of this task (the United Nations Special Commission—UNSCOM), and that task could and should have been accomplished within a matter of months if Iraq had cooperated with the United Nations officials;

Whereas sanctions were imposed upon Iraq to insure its compliance with United Nations directives to eliminate its capability to produce weapons of mass destruction, with the provision that the sanctions would be lifted when UNSCOM certified that Iraq's capability to produce weapons of mass destruction had been eliminated;

Whereas for six and a half years Iraq has pursued a policy of deception, lies, concealment, harassment and intimidation in a deliberate effort to hamper the work of UNSCOM in eliminating Iraq's ability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction; and

Whereas recently the government of Iraq has escalated its policy of non-compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions by refusing to permit United States citizens who are recognized specialists from participating as members of UNSCOM teams in carrying out in Iraq actions to implement Security Council resolutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the United States House of Representatives

(1) that the current crisis regarding Iraq should be resolved peacefully through diplomatic means but in a manner which assures full Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, regarding the destruction of Iraq's capability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction;

(2) that in the event that military means are necessary to compel Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, such military action should be undertaken with the broadest feasible multi-national support, preferably pursuant to a resolution of the United Nations Security Council;

(3) but that if it is necessary, the United States should take military action unilaterally to compel Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the current crisis regarding Iraq should be resolved peacefully through diplomatic means but in a manner which assures full Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the destruction of Iraq's capability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction;

(2) in the event that military means are necessary to compel Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, such military action should be undertaken with the broadest feasible multinational support, preferably pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council; and

(3) if it is necessary, however, the United States should take military action unilaterally to compel Iraqi compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Strike all that precedes the resolved clause and insert the following:

Whereas at the conclusion of the Gulf War the United States and the United Nations, acting through the Security Council, determined to find and destroy all of Iraq's capability to produce chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and its ability to produce missiles capable of delivering such weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas in pursuit of this goal, the United Nations set up a special multinational commission of experts to oversee the completion of this task (the United Nations Special Commission—UNSCOM), and that task could and should have accomplished within a matter of months if Iraq had cooperated with United Nations officials;

Whereas sanctions were imposed upon Iraq to insure its compliance with United Nations directives to eliminate its capability to produce weapons of mass destruction;

Whereas for 6½ years Iraq has pursued a policy of deception, lies, concealment, harassment, and intimidation in a deliberate effort to hamper the work of UNSCOM in eliminating Iraq's ability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction; and

Whereas recently the Government of Iraq has escalated its policy of noncompliance and continues to breach in a material way United Nations Security Council resolutions by refusing to permit United States citizens who are recognized specialists as members of UNSCOM teams in carrying out in Iraq actions to implement Security Council resolutions: Now, therefore, be it

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for the resolution that our colleague, Mr. LANTOS, has introduced, and to commend him for his forthrightness on the issue of Saddam Hussein. I am pleased to cosponsor this bill. The current crisis with Iraq is, at its core, yet another effort by Saddam to evade sanctions and to isolate the United States from its allies.

It was decided by the member states of the United Nations, under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council, over 6 years ago, that the civilized world would no longer countenance Saddam's efforts to threaten the region and the world through chemical, biological, and nuclear means. Accordingly, UNSCOM was created to uncover and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The sanctions which followed were imposed upon Iraq to ensure its compliance, and were to remain in place until that capability no longer existed. However, the Iraqi regime has evaded UNSCOM's efforts at every turn, and UNSCOM inspectors have been harassed, intimidated, and deceived on a regular basis. It is testament to UNSCOM's persistence that progress in eliminating Iraq's capabilities has been made over the years. But Saddam's capabilities have not been completely eliminated.

It has become clear that Saddam Hussein's repeated refusal to permit American inspectors from participating in UNSCOM inspections cannot be allowed to stand. While all of us support resolving this latest crisis through diplomatic means, Saddam must know that force will be used, if necessary, to ensure that the U.N. Security Council resolutions are complied with.

