

Mother Teresa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning humanitarian efforts. I oppose the Gold Medal for Mother Teresa Act because appropriating \$30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Mother Teresa who dedicated here entire life to voluntary, charitable work, particularly humanitarian.

Because of my continuing and uncompromising opposition to appropriations not authorized within the enumerated powers of the Constitution, several of my colleagues found it amusing to question me personally as to whether, on this issue, I would maintain my resolve and commitment of the Constitution—a Constitution, which only months ago, each Member of Congress, swore to uphold. In each of these instances, I offered to do a little more than uphold my constitutional oath.

In fact, as a means of demonstrating my personal regard and enthusiasm for the work of Mother Teresa, I invited each of these colleagues to match my private, personal contribution of \$100 which, if accepted by the 435 Members of the House of Representatives, would more than satisfy the \$30,000 cost necessary to mint and award a gold medal to the well-deserving Mother Teresa. To me, it seemed a particularly good opportunity to demonstrate one's genuine convictions by spending one's own money rather than that of the taxpayers who remain free to contribute, at their own discretion, to the work of Mother Teresa and have consistently done so. For the record, not a single Representative who solicited my support for spending taxpayer's money, was willing to contribute their own money to demonstrate the courage of their so-called convictions and generosity.

It is, of course, very easy to be generous with other people's money.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1650.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)—

Mr. CASTLE. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1650.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and

agree to the resolution (H. Res. 147) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House of Representatives should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 147

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas such housing can be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, cooperatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the first country in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families; however, more than one-third of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of non-homeowning families in the United States are low-income families;

Whereas the National Partners in Homeownership, a public-private partnership comprised of 63 national organizations under the leadership of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has established a goal of reaching an all-time high homeownership level in the United States by the end of the 20th century;

Whereas there are many other nonprofit and for-profit organizations that, in partnership with the Federal Government and local governments, strive to make the American dream of homeownership a reality for low-income families;

Whereas national organizations such as the Fannie Mae Foundation, Freddie Mac, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Enterprise Foundation, the Housing Assistance Council, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, in conjunction with local organizations, have developed thousands of homes each year for low-income families and have, in the process, reduced urban decay and blight and fostered business activity;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the

American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the second week of June 1997 is National Homeownership Week: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) it is a goal of our Nation that all citizens have safe, clean, and healthy housing;

(2) the Members of the House of Representatives should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism and community service;

(3) the Members of the House of Representatives and Habitat for Humanity, with support from the National Partners in Homeownership, should sponsor and construct, commencing on June 5, 1997, two homes in the Anacostia neighborhood of the District of Columbia, each to be known as a "House That Congress Built";

(4) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed primarily by Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staffs, involving and symbolizing the partnership of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

(5) each "House That Congress Built" should be constructed with the participation of the family that will own the home;

(6) upon completion and initial occupancy of the homes in the fall of 1997, the Members of the House of Representatives, their families and staffs, and local and national leaders from the public and private nonprofit sectors of society should participate, together with each family that will own a "House That Congress Built", in an event to celebrate the occasion;

(7) in the future, the Members of the House of Representatives and their families and staff should participate in similar house building activities of Habitat for Humanity in their own districts as part of National Homeownership Week; and

(8) these occasions should be used to emphasize and focus on the importance of providing safe, clean, and healthy homes for all of the people in the United States.

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

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating and thanking my colleague and friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], for this concept and for his introduction of this legislation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. STOKES, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. GEPHARDT, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from New York, Mr. FLAKE, and certainly the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, and the gentleman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for their cooperation and collaboration to celebrate what I think is one of the more outstanding programs that we have in America, the creation of a synergy where people in the public sector and the community itself, businesses and the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector which have come together to contribute their time and resources and effort to give to their fellow neighbor one of the greatest gifts that one

can imagine, and that is receiving the gift of home ownership, of obtaining the American dream.

□ 1330

This is through the Habitat for Humanity Program. We are about to begin a celebration in June, the second week in June, of self-help housing programs and in particular the Habitat Program.

