the peace accords and the completion of the 1993 elections, Cambodia has made considerable progress toward

establishing a bright future based on economic freedom and democratic principles. This included the creation of a national constitution that guarantees fundamental human rights and liberties. With significant investment from the international donor community, including many millions of dollars in assistance from the United States, Cambodia appeared to be heading in the right direction toward democracy, peace, and freedom. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] recognized this progress and recently extended membership privileges to Cambodia.

On July 5, 1997, Cambodia's bright future was shattered when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed First Prime Minister Ranariddh in a violent military coup. Reportedly, over 40 opposition politicians have died or have been executed in the custody of Hun Sen's forces, some after having been tortured. Hundreds of others have been detained without cause due to their political affiliations and thousands have fled the country.

It is regrettable that we find ourselves on familiar ground once again—trying to restore peace and stability in Cambodia. The military coup d'etat orchestrated by Hun Sen marks an unfortunate return to the past—a past of fear and violence. The reports of executions, arrests, and other human rights abuses are cause for tremendous concern. Cambodia's once bright future is now clouded by the shadow of tyranny that darkens the countryside.

This forcible change to the duly-elected Government in Cambodia is illegal and unacceptable. This brutality violates not only Cambodia's own constitution but also all internationally respected norms of behavior. More tragically, Hun Sen's actions violate the mandate of the Cambodian people, as expressed in the 1993 elections.

We must not look the other way while violence and tyranny rule in Cambodia. The United States Government and the international community have made a significant investment in bringing peace to Cambodia and providing the Cambodian people with the opportunity to determine their own future through free and fair elections. We must remain committed to this ideal.

The United States must condemn—in the strongest terms possible—the undemocratic and forcible change in government and the use of violence to resolve political matters by all sides in Cambodia. So far, the administration has taken a cautious approach in addressing this crisis, failing to acknowledge that Hun Sen's actions constitute a military coup.

We must not renege on our role as a guarantor of the Paris peace accords and wait on the sidelines while the situation in Cambodia sorts itself out. The United States Government should demonstrate leadership to reverse the coup and restore democracy in Cambodia. We should work with the U.N. Security Council and the ASEAN member states to consider all options to return democracy, stability, and the rule of law to Cambodia.

The administration's decision to suspend assistance for 1 month is only a first step. This resolution calls for a continued suspension of direct assistance to the Cambodian regime until the violence ends and a democratically elected government is reconstituted. The legislation also encourages the international donor community to suspend aid as part of a multilateral effort to encourage respect for democratic processes and principles.

The United States Government should use its influence to ensure that Cambodian authorities hold free and fair national elections as scheduled in 1998. We also must assist Cambodia in depoliticizing its military and making the judicial system independent.

In addition, this resolution calls upon the Cambodian authorities to stop all political violence; restore all civil and political freedoms to the Cambodian people; investigate all extralegal actions that have taken place since fighting was renewed in July 1997; and, bring to justice those who are responsible for the human rights abuses that have occurred.

The Cambodian people have suffered enough. Let's work to get Cambodia back on the road to democracy. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution (H.R. 185).

H. RES. 185

Whereas during the 1970s and 1980s Cambodia was wracked by political conflict, civil war, foreign invasion, protracted violence, and a genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979;

Whereas the Paris Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict led to the end of 2 decades of civil war and genocide in Cambodia, demonstrated the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy and stability, and established a national constitution guaranteeing fundamental human rights;

Whereas the 1991 Paris Peace Accords set the stage for a process of political accommodation, national reconciliation, and the founding of a state based on democratic principles;

Whereas the international donor community contributed more than \$3,000,000,000 in an effort to secure peace, democracy, and stability in Cambodia following the Paris Peace Accords and currently provides over 40 percent of the budget of the Cambodian Government;

Whereas the Cambodian people clearly demonstrated their support for democracy when over 93 percent of eligible Cambodian voters participated in United Nations sponsored elections in 1993;

Whereas since the 1993 elections, Cambodia has made significant progress, as evidenced by the decision last month of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to extend membership to Cambodia;

Whereas notwithstanding the notable societal and economic progress since the elections of 1993, concern has increasingly been raised regarding the fragile state of democracy in Cambodia, in particular the quality of the judicial system, which has been described in a United Nations report as thoroughly corrupt; unsolved attacks in 1995 on officials of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party; and the unsolved murders of journalists and political activists;

Whereas tensions within the Cambodian Government has erupted into violence in recent months;

Whereas on March 30, 1997, 19 Cambodians were killed and more than 100 were wounded in a grenade attack on a peaceful political demonstration in Phnom Penh;

Whereas in June 1997 fighting erupted in Phnom Penh between military and paramilitary forces loyal to First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen;

Whereas on July 5, 1997, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen deposed the First Prime Minister in a violent military coup d'etat;

Whereas at least several dozen opposition politicians have died in the custody of Hun Sen's forces, some after being tortured, and hundreds of others have been detained due to their political affiliation;

Whereas democracy and stability in Cambodia are threatened by the continued use of violence to resolve political differences;

Whereas the administration has suspended assistance to Cambodia for 1 month in response to the deteriorating situation in Cambodia; and

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has decided to delay indefinitely Cambodian membership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the forcible assault upon the democratically elected Government of Cambodia is illegal and unacceptable;

(2) the recent events in Cambodia constitute a military coup against the duly elected democratic Government of Cambodia;

