

bill and the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference, Messrs. GILMAN, ROYCE, and GEJDENSON; from the Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference, Messrs. ARCHER, CRANE, and RANGEL; as additional conferees, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference, Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. HOFFEL.

There was no objection.

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CONFEREES TO MEET ON H.R. 434, AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the conferees on H.R. 434 will meet in Room 1100 of the Longworth Building immediately.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 701, CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today a Dear Colleague letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Rules Committee is planning to meet the week of May 8 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, also known as CARA.

Any Member who wishes to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, to the Committee on Rules in Room H-312 of the Capitol.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of an amendment in the nature of a substitute which is available at the Committee on Resources and will be posted on their Web site by 12 noon tomorrow.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

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EAST TIMOR REPATRIATION AND SECURITY ACT

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join with my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), to introduce H.R. 4357, the East Timor Repatriation Security Act.

The crisis in East Timor continues, and the Congress needs to respond. Some 100,000 refugees remained trapped in squalid and threatening conditions inside West Timor. The overwhelming majority of these refugees want to return to their home in East Timor, but they cannot because the camps are under the control of the militias.

The militias and elements of the Indonesian Army continue cross-border attacks into East Timor.

Reconstruction continues to be a slow and laborious task.

Our bill maintains Congressional restrictions and the President's suspension on military cooperation with the Indonesian Armed Forces until the refugees are safely repatriated and military attacks against East Timor are ended.

It calls upon the President to help the safe repatriation of the refugees and to help rebuild East Timor, and it salutes the members of the United States Armed Forces who have participated in the peacekeeping operation in East Timor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the McGovern-Smith bill on East Timor.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

[From Human Rights Watch]

EAST TIMORESE REFUGEES FACE NEW THREAT (NEW YORK, Mar. 30, 2000).—Human Rights Watch today called on Indonesian authorities to lift a March 31 deadline on humanitarian aid to East Timorese refugees living in West Timor. The Indonesian government has given the refugees, some 100,000 people, until the end of the month to choose whether to go back to East Timor or remain in Indonesia. Indonesia says it will end all delivery of food and other assistance as of March 31.

"Everyone wants a quick resolution of the refugee crisis, but this ultimatum is counterproductive," said Joe Saunders, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "The threatened deadline alone has created panic. If it is implemented, the cutoff will directly endanger the lives of tens of thousands of refugees without solving the underlying problems."

Conditions for many of the refugees are already dire. There have been food shortages, along with health and nutrition problems in many of the camps. Some reports estimate that as many as 500 refugees have died from stomach and respiratory ailments. Refugees also continue to face significant obstacles in deciding whether to return. In some areas, refugees continue to be subjected to intimidation by armed militias and disinformation campaigns. Refugees are told that conditions in East Timor are worse than in the camps, and the United Nations is acting as a new colonial occupying force. Other refugees opposed independence for East Timor, or come from militia or army families, and fear vigilante justice should they return to East Timor.

Indonesian officials claim, however, that they can no longer afford to feed the refugees, that food aid acts as a magnet and prevents refugees in West Timor from returning home permanently, claiming that after March 31, the refugees should be the sole responsibility of the international community.

"Given Indonesia's economic woes, the call for international financial support in feeding and caring for the refugees is understandable. We call on donors to make urgently needed assistance available. But an artificial

deadline helps no one," said Saunders. "Thousands of refugees are not now in a position to make a free and informed choice about whether to return. A large part of the problem has been Indonesia's failure to create conditions in which refugees can make a genuine choice."

According to aid agencies, the total number of refugees currently in West Timor is just under 100,000. Precise figures are not available because access to the camps and settlements has been limited by harassment and intimidation of humanitarian aid workers by pro-Indonesian militias still dominant in a number of the camps. Many refugees have also been subjected to months of disinformation and, often, intimidation by members of the pro-Indonesian militias. Indonesia has recently made some progress in combating the intimidation in the camps, but lack of security and reliable information continue to be important obstacles to return. Aid workers in West Timor estimate that one-half to two-thirds of the refugees, if given a free choice, would eventually choose to return to East Timor.

"Withdrawal of food aid and other humanitarian assistance should never be used as a means to pressure refugees into returning home prematurely" said Saunders. "Return should be voluntary and based on the free and informed choice of the refugees themselves."

Following the announcements by the United Nations on September 4, 1999 that nearly eighty percent of East Timorese voters had rejected continued rule by Indonesia, East Timor was the site of orchestrated mayhem. In the days and weeks following the announcement, an estimated seventy percent of homes and buildings across East Timor were destroyed, more than two-thirds of the population was displaced, and an estimated 250,000 East Timorese fled or were forcibly taken, often at gunpoint, across the border into Indonesian West Timor. To date, roughly 150,000 refugees have returned to East Timor.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 29, 2000]

STUMBLING EFFORTS IN EAST TIMOR

In East Timor, where pro-Indonesian militias went on a rampage last summer, the United Nations has taken on an ambitious reconstruction mission with inadequate means. Not surprisingly, the results to date have been disappointing. Unless faster progress can be achieved in creating jobs, resettling refugees and establishing the rule of law, there is a serious risk of new violence.

International peacekeepers belatedly put a stop to the violence, which came after the East Timorese voted for independence. But by the time U.N. administrators moved in six months ago, conditions were desperate. Pro-Jakarta militias had burned much of the territory's housing and destroyed its agricultural economy. The abrupt withdrawal of Indonesian civil servants left East Timor without police, teachers and other essential services.

Since then the U.N. has made only modest progress. Some schools have been reopened, although they still lack trained teachers. Emergency medical and dental clinics have been established, many of them staffed by private relief agencies. But a staggering 80 percent of East Timor's 800,000 people still have no work, and nearly 100,000 remain in refugee camps across the Indonesian frontier. There is no functioning police force or courts, no reliable water, power or transportation systems.

The chief U.N. administrator, Sergio Vieira de Mello, has been hampered by an inadequate budget, unrealistic staff ceilings and the slowness of donor nations in providing the funds and volunteers they have

promised for Timor's reconstruction. Of more than \$500 million pledged late last year, only \$40 million has been delivered. Washington has so far sent about \$8 million of the \$13 million it promised for U.N. and World Bank reconstruction efforts. Donor nations have been slow in providing the local governance experts the U.N. needs.

These problems have been magnified by the workings of the notoriously slow U.N. bureaucracy and the U.N. mission's reluctance to give more responsibility to local residents. If the rebuilding effort continues to lag in the months ahead, Jakarta could be tempted to exploit the continuing poverty and chaos, launching new military forays from Indonesian-controlled West Timor.

Last summer's violence in East Timor galvanized international attention and action. That commitment must now be sustained with adequate resources and a renewed sense of urgency.

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MILLION MOM MARCH

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Million Mom March and the tapestry of mothers across the Nation.

These dedicated mothers will be arriving in Washington, D.C. and over 60 cities to participate in the Million Mom March on Mother's Day, May 14.

The mothers here on the mall and around the Nation will be demonstrating their grassroots support for common sense gun safety legislation. Fathers, sons, daughters, their friends, and their relatives will be joining their moms. The cause of gun safety has united these marchers.

I commend the March's Founder, Donna Dees-Thomases, for organizing this massive event. To learn more about the March, my colleagues may access the Web site at www.millionmom.com. This Web site contains "Woven Words" stories. These are stories from the moms themselves on why they got involved in the March.

Mr. Speaker, I will introduce these stories in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Gun safety is not a partisan issue. I will look forward to joining Donna and thousands of other mothers who will be participating in the Million Mom March across the country.

I urge all members to join the Million Mom March and to heed its message of adopting common sense gun safety legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the "Woven Words" stories that I referred to are as follows:

ADD YOUR VOICE TO OUR TAPESTRY—WOVEN WORDS

"MMM I support you in this effort. It is time we come together to make changes to the gun laws. It is time to make some common sense gun policies so no more children, Black or White, Baptist or Jewish has to die accidentally or because another child felt powerful enough to take another child's life. We must hold our lawmakers accountable to changing the waive of gun violence in our society. It is our right to call on lawmakers to help us save our children. Johnetta, another

one in a million"—Johnetta, Washington, DC, AL

"This is long overdue . . . I have a 10 yr old daughter who I want to protect. I support this cause wholeheartedly. Way to go moms. . . ."—Lori C. Jefferson, Hayward, CA

"I am blessed to have 3 wonderful boys, all 5 and under. I am scared to death to send them out into this world . . . why must the youth of our nation be subjected to the violence that has become so "normal"? I WILL NOT sit by and allow this to happen to our most precious resources . . . it is up to US!!!!"—Tiffany, AZ

"We needed better gun control laws in this country. Twice I've had a gun pointed at me. Once a boyfriend used my father's gun to threaten me. He actually fired it. The second time was during an armed robbery. Funny how the person who was supposed to care about me fired the gun, but the robber who I meant nothing to only waved it around. Regardless I never want my daughter to have to deal with any situation involving guns!"—Tracy, Palmdale, CA

"Thank-you to the organizers of the march and the movement. Every time I read something sponsored by the march I get goosebumps. This is my first Mother's Day, and I am so proud that someday my 10 month old will look back and know that I took a stand for something as important as sensible gun control. My husband is a cop, and is ready to quit because of the heart-breaking cruelty in our society. Simply, like the man said, you've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything. Bless us all."—Colleen, Karnes City, TX

