

Messrs. BILIRAKIS, GEORGE MILLER of California, and WYNN changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundegren, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2454. An act to assure the long-term conservation of mid-continent light geese and the biological diversity of the ecosystem upon which many North American migratory birds depend, by directing the Secretary of the Interior to implement rules to reduce the overabundant population of mid-continent light geese.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 578, I was unavoidably detained because of a celebration honoring the Little Rock Nine sponsored by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON). If I had been here, I would have voted "aye" for the substitute Dingell amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each further motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate is concluded on other motions to suspend the rules.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FREEDOM DAY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 223) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding Freedom Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 223

Whereas on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down by those whom it had imprisoned;

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall has become the preeminent symbol of the end of the Cold War;

Whereas the Cold War, at its essence, was a struggle for human freedom;

Whereas the end of the Cold War was brought about in large measure by the dedication, sacrifice, and discipline of Americans and many other peoples around the world united in their opposition to Soviet Communism;

Whereas freedom's victory in the Cold War against Soviet Communism is the crowning achievement of the free world's long 20th century struggle against totalitarianism; and

Whereas it is highly appropriate to remind Americans, particularly those in their formal educational years, that America paid the price and bore the burden to ensure the survival of liberty on this planet: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) a Freedom Day should be celebrated each year in the United States; and

(2) the United States should join with other nations, specifically including those which liberated themselves to help end the Cold War, to establish a global holiday called Freedom Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be associated with this worthy initiative, H. Con. Res. 223 by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), which recognizes this important 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The Berlin landmark was the most infamous symbol of the Cold War in Europe. It ran like a scar across one of Europe's grandest cities that had enjoyed a reputation for openness, for cultural innovation and flair. Tragically, that wall carved Berlin into two separate cities, its western half, a beacon of hope and freedom; its eastern half, a gray manifestation of Communist tyranny.

It is important that we recall the reasons that the regime of East Germany finally felt compelled to erect that wall, not to keep people out of the Communist "paradise," but to keep people in, to prevent them voting with their feet. Tragically, too many people died when they refused to let the wall impede them in their quest for freedom.

Ten years ago today, the Wall fell. The weight of the Communist system became too much for it to sustain. At that moment, the wisdom of President Ronald Reagan, when he appealed two years earlier to Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" and other leaders of the West, that led to the collapse of Communism in Europe was ratified.

It is hoped that our government will enlist all of the nations that benefited from Communism's demise to establish this date as Freedom Day. We owe that to the thousands of men and women in this Nation and in other nations who sacrificed everything to make freedom in Europe a reality.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) be entitled to control the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I want to commend my friend and colleague, the gentleman from the New York (Mr. GILMAN) and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), for bringing this measure before the House. Of course, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, some of us lived through this period from the establishment of the Berlin Wall to its collapse, and these two bookends, in a sense, cover basically the period of the Cold War.

I think it is instructive to begin our discussion of this issue by recognizing that the Berlin Wall is probably the only wall ever built in history not to keep the enemy out, but to see to it that the people behind the wall do not escape. The collapse of the Wall symbolized the collapse of the Soviet empire, and it indicated the end of the Third World War, which the West won without firing a single shot.

What is most remarkable about our victory, Mr. Speaker, is that it was a fully bipartisan victory. It began with the farsighted visionary and pragmatic measures of a Democratic President, Harry Truman; and it concluded during the powerful leadership of President Ronald Reagan who did, in fact, call to have the Wall removed. And from Truman to Reagan, this remarkable era represented one of the most impressive bipartisan periods of foreign policy in the history of the United States.

But it was not only our victory. It was the victory of our allies across Europe who joined together in NATO, the most impressive defensive military alliance the world had ever seen, to resist Soviet and Communist expansion, and it was the victory of the countless heroes behind the Iron Curtain who gave their lives so that others might live in freedom and democracy.

Usually, suspension bills can be easily handled with 40 minutes of discussion and debate. This topic would require 40 hours to begin to pay proper tribute to the countless men and women in this country and abroad who fought for the cause of freedom and whom we honor by establishing a day of freedom, a global holiday on November 9.

Let me just single out a few people who deserve special recognition. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Berlin Wall would still stand, the Soviet Union would still be in existence if it had not been for the farsighted and courageous leadership of Mr. Gorbachev in recognizing that the Soviet Union had lost