

abroad. Let me remind the all too-eager hawks in the Majority and in the Administration that diplomacy is truly the first line of defense.

Second, I am glad to have joined with my colleague from Alabama, Mr. HILLIARD, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Asian-Pacific American Caucus, in developing language in this bill to ensure that the State Department makes progress in its recruitment and promotion of minorities to its senior-most ranks. Our language makes clear that Congress is looking for results in the recruitment and promotion of minority professionals. It provides \$2 million to increase minority recruitment in the Department and requires the Department to track its results with a database.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) reported in a long-term study that despite years of effort from Congress, the State Department has failed to make any significant progress in the recruitment and promotion of qualified minorities to senior management positions. For example, the State Department—along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency—actually promoted fewer minority managers in 1999 than in 1990.

While having more minorities take the foreign service exam is a step in the right direction, that is but a small step, and only one among many more steps needed, to rectify the severe under-representation of qualified Hispanic Americans, African Americans and Asian-Pacific Americans in the foreign affairs agencies. All three caucuses join together to urge President Bush and Secretary of State Powell to ensure that we, at long last, get on with the business of obtaining results in minority recruitment and promotion at the State Department and the foreign affairs agencies.

If the State Department is to make progress, minorities must have a seat at the table. And that means, among other things, a seat at the table at the promotion boards and the selection boards—the entities that placed officers in senior positions. We will look for results and we will continue with these efforts until we see results.

Third, this bill includes the “Iran Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act”, a bill I first introduced in 1998, and whose passage could not be more timely than today. In response to Iran’s efforts to develop the Bushehr nuclear power plant in the Persian Gulf, the language I introduced requires the U.S. to withhold proportional assistance to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for programs and projects of the Agency that go toward the development of the Bushehr plant if the Secretary of State were to determine that it is inconsistent with US nonproliferation policy, helps Iran develop nuclear weapons expertise, or is a cover of acquisition of sensitive technology. We must keep a watchful eye on IAEA activities in Iran—one of the nations that President Bush singled out as part of the “axis of evil” that threatens our way of life. While I have no interest in cutting off all IAEA assistance to Iran, it is ludicrous for the U.S. to support—even indirectly—a plant which clearly poses a threat to the United States and to stability in the Middle East.

Finally, this bill provides language I was glad to sponsor to provide the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) with a modest increase for the first time in years. This vital and cost-effective organization promotes the

fundamental American values of democracy and human rights abroad. By leading many efforts in the struggle for freedom worldwide, NED enjoys strong bipartisan support as it advances our national security. From Lech Walesa in Poland to Nelson Mandela in South Africa to human rights activists in Nigeria to civil society leaders in Mexico, NED and its core institutes have assisted grassroots organizations that have helped bring about peaceful transitions to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, despite the outrage committed by the majority on global warming, for the reasons I have mentioned, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1646, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I want to commend Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for their diligent efforts in producing a bill which will truly assist in the conduct of our foreign affairs.

There are a few specific provisions in the conference agreement which I would like to draw attention to. The first is the Middle East Peace Commitments Act. This section requires the President to report to Congress on the Palestinians adherence to their commitments to resolve their conflict with Israel through exclusively non-violent means. If the President cannot report to Congress that the Palestinians are complying with their commitments to peace, and unless the President utilizes a national security waiver, the legislation requires the imposition of one or more of the following sanctions: the denial of visas to PLO and Palestinian Authority officials; the downgrading of the status of the PLO office in Washington; the designation of the PLO, the PA, or any of their constituent groups or arms as Foreign Terrorist Organizations; or the cut-off of all non-humanitarian aid to the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with the U.S. policy to date isn’t that we’re disengaged—far from it. The problem is that for all our effort, we haven’t gotten any commitment to peace from the Palestinians. It doesn’t seem to matter how many envoys and senior policy makers the President sends to meet with Palestinian leaders, these visits have failed to produce any change in Palestinian behavior. With the adoption of these sanctions, Congress is sending a strong message to the Palestinians that America’s never-ending supply of last-chances has run out.

