MALONEY changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

H7686

Messrs. McHENRY and HOLDEN changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona). The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX. this 15minute vote on passage will be followed by a 5-minute vote on approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 212, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 477]

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changed his vote Mr. GOHMERT from "aye" to "no."

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June 26, 2009

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEINER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

THANKING STAFF INVOLVED IN PASSAGE OF ENERGY BILL

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WAXMAN. I would like to take a moment to thank the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Congressional Budget Office for their hard work on this bill. The efforts and dedication of Tim Brown, Warren Burke, Alison Bell, Pope Barrow and their colleagues in the Office of Legislative Counsel were indispensable in writing this wide-ranging and historic legislation. Similarly, Suzanne Mehlman, Dan Hoople and their colleagues at the Congressional Budget Office were essential in analyzing the complex financial and scoring issues associated with this bill. Both the staff of the Legislative Counsel and the CBO deserve to be thanked and congratulated for their outstanding work over the many late nights and weekends. We are very grateful for their service to the Nation.

I would like to add my appreciation to the fantastic job that our committee, subcommittee and select committee staffs have done in getting this legislation before the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague on this legislation, Congressman ED MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank everyone who worked on this legislation, all of the Members on both sides of the aisle. But as Chairman WAXMAN just said, this took an enormous amount of work by a lot of staffers over a sustained, intense period of time. And I want to thank all of you for everything that you have done to make today possible.

I think you really do deserve a round of applause for the tremendous work that you have done. It is your victory as much as any Member, and we thank you for it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Reclaiming my time, I would like to read from page 333 of the manager's amendment and to indicate my gratitude to our staff director Phil Barnett; to the environmental staff on the committee, Greg Dotson, Lorie Schmidt, Alexandra Teitz, John

Jimison, Jeff Baran, Alex Barron, Ben Hengst, Melissa Bez, and Rob Cobbs.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I would like to thank Joel Beauvais, Michael Goo, Danielle Baussan, Ana Unruh-Cohen. I would also like to thank Michal Freedhoff, Morgan Gray, Jonathan Phillips, Eban Burnham-Snyder, Jackie Chenault, Jeff Sharp, Ali Brodsky, Camilla Bausch, and especially Gerry Waldron and Jeff Duncan, along with Shannon Kenny, who is still sitting over there as well.

All of you were fantastic, and it's just a historic achievement. We thank you all so much for everything that you do.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to add our appreciation to Matt Wiener, our staff assistant on this legislation.

I feel empowered because I only asked for 1 minute, and I have talked far more than 1 minute. I guess that's become a new tradition in the House, but I don't want to abuse it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON H.R. 3081, THE DE-PARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PRO-GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–187) on the bill (H.R. 3081) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 3082, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-188) on the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLU-TION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESI-DENT

Mr. CONYERS, from the Committee on Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 111–189) on the resolution (H. Res. 537) requesting that the President and directing that the Attorney General transmit to the House of Representatives all information in their possession relating to specific communications regarding detainees and foreign persons suspected of terrorism, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1930

SUPPORTING PRAGUE CON-FERENCE ON HOLOCAUST ERA ASSETS

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 89) supporting the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Whereas the Government of the Czech Republic will host a Conference on Holocaust Era Assets in Prague from June 26, 2009, through June 30, 2009;

Whereas the Prague Conference will facilitate a review of the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets, which had participation of 44 nations, 13 nongovernmental organizations, scholars, and Holocaust survivors;

Whereas a high level United States delegation participated in the Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets led by Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, Federal Judge Abner Mikva, senior diplomats, and a bipartisan group of Members of Congress;

Whereas then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright delivered the key note address at the Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets, articulating the United States commitment to Holocaust survivors and urging conference participants to "chart a course for finishing the job of returning or providing compensation for stolen Holocaust assets to survivors and the families of Holocaust victims.";

Whereas the Prague Conference is expected to take stock of issues agreed on at the Washington Conference, including financial assets, bank accounts, insurance issues, and other financial property;

Whereas the Prague Conference is expected to include a special session on social programs for Holocaust survivors and other victims of Nazi atrocities;

Whereas the Prague Conference is expected to include working groups on Holocaust education, remembrance and research, looted art, Judaica, Jewish cultural property, and immovable property, including both private, religious, and communal property;

Whereas United States participation and leadership at the highest level is critically important to ensure a successful outcome of the Prague Conference;

Whereas Congress supports further inclusion of Holocaust survivors and their advocates in the Prague Conference planning and proceedings; Whereas the United States strongly supports an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas many Holocaust survivors lack the means for even the most basic necessities, including proper housing and health care;

Whereas the United States and the international community has a moral obligation to uphold and defend the plight and dignity of Holocaust survivors and to ensure their well-being;

Whereas for the Prague Conference is a critical forum to effectively address the increasing economic, social, housing, and health care needs of Holocaust survivors in their waning years;

Whereas President Barack Obama, during his visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel in July 2008, stated "Let our children come here and know this history so they can add their voices to proclaim 'never again.' And may we remember those who perished, not only as victims but also as individuals who hoped and loved and dreamed like us and who have become symbols of the human spirit."; and

Whereas the Prague Conference may represent the last opportunity for the international community to address outstanding Holocaustera issues: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and objectives of the 2009 Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets:

(2) applauds the Government of the Czech Republic for its decision to host the Prague Conference and its unwavering commitment to address out standing Holocaust-era issues;

(3) expresses strong support for the decision to make the economic, social, housing, and health care needs of Holocaust survivors a major focus of the Prague Conference;

(4) urges the countries in Central and Eastern Europe, which have not already done so, to return looted and confiscated properties to their rightful owners or, where restitution is not possible, pay equitable compensation to the rightful owners in accordance with principles of justice and in an expeditious manner that is just, transparent, and fair;

(5) calls on the President to send a highlevel official, such as the Secretary of State, to represent the United States at the Prague Conference; and

(6) urges other invited nations to participate at a similarly high level.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 89, which supports the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets. From June 26, 2009, through June 30, 2009, the Government of the Czech Republic will host a Conference in Prague of utmost importance, which will focus exclusively on the reparation of Holocaust Era Assets. The Prague Conference will facilitate a review of the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets, which had participation of 44 nations, 13 nongovernmental organizations, scholars, and Holocaust survivors.

In his internationally recognized and critically acclaimed novel, "Night," Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Weisel so chillingly depicted the Holocaust in the following vivid description:

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths