

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the matter just considered.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONCERNING NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL TO TRY MEMBERS OF IRAQI REGIME

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 137) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the urgent need for an international criminal tribunal to try members of the Iraqi regime for crimes against humanity.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 137

Whereas the regime of Saddam Hussein has perpetrated a litany of human rights abuses against the citizens of Iraq and other peoples of the region, including summary and arbitrary executions, torture, cruel and inhumane treatment, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, disappearances and the repression of freedom of speech, thought, expression, assembly and association;

Whereas Saddam Hussein and his associates have systematically attempted to destroy the Kurdish population in Iraq through the use of chemical weapons against civilian Kurds, the Anfal campaigns of 1987-1988 that resulted in the disappearance of more than 182,000 persons and the destruction of more than 4,000 villages, the placement of more than ten million landmines in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the continued ethnic cleansing of the city of Kirkuk;

Whereas the Iraqi Government, under Saddam Hussein's leadership, has repressed the Sunni tribes in western Iraq, destroyed Assyro-Chaldean churches and villages, deported and executed Turkomen, massacred Shi-ites, and destroyed the ancient Marsh Arab civilization through a massive act of ecocide;

Whereas the status of more than six hundred Kuwaitis who were taken prisoner during the Gulf War remain unknown and the whereabouts of these persons are unaccounted for by the Iraqi Government, Kuwait continues to be plagued by unexploded landmines six years after the end of the Gulf War, and the destruction of Kuwait by departing Iraqi troops has yet to be redressed by the Iraqi Government;

Whereas the Republic of Iraq is a signatory to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and other human rights instruments, and the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949, and is obligated to comply with these international agreements;

Whereas Saddam Hussein and his regime have created an environment of terror and fear within Iraq and throughout the region through a concerted policy of violations of international customary and conventional law; and

Whereas the Congress is deeply disturbed by the continuing gross violations of human

rights by the Iraqi Government under the direction and control of Saddam Hussein: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the Congress—

(A) deplores the Iraqi Government's pattern of gross violation of human rights which has resulted in a pervasive system of repression, sustained by the widespread use of terror and intimidation;

(B) condemns the Iraqi Government's repeated use of force and weapons of mass destruction against its own citizens, as well as neighboring states;

(C) denounces the refusal of the Iraqi Government to comply with international human rights instruments to which it is a party and cooperate with international monitoring bodies and compliance mechanisms, including accounting of missing Kuwaiti prisoners; and

(2) the President and the Secretary of State should—

(A) endorse the formation of an international criminal tribunal for the purpose of prosecuting Saddam Hussein and all other Iraqi officials who are responsible for crimes against humanity, including unlawful use of force, crimes against the peace, crimes committed in contravention of the Geneva Convention on POW's and the crime of genocide; and

(B) work actively and urgently within the international community for the adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution establishing an International Criminal Court for Iraq.

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

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

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1400

Madam Speaker, the resolution before us today, House Concurrent Resolution 137, which I introduced, along with our colleague the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], cochairman of the Human Rights Caucus, expresses a sense of the House concerning urgent need for an international war crimes tribunal to try Saddam Hussein and members of his Iraqi regime for crimes against humanity.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for his leadership on this important issue. The critical need for this measure is highlighted by the events taking place just as we speak. House Concurrent Resolution 137 notes that dictator Saddam Hussein

has perpetrated a litany of human rights abuses against the citizens of Iraq, including arbitrary executions, torture, cruel and inhumane treatment, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, and disappearances.

Saddam Hussein has attempted to destroy the Kurdish population in Iraq through the use of chemical weapons. He has repressed Sunni tribes in western Iraq, destroyed Assyro-Chaldean churches and villages, executed Turkomen, and massacred Shiites. Saddam Hussein has also continued to commit ecocide against the ancient Marsh Arab civilization.

Saddam Hussein's brutality is not limited only to his fellow Iraqis. We recall the dark days of the Gulf War, which witnessed Saddam's holding Kuwait and its innocent citizens hostage for so many months. The whereabouts of more than 600 Kuwaitis who were taken prisoner during the Gulf War still remains unknown and unaccounted for by the Iraqi Government.

