

I am convinced that the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia have enough goodwill to give peace one last chance and prevail against the spirit of hate between our countries.

That is why my Presidency began with a peace plan and a one-sided cease-fire, which will last a long 10 days, again, paying a very high price of the killing Ukrainian soldiers, hitting Ukrainian planes, and hundreds wounded. We keep this cease-fire a long 10 days.

Unfortunately, this was not accepted by Russian separatists. That is why we are holding our fire now. That is why two armies stand before each other without massively shedding each other's blood. And if things work out right, they will not have to.

I am in daily contact with the leaders of the world, including the leader of Russia.

The dialogue is not easy, believe me. Over these last months, too much goodwill was destroyed. Too much hate was generated, naturally and artificially. Too many people have died.

Based on that, I feel there is a growing mutual recognition that enough is enough. The bloodshed must stop. The pandemic of hate must be localized and contained.

As President, looking in the eyes of the mothers and wives of the dead soldiers and civilians, believe me, this is my hardest duty.

No one can take it lightly. Today, it is my burden and the burden of President Putin. As he lit a candle in a Moscow church to remember those who perished in this war last week, I did the same in Kiev.

And from the bottom of my heart, I deeply, profoundly wish that church candles would be the only things burned in Ukraine from now on.

□ 1050

Over the last months, Ukrainians have shown that they have the courage to stand up to the most powerful enemy. We will never obey or bend to the aggressor. We are ready to fight, but we are a people of peace, and we extend the hand of peace to Russia and to the Russian-inspired separatists.

I am ready to do my utmost to avoid a further escalation and casualties, even at this point, when the war has already started feeding on itself.

Sooner or later, I am absolutely sure peace will return to Ukrainian homes; and, despite the insanity of this war, I am convinced that peace can be achieved sooner rather than later. I am ready to offer the separatists more rights than any part of Ukraine has ever had in the history of the nation.

I am ready to discuss anything—Ukrainian independence, Ukrainian territory, Ukrainian sovereignty—except one thing, Ukraine's dismemberment. I am confident that, if this war is about the rights and not about the geopolitical ambitions, a solution must—and I am sure will—be found.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 1991, independence came to Ukraine at a very

low cost and peacefully; yet the more real this independence became, the higher grew its cost. Today, that cost is as high as it gets.

While fighting this war, we learn to value independence and to recognize true friends, and at no point do we ever forget why we need independence. We need it to have a country worthy of the dreams of our ancestors. We need a state that would give its citizens a life of dignity, fairness, and equal opportunity.

To reach this goal, we will have to root out the sins that drained Ukraine's potential for such a long time and made the two decades of independence a time of lost opportunities. We are painfully aware of these sins—largely inherited from the era of Soviet Union decay—corruption, bureaucracy, and the self-preserving cynicism of political elites.

There is a saying that each people deserve the government it gets. Ukraine's two revolutions within a single decade show that Ukraine as a people is much better than Ukraine as a government. It shows that Ukraine needs and deserves deep and profound modernization in absolutely all spheres, of the kind that brought economic success to Poland.

Given the current situation in and around Ukraine, the implementation of comprehensive reforms is not a matter of Ukraine succeeding but of Ukraine surviving. Deeply aware of that, I gave my voters this pledge, and I will stick to it.

With the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement signed and ratified simultaneously in the Ukrainian and the European Parliament, we have a clear path of reforms before us. Never in the history of the European Union was there a document that was paid for so dearly, at such incredible human cost and sacrifice.

This sacrifice, the memory of the hundreds dead and wounded, will be one more reason and incentive to hold to this unique chance to make Ukraine live up to its potential.

Ukraine needs more than governance and noncorrupt public administration. Ukraine needs to delegate more powers to the local communities. Ukraine needs to rely more on its strong, vibrant, and dynamic civil society.

Ukraine is building a new model of managing its state and economic affairs, where merit and hard work are duly rewarded. Ukraine needs know-how, technology, and new startups to become better integrated with the global economy. And, for all that, we need America's help.

In particular, I ask the Congress to create a special fund to support investments of American companies in Ukraine and to help us with reforming our economy and our justice system. I assure you that all aid received from the West will be utilized by noncorrupt institutions and that the new generation of officials will make sure the funds are distributed effectively.

