

the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the Senate bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Avenue in Albany, Georgia, as the 'C.B. King United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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. 278; H. Con. Res. 279, as amended; H. Con. Res. 281; H.R. 1359; H.R. 1605, as amended; H.R. 4052; and S. 1567, as amended, the measures just considered by the House.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF EXTREMIST FPO IN GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 429) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the participation of the extremist FPO in the Government of Austria.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 429

Whereas the extremist, racist, and xenophobic FPO has entered into a coalition agreement and is participating in the new Government of Austria;

Whereas the long-time-leader of the FPO, Joerg Haider, praised Adolf Hitler's "sound employment policy" and called Waffen SS veterans "decent people with character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds";

Whereas Joerg Haider and his party in the recent election campaign decried the "over-foreignization" of Austria, which was an expression that was coined and used by Nazi leaders;

Whereas at a time when the European Union, the United States, and other nations are working actively to discourage ethnic hatred in the republics of the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, the FPO shamelessly appealed to racist sentiment and based its political campaign on racism and xenophobia;

Whereas in the past Joerg Haider and his party have expressed fundamental disagreement with the principles of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, which are the foundation of a modern, democratic, open, and tolerant Europe and which Austria, as a member of the European Union, is committed by treaty to uphold; and

Whereas the inclusion of the FPO in the Austrian governing coalition serves to legitimize and encourage the extreme right in other countries of Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the right of the Austrian people to express their political views

through a democratic election, but also reaffirms the right and the obligation of the United States House of Representatives to express its opposition to the anti-democratic, racist and xenophobic views that have been expressed by Joerg Haider and other leaders of the FPO, and, because of these publicly expressed views, to state its opposition to the party's participation in the Austrian Government;

(2) condemns the insulting, racist, and xenophobic statements which have been made over many years by Joerg Haider, the long-time leader of the FPO, and by other leaders of the party;

(3) expresses profound regret and dismay that the FPO will play a major role in the new Government of Austria;

(4) commends the leaders of the European Union, the fourteen other member states of the European Union, Canada, Norway, and other countries which have expressed their serious concerns regarding the participation of the FPO in the Government of Austria;

(5) calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, and other officials and agencies of the United States Government to emphasize to Austrian Government officials our concern about the inclusion of any party in the Government of Austria, including the FPO, that has been associated with xenophobic, racist policies, and statements supportive of Nazi-era programs;

(6) urges Members of Congress to use any meetings with ministers and other political leaders of the Government of Austria to express concern for Austria's continued adherence to democratic standards and full respect for human rights;

(7) calls upon the Secretary of State to continue to scrutinize the policies of the new Government of Austria and to be prepared to take additional measures if circumstances so warrant; and

(8) directs the Clerk of the House to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with the request that it be forwarded to the President of Austria.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

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

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 429 was adopted by a voice vote by the Committee on International Relations. It places on the record the concern of the House about the inclusion of an extremist party in the government of Austria, formed at the beginning of the year.

I believe this is a fair and a balanced measure and I ask my colleagues to adopt it and also, since the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is not here, I would insert in the RECORD his statement.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 429 places the House on record regarding our concerns over the participation of the extremist Freedom Party, the FPO, in the government of Austria that was recently formed. The former leader and founder of the FPO, Joerg

Haider has propelled the FPO into the mainstream of Austrian politics by appealing to some of the frustrations of Austria's people. He has also capitalized on a large measure of dissatisfaction with the political status quo that was represented by Austria's traditional political establishment among the Austrian electorate.

Nevertheless, I join with the gentleman from California, Mr. LANTOS and my colleagues in condemning many of the statements that Joerg Haider has made, his demagogic attempts to stir up resentment of Austria's large immigrant community, and his apparent sympathies for Austria's tragic Nazi past.

