

which the vote is objected to under clause 8 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF UKRAINE FOR DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT AND FAIR RUN-OFF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 16) congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff Presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 16

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine and of a genuinely democratic political system have been prerequisites for that country's full integration into the international community of democracies;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas the election of Ukraine's next president was seen as an unambiguous test of the extent of the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote-counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials and others acting at the behest of such officials to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign took place throughout Ukraine during the entire 2004 presidential election campaign without condemnation or remedial action by the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas on October 31, 2004, Ukraine held the first round of its presidential election and on November 21, 2004, Ukraine held a runoff presidential election between the two leading candidates, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko;

Whereas a consensus of Ukrainian and international election observers determined that the runoff election did not meet a considerable number of international standards for democratic elections, and these observers specifically declared that state resources were abused in support of Viktor Yanukovich, and that illegal voting by absentee ballot, multiple voting, assaults on electoral observers and journalists, and the use of counterfeit ballots were widespread;

Whereas following the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, tens of thou-

sands of Ukrainian citizens engaged in peaceful demonstrations in Kiev and elsewhere to protest the unfair election and the declaration by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission that Viktor Yanukovich had won a majority of the votes;

Whereas the Ukrainian Supreme Court blocked the publication of the official runoff election results thus preventing the inauguration of the next president of Ukraine until the Supreme Court examined the reports of voter fraud;

Whereas on November 27, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, and that the results of this election did not reflect the will of the Ukrainian people;

Whereas on December 1, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a no confidence motion regarding the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich;

Whereas European mediators and current Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma began discussions on December 1, 2004, to attempt to work out a resolution to the standoff between the supporters of both presidential candidates;

Whereas on December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, was invalid and ordered a new presidential election to take place on December 26, 2004;

Whereas on December 8, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed laws to reform the Ukrainian electoral process, including to reconstitute the Ukrainian Central Election Commission, and to close loopholes for fraud in preparation for a new presidential election;

Whereas on December 26, 2004, the people of Ukraine again went to the polls to elect the next president of Ukraine in what the consensus of domestic and international observers declared as a more democratic, transparent, and fair election process with fewer problems than the previous two rounds;

Whereas on January 10, 2005, the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was certified by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission; and

Whereas the runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, signifies a turning point for Ukraine which offers new hope and opportunity to the people of Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) commends the people and Government of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and their determination to end the political crisis in that country in a peaceful and democratic manner;

(2) congratulates the people and Government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair runoff presidential election which represents the true choice of the Ukrainian people;

(3) congratulates Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine;

(4) applauds the Ukrainian presidential candidates, the European Union and other European representatives, and the United States Government for the role they played in helping to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis;

(5) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine and expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people and the new Government of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; and

(6) pledges its assistance to the strengthening of a fully free and open democratic system in Ukraine, the creation of a prosperous free market economy in Ukraine, the

reaffirmation of Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's full integration into the international community of democracies.

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).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. 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. Con. Res. 16.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1415

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 16 as amended regarding the presidential elections recently held in Ukraine. I want to thank the ranking Democrat member of the Committee on International Relations and others who have joined me in sponsoring this resolution.

This resolution has been amended to include a few clarifications of the original language.

No issue was judged to be more important to Ukraine's future standing with the West and its ability to become a full partner with the Euro-Atlantic community than the strength of its democracy. The presidential election represented a historic opportunity for the people of Ukraine to decide whether or not democracy can flourish in this important nation.

So important was the desire for a free, fair and transparent election that this House overwhelmingly passed a resolution regarding the election in October. Unfortunately, despite the assurance we received from the Government of Ukraine, the rhetoric did not meet the actions. The October 31 election and the November 21 runoff election were marred by serious irregularities. The highly charged second-round vote on November 21 met all of our worst expectations.

We all have read the media accounts of the election-day problems, and I will not repeat them here. The election was so compromised by open fraud that much of Ukraine's population took to the streets determined to preserve their liberties and prevent the installation of an illegitimate regime. Given the strength of that resistance and the near-universal condemnation of the election process by the international community, the once powerful government was forced to admit that the election over which it presided was fraudulent.

