

unabashedly standing by Taiwan's side while demonstrating our willingness to engage with the PRC in a variety of ways when it is in our national interest to do so and when it is consistent with our region-stabilizing role to do so. We have benign motives for our great and many interests in Asia, but as a superpower, we will act like one and defend our national interest in the region and support all of our loyal allies.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to join him in supporting the American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3707. I thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for their good work on this legislation.

The recent election of President Chen was a monumental event in Taiwan's history. The peaceful transfer of power will stand as a model for all other nations struggling for the Democratic ideals that our Nation holds so dear. Under threats of violence from the People's Republic of China, the people of Taiwan demonstrated their desire to elect the candidate with the ability and the vision to lead them into the 21st century.

The United States must recognize its responsibility to assist the Taiwanese leadership in establishing a peaceful Taiwan. Any resolution to the dispute between China and Taiwan will be through peaceful negotiation with the ascent of the Taiwanese people.

Assisting Taiwan in their pursuit of a Democratic future, we must provide the American Institute in Taiwan with the necessary resources to perform all of their functions properly. The allocation of funds for planning, for acquisition, and for construction for a new facility is a clear gesture of the U.S.'s long-term commitment to the people of Taiwan.

The American Institute in Taiwan plays a valued role in U.S.A.-Taiwan relations. For more than 20 years, the AIT has implemented all programs and transactions for the United States Government in Taipei. But the current conditions of the AIT's facilities are undoubtedly inadequate. Built as temporary structures some 50 years ago, the cost of maintenance and repair are becoming increasingly more expensive. The facilities also have virtually no setback, and steps to meet security standards are not cost effective.

The AIT needs a modern and effective base of operations to perform its duties in these historical times. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend my distinguished colleague and friend from Nebraska, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia of our International Relations Committee, Mr. BEREUTER, for his leadership in introducing H.R. 3707, the American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act.

Under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) is the unofficial entity through which we maintain our unofficial relationship with Taiwan. For the past twenty years, the AIT has served us well. I want to commend the individuals who have played such an important role in the activities of the AIT. In particular, I want to express appreciation for the current head of AIT, Richard Bush, who is a former outstanding member of the staff of the Subcommittee on Asia of the House International Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as several of my colleagues have already emphasized, the current AIT facilities in Taipei are grossly inadequate. They were not designed for the important functions which AIT performs. They are old, having been built over 50 years ago, and the facilities are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. Furthermore, authorities in Taiwan want back the land on which they are located.

From a security perspective, the facility is even more seriously inadequate. Following the bombings of our nation's embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the concern for the security of all American facilities has increased. The AIT buildings in Taipei are dangerously inadequate. There is virtually no setback, and major security enhancements would be necessary to bring the facilities into compliance with current security standards. The legislation we are considering today requires that the new facility meet the embassy security standards set forth in the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (commonly referred to as the Inman Standards) and the Security Embassy Construction and Counter Terrorism Act of 1999.

The Congress has already recognized the need to improve AIT's facilities, and the FY 2000 appropriations legislation included \$5 million for the design of a new facility. AIT staff, using standard cost factors unofficially provided by the State Department, have estimated that constructing a new facility would cost in the range of \$80 to \$100 million. This estimate is in line with recent construction costs of new embassy facilities, such as our Embassy in Nairobi. The staff of AIT has made a good faith effort and has set aside funds for capital construction, managing to accrue approximately \$25 million thus far. Therefore, an authorization of \$75 million, plus the \$25 million AIT already has on hand, should be sufficient to cover construction costs.

Mr. Speaker, United States relations with Taiwan are extremely important, and it is critical that AIT have an appropriate facility in Taipei. We must also protect the safety of those Americans and Taiwanese who work or conduct business at AIT in Taipei. This legislation represents a reasonable and responsible effort to deal with the inadequate facilities currently in use. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3707, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize funds for the construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR 200 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 269) commending the Library of Congress and its staff for 200 years of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation and encouraging the American public to participate in bicentennial activities.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 269

Whereas the Library of Congress, America's oldest Federal cultural institution, was established on April 24, 1800, and in its 200 years of existence has become the largest and most inclusive library in human history;

Whereas the Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity;

Whereas, in furtherance of its mission, the Library has amassed an unparalleled collection of 119 million items, a superb staff of "knowledge navigators", and networks for gathering the world's knowledge for the Nation's good;