Ladies and gentlemen, we called our revolution the revolution of dignity. Human dignity was the driving force that took people to the streets. This revolution must result in an education of dignity, an economy of dignity, and a society of dignity.

Human dignity is what makes Ukraine's heart beat and Ukraine's mind look toward a new and better version of itself. Human dignity is the one thing we have to oppose the barbarism of those attacking us.

It is the one thing that we can set against the sea of lies in which the highly sophisticated and well-funded machine of Russian propaganda is trying to drown the truth about Ukrainian democracy.

In the coming years, too many things will depend on Ukrainian success. This success will be determined by Ukraine's new leadership, by its new political generation, and by the newly mobilized society of Ukraine. Ukraine truly makes a difference.

By supporting Ukraine, you support a new future for Europe and the entire free world. By supporting Ukraine, you support a nation that has chosen freedom in the most cynical of times.

In Ukraine, you don't build a democracy; it already exists. You just defend it. This is exactly what makes Ukraine unique and its struggle deeply and profoundly different from any other conflicts on the world scene. This is what makes Ukraine the ultimate test of adherence to the ideal of freedom.

"Live free or die" was one of the mottos of the American Revolutionary War.

"Live free or die" was the spirit of the revolutionary Maidan during the dramatic winter months of 2014, with the significant presence of the Members of the United States Congress, and we thank you for that.

"Live free or die" are the words of Ukrainian soldiers standing on the line of freedom in this war.

"Live free" must be the answer with which Ukraine comes out of this war.

"Live free" must be the message Ukraine and America send to the world, while standing together in this time of enormous challenge.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m., His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1201

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON) at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, AMERICAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR LOWER COSTS AND MORE AMERICAN JOBS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 727 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 727

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4) to make revisions to Federal law to improve the conditions necessary for economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order

against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from September 22, 2014, through November 11, 2014,—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering a rule for the consideration of two bills, a package to boost America's energy production and a package to jump-start our American economy. Combined, these bills will help get America back to work with an America that we can afford.

First, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2, the American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act.

This bill would accomplish three important goals for the American family: first, it would create up to 1.2 million good-paying jobs for Americans who are out of work or who are underemployed; second, it would lower—it would lower—energy prices in America; third, it would draw our country closer to an important goal that we should all share, and that is American energy independence.

Let's start by identifying the problem. The facts of the case are that the Federal Government is standing in the way of an American energy boom. That

means they are standing in the way of American progress and progress for Americans to have jobs and a better life.

For over 6 years, the American people have waited for this administration to approve construction of the Keystone pipeline. Unfortunately, the approval process has been marred by indecision and unnecessary delays.

First, opponents of the pipeline argue that it would be an environmental disaster; since then, virtually all of the major environmental concerns surrounding the project have been not only addressed, but debugged.

Second, opponents of the pipeline argue that it was unsafe; yet study after study after study have shown the pipeline to be safe and an effective means to transport much-needed energies for America's resources.

The opponents of the Keystone pipeline have run out of excuses, but they continue to delay a decision.

Then there is the Department of Energy, which has been far too slow in approving applications to export liquefied natural gas. The Department has decided on only nine applications submitted to it for the last 4 years.

Twenty-six applications still await action—many, many of which have been delayed by this administration for purely political reasons—another reason to say they are getting in the way of Americans having jobs today. They are getting in the way of American independence for energy.

As a result of these delays, America is squandering an energy boom that could make America, which is the largest producer of natural gas, even better and add to the American economy.

The Department's broken application process destroys good-paying jobs and hampers our economic growth. The energy revolution already supports 1.7 million high-paying, great jobs in America, and we could add an additional 1.3 million new American high-paying jobs by 2020, but only if the Federal Government will get out of the way of its development.

It also allows our international competitors, such as Russia and Iran, not to be dominant in the marketplace and not to use domination for political power and economic power over other countries in Europe.

The Federal Government has ruled 87 percent of our offshore acreage currently off-limits to energy production. Even worse, the administration doesn't have a plan to develop these resources. In fact, the administration's offshore leasing plan for the next 3 years offers no new areas for lease and includes the lowest number of lease sales in history.

This administration's no new drilling policies have cost Americans jobs. We have forfeited revenue that would help us pay down our national debt and denied access to American oil and natural gas that would lessen dependence on foreign sources. More importantly, the American consumer continues to pay higher prices at the pump, nearly