

largest in the United States. Madam Speaker, I know how big this district is. Twice now it has been reapportioned, and twice it has gotten larger each time, and right now it is one of the largest in the United States. So just getting back and forth and traversing that large district in and of itself is a chore that we undertake. As I said, Mr. Davis did it every other weekend.

So I think, Madam Speaker, a fitting tribute to Bob Davis' service to northern Michigan would be naming the St. Ignace Post Office after him, the Bob Davis Post Office, and I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON); and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM); and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for their courtesies, and I ask all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

We have no further speakers on this side. It is clear that Mr. Davis again enjoys broad support and respect from both sides of the aisle, and we appreciate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) bringing his accomplishments to the attention of the House. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2577.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOMING HIM TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 324) commanding President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcoming him to the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 324

Whereas President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan has shown courageous leadership in cooperating with the United States in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas President Musharraf has shown great fortitude in confronting extremists and outlawing terrorism in Pakistan;

Whereas the efforts of President Musharraf in fighting terrorism are both in the na-

tional interest of Pakistan and of great importance to Pakistani-American relations;

Whereas the war against terrorism underscores the importance of strengthening the historic bilateral relationship between the United States and Pakistan;

Whereas President Musharraf has worked to improve the political representation of minorities in Pakistan; and

Whereas the Pakistani-American community in the United States makes important contributions to the United States and plays a vital role in developing a closer relationship between the peoples of the United States and Pakistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress commends President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcomes him to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

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

I am pleased to call up the resolution to welcome President Musharraf on his most important visit to Washington. I am a cosponsor of this resolution that was introduced today by the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Pakistan has been in the forefront of the war on terrorism, and their efforts to assist the United States have been essential to the great successes to date. The importance of the growing relationship between our two countries is the prevention of further terrorist attacks, and hopefully it will contribute to economic development and stability within Pakistan.

President Musharraf has taken many steps to arrest al Qaeda members and has been working diligently on the release of kidnapped journalist Daniel Pearl. He has undertaken other efforts to curtail the detrimental activities of extremist Islamic groups and has shown particular leadership in trying to take his country in a new direction.

Through this resolution we acknowledge President Musharraf's sincere efforts to improve the security in the region and give hope for a bright future for his country and its deserving people.

I urge the support of my colleagues as we welcome the President of Pakistan to our country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I would first like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for introducing this important resolution, and I want to thank my friend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for allowing it to move so expeditiously to the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker, 5 months after September 11, we now fully understand the long-term impact of that fateful day. The patterns of international power have been scrambled, and the United States has reexamined its bilateral relationship with almost every nation on the planet.

Today, all the great powers are united against the forces of barbarism. Not since the end of the Second World War have all the nations of the civilized world, including China, Russia, Japan, India, Pakistan and the nations of Europe, joined in common cause against a common enemy.

For some nations in this historic alliance, there was never a doubt that they would be with us in this struggle. For other nations, it was not to be an easy decision. The leaders were buffeted by competing pressures, and the course of least resistance would have been to duck and cover.

Madam Speaker, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf made a strong and courageous decision to stand with the United States in this battle against terrorism. As a result, Pakistan has become an important ally in this epic struggle.

While all the nations in the global alliance have made some contributions to the battle against terrorism, Pakistan, by virtue of geography and history, has had to shoulder a uniquely heavy burden. It is true that Pakistan had a hand in creating the Taliban, and we cannot forget this, but it is also true that Pakistan is playing a critical role in ensuring that Afghanistan and Pakistan are no longer used as a base for international terrorism.

In his historic speech on January 12, President Musharraf made an eloquent and compelling call for an end to the extremism and terrorism that has plagued Pakistan for the past decade. As we laud him for making the right choice, we must acknowledge that it will not be an easy commitment for him to keep.

Indeed, the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl, an American journalist working in Pakistan, is only the latest manifestation of the life-and-death struggle that is being waged for the future of Pakistan. It is a battle against the anarchist forces of Islamic extremism and violence which seek to capitalize on the despair of the poor. It is a battle that Musharraf must win if he is to restore hope to the people of Pakistan and secure a future for the children of Pakistan.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that the United States demonstrate to the people and Government of Pakistan our commitment to help them secure that future as long as Pakistan continues its commitment to eradicate international terrorism from within its borders.

