

Mr. LEWIS, Georgia;
 Mr. HASTERT, Illinois;
 Mr. BISHOP, Georgia;
 Mr. COLLINS, Georgia;
 Mr. DEAL, Georgia;
 Mr. KINGSTON, Georgia;
 Mr. LINDER, Georgia;
 Ms. MCKINNEY, Georgia;
 Mr. BARR, Georgia;
 Mr. CHAMBLISS, Georgia;
 Mr. NORWOOD, Georgia;
 Mr. ISAKSON, Georgia; and
 Mr. GRAHAM, South Carolina.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, Social Security is a solemn promise from the United States to its citizens, a promise that this Republican-led Congress is dedicated to keeping.

For more than 30 years, the Social Security Trust Fund was used as a slush fund for government spending by the Democrats and their leadership. However, this Republican Congress stopped this dangerous practice by implementing a fiscally responsible budget; and we passed the Social Security Lockbox Act, which protects the Social Security Trust Fund permanently.

This Republican-led Congress is dedicated to ensuring that all Americans can rely on Social Security, now and in the future.

I call upon the administration to follow our lead and help assure all Americans, young and old, that Social Security will be there for them when they retire.

I yield back the administration's irresponsible tax-and-spend policies that only jeopardize the future of Social Security.

TIME TO STOP THE CASH COW FOR RUSSIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the CEO of the Bank of New York has admitted to laundering \$7 billion; and bingo, surprise, surprise, \$5 billion of it is expected to be Russian dollars that they got from the International Monetary Fund.

Now, if that is not enough to barf up your vodka, the investigators say, in addition to that, Russian politicians have secretly stolen \$15 billion, diverted them to bank accounts all over the world, and most of the money came from Uncle Sam.

Unbelievable, Uncle Sam giving billions to Russia to dismantle their nukes. They do not dismantle their nukes. They sell their nukes to Iran and China. China then aims them at us. Russia comes back, asks us for more money, the White House gives more billions.

Beam me up. I say it is time to stop the cash cow for Russia.

Madam Speaker, I yield back all the cash the Russian politicians have been stealing from the American taxpayers.

UTAH PIONEER DAY CELEBRATION

(Mr. CANNON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Utah's pioneer heritage. The State of Utah is celebrating the arrival of the first company of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley today.

These pioneers and the many wagon and handcart companies that followed on the trek from Nauvoo, Illinois, believed that they could build a better way of life in the West. They were tough. They suffered blistering and freezing temperatures. Many succumbed to the limited food supplies. They walked more than a thousand miles from Illinois to Utah, and many died along the way.

Those that survived had the strength necessary to thrive in the desert and harsh climates of the West. Evidence of their toils surrounds us today. There is a ditch in Wayne County, Utah, that brought water 5 miles from a mountain lake to the farms in the valley.

The amazing thing about this simple irrigation ditch is that it was built by hand. More water would disappear into the sandy soil than could be used for the crops at the end of the ditch. But all their hard work, in the words of Isaiah, made "the desert blossom like a rose."

There are several dams in my district that need repairs. The discussions about those repairs are centered around the roads needed to be built to bring the equipment in. The dams had been built over 100 years ago by Mormon pioneers by hand. Hand repairs were not an option now because the builders "were much tougher back then."

These dams, as well as countless landmarks, buildings and cities stand today as evidence of the Mormon pioneers' strength and determination. They were central to the westward expansion, providing a place of rest and resupply for travelers heading to the gold fields of California and the Oregon territory.

Their strengths, self-sufficiency, and determination have become the cultural foundation of the West. I am proud to be the descendant of the Mormon pioneers and to live with the fruits of their labors. I am proud to join my fellow Utahans in honoring and celebrating our pioneer heritage. The desert truly has blossomed like a rose.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:00 p.m. today.

□ 1415

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS WHILE TRAVELING IN MEXICO

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 232) expressing the sense of Congress concerning the safety and well-being of United States citizens injured while traveling in Mexico, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 232

Whereas hundreds of United States citizens travel by automobile to Mexico every day;

Whereas United States automobile insurance is not valid in Mexico and travellers may purchase additional insurance to cover potential liability or injury while in Mexico;

Whereas in cases where additional insurance is not purchased and a United States citizen is involved in an automobile accident, the American will be subject to a bond requirement before being permitted to return to the United States; and

Whereas in a recent incident, a United States citizen injured in an automobile accident in Mexico was not transferred to a United States hospital for 18 hours, even after medical personnel in Mexico recommended his immediate transfer to the United States for emergency treatment, until the family posted the bond set by Mexican authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that, in order to protect the safety and well-being of United States citizens travelling in Mexico, the President should continue to negotiate with the Government of Mexico to establish procedures, including a humanitarian exemption to Mexican bond requirements, to ensure the expedited return of United States citizens injured in Mexico to the United States for medical treatment, if necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 232.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, as the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, this Member rises in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 232. This resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the safety and well-being of United States citizens who are traveling in Mexico, was introduced by our colleague, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). It is the result of a particularly unfortunate incident involving a California resident caught in a conflict between Mexican law and sound medical treatment provided to U.S. citizens as well as to other foreign citizens while traveling in Mexico.

Last August, California resident Donald Craft, his wife, and three children were vacationing in Baja, Mexico, when they were involved in a serious automobile incident. Mr. Craft broke his neck and was in critical condition when he was taken to a local Mexican hospital where doctors advised his family that he be immediately transported to a trauma center in San Diego for more intensive life-saving medical care.

There was, however, one problem. Under Mexican law, foreigners involved in traffic accidents being investigated for possible criminal action or who do not have Mexican automobile insurance cannot leave Mexico until a bond is posted. Mrs. Melody Craft, the victim's wife, was required to find and pay \$7,000 before her critically injured husband would be allowed to leave the country. After what must have been a very confusing and unbelievably excruciating period of almost 18 hours, the bond was raised and Mr. Craft was released and sent back to the United States.

Regrettably, on September 6, 1999, Mr. Craft died of complications reportedly associated with that accident and the delay in providing him adequate medical attention. Sadly, this tragedy has been repeated on several traditional occasions since Mr. Craft's death, including a case involving a Florida constituent of our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Miami (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Madam Speaker, I would also like to indicate that in 1998, one of my constituents, Gregg Gahan, the adult son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Gahan of Oakland, Nebraska, Mr. Gahan being the editor of the Oakland Independent, a newspaper serving that area, was also involved in a similar accident with also extraordinary things that happened that really defy a rational explanation and amount to an abuse of the legal or ethical process by Mexican officials.

Grave concerns arose as a result of the treatment of his son by law enforcement officials, health care officials, and the driver of the car who hit him. There are legitimate questions about the judicial process that was im-

plemented, how culpability was determined, the punitive actions taken, and the damage settlement.

Madam Speaker, we know and appreciate the fact that Mexico has its own laws and procedures and that those should be known and respected by foreign visitors. However, in these kinds of very serious accident cases, flexibility and accommodation of the special circumstances ought to be in order.

Since the Craft incident, this Member has been told that the U.S. and Mexican Governments have initiated a dialogue on how to address this issue. This resolution is designed to support these efforts to seek a reasonable solution to a situation under Mexican law which places the health and well-being of Americans and other foreign visitors to Mexico in question.

The State Department has been consulted on this legislation and has no objection to it. The Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the Committee on International Relations and, subsequently, the full committee, reported the legislation by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to join him in supporting adoption of H. Con. Res. 232.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

REQUEST TO BE ADDED AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 232, S. CON. RES. 81, H.R. 4002, AND H.R. 4919

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be added to H. Con. Res. 232 as a cosponsor, and also as a cosponsor of the three other pieces of legislation that will follow this, S. Con. Res. 81, H.R. 4002 and H.R. 4919, the Security Assistance Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As to cosponsorship of House bills, the gentleman should talk to the primary sponsor of the bill. It is not done by unanimous consent. Only the sponsor may add cosponsors.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. This bill sends the right message. It is a bill brought to this House's attention by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), who represent the portion of California that is immediately adjacent to Mexico.

