

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LEIF ERICSON MILLENNIUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 31) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in conjunction with the minting of coins by the Republic of Iceland in commemoration of the millennium of the discovery of the New World by Leif Ericson.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 31

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) **81 SILVER COINS.**—In conjunction with the simultaneous minting and issuance of commemorative coins by the Republic of Iceland in commemoration of the millennium of the discovery of the New World by Leif Ericson, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 1 dollar coins, which shall—

- (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) **LEGAL TENDER.**—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. SOURCES OF BULLION.

The Secretary may obtain silver for minting coins under this Act from any available source, including stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the millennium of the discovery of the New World by Leif Ericson.

(2) **DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.**—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

- (A) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (B) an inscription of the year "2000"; and
- (C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) **SELECTION.**—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Leifur Eirikson Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) **MINT FACILITY.**—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike

any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) **COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January 1, 2000.

(d) **TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.**—No coins may be minted under this Act after December 31, 2000.

SEC. 6. SURCHARGES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) **DISTRIBUTION.**—All surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Leifur Eirikson Foundation for the purpose of funding student exchanges between students of the United States and students of Iceland.

(c) **AUDITS.**—The Leifur Eirikson Foundation shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received by the Foundation under subsection (b).

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods and services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(b) **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this Act from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 31, a bill that will implement a unique program to issue a millennium commemorative dollar coin. The year 2000 will mark the 1,000th anniversary of the voyage of discovery by Leif Ericson, an Icelander, who was the son of Eric the Red, a Norseman, in 1000 A.D. Ericson set off from Iceland to explore lands to the west, beyond Greenland. Recent archaeological research has confirmed evidence of contemporaneous European settlement on Newfoundland as a result of this voyage and its successors.

A unique feature of this bill is that it would permit the simultaneous issuance of a commemorative U.S. silver dollar and a silver Kronor Icelandic coin, both produced by the United States Mint and both celebrating the voyage of Leif Ericson. Both of these coins would be produced in limited mintages with 250,000 silver dollars authorized. This will be a significant numismatic event, a 1,000-year anniversary, two countries jointly issuing coins commemorating the same event, a limited boxed edition of both coins being issued by the Mint and the surcharge proceeds going to promote scholarship and student exchanges between the two countries.

Interestingly, the Icelandic coin will depict Leif Ericson as he appears on a

statue that stands today in Reykjavik. This statue of the great explorer was created by the sculptor Stirling Calder, father of another great artist of this century, Alexander Calder, and was presented by the United States Congress to the parliament of Iceland, known as the Althing, on its 1,000th anniversary in 1930. It is very appropriate that our relatively young country take this opportunity to commemorate a 1,000-year link to Europe and one of the earliest of the many ethnic strains that make up our society today. During the year 2000 the Smithsonian will be mounting a traveling exhibition devoted to the millennium of the Viking contacts with the new world. It will trace how the Nordic sagas recorded during these voyages entered European consciousness and the myth describing a fertile land far to the west. Recent archaeological finds hint that 11th century Viking explorers might have visited coastal and interior areas considerably to the south of the Newfoundland site. Additional research and scholarship funded by this coin program is designed to contribute to a better understanding of this hardy folk and their relationship to modern peoples of this hemisphere.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the subcommittee chairman; and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking members of the full committee and subcommittee, for their extraordinary cooperation.

As Members may recall, this bill passed this Chamber in the last Congress. I urge its adoption today.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 31. I commend the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), the distinguished ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, for the tremendous work they have done on this bill. I would point out that the gentleman from Minnesota very much wanted to be the floor manager from the Democratic perspective on this bill, but he had been apprised it would be taken up tomorrow, had made a number of previous important appointments that he simply could not break, and asked me to substitute in his stead.

This bill commemorates the millennium of Leif Ericson's arrival in the New World, a watershed event in the history of our continent. The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the simultaneous minting and issuance by the Republic of Iceland of its own coin, to mint up to, I believe, one-half million dollars of one-dollar commemorative coins.

If I may ask the gentleman from Iowa, is it correct that it is one-half million, as opposed to 250,000?

Mr. LEACH. If the gentleman will yield, that is what the legislation suggests, that is correct.

Mr. LAFALCE. The coins will be made up of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper, and will commemorate the importance of Leif Ericson's arrival in the New World nearly 1,000 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the proceeds from the sale of this coin will go to the Leifur Eirikson Foundation, which will use the funds to finance student exchanges between the United States and the Republic of Iceland. I would urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Leif Ericson, the Norse navigator and explorer, and to voice my support for the Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act.