Finally, I want to reiterate to the people of Pakistan our continued support for a return to democracy in Pakistan. President Musharraf has given

his word that he is committed to democracy, and we in the Congress intend to hold him to his word.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 324.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), who is the author of this excellent resolution.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of this resolution welcoming President Musharraf in his visit to the United States this week. He has shown very bold leadership in cooperating with the United States in the war against terrorism. He has made some very difficult decisions, which were politically risky for him to do. Had he chosen the politically easy path, the great successes of the past months would not have been possible.

I think history will describe him as a courageous leader. Despite great risk to himself, to his government, he stood up for what was right and against what was wrong. He has cracked down on the extremists, the terrorists in his country. He has publicly spoken out and cracked down on the leaders guilty of hate speech. He shut down some of the madrassas which were teaching children to hate. He has acted to reform the education those young people receive.

He has put his military into tribal areas along the western border where military forces have never been in their history, as under the British arrangement tribal law supersedes national law. He had to make special negotiations and arrangements to put his military along the western border to interdict the terrorists, the al Qaeda network, as they sought to flee Afghanistan, and he has turned those al Qaeda terrorists over to the United States. In my mind these actions are the definition of courage.

It is no secret that Pakistan is an important ally of the United States. It has been for years. Yet Pakistan faces many challenges. President Musharraf has made good-faith efforts to weed out extremism, restore democracy and the rule of law, to ensure stability in a region that is torn by conflict.

In addition, President Musharraf has led historic change in his country by abolishing the separate electorates that disenfranchised minority ethnic and religious groups and boldly mandating a joint electoral system.

The joint electorate will help ensure that elected officials must respond to

the needs of all people in Pakistan instead of ignoring the important issues, particularly fundamental human rights issues, facing ethnic and religious minorities.

I applaud President Musharraf for bringing one of the biggest steps forward for human rights in Pakistan, and I encourage President Musharraf to continue in this direction bringing further reform to eliminate discriminatory laws and procedures, such as the blasphemy law, and to protect and uphold the fundamental human rights of all people in Pakistan.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for cosponsoring this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the courage, the leadership, the progress of President Musharraf of Pakistan as he visits the United States by voting for this resolution.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the learned gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) very much for the time. I want to thank the gentleman who just spoke for introducing this legislation.

I think everything that has been said about Musharraf is accurate and well deserved, but I would like to just digress for a moment and point out that Pakistan has been an ally and friend of the United States as far back as I can remember.

During the Cold War, when other countries in the region were supporting the Soviet Union, at a time when the United States was concerned about its security and an attack from the Soviet Union, Pakistan was always there. When we had the war in Afghanistan the first time, when the Soviet Union invaded, Pakistan was there. They served as a conduit for American supplies going in to stop the Soviet advance.

When we went to Somalia, and there is a movie that is called Black Hawk Down that talks about the travails we experienced in Somalia, Pakistan sent troops, and they were there.

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And now, President Musharraf has taken up the mantle of leadership in Pakistan, and he is likewise a great supporter of the United States and the things we jointly believe in. He has arrested and detained over 2,000 militant leaders and extremists in working with us to stop the terrorist threat around the world. He has banned groups that support terrorism, frozen their bank assets and their accounts, clamped down on their fund-raising and closed their offices. In short, he is a friend and ally of the United States even though he has put himself and his administration at risk by doing so.

So, along with my colleagues, I want to welcome President Musharraf to the

United States; and I want to say a very strong thank you to him and to the people of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan, because every time America asks them, unlike some of the other people in that area, they are always there to march beside us. So, President Musharraf, thank you very much for all you do for us and for the free world.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking Member and the chairman for bringing this resolution before the House.

The Pakistani word for “thank you” is shukrva. So we express shukrva to all our Pakistani friends in this country and around the world, and especially to President Musharraf. He has made dramatic changes that most of us thought were impossible. It has made a huge difference in our efforts to succeed in the war against terrorism, and hopefully it is going to be the catalyst that allows us to solve many problems, including that of Kashmir and other areas around the world.

So again I suggest we say shukrva to our Pakistani friends.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues to welcome General Musharraf to the United States. The friendship exhibited by the General's government has been an important component of the war on terrorism. Moreover, the courage that General Musharraf has shown in taking a stance against Pakistan's traditional ally, the Taliban, has been especially welcome.