Whereas the Library, the Congress, and the Nation have benefitted richly from the work of thousands of talented and dedicated Library employees throughout the Library's 200-year history;

Whereas the citizens of the United States have generously contributed to the Library's collections through their own creativity, social and scholarly discourse, donation of materials in all formats, and generous philanthropic support;

Whereas the goal of the Library's bicentennial commemoration is to inspire creativity in the centuries ahead and remind Americans that all libraries are the cornerstones of democracy, encouraging greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries everywhere;

Whereas this goal will be achieved through a variety of national, State, and local projects, developed in collaboration with Members of Congress, the staff of the Library of Congress, libraries and librarians throughout the Nation, and the Library's James Madison Council and other philanthropic supporters;

Whereas the centerpiece of the bicentennial celebration is the Local Legacies Project, a joint effort of Congress and the Library of Congress to document distinctive cultural traditions and historic events representing local communities throughout the country at the turn of the 21st century; and

Whereas the bicentennial commemorative activities also include symposia, exhibitions, publications, significant acquisitions, the issuance of a commemorative coin and stamp, and enhanced public access to the collections of the Library of Congress through the National Digital Library: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the Congress commends the Library of Congress and its employees, both past and present, on 200 years of service to the Congress and the Nation and encourages the American public to participate in activities to commemorate the Library's bicentennial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

□ 1600

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on this resolution today. I hope the Chair will indulge me as I go through some of my history of involvement in libraries and why I believe this is a very important resolution.

This story goes back many years to the time when I was a young lad in Minnesota. I had chronic asthma. I was unable to go to school, and did all my schoolwork at home. I was home schooled before people knew that term. And that left me with a great deal of time to read because I could do most of my schoolwork in 3 hours a day.

I lived in a small town of 800 people. We had a library that contained probably that same number of books, about 800 books. I believe I read every book in that library at least once, except for those that the librarian kept hidden under her desk, as they did in those days. This led me to a great interest in reading and a great appreciation for libraries.

As I grew up, I continued to value and treasure libraries and the resource they represent for our communities and for our country. Little did I know at that time that I would become involved in politics. I never expected to, never intended to, and yet here I am. But, on the way, I have served as a member of a county library board. I have served as a member of a city library board. I also served as a member of the Board of the State Library of Michigan. And now I am on the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress.

My experience with all these libraries increased my appreciation of libraries and librarians. Tremendous resources are available in libraries, and I found this out as I got into the academic world first at Calvin College and then at the University of California at Berkeley.

Coming from a very small town, I was just amazed at what I could find in a library not only in terms of books to read but also in material useful for research.

I also remember the first time I used the Library of Congress. I was engaged in academic research on energy resources sometime after the energy crisis of 1973, and I studied various aspects relating to scientific analysis of energy resources, the use of energy, alternative sources of energy, improv-

ing efficiency of energy use, and so forth.

On a trip to Washington, I spent a day at the Library of Congress doing research. I was just delighted with all the materials that I found there which were very, very useful in my research. I could easily have spent a couple of weeks devouring the material there and condensing it for use in my work.

I was truly astounded at the resources of the Library of Congress but also very, very pleased at the way the employees helped me and treated someone from a small town in Michigan trying to do research on a major national issue. They were extremely helpful. They determined what I needed to find and they helped me find it.

My appreciation of the Library of Congress increased even more after I came to the Congress and observed firsthand the services they provide to our country and to our Congress. It is a marvelous institution and is blessed with a good administration, and is blessed now and has been blessed for 200 years with an outstanding staff.

It is a venerable institution that started in a small way in this building and then was burned out when the British came in and burned the Capitol and the White House some years ago. Thanks to Thomas Jefferson, who after the fire willingly offered his personal library of some 20,000 volumes to the Congress for purchase at a reasonable price, the Library of Congress was revived and eventually developed into what we have today, the largest collection of books and materials in the entire world.

The Library and its employees have also advanced into the modern age with the addition of the Internet, which first of all helps make all public documents of the House of Representatives and the Senate available to every person in this country and indeed on this planet.

In addition to that, they make much other information available; they have developed what is called the digital library. With the help of grants from various good citizen and corporations in this country, much of the material in the Library of Congress is available to schoolchildren everywhere.

