

to sell our debt to them, it limits our abilities to sit down and negotiate with them. Did you notice that the last couple of administration officials that have gone, or even congressional officials that have gone, to China haven't brought up human rights violations with China?

Well, that's because they know they've got us by the economics. We can't do that or they could do such things as flood the world's economy with our debt, ruining our dollars and further jeopardizing our economy and more jobs. But then again, maybe the bright side of this health care bill, perhaps costing as many as 5.5 million jobs, is that they can go to China and help rebuild Sichuan.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), a member of the Committees on Agriculture, Education, and Natural Resources.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, when they have events such as they had in China, one thing that happens is that as the buildings fall upon folks, they crush their muscles, and they end up having kidney failure. This comes to mind because after Katrina, one of the disasters that happened was that there were many people on dialysis that had to be evacuated from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, and there had to be an emergency dialysis center situation established.

I thought about it: one of the great things about our current system of care is that there is this elasticity that exists in our country that often does not exist elsewhere. Yet when I toured recently those dialysis centers in my city, as it turns out, they're kept afloat by the few patients they see who have private insurance. Many of those patients are on Medicaid or Medicare. As it turns out, Medicaid pays about 60 percent of costs and Medicare pays about 90 percent of cost. So were it not for the private insurers paying over cost, we would not have the ability to treat the dialysis patients here or in the emergency situations, those that are evacuated up.

It brings to mind immediately, of course, the health care bill that is before us. It attempts to expand the system of Medicaid and Medicare that is actually depriving our system of the resources it needs to care more carefully for those who are in times of natural disaster.

That said, it is admirable to control costs in this bill, but paradoxically, the CBO says that this bill, which supposedly controls costs, actually will have an inflation rate of 8 percent per year. So 8 percent per year more than doubles costs over the next 10 years, Mr. Speaker. It's ironic when the President says that if we do nothing, costs will double in 10 years, if we do this bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office, costs will more than double in the next 10 years.

So I guess, Mr. Speaker, in closing I would say that there are three impera-

tives to health care reform: it is controlling costs so we can expand access to quality care. We've seen in other countries where there is inadequate resources placed or inadequate attention to cost that, indeed, these are not addressed. I would ask that we reject this reform for its deleterious effects on our system.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. When I think of China, I think of this health care plan. Centralized planning, that's what it is. Mr. Speaker, I know you and so many others have been spending their weekends reading this 1,990-page monstrosity, which some people think is going to save health care. I think rather it will save the bureaucracy.

□ 1730

This bill, these 1,990 pages, which have yet to be amended with yet another amendment called the manager's amendment. Now, what goes into the manager's amendment are kind of what is the result of having your arm twisted. What did you get for your twisted arm? It will be in the manager's amendment, which is not in these 1,990 pages. But what is?

Premium increases, tax increases, Medicare cuts, bureaucrats between you and your doctor, and at a mere cost of \$1 trillion.

In the year that we have had the highest deficit in the history of the United States, \$1.4 trillion, the Pelosi plan comes in weighing at \$1 trillion, when we just got our unemployment figures back.

Think about this: The President, with an 8.5 percent unemployment rate, pushes upon the Congress a \$787 billion stimulus bill, and now unemployment has gone from 8.5 percent to 10.2 percent, and in so many other pockets of America it's 14, 15, and 16 percent.

Where are the jobs? Why have we taken the focus off the main thing, the economy? Why are we going down the track of government takeover of health care and massive mandates on individuals, doctors, and small businesses, just like China? Mr. Speaker, 1,990 pages, it's ridiculous.

The Republican alternative, which is not even half, not even 25 percent, but I'd say maybe 15 percent in size, weighing in at, say, maybe a mere 150 pages: Cross-line selling to bring more competition for individuals. Association health care plans to let small businesses pull together. Expansion of health savings accounts. Medical malpractice reform to reduce frivolous lawsuits. This is the Republican alternative.

The difference in the philosophy is simple. If your kitchen sink is leaking, you fix the sink. You don't take a wrecking ball to the entire kitchen. That's what the Pelosi plan does.