This measure is balanced. It is aimed at the government of Austria and not at the people of Austria with many of whom I have enjoyed a close and enduring friendship. While we are expressing our concern, we are also withholding our final judgment with regard to the direction that the new government of Austria will pursue. We are calling upon our own government to make clear our concerns and to monitor Austrian policies so that if any further action on our part becomes necessary, we will be able to pursue it without delay.

Accordingly, I invite the support of my colleagues for H. Res. 429 so that Austrian officials will fully understand the depth of our concern.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 429, expressing the serious concerns of the United States Congress over the participation of the extremist Freedom Party in the Government of Austria. Unfortunately, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who had every intention of leading this debate, was delayed in flight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for introducing this timely resolution. Its content echoes the sentiment of many in the international community who are deeply disturbed by events taking place in Austria. I know many of my colleagues were shocked and dismayed on February 4, 2000, when we learned that despite massive international opposition, Thomas Klestil, Austria's President and leader of the People's Party, swore in a new government that included the Freedom Party, a xenophobic, right-wing organization, led by Mr. Haider, a dangerous extremist known for praising aspects of the Nazi era.

The participation of the Freedom Party in the new Austrian government is deeply disturbing to all who remember recent European history. Mr. Haider has made several statements praising Adolf Hitler's orderly employment policies in lauding veterans of the Waffen SS as decent people of good character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds.

Haider and the FPO campaigned on a policy of racism and xenophobia, urging an immediate halt to the immigration in Austria due to the over foreignization of Austria. Haider also waged a campaign to expel all foreign workers.

In 1997, he called for one-third of all foreigners to be sent home within 2

years. According to Haider, "We take the right stand at the right time to save Austria against the dangers of the outside."

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The international community has responded strongly to the dangers posed by Mr. Haider and his party. Fourteen European Union members have banned bilateral contacts with Austria at the political level. They have also agreed to oppose Austrian candidates for positions in international organizations and have limited Austrian ambassadors to meetings on a technical level. Israel has withdrawn its ambassador in response to Haider's party joining the government.

The intense pressure and worldwide opposition placed on Austria played an important role in forcing Mr. Haider to resign as Freedom Party chairman on February 29. However, we should not be confused about the true intentions of Mr. Haider as they relate to his control over the Freedom Party. In his own words, Mr. Haider stressed that his move, and I quote, "is not a withdrawal from politics."

Sixty years ago, Adolph Hitler followed a path of power similar to that of Mr. Haider. He, too, played on fear and xenophobic racist policies. Unfortunately, Austrian President Klestil's decision to include the FOP is a victory for neo-Nazi and far-right groups all across Europe. The president of Austria and Mr. Haider must understand that the United States will not tolerate any government that violates the rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 429. Congress must speak out wherever human rights and democracy are threatened, as they are unfortunately today threatened in Austria.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H. Res. 429 because I agree that it is right and proper for this House to condemn the racist and xenophobic statements of Jeorg Haider, who until a few weeks ago was the leader of the Austrian Freedom Party. Mr. Haider's statements and political activity relating to Austria's past are alarming. Clearly, many in Austria have yet to come to grips with Austria's Nazi past. That Haider, a governor of a province and the head of a major political party, went to a reunion of SS veterans (and praised them) is unforgivable and should sound alarm bells.

In some of his statements that I have read, Haider is trying to create a moral equivalency between wartime deaths and destruction caused by the Allies during the war, and the crimes and mass genocide caused by Hitler and his henchmen (including many Austrians). This mindset is delusional. It deserves the forceful condemnation contained in this resolution, and I join the resolution's author, Mr. LANTOS, who could not be here today, in support of this resolution.

I see Haider as an Austrian version of David Duke, someone who is hiding his respect for an historic movement that was monstrously evil. This is obviously the result of nationalistic

emotions that are totally negative and can have serious consequences, and thus should be of utmost concern. Yes, Haider is no Nazi. But yes, it is clear that he has sympathy for them.