This model builds upon an act that took place last year, where, for the first time, Congress acted to contribute about \$25 million to ensure that thousands of Americans would be able to live the dream of homeownership through the Habitat Program.

I am looking forward to having my colleague from California, [Mr. LEWIS], explain in further detail what as a group we are going to do in a bipartisan way to help rebuild two homes in the Anacostia area.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to relate to the House that the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] has been delayed because of air travel, and therefore I stand on his behalf, am happy to stand and speak on behalf of House Resolution 147, which is supported by Members from both sides of the aisle.

The resolution both recognizes the need to increase homeownership throughout the Nation and expresses the House's commitment to the building of two homes with the Habitat for Humanity here in Washington on June 5. I think Habitat for Humanity has demonstrated excellence in its ability to garner support from numbers of people in numbers of trades who have come together to volunteer their time and have demonstrated the means by which we might resolve some of the issues related to housing in this Nation.

This undertaking today is due to the leadership of the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], whose creativity and commitment to affordable housing will unite the membership of this House with housing organizations like Habitat for Humanity in making homeownership a reality for the two families here in this Nation's Capital and, hopefully, will represent what can be done by sweat and by the equity of persons who are willing to invest of themselves to help to build homeownership in this Nation.

I appreciate the efforts of the chairman, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], and share in his commitment to improving housing conditions for all of the families in this Nation. It is my hope that we can work together in taking this effort well beyond the boundaries of Washington, DC and make them available to so many other people in this Nation.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate my colleague yielding. I want to express my deep appreciation to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. STOKES], who has worked with me on this issue, and my colleague, the gentleman from Washington, DC, [Ms. NORTON], my local Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday Ms. NORTON and I came to this floor to speak to a very important need facing the citizens of the District of Columbia and indeed the entire Nation. The need is simple: Decent, affordable homes for the working families of the United States.

The gentleman from Washington, DC, [Ms. NORTON], Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH, the gentleman from Missouri, the House minority leader, [Mr. GEPHARDT], the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. STOKES], the gentleman from New York, [Mr. LAZIO], and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] joined me in introducing this bipartisan legislation expressing the sense of the House that Members of Congress can do more than just talk about providing homes for our citizens and neighbors. Indeed, it is time for action.

On that very same day, the Speaker, Ms. NORTON, Mr. STOKES, the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity, Millard Fuller, and two very special families gathered together to celebrate an important milestone in the history of the Congress and the District of Columbia. These bipartisan leaders gathered to announce "The House that Congress Built," a unique partnership involving Congress, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo, leaders of the National Partners in Homeownership, and others.

On June 5, these leaders will begin construction of two Habitat for Humanity homes in Southeast Washington, DC. "The House that Congress Built" is a powerful symbol demonstrating the commitment of a bipartisan Congress and numerous organizations toward one common goal, providing a decent and affordable home for every American family. It is also an appropriate way to kick off National Homeownership Week, the week of June 7 through 14, a campaign to emphasize local and national efforts to make the American dream a reality.

This unique effort is supported by the National Partners in Homeownership, an unprecedented public-private partnership working to dramatically increase homeownership in America. Presently, this membership consists of 63 members representing real estate professionals, home builders, nonprofit housing providers, as well as local, State, and Federal levels of government.

The goal of this partnership is to achieve an all-time high rate of homeownership, 67 percent of all American households, by the end of year 2000. There is still very much work to be done. This effort is only possible be-

cause of the inspiring work of Millard Fuller, the founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, who has built a worldwide Christian housing ministry over a period of 20 years.

Since its creation in 1976, Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers have built homes with 50,000 families in need in more than 1,300 cities and 50 countries. As a result of Fuller's vision, more than 250,000 people across the globe now have safe, decent, affordable homes.

In Philadelphia recently, President Clinton, President Bush, retired Gen. Colin Powell and others gathered to salute the spirit of volunteer service that exists in this country. No other organization better illustrates this spirit than Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is an organization that brings people together. Its volunteers are as diverse as the people who live in these United States.