House Concurrent Resolution 137, therefore, expresses a sense of Congress deploring the Iraqi Government's pattern of gross violations of human rights and denounces Saddam's refusal to comply with international human rights documents to which Iraqi is signatory. This bill also endorses the creation of an international criminal tribunal to prosecute Saddam Hussein and his henchmen and urges the President and Secretary of State to work actively toward the adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution establishing an international criminal court for Iraq.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues' strong support for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 137.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Chair and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for their efforts on this timely resolution. And I know that I speak for my colleagues, particularly the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], in indicating our feelings with reference to this particular resolution.

We do not oppose this resolution. I join the chairman at this time in condemning Iraq's gross violation of human rights. Those who commit such crimes should be brought before an international criminal court, as this resolution correctly states. I do question, however, and several of us do, whether this resolution is likely to have much impact.

The resolution calls for an international court to bring Saddam Hussein to justice. But this resolution does not tell us how we get from here to there. The chief concern that I wish to express is that this resolution will raise expectations, especially in Kuwait, that such an international court

will be created. But we do not, by our actions today, create a court or make it significantly more likely that such a court will be created.

I do, however, strongly support the resolution. It urges the United States to work for a U.N. resolution creating an international criminal court for Iraq. I would hope that we would continue in a vigorous manner to urge the United Nations to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE].

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] for yielding me the time.

I rise in support of this bill. What I would like to say, though, is that every great human rights struggle has involved personal responsibility and sacrifice. Today, Mr. Speaker, a brave group of hunger strikers are highlighting the human rights issues posed by the Turkish Government against the Kurdish population, also the Kurdish population, you notice a connection with this bill, the Kurdish population and Kurdish elected officials.

I would like to quote to my colleagues from a letter which was sent to President Clinton and signed by 153 Representatives which highlights the terrible situation of a Kurdish politician who was elected by her people and who is in prison for violating Kurdish law. All she did was speak out, as any Parliamentarian does. As I today speak out for human rights, she was speaking out.

In our letter to Mr. Clinton we say, one of the charges against Mrs. Zana was her 1993 appearance, here in Washington, at the invitation of the U.S. Congress. We say, we find it outrageous that although she had been invited to participate, her activities led to her imprisonment. We actively today, Mr. Speaker, seek and call on the administration to look for the release of Leyla Zana and to look at the terrible situation of the Kurdish people in Turkey.

I got a letter just the other day from our Representative to the United Nations, former Congressman Bill Richardson; and he said, Leyla Zana's case is one of four convictions which are being appealed to the European Human Rights Commission. Four of those convictions.

Mr. Speaker, I say today that we must focus the light of the American conscience on those people who are standing today in solidarity with the Turkish citizens, whether they be in Iraq or Turkey. And especially I want to draw attention to those brave citizens who have decided to take their lives at stake, their own health, by standing with Mrs. Zana and other Kurdish officials who have been imprisoned in Turkey.

I thank the chairman for allowing me to speak on this issue. This is an issue, just as the bill is an issue, of human rights violations to the Kurdish population. It is up to us, as Members of Congress and members of the greatest

democracy in the world, to speak out when we see human rights violations, whether it be our friends or our enemies who are creating these violations.

I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. HASTINGS] for letting me use this time, and I thank him for his great work for human rights, as also the chairman the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], who have stood for human rights in this country, in this body. And together, I think that we will all join to try and get the release of these Turkish elected officials who are Kurdish and who are speaking for their own citizens.

So, today, I join in solidarity with those hunger strikers. And I have heard them say, "Oh, well, these are terrorists." I remember when Nelson Mandela in South Africa was termed a "terrorist." A terrorist is also a freedom fighter. These people are seeking freedom for their people.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], the distinguished co-chairman of the Human Rights Caucus.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the able and distinguished chairman the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for yielding me this time, but more importantly, for bringing this very significant legislation to the floor today.

In light of what is going on in Iraq at this moment, this could not be a more timely resolution. Once again, Saddam Hussein is showing his true colors as a ruthless dictator who will attempt to do anything to manipulate his way out of sanctions and weapons monitoring through whatever means he can.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in an era characterized, unfortunately, by ruthless dictators—Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin—individuals who committed crimes of unspeakable horror against their own people, against their minorities. And the regime in Iraq is identical to the types that were run in Nazi Germany, in Fascist Italy, and in Communist Soviet Union under Stalin.