While I agree with the part of this resolution condemning Mr. Haider's views, I am uncertain whether those views reflect the mindset of the Austrian Freedom Party or the people who voted for them. Furthermore, this resolution states that Haider and his party have "expressed fundamental disagreement with the principles of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights." I don't believe the evidence supports this charge. The reports that I have read indicate, on the contrary, that notwithstanding the reprehensible statements of its former leader, the Freedom Party is, in fact, a democratic party that supports freedom; and that where and when they have been in power, they have respected human rights.

The resolution also states that the Freedom Party has been associated with unspecified "xenophobic, racist policies," not just statements. To the degree that that is true, then this Congress rightfully condemns whatever those policies are. However, many of us voting for this resolution, perhaps a majority voting for it, have no complaint with Austria running its own immigration policy in a way it believes consistent with the best interests of the Austrian people. Americans, especially this Californian, are proud of America's melting pot that includes people of every race, religion and ethnic background. Diversity and freedom is the culture of America. If other countries, like Austria, desire an immigration policy that maintains traditional patterns and culture, rather than becoming a melting pot like the United States, they have every right to immigration laws consistent with that goal. The immigration policies advocated by the Freedom Party, I would note, are very similar to the actual immigration laws of Israel, Switzerland, Australia, Japan and several other democratic countries. If it's not considered xenophobic and racist for Israel and Japan to have such laws, then it shouldn't be considered xenophobic and racist to propose them in Austria. Of course this resolution does not specify which policies are xenophobic and racist. If there are such policies, I certainly agree to condemning them.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution reaffirms that Austrian people have the right "to express their political views through a democratic election." More than that, they have the right to choose who will govern them, even if we disagree with the people they choose. This House is the greatest representative body in the world. We would never suggest that an election not determine who governs a nation.

Yes, by all means, let's condemn the horrific statements of Mr. Haider and any racist or xenophobic policies that are part of the Austrian Freedom Party's agenda, if such policies are part of their agenda. But many of those voting for this resolution, again, perhaps a majority, are not attacking Austria. In this last four decades, Austria has had an exemplary record as far as a respect for human rights and democratic institutions. With vicious dictatorships and corrupt regimes abounding on this planet, it would be imprudent for this body to condemn Austria itself. However, it is clear from the words of Mr. Haider that a significant number have not come to grips with their country's part involvement with one of the most monstrous evils ever to threaten human-

kind. Any attempt to minimize this evil, to excuse the inexcusable, to portray the Nazi movement and those who participated in it, including Austrians, in any other way than despicable and bestial, deserves America's collective condemnation.

I was visited the other day by members of the Jewish War Veterans from my district. I am proud of them, along with the other members of the "Saving Private Ryan" generation, people like my father, who saved this world from Nazism and Japanese militarism. They then went on to stand up to and defeat Communism. Communism and Nazism were the twin evils of this century. To claim or imply a moral equivalency to our brave saviors of the World War II brave saviors of the World War II generation is an insult we will not bear. This resolution, while I don't agree with all of it, vocalizes our outrage at such rhetoric. I have joined with Mr. LANTOS many times in the past in condemning anti-Semitism, warning political forces in Hungary, Romania, Iran, Russia, and elsewhere that anti-Semitism will not be tolerated. Today, I join Mr. LANTOS in condemning an Austrian political leader's reprehensible and alarming statements minimizing the crimes and evils of the Nazis and their army and SS storm troopers. I ask my colleagues to join in on this condemnation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. BALLENGER, for managing this bill on behalf of the majority, and I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. WEXLER, for managing this bill on behalf of the minority. I also want to thank our colleagues who have cosponsored this resolution and helped bring it to the floor: Chairman BEN GILMAN of New York who cosponsored this resolution and brought it up for consideration in the International Relations Committee; Majority Leader DICK ARMEY of Texas who worked with me to bring this resolution to the floor of the House today for consideration. This resolution has been cosponsored by a number of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the political spectrum. I appreciate their endorsement and their strong support for the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemns the extremist, racist, and xenophobic statements and positions of leaders of the FPO party of Austria and expresses profound regret and dismay that the FPO will play a major role in the new government of Austria.