Most importantly, Habitat for Humanity promotes what Millard Fuller describes as the theology of the hammer, namely, putting faith and love into action to serve others. In this case, the theology of the hammer is being applied to assist two very special soon-to-be homeowners, Marlene Hunter and her family and Mary Collins and her family. Even before the first nail has been driven, Members of Congress, corporate sponsors and these families have made a commitment that will be fulfilled as these two homes are built this summer entirely by Members of Congress and their staff.

Let me assure my colleagues that this is only just the beginning. Next year we hope to continue this bipartisan effort by having every Member of the Congress make a commitment to build a Habitat home in his or her own congressional district. That is a commitment that will provide a home for 435 working families. Imagine an additional 435 first-time home buyers because of the hands-on work of every Member of this body. It is a first step, but an important beginning, nonetheless.

I want to thank my colleagues, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, Minority Leader DICK GEPHARDT, the gentleman from the District of Columbia, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. LOU STOKES, the gentleman from New York, Mr. RICK LAZIO, and the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. JOE KENNEDY, for their commitment to this unique effort and for joining me in passing this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, there is a popular song by R. Kelly that says, "I believe I can fly."

The gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] has flown and arrived, so I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as the good Congressman, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE],

who would rather be known as a reverend, understands, only he is capable of flying through this Chamber.

But I do want to, first of all, commend my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] for the fine work that he has done on this bill. My colleague has been very, very, I think, diligent not only in his efforts to try and I hope continue funding for all housing programs, which is going to be a major issue in the course of the next few months, but also has been a strong advocate of volunteerism.

I think Habitat is one of these unique programs that comes along that blends both the needs for housing for the very poor people of this country that so desperately need shelter and mixing that with the spirit of volunteerism. I think the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] ought to be commended by everyone in this Chamber and people around the country for his efforts on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

I also want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] and the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], who had both sponsored some legislation last year in the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity which was controversial because of the nature of some of the funding supports for Habitat and, specifically, that was going to one congressional district down in Georgia.

But, in any event, the truth is that regardless of their efforts to target that funding to that particular congressional district that happened to be in the Speaker's domain, the truth is that we want to make certain that everybody understands the tremendous support that I think exists around this country for Habitat and the recognition of the fine work that it does in many communities in many States throughout the country.

I just want to briefly say that the work of Habitat is a wonderful and unique organization. The gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] has sponsored an initiative to get many of us in the Government to go and work on an initiative, I believe it is June 5, that I am looking forward to. I am hoping I do not bang too many fingers when I try to hit a nail.

The fundamental truth is that there are a number of different organizations around the country that blend together a sense of volunteerism with building homes for people in need. Habitat is one of the finest of that series of organizations, and I am delighted to see that we are supporting them in the fashion that we are here today. I again want to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].

I do want to suggest that, in terms of the overall housing needs of our country, that I am very concerned that the budget that we are going to be voting on in a few hours here on the House floor is not going to be providing enough funding for the housing needs of our country's poor.

We have already seen a vast reduction in the amount of funding that we

spend on homeless Americans. We see even greater reductions in terms of the funding levels for everything from assisted housing to the public housing concerns of our country. And while efforts have been made to reform those needs, the truth of the matter is that if you are going to cut 25 or 30 percent of the funding levels, you can reform it all you want but you still are not going to be providing enough housing for the poor and the vulnerable people of our country.

So when the American people here that look on our city streets or in their neighborhoods and see homeless Americans, we cannot provide solutions to our housing problems by simply walking around pointing to antiquated public housing and saying, "Look at this great, terrible monstrosity," and our answer to the problems with public housing is to simply cut the budget.

This is not going to solve our housing needs. That is the solution that has been advocated. I am here today to salute those that want to support housing and support Habitat for Humanity's efforts to deal with the housing shortage that exists in this country.

Mr. Speaker, after spending 7 days on the House floor debating H.R. 2, the veto-bait bill which makes draconian reforms to our Nation's public and assisted housing programs, it gives me great pleasure to support this bipartisan resolution. Not only does the resolution acknowledge the need to increase home ownership throughout this Nation, it also expresses this body's resolve to assist two families in achieving home ownership. Our assistance does not entail the creation of a new program or the appropriation of new funds, instead it merely requires our time and energy and a little physical coordination. As outlined in the resolution, on June 5, myself and several other Members will leave our suits at home in exchange for hardhats and nail guns to join Habitat for Humanity and other dedicated housing organizations in building the first "House that Congress Built." Throughout that weekend, it is our intent to put two Washington families into two different homes.

