

Pelosi
Rahall
Rangel
Rivers
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Scott
Serrano
Slaughter
Solis
Stark
Tierney
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Waxman
Wexler
Woolsey

Thune
Traficant

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from April 16, 2002, through April 18, 2002, I was absent from the House of Representatives proceedings because I was fulfilling my duties as a

Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—90

member of the Helsinki Commission and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

While serving in this capacity, I missed rollcall votes 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 and 103. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted the following way: On 93, yes; 94, yes; 95, yes; 96, yes; 97, no; 98, no; 99, no; 100, no; 101, no; 102, no; and 103, no.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3113

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3113. It was erroneously included.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to address during my 5 minutes the Armenian genocide. Today, of course, is April 24. The Armenian genocide began over 85 years ago, on April 24 in 1915. Why are we here? Why am I? The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), who is the cochair of the Armenian Caucus, is with me who has been a champion over the years of trying to bring an Armenian genocide recognition resolution to the floor of the House and to the Congress so that we finally would pass it. We are here because we feel very strongly that the Armenian genocide has not been properly recognized in the U.S. House, in this Congress and also by the President.

There is no need, I guess, to go into the reasons. We all know the reasons. And they are that the Turkish Government is very strenuous in its opposition and constantly exerts pressure on the President, on the Congress, on the leadership of the Houses not to bring a resolution up that would recognize the genocide.

I have maintained for years that that is a huge mistake on the part of the Turkish Government to use that kind of leverage against our Government, in part because the fact of the matter is the genocide occurred and it is a huge mistake to try to cover it up. We know that if genocide occurs and it is covered up, it will occur again. History tells us that. But beyond that, it is also a mistake because until the time

comes when the Turkish Government is willing to recognize the genocide, there never will be what I call the cleansing effect that Turkey needs to go through with its leaders and with its population to make sure that they recognize this horrible series of events, and they do not have the events reoccur, that they do not continue to persecute minorities, including the Armenian minority that still exists in a very minimum amount in the state of Turkey today.

What we have done this year is the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and I within the Armenian Caucus have circulated a letter asking President Bush tomorrow to use the word "genocide" and recognize the genocide in his address that he and other Presidents have done now for many years. President Bush to his credit has been a friend of Armenia and a friend of U.S.-Armenia relations and the two countries growing closer together. During his campaign, he repeatedly made statements about the Armenian genocide and used the term "genocide." Unfortunately, like his predecessors, both Democrat and Republican, once they took office we do not see the word "genocide" used.

□ 1530

We do ask the President, we do call upon him tomorrow when he commemorates and when he issues a statement about the Armenian genocide, to use the term "genocide" because, in fact, it was a purposeful, intentional State act that occurred in 1915. It was not a coincidence. It was not a mishap. It was not a civil war. It was an intentional act on the part of the then Turkish Government to perpetrate a genocide against the Armenian people.

We have, I believe, 163 cosponsors of that letter to the President. We have another 5 or 10 Members on a bipartisan basis who sent similar letters on their own, individually, to the President asking that he do so, and I hope sincerely that he does tomorrow.

Let me say this, though. The issue of the genocide is important not only because of the past and because we do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past, but also because the actions of the Turkish Government today continue to perpetrate the genocide. As I mentioned, there are not that many Armenians who are now living in Turkey, but there are a few thousand, and those people that live there today continue to be discriminated against. The Turkish Government makes it very difficult for them to practice their Christian Armenian orthodox religion. There are limitations on their ability to open Armenian schools and teach the Armenian language and Armenian culture. They still face problems in terms of owning property, and their inability to own property or to buy and sell property.

One of the most egregious examples of this took place just in the last few months when two Armenian Ameri-

cans, American citizens, were encouraged by the Turkish Government to purchase a hotel for tourism purposes in Van, which is the area where many Armenians historically lived. This couple, after they had opened the hotel and purchased the hotel, were basically told to get out. They were told that they would not be reimbursed for this hotel and for their property. They have not been able to operate the hotel. They have not been able to essentially do anything with their business. They have lost their business, they have lost their investment, because the Turkish Government found out that they were of Armenian dissent. Myself and others within our Caucus have sent a letter to the U.S. Ambassador objecting to this.

I want to conclude now, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to say that the genocide continues and the perpetrators of the genocide continue to make it difficult, even for Armenians who live in Turkey, to continue to operate as legitimate citizens.

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as a Republican cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I come to the floor on this very special and important day to join my colleagues and individuals around the world in commemorating the 87th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We must never forget the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, and this commemoration makes an important contribution to making sure that we never do.

I would like to commend my colleague and fellow cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), for working with me to help arrange this commemoration, and I appreciate his remarks.

Our Caucus is now up to 114 Members, which I believe shows the incredible support Armenia has in the U.S. House of Representatives. We also, of course, wrote a letter, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) referenced the letter with over 160 signatures that went to the President.

When most people hear the word "genocide," they immediately think of Hitler and his persecution of the Jews during World War II. Many individuals are unaware that the first genocide of