It is most appropriate for the House of Representatives to express our serious concern about the participation of such a political party in the government of Austria. Austria has a difficult background, and has had problems dealing with its legacy during World War II. Unlike Germany, Austria never underwent the "de-Nazification" process that took place in Germany after the war. Austria was treated as "Hitler's first victim" when, in fact, many Austrians were perpetrators of Nazi violence. As a young boy in neighboring Hungary, I saw the newsreels in 1938 of the Austrian people throwing flowers to German soldiers who marched into Austria at the time of the Anschluss. I saw few signs then that Austrians considered themselves "victims." As historians have noted, Mr. Speaker, the proportion of Austrians who were members of the Nazi Party was higher than the proportion of Germans.

The unfortunate recent experience of the people of Austria electing Kurt Waldheim as

president of the republic after his deplorable Nazi past became known publicly, indicates the necessity and importance of dealing with instances of extremism and racism in Austria in particular. In view of this background, it is extremely important that the Congress make clear to the people of Austria and to the government of Austria that xenophobia, extremism, and racism have no place in a free and open and democratic society.

Mr. Speaker, other countries around the world have made known their disapproval of the inclusion of the FPO in the Austrian coalition government, and they have taken diplomatic action against Austria. The fourteen other member countries of the European Union—Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom—have limited diplomatic contacts with the new Austrian Government. The European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission of the European Union have all expressed opposition to the new government. Similar actions showing disapproval have been taken by other democratic countries, including Canada, Norway, and our own Administration. The ambassador of Israel has returned to Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that this action by governments throughout Europe is not inspired by narrow political considerations. It is not simply center left governments in Europe condemning a political party on the right. In the European Parliament, the center right political faction, including representatives of the conservative German Christian Democratic Party, led the fight for the resolution condemning the participation of the FPO in the Austrian Government. The President of the European Parliament, Madame Nicole Fontaine, who is a member of the Center Right political faction of the European Parliament, expressed support for the adoption of the Parliament's resolution criticizing the FPO. The Resolution adopted by the European Parliament was practically unanimous.

Mr. Speaker, the concern of the European Union for the consequences of the FPO participating in the Austrian Government coalition are valid. A country such as Austria, which is a member of a union of European states which had adopted a common currency and which are regulated by common economic legislation, must avoid xenophobia and racism. Unfortunately, that is precisely the platform on which the FPO ran its last election campaign.

A disturbing element of this extremist campaign is the position that Joerg Haider, the former leader of the FPO, and the party itself have sought to minimize the Holocaust and the Crimes of the Nazi Era, and they have been remarkably public in their praise of Nazi Germany. In the past, Haider praised Adolf Hitler's "sound employment policy" during a debate in the Carinthian parliament. On another occasion, Haider called Waffen SS veterans "decent people with character who stuck to their belief through the strongest headwinds." On yet another occasion, Haider called the Nazi death camps "punishment camps." That glibly ignores the fact that a quarter of those killed in Nazi death camps were children, not capable of crimes. It is significant that the FPO was the only major Austrian political party which was not represented at the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen Nazi death camp a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to make clear that the Resignation of Joerg Haider as leader of the FPO a few weeks ago does not change the necessity for this resolution. Haider remains the guiding light of the party. He is still the Governor of one of Austria's most populous provinces. The Deputy Speaker of the Austrian Parliament and a leader of the FPO, Thomas Prinzhorn, made the following statement after Haider's resignation: "It is not a resignation. He [Haider] is a provincial governor and remains our strong man." It is a step backward which is necessary in order to make two solid steps forward." Haider's resignation from the post of party leader does not reflect any fundamental change whatsoever in the party's program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. It is important that the Congress of the United States make a clear and unequivocal statement on the issue of a xenophobic, racist, and extremist political party participating in the new coalition government of Austria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a White Paper on Joerg Haider and the Freedom Party (FPO) in Austria which I prepared for our colleague DANA ROHRBACHER be placed in the RECORD at this point. This includes an excellent analysis by the Anti-Defamation League of Haider and FPO policies and statements on racism and xenophobia. I think it is important to include this material in our debate today.

