

Mr. ARMEY. If I might be very careful here, it will be on the floor next week. I would not say right now whether exactly it would be Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. DOGGETT. It could be as late as Wednesday?

Mr. ARMEY. There will be an announcement regarding that. If the Committee on Rules has an announcement regarding that, I would expect them to make that on Monday.

Mr. DOGGETT. Would it be the gentleman's recommendation that there will be an opportunity to consider an amendment on a substitute to the bill as it was reported by the Committee on Ways and Means?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman from Michigan continues to yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I continue to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Let me just say, I will have to participate in a discussion on that. At this point, I am not prepared to even make a recommendation myself. We will have some series discussion on the matter, and I will just have to report back later how that discussion goes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Does the gentleman expect to have a recommendation or does the gentleman have one at this time concerning approximately how much time we will have to debate a matter of this importance?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, if the gentleman continues to yield, let me just say that I have just in the last day or so not had the time to focus on this; I must get focused on it. We will have that meeting, and at that time I will inform you.

Mr. DOGGETT. Let me just say, that despite our differences on arranging matters, I want to be quite sincere in expressing my appreciation for your assurance today that we will have an opportunity next week to consider this matter, and I wish the gentleman a good weekend; and we will get ready for that vigorous debate.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO IRAQ'S FAILURE TO RELEASE PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 275) expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to release prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 275

Whereas in 1990 and 1991, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested on the streets of Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation;

Whereas in February 1993, the Government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the existence of 605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which passed those files on to Iraq, the United Nations, and the Arab League;

Whereas numerous testimonials exist from family members who witnessed the arrest and forcible removal of their relatives by Iraqi armed forces during the occupation;

Whereas eyewitness reports from released prisoners of war indicate that many of those who are still missing were seen and contacted in Iraqi prisons;

Whereas official Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait chronicle in detail the arrest, imprisonment, and transfer of significant numbers of Kuwaitis, including those who are still missing;

Whereas in 1991, the United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly passed Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687 that were part of the broad cease-fire agreement accepted by the Iraqi regime;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 686 calls upon Iraq to arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the ICRC and to return the remains of the deceased personnel of the forces of Kuwait and the Member States cooperating with Kuwait;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 calls upon Iraq to cooperate with the ICRC in the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, to provide the ICRC with access to the prisoners wherever they are located or detained, and to facilitate the ICRC search for those unaccounted for;

Whereas the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 686, immediately released all Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Geneva Convention;

Whereas immediately following the cease-fire in March 1991, Iraq repatriated 5,722 Kuwaiti prisoners of war under the aegis of the ICRC and freed 500 Kuwaitis held by rebels in southern Iraq;

Whereas Iraq has hindered and blocked efforts of the Tripartite Commission, the eight-country commission chaired by the ICRC and responsible for locating and securing the release of the remaining prisoners of war;

Whereas Iraq has denied the ICRC access to Iraqi prisons in violation of Article 126 of the

Third Geneva Convention, to which Iraq is a signatory; and

Whereas Iraq—under the direction and control of Saddam Hussein—has failed to locate and secure the return of all prisoners of war being held in Iraq, including prisoners from Kuwait and nine other nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress—

(A) acknowledges that there remain 605 prisoners of war imprisoned in Iraq, although Kuwait was liberated from Iraq's brutal invasion and occupation on February 26, 1991;

(B) condemns and denounces the Iraqi Government's refusal to comply with international human rights instruments to which it is a party;

(C) urges Iraq immediately to disclose the names and whereabouts of those who are still alive among the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and other nations to bring relief to their families; and

(D) insists that Iraq immediately allow humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the living prisoners and to recover the remains of those who have died while in captivity; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the United States Government should—

(A) actively and urgently work with the international community and the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687, to secure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and other prisoners of war who are still missing nine years after the end of the Gulf War; and

(B) exert pressure, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, on Iraq to bring this issue to a close, to release all remaining prisoners of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and to rejoin the community of nations with a humane gesture of good will and decency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Con. Res. 275, and I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for his leadership on this issue.

I extend my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who successfully had an amendment during our committee's consideration of the resolution.

During our markup last week, the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) calls on our government and those in the international community to resolve the case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq in January of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, during the Gulf War, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested during the Iraqi occupation. The government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the evidence of 605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which passed these files on to Iraq and to the United Nations.

U.N. Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687 call for Iraq to cooperate with the ICRC in releasing all of those prisoners of war and facilitate the

search for those who remain unaccounted for. Regrettably, however, Iraq has hindered all efforts to locate and secure the release of those individuals, and Iraq has denied the ICRC access to its prisons in violation of article 126 of the third Geneva Convention to which Iraq is a signatory.

