

(Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5061, 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. TANCREDO. Mr. 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.

#### CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALCON INTERNATIONAL DAM

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 818) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam, recognizing the dam's importance as a source of water and power and as a symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the United Mexican States, and urging Mexico to honor all of its obligations under the 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 818

Whereas the 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande between the United States and the United Mexican States provided for the construction of the Falcon International Dam on the Rio Grande River to provide flood control, water conservation, and hydroelectric power for the benefit of communities on both sides of the border;

Whereas on October 19, 1953, as construction on the dam neared completion, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico met at the center of the Falcon International Dam to dedicate it to the well-being of the residents of both countries;

Whereas the dam was completed on April 8, 1954, and the Falcon Power Plant generated power for commercial use for the first time on October 11, 1954;

Whereas the Falcon International Dam is 26,394 feet long, and its construction created a beautiful 60-mile-long reservoir known as Falcon Lake;

Whereas the construction of the dam and reservoir resulted in the submersion and relocation of 5 townships in the United States and Mexico, including the town of Zapata, Texas;

Whereas the Falcon International Dam and the adjacent United States Falcon State Park now serve as a valued community resource and source of pride for the residents of Zapata County, Texas and neighboring Starr County, Texas;

Whereas Falcon Lake is considered one of the best fishing lakes in Texas and supports an emerging recreational tourism industry;

Whereas the Falcon International Dam is an important source of water and power for irrigation and household use;

Whereas operations at the Falcon International Dam require a coordinated binational effort among numerous agencies, including the International Boundary and Water Commission, the United States Border

Patrol, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Zapata County, and their Mexican counterparts;

Whereas the Mexican government has incurred a deficit in its water delivery obligations, and this has lowered the water level in the reservoir and hurt the communities on the United States side of the border;

Whereas the Falcon International Dam serves as an important shared resource between the 2 countries and the continued success of the project requires mutual adherence to the terms of the Treaty;

Whereas the Falcon International Dam serves as a symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and

Whereas October 11, 2004 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam;

(2) recognizes that building of the Falcon International Dam was an extraordinary project and that operating its facilities continues to represent a substantial undertaking;

(3) acknowledges recent payments by the United Mexican States under the 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico and urges Mexico to honor all of its obligations under the Treaty;

(4) recognizes that the Falcon International Dam has been both an important source of water and power and a symbol of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Mexico for 50 years; and

(5) recommitts itself to the binational effort and spirit in which the Falcon International Dam was constructed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. 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 H. Res. 818.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consider.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ). It is fitting we should recognize the importance of the Falcon International Dam. For 50 years this dam has benefited people on both sides of our shared border with Mexico.

This resolution notes that Mexico under President Fox has made its water payments to the United States under its 1944 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Water of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande. I note the United States has never failed to make a water payment to Mexico, even in drought years, under the 1944 treaty. While we appre-

ciate President Fox's efforts to meet these treaty obligations, Mexico still owes our States water from past years.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for working with our committee in preparing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join with me in support of it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 818 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) of the Committee on International Relations for expediting consideration of this important resolution which recognizes once again the close relationship between our country and the United Mexican States.

I would also like to recognize my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, for the outstanding work that he does in general and for this particular resolution as he is the author of it.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 818 acknowledges the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam and the importance of this public infrastructure to the people both of the United States and of the United Mexican States. It is no coincidence that water, a vital element of life, is the medium through which the bonds of our two countries are continually nourished.

I strongly encourage all of my Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), the author of the resolution.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) personally for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words and for his hard work on this particular piece of legislation.

In addition, I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their efforts.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and Jessica Lewis of his staff, who worked on this issue and helped make it happen.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 818, a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam. Like all large scale dams, the

Falcon International Dam is an architectural wonder, a man-made barrier of cement and steel reining in the power of the most precious natural resources, our water.

What makes this particular dam special, though, is its location right on the Texas-Mexico border down in Zapata, Texas. Its construction was part of an international plan to improve not only flood control, but also water conservation, and provide hydroelectric power for the benefit of communities living on both sides of the border. It serves as a representation of the unique relationship that Mexico and the United States hold.

The particular dam provides electricity that helps the entire southern part of Texas, from Laredo in Webb County, to Hidalgo to Brownsville in all that area. While controversies surrounding the decision to build the dam existed, many families lost their land and five townships were submerged under the reservoir.

The Falcon International Dam is part of a vibrant history. On October 15, 1953, construction on the dam neared completion. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico met at the center to dedicate it to the well-being of the residents of both countries. The dam itself was completed on April 8, 1954, and the Falcon Power Plant generated power for commercial use for the first time on October 11, 1954.

For 50 years, Falcon International Dam has served as an important source of water and power for irrigation and household use in this region, and its beautiful 60-mile-long reservoir known as the Falcon Lake is known as one of the best fishing lakes in Texas and supports an emerging recreational tourism industry.

Yet maintaining and operating an international dam does not come without problems. As a shared resource governed by international treaty, events over the past decade have underscored the need for a better binational water management plan.