The Republican plan focuses on those who have unfortunately fallen through the cracks, people who may be too young for Medicare, too wealthy for Medicaid. Maybe they're 40 years old, unemployed in this Obama economy, and maybe they have a preexisting illness. The Republican targeted reforms try to help that person. They don't try to take the health care away from the rest of the American public who are happy with what they have. We do not need a centralized command/control government in Washington, D.C., that tries to take away the rights of businesses and individuals in the form of a huge government takeover of health care.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute simply to point out that the relevance of the size of the Democratic health care bill to the Republican alternative is, I think, limited to the ratio of people covered under the Democratic bill and covered under the Republican bill, about 10 to 1.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 877.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF THE COLD WAR

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 892) recognizing the 20th anniversary of the remarkable events leading to the end of the Cold War and the creation of a Europe, whole, free, and at peace.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 892

Whereas the year 1989 witnessed a series of remarkable events in Europe that helped lead to the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the creation of a Europe whole, free, and at peace;

Whereas, on February 6, 1989, after almost 10 years of unarmed struggle, the Polish free trade union Solidarity finally succeeded in

forcing the Government of Poland to begin talks on broad political and economic change;

Whereas, on April 6, 1989, Solidarity was legalized, enabling it to contest elections for 35 percent of the seats in the Sejm and all the seats in the Senat, resulting in the historic election victory for Solidarity on June 4 in which Solidarity won all the seats available to it in the Sejm and 99 out of 100 seats in the Senat, leading to the installation of the first non-Communist government since January 1945;

Whereas, on May 2, 1989, the Hungarian government began dismantling the barbed wire fence separating Hungary in the Soviet-controlled East from Austria in the free West, causing a "tear in the Iron Curtain" that was never to be closed again;

Whereas, following the exodus of several hundred East Germans from Hungary between May and mid-July 1989, the Hungarian government announced on September 10, that as of midnight, the border to the West would be open for all East Germans wishing to leave, leading to the departure of thousands of East Germans and representing the first break in the Warsaw Pact policy of preventing each other's citizens from fleeing to the West;

Whereas, on August 23, 1989, 2,000,000 people living in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania linked hands to form a human chain almost 400 miles long in a peaceful protest of Soviet rule and in order to demand the restoration of independent statehood;

Whereas, on November 9, 1989, in response to protests that had grown to include over a million people in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, now referred to as the "Peaceful Revolution", Gunter Schabowski, the communist East German Minister of Propaganda, announced that the border would be opened for "private trips abroad";

Whereas, on November 9, 1989, thousands of East Germans streamed into West Berlin, following the opening of checkpoints between the two halves of the divided city and resulting in the days that followed in one of the most momentous events of the 20th century, the tearing down of the Berlin Wall;

Whereas, on November 24, 1989, months of protests by pro-democracy forces in Czechoslovakia led by visionary leader Vaclav Havel resulted in the culmination of the "Velvet Revolution" and the en masse resignation of the entire Czechoslovak ruling Politburo, followed by the resignation of President Gustav Husak on December 10, and a new democratic beginning with the election of President Havel on December 29;

Whereas in November 1989, the first-known post-war public protests in Bulgaria organized by civil rights groups led to the ouster and resignation of Communist Party leader Todor Zhivkov after 34 years in power, and the first free elections since 1946 in Bulgaria the following June;

Whereas, on December 17, 1989, in the town of Timisoara, Romania, citizens protesting against the arrest of a local priest were brutally killed by Romanian security forces under orders of President Ceausescu, causing international outrage and condemnation, and leading to mass protests and escalating violence throughout the country, resulting at the end of the year in the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime and his execution;

Whereas the events of 1989 prove that the will and the desire of millions of people for freedom cannot be forever repressed and that the actions of a few courageous leaders can inspire millions of others to join the inexorable struggle to be free;

Whereas in the past 20 years, most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have become stable, prosperous, and vibrant democracies, with many becoming members

of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU);

Whereas in the past 20 years, the prospect of membership in NATO and the EU has been a major stabilizing force and has helped promote greater peace and prosperity within Europe; and