We must stop Saddam Hussein now. We must isolate him and make certain that the world understands the nature of his ruthless regime. We must make certain that Saddam Hussein and every one of his henchmen are indicted as war criminals and individuals who commit crimes against humanity.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation to bring him to justice for the crimes he has committed against the Iraqi people and against the citizens of other countries whom he has harmed, including our own people. The Kurdish people, the Marsh Arabs, the Assyrian minority, the members of the Iraqi National Congress, the Kuwaiti prisoners of war, these are just a few of the victims of Saddam and his ruthless regime.

Mr. Speaker, he has used chemical weapons against his own people. In 1988, 8,000 Kurds were killed in Halabja by one poison gas attack using the

chemical agent sarin that he had produced. Now we are in Iraq trying to determine where he keeps those supplies and of an even worse nerve agent, VX, that just like sarin can kill people in the way he killed Iraqi Kurds in Halabja—mercilessly and indiscriminately.

He has waged ecological war against his own people, the Marsh Arabs. He has tortured, murdered, and kidnapped to maintain power. Saddam Hussein has clearly committed, in my judgment, crimes against humanity, crimes against the peace, and gross breaches of humanitarian law. If there is any individual in the world who deserves to be brought to justice today, it is Saddam Hussein.

I would commend this resolution to my colleagues and urge all of them to join me in sending a strong message to Saddam Hussein and the international community that the United States has not forgotten his crimes, that we hold him accountable for these abuses, and we demand justice for his victims.

Mr. Speaker, on the steps of the Capitol right now there are people, Kurds, who are starving themselves. They are I believe 25 days into a hunger strike to free Leyla Zana, a Turkish Parliamentarian who was elected in 1991, came to the United States in 1993 to testify about human rights abuses against the Kurdish minority in her country, testified before a standing committee of Congress and before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, went home, was then stripped of her office by her government, placed in jail, tried for what is equivalent to treason, and given a 15-year sentence for merely speaking her mind and testifying before the United States Congress.

Turkey and Iraq together at this moment, Mr. Speaker, are attacking the Kurds in northern Iraq. Turkey has come across the line with tens of thousands of their elite troops, using napalm and cluster bombs against the Kurdish minority that has fled their country. Iraq is joining in on the other side. Both are persecuting the Kurds at this moment. Each of the countries in which the Kurds exist as a minority, in Turkey, in Iraq, in Iran, in Syria, each one of them oppresses that minority. Each one of them turns Kurd against Kurd in an effort to oppress them, and each one of them calls the Kurdish people, who would seek only basic human rights, terrorists, when they are only protecting themselves from oppression.

Mr. Speaker, the oppression must end. The Kurds are not terrorists. There may be some who believe they have no other way out, but the Kurdish people are not terrorists. They are people simply seeking their rights, their rights against the Turkish Government, their rights against the Iranian Government, their rights against the Syrian Government, and their rights also against the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein.

It is the governments who oppress them that are the terrorists. It is the governments who deny them their

basic human rights, deny them respect and standing in their communities, kill them and their children on a daily basis, attempt to drive them out of their societies—those are the true terrorists, Mr. Speaker.

The chief among them is Saddam Hussein, whose regime responds to nothing, not to public pressure, not to resolutions from the Security Council. It is time that we isolate this regime. It is time that we declare Saddam Hussein to be what he is, a person who commits crimes against humanity that all of us abhor. It is time that we indict him and try him and remove him from power, and that we return Iraq to a State that can live in the world community at peace with its neighbors and stop this murderous, ruthless dictatorial regime from further oppressing its people and threatening its neighbors.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS], a continuing champion for human rights around the world.

□ 1415

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to commend the cochairman on the Republican side of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], for his powerful and eloquent statement, and I want to commend the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, who has been indefatigable in his fight for human rights, in bringing H. Con. Res. 137 before us.

I fully concur with all previous statements made concerning Saddam Hussein and his despicable regime. It is remarkable, Mr. Speaker, that even at this late date there are apologies for Saddam Hussein and his brutal and cruel regime in the West. There are countries that can hardly wait to renew on a large scale their lucrative business deals with Iraq, despite the fact that the Saddam Hussein regime has been attempting to conceal, hide, obfuscate its continuing development of weapons of mass destruction.

