Wolf	Wu	Young (AK)
Woolsey	Wynn	Young (FL)

NOES—6

Collins	Flake	Shadegg
Duncan	Paul	Stump

NOT VOTING—25

Ackerman	Gordon	Rothman
Becerra	Goss	Scarborough
Bentsen	Hastings (WA)	Simpson
Brown (FL)	Hoeffel	Sisisky
Calvert	Johnson, E.B.	Smith (MI)
Cannon	Jones (OH)	Toomey
Cunningham	Lantos	Watts (OK)
Diaz-Balart	Moakley	
Fletcher	Portman	

□ 1420

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on rollcall vote 61, final passage for H.R. 247. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 61, on passage of H.R. 247. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 247, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 247, TORNADO SHELTERS ACT

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 247, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER ON TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2001 IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DEBATE ON CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order on Tuesday, March 27, 2001, for the Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for a period of debate on the subject of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2002; that such period of debate not exceed 3 hours; that 2 hours of such debate be confined to the congressional budget and be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, and that 1 hour of such debate be on the subject of economic goals and policies and be equally divided and controlled by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) or their designees; that after such period of debate, the Committee of the Whole rise without motion; and that no further consideration of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2002 be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not intend to object, I would like to ask a question.

It is my understanding that the first hour of the 3 hours of general debate will begin at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The remaining 2 hours will be resumed after the vote or votes that begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) to confirm that this is the intent of the majority.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if we coordinated things perfectly.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this time to inquire about next week's schedule, and I wish to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. The House will consider a number of business under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Member's offices tomorrow. No recorded votes are expected before 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker, also on Tuesday the House is expected to consider the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution beginning at 4 p.m. At 5 p.m., the House will begin 3 hours of general debate on the budget resolution. No budget-related votes are expected on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, March 28, and the balance of the week, the House will consider the following measures subject to the rules: The budget resolution for the fiscal year 2002; H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act of 2001.

Mr. Speaker, obviously next week will be a busy and productive week on the floor. In expectation of that busy week, I wish all of my colleagues a restful weekend and time at home with their family and their constituents.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire of the gentleman, the tax bill is expected to be on the floor on Tuesday?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield, the tax bill is expected on the floor on Thursday.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. On Thursday?

Mr. ARMEY. Right.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Should Members expect to be here voting on Friday?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, we cannot say for certain now. This is a busy week with a lot of work, and as we get a measure of the week's progress, we will try to inform Members as early as possible about Friday; but for now we have no plans other than we will be working on Thursday and Friday.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2001

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 26, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HAGUE CONVENTION ON CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) expressing the sense of the Congress on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and urging all contracting states to the Convention to recommend the production of practice guides, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 69

Whereas 20 years ago, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was a bold step forward to provide a uniform process for resolving international child abduction cases;

Whereas over the past 2 decades, the Convention has had increasingly important and positive effects and has grown in terms of the number of Contracting States and the level of interest of other nations;

Whereas there has been an increase of multinational marriages and a corresponding increase of international abductions of children by parents;

Whereas as travel becomes faster and easier, and as multinational marriages become more common, the Convention is more significant than ever;

Whereas on 2 occasions, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children have convened professionals and experts in international child abduction to examine their experiences with the Convention;

Whereas on both occasions, the participants affirmed their overwhelming commitment to the Convention, but were also unified in the conclusion that there are serious shortcomings in its implementation;

Whereas the shortcomings include—

(1) a lack of awareness by policy makers and the general public of the Convention and of the problem of international child abduction, making the successful resolution of cases more difficult;

(2) the fact that, in too many instances, the process for resolving an international child abduction is too slow;

(3) a lack of uniformity in the interpretation of the Convention from nation to nation;

(4) the fact that key exceptions provided in the Convention to ensure reason and common sense have in some cases ceased to be viewed as exceptions, have instead become the rule, and are frequently used as justifications for not returning abducted children;

(5) the increasing difficulty of enforcing access rights for parents under Article 21 of the Convention;

(6) the need of parents for significant personal financial resources to obtain legal representation and proceed under the Convention and, in many places, the lack of assistance for parents who do not have such resources;

(7) a serious lack of training, knowledge, and experience for judges in international child abduction cases, because there are too many courts hearing these cases and in most instances few such cases for each court; and

(8) in many instances, the lack of enforcement of court orders for the return of children; and

Whereas the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children has promised to support an effort to produce practice guides to provide a framework for applying the Convention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) the original intent of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction—to provide a uniform process for resolving international child abduction cases—is more important than ever;

(B) practice guides should be developed for the Convention that build on recognized best practices under the Convention and provide a framework for applying the Convention;

(C) the Convention itself need not be modified;

(D) the practices identified and included in the practice guides should not be legally binding on Contracting States to the Convention and should be based on research and the advice of experts to help ensure the most effective process possible;

(E) the practice guides should be developed in 3 stages: comparative research and consultations, meetings of expert committees to develop drafts, and consideration of the drafts by a future Special Commission; and

(F) the Permanent Bureau of The Hague should organize the process of developing the practice guides; and

(2) the Congress urges all Contracting States to the Convention to adopt a resolution recommending that—

(A) the Permanent Bureau of The Hague produce and promote practice guides to assist in the implementation and operation of the Convention; and

(B) such a proposal to produce practice guides be adopted by the Fourth Special Commission at The Hague in March 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for making it possible for the House to consider this resolution on the eve of the Fourth Special Commission on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

I want to commend the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), with whom I have worked very closely on this issue. He has been a real leader, working on behalf of stolen American children and their left-behind parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a principal Republican cosponsor on this important bipartisan legislation, and I look forward to traveling to The Hague next week to present this resolution to the 60 member countries represented at the Commission.

H. Con. Res. 69 expresses the sense of the Congress on the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction and urges all contracting states to the convention to recommend the production of practice guides.

The resolution stresses that providing a uniform process for resolving international child abduction cases is more important than ever, and urges that practice guides be developed for the convention that build on recognized best practices under the convention. Adoption of this resolution today, I believe, will send a strong message to representatives of those Hague Convention signatories who will be meeting over the next several days that the United States Government is serious about insisting that all contracting parties to the Hague Convention comply fully with both the letter and the spirit of their international obligations under the convention. By adopting the practice guides suggested in the resolution, Hague countries can create a better environment for the eventual safe return of abducted children to their custodial parent. The Hague Convention provides for a child that has been abducted to or retained in a country other than his or her country of habitual residence to be speedily returned to the country of habitual residence.

□ 1430

Sadly, the process has not always worked well. The State Department reports that there are at any given time more than 1,000 open cases of American children either abducted or wrongfully retained in a foreign country. Thousands more are thought to go unreported. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that there are 165,000 parental kidnapping cases each year and that approximately 10 percent involve a parent who has taken a child abroad without permission.

Mr. Speaker, the production and promotion of practice guides as proposed in this thoughtful resolution can provide great assistance in the implementation and operation of The Hague Convention. Last year this House adopted a resolution that I authored with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) that urged noncomplying countries to take the necessary measures to bring themselves into compliance with The Hague Convention. Let us take another step today to help these stolen children and their left-behind parents. Let us adopt this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON). I also want to