So the Library continues to adapt to the changing times and changing technology, and they are doing a marvelous job of not only providing that information but training the staff to enter the digital age.

I am very appreciative of all that they have done, and I rise to support this resolution and urge its passage. It recognizes not only the history of the institution and the contributions they have made but, in particular, the contributions that the staff has made working very diligently to meet the needs of our citizens.

I must confess to a little personal interest here as well. I have a daughter who became a librarian and has been the manager of a branch library in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was re-

cently promoted to become the head of the reference section in the main library there; she also has enlightened me about many of the problems of modern-day libraries, and she is my personal consultant on matters relating to libraries.

So it is with great pleasure that I recognize the major role that libraries have played but, in particular, what the Library of Congress has meant to this Nation and, indeed, to all academic institutions worldwide and, in addition to that, recognize the staff and administration for the outstanding work they have done for 200 years.

We welcome their contributions, and we admire them and congratulate them as they reach their bicentennial. We wish them a wonderful bicentennial year as they engage in many different celebrations.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my very distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). I might say that he started out with saying that he had a long history in dealing with libraries and was going to go back to his childhood; and I want to tell my friend I was going to jump to my feet and yield him more time on the theory that it might take some time. He is a distinguished scholar and a distinguished Member of this body, and I want to join in his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this concurrent resolution which honors the Library of Congress and its extraordinary staff. As the oldest Federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress serves a unique role in American life. It is the keeper of our past and a teacher of our future.

The Library archives America's cultural history through its collections of 119 million items, including books, films, musical recordings, prints, maps, and photographs.

Make no mistake, though, the Library is not simply a collection of documents wasting away in a Federal warehouse. Due to an extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff, the Library, as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) has pointed out, is a true American treasure. The employees of the Library of Congress make millions of items in the collection come to life as a living history of our Nation.

Through its 22 reading rooms on Capitol Hill and its extensive web site, the Library, as I said, educates America. Whether it is a Member of Congress examining an issue, a school child researching a report, or an author writing a book, the Library of Congress will have what they are looking for and its staff of "knowledge navigators" will make sure they find it.

Just last month, Mr. Speaker, I introduced my new web site at the James Madison Middle School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The student who was

helping me demonstrate the site was doing a paper on the Gold Rush. Through my site, we linked to the Library of Congress' American Memory web site.

The student searched for information on the Gold Rush and emerged with a treasure trove of information, letters from frontiersmen, pictures of the Old West, lyrics from music sung on the trail. I saw a light, Mr. Speaker, in that young boy's eyes as history came alive for him.

This is but one small example of the power and impact of the Library of Congress. It is an example that is repeated daily in classrooms all across America. The answers that boy found, the answers the Library helps all of us find, do not come to us simply because we click the mouse or pick up a phone or visit the reading room. The answers, Mr. Speaker, come because of the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Library of Congress.

We do not always know their names, but it is impossible not to know their work. They are the ones who find the books, who organize the materials, who research the issues, who write the summaries, and, yes, who update the web site. Our lives and the American people's lives are richer for their work.

I am proud to join my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), in honoring them today and the Library itself. I am honored and privileged to support this resolution.

The Library of Congress is among the finest institutions in our land and, yes, even more so than that, probably the finest library in the world and one of the finest institutions in the world.

It is led by an extraordinary American, Dr. Jim Billington, my friend, a scholar himself, one of the intellectuals of this Nation, one of the experts on Russia and many other subjects. But he and the staff with whom he works have brought alive the information so necessary to succeed in our society today.

Mr. Speaker, the Library of Congress was relevant when it was founded 200 years ago. In the information age, I suggest to my colleagues, the Library is more relevant today than it has ever been. It is opening up the gateway to knowledge, knowledge essential not just to the young but to all of us if we are to succeed and to enjoy this information age in which we live. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I rise in strong support of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any requests for time, I tell the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). I know my colleagues on the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), join me in my comments and in the comments of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and in their congratulations to the Library of Congress and to its staff.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in concluding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his comments about the Library. He truly recognizes the value of the Library of Congress and what it has done for this Nation. But one comment in particular rang true, that this has truly become the library of the world.