While this effort will be an unprecedented achievement, I must say—it is not enough. There are numerous families in each of our congressional districts that could use equivalent assistance in achieving home ownership. And Habitat for Humanity cannot do it all alone. So it is our hope that Members will bring the "House that Congress Built" to their congressional districts in the future. Not only to bring the dream of home ownership to a fortunate family, but also to bring to the public's consciousness the benefits of providing affordable housing to all families—rich or poor.

There are 5.3 million families—just like the two families we are placing in these two homes—who live in severe conditions. And even if Members of the House built two homes every weekend for the rest of my life, we still would not meet those families needs. We must do more.

With that said, I look forward to working with the cosponsors of this legislation—Speaker GINGRICH, Minority Leader GEPHARDT, Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member STOKES, and Chairman LAZIO—on June 5, and also in the

future as we work toward bringing home ownership to more and more families in America.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, again this is about the creation of a partnership with Members of Congress in the community of Washington, DC.

Many Members of Congress live in the District. I am one of those who, when I am down here on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, is a proud resident of the District of Columbia. It is appropriate that we give back not just in terms of our service in Congress but as part of the community.

The Habitat Program and other self-help housing groups across the country are gems in terms of their ability to bring people together and to build a better sense of community. For those people who are not familiar with the work that Habitat does, over 1,400 affiliates across the entire Nation, it is a program that brings neighbors together to help build a home for another neighbor who does not have the resources to construct a home themselves. We have business people donate doors and windows.

In last year's legislation, the Federal Government has begun to provide some small amount of funding that would help with those areas that are not easily donated, for example, roads and sewers and infrastructure costs that will help thousands of Americans obtain the dream of home ownership in the best of ways by bringing your neighbors together, their community together.

I just had the pleasure of being at a Habitat construction site in my own home district in Bayshore, where members of the public sector and businesses and the community leaders were all there swinging hammers, using saws, hauling around lumber, men and women of all ages feeling very good about the fact that they were giving to another neighbor.

□ 1345

It is one of the greatest gifts, as I said before, that a neighbor can give to another neighbor. We ought to feel very, very good about the fact that we have a program here where Members of Congress are going to be joining in to celebrate sort of self-help week in housing in June and that it will result in bringing to two families in the District that great feeling of pride of living under one's own roof in home ownership in one of the areas in which we have unfortunately been witnessing a decline in home ownership in the Anacostia area.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES], the ranking member of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for yielding me this time, and I rise to commend the gentleman from

Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO], and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] for bringing House Resolution 147 to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, it is one that I can support, and I am very pleased to be able to join with my distinguished friend from California [Mr. LEWIS], the author of this legislation. I really want to commend him because he and I work together very closely on the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations. I know his interest in providing decent housing in a suitable living environment for every American. This bill manifests that type of interest and concern he has in that respect.

In fact, I would like to just call the attention of the House to the fact that a few days ago, I was privileged to attend a press conference conducted by the gentleman from California where the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], the Speaker of the House, spoke and the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] spoke and both the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] and myself were in attendance. Along with the Habitat for Humanity organizational people were two families here who reside in the District of Columbia for whom these homes are going to be built. They were two lovely families, very decent people, and if my colleagues could have seen the expressions on their faces and the joy in their faces at the knowledge that Members of Congress cared enough about them that they were going to come out and actually build a home for them. They even put up with our taunting one another about the fact that we lacked the ability to build a house, but we were determined that we were going to come out and do our best to build this home for them.

When I mention Habitat for Humanity, I do not know of any organization in America that does more to try and provide simple but adequate housing for the less fortunate in this country. Their approach is to build an attitude of self-help in these people, provide housing for them in safe communities, in safe neighborhoods. They have done such an outstanding job all over the country. In my own city, in the city of Cleveland, I have seen the results of the housing that they have built for people who are less fortunate in the community which I represent here in the Congress.

