

equal, and women were not even mentioned. And many of the people in that great generation of the Founding Fathers themselves owned slaves.

This long and painful process of closing the hypocrisy gap has been closed to a large extent because of the courage, the determination, the perseverance of giants like the one we are honoring today.

Rosa Parks is a national treasure. She has reeducated all of us in the value that we, in fact, are all created equal, men and women, people of all faiths, people of all pigmentation. This is a message that needs to be sent over and over again, and I am proud that this House this evening again reminds all of us that the hypocrisy gap is not yet fully closed. We still have some distance to go. But Rosa Parks is among those giants who closed that gap in large measure, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this motion. I think it is important for conservatives and Republicans to speak up at this moment because they did not speak up back in the 1950s when they should have. I think that this is a fitting moment for this conservative to offer his apology to all those who were active with Rosa Parks in the civil rights movement for not being as supportive as I should have been as well as other conservatives who I know.

At that time many conservatives were blinded by the stupidity of the arguments presented to us called "States rights," which was a bunch of baloney, and we know that now. We know that the people who really were offering that argument, many of them had evil hearts and sinful hearts, and that they hate their fellow human beings and were trying to just oppose the efforts to perfect our country and to make it what our Founding Fathers and Mothers dreamed it would be, a land of liberty and justice for all.

Rosa Parks and the other activists in the civil rights movement at that time were doing their part to try to make our country better, to try to live up to its ideals. So as we name this Federal building, as we talk about this tonight and honor this great lady, I think it is fitting for those Republican conservatives to realize we did not do what was right back then. We recognize it, and we will make sure to do what is right in the future.

I thank the people who have spoken today. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for reminding us of what hypocrisy really was, and that we really should not be hypocrites in our lives, and we should speak out strongly for wonderful people who gave their lives trying to make this country a better place.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-

ABACHER) for the graciousness of his remarks. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) for her great diligence in making sure that this bill would be introduced and come forward now.

I want to say in closing that we are accustomed to revolutions being made by armies. We must appreciate what it meant for the opening shot, as it were, of the civil rights movement to have come from a gentlewoman who simply sat in her seat. After 400 years of slavery and discrimination, it might have been a bomb. It was instead an act which set the pattern of nonviolent resistance for the entire civil rights movement.

Please understand that Rosa Parks acted at great personal risk to herself. We may forget what life was like in the 1950s. We all know this, that black men had been lynched for less, and yet she stood there not knowing what would happen after she was arrested.

The remarks of the gentleman from California reminds us what she has done for our country, that essentially she has united our country with one message for all time, and that message does not know partisan lines. What she and the nonviolent revolution that she made that saved our country had done is to bring Republicans and Democrats to the same spot, to the understanding that equality under law is a basic American principle. We could celebrate that principle no better than by honoring the woman who set off the revolution with her gentle act, Rosa Parks.

I thank my good friends from the other side for bringing this bill forward.

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

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her comments and the comments of all of our colleagues tonight on both sides of the aisle.

I continue to support this bill, as I know everybody in this Chamber does.

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 New York (Mr. KUHLMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2967.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE ELECTION OF AMBASSADOR DAN GILLERMAN AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE 60TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 368) congratulating the State of Israel on the election of Am-

bassador Dan Gillerman as Vice-President of the 60th United Nations General Assembly.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 368

Whereas the 60th General Assembly of the United Nations will be held in New York City from September through December 2005;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly is presided over by a President and 21 Vice-Presidents, who are nominated by the General Assembly's five regional groupings;

Whereas prior to 2000, Israel was the only member of the United Nations to be excluded from a United Nations regional grouping;

Whereas this exclusion was the result of the refusal by Arab states to permit Israel to join the Asian group;

Whereas this exclusion prevented Israel from serving as the President of the United Nations General Assembly, or as a member of any bureau in the General Assembly and its main committees;

Whereas in 2000, Israel was accepted as a temporary member of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), which includes Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, in addition to the countries of Western Europe, and its temporary membership was extended in 2004;

Whereas on April 21, 2005, the Western European and Others Group nominated Israel as a candidate for Vice-President of the 60th United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas on June 13, 2005, the 191 member United Nations General Assembly elected Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as one of 21 Vice-Presidents of the 60th General Assembly;

Whereas Israeli Ambassador Gillerman called the election "a historic moment for Israel", which had last served as United Nations General Assembly Vice-President in 1952;

Whereas Ambassador Gillerman also said that the election confirms that Israel is "becoming a more active and normal member of the [United Nations]"; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed Israel's election to the Vice-Presidency of the General Assembly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the Government and people of the State of Israel on Israel's election as Vice-President of the 60th General Assembly of the United Nations;

(2) welcomes the nomination by the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) of Israel for the position of Vice-President of the 60th United Nations General Assembly;

(3) welcomes the election by the United Nations General Assembly of Israel as Vice-President of the 60th General Assembly;

(4) supports continued expansion of Israel's role at the United Nations;

(5) notes with concern that Israel remains the object of extreme vilification by many members of the United Nations;

(6) further notes that Israel remains excluded from the Asian regional grouping within the organization; and

(7) calls upon United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to work to end the vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian regional grouping.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. 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. 368.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is sometimes said that there are three classes of members of the United Nations, permanent members of the Security Council, countries eligible to become nonpermanent members of the Security Council, and countries ineligible to become nonpermanent members of the Security Council.

