

lives of the people of West Virginia. When Mike Whitt testified, he told of how the ARC gave financial help to create the James H. Buck Harless Wood Products Industrial Park that was developed on a reclaimed strip mine site. This created 90 new jobs for my constituents to manufacture value added wood products.

In addition, the ARC gave Mingo County a big boost by helping its people get in to the aquaculture industry.

In the mid-90s, ARC funded a study conducted by the Freshwater Institute of abandoned mine waters in West Virginia. Mingo County and neighboring Logan County were identified as having water with enough volume and quality to generate 25–30 million pounds of arctic char—a fish belonging to the salmon family.

Mingo County has begun hatching fish in these mine waters. Then they ship the minnows to a grow-out farm in Logan County. This project has created nine new jobs so far for local residents, and Mr. Whitt projects about 40 additional new jobs will be created in the aquaculture industry for local residents.

Best of all, Mingo and Logan Counties are the only counties in West Virginia that will ship fresh arctic char to Boston's seafood market—and the ARC study of abandoned mine waters gave them their start.

Finally, regarding tourism, Mike Whitt was able to help to develop the Hatfield-McCoy Trails Recreation Project with the help of a \$100,000 grant from the ARC.

The Hatfield-McCoy Trail has become really popular with hikers. It has boosted travel and tourism in Mingo County. Motels that never had guests over the weekend are now filling up on weekends. Again, the ARC seed money for the project gave the Hatfield-McCoy Trail help with its development.

So we have an industrial park, aquaculture and tourism coming to Mingo County, thanks to ARC's helping hand, when previously Mingo County's residents relied almost solely on the coal mines for a job.

Mingo County is still on the ARC's list of distressed counties. The ARC is helping Mingo County to diversify, with funds to back up projects, and working hand-in-hand with good people like Mike Whitt, whose goal is to take Mingo County off the ARC distressed counties list.

The entire state of West Virginia is included in the ARC jurisdiction, along with parts of 12 other states ranging from the far North of the Deep South: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Today's bill will authorize \$446 million for ARC programs from fiscal years 2002–2006. Because two of my goals in Congress are to bridge the digital divide and to create jobs, I am pleased that the bill includes a Telecommunications and Information Technology Initiative and an emphasis on boosting job skills.

First of all, the Telecommunications and Information Technology initiative is authorized for \$33 million from fiscal years 2002–2006 in order to develop the telecommunications infrastructure in Appalachia, so that rural and small towns will not be left behind in the Information Age.

This means that students in West Virginia, and all of Appalachia, will have remote access to course materials that previously were only available in more affluent, urban areas.

For job creation, S. 1206 provides that the ARC can enter into partnerships with educational institutions, not-for-profit organizations, state and local governments and unions to provide job training to boost the local economy in West Virginia and throughout Appalachia.

Finally, S. 1206 contains an "Entrepreneurship Regional Initiative" to help local entrepreneurs throughout Appalachia to start and expand local businesses. This will be done by providing local business persons with more capital and education and training.

Madam Speaker, the ARC is a true example of results and has been a model for developing other organizations to help citizens like the Delta Regional Authority which serves 236 counties in federal-state partnerships in eight states: Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee.

The reason the ARC has been used as a model is because, through its programs, the ARC has helped people to help themselves by giving them a start in health care, education, business development, and in building highways and water and sewer infrastructures, along with bridging the digital divide, which is so vital in today's world.

I could not be more pleased that the House will pass this bill today, and I look forward to the seeing the president sign the bill expeditiously.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1206.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO PEOPLE OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing sympathy to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002, and supporting an increase in the amount of assistance provided by the United States to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 304

Whereas on January 17, 2002, the Nyiragongo volcano, which stands 11,380 feet high and is located 6 miles north of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, began to erupt without warning;

Whereas 147 people lost their lives and 150,000 people have been displaced as a result of the recent Nyiragongo eruption;

Whereas the recent Nyiragongo eruption is the most destructive volcanic eruption to occur in Africa during the last 25 years;

Whereas the lava flow from the recent Nyiragongo eruption was a mile wide in

places and destroyed the cathedral and water plant of Goma and countless villages and buildings;