In the aftermath of this contested election, an extraordinary series of events took place in Ukraine which

confirmed to many that Ukraine's democracy may have survived the effects of the election abuses and may have received new life.

The outpouring of public opposition to the faulty election process was beyond expectation. The thousands of demonstrators who flooded into the capital to protect the election outcome and to demand honest democracy even in the face of personal hardship were commendable. To their credit, the people of Ukraine spoke with determination that the will of the people would not be thwarted.

Ukrainian institutions such as the Parliament and the Supreme Court affirmed their commitment to the rule of law and took their responsibilities seriously in order to resolve this crisis.

Finally, the effort made by the European Union, Poland, Lithuania, joined by the United States to help broker a fair solution to the crisis, was a perfect example of how the transatlantic partnership is working.

As a result of the convergence of all these elements inside Ukraine, a new runoff election was held on December 26. Witnessed by thousands of international observers, this time the election was determined to be free and fair, and Victor Yushchenko emerged as the new President-elect. This past Sunday he was inaugurated as the new President of Ukraine.

This resolution congratulates Victor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine. It was a difficult struggle in which his campaign was denied fundamental rights, where he was the target of an assassination attempt and where his victory in the first runoff election was literally stolen from him by forces which could not accept defeat and were now not prepared to relinquish power.

The resolution also commends the people of Ukraine for the remarkable effort they made to ensure that democracy was carried out in their country and the true will of the people to elect the president of their choice was accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, rather than an external geopolitical struggle, events which took place in Ukraine between November 21 and December 26 were all about democracy, of freedom, of real, rather than declared, rights, as we heard Mr. Yushchenko explain, and the right of the people to freely and fairly choose their leaders.

The United States Congress attaches great importance to the success of Ukraine's continued transition to a democratic state, with strong institutions and a flourishing market economy. U.S. Government policy must remain focused on promoting and strengthening a stable, democratic, and prosperous Ukraine.

Today, through H. Con. Res. 16, we congratulate President Yushchenko. We commend the people of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and to their nation and to their place in modern Europe. I urge passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, all of us were excited and exhilarated as we were watching the Orange Revolution unfold in the streets of Kiev. And I want to congratulate my dear friend and the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations for his leadership in presenting this resolution to the House.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan resolution before the House today congratulates Ukraine on having its first truly free and fair election since gaining its independence in 1991. These democratic elections are remarkable in the sense that they took place in a country which historically is closely tied to Russia, a country where, unfortunately, democracy has taken many huge steps backward over the past 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my admiration and respect for the Ukrainian people who took to the streets last November. The unwillingness of the Ukrainian people to accept a fraudulent and manipulated election and, ultimately, their success in forcing new, fair, free, and open elections should inspire people committed to democracy throughout the world.

I hope that Ukraine's elections on December 26 will have lasting effects, not only on the future of Ukraine, but also on Ukraine's immediate neighbors: Georgia, Belarus, and Moldova, and on the autocratic regimes in Central Asia that are all slated to hold elections next year.

The peaceful and powerful democratic protests in Ukraine spurred the Ukrainian Parliament to fulfill its obligations as a legislature in a democracy and to dismiss the last government.

The protests sparked a rebellion among Ukraine's journalists and TV anchors who refused to be voices for government-concocted news. The judiciary in Ukraine has also found its noble and independent mission. We can only hope that the citizens of Russia and other former Soviet republics will act similarly in the months and years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, as we congratulate the citizens of Ukraine and consider the way forward for Ukraine, we must also acknowledge that the situation in Ukraine is still very complex and the success of the new government is very far from certain.

Mr. Yushchenko has a very small window of opportunity to pass the necessary reforms that will improve the lives of ordinary Ukrainians. The United States, the European Union, and multilateral organizations may be prepared to help Ukraine; but it is Mr. Yushchenko and his political allies in the government and in the Parliament

who have to make the difficult choices to ensure that reforms are implemented.