There is only one country in that third category, and that is, of course, the State of Israel. Israel has been the victim of an unfortunate impulse, rather widespread within the U.N., to isolate it, indeed to delegitimize it, that dates almost from Israel's independence.

As Israel has been until recently completely excluded from the regional group system, it has been effectively unable to advance its candidacy for many of the posts that it should by right be able to aspire to. Indeed, Israel has much to contribute to the U.N. and to the world. It has achieved much in science, technology and social and economic development. It has famously "made the desert bloom."

This phenomenon of isolating and vilifying Israel has called forth a response in some quarters of the international community and most clearly in the United States. The Congress and the American administrations of both parties have worked effectively with Israel to end its isolation.

This effort has required some heavy lifting at times, but the efforts have begun to bear fruit. It is especially gratifying that one result of these efforts has been that Ambassador Dan Gillerman, the Israeli Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has been elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly as a candidate of the Western European and Others Group.

This resolution congratulates Israel for having achieved this landmark and calls for further efforts and further results in the effort to end Israel's isolation.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and also the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who have worked diligently, very hard on this, and they have helped in crafting this resolution for the House.

I also very much appreciate the assistance of the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), as well as the many others

in this House who have worked on this resolution, and the House leadership as well for their assistance in arranging for consideration of this resolution.

It is about time that Israel be treated with the respect that it is due.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my good friend from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his powerful and eloquent statement. I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for working on this resolution and bringing it to the floor. But I particularly want to applaud our colleague, a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), for drawing attention to this very positive development at the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in over a half a century at the U.N., the Democratic State of Israel, which has for decades been the only member state to be excluded from U.N. leadership positions because it has been shut out of its regional grouping as an act of blatant discrimination, has now been elected to a significant United Nations post. I am delighted to report that last month Israel's distinguished Ambassador Dan Gillerman, my good friend, became the Vice President of the General Assembly. Ambassador Gillerman has served as Israel's Permanent Representative at the U.N. for nearly 3 years.

□ 1830

Previously, he made his mark as one of Israel's top business leaders. Election of Ambassador Gillerman is a result of congressional and United States Government pressure on our allies in the Western European grouping to finally accept Israel as a full-fledged member to make up for the fact that Israel is denied its rightful seat in the Asian grouping by prejudiced members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

This resolution is also important because it recognizes that despite this important development, Israel is still routinely vilified and singled out for political attack at the United Nations. Our measure calls on U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to work to end the continued attacks on Israel at the U.N. In fact, the timing of this resolution could not be more auspicious.

The recently concluded U.N. summit provided Secretary General Kofi Annan with the authority to review all mandates and programs at the U.N. This review will finally provide Kofi Annan with the opportunity to recommend to the General Assembly that they dissolve several long-standing preposterous committees within the Secretariat that are allocated millions of

dollars on an annual basis for the sole purpose of pursuing one-sided, vicious propaganda aimed at Israel.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the election of a top Israeli diplomat to a position of responsibility at the United Nations. At the same time, we hope that Ambassador Gillerman's election is a harbinger of things to come and that the single-minded persecution of the State of Israel at the United Nations will cease from now on.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the distinguished author of this legislation.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and for his strong support of this resolution and all of his leadership on the Committee on International Relations. I feel deeply fortunate to have the chance to serve with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions, to partition Palestine into two States, one Arab and the other Jewish. With this historic vote, the U.N. assisted with the birth of the modern State of Israel, which proclaimed its independence the following May when Britain withdrew its forces from the region.

For millions of Jews around the world, the partition vote and Israel's joining the United Nations in 1949 held forth the promise that the new country would be embraced by the international community and that the horror of the Holocaust would give way to a new era of acceptance for the Jewish people and their national aspirations.

These hopes were quickly dashed, however, through the concerted efforts of the Arab members of the United Nations who denied Israel's right to exist. Israel's role in the world body became a Cold War sideshow; and for 5 decades, the combined efforts of the Arab States, the Soviet bloc, and the countries of the nonaligned movement prevented Israel from participating as a full member of the United Nations.

Happily, albeit slowly, Israel's fortunes are beginning to change; and on behalf of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and 79 of our colleagues, we bring this measure to the floor, and we hope that it will highlight the progress that has been made to date and presage a new chapter in the relationship of Israel and the United Nations.