The bill expresses the sense of the house supporting the use of force as a last resort to assure the destruction of Iraq's capability to produce and deliver weapons of mass destruction—preferably through a multilateral effort. However, the bill advocates unilateral action by the United States if necessary.

Saddam must know that our resolve is greater than his, and that we will not be swayed by our collective determination to eliminate his capability to create and inflict weapons of mass destruction upon his neighbors and the world. Accordingly, I urge our colleagues' support for this bill.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 217 NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 19, 1997.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask further unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking and Financial Services be permitted to file a report on the bill H.R. 217 no later than December 19, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the combined requests of the gentleman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The various motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

OMITTED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1997

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 11, 1997.

Hon. TOM RIDGE,
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA.

DEAR MR. GOVERNOR: This letter is to officially notify you of my resignation as United States Representative to the First District of Pennsylvania. President Clinton has given me the opportunity to continue my lifetime of public service by nominating me to be Ambassador to Italy, the nation of my heritage.

I thank the people of the First District for the opportunity to serve them, this country and this institution. It has been a great honor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA.

OMITTED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1997, DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2709

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

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

(Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act of 1997 is intended to close loopholes in our counterproliferation laws in order to address a matter of critical concern to our national security, the risk that Iran may soon obtain from firms in Russia and elsewhere the capability of producing its own medium and long-range ballistic missiles.

This legislation enjoys extremely strong support on both sides of the aisle. At last count, over 263 Members had asked to be listed as cosponsors, including both the Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, and the Democratic leader, Mr. GEPHARDT. A companion measure in the Senate has 84 cosponsors, led by the Senate majority leader, Mr. LOTT, and by Mr. LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

The urgency for this legislation is apparent from press reports. For more

than a year, our Government has been in constant dialog with the Russian leadership regarding Russian assistance to the Iranian ballistic missile program. The meetings have been going on, more talks are scheduled, more summits are held, yet the Iranian military continues to make rapid progress in developing long-range missiles with critically needed assistance from Russian firms. Unless something happens soon, according to press reports, Iran is likely to achieve the ability to produce its own ballistic missiles within less than 1 year.

It is now time for the Congress to say that enough is enough. We need to back up our rhetoric on nonproliferation with meaningful action. With this legislation, we will be giving Russian firms compelling reasons not to trade with Iran. The sanctions which this legislation threatens to impose will force those firms to choose between their short-term profits from dealing with Iran and potentially far more lucrative long-term economic relations with our own Nation.

To make certain that the President takes a careful look at this legislation, the amendment before us also adds to our Iranian sanctions measure the text of Senate 610, the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1997, which passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year. Unlike the Chemical Weapons Convention itself, which was controversial in the Senate, the implementing legislation is strongly supported all across the political spectrum, from the administration to Senators such as JOHN KYL and JESSE HELMS who have led the fight against the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980's the world stood by as Saddam Hussein built up the Iraqi arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. This bill will help make certain that Iran does not follow the example of its neighbors in Iraq and become the next threat to international stability. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act of 1997 is intended to close loopholes in our counter-proliferation laws in order to address a matter of critical concern to our national security—the risk that Iran may soon obtain from firms in Russia and elsewhere the capability to produce its own medium and long-range ballistic missiles.

This legislation enjoys extremely strong support on both sides of the aisle. At last count, 263 Members had asked to be listed as cosponsors, including both the Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, and the Democratic Leader, Mr. GEPHARDT. A companion measure in the Senate currently has 84 cosponsors, led by the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. LOTT, and by Mr. LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

Once implemented, this bill will help to stop the scourge of missile proliferation that directly threatens our troops and our allies throughout Europe and Asia. It will help the Administration in its efforts to stop Russian institutes and research facilities from assisting Iran's medium and long range missile program, and will defuse the growing Iranian missile threat in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

The urgency for this legislation is apparent from recent press accounts regarding the status of Iran's ballistic missile program. For more than a year, our government has been in a constant dialog with the Russian leadership on the issue of Russian assistance to the Iranian ballistic missile program.