Whereas there is still much work that needs to be done to overcome the remaining challenges within Europe and to create a Europe, whole, free, and at peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the events of 1989 that helped lead to the end of the Cold War;

(2) congratulates the countries of Central and Eastern Europe who have made great progress in the past 20 years and emerged as strong, vibrant democracies;

(3) expresses strong support and friendship for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and reaffirms its commitment to the solemn obligations set forth in article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(4) welcomes the commitment by the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to keep the door to membership open for all European countries which meet the conditions for accession; and

(5) supports the continued efforts to create a Europe whole, free and at peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

If, on January 1, 1989, anyone had predicted the events that would occur in Central and Eastern Europe during the following 12 months culminating in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, he or she would have been called a hopeless dreamer, a lunatic, or a naive revolutionary. And yet by January 1 of 1990, the region and indeed the whole world had fundamentally changed.

The events of 1989 were indeed remarkable, beginning with the opening of talks between the communist Polish Government and the Solidarity trade union in February and ending with the execution of Romanian dictator Ceausescu on Christmas Day.

They began with a few ripples and became a tidal wave that swept throughout the region, toppling governments and destroying the walls, real and virtual, that had divided the continent of Europe for so many years.

The initial fissures had begun some years before, aided by the actions and policies of the United States and Western Europe, as well as the reform meas-

ures of glasnost and perestroika introduced by Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. But the real cracks that led to the crumbling of the Wall and the entire regime were brought about by the courageous actions of the men and women of Central and Eastern Europe in 1989.

This resolution commemorates those events and those people:

The startling election victory of Solidarity, winning every seat it was allowed to contest in the lower House and 99 of 100 in the Senate;

The unprecedented decision by the Hungarian Government to open the border to Austria, enabling thousands of East Germans to flee to the West;

The amazing 400-mile-long human chain across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, comprising 2 million citizens linking hands to protest Soviet rule and to demand restoration of independent statehood;

The "Velvet Revolution" in Czechoslovakia, which caused the resignation of the communist government and the free election of President Vaclav Havel;

The protests in Bulgaria that led to the end of the 34-year rule of Communist leader Zhivkov and the first free elections since 1946;

The uprising of the people in Romania against the efforts to arrest a popular priest and the brutal killing of innocent protesters that followed, that led to the deposing and the execution of Romanian dictator Ceausescu;

And, of course, the iconic event of 1989, the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and the joyous celebrations of people who were finally free.

Today these countries are important, vibrant, strong democracies, important partners in NATO and the European Union. I am proud to call them our allies and our friends. We have worked together to address the challenges in Afghanistan, the threats posed by terrorists and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the risks to our environment, to energy security and economic well-being. We share the same values and hope for the future.

We still have much work to do to resolve difficult issues remaining within Europe, but 20 years after it was considered inconceivable, the dream of a Europe, whole, free, and at peace is finally within reach.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the remarkable events leading to the end of the Cold War and the creation of a Europe, whole, free, and at peace.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 892 commemorating the extraordinary events in 1989 which led to the end of the Soviet regime's domination over Eastern Europe and those people it held captive within its borders.

As this resolution points out, 1989 was an important and pivotal year for

freedom in Europe. In the course of only 365 days, walls fell, free elections were held, dictators were washed away, and people who had long yearned for freedom crossed barriers and walked into liberty. The trade union Solidarity won its historic election victory leading to the first noncommunist government in Poland since 1945.

Two million people living in the Baltic States linked hands to form a human chain almost 400 miles long in a dramatic, peaceful protest against Soviet rule.

In response to protests that had grown to include over a million people, East Germany opened the border with West Berlin for "private trips abroad"; then thousands of East Germans flooded across the border and the Berlin Wall fell.

The "Velvet Revolution" protests in Czechoslovakia led to a free election of a new democratic government.

Romanian security forces brutally murdered brave Romanians who were protesting the arrest of a local priest, but subsequent mass protests overthrew the communist regime there.