While we welcome General Musharraf to Washington and congratulate him on his commitment to participating in our war on terrorism, we must also ask our friends in Pakistan some hard questions. For instance, we must ask Pakistan to show the world that it does not support cross-border terrorism into India. Pakistan must clamp down on the dozens of fighters that cross daily into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). If, as the General claimed last week, the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir is indigenous to India, will he order that his borders are tightly sealed against the radical Islamic militants who are based on Pakistani soil and wage war in India?

The General's government would gain tremendously in the international community if it also divulges to the world the status of the “Twenty Most Wanted”—the list of international terrorist leaders that are accused of being sheltered in Pakistan. There can be no doubt that terrorism is alive in Pakistan—we have only to look to the case of the journalist, Daniel Pearl, to show us the Pakistan has not been able fact clamped down on terrorism. Without a sincere, public and tangible series of steps on the part of the General and his government, Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism is questionable.

We must also ask the General when he intends to move Pakistan towards democracy. General Musharraf has ignored or had changed Supreme Court orders regarding local elections, and other distinct steps towards a return to democracy. Pakistan has had a long history of democratic instability,

and I do not believe that the current global upheaval can justify delay in the return of democracy to Pakistan. We all hold the ideals of democracy and personal freedoms as sacrosanct, and we should not allow our friends in Pakistan to lapse in their progress towards democracy.

I truly extend my gratitude and hand of friendship towards General Musharraf during his visit. But I also must extend my concern that he and those of his ruling stratocracy are not committed to the same goals of peace, stability and democracy that we are. I ask the General to dispel my hesitations and declare loudly that he is truly moving Pakistan towards democracy and that he is staunchly against all international terrorism. Until he stops bizarre diversions like blaming India for the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl and gets serious, it is going to be hard for us to take Pakistan and its interests as anything but dubious.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 12, 2002]

MR. MUSHARRAF IN WASHINGTON

Gen. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan arrives in Washington today for what likely will be, at least in part, a celebration of his readiness to join the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism. Any political boost he reaps from his scheduled White House meeting with President Bush will be largely justified; Mr. Musharraf's cooperation has been instrumental to the military campaign in Afghanistan, and his strong public initiative to arrest and reverse the mounting influence of Islamic extremists in Pakistan may prove even more important over time. But the general's visit needs to be more than a love fest. For all he has done in the past five months to advance the counterterrorism cause, the Pakistani leader has much more to do; and the Bush administration should match the political and economic rewards it offers him with concerted pressure to move ahead.

The need to keep pressing Pakistan's ruler seems all the more urgent because of the worrisome signs he offered in the days before his visit. Mr. Musharraf promised in a landmark speech last month to end Pakistan's support of terrorists who have been crossing its border to carry out attacks in India, including an assault on the Indian parliament in December that brought the two countries close to war. But last week he delivered another address that restated Pakistan's long-standing official position that the fighting in Indian-controlled Kashmir is the result of an "indigenous" rebel movement that deserves Pakistan's support. At face value, that stand might look legitimate; but the problem is that Pakistani governments for years have used that formulation as a cover to foment and supply the Kashmiri insurrection.

Mr. Musharraf has formally banned the Pakistani militant groups dedicated to the Kashmir cause, including several with close ties to the Afghan Taliban and al Qaeda as well as to Pakistan's military intelligence agency. But some in Pakistan suspect that despite hundreds of reported arrests, his crackdown has not been uncompromising, that many of the militants have been allowed to remain free in exchange for lying low. Those fears could only be heightened by the president's statements to The Washington Post last weekend about the kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl, which Pakistani police believe was orchestrated by a well-known member of one of those extremist Muslim groups. Rather than blame the Pakistani terrorists, or the evident failure of his new campaign to stop them, Mr. Musharraf suggested that India might somehow be behind the kidnapping—an irresponsible and implausible suggestion that is not backed by evidence.