Another important provision in the conference report concerns Taiwan. Last year, President Bush altered arms sales discussions between the U.S. and Taiwan from once a year to an as needed basis. The experience with this policy has thus far been satisfactory and has removed a major irritant in U.S.-PRC relations by removing the focus an annual meeting between the U.S. and Taiwan provides. However, in order to ensure Congress’s historic role in assessing Taiwan’s defense needs under the Taiwan Relations Act, the bill requires that the Administration consult with the Congress twice annually regarding Taiwan’s defense needs. This provision will ensure that the Congress retains its unique role in determining the types and quantity of defense articles and services that should be provided to Taiwan.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the conference report authorizes the final payment of our U.N. arrearage. For too long the late payment of our dues has set an example for other nations to follow and has caused serious budget problems for the U.N. At a time when the President has challenged the United Nations to be a forceful advocate for peace and security, or risk irrelevance, it helps for us to demonstrate that we support the U.N. by putting our money where our mouth is.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for their extraordinary work on this measure and I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Section 1601 of the State Department Authorization Conference Agreement addresses nuclear missile nonproliferation in South Asia. I have reservations about the provision. U.S.—India relations are strong and both countries are looking forward to an enhancement and expansion of their economic, political and strategic potential. The engagement between our two nations continues to be mutually beneficial. In light of this tangible bilateral progress being made, and India’s long-standing commitment to regional and global peace and security, provisions of Section 601 create an unnecessary diversion in the steadily strengthening bilateral relationship between the U.S. and India.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1646, 21ST CENTURY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 483) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1648, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

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

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 483

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal

year 2003, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall insert at the appropriate place the following new section (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1309. THREE-YEAR INTERNATIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a 3-year international arms control and nonproliferation strategy. The strategy shall contain the following:

(1) A 3-year plan for the reduction of existing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and ballistic missiles and for controlling the proliferation of these weapons.

(2) Identification of the goals and objectives of the United States with respect to arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

(3) A description of the programs, projects, and activities of the Department of State intended to accomplish goals and objectives described in paragraph (2).

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

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 540, EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON H.R. 3762, PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002; H. RES. 544, EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE ON PERMANENCY OF PENSION REFORM PROVISIONS; AND H. RES. 543, EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON H.R. 4019, MAKING MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF PERMANENT

Mr. SESSIONS. By direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 547 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 547

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 540) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should complete action on H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act of 2002. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

Sec. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 544) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on per-

manency of pension reform provisions. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

Sec. 3. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 543) expressing the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on H.R. 4019, making marriage tax relief permanent. The resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is a closed rule that allows for consideration of three important resolutions. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairmen and ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the trio of resolutions before us today represents some of the most pressing needs for average Americans across the Nation. In politics, we often try to put a personal face to a problem that is being debated or addressed. Mr. Speaker, the face of our story today is just the average American, the average American who is a family member, a friend, a neighbor. It is a person who has worked hard and tried to invest wisely so that he or she can enjoy a retirement of independence.

The first of these resolutions, House Resolution 540, expresses the sense of the House that Congress should complete action on and present to the President before adjournment the Pension Security Act of 2002.

Although the House passed this measure more than 150 days ago by a strong bipartisan vote, the Senate has not taken up comprehensive pension protection that includes safeguards and options to help American workers preserve and enhance their retirement security.

Over the last year, we have witnessed the unraveling and breakdown of major corporations such as Enron. While Enron workers were likely victims of criminal wrongdoing, there is no question that they were most definitely the victims of outdated Federal pension laws.

The tragedy of Enron was two-fold. In addition to decimating the savings

of employees, it has also undermined the confidence of American workers in this country's pension system.

The Pension Security Act includes new options and resources for workers, as well as greater accountability from companies and senior-level executives. Employees would be given new freedoms to sell and diversify company stock. The bill also creates parity between senior corporate executives and rank-and-file workers. This will help to prevent a repeat occurrence of the egregious disparity that allowed Enron executives to sell their investments and preserve their savings while rank-and-file workers were barred from making changes.

The bill also includes provisions that would ensure that employees receive accurate and timely information, along with sound advice and resources to make informed investment decisions. Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear about this: each day that we delay in enacting the Pension Security Act is another day that we leave worker retirement savings vulnerable to corporate meltdowns.

The second resolution we will consider is House Resolution 544, which expresses the sense of the House that Congress should complete work on the Retirement Savings Security Act of 2002. The tax relief package that was enacted last year included provisions that increased contribution limits for IRA and 401(k)-type plans to make it easier for companies, and particularly small businesses, to offer a retirement savings plan.

Currently, half of the Nation's workforce, roughly 70 million Americans, do not have a 401(k) plan or any other kind of pension. At the same time, much of the workforce is quickly approaching retirement. The provision enacted last year addressing this growing concern by allowing all workers to set aside more in their own retirement and IRA plans was important. I am proud of what this House did. Special considerations were also given to workers over 50 years old who were allowed to so-called "catch up" or accelerate contributions so that they can build up their retirement nest egg more quickly.

One group that will be particularly helped by this is women, women who come to work many times after raising their children, many times later in life.

This tax relief package also included provisions that modernize pension laws. Workers are now able to enjoy the benefits that come from having a portable defined contribution plan and are also allowed to vest in their plans more quickly.

So one might ask: What is the problem? The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that all of these very good benefits enjoyed by the American worker are set to expire on December 31, 2010, because of an arcane Senate rule. Consequently, Americans will have a difficult time planning for the future.

In order to prevent a massive overnight tax increase, this past June the