Mr. Speaker, and while I do support this resolution, it might have been an even more important statement by this House if it had clarified more specifically the great importance that membership in the NATO alliance now holds for these countries formerly trapped behind the Iron Curtain.

While this measure indeed reaffirms our commitment to article 5 of the alliance, I would like to point out some disturbing recent incidents involving some of our allies in Eastern Europe which would seem to call for an even stronger statement of the strength and commitment of our alliance.

In April of 2007, the Russian Foreign Minister threatened serious consequences after the Estonian Government moved the site of a Soviet war memorial in Tallinn. Subsequently, Estonian Internet and technological information systems were subjected to large-scale, systematic cyberattacks suspected to have originated in Russia.

Furthermore, Russian officials recently threatened undefined aggressive actions against Poland and the Czech Republic if those states agreed to the deployment by their NATO ally, the United States, of strategic missile defense components on their territory.

In August of 2008, a Russian general stated, "By hosting (missile defense components on its territory), Poland is making itself a target. This is 100 percent certain. It becomes a target for attack. Such targets are destroyed as a first priority."

Recent efforts undertaken by Russia and its state-controlled energy companies to monopolize control over energy supplies to European states have raised concerns over future Russian intentions regarding influence over political processes in those states. Again, this measure would have been a good opportunity to include specific references to those incidents.

The kinds of statements and actions emanating from the Russian Government are extremely serious and they must be viewed with the utmost concern for the sake of security of the countries of Eastern Europe that did work so hard to gain the freedom they finally achieved in 1989, the subject of this resolution.

□ 1745

Overlooking such statements and actions, the measure before us today forgoes the opportunity to send a truly clear and powerful message that we will not ignore statements and actions of that nature aimed at our allies, that their hard-won freedom and security do matter to us, and that we will stand with them against such intimidation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note today's news report concerning comments just made by the Russian Foreign Minister. These statements can only be interpreted as a subtle warning to our Polish ally against allowing any U.S. troops—its NATO ally—being deployed on sovereign Polish territory.

When told that the Polish Foreign Minister had stated that the United States should deploy troops in Central Europe, the Russian Foreign Minister replied, "I'm astounded, because he and I discussed in tiny detail the objectives that Russia pursues with its initiative on a new treaty on European security."

With such comments in mind, let us take note of the serious challenges that our allies in Eastern Europe continue to face today and send a strong message of support against any attempts to threaten or intimidate them.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who is the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I was afraid you were going to leave, Mr. Chairman, before I got to talk to you. I always like to address you when I am down in the well.

You made a comment about my colleague, Mr. KINGSTON, when he said something about our bill being so much smaller. You said, I think it was 10 times bigger because it did 10 times more. It does do a lot more. It spends a lot more. It is 1,990 pages—now don't walk away, I want you to hear this—and each word, each word in the bill is \$2.25 million. Each word, not each page out of 1,990 pages. Each word. And it is going to cost not \$1 trillion but about \$1.3 trillion. And it is going to cause rationing of health care. And it is going to cause a big cut of Medicare and Medicare Advantage.

I see you moving. You are moving toward the door. I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, I love you, but this is not the best bill that I have ever seen. In fact, I think it is a bill—well, he is leaving now. He is going out the door. So, Mr. Chairman, I will just tell you, I would like to take issue with that.

I would like to just say one more thing before you leave, because I want to talk about Ronald Reagan for a minute. When you did your dissertation—hold it. When you did your dissertation, you didn't mention Ronald Reagan and what he did and when he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Now you can go.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I'm sorry. Oh well, he is gone now anyhow.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Ranking Member, Ronald Reagan forced Gorbachev and the Soviet Union to spend money they didn't have, like we are doing right now with that health care bill, spend money they didn't have to build T-55 tanks and weapons to keep up with us in the Cold War, and he forced that country, that Soviet Union, and all of the countries involved, to fall apart. And he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." And I thought at the time, that's a great speech, Mr. President, but it will never happen.