Mr. Musharraf's forthright public condemnations of Islamic extremism, which began well before Sept. 11, leave little doubt that he genuinely would like to fashion a moderate Muslim state that would resemble Turkey rather than Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. But the general faces strong opposition to his project, some of it within his own military; and where the extremists' cause intersects with that of Kashmir, a focus of Pakistani nationalism since the country's foundation, Mr. Musharraf may feel tempted to pull his punches. That is where the Bush administration should intervene: It should make clear to the Pakistani leader that he must decisively break with the terrorists on this front as on others. Mr. Musharraf wants U.S. help in persuading India to begin negotiations on Kashmir, and the Bush administration should weigh whether it can help galvanize a peace process without compromising its longstanding neutrality in that conflict. But it must be clear, too, that continued collaboration between Islamabad and Washington depends on Mr. Musharraf's campaign Islamic extremism proving aggressive and unambiguous in deeds, as well as in words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution commanding and welcoming General Musharraf of Pakistan. It is fitting that we should commend him for his support of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Mr. Musharraf has accommodated our requests for bases, allowed us to use Pakistani airspace and otherwise provided us with logistic and intelligence-related support for our operations in Afghanistan. For that we are truly grateful.

Rhetorically, Mr. Musharraf has aligned Pakistan with the nations opposed to terrorism, he abandoned his support of the Taliban in Afghanistan and recently met with Hamid Karzai the interim leader of Afghanistan offering his support for the new regime. In his speech of January 12, Mr. Musharraf pointed Pakistan away from Islamic extremism and back toward the goal of the founders of Pakistan: a secular, moderate, democratic, Muslim state. but there is a long way to go before Pakistan reaches that goal.

For too long, terrorist groups that operate across the line of control in India have been given safe haven in Pakistan. The authors of the attack on the Indian parliament last December and on the state assembly building in Srinagar last October found aid and support in Pakistan. While a series of high-profile arrests and the announcement of a formal ban on militant groups operating in Pakistani are good beginnings, the jury is still out on whether infiltrations across the line of control have stopped.

The steps taken to date are helpful but some recent backsliding is also in evidence. Last week, Mr. Musharraf claimed that the Indian intelligence services were behind the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. Such allegations are baseless and do not help either find Mr. Pearl or lower the level of tension between India and Pakistan.

Beyond this, Mr. Musharraf has returned to the formulation that the terrorist groups in Pakistan are "freedom fighters". This is not acceptable. Pakistan can no longer say it is simply giving "political" support to Kashmiri groups while secretly aiding their infiltration into India. The point of U.S. policy since September 11 has been to oppose *all* terrorists, not just those who are conveniently or easily opposed. Mr. Musharraf must choose, he is ei-

ther with the terrorists or he is with us, he cannot have both.

On the subject of democracy, Mr. Musharraf has also said the right things. He has laid out a timetable for Pakistan's return to democracy and has held village level elections. Provincial and national assembly elections are scheduled. But we must not forget that Mr. Musharraf is the reason that Pakistan is again off the democratic path. For him to receive full credit for restoring democracy elections at all levels must be held, including elections for his office. All of this is admittedly difficult to accomplish against the backdrop of Islamic extremism, but it is Mr. Musharraf's own timetable and he should be urged to keep it.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate for us to welcome Mr. Musharraf and thank him for his support, but we should also be mindful of how much further Pakistan has to go.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we want to welcome President Musharraf to Washington. President Musharraf has been a brave ally in our war against terrorism. Our nation thanks him for his efforts to find Daniel Pearl the missing Wall Street Journal reporter. We also wish to thank him for closing his nation's borders to members of the Taliban and al Qaeda who are fleeing our armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 90 constituents of mine died as a result of the September 11 terrorist attack. Accordingly, the visit this week of President Musharraf is significant for our 20th district of New York. The reason is that for many years a number of us in the Congress were concerned about the support that Pakistan gave to the Taliban and, of course, the Taliban sheltered the terrorists who attacked our Nation. President Musharraf is now reining in his countrymen who were responsible for many of the problems in Afghanistan and Kashmir and we commend him for the risks and hard decisions he makes.

Our nation is providing Pakistan significant military economic assistance so that its citizens will feel secure and its society can thrive. We are doing this in the belief that if the people of Pakistan have hope then the extremists will be less able to recruit among the poor.

We feel certain that with President Musharraf's guidance his government will achieve these ends. We know that his efforts to end terrorism will enable all Americans and especially New Yorkers to rest assured that all those innocent people who died in New York did not die in vain.

In like manner, we urge Pres. Musharraf to help resolve the troubled issue of Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 324.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.