It remains to be seen whether President Yushchenko will live up to the high expectations many of us in the West have for his presidency. I am pleased with his clean and noncorrupt political record, his willingness to take on the oligarchs, and his efforts to pass long overdue economic reforms; but I caution my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remain vigilant so that the ugly remnants of the Ukrainian and Soviet past do not overwhelm what may be a promising future of democracy in the eastern part of Europe.

Mr. Speaker, among my concerns about the nature of the political forces in Ukraine today are a number of laws and executive decisions taken by the former president, Mr. Kuchma's lame duck government, which I think will hurt the Yushchenko presidency. The Kuchma government's decision to withdraw the Ukrainian contingent from coalition troops in Iraq was an insult to the American people and to the Government of the United States which have done so much to help Ukraine to earn its freedom and stood by her people in this difficult time.

Today, I formally call upon President Yushchenko to reverse this ill-advised decision and, in so doing, firmly signal his desire for a strong relationship with the United States. What this new administration does with respect to its international commitments will be an important marker for its future relations with the United States, and it will undoubtedly affect Ukraine's ability to integrate into Atlantic institutions. Mr. Speaker, democracy bestows priceless privileges, but it also demands the acceptance of some burdensome responsibilities.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 16.

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), one of the leading battlers for human rights in Congress.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), for his leadership on Ukraine and on so many other important human rights issues around the world. And for the resolution that he offered and gave us the opportunity to vote on in the latter part of last year, calling on the Ukrainian Government to respect the democracy process and to have a fair and free election which, thankfully, on the second go around, they indeed did.

I also want to thank Chairman HYDE for H. Con. Res. 16, which gives us as a body the opportunity to congratulate the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair run-up election. The historic triumph of the Ukrainian people, Mr. Speaker, in what has come to be known around the

world as the Orange Revolution, did not come about easily. There were many moments of uncertainty.

Congratulations to Victor Yushchenko on his election as Ukraine's president. President Yushchenko displayed remarkable personal courage and dignity as he led the struggle for democracy and freedom, despite the debilitating dioxin poisoning attempt on his life and numerous other attempts that were designed to thwart him. He deserves our admiration for his incredible persistence in carrying out the fight for Ukraine's democratic future.

Mr. Speaker, I chaired the Helsinki Commission during the last 2 years, and we followed very closely the developments in Ukraine. We ourselves tried to influence and to bring to light many of the problems associated with the run-up to the election and the first election which thankfully was nullified. In various statements and speeches leading up to that election, and in hearings of the commission we noted that this election when conducted freely and fairly was perhaps the most important event in Ukraine since the restoration of independence.

□ 1430

Accordingly, we sent members of the commission staff to Ukraine to act as poll watchers to try to ensure that ballot stuffing and a myriad of devices used to steal an election did not happen.

I would also point out to my friends that in a remarkable display of people power, more than a million Ukrainians took to the streets of Kiev and elsewhere in a historic, peaceful and well-organized protest, a protest that caught the attention and the imagination of the world, and many people in dictatorships noted as well. This people power intention was to compel a second election. We got the run-off election, and thankfully, that was judged to be free and fair, and the outcome is beyond dispute.

With the stunning success of the Orange Revolution, Mr. Speaker, Ukraine is now firmly on the path to fulfill its quest to become a thriving democracy in which human rights are honored and the rule of law prevails. The model of Putin's Russia or Lukashenka's Belarus have been rejected resolutely by the Ukrainian people. Ukraine has made its choice for democracy and freedom and for integration with the Euro-Atlantic community versus reintegration with Eurasia, with all of the implications of that choice for Ukraine's independence and its freedom.