Accordingly, H. Con. Res. 275 condemns the Iraqi governments refusal to comply with the will of the international community regarding these prisoners of war and urges Iraq to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of resolution 686 and 687.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that our own government should continue to actively seek the release of these Kuwaiti prisoners of war as well as other prisoners of war who are still missing some 9 years after the fact.

Accordingly, I urge the adoption of H. Con. Res. 275.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. GILMAN:

Page 4, line 5, strike "and".

Page 4, after line 10, insert the following:

(E) urges Iraq to immediately release all information regarding the fate of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher and to release Lieutenant Commander Speicher, or deliver his remains, to the International Committee of the Red Cross for return to the United States; and

Page 4, line 19, strike "and" at the end.

Page 5, line 2, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 5, after line 2, add the following:

(C) actively and urgently work with the international community and the Government of Kuwait to actively seek information on the status of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher and make every effort to expedite the release of Lieutenant Commander Speicher, or deliver his remains, from Iraq.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the Preamble Offered by Mr. GILMAN:

In the 12th clause of the preamble, strike "and" at the end.

In the 13th clause of the preamble, strike "Now, therefore, be it" and insert "; and".

At the end of the preamble, add the following:

Whereas significant questions remain regarding the status of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq on January 16, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm and was declared dead by the United States Navy without the conduct of an adequate search and rescue operation, however subsequent information obtained after the Persian Gulf Conflict by United States officials has raised the possibility that Lieutenant Commander Speicher survived and was captured by Iraqi forces: Now, therefore, be it

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 275.

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

There was no objection.

SIERRA LEONE

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the tragic situation in Sierra Leone, where the democratically elected government of this West African country has long been under attack by rebels who have relied on the most heinous tactics, including systematically chopping off the limbs of little children. In Sierra Leone, the world is seeing pure evil.

The administration's response was to encourage a deal with the rebels, which predictably feel apart and now we have a U.N. peacekeeping operation there. Well, the fact is that this peacekeeping operation is not up to the task. Its record of incompetence includes its troops having willingly turned over weapons and equipment to the rebels. This operation remains in shambles, and more troops and resources will not address its shortcomings.

The rebels could, though, be marginalized by the Nigerian military and the defense forces of the Sierra Leone government, working with strong logistical training and other backing from the British. The U.S. should be focused on backing this effort, providing support to the Nigerian troops in Sierra Leone.

Whether African states move towards great stability is very much in question. An alternative and disastrous vision of state disintegration is looming for large parts of Africa. That is why a response to Sierra Leone is so important.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REGARDING THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the urgent need for leadership in developing a Comprehensive National Energy Policy. Those of my colleagues who have followed my floor speeches over the past 25 years know that this issue is not a new one for me. As a Member of this House during the 1970s when gasoline shortages resulted in long lines at the pump and even when the crisis subsided, I have continued to speak on the need for a balanced energy policy which provides for a diversity of energy options for Americans.

Today, Mr. Speaker, recent spikes in the world crude oil prices, the tight gasoline supply, and the resulting extremely high prices at the pump, especially across the Midwest, again focus our attention on the urgent need for a comprehensive, and I emphasize comprehensive, policy.

Today we have crossed the 50 percent threshold on oil imports. We now import 52 percent of our petroleum, and by 2020, that number is projected to reach 64 percent.

□ 1415

This number is important because, unlike in other sectors of the energy market, we are dependent on petroleum-based fuels for more than 90 percent of our transportation market, automobiles, trucks and airplanes.

In 1999, U.S. consumers used four times as much gasoline as they did 50 years ago. In the past, our tendency has been to try to solve the problem with a short-term solution, then continue with our same habits. However, I urge my colleagues to consider the long-term benefits of developing a comprehensive, balanced policy for our Nation's energy. Our Nation depends upon affordable, reliable energy in every sector to retain our strong economy. Energy is too important for us to merely hope for the best.

Mr. Speaker, today I recommend that we bring not just the Department of Energy into this debate, but the numerous other Federal agencies which have a direct impact on our Nation's energy supply through various regulations on how we produce, transport, and consume energy. These include the Department of Interior, the Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to name a few. All of these agencies impact the energy we use every day. Further, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Postal Service as major users of energy must also be at the table.

Today about 85 percent of our energy use comes from traditional fuel sources, coal, oil and natural gas. The Energy Information Administration estimates that by 2020 that market share will reach nearly 90 percent. Our future use of these traditional fuels depends upon our continued research into ways to use these more efficiently, more cleanly, while, at the same time, we expand research on alternative fuels. We must do both.