Later this afternoon, this body will have an opportunity of dealing with a resolution that expresses the view of the House that if peaceful and diplomatic measures do not succeed, military action, preferably on a multinational scale, be undertaken to eliminate Hussein's chemical, biological, nuclear and missile capability. But while that is a military issue, this is a human rights issue. A regime which has poison gassed its own people, a regime which perpetrates the worst human rights violations of the 20th century against its own people, does indeed need to be hauled before an international tribunal and tried for crimes against humanity. If there was central casting's appropriate person to be hauled before the international community for crimes against humanity, it is Saddam Hussein. His brutality, his

ruthlessness, his bloodthirstiness, knows no bounds.

I call on all of my colleagues across the aisle to vote to approve this important measure.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER], a member of our committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Porter amendment to indict Saddam Hussein for crimes against humanity and war crimes as well. I voted for the gulf war, and I did so reluctantly but I knew that our national well-being and our national security were at stake. I then cheered the troops when they came home victorious, what seemed to be one of the greatest and most glorious victories in our country's history.

Yet the job was not finished. If President Bush has anything to regret, it should be the fact that he sent our troops by the hundreds of thousands to the Persian Gulf and we did not finish the job when our people were there.

It is clear that the enemy of the United States was not the people of Iraq. The Porter amendment today focuses on the real enemy of not only the United States but people who believe in democratic rights and human rights, Saddam Hussein and his clique of thugs that control Iraq. During the gulf war we killed hundreds of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of young men, and perhaps some women and children as well, who were not enemies of the United States. Many of those people had just been drafted into the army by a tyrant named Saddam Hussein.

This amendment goes straight to the heart of the issue. Saddam Hussein is our enemy. We should indict this man. He should be brought to trial like any other war criminal, whether it was Adolf Hitler or some of the Serbian gangsters who have committed genocide more recently in Bosnia.

Again, this underscores and what has happened underscores that there is a relationship between peace and freedom and prosperity. If we go for short-term peace and we try to bring our troops home too soon or we cut deals with tyrants, it will bring us neither peace nor freedom. We cannot compromise the value of freedom because in the end it will bring us to a situation where our security is under attack.

Let us not forget, as well, that over 600 Kuwaiti POW's have yet to be accounted for. There are thousands upon thousands of Kuwaiti families who are missing a member of their family who have never been accounted for, who were killed or taken away by the Iraqis when they invaded that country and occupied it for that year. That is the equivalent of millions of Americans who would have a family member lost and unaccounted for. There must be an accounting of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war. There must be an accounting of Saddam Hussein for all of his crimes.

Let us remember that when the Soviet Union began to evolve into what is now a democratic Russia or continues to struggle to try to be a democratic Russia, the chances for peace went up. A demand for freedom in Iraq and an elimination of this tyrant, Saddam Hussein, will increase the chances for peace in that entire region and secure the United States of America as well. I strongly support the amendment of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] to bring Saddam Hussein to task.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] for his eloquent words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF].

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H. Con. Res. 137, which condemns the government of Iraq for its continued reign of terror against the Kurds, and that is what it has basically been for the last several years, a reign of terror that unfortunately the West has not focused on. But with this resolution and with the effort that the Kurds are now making, I think more and more people are focusing on it.

What this would do is encourage the establishment of a war crimes tribunal to try Saddam Hussein and the other Iraqi officials for their crimes against humanity. I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], and the other Members for sponsoring this resolution. Hopefully this resolution will send a message not only through the United States, but to the Kurdish population around the world and particularly in that area, that the United States Congress, the people's House, cares very, very deeply.

Iraq is a bad actor government. Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator who cares about nothing more than hanging onto his power. He has persecuted the people of Iraq. He is engaging in a dangerous showdown with the West. He is not afraid to murder members of his own family who threaten to tell the truth about his brutality or threaten his reign.

He is seeking to wipe out the Kurds of northern Iraq who are trapped because of their geography. The Kurds of northern Iraq have nowhere to go to escape their plight. They have been and are being murdered, imprisoned, tortured and repressed. Hopefully with this resolution, sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and supported by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and so many other Members, it will send a message to Saddam Hussein that the West cares, and send a message to the Kurds that are going through this problem that we deeply care and that we stand with them.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] for his kind remarks in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL].

Mr. PAUL. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I agree certainly with the sharp criticism against the government and the leaders of Iraq. I do disagree with what we are trying to do here, not because it is not well motivated, but I do not see that we have the authority to all of a sudden impose our system of justice across the entire world. I do not think it is effective. I think it drums up anti-American hostility more than it achieves justice.

