

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.
Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267), making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY AMERICANS OF AUSTRIAN HERITAGE

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 217) recognizing the important contributions made by Americans of Austrian heritage, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 217

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Austria have enjoyed close and friendly relations since the inception of the Republic of Austria;

Whereas 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan which was critically important to the reconstruction of the Republic of Austria and to the establishment of friendly ties between the Republic of Austria and the United States;

Whereas on September 26, 1945, a conference of representatives of the nine Federal states of the Republic of Austria was held in Vienna that laid the foundation for the provisional Austrian Government and the early elections in November 1945; and

Whereas a number of States have already proclaimed September 26, 1997, as "Austrian-American Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) declares that the warm and cordial relations between the people of the United States and the Republic of Austria should grow stronger; and

(2) acknowledges the important contributions to the United States by Americans of Austrian heritage.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] is recognized for 1 hour.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to present this resolution on behalf of its author, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] and the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. Speaker, September 26 will mark the 52d anniversary of the conference that established the post-war Austrian government. House Resolution 217 recognizes the pivotal role played by the United States in the establishment of a free and democratic Austria. It is particularly fitting that the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] be the author of this resolution as the only Austrian American currently serving in the House.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the author of House Resolution 217, together with the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, this Member urges support for this simple and straightforward celebration of warm and cordial relations between Americans and the people of Austria.

September 26 will mark the 52d anniversary of the conference that established the post-war Austrian Government. Recognizing the pivotal role played by the United States in the establishment of a free and democratic Austria, the Government of Austria has declared September 26, 1997, to be Austrian-American Day. All around the United States, our State legislatures have followed suit, declaring September 26 to be Austrian-American Day.

Because of the rules of this body, we are not permitted to consider commemorative resolutions, or declare specific honorary days. However, this body can certainly join with the Government of Austria and the many State legislatures to note the long and positive history of Austrian-American relations. That is precisely what this House Resolution 217 does.

Mr. Speaker, as perhaps the only Austrian-American presently to be serving in the House, this Member would urge adoption of House Resolution 217.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 (a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT TO UNDERTAKE AN APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING REPRESENTATIVE HILLIARD'S TRAVEL TO LIBYA

Whereas Libya is an unapologetic terrorist state that openly supports, promotes and inspires terrorists;

Whereas Libya arms, trains and harbors terrorists;

Whereas Libya was involved in the 1985 terrorist attacks on airports in Rome and Vienna that left 20 men, women and children, including 5 American citizens, dead;

Whereas Libya is responsible for the deaths of two American soldiers in a 1986 terrorist bombing in Berlin;

Whereas Libya is responsible for the deaths of 270 men, women and children, including 189 Americans, in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988;

Whereas the Security Council of the United Nations has imposed sanctions on Libya in response to its responsibility for the bombings of both Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772; and

Whereas those sanctions were put into effect in the United States in 1986 by imposing of Treasury Department regulations, the violation of which may be punishable by a civil penalty and by criminal penalties including fine or imprisonment, and which among other things bar United States persons from engaging in transactions relating to transportation to and from Libya and from dealing in any property in which the government of Libya has any interest;

Whereas Libyan leader Moammar Ghadafi has called terrorist attacks that have left innocent men, women and children dead and wounded "heroic operations";

Whereas Congress has gone on record in its opposition to the Libyan government, passing laws that condemn Libya for supporting terrorism, list Libya among the countries denied direct or indirect United States assistance, authorize the President to prohibit imports and exports to Libya, and ban investment in the Libyan oil industry;

Whereas Libya is dedicated to destroying the Middle East peace process;

Whereas the Department of State has reported that Representative Earl Hilliard traveled to Libya in August without authorization of or approval from the Department of State;

Whereas Representative Earl Hilliard has refused to confirm or deny whether he traveled to Libya or offer an explanation for his travel to Libya;

Whereas if Representative Hilliard did travel to Libya, his actions would be in direct violation of United States policy toward Libya;

Whereas this episode raises questions of propriety regarding travel to Libya, Representative Hilliard should explain his reasons for traveling to Libya and his activities while there;

Whereas the Committee should inquire of Representative Earl Hilliard what individual, organization, government agency or other entity paid for his travel to and from Libya and his expenses while in Libya;

Whereas Representative Hilliard has not disclosed whether he engaged in any transactions relating to his travel to and from Libya, or in other transactions while in Libya;

Whereas these circumstances warrant an immediate affirmation by the House of its unequivocal opposition to travel to Libya by its members and to terrorism and the terrorist agenda pursued by the Libyan government of Moammar Ghadafi; and

Whereas Representative Earl Hilliard has conducted himself in a manner which is inconsistent with the dignity of the House and is not conduct appropriate to the House and its members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct undertake an immediate and thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding Representative Earl Hilliard's travel to Libya and report back to the House.