When I was a youngster, it was a library of Congress. It soon became the library of this country. And now, through the Internet and through its leadership, it has truly become the library of the world. I personally believe it is having as much or more impact on what is happening in the world around us today than the Library of Alexandria over two millennia ago had on the known world at that time.

It is truly a venerable institution and filled with very good people, good scholars, helpful scholars; and it has meant so much to this Congress and to this Nation. I am very pleased that the Congress will be joining us in honoring them for their good work. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the effort of our colleague from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for this legislation we are considering today commending the Library of Congress and its employees, both past and present, on 200 years of service to the Congress and the Nation and encouraging the American public to participate in activities to commemorate the Library's bicentennial.

As my colleagues have noted, Mr. Speaker, on April 24 of the year 1800, President John Adams signed legislation establishing the Library of Congress and appropriating \$5,000 for this modest effort. The year after President Adams and the Congress established our nation's national library, 740 volumes and three maps purchased from a London bookseller comprised the initial holdings of the library.

By 1812, the collection had grown to 3,076 books. During the War of 1812, however, the British military occupied Washington, D.C., and burned the Library of Congress as well as torching a number of other prominent Washington buildings, including the White House and the Capitol.

The nature of the institution was transformed in 1815 when Thomas Jefferson sold his personal library to the Library of Congress to reconstitute the collection. The Jeffersonian purchase was fortuitous because it permitted the Library to re-establish a collection, but it also fundamentally changed the nature of the Library of Congress. Before 1814, the Library was a narrow collection of books dealing with legal and historical topics. Jefferson's personal library was a broad collection which included literature on a wealth of topics and fields of knowledge, including literature.

In 1815, some Members of Congress objected to books in foreign languages and books on spiritualism, architecture, and other topics that they considered to be of no interest to the Congress. But Jefferson argued that "there is, in fact, no subject to which a Member of Congress may not have occasion to refer." Fortunately, Jefferson's conception of the Library of Congress won out, and that concept still guides the accessions of the Library today.

The library today comprises almost 119 million items—18 million books, 12 million photographs, 5 million maps, millions of technical reports, music, movies, prints, manuscripts, microfilm. The collection includes items in 490 languages. The library collection requires some 530 miles of bookshelves and the collection increases by 10,000 items each day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay particular tribute to Dr. James Billington, the 13th and current Librarian of Congress, who has played such a critical role in the modern transformation of the Library. Dr. Billington has taken the lead in emphasizing the continuing importance of knowledge in the modern world, and he has undertaken a number of critical innovations to bring the library into line with our digital and Internet era.

When he launched the bicentennial of the Library of Congress three years ago, Dr. Billington gave the celebration the theme "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty." That theme is particularly appropriate, Mr. Speaker. Libraries are the knowledge they preserve and disseminate are fundamental to our nation's creativity and innovation in this age of rapid change. At the same time, libraries and their repository of knowledge are essential for the function of a democratic society. Knowledge available to a nation's citizens is a requirement for a free people and for a democratic society to function.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I submit Dr. James Billington's personal reflection, "The Library of Congress turns 200" which appeared in the April 2000 issue of the magazine *American History*. Dr. Billington reflects his insight regarding the role and position of the Library of Congress in the United States. At the same time, he provides a personal insight as one of our nation's foremost historians.

On April 24 of this year the Library of Congress—America's national library and oldest federal cultural institution—will turn 200. The Library was founded in 1800 with the primary mission of serving the research needs of the United States Congress, but during the past two centuries the collections have evolved into the largest repository of knowledge in the world. The Library now houses more than 115 million books, maps, manuscripts, photographs, motion pictures, and music.

The Library's history reflects in many ways the story of the passions of its builders—beginning with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Initially the Library's holdings were no bigger than some home libraries. A mere 740 volumes and three maps ordered by Congress from London booksellers arrived in 1801 and were kept in the office of the secretary of the Senate. A year later Thomas Jefferson appointed the first Librarian of Congress, John J. Beckley, who also was the clerk of the House of Representatives. Little did Jefferson know at the time that his own library would be the seed from which the present collections would grow.