Leif Ericson played a vital role in the European discovery of our continent. It is a role that, over the years, has not been widely recognized. Within the past 30 years, new historical evidence has surfaced to show that Leif Ericson landed in North America around 1000 A.D., almost 500 years prior to Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World.

Leif Ericson was born around 970 A.D. in Greenland, son of the famous warrior, explorer, and discoverer of Greenland, "Eric the Red." There are two traditional accounts of Leif Ericson's discovery of America. However, the one that is best upheld by the evidence states that a contemporary of Leif's, Bjarni Herjolfsson, chanced upon America after drifting off course. Herjolfsson did not land in the New World, but upon his return to Greenland, he described his course to Leif. Following Herjolfsson's course, Leif later landed in North America. He named the new land "Vinland," after the plentiful supply of grapes he found there. He built a small settlement and spent the winter in Vinland before he returned to Greenland.

At the end of his career, Leif Ericson settled on his father's estate in Brattahlid, Greenland, where he lived until he died. It is rumored that he is buried in an unmarked grave in the Brattahlid cemetery.

The Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act will create silver dollars for the 1000-year anniversary of Ericson's landing in North America, in conjunction with a series of coins to be minted in the Republic of Iceland. All proceeds will support student exchanges between the U.S. and Iceland. This is an appropriate way to pay tribute to the pioneering spirit of Leif Ericson, and these coins will stand as symbols of his courage and perseverance—virtues we all must embrace in order to accomplish our goals.

Finally, this legislation will honor all Americans of Scandinavian descent. For generations, they have proven themselves brave and loyal Americans, carrying on the tradition of courage and exploration started by their Norse ancestors, including Leif Ericson.

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

Mr. LEACH. 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 Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 31.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR AND FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 121) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the victory of the United States in the cold war and the fall of the Berlin Wall, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 121

Whereas the cold war was an enduring struggle between communism and democracy throughout the second half of the 20th century;

Whereas an estimated 24,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served during the cold war;

Whereas 400,000,000 people were freed from the bondage of communism during the cold war in the countries then known as the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania;

Whereas the victory of the United States in the cold war will signify freedom and security for decades to come;

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of the most significant events of the 20th century, symbolized the triumph of democracy over communism; and

Whereas November 9, 1999, will mark the 10th anniversary of this historic event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of the Congress that the Nation should celebrate the victory of the United States in the cold war and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall by—

(1) promoting education about the cold war and its historical significance;

(2) supporting efforts to establish a memorial museum to victims of communism that reflects the suffering of millions of victims worldwide and the role of the United States in promoting freedom and democracy that led to the end of the cold war;

(3) celebrating peace, freedom, and the principles of democratic government;

(4) honoring and reflecting upon the role of the United States in the international struggle for individual human rights and the evolution of the free enterprise system; and

(5) recognizing the veterans who served during the cold war.

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.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution, H. Con. Res. 121, recognizes the essential role played by our Nation and the men and women in our armed forces who served in Europe during the Cold War. I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for his effort to see that our victory in this protracted struggle with the forces of communism is duly recognized. I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who is joining me today on this resolution.

Ten years ago, the Berlin Wall, one of the enduring symbols of the brutality and repression of the Communist system, was finally brought down. It was the remarkable culmination of the 40-year struggle between the forces of freedom and liberty and those of tyranny and oppression. During this struggle, our citizens and those of Europe had a nuclear sword of Damocles hanging over them, and it is one of the truly noteworthy events in human history that it ended not with a bloody upheaval but a jubilant celebration by those on both sides of the Wall who never let their faith in democratic government and the intrinsic good of liberty desert them.

□ 1430

Our victory was not completely bloodless, however, and a number of members of our Armed Forces, our public officials and ordinary citizens made the greatest sacrifice in order to bring about victory. So too did many of the people of Eastern Europe, some of whom were killed simply trying to escape from beyond the Iron Curtain and others who died resisting the tyrannical forces that ruled over them. This resolution is an appropriate tribute to all those who sacrificed so much.

Accordingly, I urge the House to unanimously approve H. Con. Res. 121.

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

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

At the outset, let me commend my good friend, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for bringing this resolution to the floor and for his decades of dedicated service on behalf of the democracy and freedom in Europe and elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is important, as we pay tribute to our own political leadership on a bipartisan basis during the Cold War and to the 24 million men and women who served the United States in uniform during the Cold War, that we recognize that the victory was not ours alone; it was ours, and it was the victory of equally committed freedom-loving democratic people throughout the