And I went to Namibia to monitor the election in Namibia with former Senator Edwin Muskie about a year and a half later, and we were going to a German beer garden for lunch before the election took place. I walked in, and everybody was holding steins, and I thought it was a big birthday party or wedding party. And I said, What's going on?

And this guy with tears rolling down his cheeks, a German fellow, said, Haven't you heard? The Berlin Wall is coming down.

I got tears in my eyes and said, I'll be darned; he got it done.

Ronald Reagan is one of the greatest Presidents this country has ever had. I'm serious. I really mean that. He did whatever it took to deal with the Soviet Union, and he won.

But not only that, Ronald Reagan said if we ever move toward government control of health care, it would be a strong move toward socialist control of everybody in this country. I'm paraphrasing him, but he actually said that. When Ronald Reagan came in, instead of moving toward more government control over our lives, he said instead of raising taxes and creating more government, we are going to cut taxes and give people more disposable income and we are going to give businesses more money so they can expand. And what happened, we ended up with the longest period of economic recovery that I can remember and probably in our history.

So the Obama administration comes in and they take over the car industry, the financial industry, the banking industry. They want to take over the energy industry, and now they want to take over 18 percent of our entire society's economy, and that is health care. It is going to be destruction of much of what we believe in and the way we live

in this country. We don't need socialism in America, and that is what it is.

And if you say that is a pretty strong word, go to the dictionary and look and see what socialism is. It is government control over people's lives. It is government regulation over everything.

And this health care bill is an absolute disaster. Seniors are going to see rationing of health care first, and then others will. They will see the cuts in Medicare and Medicare Advantage, \$500 billion. They are going to see all kinds of problems that they don't realize right now.

I just hope, I just hope that the people of this country who appeared on the mall yesterday by the thousands will continue to fight, Mr. Speaker, will continue to fight to stop this bill before it gets passed into law. Because it is going to change everybody's life, and it is going to mortgage the future of our kids and our grandkids. Inflation, higher taxes, all of the things that we don't want.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

I want to talk about the cold war that has been created in the House of Representatives over this health care bill. This is my 11th year here, and I have never seen this House so divided and vitriolic. It is intense around here, and it doesn't have to be this way. We have heard speech after speech from my friends on the other side of the aisle saying that we, because we oppose government involvement in our health care and a \$1.2 trillion price tag, that somehow we want people to die, we don't want there to be or somehow we support the preexisting exclusion in contracts or caps or insurance dumping.

Frankly, when you get past that level of vitriolic leadership-supported rhetoric, what you find out is that we actually agree on a lot between the two sides. We just haven't been able to actually discuss a real bill between us because the Republicans have been shut out. We are angry about that. I think that is the root or part of the problem with this health care bill, is that we have not been involved in its shaping at all.

For example, the bill that I supported or drafted and is up in Rules Committee and may be heard at 1, 2 or 3 in the morning, I guess, specifically forbids the use of a preexisting clause in a contract, that eliminates the caps that have been put on, either yearly or lifetime, that prevents the dumping. These are the type of things that we tend to all agree on, but we can't work together to get those done that have been identified as part of the problem.

Another part of the problem that I think we all agree on is the high price of the policies in health care in general

prevents many people from being able to access or purchase health insurance. Therefore, not being able to access as well as many others the health care system. But there are ways to deal with that as well.

The GOP alternative, and the one I put in, allows people to be packaged together in large groups. We attack the underlying costs of health care, and we make it more affordable and policies available to a lot more people by doing that. Mine is a replication, an exact identical twin of what we have as Federal employees and Members of Congress. And that is 9 million people.

I agree with the insurance exchange idea where you can put maybe 15 million people that are uninsured, don't have access to one large group and let the private sector compete for them. This has been found by most economists to really dramatically reduce the costs by buying in bulk in the competition, and those two principles are embraced in the alternatives.

But I want to break down a little bit where we start separating, because really the real problems between the philosophical basis for our bill boils down to the public option. There's a public option where it involves the government in health care. It sets up, and if you read the bill and understand how it works, you see where we will have a single-payer, totally-run-by-the-government health care system within 10 years. I oppose that. I ran on individual liberties, not growing government. That is where we are going to hopefully have the debate tomorrow, instead of the rhetoric that we have heard to date.

