

gas attack. Of the 92 victims of that attack on that day, 23 were children.

Mr. Speaker, in 2016, efforts to establish a lasting cease-fire failed, resulting in an aggressive campaign by Syrian and Russian air assets against eastern Aleppo. U.N. officials described that assault as “crimes of historic proportions.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1677 “Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017.”

This bill, introduced by my colleague, Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, uses sanctions to put pressure on the Syrian government and anyone supporting it to stop committing war crimes against humanity.

I support this legislation for its important and necessary purpose to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

The Syrian government, empowered with support from Iran and Russia, has pursued a strategy of targeting civilians to eliminate any opposition to its rule, including arresting anyone who opposes it.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has reported the deaths of 60,000 people in prisons since the start of the conflict.

The Syrian government is the main aggressor in a conflict that has resulted in at least 400,000 dead and 14 million Syrians displaced; between 2011 and 2015, the Syrian Network for Human Rights attributed 96 percent of civilian deaths to the Syrian regime.

Additionally, President Bashar al-Assad has blocked United Nations humanitarian aid from reaching the intended recipients.

Who is Caesar? Caesar, who uses the pseudonym to remain anonymous as a way to protect his family, defected from the Syrian military in 2013.

He worked as a crime scene photographer for the Assad government after joining the military, years before the current conflict began.

As the conflict escalated, so did the number of bodies he would photograph each day.

Photographing the torture and rising death began to change his attitude towards the regime and in 2013, with help from the opposition, he faked his own death and defected from the Syrian military.

When he fled in August 2013, Caesar had collected over 53,000 photographs of detainees who had been tortured and killed.

He handed these photographs over to an anti-government political group, the Syrian National Movement, who then distributed the photographs to other groups, including Human Rights Watch (HRW).

With these photographs, HRW “found evidence of widespread torture, starvation, beatings, and disease in Syrian government detention facilities.”

With the conflict in Syria in its fifth year, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bill intended to punish the Assad regime and its supporters and based it on both Caesar's photographs and his testimony in front of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs this past July.

The photographs and testimony show a clear connection between the reported human rights violations and the Assad government, legitimizing the bill and giving clear evidence to the international courts if President Assad stands trial for international war crimes.

H.R. 1677 is intended to sanction both the Syrian regime and any actors, what the bill refers to as a “foreign person,” who support its human rights violations by imposing sanctions on them.

This support can be in any capacity, such as economic or military support.

H.R. 1677 is important and necessary as the United States cannot sit in silence while tens of thousands innocent civilians are slaughtered by Assad's authoritative regime.

Assad's crimes are not only against humanity but also against democracy, and I fully support legislation aiming to stop these atrocities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President shall immediately disclose his tax return information to Congress and the American people.

Whereas, in the United States' system of checks and balances, Congress has a responsibility to hold the Executive Branch of government to the highest standard of transparency to ensure the public interest is placed first;

Whereas, according to the Tax History Project, every President since Gerald Ford has disclosed their tax return information to the public;

Whereas, tax returns provide an important baseline disclosure because they contain highly instructive information including whether the candidate paid taxes, what they own, what they have borrowed and from whom, whether they have made any charitable donations, and whether they have taken advantage of tax loopholes;

Whereas, disclosure of the President's tax returns could help those investigating Russian influence in the 2016 election understand the President's financial ties to the Russian Federation and Russian citizens, including debts owed and whether he shares any partnership interests, equity interests, joint ventures or licensing agreements with Russia or Russians;

Whereas, the President fired FBI Director James Comey last week, whose FBI was investigating whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 election;

Whereas, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who made the recommendation to fire Director Comey, during sworn testimony ne-

glected to mention his contacts with the Russian ambassador and recused himself from anything involving the Russian investigation;

Whereas, Senate Russia investigators have requested information from the Treasury Department's criminal investigation division, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, which handles cases of money laundering, for information related to President Trump, his top officials and campaign aides. FinCEN has been investigating allegations of foreign money-laundering through purchases of U.S. real estate;

Whereas, the President's tax returns would show us whether he has foreign bank accounts and how much profit he receives from his ownership in myriad partnerships;

Whereas, the President hired a law firm to send a letter to Senator Lindsey Graham to fight suggestions he has Russian business ties; this letter left open the question whether Mr. Trump or his firms received Russian income or loans or derived income from Russian-linked partnerships.