On April 14 of this year in a letter to Senator MCCONNELL, the President assured the Congress that the Administration will ''continue to engage the Russians at the highest levels on this sensitive subject to prevent any transfer or cooperation inconsistent with Russian government policy and contrary to its assurances to us.''

However, several months—and many meetings—later, on September 11, State Department Spokesman Jim Foley noted that ''We're very concerned by reports indicating that Russian entitles may have provided * * * missile assistance to Iran. * * * While we appreciate * * * assurances [from the Russian government], we remain disturbed by the discrepancy between these assurances and reports of Russian firms cooperating with Iran.''

The meetings go on, more talks are scheduled, more summits are held, yet the Iranian military continues to make rapid progress in developing long range missiles with critically-needed assistance from Russian firms. Unless something happens soon, according to press reports, Iran is likely to achieve the ability to produce its own ballistic missiles within less than a year.

It is now time for the Congress to say that enough is enough. We need to back up our rhetoric on nonproliferation with meaningful action. With the adoption of this bill, we will close the loopholes in our existing sanctions laws, and help the Administration convince the Russian government to act decisively to crack down on their cash-strapped institutes and firms.

Equally important, with this legislation we will give those Russian institutes and firms compelling reasons not to trade with Iran. The sanctions this legislation threatens to impose will force those firms to choose between short-term profits from dealing with Iran and potentially far more lucrative long-term economic relations with our own Nation. Under this legislation, firms that sell missile technology to Iran will be denied all arms export licenses, all dual use export licenses, and all U.S. foreign assistance for at least two years.

Now it is well-known that the Administration does not support this legislation. As is almost always the case, they would rather deal with proliferation to Iran through quiet diplomacy rather than through meaningful sanctions legislation.

To make certain that the President takes a careful look at this legislation, the amendment before us adds to our Iranian sanctions measure the text of S. 610, the ''Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1997'', which passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year. Unlike the Chemical Weapons Convention itself, which was very controversial in the Senate, the implementing legislation is strongly supported all across the political spectrum, from the Administration to Senators such as JON KYL and JESSE HELMS, who led the fight against the Chemical Weapons Convention.

There is one technical point with regard to the text of S. 610—now title II of H.R. 2709—that Chairman HYDE of our Judiciary Committee has asked me make.

Section 603 of S. 610—which appears as section 273 of H.R. 2709—replaces the exceptions to the automatic stay in paragraphs (4) and (5) of 11 U.S.C. 362(b) with both a broader exemption for governmental units and explicit language embracing organizations exercising authority under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Although Members of this body were not involved in crafting this provision, we view it as important for the legislative history to emphasize that the new paragraph (4) relates only to enforcement of police and regulatory power—a term which cannot appropriately be given an expansive construction for purposes of interpreting the new Bankruptcy Code language. The automatic stay, for example, will continue to apply to the post-petition collection of pre-petition taxes because such collection efforts are not exercises of police and regulatory power within the meaning of new paragraph (4) of Bankruptcy Code section 362(b). The language of section 603 of S. 610—now section 273 of H.R. 2709—also explicitly excludes the enforcement of a money judgment—an exclusion designed to ensure that an exemption from the automatic stay cannot successfully be asserted for such an enforcement effort.

Because enactment of S. 610 is an Administration priority, and because it is something that we in the House will ultimately pass in any event, we have linked it to H.R. 2709 in hopes that the two measures can be enacted together.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s, the world stood by as Saddam Hussein built up his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and the recent events in that country indicate that we have yet to identify and uncover a number of these weapons. We cannot afford to pay any less attention to Iran as it shows every indication that it is fully prepared to use its petrodollars to purchase weapons systems that will threaten its neighbors and endanger our forces throughout the Persian Gulf region.

Your support for this bill will help to ensure that Iran does not follow the example of its neighbor and become the next threat to international stability.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. FLOWER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 5:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. ROEMER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 3:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 5:00 p.m. on account of personal business.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1564. An act to provide redress for inadequate restitution of assets seized by the United States Government during World War