Mr. Speaker, throughout much of the 20th century, the Ukrainian people were the victims of unspeakable suffering, most notably the genocidal Ukrainian famine of the early 1930s, perpetrated by brutal dictatorships and various invaders. Toward the end of that century, the promise of renewed independence, for which so many had

sacrificed, at long last came to fruition. The Orange Revolution and the victory of Viktor Yushchenko have brought Ukraine its freedom and, despite the formidable challenges that lie ahead, the true promise of a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, finally, while listening to President Bush's inaugural address, I could not help but think of the recent events in Ukraine as a powerful example of what he called, and I quote him, "one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant people, and that is the force of human freedom." We have seen, Mr. Speaker, this happen in Ukraine, and we must stand ready to offer our help and support and assistance to President Yushchenko and the Ukrainian people as they consolidate their free, democratic future.

I thank my good friend for this resolution, for his great leadership, and for my good friends, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) on the Helsinki Commission, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member. We are united as a Congress on this very important issue.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my good friend and our distinguished colleague.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I represent an area in Chicago known as Ukrainian Village, and last fall, I was privileged to visit Ukraine with my friends from the Self-Reliance Credit Union to celebrate Ukrainian independence and to assist with the development of credit unions in that country.

I left impressed with the passion and commitment of the people of the Ukraine to the development of democracy in their homeland. They have been rewarded with a massive victory for their notions of the democratic process.

I congratulate President Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and commend all of the diverse forces who assisted in bringing about this triumph of the democratic process.

Ukraine is emerging as a vigorous and forward-looking member of the European community, recognized for stepping away from nuclear weapons, and acknowledged for a flourishing, developing economy.

I trust that relations between the Ukraine and the United States will continue to strengthen. The elections in the Ukraine mark a kind of fork in the road for U.S. foreign policy. We can move down the road toward mutually beneficial relations with Russia and all of the former Soviet republics and allies in Eastern Europe, or we can return to the kind of relationships which characterized the Cold War.

I believe our choice ought to be clear: strong and peaceful relationships, re-

jecting all interference in the internal affairs of other states; mutually beneficial relationships based on fair trade; strict observance of international law; cultural and scientific cooperation; and people-to-people interaction.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of the Ukraine for demonstrating what democracy can and should really mean, and that is rule by the people.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the distinguished leader on the Democratic side of the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for their leadership on bringing this resolution forward. It is a very important moment in the history of the Ukraine.

I also want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on the Helsinki Commission that has consistently raised the issue of fair and transparent elections among the member states for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I want to congratulate Viktor Yushchenko and the people of the Ukraine on the fair and transparent run-off elections on December 26. What is very noteworthy is just 5 weeks earlier, that country had a run-off election that was marked by widespread fraud.

After that election on November 21, something happened in the Ukraine. The spirit of democracy that we have seen in so many of the former republics of the Soviet Union finally made its way to the Ukraine. The support from the United States was instrumental in bringing about a change in the Ukraine. The support within the OSCE in insisting that its member states comply with requirements of the fair and transparent elections also helped. The will of the people prevailed.

All of us remember what happened in Independence Square in Kiev known as the Orange Revolution. It gave strength to their country to seek freedom and fair elections. It gave strength to their institutions, and on December 3, the Supreme Court ruled the November 21 election invalid.

Now the Ukraine has followed the lead of the former Soviet republic Georgia in their Revolution of Roses to bring about a fair election process, but, Mr. Speaker, there is a hard task ahead. They have to overcome the dual legacy of corruption and disregard for the rule of law.

I know I speak for every person of this Chamber that if Ukraine follows the path of democracy and respect for human rights, as they showed in this past election, they will have this body, they will have this Nation on their side as they fight to develop a democratic system within their country.

I applaud this resolution. I strongly support it. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 16, regarding the recent elections in Ukraine, and President Victor Yushchenko's victory.

Today, America looks upon a world very different from that which existed less than twenty years ago. Where once millions of people were trapped under the heels of tyrants, they now are enjoying the liberties we fought for more than two centuries ago. Our former rivals have become allies in the fight for freedom and democracy. The most recent example of this comes from Ukraine, where a drawn-out election has produced a new leadership for the citizens of this former Soviet Republic.