Whereas, Donald Trump Jr. said the Trump Organization saw money “pouring in from Russia” and that “Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets.”

Whereas, the White House will not confirm whether the President has filed a 2016 tax return;

Whereas, Congress gave itself the authority to review an individual's tax returns to investigate and reveal possible conflicts of interest of executive branch officials involved in the Teapot Dome scandal.

Whereas, President Donald Trump's executive order on the Review of designations under the Antiquities Act has directed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review national monuments that presidents have designated or expanded since 1996.

Whereas, this review was praised by industry groups who could benefit financially from oil, gas and mining and condemned by environmental organizations concerned this review will scrap or scale back critical federal designation to protect tribal and historic lands.

Whereas, the American people are in the dark to knowing if this review was started to justify selling or leasing public lands to private corporations that could enrich the President or his business partners without reviewing the President's tax returns.

Whereas, it has been reported that federal prosecutors have issued grand jury subpoenas to associates of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn seeking business records as part of the ongoing probe into Russian involvement in the 2016 election;

Whereas, according to his 2016 candidate filing with the Federal Election Commission, the President has 564 financial positions in companies located in the United States and around the world;

Whereas, against the advice of ethics attorneys and the Office of Government Ethics, the President has refused to divest his ownership stake in his businesses; and can still withdraw funds at any time from the trust of which he is the sole beneficiary;

Whereas, the Emoluments Clause was included in the U.S. Constitution for the express purpose of preventing federal officials from accepting any “present, Emolument, Office, or Title . . . from any King, Prince, or foreign state”;

Whereas, the most signed petition on the White House website calls for the release of the President's tax return information to verify compliance with the Emoluments Clause, with 1 million, 94 thousand signatures as of date of this resolution;

Whereas, the Chairmen of the Ways and Means Committee, Joint Committee on Taxation, and Senate Finance Committee have

the authority to request the President's tax returns under Section 6103 of the tax code;

Whereas, the Joint Committee on Taxation reviewed the tax returns of President Richard Nixon in 1974 and made the information public;

Whereas, the Ways and Means Committee used IRC 6103 authority in 2014 to make public the confidential tax information of 51 taxpayers;

Whereas, the American people have the right to know whether or not their President is operating under conflicts of interest related to international affairs, tax reform, government contracts, or otherwise: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives shall—

1. Immediately request the tax return information of Donald J. Trump for tax years 2006 through 2015 for review in closed executive session by the Committee on Ways and Means, as provided under Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code, and vote to report the information therein to the full House of Representatives.

2. Support transparency in government and the longstanding tradition of Presidents and Presidential candidates disclosing their tax returns.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from New Jersey wish to present argument on the parliamentary question whether the resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House?

Mr. PASCRELL. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the stunning conflicts of interest are piling up as the President, his family, and his friends profit in their personal business endeavors while serving in public office.

Under rule IX, clause 1, questions of the privileges of the House are "those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings." There is nothing more of a threat to the integrity of this House than ignoring our duty to provide a check and balance to the executive branch. To restore the dignity of the House, we must use our authority to request President Trump's tax returns and begin to give the American people the transparency they deserve. That is what we should be giving them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is evidence time. Today there is in The Wall Street Journal an article entitled, "Russian State-Run Bank Financed Deal Involving Trump Hotel Partner." It is a very interesting article, I advise, and I want to put it into the RECORD with your permission.

Mr. Speaker, a letter was sent just recently from Mr. Trump's lawyers to Mr. Trump and then on to Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. That letter was supposed to be an explanation of the President of the United States' involvement in the finances and vice versa of Russia and President Trump. It does not in any manner, shape, or form, Mr. Speaker, go into any partnership which may exist. There is nothing about that.