(3) the authorities in Cambodia should take immediate steps to halt all extralegal violence and to restore fully civil, political, and personal liberties to the Cambodian people, including freedom of the press, speech, and assembly, as well as the right to a democratically elected government;

(4) the United States should release the report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the March 30, 1997, grenade attack in Phnom Penh;

(5) the United States should press the authorities in Cambodia to investigate fully and impartially all abuses and extralegal actions that have occurred in Cambodia since July 4, 1997, and to bring to justice all those responsible for such abuses and extra-legal actions;

(6) the administration should immediately invoke section 508 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208), as it is required to do;

(7) the United States should urgently request an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider all options to restore peace in Cambodia;

(8) the United States should encourage the Secretary General of the United Nations to expand the monitoring operations of the United Nations Special Representative on Human Rights in Cambodia;

(9) the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should coordinate efforts to restore democracy, stability, and the rule of law in Cambodia;

(10) direct United States assistance to the Government of Cambodia should continue to be suspended until violence ends, a democratically elected government is reconstituted, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the election scheduled for 1998 takes place in a free and fair manner, the military is depoliticized, and the judiciary is made independent; and

(11) the United States should call for an emergency meeting of the Donors' Consultative Group for Cambodia to encourage the suspension of assistance as part of a multilateral effort to encourage respect for democratic processes, constitutionalism, and the rule of law.

EQUAL PARENTS WEEK

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this coming Sunday signals the beginning of Equal Parents Week. Unfortunately, because of our busy legislative schedule, I will not be able to attend Equal

Parents Week ceremonies in my district this weekend.

Equal Parents Week brings to the attention of our Nation the importance of both parents in the raising of a child, especially in cases of a divorce. Unfortunately, in many cases a divorce results in a custody battle that, in addition to severely hurting the child, renders one parent with fewer parental rights than the other.

As a result, the noncustodial parent loses a great deal of his or her parental rights, and is thus relegated to a position as a "second class" parent. I believe that, as long as it is in the best interest and safety of the child, parents should work together to make certain that both parents have an equal opportunity to play an active role in that child's upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, the positive influence that both parents can play in the upbringing of a child is of the utmost importance. I am pleased we take the time to celebrate this occasion each year, and I salute groups like the Coalition of Parent Support, for hosting events to bring this important issue to our attention.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN BAN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, the domestic violence gun ban amendment, included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill, was intended to protect victims of domestic abuse by prohibiting anyone convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from purchasing or possessing a handgun. Supporters of this provision wanted to ensure that if one spouse was convicted of this kind of offense, he or she could not then have access to a gun, which could increase the likelihood of deadly violence against the abused spouse in the future. However, I do not believe that this amendment also intended another consequence: taking away the livelihood of some Americans.

The domestic violence gun ban amendment would make it illegal for law enforcement officials to do their job, because it would prohibit them from carrying a gun during normal work hours.

There is a simple answer to this problem. My legislation would allow law enforcement officials with past domestic violence misdemeanor convictions to carry a handgun on duty while engaged in official police business. A police officer with a prior domestic violence conviction would pick up his or her gun when beginning a shift at work, and then turn in the weapon when they leave to go home. I believe that my legislation is a practical solution to allow law enforcement officers to continue to do their jobs, while also protecting victims of spousal abuse. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE VETERANS SEXUAL TRAUMA TREATMENT ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act, which I have introduced today with the support of 33 of my colleagues.

I want to begin by thanking four outstanding Veterans Service Organizations; the American Legion, Amvets, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America for their leadership on this issue. Their input on this legislation has been invaluable. I am very proud that they all strongly support this legislation and thank them for their work.

The Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act provides very real help to veterans who experience the very real problem of sexual abuse or harassment while serving in our nation's military. The numbers are alarming. In 1996, approximately 190,000 women served in our armed services.

A Department of Defense survey of active duty women found that 5 percent of women had been the victim of a sexual assault. That is almost 10,000 women. These statistics—and news reports of incidents like those at Aberdeen—have made clear the existence of very serious problem in our Armed Forces and the need to move aggressively to end the tragedy of sexual abuse.

However, we must also take aggressive steps to help our veterans after this abuse or harassment has occurred. The pain and suffering that sexual abuse causes does not end when a person leaves the military. The physical, psychological and emotional effects are often just beginning.

That is why I believe the Veterans' Sexual Trauma Treatment Act is so important. This legislation strengthens existing Veterans Administration programs for aiding victims of sexual assault. Sadly, the current law is inadequate. It states that the VA may provide counseling and care to victims of sexual assault, and that the program must be reauthorized each and every year.

It excludes members of the reserves and National Guard—thereby denying care to some soldiers called to duty during the Gulf War. It also excludes any military personnel who separate before 2 years of duty with our armed forces. Finally, the VA has done a woeful job of notifying veterans of what services are available to them and how to access these services.

I don't believe these half-hearted provisions are acceptable for veterans who have made whole-hearted commitments to serving our Nation.

We know that problems exist. We should pass legislation that guarantees care.

Our bill assures a national commitment to our veterans. Our bill makes the provision of care to victims of sexual assault or harassment mandatory—and permanently authorize this care. It allows veterans who separate before they have completed 2 years of service to be eligible for care and counseling. This is vital, because often sexual assault is the very reason these people leave the military. It is illogical and unfair to deny them care.