WHITE PAPER: JOERG HAIDER AND THE FREEDOM PARTY OF AUSTRIA—(FPO)

Reaction of the International Community—Statements by international leaders regarding the inclusion of the FPO in the Austrian coalition government.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER EHUD BARAK

"The inclusion of an extreme right-wing party . . . in the government of a European country such as Austria should outrage every citizen of the free world." (Reuters, "What they said in row over Austrian Freedom Party," February 2, 2000)

GERMAN CHANCELLOR GERHARD SCHROEDER

"What he [Haider] said about the SS and about foreigners expresses a kind of thinking which to me is undemocratic." (Reuters, "Haider 'undemocratic,' Germany's Schroeder Says," February 20, 2000.)

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER LIONEL JOSPIN

"The ideas of the Freedom Party are contradictory to the principles on which the European Union was founded . . . No, Haider's party is not a National Socialist party, but it is an extreme right-wing, xenophobic party, whose leader has in his time paid homage to Hitler, his labour policies and the Waffen SS." (Reuters, "Jospin Says Austria Must Wake Up to Haider 'Threat,'" February 1, 2000.)

PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER ANTONIO GUTERRES

"It (the EU's sanctions against Austria) is a position that represents a symbol and a lesson for the world. It is a battle for the ideals of tolerance, opposition to xenophobia and against the mistreatment of foreigners in any country." (Reuters, "What they say about Austria's Haider," February 1, 2000.)

POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKESMAN PIOTR DOBROWOLSKI

"What Haider says is dangerous, xenophobic . . . It brings back Europe's worst memories." (Reuters, "What they say about Austria's Haider," February 1, 2000.)

LORD DAVID RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, HEAD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

"Haider is an opportunist who has, in the past, come often very close to or even crossed the boundaries of acceptability when it comes to the respect of our basic values of democracy, human rights and tolerance." (Reuters, "Council of Europe Says Haider a Worry for Europe," February 2, 2000.)

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE STATEMENT

"We are certain that Americans are appalled at this development and will consider what appropriate steps can be taken to impress upon Austria that it cannot invite extremist and racist groups into its new government with impunity and without penalty." (American Jewish Committee, "Austria's Inclusion of Haider's Party in its Government Brings Deserved International Ostracism and Isolation," Press Release, February 4, 2000.)

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE STATEMENT

"Bringing Joerg Haider and his Freedom Party into the government is a disservice to Austria . . . It is astonishing that a significant portion of the population is ready to embrace a party and leadership that espouses xenophobic and nativist positions and statements." (Anti-Defamation League, "ADL Reacts to Announcement that Haider and His Xenophobic Party May Join Austrian Government," Press Release, February 1, 2000.)

JOERG HAIDER—ANTI-IMMIGRANT STATEMENTS: DEFENDING NAZI POLICY AND NAZIS

(The following is an excerpt from Joerg Haider—The Rise of an Austrian Extreme Rightist, an Anti-Defamation League publication dated February 2000. For the complete text, go to http://www.adl.org/backgrounders/joerg_haider.html)

POLITICAL AGENDA

Xenophobic and racist sentiment have permeated Haider's political career.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT STATEMENTS

According to Haider, immigration offers no benefits to Austrian society. Rather, immigrants take jobs away from Austrians and bring in crime from Africa, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. His 1999 election campaign poster slogans include: "Stop the foreign infiltration" and "Stop the abuse of asylum." Posters showing Haider and his prime ministerial candidate Thomas Prinzhorn say "Two real Austrians."