There is nothing about the Russian state-run bank financing a deal involving Mr. Trump's hotel partner in Toronto.

Number three, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN as it is called, which is part of the Treasury Department but independent—indeed—has independent investigative powers. They are looking into the money laundering in that situation. They are already investigating that with these Russian oligarchs—very interesting.

Also we know of what happened—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's remarks must be confined to the question of order. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. PASCRELL. Well, I would like to know, Mr. Speaker—I am sure you would, Mr. Speaker—how foreign investments have enriched the President of the United States. That is the only way we are going to find out the conflicts of interest—the only way.

So I have heard some House leaders argue that the House should not concern itself with things outside of its control. But section 6103 of the IRS Code is very much within the control of the House, if you have read it, giving specific responsibility to the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and the American people are demanding the Congress request the President's tax returns be exercised for several reasons.

Mr. Trump has not divested himself from his businesses as was recommended by the Office of Government Ethics.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is relevant if we look at what was produced—remember, it is evidence time—what was produced on January 21, 2009, the ethics commitments by executive branch personnel and what has been committed and produced under this administration. They have laughed at Mr. Shaub, who is the ethics commission chairman. They have laughed at him because it is almost like Cornelius Vanderbilt: You have the law; I have the power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair will hear argument only on whether this resolution qualifies under the rule—

Mr. PASCRELL. On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On the question of order.

Mr. PASCRELL. I'm sorry to interrupt.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will only hear—

Mr. PASCRELL. On a question of privilege—I am talking about the privilege of this House. I am talking about the privilege of Republicans and Democrats. We are all alike. We are all equal. Nobody is better than anybody else.

What I am saying to you tonight, Mr. Speaker, is that this goes to the very heart of the issue and why this is a

privileged resolution because we have a right to know, we have a right to uphold the integrity of this institution—everybody—not just some.

Mr. Trump has not divested himself from his businesses as was recommended by the Office of Government Ethics. We need to see how our President—our President—would personally benefit from changes to our Tax Code. Tax Code changes proposed by his administration could lower his own personal tax bill by tens of millions of dollars. The American people have a right to know that.

We have learned that earlier this year the President apparently asked Mr. Comey to cease his investigation of Trump National Security Advisor Flynn. In a surprise move last week, Mr. Trump fired the Director of the FBI.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded that remarks must be confined to the question of order.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am saying here and very specifically, we have no way of knowing whether Mr. Trump or his firms have received Russian income. It is an insult to the integrity of this House—Republicans and Democrats alike. We need to know this. We need to know that the President of the United States is beyond question in his objectivity with any nation, and particularly those who are pretty shaky in relationship with, like Russia.

A certified letter from paid attorneys that actually confirms the President, in fact, does have financial ties to Russia does nothing to assuage these concerns.

The legislative branch has the responsibility—it has the authority—to check the executive branch, and section 6103(f)(1) is very clear, very distinct, the privilege of the House—the privilege of the Tax Code—which allows for an examination of the tax returns, the authority put in place specifically so Congress could examine conflicts of interest in the executive following the Teapot Dome scandal. As I mentioned before, the possible sale of public lands under this administration is not very different than the biggest scandal of the 20th century at Teapot Rock, Wyoming.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more of a threat to the integrity of this distinguished—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has heard the gentleman's argument and is prepared to rule.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have only 2 more minutes. May I finish?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman confines his remarks to the question of order, the gentleman may conclude his argument.

Mr. PASCRELL. I am confining my remarks to the question of privileges which I said last night. Mr. Speaker, I will not yield on that issue. That is all I am doing—no more, no less. This is not a court. All I am saying is putting forth the rationale behind the resolution which I have put forth today—put forth yesterday and was read today.