I am reminded at this time, too, that for many, many years, a former President, President Jimmy Carter, has been a man who has gone all over the country for Habitat for Humanity and helped to build houses. I just think at a time like this, I want to recognize his great contribution.

I think the beauty of this particular legislation is the fact that it has been so bipartisan. Members on both sides of the aisle have taken great pride in joining together with the realization

that, working together, we can do something very special for the people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, what I would really like to say, I think, is that while we are looking forward to joining with the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] in this effort to build these two homes for these people here in the District, I think that we ought to really look at this as not one shot. Each Member ought to be thinking of how we can expand this effort that we are going to participate in here in the District of Columbia all across the country. I think that ought to be the real purpose of this legislation, for us to carry forth the whereas clauses throughout this resolution in which we speak of a decent home and a decent neighborhood for every American. I think the way to do that is to not just build it here in the District of Columbia but to help do that all over America.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] yielding.

It occurred to me earlier that it is no accident that the very day that we will go out in a bipartisan manner together attempting to make a difference in the lives of these two families here in Washington, DC, that Mother Teresa will be receiving a gold medal on behalf of the Congress. To say the least, the confluence of people serving people that both those activities reflect is very much a part of the spirit that I have found and brought back from Hershey, PA, where as the gentleman remembers when we were there together, there were 220 Members, Democrats and Republicans, who committed themselves to a new kind of dialogue in the House, moving away from this confrontation for the sake of confrontation. Indeed if this resolution ends up being a reflection of continuing that spirit, then all the better. I want my colleague to know I very much appreciate his assistance and his friendship.

Mr. STOKES. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

Mr. LEACH. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to stress that this is a bill made for commendation. The leadership of the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO], the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE], the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], and, of course, President Carter has been very significant.

Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful program. It is not a substitute for all public programs. This side understands that very well. In fact, with all the rancor of the debate the last 3 or 4 weeks in housing programs, it should be stressed that this House last week passed 100 percent of the President's recommended budget for public housing.

Indeed, in the budget agreement, fully one-half of the new nondefense discretionary funding will go for housing programs, about \$35 billion out of \$70 billion over the next 5 years. This Congress has committed this year and in subsequent years in effect to increase support for public housing. This should be very well understood.

Just because the issue was raised, I would stress that the bill last year that was critiqued a minute ago by one of the speakers had been endorsed by Secretary Cisneros and pushed strongly by President Carter. I am sorry that there was apprehension on the other side about prior Habitat programs. But the main point I would like to make is not to defend public housing programs, which have many problems and also important opportunities, but today to emphasize certain private sector efforts. Most, it should be stressed, are not extended by political figures but by committed people in many communities around the country, at the community level. Here, though, I think it is important that we also express our thanks to institutions that we have respect for in the private sector, particularly in this case Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the National Reinvestment Corporation, and the National Association of Homebuilders for their support.

In any regard, I think this is a time for thanks to be extended on all sides and to set a sense of perspective that this is a program that is very important, that is very symbolic. It does not replace other kinds of programs but is certainly a wonderful additional complement to them.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], the district in which the homes are to be built.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

As a recipient of the largesse of this resolution, I come to the floor this afternoon to thank especially the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES], the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE], the Speaker and the minority leader for their initiative on this wonderful idea.

I have very special thanks to give to the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], however, for it is not only a wonderful idea, it was his bright idea, and I think it a bright idea not only, may I say, because my district will be the first recipient of this generosity of

Members but because in a very real sense, the spirit of Hershey, of which he spoke so eloquently, may have found its best mode of expression. We have every right to ask, what in the world is the spirit of Hershey? How can one make the good feelings of that weekend live and last? It is very difficult to do. We do not often meet like that. We cannot meet like that very often. But we will be meeting like that on June 5. We will be meeting like that, making Hershey live in a way that I think we all have been searching for.

Partisanship is natural to the process of the House of Representatives and necessary to the process here. We represent different districts and different points of view. We come together as we do on many bills. But the fact is that bipartisanship on some issues is an absolute necessity.