But there is a bit of inconsistency here. Earlier it was mentioned that it is not only the Iraqis that abuse the Kurds, the Turks do it as well. Why are the Turks not included in this? Why do we not call them out and put them on the carpet and demand justice from the Turks? But they happen to be our allies.

At the same time, we ignore other major problems. What did we do with China? The leaders of China came here, they got the red carpet treatment and a promise of more money. But how do they treat their people at Tiananmen Square and currently throughout their whole country? They abuse civil liberties there.

But are we going to do the same thing? Do Members think we can do that? We pick and choose and pretend that we are going to perform this great system of justice on the world. Indonesia today, they are getting bailed out by the American taxpayer to the tune of tens of billions of dollars. They mistreat in a serious manner the people in East Timor. But here we decide all of a sudden that we are going to, through the United Nations, expose the American taxpayer, expose young American soldiers, because how are we going to enforce these things? Where do we get this authority to be the policeman of the world?

I do not believe we have this authority. I believe it is detrimental overall to our national security. I believe it is a threat to the American people and indirectly, in many ways, to the taxpayer. I object. I object generally to so many of these amendments, so well-intended. I do not disagree with the challenges, the charges made against Iraq and the leadership. I strongly criticize the approach to trying to solve this very serious problem.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PAUL. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. First, would the gentleman suggest that there is not a relationship between freedom and peace?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the gentleman is getting at. I know the most important thing for freedom and peace is for me to obey the Constitution. Where is it the authority of the Constitution for us to police the world?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The gentleman is suggesting, then, that this body

should not have condemned Adolf Hitler until he actually attacked the United States, is that what he would suggest? Is that his foreign policy?

Mr. PAUL. I think that is not the debate on the floor right now. I think when our national security is threatened, the American people have a right to vote through their Congressmen for a declaration of war.

This is the kind of thing that leads to Vietnam War-type wars and U.N. sanctions. This is the kind of thing that leads to Koreas, Vietnams and useless wars. This is why we did not win the war in the Persian Gulf and why we are still faced with this problem.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Short of a declaration of war, the gentleman does not think the United States Government should do anything about tyranny?

Mr. PAUL. I believe in the responsibility of this U.S. Congress to assume that they are the ones that declare war in a proper manner.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have no criticism about those who are challenging the leadership in Iraq. I condemn them. I challenge, though, the technique that we are using, the process that we are using. I do not believe we have the authority. Long-term, it is not effective.

It is totally inconsistent when we are dealing with China. These token resolutions that we dealt with on China will have nothing to do with solving the problem. At the same time, we give them more money, we give the Turks more money, we give China more money, we give Indonesia more money, and they are all in the process of abusing civil liberties. I just think that we have conveniently picked a whipping horse and we are pretending that we are doing some good.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER].

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say to the gentleman who just finished speaking that I certainly respect the consistency of his ideas, but I disagree. If he had expressed those ideas as a member of the parliament in Turkey or if he expressed them in Iraq or in Indonesia, he might well find himself in the same situation as Leyla Zana and the Kurdish parliamentarians found themselves and, that is, behind bars. It seems to me that if we do not recognize that we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper, that our freedoms and theirs are in some way connected, we will invite the kind of terrorism that Saddam Hussein practices on his people and others practice on their people throughout this world.

□ 1430

Let me agree with him, however, in part. Let us stop giving money to the Turks as long as they repress their people. Let us stop giving money to the Indonesian Government that takes away the religious freedoms of the people of East Timor. Let us stop supporting dic-

tators that deny the basic human rights of their people.

I believe that we attempt very strongly to be consistent. We passed nine bills dealing with China. Those bills do have a potential, particularly the one on Radio Free Asia that will broadcast to China and Tibet and North Korea and Burma. I think we have a potential for positively impacting their society.

Let us never give up our ideals and our beliefs in human freedom, the very foundation of this society, because we might see a little inconsistency or cannot find the exact words we want to give us authority. The authority is moral authority, and it has a great power in this world if only we will exercise it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). 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 137.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question de novo on the motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

ESTABLISHMENT OF 2,500 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS BEFORE 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1753, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1753, 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.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from the further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 476) to provide for the establishment of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities by the year 2000, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.