We have nothing but evidence to justify an examination, Mr. Speaker. This is not hot air. If and when such conflicts are revealed, I do not want to say to our constituents that we had the power to review these conflicts, but we did nothing. I for one do not want the integrity—my integrity, the integrity of my colleagues, and the integrity of this House—to be demeaned by such a shameful failure. That goes to the very heart in their own words of what of a privileged resolution is.

To restore the dignity of the House, we must use our authority to request President Trump's tax returns and give the American people the transparency they deserve.

My concluding statement is this, Mr. Speaker: I mentioned Vanderbilt before because that is a very powerful statement he made—a very rich guy. He felt he could do anything: The law? What law? I am all the power.

This is not the United States of America, this is not our democracy, and this is not what Republicans and Democrats have fought for since they have been in this House and before. I stand with us in only getting what we deserve, and then we decide whether we will communicate it to the American people through the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your courtesies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The material referenced by the gentleman's earlier unanimous consent request will be inserted following disposition of the question of order.

The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from New Jersey seeks to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

As the Chair ruled most recently on April 5, 2017, the resolution directs the Committee on Ways and Means to meet and consider an item of business under the procedures set forth in 26 U.S.C. 6103 and, therefore, does not qualify as a question of the privileges of the House.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

#### MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rothfus moves that the appeal be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

Mr. PASCRELL. 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, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table

will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1177.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 188, answered “present” 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 261]

YEAS—229

Abraham	Goodlatte	Palazzo
Aderholt	Gosar	Palmer
Allen	Gowdy	Paulsen
Amash	Granger	Pearce
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Perry
Arrington	Graves (LA)	Pittenger
Babin	Graves (MO)	Poe (TX)
Bacon	Griffith	Poliquin
Banks (IN)	Grothman	Posey
Barletta	Guthrie	Ratcliffe
Barr	Harper	Reed
Barton	Harris	Reichert
Bergman	Hartzler	Renacci
Biggs	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Roby
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Roe (TN)
Bishop (UT)	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Black	Hill	Rogers (KY)
Blackburn	Holding	Rohrabacher
Blum	Hollingsworth	Rokita
Bost	Hudson	Rooney, Francis
Brady (TX)	Huizenga	Rooney, Thomas J.
Brat	Hultgren	Ros-Lehtinen
Bridenstine	Hunter	Roskam
Brooks (AL)	Hurd	Ross
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rothfus
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Rouzer
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Royce (CA)
Bucshon	Johnson (LA)	Russell
Budd	Johnson (OH)	Rutherford
Burgess	Jordan	Scalise
Byrne	Joyce (OH)	Schweikert
Calvert	Katko	Scott, Austin
Carter (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Kelly (PA)	Sessions
Chabot	King (IA)	Shimkus
Cheney	King (NY)	Shuster
Coffman	Kinzinger	Simpson
Collins (GA)	Knight	Smith (MO)
Collins (NY)	Kustoff (TN)	Smith (NE)
Comer	Labrador	Smith (NJ)
Comstock	LaHood	Smith (TX)
Conaway	LaMalfa	Smucker
Cook	Lamborn	Stefanik
Costello (PA)	Lance	Stewart
Cramer	Latta	Stivers
Crawford	Lewis (MN)	Taylor
Culberson	LoBiondo	Tenney
Curbelo (FL)	Long	Thompson (PA)
Davidson	Loudermilk	Thornberry
Davis, Rodney	Love	Tiberi
Denham	Lucas	Tipton
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Trott
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Turner
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Upton
Donovan	Marino	Valadao
Duffy	Marshall	Wagner
Duncan (SC)	Massie	Walberg
Duncan (TN)	Mast	Walden
Dunn	McCarthy	Walker
Emmer	McCaul	Walorski
Estes (KS)	McClintock	Walters, Mimi
Farenthold	McHenry	Weber (TX)
Faso	McKinley	Webster (FL)
Ferguson	McMorris	Wenstrup
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Westerman
Fleischmann	McSally	Williams
Flores	Meadows	Wilson (SC)
Fortenberry	Meehan	Wittman
Fox	Messer	Womack
Franks (AZ)	Mitchell	Woodall
Frelinghuysen	Moolenaar	Yoder
Gaetz	Mooney (WV)	Yoho
Gallagher	Mullin	Young (AK)
Garrett	Murphy (PA)	Young (IA)
Gibbs	Noem	Zeldin
Gohmert	Olson	