Surely if there is to be bipartisanship on any issue, it is the future of the capital of the United States. To be sure, this Congress holds the capital in its hands because of its unique constitutional responsibility and because it has to vote for a small amount for the capital every year. But when the House builds its own house in the District, it reaches out to the people I represent in a way that is especially appreciated. The gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] has said this will be the house that Congress built. It will certainly be the house that the House built. It will be remembered that way, and it will be built in the Anacostia community, named for the river my colleagues have to cross to reach there, named for the place where many of the poorest Washingtonians live.

Those who will receive the generosity of the House during this initiative were there when it was announced by the Speaker. The HUD Secretary is on board and, of course, we are doing it through Habitat for Humanity which has done many good works in the District and which, of course, is the natural leader of this work here in the District.

May I thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] who had spent numerous hours trying to find an appropriate project. We had found one and then we tossed that one out and another one was tossed out, and here comes the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] with just the right project. The gentleman from Illinois, Mr. MANZULLO, and the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who had been working together after Hershey will be working on this project as well.

This project has a larger goal: that by the year 2000, fully two-thirds of the American people will own their own home. We have done wonderfully in this country since World War II in encouraging and in achieving home ownership by Americans. What this project metaphorically says is that we are in this for everybody.

To show that we are in it for everybody, we are building a house for the poorest Americans and we are going to carry this concept everywhere. We are going to ask Members to take the concept back to their own districts. My colleagues will find that the Habitat habit is catching. When they see that colleagues are helping to build a house in their district, they are going to say, "Me, too," to the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO], they are going to say to the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], "We want one here. We want Habitat to come here and do what you did in the District of Columbia."

My colleagues are going to start something in the District and it is going to spread. It is going to spread its good feeling, it is going to spread to the housing industry, and it is going to help make affordable housing something other than an oxymoron. Thanks for helping in the District. Make sure that it is your district next.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentlewoman yielding.

I just wanted to rise and say to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], I very much appreciate the collegiality and the friendship she has extended to me. The symbolism that is the house that Congress built is just beginning. I think the gentlewoman already knows that any number of private partners have begun to contribute not just material but funds as well to make sure that the dollars are available to complete this facility. The gentlewoman has mentioned that this will go on from here.

□ 1400

Indeed I know that the gentlewoman and I will be working together in the year before us to encourage Members not just along with their staffs to complete these two homes in Washington, DC, but then, just think, next year as Members start looking to their district and working with Habitat and talking about the wonderful theology of the hammer and the effect that it can have upon this place. I have for some time now been most disconcerted by reactions in my own district where people are saying:

"Why don't you people ever work together? Why this partisanship almost for the sake of it?"

And indeed the gentlewoman and I have talked a lot about that. There is little doubt that this is a turning point in the Congress, and being able to work with the gentlewoman is a great privilege for me, and I appreciate her collegiality and friendship, and I thank her for her help.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] not only for his kind words here this afternoon, but for this effort, this idea that so many have embraced and,

may I say, for the collegiality and generosity he has shown the District of Columbia ever since I have been in the Congress.

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say in conclusion that I am very proud to cosponsor this resolution drafted by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS]. The House That Congress Built; what a wonderful name for legislation that will begin a process of having Members of Congress work with neighbors to help to build homes in the District.

I would also say that it ought not to stop here. We ought to be looking for new ways in which we can build on this community service, build on partnerships, build on helping one another, ensuring that people achieve the dream of home ownership, perhaps one of the greatest of American dreams, and restoring the sense of neighborhood that so many communities are lacking. The best way to do that is for us to pitch in and begin the process of creating the type of neighborhood partnership, the sense of being in it together, of a sense of helping those that need a helping hand, and this event, these two events of building these two homes in the District and Anacostia, are a very substantial step, although more than symbolism, a very substantial step in showing that this Congress cares about the self-help housing program and that we intend to use resources where we can find them to help augment a very important program, the Habitat for Humanity Program, and other self-help housing programs throughout the country so that other communities and neighborhoods throughout our great Nation can enjoy the fruits of this program, and the greatest fruit, in my opinion, is not the fact that we are constructing a home and enabling a family to have a roof over their head that they can own. The greatest pleasure of it all is that we bring neighbors together to do for another neighbor what they might not be able to do themselves.