Whereas dangers from fires, toxic fumes, reoccurring tremors, and natural methane gas under Lake Kivu continue to plague the Goma region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the recent Nyiragongo eruption destroyed crops and contaminated the main water supply of Goma;

Whereas the suddenness of the recent Nyiragongo eruption resulted in the separation of many children from their parents;

Whereas the United States has provided assistance valued at \$4,400,000 for food, water, sanitation, and town planning to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo affected by the recent Nyiragongo eruption;

Whereas the Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has made available additional funds for assistance to the people affected by the recent Nyiragongo eruption; and

Whereas the Governments of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Belgium have also offered assistance to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress expresses its deepest sympathies and condolences to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This resolution is sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), two Members of the House Subcommittee on Africa which I chair, and this expression of support deserves the support of the House.

On January 17, the Nyiragongo volcano erupted and spewed white-hot lava on Goma, a city on the shores of Lake Kivu in eastern Congo; and that eruption disrupted the lives of one-half million people. Over 100 people lost their lives in the initial stage, 150,000 were displaced by the lava flow, and that lava flow was a mile wide in some places. Then the eruption destroyed the water plant, the homes, part of the airport, the crops and an important part of the business district. This natural catastrophe increased the already dire humanitarian situation of a people

suffering from the impact of the war that started in Goma on August 2, 1988, and then spread throughout the country.

The United States moved quickly to aid the people affected by the volcanic eruption, the most devastating eruption in Africa in more than a quarter century. We have provided over \$4 million in assistance. This includes food, sanitation, town planning and seismographic analysis to determine if there was any danger of another volcanic eruption.

The U.S. contribution was part of an international response that included coordinated support from the United Kingdom, from Germany, from France and Belgium. This resolution supports this aid.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First, I want to thank our subcommittee chair, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), for his leadership and his support on all the issues which we deal with as it relates to Africa; and I would like to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for introducing this very important and very compassionate resolution; and I urge all of our colleagues here today to support its passage.

This resolution offers our condolences to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17.

Madam Speaker, before dawn on January 17, the volcano, located 60 miles north of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, began to erupt without warning. This volcano, the eruption was really the most destructive to occur in Africa during the last 25 years. The lava flow from the eruption was a mile wide in places and destroyed a major cathedral, the water plant of Goma and countless buildings and surrounding villages.

Dangers from fires, toxic fumes, reoccurring tremors and natural methane gas under Lake Kivu plagued Goma after the first tremors ceased.

Madam Speaker, according to the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations, a total of 400,000 Goma residents, 400,000, were affected by this eruption; 147 people died and more than 150,000 residents lost their homes.

The eruption destroyed crops and contaminated the main water supply which threatened to trigger a cholera epidemic.

The suddenness of the recent Nyiragongo eruption also resulted in the separation of many children from their parents. This is really a humanitarian disaster of enormous potential.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Dieudonne Wafula, a Congolese volcanologist, who predicted the

volcano's eruption and actually sent e-mails to experts around the world, including to our own country, one week before the lava began flowing on January 17. His work was very integral to setting up an international survey team to monitor the behavior of the volcano after the major eruption, thereby avoiding a further calamity to the residents of Goma.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to commend the United States Agency for International Development for its very swift response to this crisis. Monetary support, relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water stations, dust masks, seismographic equipment and emergency food aid, were among the relief support provided by our government. The total value of that assistance to date is near \$4.4 million.

We have responded in a good way to the crisis suffered by the people of Goma. Many residents in that poor region live on less than \$1 per day and really had no way to deal with the immediate tragedy caused by the volcano. I am pleased that the United States government, through our development agency, was there to help.

Madam Speaker, now the immediate crisis has passed, but the lingering effects may require further cooperation between the United States, USAID and the United Nations and other government agencies. So I trust that we will be willing to step up to the plate should the need exist and we are called upon to help.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 304; and, Madam Speaker, I want to once again commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for bringing this to the attention not only of this body but of the entire country.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the congressperson who has introduced this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank first of all the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concern, sorrow and sympathy for the victims of the volcanic eruption in Goma, Congo, on January 17, 2002.

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), an original cosponsor, for their support and efforts in getting this resolution to the floor.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), also an original cosponsor, for their constant support and assistance on this resolution and other issues concerning the people of Africa.