In Ukraine, the will of the people proved stronger than threats and oppression, as tens of thousands of young Ukrainians took to the streets to protest fraudulent elections. Ultimately, they were heard, and Victor Yushchenko was elected to be their President.

These elections are a triumphant accomplishment for the people of Ukraine, but by no means do they guarantee freedom. The struggle for liberty is a constant one, and in order for Ukrainians to fully realize their dream for representation, the new government of President Victor Yushchenko must rid the country of the corruption that has plagued it for so long. If this can be done, Ukraine will be able to realize a bright and productive future.

When I visited Ukraine in December, I met some of the people who made it possible to overturn the fraudulent elections. It is hard to express how inspiring it was to see the pride and dedication that those young people exhibited. I can only hope that these qualities can find a home in the hearts of the young people in other societies and fuel the desire for freedom around the globe.

I also met with the physician who diagnosed President Yushchenko with dioxin poisoning, after his face was so badly distorted by what appears to have been an effort to kill him and the reforms he represents. The symbolism behind this man's struggle is hard to ignore. Parallels can be drawn between the desperate grasps for dwindling power by others who have ruled without consent, and the cowardly poisoning of this remarkable man. President Yushchenko also represents the strength and inevitability of freedom itself. Rather than surrender, he drove forward, both for his supporters and for his country.

Through its "Orange Revolution," Ukraine has shown the world the strength and courage of its people. With its well educated workforce and bountiful natural resources, the country is poised for a prosperous future. President Yushchenko has expressed his desire for his country to join NATO and the European Union. The United States should support Ukraine's desire to fully join the west. At the same time, we must work to reassure Russia that a Ukraine that is fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic institutions is not a threat, but instead represents a more stable neighbor and a potential future for Russia itself.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my full support as a cosponsor to this resolution, congratulating the Ukrainian people for their role in ensuring a fair and free election on December 26, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko for his perseverance in winning the presidency.

Democracy in Ukraine has come a long way in a very short time. The Orange Revolution, as it has been called, will be remembered as

a historic milestone. This revolution succeeded through the peaceful efforts of the Ukrainian people standing up for democracy and genuine liberty for their country.

Hundreds of thousands of Mr. Yushchenko's supporters, many wearing the orange color of his political party, poured into the streets of Kiev and blocked entrances to government buildings to protest a rigged vote and demand the Ukrainian Supreme Court invalidate the election results.

It was stirring to watch these men, women and children brave the bitter cold and snow in Independence Square and throughout the country, demanding to have their voices heard and their just demands met, namely, free and fair elections.

Here in Washington, I was proud to stand with nearly 1,500 Ukrainian-Americans from around the country on the day before Thanksgiving at a demonstration in front of Ukraine's embassy to demand that the will of the voters of Ukraine be upheld in that nation's presidential election. We gathered together in the rain just as the AP Wire announced that Ukraine's Election Commission had grievously certified the election of Viktor Yanukovich. Ukraine has come such a long way since then.

The United States stood with the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians demonstrating for democracy, and made clear that Mr. Yanukovich must not be recognized as president. The U.S. must continue to stand with the people of Ukraine and strengthen the relationship that has formed between our nations.

I have joined the other co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in writing to Speaker HASTERT asking him to invite President Yushchenko to address a joint session of Congress. This should only be the next step. The U.S. must remain committed to assist Ukraine establish a full democracy and create a prosperous free market economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 16.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution offered by my Chairman, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HYDE, congratulating the people of Ukraine for the fair and free election of a new President.

I also commend and congratulate President Victor A. Yushchenko for his victory—and more importantly, his determination to see fair and free elections in this fledgling democracy.

The world watched this race unfold—the poisoning of the democratic candidate, a stolen victory, and marches in the street by people hungry for freedom and for a better future for their children.

The world witnessed true passion. We witnessed people expressing themselves and their will to live freely and democratically. We witnessed people determined to take charge of their nation's destiny and risk all to do so. We witnessed young and old, families and students, camping outdoors in the blistering Ukrainian cold to protest against a sham victory and demand true elections. What we witnessed was true everyday heroism.