This is not only on the principles of big government versus limited government, individuals and patient rights versus big government and centralized leadership over health care, but it is also going to be a debate about \$1.2 trillion or more. And even some of this, there is additional costs that are even hidden. Let me just give you one before I yield back my time.

In order to help insure the lower-income people right above the poverty mark, this bill tomorrow moves Medicaid from 100 percent of poverty as the eligibility cutoff to 150 percent. Why is that? Why do I say that is a trick? Well, it is good that they get uninsured, but ours would allow them access and probably a little bit of support to be able to help them. What this does then is shifts those costs to the State. Because Medicaid, most of the dollars for Medicaid people are borne by the State. So the price tag for this bill is actually higher.

One of the things that we are going to hear is, yes, they soak the rich, which involves a lot of small businesses, but the middle-income people are the ones that are going to get hit when they put these burdens on the States. When the States, like Nebraska, have to come up with tens of millions of more dollars at a time when we are in a special session trying to

figure out how to balance that budget, the reality is they are going to have to raise taxes, and that is sales taxes and property taxes. So this bill trickles down to the local levels by forcing the States to have to expand their Medicaid coverage, hiding the costs, the true costs of this bill, but also is going to increase the local taxes. I think that is unfair and I think the American public needs to know about some of these little nuances or even tricks, as I would call them.

So I stand up in opposition to the health care bill; and when hopefully this bill is defeated or can't get the votes, then we can come together in a bipartisan way and fix the problems that we all agree on and we can actually help the American public, as opposed to creating this large new bureaucracy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McMAHON) will control the time of the gentleman from California.

There was no objection.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I request to know how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 16½ minutes.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I had planned on doing a 1-minute on the Berlin Wall. I think the 20th anniversary of the falling of the Berlin Wall is a historic occasion. It is a story about freedom and oppression and people having the opportunity to have that freedom.

I had the opportunity to visit Berlin before the wall came down and after the wall came down.

□ 1800

The contrast in East Berlin and West Berlin, when the wall was up, was about as stark as the debate is from this side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle. There was the idea of light and frivolity and freedom and action and caring—and just life on one side, and the other side of the wall was dark, negative, gray and repressive.

When I traveled over there, it was just startling for me to experience it. Kurfurstendamm, which is the main street in West Berlin, was a street of people and musicians and buskers on the street and wonderful food and all kinds of life and freedom, and the other side was dark. As soon as the people went home in these communist-style, Stalinesque architecture buildings, they went home, they were not out, there was no nightlife.

The waitress that waited on us in an East German, East Berlin restaurant was almost afraid to talk to us. She yearned to visit the West and to visit around the world, didn't know if she would ever have that opportunity. We

tipped her handsomely, and I hope she used that money at some time to make her trip across to the free world.

When we went through Checkpoint Charlie, I gave the guard there—and it was one of the most ominous moments that I've experienced seeing a combination of a police person, a border patrol person, a German—and I say that in all the best respect to Germans, just a characterization thereof, the same for police and border guards—and a communist checking you through Checkpoint Charlie. It was rather stern and official-like and intimidating. I slipped him an Elvis Presley swizzle stick, which he kind of looked askance and took his hand and got it into his hand and stuck it in his pocket and never moved his eyes from looking forward. I was happy to pass Elvis along.

While I agree with the gentleman who spoke earlier about President Reagan and some of the things he did in spending to help defeat the Soviet Union and bring down that wall, a lot of what brought down that wall was the people and their yearning for freedom, which was expressed through Radio Free Europe and other manners in which the German youth heard American music and saw American life. They saw blue jeans and they heard rock and roll, they heard Elvis, they heard the Beatles, they heard all kinds of people. Eventually that wall came down and they heard Pink Floyd; Pink Floyd played and the world listened and the wall came down.

When I returned years later to Berlin, I drove through the Brandenburg Gate, which I don't think I was supposed to, but I did. And that was fun, I could do it, it was freedom.

