

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [MO 077-1077; FRL-6361-9] received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2614. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Regional Haze Regulations [Docket No. A-95-38] [FRL-6353-4] (RIN: 2060-AF32) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2615. A letter from the Chairman, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of Fee Schedules; 100% Fee Recovery, FY 1999 (RIN: 3150-AG08) received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2616. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants; Measurement of Mercury in Water (EPA Method 1631, Revision B); Final Rule [FRL-6354-3] (RIN: 2040-AD07) received June 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2617. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Charitable Split-Dollar Insurance Transactions [Notice 99-36] received June 14, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

¶64.6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 322. An Act to amend title 4, United States Code, to add the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

¶64.7 PRIVATE CALENDAR BUSINESS DISPENSED WITH

On motion of Mr. COMBEST, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That business in order today, under clause 5, rule XV, the Private Calendar rule, be dispensed with.

¶64.8 SELECTIVE AGRICULTURE EMBARGOES

Mr. EWING moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 17) to amend the Agriculture Trade Act of 1978 to require the President to report to Congress on any selective embargo on agricultural commodities, to provide a termination date for the embargo, to provide greater assurances for contract sanctity, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. STEARNS, recognized Mr. EWING and Mr. STENHOLM, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. SHIMKUS, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶64.9 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SIERRA LEONE

Mr. ROYCE moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 62); as amended:

Whereas the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta, which on May 27, 1997, overthrew the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone led by President Ahmed Kabbah, suspended the constitution, banned political activities and public meetings, and invited the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to join the junta;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF then mounted "Operation No Living Thing", a campaign of killing, egregious human rights violations, and looting, that continued until President Kabbah was restored to power by the Economic Community of West African States Military Observation Group (ECOMOG) on March 10, 1998;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF have escalated their 8 year reign of terror against the citizens of Sierra Leone, which includes heinous acts such as forcibly amputating the limbs of defenseless civilians of all ages, raping women and children, and wantonly killing innocent citizens;

Whereas the Kamajor civil defense group has committed summary executions of captured rebels and persons suspected of aiding the rebels;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF continue to abduct children, forcibly provide them with military training, and place them on the front-line during rebel incursions;

Whereas countries in and outside of the region, including Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Libya, and mercenaries from Ukraine and other countries, are directly supporting the AFRC/RUF terrorist campaign against the legitimate government and citizens of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that last year more than 210,000 Sierra Leoneans fled the country to Guinea, bringing the number to 350,000, most of whom have left Sierra Leone to escape the AFRC/RUF campaign of terror and atrocities, as have an additional 90,000 Sierra Leoneans who have sought safe haven in Liberia;

Whereas the refugee camps in Guinea and Liberia may be at risk of being used as safe havens for rebels and staging areas for attacks against Sierra Leone;

Whereas the humanitarian crisis in Sierra Leone has reached epic proportions with people dying from a lack of food, medical treatment, and medicine, while humanitarian operations are impeded by the countrywide war and the resultant destruction of infrastructure;

Whereas the Nigerian-led intervention force, ECOMOG, has deployed some 15,000 troops in Sierra Leone in an attempt to end the cycle of violence and ensure the maintenance of its democratically elected government at the request of the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone and with the support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Whereas the escalating violence and terror in Sierra Leone perpetrated by the rebel

AFRC/RUF threatens stability in West Africa and has the immediate potential of spilling over into Guinea and Liberia;

Whereas the ECOWAS Group of Seven recently met in Guinea in an attempt to bring about a cessation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement of the conflict; and

Whereas the United Nations report in February 1999 documented human rights abuses by the RUF, the Kamajor civil defense group, and summary executions by ECOMOG: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes the cessation of hostilities and calls for the respect of human rights by all combatants;

(2) applauds the effective diplomacy of the Department of State and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, United States Special Presidential Envoy for the promotion of democracy in Africa, particularly the successful efforts in helping to formulate a cease-fire arrangement;

(3) supports the efforts of all parties to bring lasting peace and national reconciliation in Sierra Leone;

(4) calls on all parties, including government officials and the RUF, to commit to a cease-fire;

(5) appeals to all parties to the conflict to engage in dialogue without any preconditions to bring about a long-term solution to this civil strife in Sierra Leone;

(6) supports the people of Sierra Leone in their quest for a democratic and stable country and a reconciled society;

(7) urges the President, the Secretary of State, and the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs to support the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone and continue to give high priority to helping resolve the devastating conflict in that country, which would be an important contribution to stability in the West Africa region;

(8) abhors the gross violations of human rights ongoing in Sierra Leone, including the dismemberment of citizens (including children) by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and demands that they immediately stop such heinous acts;

(9) condemns the West African countries and those outside the region that are aiding the AFRC/RUF and demands they immediately withdraw their combatants and cease providing military, financial, political, and other types of assistance to the rebels in Sierra Leone;

(10) applauds the Economic Community of West African States Military Observation Group (ECOMOG) for its support of the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone and urges it to diversify its forces with troops from additional Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries and remain engaged in Sierra Leone until a comprehensive settlement of the conflict is achieved;

(11) calls upon the United States to provide increased, appropriate logistical and political support for ECOMOG;

(12) calls on the United States to appoint an independent commission to investigate human rights violations;

(13) calls on the United Nations Security Council to fully support, financially and diplomatically, the activities of the human rights section of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL);

(14) calls upon the United States to provide increased, appropriate logistical and political support for Ghana and Mali, countries that participate in ECOMOG; and

(15) urges the President to appoint a special envoy for Sierra Leone.