Persistent and severe drought conditions put strain on both Texas's and Mexico's water resources. For South Texas, the struggle has even been harder because of Mexico's decision to withhold water from the U.S.

Many of you have heard me speak before on the issue of the Mexican water debt, which peaked at 1.7 million acre feet. Farmers were unable to plan adequately for their planting seasons. The fluctuating reservoir levels on the Falcon Dam disturbed the delicate ecosystem and spawning season for the fish stock. The economic impact on South Texas agricultural economy was estimated at over \$1 billion and 30,000 jobs.

In a perfect world, the two countries would work closely together to manage water storage and release so that neither side would be disproportionately hurt during these droughts. Economic losses would be shared, and, in the end,

this is a fair way to allocate shared resources.

Unfortunately, this is not the way the situation has played out over time. While recent rains have allowed Mexico to release a portion of the water to the U.S., we must work to improve water conservation and development for the future and avoid these things occurring and happening.

As I think about the needs of the communities living on the Falcon International Dam, I strongly believe we must evaluate how best to allocate our resources so it would be fair to all. In order to do so, we must first renew our binational spirit. I fear relations with our neighbors have become strained on many levels, from immigration, to water, to the war in Iraq.

It is with this in mind that I introduced H. Res. 818. What better way to look to the future than to celebrate past accomplishments?

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members of this great House for support on this important resolution to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Falcon International Dam, and recommit itself to the binational efforts and spirit in which the Falcon International Dam was constructed.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 818.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF DYLAN BENWELL

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 821) condemning the abduction of Dylan Benwell from the United States and calling for his return.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 821

Whereas Dylan Benwell, a 9-year-old lawful permanent resident with an application pending for United States citizenship, was taken from his home in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, on July 22, 2004, by his maternal grandparents, Timothy and Ethel Blake, both of whom are citizens of Ireland;

Whereas Dylan and his mother once lived in Ireland with his maternal grandparents;

Whereas Dylan has legally remained in the sole custody of his mother Serena Benwell, and adoptive father, John Benwell, after a Virginia juvenile district court ruled on December 14, 2001, that Dylan should remain in the custody of his mother and stepfather;

Whereas Dylan and 3 of his siblings have been adopted by John Benwell, a United States citizen;

Whereas Dylan and his 5 brothers and sisters are a part of a caring and loving family;

Whereas Ethel Blake attempted to kidnap Dylan in 1999 from his kindergarten class in Virginia, and was charged with domestic battery upon John Benwell;

Whereas on July 16, 2001, Dylan told a Virginia social worker that he did not want to live in Ireland again with his grandparents and that he wished to live in the United States with his immediate family;

Whereas on November 29, 2001, Dylan told a social worker with Winthrop Harbor Schools, in Illinois, that he wanted to live with his mother, stepfather, and siblings and he also expressed worries that his grandparents might try to take him away again;

Whereas on December 6, 2001, after an individual session with Dylan, a social worker with the Great Lakes Naval Hospital reported to the Virginia juvenile district court that Dylan feared his grandparents after the first kidnapping attempt, after explaining that he did not wish to live with his grandparents because he had no friends to play with in Ireland, and implying that his grandparents spent a large part of their time drinking beer;

Whereas in recorded telephone conversations in the possession of the police department of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, Dylan told Timothy Blake that he did not want to live with the Blakes in Ireland;

Whereas in 2001, a petition for the return of Dylan from the United States to Ireland, filed by Timothy and Ethel Blake in accordance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, signed at The Hague on October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670) ("Hague Convention"), was rejected by a United States court which held that the Blakes had no custodial rights to Dylan upon relocation of the child's mother to the United States with her American husband;

Whereas Timothy and Ethel Blake succeeded in kidnapping Dylan from his home in Illinois 5 years after the initial attempt in Virginia, and have shown little concern for the trauma that the abduction of Dylan has caused their other grandchildren;

Whereas warrants for the arrest of Timothy and Ethel Blake on charges of aggravated kidnapping, a felony, have been issued by the State of Illinois and United States officials have filed a Hague Convention petition for custody of Dylan on behalf of the Benwell family;

Whereas the Congress, in 1932, enacted the first Federal kidnapping statute, in response to the kidnapping and murder of the infant son of Charles Lindbergh;

Whereas the Congress recognizes the gravity of international child abduction and enacted the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993 (adding section 1204 to title 18, United States Code), the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980 (adding section 1738A to title 28, United States Code, and section 463 to the Social Security Act), and substantial reform and reporting requirements for the Department of State through foreign relations authorization Acts for the fiscal years 1998 through 2001;

Whereas the United States is a contracting party to the Hague Convention, and adopted effective implementing legislation in the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (42 U.S.C. 11601 et seq.);

Whereas Ireland is a contracting party to the Hague Convention and adopted legislation for the implementation of the Act under the Child Abduction and Enforcement of Custody Orders Act (S.I. No. 235/1991); and

Whereas the Hague Convention establishes reciprocal rights and duties between and among its contracting states to expedite the return of abducted children to their states of