While we, the people of the world, witnessed victory—the people of Ukraine lived it, by forcing it. By rejecting tyranny and corruption and demanding equality and freedom, they brought about peaceful democratic regime change.

And at the inaugural, an inspiring historical event itself, we saw the symbolic break with

the past and a nation's hopes soar, as President Yushchenko released a dove—a symbol of peace—into the air to fly free. This dove rose into the sky much like the hopes of this newly free people, united for a better nation for themselves and their families.

President Yushchenko represents the continued peaceful demand by people on every continent for self-governance and free market principles.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues, and so many of my constituents, including Emil Eisdorfer of the Bronx, New York in welcoming President Yushchenko. I welcome the people of Ukraine into the family of democratic and free nations.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Chairman (Mr. HYDE) and the Ranking Member (Mr. LANTOS) for bringing this important legislation to the Floor today.

As the former Chairman and Ranking Democrat on the Helsinki Commission, I was honored to advocate for the basic human rights of dissidents in the former Soviet Union, including in Ukraine, and know well their commitment to freedom and democracy.

And today, as this legislation recognizes, the people of Ukraine have achieved their long sought goal and under the leadership of their new President, Viktor Yushchenko, and today are moving forward with a spirit of optimism and hope.

Over the last several months, the people of Ukraine have weathered nothing short of political crisis.

The November 21st presidential runoff between then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and President Yushchenko, who was then the opposition leader, was racked by voting irregularities and illegalities.

Ukrainian and international observers both determined that state resources were abused in support of Prime Minister Yanukovich, who "won" that runoff. There was illegal voting by absentee ballot, multiple voting, assaults on election observers and the use of counterfeit ballots.

Ukrainian citizens bravely engaged in peaceful demonstrations, the Parliament passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the runoff, and it passed a resolution expressing no confidence in the government of Prime Minister Yanukovich.

Then, the Ukrainian Supreme Court declared the runoff invalid and ordered a new presidential election on December 26th.

As all the world watched, the people of Ukraine elected Victor Yushchenko as their President by a clear margin.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically want to note the great personal courage of President Yushchenko, who was poisoned by dioxin in late summer. He also has shown maturity and leadership throughout this political crisis.

In fact, yesterday, on his first full day in office, President Yushchenko visited Russian President Putin in Moscow, who had openly backed Mr. Yanukovich.

The new President's leadership, as well as the people of Ukraine's commitment to democracy, bodes well for this nation. And I join my colleagues in congratulating them on this accomplishment.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Viktor A. Yushchenko on being sworn in as the President of Ukraine on January 23, 2005. After enduring personal hardships, President Yushchenko enters office as

powerful symbol of victory over tyranny. His inauguration ends a bitter chapter in Ukraine's history and paves the way for the country to become a democratic leader in the former Soviet Union.

As a founding member and former Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I have regularly spoken out in favor of a democratic Ukraine. In 2002, I introduced a resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process leading up to the March 2002 parliamentary elections. This resolution passed overwhelmingly and let the Ukrainian government know that the U.S. would not simply rubber-stamp aid to the Ukraine without also considering the serious issues involved in Ukraine's democratic development.

Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, the former Ukrainian government continued to turn a blind-eye to the international community's insistence on truly democratic elections. The November 21 runoff presidential race was plagued by voter fraud, intimidation, and widespread use of counterfeit ballots. However, a truly significant event occurred after Viktor Yushchenko's opponent was initially declared the winner. Thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets in protest, surrounding the government buildings and refusing to leave until a new and fair election was announced. Their faith and determination was signified by the donning of orange scarves, and came to be known as the Orange Revolution. It was instrumental in forcing the Ukrainian government to hold new elections on December 26, which Yushchenko won handily. I want to commend the Ukrainian people for their commitment to ending their political crisis in a peaceful and democratic way.