Other infamous Haider statements on immigrants include: "The Africans who come here are drug dealers and they seduce our youth," "We've got the Poles who concentrate on car theft," he claims. "We've got the people from the former Yugoslavia who are burglary experts. We've got the Turks who are superbly organized in the heroin trade. And we've got the Russians who are experts in blackmail and mugging."

In February 1993, Haider and the Freedom Party launched a twelve-point petition campaign for ending immigration and keeping the proportion of non-German speaking children in schools under 30%. Haider predicted he would get at least one million signatories. In what was viewed as a major defeat, the petition was signed by only 417,000, or 7.5% of the population.

During the 1994 election campaign, Haider's linkage of immigration and unemployment continued, causing the ruling coalition to accuse Haider of manipulating public fears over joblessness. Haider announced to Austrians "we have to stop immigration until unemployment is reduced to under 5 percent," claiming that the unemployment rate was 5.8%. The official unemployment figure at that time was 4.4%.

In 1996, Haider called "The government's so-called integration policy a disaster. They are ready to open the doors to another 153,000 foreigners who will take school places, training places and flats (apartments)," Haider said. He continued, "When Turkish children demand protection money from our children at the playground, it's time to say, this is our state," Haider declared.

Haider has continued to wage a xenophobic campaign to expel foreign workers. In March 1997, Haider stated that he wants one third of all foreigners working in Austria to be sent home over the next two years.

According to Haider, "We take the right stand at the right time to save Austria against the dangers coming from outside."

DEFENDING NAZI POLICY AND NAZIS

According to his critics, despite public disclaimers and overtures, Haider has a public record of defending the policies of Nazi Germany and of justifying individual actions during those years. Haider has utilized terminology reminiscent of the Nazis, announcing, for example in October 1990 a "final solution to the farm question." Upon his election to the leadership of the Freedom Party, Haider rejected comparisons with the German Nazi Party, saying "The Freedom Party is not the descendant of the National Socialist Party. If it were, we would have an absolute majority."

Indeed, Haider first gained international attention in March 1986 during the controversy surrounding the return of Walter Reder, an Austrian born former major in the Nazi SS, who was freed by Italy from a life sentence he was serving for his role in the mass killing of Italian civilians in 1944. For Haider, the controversy was ridiculous, as Reder was "a soldier who had done his duty." Dismissing Reder's wartime activities, Haider stated: "If you are going to speak about war crimes, you should admit such crimes were committed by all sides."

Haider's most infamous comment came during a July 1991 debate in the Carinthia provincial parliament, when Haider, then governor, declared: "An orderly employment policy was carried out in the Third Reich, which the government in Vienna cannot manage." In face of a national and international uproar, Haider apologized for his remarks, but said "What I said was a statement of fact: that in the Third Reich a large number of workplaces were created through an intensive employment policy and unemployment was thereby eliminated." Haider, of course, did not mention to particulars of Nazi labor policy, including military build-up, slave labor, and concentration camps. Recently, Haider defended his 1991 statement, claiming he was referring to Nazi policy between 1933 and 1936.

In May 1992, while the government was embroiled in a scandal involving a provincial government's decision to honor a gathering of Waffen SS veterans, Haider defended the decision. Haider instead accused the Interior Minister in Parliament of engaging in "primitive attacks" on "respectable" war veterans, while turning a blind eye to immigrant perpetrated crime.

More recently, Haider spoke out against the Austrian government's plans to compensate 30,000 Austrian victims of Nazi rule, including Jews, Communists and homosexuals, claiming that Austrian victims of the allies, such as civilians who fled Austria's occupation by US, Soviet, French and British troops, should also be compensated. As he told an elderly Austrian audience in April 1995, "It is not fair if all the money from the tax coffers goes to Israel." However, when the Parliament voted in June to set up a \$50 million compensation fund, Haider voted in its favor. Still insisting on

the need for compensation for victims of the allies, Haider explained, "But we do not intend to be petty. Even though you will not join us to widen the scope of the fund we will not vote against the bill. We too want to draw a line under a chapter we are also responsible for."

