

NOT VOTING—25

Blunt
Boyd
Brown, Corrine
Buyer
Capps
Carter
Case
Conyers
Cox

Edwards
Forbes
Gephardt
Granger
Gutierrez
Hulshof
Johnson (CT)
Lipinski
Miller, Gary

Moran (VA)
Price (NC)
Rush
Schrock
Sweeney
Terry
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1902

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEBRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOLLOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA ACCIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 222.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 222, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

YEAS—411

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Ballance
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Bell
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner

Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Combest

Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn

Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Hergert
Hill
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hunter
Hyde
Insee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Janklow
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
King
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klezcka

Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)

Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller

Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu

Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)

Wynn
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—23

Ballenger
Boyd
Brown, Corrine
Buyer
Case
Conyers
Cox
Edwards

Forbes
Gephardt
Granger
Gutierrez
Hulshof
Lipinski
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)

Murtha
Price (NC)
Rush
Schrock
Sweeney
Terry
Young (FL)

□ 1921

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 660

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 660.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana? There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1527, NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-97) on the resolution (H. Res. 229) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1527) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1000, PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-98) on the resolution (H. Res. 230) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1000) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional protections to participants and beneficiaries in individual account plans from excessive investment in employer securities and to promote the provision of retirement investment advice to workers managing their retirement income assets, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TURKEY'S DECADE-OLD BLOCKAGE AGAINST ARMENIA

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, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the decade-old blockade against Armenia by Turkey. This is one of the most egregious violations of international law by Turkey, and it is one that hardly gets any attention in the international community. I have been encouraged, however, by two recent reports on the Turkish blockade. The first was done by the State Department at the request of me and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the second was written by members of the European Parliament.

Last year, members of the Congressional Caucus of Armenian Issues, of which the gentleman from Michigan and I are cochairs, identified a bill that would grant some Turkish goods duty free status. We protested very early about this, Mr. Speaker; and when it came time to include the bill, we obtained assurances from the administration that they would try to offset this provision for Turkey by pressing for Armenia's accession to the World Trade Organization. The letter from Deputy Secretary Armitage in this regard specifically stated, and I quote, "The administration is pressing Turkey to restore economic, political and cultural links with Armenia, and is encouraging Turkey to open its border with Armenia. We believe that such action would promote the economic development of both Turkey and Armenia." We were also promised, Mr. Speaker, a report by the State Department and the U.S. trade representative on the Turkish blockade by March 31 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the report we received was entitled: "The Economic Impact of Turkish/Armenian Border Closure and Diplomatic Contacts with Both Parties on This Issue." I have included a copy of this report for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. This report was only three pages long, Mr. Speaker; but it made clear some of the administration's views on the Turkish blockade. It stated: "The United States has long pressed for the opening of the border and the free flow of trade in the region." The report also listed various attempts that the United States has pressed Turkey on this issue and it stated: "Most recently the issue was raised with Turkish officials during Secretary Powell's April 2 visit to Ankara, Turkey."

Mr. Speaker, although members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues are encouraged by Secretary Powell's helpful comments during a very tense time in the Middle East, we also encourage a greater commitment

by the administration to pressing Turkey to discontinue its incredibly damaging blockade.

The second report that I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, was coordinated with a conference sponsored by the European Parliament and the Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council, and it included members of the European Parliament and business community of both Turkey and Armenia. The title of the conference was: "Still an Iron Curtain: Armenia-Turkey relations, 10 years after the border was closed."

This conference, Mr. Speaker, highlighted not only the economic numbers that justify the lifting of the blockade but also the real Armenian and Turkish citizens that want the decade-old interruption of their normal life and commerce to end. The TABDC estimates that 30 to 40 percent of Armenia's GNP is lost each year solely to the border closure. Every year the Armenian Caucus pushes for a robust level of U.S. aid for Armenia, but these efforts to help revive the economy and civil society are hamstrung by Turkey's insistence in joining ranks with its belligerent brother, Azerbaijan. The State Department report also included a 2001 World Bank report entitled: "Trade, Transport and Telecommunications in the South Caucasus: Current Obstacles to Regional Cooperation." This report repeats what is already common knowledge, that closed borders retard trade and development.

Mr. Speaker, it has been far too long for Armenia to suffer under the yoke of Turkey. This is the only situation in the world where one member of the WTO is blockaded by another. We have known for years about Turkey's illegal blockades; but since Armenia's accession to the WTO, Turkey's actions are egregious even more. There can be no excuse for Turkey to continue the blockade of Armenia and still hold itself up as a democracy, purportedly respecting the rights of all its citizens and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I call on the Bush administration to continue to press Turkey hard to drop the 10 years of blockade against its sovereign neighbor. It is crucial for the United States to be seen in the international community as a peaceful arbitrator between enemies. The release of this burden on the peoples of Armenia and eastern Turkey would help the region recover from the market disruption after the fall of the Soviet Union. For peace to prosper, for democracy to truly take hold and for the economies of all the countries of the South Caucasus to move forward into the 21st century, relations must be normalized throughout the region. This region was mired in war and genocide before the rise of the Soviet Union. It should be an imperative of the Bush administration not to let this region slip back further economically.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2003.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. PALLONE: As promised in Deputy Secretary Armitage's letter dated September 20, 2002, regarding the Turkey/Armenia border issue, enclosed is the State Department Report, Economic Impact of Turkish/Armenian Border Closure and on Diplomatic Contacts with Both Parties on This Issue. Also enclosed for your information is the 2002 World Bank Report entitled Trade, Transport and Telecommunications in the South Caucasus: Current Obstacles to Regional Cooperation.

I am pleased to note that the Administration's efforts on Armenia's accession to the WTO were successful and that Armenia became a member in December 2002.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

PAUL V. KELLY,

Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs.

Enclosures: As stated.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TURKISH/ARMENIAN BORDER CLOSURE AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH BOTH PARTIES ON THIS ISSUE

Citing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan during the hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Government of Turkey closed its border with Armenia in March 1993. Turkey took this action following the Armenian seizure of Kelbajar, an Azerbaijani province outside Nagorno-Karabakh. Prior to that time, the border was open for one train a week between Kars in Turkey and Gyumri in Armenia. The United States has long pressed for the opening of the border and the free flow of trade in the region.

Azerbaijan, too, severed all economic relations with Armenia and has refused to allow any direct trade. The trains between the two countries had already ceased operating owing to harassment of crews and torn-up tracks on both sides. As a result, trade between land-locked Armenia and neighboring markets has been distorted and Azerbaijan and Turkey have cost the most direct transportation corridor between their countries and the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas. Although there has been a cease-fire and an ongoing Nagorno-Karabakh peace process since 1994, the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey say they will only open their borders with Armenia only when there is a settlement to the conflict.

The full extent of these trade distortions will ultimately be eliminated only with the opening of both borders. However, assuming only the Turkish/Armenian border were reopened, one would expect: a reduction in transportation costs to and from Armenia, an increase in Turkish-Armenian trade, and an improved overall economic environment in Armenia and eastern Turkey. Armenian Foreign Minister Oskanian has stated that the border closures were among the major hindrances to increasing export volumes and attraction of foreign investments to Armenia. And it is true today that transportation costs and customs duties can increase the prices of Armenian imports and exports by as much as 100 percent and in some cases even more due to the need to ship goods via Georgia or Iran. If the Turkish-Armenian border were to open, some economic observers estimate that overall transportation costs to and from Armenia might fall by 50 percent or more.

Assuming that these savings lead to lower prices, one would expect overall trade between Turkey and Armenia, as well as transit traffic between Armenia and Western Europe via Turkey, to increase in real terms as