This resolution puts Congress on record in favor of ensuring that U.S. citizens traveling in Mexico have access without delay to emergency medical services. This is of particular importance to all of us in California and along the U.S.-Mexico border. Our citizens travel to Mexico; and when they are involved in an automobile accident, they encounter the Mexican law that requires the posting of a bond, a bond which ordinary automobile insurance does not provide for.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in this resolution and to support the negotiation with Mexico of a system for at least dealing with those American motorists who are insured and need help on an emergency basis. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 232.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to reiterate my request that this be given strong support by my colleagues.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hunter resolution expressing the sense of Congress that U.S. citizens who are injured while traveling in Mexico should have immediate access to medical treatment in the United States. We drafted this resolution in response to several instances where Americans were prevented by Mexican authorities from accessing U.S. hospitals after being injured while traveling in Mexico.

Specifically, this resolution calls upon President Clinton to continue negotiations with the Mexican government to establish a humanitarian exemption to bond requirements that prevent the release of American citizens involved in accidents. One tragic example of this problem happened on August 24, 1999. Donald Kraft of Southern California was involved in an automobile accident in Baja California, Mexico, in which he suffered a broken neck and other injuries. Despite needing quality medical care that was unavailable in Mexico, Mr. Kraft was forced to wait over 18 hours before authorities approved his return to the United States pending his family posting a bond to cover damages for the collision. Mr. Kraft died a few days later in San Diego.

This experience was repeated again in November 1999 when three men from Orange County were involved in an accident that killed the driver and left the two others injured. Family members were required to post an \$11,000 bond before one of the victims was allowed to be transferred to San Diego where he was treated for multiple fractures, a ruptured spleen and a punctured lung. The remaining victim was required to stay in jail until family members convinced authorities that he should be transported to a Tijuana hospital.

Mr. Speaker, when Americans travel abroad, they must not be denied access to medical treatment. The United States and Mexico need to agree on procedures to ensure that the horrible situations of the past never happen again. Our citizens need these protections. The Mexican government can and should make these concessions to our tourists in order to protect Americans in Mexico, and the Mexican tourism industry.

My colleagues, we need to pass this resolution, I urge you to vote yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Representative DUNCAN HUNTER for introducing this resolution and bringing this matter to the floor of the House.

We will be proceeding with a resolution congratulating the Mexican people on their recent election on July 2nd. That election has ushered in a spirit of renewal both in Mexico and as regards our very important bilateral relations.

This resolution reminds us that our relationship with Mexico involves many matters that concern both nations.

H. Res. 232 urges the President to continue to negotiate with the Government of Mexico to establish procedures for the expedited return of U.S. citizens injured in Mexico.

There is good reason for the Congress to pass this resolution. U.S. citizens who do not purchase additional automobile insurance required by the Mexican government, and are then injured in an automobile accident, are subject to a bond requirement before they can return to the United States for medical treatment.

On August 24, 1999, Donald Kraft of Southern California was involved in an automobile accident in Baja California in which he suffered a broken neck and other injuries. Mr. Kraft was forced to wait 18 hours before authorities approved his return to the United States only after his family posted a bond to cover damages for the collision. Mr. Kraft died a few days later in San Diego.

The United States and Mexico should work together so we can avoid similar tragedies in the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, thousands of people leave the port of Miami, located in my congressional district, on cruise ships that take them to foreign lands. Yet these tourists never consider what they would do if they found themselves in an emergency situation abroad.

What was supposed to be a peaceful vacation cruise to Mexico for a couple in my congressional district, turned out to be a nightmare that continues to haunt Michael and Lorraine Andrews today. Fifteen minutes before their ship departed from one of the ports, Michael and Lorraine's car went off the road and into a ravine, causing a tragic accident that would change their lives forever. With no passport, no money and no real means of identification, Lorraine Andrews had a difficult time in obtaining medical assistance for her husband who had lost sensation below his neck. It took approximately an hour and a half before an air ambulance arrived and even then, American dollars had to be exchanged for medical attention. Today, Michael is an incomplete quadriplegic and he and his wife are working to make a difference so that others do not experience similar difficulties.