NAYS—188

Adams	Blumenauer	Bustos
Aguilar	Blunt Rochester	Butterfield
Barragán	Bonamici	Capuano
Bass	Boyle, Brendan F.	Carbajal
Beatty	Brady (PA)	Cárdenas
Bera	Brown (MD)	Carson (IN)
Beyer	Brownley (CA)	Cartwright
Bishop (GA)		Castor (FL)

Castro (TX)	Jayapal	Peters
Chu, Judy	Jeffries	Peterson
Ciçilline	Johnson (GA)	Pingree
Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pocan
Clarke (NY)	Jones	Polis
Clay	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Cleaver	Keating	Quigley
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Raskin
Cohen	Kennedy	Rice (NY)
Connolly	Khanna	Richmond
Conyers	Kihuen	Rosen
Cooper	Kildee	Roybal-Allard
Correa	Kilmer	Ruiz
Costa	Kind	Ruppersberger
Courtney	Krishnamoorthi	Rush
Crist	Kuster (NH)	Ryan (OH)
Crowley	Langevin	Sánchez
Cuellar	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Schneider
Davis, Danny	Lawson (FL)	Schrader
DeFazio	Lee	Scott (VA)
DeGette	Levin	Scott, David
Delaney	Lewis (GA)	Serrano
DeLauro	Lieu, Ted	Sewell (AL)
DeBene	Lipinski	Shea-Porter
Demings	Loebach	Sherman
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Sinema
Deutch	Lowenthal	Sires
Dingell	Lowe	Slaughter
Doggett	Lujan Grisham, M.	Smith (WA)
Doyle, Michael F.	Luján, Ben Ray	Soto
Ellison	Lynch	Speier
Engel	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Suozi
Eshoo	Maloney, Sean	Swalwell (CA)
Españillat	Matsui	Takano
Esty (CT)	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
Evans	McEachin	Thompson (MS)
Foster	McGovern	Titus
Frankel (FL)	McNerney	Tonko
Fudge	Meeks	Torres
Gabbard	Meng	Tsongas
Gallego	Moore	Vargas
Garamendi	Moulton	Veasey
Gonzalez (TX)	Murphy (FL)	Vela
Gottheimer	Nadler	Velázquez
Green, Al	Neal	Visclosky
Green, Gene	Nolan	Walz
Grijalva	Norcross	Wasserman
Hanabusa	O'Halleran	Schultz
Hastings	O'Rourke	Waters, Maxine
Heck	Pallone	Watson Coleman
Himes	Panetta	Welch
Hoyer	Pascrell	Wilson (FL)
Huffman	Perlmutter	Yarmuth
Jackson Lee		

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Sanford

NOT VOTING—12

Chaffetz	Higgins (NY)	Nunes
Cole	Johnson, Sam	Payne
DeSantis	Napolitano	Pelosi
Gutiérrez	Newhouse	Schiff

□ 1821

Ms. SPEIER changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. POSEY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The material previously referred to by Mr. PASCRELL is as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal]

RUSSIAN STATE-RUN BANK FINANCED DEAL INVOLVING TRUMP HOTEL PARTNER

(By Rob Barry, Christopher S. Stewart and Brett Forrest)

VEB, a Russian state-run bank under scrutiny by U.S. investigators, financed a deal involving Donald Trump's onetime partner in a Toronto hotel tower at a key moment for the project, according to people familiar with the transaction.

Alexander Shnaider, a Russian-Canadian developer who built the 65-story Trump International Hotel and Tower, put money

into the project after receiving hundreds of millions of dollars from a separate asset sale that involved the Russian bank, whose full name is Vnesheconombank.