I thought back upon the last time I had been in East Berlin and you couldn't do anything; it was such an ominous state. East Berlin now is a fun, thriving, great place with great restaurants and art scenes and freedom and people. It has really become more happening than the KuDAM or Kreuzberg or the other areas in the West which are happening as well. But it was a great day when that wall came down.

The Newseum has three or four portions of the wall here in Washington. I went there last week. I would encourage everybody, Mr. Speaker, to go to the Newseum, which is a great museum. It's a museum about history in America and the world, not just the news media, but about freedom. The reason they've got the Berlin Wall there is because of that freedom in the First Amendment, the freedom of press, the freedom of expression, and the freedom of association. You can learn about that and value it.

You look at that wall and you see pictures of the people who died trying to get across, and coming up with ways to tunnel their way under the wall or to leap or to create some type of flying machines, and all the different ways, being inside cars or under cars and taken to freedom. Many died, some

made it. It's a great tribute to people's yearnings for freedom and their desires to overcome the barriers put before them by repressive regimes.

So I wanted to speak today because that was a momentous occasion in my life to see the Berlin Wall, to go into East Berlin and see the difference between our type of government and the Soviet repression, and then to go back later and see the joy that is now in East Berlin and the freedom that has been allowed to flourish.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing the resolution, I thank the lady for bringing the resolution, and I encourage everybody to go to the Newseum and to cherish their freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, just to close on our side, I thank my good friend, the esteemed chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. BERMAN, for introducing this resolution.

As important as it is to pass feel-good resolutions, I think that this resolution would have been strengthened if we would have talked about the difficult realities that we are confronting now with Russia and other states that are threatening the stability and the democracy and the integrity of those countries who fought long and hard for their independence, for their freedom, and for their democracy.

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

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would also echo the words of the gentlelady from Florida and all of those who spoke on the relevant issue this evening of the resolution which honors the incredible accomplishments that transpired in 1989, the fall of the wall, the opening of the gate, and the spirit of freedom that blew through Eastern Europe.

And it was not the result of one individual or one group of people. Hundreds of thousands of people yearned and thirsted for freedom for decades, and it finally came in the great fruition of that physical breaking down of that wall.

We heard tonight about the memory of Ronald Reagan, and we are reminded of what a great role he played in ordering Mr. Gorbachev to open the gate and tear down the wall. I would close by only reminding all of those in this Chamber tonight that I think if he were here, Ronald Reagan would be a little disappointed in those who come in this great august body at a time that we are honoring such a momentous occasion in the history of our world and use it to discuss things, though important, not relevant, and to seem to do so for political advantage rather than honoring the memory of those who lost their lives fighting and questing for freedom. They are an inspiration to all of us, and they should be for all time.

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 California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 892.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JORDAN

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 833) honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 833

Whereas the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieved independence on May 25, 1946;

Whereas the United States recognized Jordan as an independent state in a White House announcement on January 31, 1949;

Whereas diplomatic relations and the American Legation in Jordan were established on February 18, 1949, when United States diplomat Wells Stabler presented his credentials as Chargé d'Affaires in Amman;

Whereas for 60 years, the United States and Jordan have enjoyed a close relationship, spanning a gamut of issues from the search for peace in the Middle East, the socioeconomic development of the Jordanian people, and the threat to both posed by al Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations;

Whereas King Hussein charted a moderate path for his country during his many years on the throne;

Whereas the United States has been Jordan's strongest international partner for over 50 years;

Whereas throughout his reign, King Hussein looked for opportunities to realize his dream of a more peaceful Middle East by working to solve intra-Arab disputes and engaging with successive Israeli Prime Ministers in the search for peace;

Whereas King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the historic Jordan-Israel peace treaty in 1994, ending nearly 50 years of a formal state of war between the neighboring countries;

Whereas the United States lost a close friend and a crucial partner when King Hussein passed away in 1999;

Whereas King Hussein was succeeded by his son, King Abdullah II, who has continued his father's work to improve the lives of the Jordanian people while also seeking to bring peace to the region;