So it is a high point certainly for us to be discussing this and then to be acting upon this on June 5, and I congratulate my friends on both sides of the aisle for their part in all this, and I urge passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, perhaps many who wonder what the big deal is about, Members of Congress and Habitat joining together to build two homes in the District of Columbia; I think all of us realize that there is a critical housing shortage in America, and those of us who are not only Members of the Congress, but persons like myself who does housing development, particularly in low- and moderate-income communities, we realize that this is an important step. I do not think anyone has

done as much as President Jimmy Carter in terms of lifting the concerns of homelessness in the way that he has done since he left the White House to a level whereby we all know that it is a critical problem and that we can make a difference, and we make that difference not only by asking for Government dollars to rebuild communities, but make that difference by making the kind of individual investments of time, energy, resources to try to make this a better country for all of us to live in.

There is also another thing I think we ought to be concerned about, and that is, in addition to building housing, how to build the necessary support services. As my colleagues know, in many communities many of the commercial strips are devastated, people do not have access to basic services because they have been left behind, communities have not been invested in, in many instances between insurance companies and banks. There has been a redlining process that has negated the possibility of these communities being as strong as they could be.

So it is my hope that what we do today sends the message that not only will we be building houses, we will be rebuilding commercial strips, and of course all of this means that we will rebuild the lives of people, rebuild the quality of life for all Americans, and in so doing I think this Congress will make the greatest of all statements.

I would like to thank all of those who have participated in helping to bring this piece of legislation to the floor and all of those who will participate not only in assuring that these two people will have homes, but also that all of America will be housed.

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to acknowledge finally two great Americans that have had outstanding contributions to the Habitat Program besides, of course, Millard Fuller, who is the president of Habitat and the hundreds and thousands, actually, of leaders involved in the affiliates throughout the country; our President Jimmy Carter, who has contributed so much of his time to provide a role model, and his involvement in the Habitat Program is well known throughout the country and is respected by both sides of the aisle, and the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, for without his leadership last year we certainly would not be able to move out of our committee and onto the floor for passage and finally for signature on the President's desk the first major public partnership between the Federal Government and Habitat for Humanity that will bring that dream of home ownership to thousands of Americans.

So my hat is off to two great Americans, President Jimmy Carter and Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH for their bipartisan support for a wonderful program, the Habitat for Humanity Program.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAZIO] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 147, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)—

Mr. LAZIO of New York. 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 408, INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACT

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-103) on the resolution (H. Res. 153) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 408) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 152 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 152

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1990, 2000, 2001, and 2002. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against the concurrent resolution and against its consideration are waived. General debate shall be confined to the congressional budget and shall not exceed five hours and twenty minutes (including one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies), with five hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and twenty minutes controlled by Representative Minge of Minnesota or his designee. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except the amendments in the nature of substitutes designated in section 2 of this resolution, if printed in the portion of the Congressional Record, designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Each amend-

ment may be offered only in the order designated, may be offered only by a Member designated, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for twenty minutes (except as otherwise provided in section 2) equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. All points of order against the amendments designated in section 2 are waived except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of question shall be fifteen minutes. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to final adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

SEC. 2. The following amendments are in order pursuant to the first section of this resolution:

- (1) the amendment numbered 1, which shall be debatable for one hour;
- (2) the amendment numbered 2;
- (3) the amendment numbered 3;
- (4) the amendment numbered 4; and
- (5) the amendment numbered 5.

SEC. 3. Rule XLIX shall not apply with respect to the adoption by the Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I might consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 152 is a modified closed rule providing for consideration of a historic document, House Concurrent Resolution 84, the budget resolution for fiscal year 1998, which incorporates the balanced budget agreement reached recently between the President and the congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle.

The rule is very similar to rules for the budget resolution in the recent past. The rule, not unlike the budget resolution itself, is the product of bipartisan negotiations and adequately reflects the spirit of fairness and cooperation in which those negotiations were carried out.