□ 2200

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within two legislative days of its being properly noticed.

The Chair will announce the Chair's designation at a later time. The Chair's determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, presuming that the interpretation is that this resolution is an appropriate privileged resolution, would that mean that the resolution will have to be considered within the next two days, meaning either tomorrow or Friday?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, the Speaker will designate a time on one of the next two legislative days to address the matter. At the designated time, the gentleman will be able to offer the resolution. The Chair cannot say how the House may consider it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis).

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

There was no objection.

WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that tomorrow will be an historic day for women business owners. For the first time, women business owners from a range of professions will convene on Capitol Hill to share their stories with Members of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. My colleague, the gentlewoman from New York [Ms. KELLY], and I will cochair this unprecedented bipartisan forum, addressing

the vast growth of women-owned firms and the contrasting poor rate of procurement to these firms.

With the procurement rate to women-owned firms at less than 2 percent, the need to explore the problems women business owners are experiencing in trying to obtain Federal contracts and to develop concrete solutions to these problems has never been greater.

Over the past decade, this country has experienced an explosion in the growth of women-owned businesses. The statistics speak for themselves. Between 1987 and 1996, the number of firms owned by women grew by 78 percent, which is almost twice the rate of increase in the number of all U.S. firms, which is 47 percent. Sales increased by 236 percent, nearly \$2.3 trillion, and employment increased by 183 percent.

In the same time period, the number of minority women-owned businesses increased by 153 percent, which is three times the rate of overall business growth in the United States, the rate of employment by minority firms grew by 276 percent, and revenues rose by 318 percent.

Between 1987 and 1996, the number of Hispanic women-owned firms grew 206 percent, the number of Asian, American Indian and Alaska native women-owned firms increased by 138 percent, and the number of African-American women-owned firms increased by 135 percent.

There are now approximately 8 million women-owned firms, providing jobs for 15.5 million people and generating nearly \$1.4 trillion in sales. Women-owned businesses now employ 35 percent more people in the United States than the Fortune 500 companies employ worldwide.

Between 1987 and 1996, the industries with the fastest rate of growth for women-owned businesses were in non-traditional fields. Women-owned firms grew by 171 percent in construction, by 157 percent in wholesale trade, by 140 percent in transportation-communications, by 130 percent in agriculture, and by 112 percent in manufacturing.

In the same period, the same phenomenon of women-owned businesses growing at the fastest rate in nontraditional fields were even more astounding among minority women-owned businesses. These firms grew by 319 percent in construction, by 276 percent in wholesale trades, and by 253 percent in transportation-communications and public utilities.

Although the number of women-owned firms has grown in every State over the past several months, they have exploded in the State that I represent. In California, from 1987 to 1996 the number of women-owned firms has grown by 78 percent, employment has increased by 255 percent and sales have grown by 313 percent. Women-owned businesses now account for more than one-third of all firms in California.

As a result, California ranks first out of the 50 States in the number of

women-owned firms, first in employment and first in sales. This unprecedented growth of women-owned firms is happening in the 37th District of California, Mr. Speaker, which is my district, generating \$105 billion in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan areas.

This area ranks second out of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the number, employment and sales of women-owned firms. That sounds promising. Maybe. But, the rate of procurement for all women-owned businesses remains a meager 1.8 percent, far below the 5 percent goal which was established in 1994 by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this discrepancy to continue. It is only hurting the strength of this Nation's economy. We are not utilizing this hidden resource within the business community.

When the Government continues to contract with the same large companies, America's taxpayers lose money, because when various agencies select their bid without real competition, it is highly unlikely that that bid is indeed the least expensive, more effective way of getting the job done.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I speak for millions of women business owners throughout the country. I ask that we recognize that tomorrow will be an historic day for women as we continue to grapple with the notion of women business owners and the lack of procurement and meeting the goals Congress has established.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NEUMANN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KILPATRICK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]