In the early hours of January 17, 2002, the massive volcano Nyiragongo exploded, creating three deadly lava paths, each estimated to be approximately a mile wide, which instantly destroyed homes, buildings and innocent life that crossed its path.

□ 1445

After the volcanic eruption ended, the dangers did not cease for the people of Goma. Earthquakes followed by tremors and heavy rains extended the misery. Almost a week later, hope began to emerge in the Goma region. The experts announced that the eruption had stopped. The water supply that was feared to be contaminated by volcanic ash was declared safe, although the water distribution system was only up to 50 percent of its capacity. The aid workers, who were forced to wait due to the recurring dangers, were finally able to begin the process of delivering food and supplies to the distraught.

I agree with President Bush that the United States should and will help the victims of Goma to rebuild their town and their lives. I am very pleased that the United States has allocated up to \$3 million for relief efforts to date, which will become more than \$4 million in total aid, for the homes and lives that were taken within seconds will take years to rebuild.

America, Madam Speaker, is at her best when we come to the aid of others in great need. So again I want to thank all of those who have shown support for this resolution.

I also commend and thank Mr. Franz Stuppard, a Congressional Fellow on my staff, and Jennifer Luciano for their work on this resolution. This happens to be Franz's last week of his fellowship, and I want to thank him for his service as he returns to the General Services Administration, which is his regular workstation. I wish that we could keep him, because he has done such an outstanding job, but I know that GSA is awaiting his return.

I again thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for their support, and I urge passage of this resolution.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to urge my colleagues once again to support this resolution, and I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for bringing this to the attention of this body and of the entire country. I know that our country will continue to rise to the occasion in addressing the great humanitarian crises that the people of the Republic of the Congo are facing.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time; and I would again like to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Madam Speaker, as we pass this resolution in support of the people of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there is at this time, today, an important meeting under way. And in

this meeting are representatives of the Congolese opposition political parties, the armed rebel movements, civil society, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are meeting in South Africa as part of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. We urge them to put the interests of the nation over their parochial concerns.

This dialogue for peace is mandated by the Lusaka Accords, which provides a blueprint to return peace to the divided Congo. It is intended to map out a new political arrangement that will result in the establishment of a democratic system of government. In addition, all foreign troops are to be withdrawn from Congolese soil. This will provide the resourceful Congolese people with the opportunity to benefit from their own talents and the abundant natural resources with which they have been blessed. We hope they succeed.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 304.

Before I was elected to my first term in the Congress I was stationed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a Regional Medical Officer for the Foreign Service, so I am very familiar with this wondrous yet volatile area.

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo is the latest in a line of tragedies suffered by the Congolese people. Since the attempted coup of the late President Laurent Kabila in August 1998 the Republic has been embattled in a bitter civil war between the government and opposition rebel groups.

Now, with the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo, the Congolese people are witnessing a new level of suffering. The results of the eruption are staggering. 46 people were initially killed, according to The International Federation of Red Cross Societies. 10,000 people are left homeless in the city of Goma.

Hundreds of thousands are out of work as a reported 13% of the city was destroyed from the 110 million cubic yards of lava erupted from the volcano. Further complicating things is a cholera outbreak that is hindering humanitarian groups from reaching the 35,000 people in need of food.

Yet despair occasionally brings hope. This most recent disaster has cast attention on the war-torn nation, and this week, at the urging of President Thabo Mbeki, South Africa is holding a summit in an effort to bring peace back to the Republic.

We can only hope that in the wake of this tragedy the warring factions can set aside their differences, begin forming a transitional government, and set a date for future elections that will bring unity and peace to the Congolese people.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 304, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on International Relations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 19, 2002.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective February 19, 2002, I hereby resign from the House Committee on International Relations.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BURR,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 349) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 349

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

International Relations: Mr. Green of Wisconsin.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL URBAN AIR TOXICS RESEARCH CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Hans P. Blaschek, Champaign, Illinois.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2002.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in a civil case pending there.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to comply with the subpoena.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. BRAD SHERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BRAD SHERMAN, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with civil subpoenas for documents and testimony issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California in a civil case pending there. The testimony and documents sought relate in part to the official functions of the House.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether it is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House to comply with the subpoenas, to the extent that they seek testimony and documents that relate to the official functions of the House.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair