

deep problem within the NATO alliance.

So I commend once more my colleague for his leadership and look forward to additional examples of it in this and other areas.

Mr. GILMAN. This concurrent resolution of the House concerns the deplorable human rights situation in Kosova, a formerly autonomous republic of the former Yugoslavia. Its autonomous status under the consideration of the former Yugoslavia was revoked by Serbian President Milosevic in 1989, and many cite this action by Serbia as the beginning of the conflict which was to consume most of the former Yugoslavia in the years 1991–95. I commend the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] for introducing this resolution, and I am proud to be listed as a cosponsor.

Many in the Congress, myself included, feel that it was a mistake to lift the sanctions against Serbia without linking this action with the situation in Kosova. The prospect for peace in Bosnia has raised hopes all over the region.

However, the people in Kosova do not feel that hope. For them the lesson of Bosnia is that violence is a way to win concessions from the international community. They see the Serbs in Bosnia rewarded for their aggression by the creation of the so-called Republic of Srbska. What is the international community to say to the long-suffering people of Kosova who have seen their autonomy trampled upon by the Serbian authorities, the loss of their civic institutions and the denial of their most basic rights?

Earlier this month the United States Information Agency opened an office in Pristina, Kosova. This will allow for a permanent American presence in the Republic to monitor human rights and the overall situation. As with USIA offices in other parts of the world that have been deprived of fundamental freedoms, this office will also provide a window to a better and fairer system.

The Congress included authorization to open this office in the State Department's fiscal year 1994 and 1996–97 authorization bills adopted by this House. While I commend the administration for finally acting on this expression of congressional intent, it should note the Congress' strong opposition to a further easing of sanctions on Serbia until the situation in Kosova is addressed and resolved.

This resolution will send a message of hope to the people of Kosova, and a message to Serbia that the Congress is keeping the issue of Kosova under review. I also hope that it will serve to strengthen the administration's commitment to improving the human rights situation in Kosova. I urge all of my colleagues to join in adopting House Concurrent Resolution 155.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the original sponsors of this resolution to voice my strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 155 which expresses the sense of Congress on the situation in Kosova.

In 1989, Belgrade unilaterally revoked the autonomous status of Kosova. Albanians in Kosova, who make up over 90 percent of the population, subsequently voted for Kosovar independence in 1991. Since that time, Serb security officials have waged a campaign of repression that has included widespread torture, beatings, killings, and harassment of Albanians throughout Kosova. Over half of the

more than 250,000 Albanians in the work force have been fired from their jobs and even more have fled the region rather than face certain persecution.

While the administration has taken an active role, including opening of USIA office in Pristina, more needs to be done. The administration needs to appoint a special envoy to Kosova to help resolve the crisis. Furthermore, the United States along with our European allies must condition the lifting of sanctions against Serbia with clear and concrete progress on the matter of Kosova.

By appointing a full time envoy and linking the lifting of sanctions on Serbia with the restoration of the full spectrum of human and political rights to the people of Kosova, the United States can help to broker a peaceful and lasting resolution to the matter. To not do so, would be to invite the situation to escalate into a new, even wider conflict in the Balkans. Thereby ending our best chance for peace in the Balkan region.

The resolution presents an effective policy for accomplishing these goals. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the resolution and send a clear statement in support of the rights of the people of Kosova.

Mr. BEREUTER. 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 Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 155, 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 155.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1545

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, 1994—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3536, I transmit herewith the 30th Annual Report of the Department

of Housing and Urban Development, which covers calendar year 1994.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 29, 1996.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CLINGER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CAMPAIGN COMMERCIALS DECEIVE SENIOR CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I served in the North Carolina General Assembly and as a member of the assembly I had a very deep concern about political ads, and in particular those ads that were intentionally developed to mislead and to distort factual information.

My concern was that for a democracy to remain strong, we have to have informed voters and the people have to know the facts, and the facts from the fictions. from the distortions.

Mr. Speaker, I have really been upset in the last few months and concerned that the labor unions throughout our country have been running ads about Medicare cuts and in my opinion outright distortions intentionally done to fool and to scare the voters. I think that is a tragedy for any democracy, because the strength of a democracy is informed voters and people that participate in the system.

Mr. Speaker, as it has happened over the past few months, many of my freshmen Republican colleagues have been the target of those half-truths and distortions. In the State of North Carolina, my home State, two of my very good friends, Congressman FRED HEINEMAN and Congressman DAVID FUNDERBURK have been targets, just like other members of the freshman class, of these distortions and half-truths.

Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be good today if I could read an editorial from my district, I thought, to even