In May 1995, the Freedom Party was the only major Austrian political party absent from ceremonies at Mauthausen death camp marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. Just before the anniversary, Haider had referred to Mauthausen as a "punishment camp," implying that those interred there were criminals.

While addressing the reunion of Waffen-SS veterans, Haider declared that the reason people opposed them was "simply that in this world there are decent people who have character and who have stuck to their beliefs through the strongest headwinds and who remained true to their convictions until today." Haider's appearance at the ceremony was unknown until days before amateur videotape of the gathering was broadcast on German television in December 1995.

Following these revelations, Haider defended his appearance at the event, saying: "The Waffen SS was a part of the Wehrmacht and hence it deserves all the honor and respect of the army in public life." "Everything I said in that video was completely acceptable." "I participated in this event and I don't see any reason not to. While I reject National Socialism, I certainly do not approve of the wholesale disparagement of the older war generation. I stand by this generation and I fight against the way it is disparaged." Haider claimed he did not know the Waffen SS had been branded a criminal organization by the post-war Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, adding: "It doesn't interest me in the least."

In December 1995, after viewing the video which captured Haider addressing and mingling with former SS officers, Austrian public prosecutors launched a criminal investigation into Haider's comments and speech on the basis of the law against reviving Nazism. Following the investigation by the public prosecutor's offices, the Austrian ministry of justice announced that it was to drop the proceedings because of insufficient grounds.

During the parliamentary debate in July 1998 on a proposed new law requiring applicants for Austrian citizenship to prove knowledge of German, Franz Larfer, an MP of the Freedom Party, used the word *Umvolkung*. This term was used by the Nazis to define the forced change of the ethnic composition of a population by immigration or compulsory transfer. This happened in Eastern Europe during the Nazi-period leading consequently to the annihilation of the inhabitants. The term is comparable to the expression ethnic cleansing.

In reaction to the use of this expression, members of the Austrian parliament booed and shouted and the session had to be interrupted. After Heinz Fischer, the president of the Austrian parliament, explained to Larfer the meaning of the word, Larfer returned to the microphone apologizing for applying it. As the media reported extensively on this incident, Haider defended Larfer's use of this term, and reiterated in a press conference the following day that his colleague was right in using this expression, explaining that the government applying a liberal immigration policy allows for extensive "foreign infiltration," which subsequently leads to *Umvolkung*.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would first like to thank Congressman LANTOS for taking the lead on this important Resolution.

As a survivor of the horrors of the Nazi regime, he knows better than anyone on the International Relations Committee or in this Congress the dangers of complacency. Congressman LANTOS knows that remaining silent when hate-mongers come to power is not an option. And I thank him again for his leadership and his dedication.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Congress has heard the comments made by Jorg Haider and leaders of the Freedom Party. Comments praising Hitler's policies. Statements praising the Waffen S.S. Assertions consistently blaming problems in Austria, including low employment, high taxes and the spread of disease on immigrants.

Mr. Haider's views are clear and his intentions are known. And his attempt to apologize each time he makes an offensive statement has grown as tiresome to me as his hateful statements. And although Mr. Haider has resigned his position, his party, the Freedom Party, remains in a coalition government in Austria with the People's Party. This must not be accepted.

That is why I have joined with Congressman LANTOS, Chairman GILMAN, Ranking Member GEJDENSON, another survivor of the Nazi era, and a number of my colleagues in introducing H. Res. 429. The House International Relations Committee has passed this Resolution and it is appropriate and necessary that the U.S. Congress put itself on record as disapproving of such a Government.

Once again, I would like to thank Congressman LANTOS for his leadership on this pressing issue, as well as Chairman GILMAN and Ranking Member GEJDENSON for their support.

I urge my colleagues to support this important Resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 429.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 429.

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

There was no objection.

MUTUAL FUND TAX AWARENESS ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1089) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to require the improved disclosure of after-tax returns regarding mutual fund performance, and for other purposes, as amended.