Mr. Shnaider sold his company's share in a Ukrainian steelmaker for about \$850 million in 2010, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. According to two people with knowledge of the deal, the buyer, which hasn't been identified publicly, was an entity acting for the Russian government. VEB initiated the purchase and provided the money, these people say.

U.S. investigators are looking into any ties between Russian financial institutions, Mr. Trump and anyone in his orbit, according to a person familiar with the probe. As part of the investigation, they're examining interactions between Mr. Trump, his associates and VEB, which is now subject to U.S. sanctions, said another person familiar with the matter. The Toronto deal adds a new element to the list of known connections between Mr. Trump's associates and Russia.

After Mr. Shnaider and his partner sold their stake in the steelmaker, Mr. Shnaider injected more money into the Trump Toronto project, which was financially troubled. Mr. Shnaider's lawyer, Symon Zucker, said in an April interview that about \$15 million from the asset sale went into the Trump Toronto project. A day later, he wrote in an email: "I am not able to confirm that any funds" from the deal "went into the Toronto project."

A spokesman for the Trump Organization, the family's real-estate firm, said Mr. Trump had no involvement in any financial dealings with VEB and that the Trump company "merely licensed its brand and manages the hotel and residences." VEB didn't respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Trump has said he has no dealings with Russia. "To the best of my knowledge, no person that I deal with does," he said in February. On Friday, Mr. Trump's lawyers released a two-month-old letter stating that 10 years of his tax returns show little income, investments or debt from Russian sources beyond items already known to the public.

VEB has long been viewed by Russian analysts as a vehicle for the Russian government to fund politically important projects, including the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. A VEB executive in New York was sentenced to prison last year after pleading guilty to conspiring to act in the U.S. as a Russian agent without notifying U.S. authorities.

In the wake of U.S. intelligence agency findings that Russian government-directed hackers interfered in the 2016 election, several agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are conducting a counter-intelligence probe into whether Mr. Trump's campaign staff had any contact with Russian officials. Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate also are investigating the matter. Russian authorities have denied any interference.

At the time of Mr. Shnaider's steelmaker deal, Russian President Vladimir Putin was chairman of VEB's supervisory board, and major deals would have been approved by him, according to a former Russian government official and several Russian government and economic experts. The bank later was placed on the U.S. sanctions list after Russia's intrusion into Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea in 2014. American entities are barred from financial involvement with the bank.

VEB made headlines when it emerged that its chairman met with Mr. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner in December. A bank spokesperson has said VEB's leaders met Mr. Kushner and numerous global financial executives as it developed a new strategy for the bank. Mr. Spicer has said Mr. Kushner's

meeting was part of his role during the Trump transition as the "primary point of contact with foreign government officials."

The Toronto project was billed in 2007 as a joint venture between Mr. Trump and Mr. Shnaider and was projected to cost about 500 million Canadian dollars. Mr. Trump said at the time he would manage the hotel's operations and Mr. Shnaider planned to develop the tower, which also would include condominiums, through his company, Talon International Development Inc.

The project has been dogged by financial problems. In November, it entered insolvency proceedings, and a judge in March approved its sale.

Alan Garten, the Trump Organization's general counsel, said the company "was not the owner, developer or seller" of the project. While The Wall Street Journal and others reported in 2011 and 2012 that Mr. Trump had a minor ownership stake in it, Mr. Garten now says Mr. Trump "did not hold" equity and had no involvement with the financing.

The Trump Toronto Hotel Management Corp. has received at least \$611,000 in fees from the project since 2015, federal financial-disclosure forms filed last May show. The forms don't disclose the company's total income from the deal.

Shortly after the project broke ground in 2007, about 85% of the units were presold. During the financial crisis, some buyers pulled out and others were unable to get financing, receivership documents show. Midland Resources Holding Ltd., then owned by Mr. Shnaider and a partner, was on the hook for cost overruns, the documents show.

Midland Resources had acquired its stake in the Ukrainian steelmaker, called Zaporizhstal, for about \$70 million after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The 2010 transaction to sell it was opaque. Midland transferred ownership of its portion of the steelmaker to the unnamed buyer through five offshore companies, according to Mr. Shnaider's lawyer and court documents.