"Remind your gun-supporting family, friends and lawmakers: When the Constitution was written, citizens of our new country were in danger from the threat of armed British soldiers at many a turn. No wonder the framers gave our citizens the right to bear arms! The NRA and like-minded individuals and groups have somehow (?) failed to take into account that there are no longer armed soldiers, subjects of a foreign power in pursuit of political and economic control, threatening our citizenry. Nor are we blazing a new, untamed frontier. Times have changed. With the exception of those in service to our country, the people now "bearing arms" ARE the threat. What is their point? They're "defending" themselves? Against whom? The reality is that those who irresponsibly own and/or use hand guns and assault rifles (weapons of war—Why are they available to citizens?! \$\$\$ This is nuts!!) are now the aggressors and one thing these aggressors control, shamefully, is the lives of our defenseless citizens—particularly our children. THEY DO NOT HAVE THAT RIGHT and I am steadfastly behind paring their power play. Background checks, "cooling off" periods, licenses for ALL guns, safety locks . . . Why are these measures anathema? They make SENSE! It's at least 100 years past time to CHANGE THE LAW! I applaud all the organizers and intend to lend my support by swelling your numbers by one. See you in Washington!"—LC Kelly, Durham, NC

"The state of America saddens me on a regular basis. Whether I am watching TV, reading the paper, or surfing the net, I am inevitably going to run into a story of some child who was shot dead . . . today. I am 24 years old, I do not have any children, and I have no immediate plans of having any. Yet, every day, I hurt for these dead children and their families. I hurt for a bond that I have yet to understand. And then there are these people who have children, and have the nerve to tell me that my beliefs defy our Constitution. A Constitution which was written over 200 years ago by men who could not even fathom the notion of an AK47 or a sawed-off

shot-gun. This is the reason why our Constitution is made up of Amendments, not Commandments. And to those who have children and who have the nerve to tell me that my belief system is wrong, let's look at the big picture. It's not right that I care about the well-being of your child more than you do."—Allison Kaplan, West Linn, OR

"Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the march, but I would like to share the story of what happened to my 19-year-old daughter who was threatened by a 45-year-old man with a semi-automatic handgun 2 weeks ago. He pulled his car in front of hers, blocking her escape and got out of the vehicle, reached in the car for his gun (we later learned it was loaded) and threatened her. After our first court appearance, I realized that this guy will probably walk away. We not only need serious legislation, but we need to enforce the laws! While we are thankful our daughter is alive, she has certainly been traumatized by this incident. My heart goes out to all who have lost loved ones to gun violence."—Madlon Glenn and Katie Glenn—madlon glenn, Winston-Salem, NC

"Heartbreaking stories, heartbreaking words. Is anyone listening? Are we preaching to the choir? Please, God, don't make us share more heartbreak, year after bloody, tragic year."—Jeanne Genova-Goldstein, Spring Lake, NJ

"Guns are bad. They hurt people. A gun killed our favorite singer "Selena". We don't go in houses that have guns. Guns are stupid." "Mom Astrea Fall gives permission to print how her two children feel about guns)."—Chris 6 and Elizabeth Fall 5, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, NJ

"It is past time that our voices were heard . . . past time that the NRA and other lobbyists are stopped . . . past time that someone stand up for the safety of our children . . . past time that we show the politicians that WE are their constituents and we have a voice, loud enough to be heard across the land and into Congress . . . it is OUR time and the time is NOW. My sister and I will be at the march, with our seven-year-old daughters, marching to keep them safe."—Christine Bintz, Reston, VA

"When will enough be enough? I was outraged to learn that my 13-year-old God Daughter was afraid to go to school because she heard other 13-year olds talking about how they were going to "Shoot the place up". The child was in hysterical sobs and has had to endure counseling to help with her fear of GUNS. When will the powers that be realize that besides the senseless and AVOIDABLE loss of precious life of our loved ones, that we are also taking away the freedom that our constitution promises us when a child is afraid to go to school because of guns?!? I applaud the efforts of all the coordinators, sponsors and participants of the Million Mom March and pray with you all that Congress enacts laws that will help protect us, and our precious children."—Elaine Thompson, Columbia, MD

"Children are the world's most valuable asset and the only hope for our future. The most important thing a parent can do is to protect our children from harm or death. If we don't protect them, who will? They count on us for that! Let's do it!!!!"—Pat Barton, Aurora, CO

"I feel that it is time that the Government listen to the people. I have a 6-month son whom I can still protect from the violence that seems to be taking over our nations children. My biggest fear is what will happen when the day comes for me to release my child into society. I can educate my own child that guns are not toys—but what about other peoples children, especially those whose parents aren't educated about guns. I