The United States Congress stands ready to work with President Yushchenko as he undertakes the political and economic reforms necessary to bring about a bright future for Ukraine. I am hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that President Bush will soon invite President Yushchenko to Washington so that Congress can congratulate him and hear firsthand his vision for bringing about a reformed Ukraine dedicated to freedom and justice.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably delayed in my return to Washington, DC, and therefore unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall votes 8 and 9.

Had I been here I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 8, on H. Con. Res. 16—Congratulating the people of the Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Victor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform.

The voice of the Ukrainian people spoke loudly on December 26th as Ukrainians united and re-affirmed their commitment to reform, democracy, and further Trans-Atlantic cooperation with their selection of Mr. Yushchenko as President. The peaceful, orange-clad demonstrators who rallied throughout Ukraine and helped achieve this historic moment should be an inspiration to all of us. And Mr. Yushchenko's peaceful inauguration, and smooth transition to power, displays yet another positive sign for a bright future for the Ukrainians and sets an exceptional example of the power of freedom and democracy for the entire region.

As a senior Member of the House International Relations Committee, I extend my

personal congratulations to Mr. Yushchenko and wish him all the best as he works to bring Ukraine into the community of democratic nations. As freedom and democracy descends on Ukraine, I hope that their peaceful transition to a modern democratic country will serve as a further catalyst for the growing international movement to bring liberty to all peoples of the world that still suffer in the shadows of tyranny and dictatorship.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). 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. 16, 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. LANTOS. 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.

#### COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 39) commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 39

Whereas on January 27, 1945, the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, including Birkenau and other related camps near the Polish city of Oswiecim, was liberated by elements of the Soviet Army under the command of Field Marshal Ivan Konev;

Whereas, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, at a minimum 1,300,000 people were deported to Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945, and of these, at least 1,100,000 were murdered at that camp;

Whereas an estimated 6,000,000 Jews, more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe, were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators at Auschwitz and elsewhere in Europe;

Whereas in addition, hundreds of thousands of civilians of Polish, Roma, and other nationalities, including in particular handicapped and retarded individuals, homosexuals, political, intellectual, labor, and religious leaders, all of whom the Nazis considered "undesirable", as well as Soviet and other prisoners of war, perished at Auschwitz and elsewhere in Europe;

Whereas the complex of concentration and death camps at Auschwitz has come to symbolize the brutality and inhumanity of the Holocaust;

Whereas on January 24, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly, in response to a resolution proposed by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russia, the United States, and the European Union, convened its first-ever special session marking the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps on the 60th anniversary of that event;

Whereas on January 27, 2005, the Government of Poland will host a state ceremony at Auschwitz/Oswiecim, Poland, to mark the anniversary of the liberation of the camps in which the Presidents of Israel, Germany, Poland, and Russia, and the Vice President of the United States, and leaders of many other countries will participate;

Whereas January 27 of each year is the official Holocaust Memorial Day in many European countries, including Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, and has been designated by Israel as a National Day to Combat Anti-Semitism; and

Whereas the Department of State in the Report on Global Anti-Semitism transmitted to Congress in December 2004 noted that "anti-Semitism in Europe increased significantly in recent years", "Holocaust denial and Holocaust minimization efforts" have found increasingly overt acceptance in a number of Middle Eastern countries, and anti-Semitism has appeared "in countries where historically or currently there are few or even no Jews": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recalls with gratitude the sacrifices made by Allied soldiers, as well as partisans and underground fighters, whose service and dedication resulted in the defeat of the Nazi regime and the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps during World War II;

(2) expresses gratitude to those individuals and organizations that assisted and cared for the survivors of Nazi brutality and helped those survivors establish new lives;

(3) commends those countries that are marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as well as the United Nations General Assembly and other international organizations, for honoring the victims of the Holocaust and using this tragic anniversary to increase awareness of the Holocaust;

(4) urges all countries and peoples to strengthen their efforts to fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism; and

(5) urges governments and educators throughout the world to teach the lessons of the Holocaust in order that future generations will understand that racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance and prejudice can lead to the genocide carried out in camps such as Auschwitz.

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).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. 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. 39, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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