On August 14, 1814, British soldiers burned the U.S. Capitol and with it the contents of the Library of Congress, that by then contained more than 3,000 items. Following the conflagration, Jefferson offered to sell Congress his personal collection of 6,487 volumes for \$23,950. Congress approved the purchase, though not without some debate. Several members believed Jefferson's library included books unrelated to legislative work, to which he retorted: "There is, in fact, no subject to which a member of Congress may

not have occasion to refer." That statement has guided the collecting policies of the Library of Congress to this day and is one of the main reasons why the institution's collections have a breadth and depth unmatched by any other repository.

Disaster struck the Library again on Christmas Eve 1851 when a faulty chimney flue started a fire that destroyed nearly two-thirds of the Jeffersonian collection. Over the years, the Library has worked, with some success, to find duplicates of these volumes. An aggressive campaign to acquire the remaining missing tomes is currently under way in conjunction with Gifts to the Nation, a bicentennial program that encourages donations of rare and important materials to the national collection. All books found will be featured in "Genius of Liberty," an exhibition about Jefferson that will open in April.

Over the years Congress has generously supported the Library and the Librarians of Congress in their pursuit of building this grand house of knowledge. For example, when Abraham Lincoln appointed Ainsworth Rand Spofford Librarian of Congress in 1864 (he served until 1897), he selected the man, more than any other individual, who transformed a legislative library into an institution of national importance. At the time of Spofford's appointment, the Library's collections numbered only 82,000 volumes. That number was to explode to roughly 900,000 by Spofford's retirement.

In March 1865 Congress followed Spofford's recommendation and changed the copyright law to require that one printed copy of every copyrighted "book, pamphlet, map, chart, musical composition, print, engraving or photograph" created in the United States must be sent to the Library for its use. That law is chiefly responsible for the growth of the institution's collections. In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant approved an act of Congress requiring that two copies of every copyrighted item be sent to the Library and that all U.S. copyright activities be centered there.

Spofford also persuaded Congress to appropriate funds for a separate Library of Congress building, since space in the Capitol had been exhausted. The new structure, now known as the Thomas Jefferson Building, opened in 1897. Some have called it the most beautiful public building in America. Since then, the Library has constructed two more buildings on Capitol Hill. The John Adams Building opened in 1939, and the James Madison Memorial Building was completed in 1981. The Madison is not only the Library's third major structure but also the nation's official memorial to its fourth president, the "father" of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. While a member of the Continental Congress in 1783, Madison was also the first person to sponsor the idea of a library for Congress, and he was president when Jefferson's personal library became the foundation of the renewed Library of Congress.

Since 1987 I have served as the 13th Librarian of Congress. The position has given me unique access to this vast treasure house, and I have found some items in the collections that stand out for me personally. As a student of Russian history and culture I am intensely interested in the Prokudin-Gorskii Collection of Imperial Russia. Sergei Prokudin-Gorskii was one of the first Russians to experiment with color photography. At the outset of the revolution in 1917, the photographer escaped to Paris with 1,900 glass-plate negatives, providing a remarkable look at Russia from 1909-1911.

Other items of personal interest include the Presidential Papers Collection, which features documents from 23 U.S. presidents, beginning with the Founding Fathers and

continuing through to the twentieth century's Calvin Coolidge. The documents constitute the foremost source for the study of American leaders and provide a personal view of history that no textbook can offer.

In 1996, the Library acquired the Marian Carson Collection of Americana, believed to be the most extensive existing private assemblage of rare materials relating to the nation's history. The Carson family of Philadelphia had collected such precious materials as an extremely rare broadside printing (only one other copy is known to exist) of the Declaration of Independence, believed to have been printed circa July 10-20, 1776; an 1839 photographic self-portrait of Robert Cornelius, the earliest extant U.S. portrait photograph known; and a chalk-drawing of George Washington, made within a year of his death in 1799. These and the many other items in the collections have reinforced the Library's preeminence as a source of materials relating to American history.

Established by an act of Congress in 1976, the American Folklife Center holds the largest archives of the nation's distinctive cultures. The center's collections will increase significantly with Local Legacies project, which is providing a snapshot of American creativity at the turn of the century. Local Legacies is the premiere project of the Library's bicentennial effort and is jointly sponsored by Congress.

Among the many resources of the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection of illustrated books from the fifteenth through twentieth centuries stands out. It features an amazing number of books of great rarity. Two of this collection's many treasures include the magnificent fifteenth-century manuscript known as the Giant Bible of Mainz, kept on permanent display in the Library's Great Hall, and one of only two known copies of the 1495 edition of *Epistolae et Evangelia*, sometimes called the finest illustrated book of the fifteenth century.