H. Con. Res. 232, expressing the sense of Congress concerning the safety and well being of United States citizens injured while traveling in Mexico, is a step in the right direction to secure safety for our citizens and raise awareness on ways in which they can better protect themselves. The safety of our citizens must come first and our President must immediately begin negotiations with the Government of Mexico to establish a humanitarian exemption to Mexican bond requirements. No American's life should be endangered due to the existence of a Mexican law requiring an exhaustive investigation of an accident before emergency medical help in the United States is found. No American should be denied the right to emergency medical assistance because a release bond must be paid up front. Humanitarian considerations should be allowed to override any regulatory, so that emergencies like that of Michael and Lorraine Andrews will be prevented in the future. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 232, and I ask my colleagues to vote for its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 232, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING RELEASE OF RABIYA KADEER, HER SECRETARY AND SON BY GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 81) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately release Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary, and her son, and permit them to move to the United States if they so desire.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 81

Whereas Rabiya Kadeer, a prominent ethnic Uighur from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of the People's Republic of China, her secretary, and her son were arrested on August 11, 1999, in the city of Urumqi;

Whereas Rabiya Kadeer's arrest occurred outside the Yindu Hotel in Urumqi as she was attempting to meet a group of congressional staff staying at the Yindu Hotel as part of an official visit to China organized under the auspices of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Program of the United States Information Agency;

Whereas Rabiya Kadeer's husband Sidik Rouzi, who has lived in the United States since 1996 and works for Radio Free Asia, has been critical of the policies of the People's Republic of China toward Uighurs in Xinjiang;

Whereas Rabiya Kadeer was sentenced on March 10 to 8 years in prison "with deprivation of political rights for two years" for the crime of "illegally giving state information across the border";

Whereas the Urumqi Evening Paper of March 12 reported Rabiya Kadeer's case as follows: "The court investigated the following: The defendant Rabiya Kadeer, following the request of her husband, Sidik Haji, who has settled in America, indirectly bought a collection of the Kashgar Paper dated from 1995-1998, 27 months, and some copies of the Xinjiang Legal Paper and on 17 June 1999 sent them by post to Sidik Haji. These were found by the customs. During July and August 1999 defendant Rabiya Kadeer gave copies of the Ili Paper and Ili Evening Paper collected by others to Mohammed Hashem to keep. Defendant Rabiya Kadeer sent these to Sidik Haji. Some of these papers contained the speeches of leaders of different levels; speeches about the strength of rectification of public safety, news of political legal organisations striking against national separatists and terrorist activities etc. The papers sent were marked and folded at relevant articles. As well as

this, on 11 August that year, defendant Rabiya Kadeer, following her husband's phone commands, took a previously prepared list of people who had been handled by judicial organisations, with her to Kumush Astana Hotel [Yingdu Hotel] where she was to meet a foreigner";

Whereas reports indicate that Ablikum Abdyrim was sent to a labor camp on November 26 for 2 years without trial for "supporting Uighur separatism," and Rabiya Kadeer's secretary was recently sentenced to 3 years in a labor camp;

Whereas Rabiya Kadeer has 5 children, 3 sisters, and a brother living in the United States, in addition to her husband, and Kadeer has expressed a desire to move to the United States;

Whereas the People's Republic of China stripped Rabiya Kadeer of her passport long before her arrest;

Whereas reports indicate that Kadeer's health may be at risk;

Whereas the People's Republic of China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on October 5, 1998;

Whereas that Covenant requires signatory countries to guarantee their citizens the right to legal recourse when their rights have been violated, the right to liberty and freedom of movement, the right to presumption of innocence until guilt is proven, the right to appeal a conviction, freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association;

Whereas that Covenant forbids torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights enables the Human Rights Committee, set up under that Covenant, to receive and consider communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations of any of the rights set forth in the Covenant; and

Whereas in signing that Covenant on behalf of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Qin Huasun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, said the following: "To realize human rights is the aspiration of all humanity. It is also a goal that the Chinese Government has long been striving for. We believe that the universality of human rights should be respected . . . As a member state of the United Nations, China has always actively participated in the activities of the organization in the field of human rights. It attaches importance to its cooperation with agencies concerned in the U.N. system . . .": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(1) immediately to release Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary, and her son; and

(2) to permit Kadeer, her secretary, and her son to move to the United States, if they so desire.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. Con. Res. 81.