For the past 5 weeks, the U.N. General Assembly has been meeting in New York. As in past years, the president of the General Assembly has been assisted by 27 vice presidents chosen by regional groupings at the United Nations. This year, however, is slightly different because one of the vice presidents is Israel's permanent representative to the U.N., Ambassador Dan Gillerman.

Ambassador Gillerman's election is historic. On September 20, he became

the first Israeli to preside over the General Assembly since the legendary Abba Eban served as General Assembly vice president in 1953. Throughout most of the intervening 5 decades, the State of Israel has been the subject of unrelenting, and oftentimes grotesque, criticism at the United Nations.

Because of opposition from its Arab neighbors, Israel has been blocked from joining the Asian regional grouping at the United Nations; and until 2000, Israel was the only member of the U.N. to be excluded from joining any regional grouping. Under the U.N. structure, membership in a regional group is a prerequisite to service as president or vice president of the General Assembly, as well as membership in a host of other U.N. bodies.

In 2000, Israel was accepted as a temporary member of the Western Europe and Others group, which removed the bar to further Israeli participation at the U.N. Israel's membership was renewed in 2004.

In March of this year, the Western European group, which includes Western European countries, the U.S., Canada and New Zealand and Australia, nominated Israel for the post of vice president for the historic 60th General Assembly that is ongoing in New York.

The Israeli vice presidency is a small, but important, step towards better relations between the U.N. and Israel; and the Israeli Government and people are excited about the role their nation is playing in New York this fall. Ambassador Gillerman called the election "a historic moment for Israel" and said that it signaled that Israel is becoming a more active and normal member of the U.N.

Our resolution congratulates Ambassador Gillerman and Israel on the historic occasion of Israel's vice presidency. It welcomes the Western Europe and Others group, and it welcomes the General Assembly's election of Israel as a vice president. It supports the continued expansion of Israel's role at the U.N. It notes the House's continued concern that Israel remains the object of extreme vilification at the U.N. Finally, it calls upon Secretary General Kofi Annan to work to end the vilification of Israel and to work to gain Israel's admittance to the Asian regional grouping.

Throughout the last year, the Congress has discussed ways to reform the United Nations, to make it less corrupt and more responsive to the needs of a changing world. Many Members, myself included, have voiced consternation at Israel's marginalization at the U.N. as evidence of the U.N.'s failure to live up to its founding principles.

Israel's vice presidency, along with other steps, some initiated by Israel and others facilitated by Secretary General Annan, have initiated a thaw in the relationship between Israel and the world body. Much more remains to be done; but Israelis, their friends here in America, and true friends of the U.N. can take satisfaction in Israel's role at this fall's General Assembly.

I would like to thank, again, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for all of his work on the resolution. I am very grateful to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their strong support. This is truly something worth celebrating, and I urge my colleagues to join in support of the resolution.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution today to commend the great State of Israel on being selected as the Vice President of the 60th UN General Assembly.

When Israel became a vice president last month, the significance of Israel's first selection to the vice-presidency in 53 years was noted by all.

It is a reflection of each nominating country's confidence in Israel's commitment to peace in the Middle East, and a reflection of Israel's continued relation building with Muslim states throughout the region.

When I traveled to Israel this past August, I was able to witness first-hand Israel's true dedication to achieving peace through a two state solution with the Palestinians.

I believe that Israel's selection to the vice-presidency is a true testament to Israel's continued growth as a key country in the world's march towards peace.

Once again, I congratulate Israel on its selection and current service as a vice president and look forward to the future as Israel continues to be a central figure at the United Nations.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my full support for this resolution to congratulate Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the government and people of Israel on Israel's election as Vice-president of the 60th General Assembly of the United Nations.

Since joining the United Nations on May 11, 1949, Israel has been singled out time and again for disproportionate criticism, underrepresented on important committees, denied full membership in regional groupings and constantly attacked by a bloc of Arab states and their supporters.

From the time he assumed his post as Israel's Representative to the United Nation in January 2003, Mr. Gillerman has been a strong advocate of reforms at the UN that will give Israel more rights and will reform many of the wasteful and corrupt UN programs. In September 2005, Mr. Gillerman submitted Israel's first-ever candidacy for the Security Council, and Israel also recently proposed its first UN resolution.

Mr. Gillerman has also supported ending four UN committees established specifically to aid Palestinians. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Special Information Program on the Question of Palestine and the Special Committee to Investigate Israel Practices are all biased committees that have long outlived their intended purposes and have added to the waste and anti-Israeli sentiments at the UN.

In June 2005, Ambassador Gillerman was elected to serve as the Vice-President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He is the first Israeli representative to serve as Vice-

President of the General Assembly in the past 53 years, since Abba Eban who served in this position in 1952.

I congratulate Mr. Gillerman on his election as Vice-President of the 60th General Assembly of the United Nations and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 368.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 368.

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 question will be postponed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2744, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2744), making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 109-255)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2744) "making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes", having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, \$5,127,000: Provided,