During the 1990s, the Library moved into the digital age, with its award-winning and widely popular web site ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)), which now handles more than 80 million "hits" per month. In April internet users will find information on five million items relating to American history that the Library is making available on the site as its Gift to the Nation. This technology makes the collections at the Library of Congress accessible to people from across the country who are unable to make the trip to Washington, D.C. "America's library" has truly become the nation's library.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 2000, the Library of Congress will celebrate its bicentennial. With House Concurrent Resolution 269, we commend the Library and its staff for two hundred years of service to the Congress and to the American people, and encourage all Americans to participate in the Library's bicentennial activities.

On April 24, 1800, President John Adams approved legislation appropriating funds for purchasing "such books as may be necessary for use of the Congress." The first collection of 740 books and 3 maps arrived in 1801 and was stored in the U.S. Capitol, the Library's first home. On January 26, 1802, President Jefferson approved the first law which defined the role and functions of this new institution, creating the post of Librarian of Congress and creating the Joint Committee on the Library to oversee the Library's activities.

Since then, the Library's collections have grown to some 119 million items, making it the largest library in the world. The Library's collections now consist of over 18 million books,

53 million manuscripts, 12 million photographs, 4.5 million maps, 2.4 million sound recordings, nearly a million moving images and millions of other items.

Mr. Speaker, on April 24, 2000, the Library will begin a yearlong program of bicentennial activities, which will be a national celebration of all libraries and the important role they play in our society. The centerpiece of this effort is a project called Local Legacies, which created an opportunity for citizens to participate in the Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration.

Senators and Representatives, working with their constituents and local libraries and cultural institutions, have selected at least one significant cultural event or tradition that has been important to their district or state. These events have been documented and forwarded to the Library to be added to the American Folklife Center's archives to provide a cross section of the grassroots creativity of America that will be preserved and shared with future generations.

Members will be able to provide links on their webpages to the Local Legacies projects they have chosen and to the main Local Legacies Project page on the Library of Congress' website. Materials selected for Internet access will encompass the widest possible range of contributions, including video, sound, print, manuscript, and electronic formats.

Several months ago, I requested that the Library consider further enhancing public participation in the bicentennial by holding an exhibit of the Library's top treasures during the summer when the greatest number of constituents visit our Nation's capital. I am pleased to report that some of the most exciting items from the Library's enormous holdings will be on display throughout the summer at the Library and I would encourage all Members to direct visiting constituents to this once in a lifetime exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to congratulate the Library of Congress, the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, and all of the Library's staff on two hundred years of outstanding service to the Congress and the American people.

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of our nation's most revered cultural treasures: the Library of Congress. This year marks the 200th year of the library's compilation of America's history and human knowledge. In this bicentennial year, I am honored to take a moment to extend my deep appreciation to Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress. I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't also commend Dr. Billington's fine staff, especially Geraldine M. Otremba, Pamela J. Russell, Ralph Eubanks, Norma Baker, Peter Seligman, and Judy Schneider, who serve the Library so well and have been so helpful during my tenure in Congress. It is through their creative and dedicated efforts that our nation is reminded this year about the importance of libraries, and is encouraged to celebrate the uniqueness of their communities.

The Library's historic architecture may be deceiving to some, but once inside its marble walls the building continues to stimulate and inspire all who visit. It is that inspiration, that re-connection with American culture, which is the focus behind one of the Library's key bicentennial programs, the Local Legacy Project.

The Local Legacy Project was created to give hometown libraries, cultural institutions,

and other groups, in concert with their United States Senator or United States Representative, an opportunity to document the unique customs and cultures that make us Americans. I think of the Local Legacy Project as a patchwork quilt of American communities; no two are exactly alike, but each is a true treasure.