The idea for the deal was brought to a top VEB executive by a former Ukrainian government official, according to an investment banker familiar with what happened. Although the buyer wasn't named, a steel trader with knowledge of the deal said VEB itself ended up with control of Midland's share of the steelmaker. At the time, Russian entities saw gaining control of large industrial assets in Ukraine as having strategic value to Russian political interests in the future, said another investment banker with knowledge of the deal.

Mr. Zucker, Mr. Shnaider's lawyer, said Midland Resources "has never had any relationship with VEB" and "does not dictate where their purchasers borrow funds." He declined to identify the buyer, citing confidentiality provisions, other than to say it was a "Ukrainian industrial group."

Mr. Shnaider's companies continued to pump money into the Toronto tower as it struggled to stay afloat, according to his lawyer and later court documents. Later, Mr. Shnaider became embroiled in a legal battle with Mr. Trump's companies over management issues. The Trump Organization declined to comment.

In November, a Canadian judge placed the tower into receivership. Mr. Trump's company was owed C\$116,165.72, and Mr. Shnaider's company as much as C\$105 million, court documents show.

Recently, a judge approved the sale of the building to a California-based investment firm for about \$220 million.

## REMOVING OUTDATED RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW FOR JOB GROWTH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1177) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to release on behalf of the United States the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 262]

YEAS—418

Abraham	Cleaver	Foster
Adams	Clyburn	Fox
Aderholt	Coffman	Frankel (FL)
Aguilar	Cohen	Franks (AZ)
Allen	Collins (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Amodei	Collins (NY)	Fudge
Arrington	Comer	Gabbard
Babin	Comstock	Gaetz
Bacon	Conaway	Gallagher
Banks (IN)	Connolly	Gallego
Barletta	Conyers	Garamendi
Barr	Cook	Garrett
Barragán	Cooper	Gibbs
Barton	Correa	Gohmert
Bass	Costa	Gonzalez (TX)
Beatty	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Bera	Courtney	Gosar
Bergman	Cramer	Gottheimer
Beyer	Crawford	Gowdy
Biggs	Crist	Granger
Bilirakis	Crowley	Graves (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Graves (LA)
Bishop (MI)	Culberson	Graves (MO)
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Green, Al
Black	Curbelo (FL)	Green, Gene
Blackburn	Davidson	Griffith
Blum	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Grothman
Blunt Rochester	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bonamici	DeFazio	Hanabusa
Bost	DeGette	Harper
Boyle, Brendan	Delaney	Harris
F.	DeLauro	Hartzer
Brady (PA)	DelBene	Hastings
Brady (TX)	Demings	Heck
Brat	Denham	Hensarling
Bridenstine	Dent	Herrera Beutler
Brooks (AL)	DeSantis	Hice, Jody B.
Brooks (IN)	DeSaulnier	Higgins (LA)
Brown (MD)	DesJarlais	Hill
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Himes
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Holding
Buck	Dingell	Hollingsworth
Bucshon	Doggett	Hoyer
Budd	Donovan	Hudson
Burgess	Doyle, Michael	Huffman
Bustos	F.	Huizenga
Butterfield	Duffy	Hultgren
Byrne	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Calvert	Duncan (TN)	Hurd
Capuano	Dunn	Issa
Carbajal	Ellison	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Emmer	Jayapal
Carson (IN)	Engel	Jeffries
Carter (GA)	Eshoo	Jenkins (KS)
Carter (TX)	Españillat	Jenkins (WV)
Cartwright	Estes (KS)	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Esty (CT)	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)	Evans	Johnson (OH)
Chabot	Farenthold	Johnson, E. B.
Cheney	Faso	Jones
Chu, Judy	Ferguson	Jordan
Cicilline	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (OH)
Clark (MA)	Fleischmann	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Flores	Katko
Clay	Fortenberry	Keating