I am very pleased that the First Congressional District in Connecticut will be participating in the Library's Local Legacy Project with four projects of our own: The Legacy of Our Education will feature six historic and influential institutions: American School for the Deaf, Trinity College, University of Connecticut School of Law, University of Hartford, Teaching Hospitals and St. Joseph's College; The Legacy of Our Natural Resources includes the Riverfront Recapture—Connecticut River and Elizabeth Park Rose Garden; The Legacy of Our Proud Heritage includes the First Congressional District Foot Guard, Old State House, Mark Twain House, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Noah Webster House, Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, Cheney Homestead, Warehouse Point Fire and Drum Corps, and the Eighth Connecticut Regiment Fire and Drum Corps; and The Legacy of the Creative Spirit includes the following organizations: Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford Stage, Bushnell Memorial Hospital, Hartford Symphony, and Real Art Ways.

I am optimistic that our "creative spirit" will not be limited to our Legacy projects alone. One of the Library's other bicentennial programs includes the exhibition of its unparalleled collection of Thomas Jefferson materials, documents, books, drawings, and prints. I am hopeful that a collection of his works may make their way to Hartford, Connecticut, our state's capital, to be displayed.

While much is taking place in communities across America to preserve our culture, I am pleased to have played a role in the preservation of our legislative culture here in the House of Representatives. As a former high school history teacher, I was heartened by the support I received from Dr. Billington and his staff last year as I worked to obtain passage of my History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act. This bill authorizes the Library of Congress to commission eminent historians to assemble a written history of the House. Presently, the Library is beginning the process by gathering the names of eminent historians.

The largest rare book collection in North America, the largest and most diverse collections of scientific and technical information in the world, and the most comprehensive collection of American music in the world, are just a fraction of the unique documents housed in the Library. In addition, the Library receives 22,000 items each day. How could Thomas Jefferson ever imagine that his personal library of 6,487 books would one day grow to be such a tremendous source of knowledge.

The Library of Congress: an institution that has touched the world, and an institution that has touched history. Congratulations on your bicentennial, and may you continue to make America proud.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 269.

The question was taken.

Mr. EHLERS. 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.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 269.

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

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT OF 2000

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time today to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 5, with a Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House a motion offered by the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, or his designee, that the House concur in the Senate amendment, that the Senate amendment and the motion be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, or their designees; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the unanimous consent request just agreed to, I call up the bill (H.R. 5) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. SHAW

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. SHAW moves to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 1, strike out all after "SECTION" over to and including line 3 on page 7 and insert:

#### 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 2000".*

#### SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF EARNINGS TEST FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED RETIREMENT AGE.

*Section 203 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "the age of seventy" and inserting "retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))";*

*(2) in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of subsection (d), by striking "the age of seventy" each place it appears and inserting "retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))";*

*(3) in subsection (f)(1)(B), by striking "was age seventy or over" and inserting "was at or above retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))";*

*(4) in subsection (f)(3), by striking "age 70" and inserting "retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))";*

*(5) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by striking "age 70" each place it appears and inserting "retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))"; and*

*(6) in subsection (j)—*

*(A) in the heading, by striking "Age Seventy" and inserting "Retirement Age"; and*

*(B) by striking "seventy years of age" and inserting "having attained retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))".*

#### SEC. 3. NONAPPLICATION OF RULES FOR COMPUTATION OF EXEMPT AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ATTAINED RETIREMENT AGE.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(f)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403(f)(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:*

*"(E) Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), no deductions in benefits shall be made under subsection (b) with respect to the earnings of any individual in any month beginning with the month in which the individual attains retirement age (as defined in section 216(l))."*

*(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 203(f)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403(f)(9)) is amended by striking "and (8)(D)," and inserting "(8)(D), and (8)(E)."*

#### SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

*(a) ELIMINATION OF REDUNDANT REFERENCES TO RETIREMENT AGE.—Section 203 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (c), in the last sentence, by striking "nor shall any deduction" and all that follows and inserting "nor shall any deduction be made under this subsection from any widow's or widower's insurance benefit if the widow, surviving divorced wife, widower, or surviving divorced husband involved became entitled to such benefit prior to attaining age 60."; and*

*(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking clause (D) and inserting the following: "(D) for which such individual is entitled to widow's or widower's insurance benefits if such individual became so entitled prior to attaining age 60.".*

*(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS FOR DETERMINING AMOUNT OF INCREASE ON ACCOUNT OF DELAYED RETIREMENT.—Section 202(w)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(w)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking "or suffered deductions under section 203(b) or 203(c) in amounts equal to the amount of such benefit" and inserting "or, if so entitled, did not receive benefits pursuant to a request by such individual that benefits not be paid".*