

(Mr. SAXTON) for his sponsorship of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act, and my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), for his leadership in not only the subcommittee, but for bringing the reauthorization of the African Elephant Conservation Act.

I recall that, and maybe this is something unique in our Nation and something that we ought to be grateful for, I recall years ago when there were problems with the dolphins. It was amazing, Mr. Speaker, that it was not government that brought this to the attention of the Congress, it was not business, it was the children of America.

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They were concerned about the slaughtering needlessly of some 200,000 dolphins a year by fishermen, and if they wanted to get after the tuna, they had to slaughter these mammals that are so beautiful. Beautiful creatures that the Lord has made as part of our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I think the same could be said about elephants, and I think we need to compliment and, again, thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for their leadership in bringing these two pieces of legislation for consideration.

Again, I want to urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. I want to thank also the members of our staff, from this side of the aisle, Mr. Dave Jansen and Mr. Jeff Petrich, for their staff expertise and the understanding of this piece of legislation for where we are now, in bringing this bill for consideration by the Members. Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALBOMVAEGA) for his assistance, certainly the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

We did not get the Asian Elephant back again this time, as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) did, but certainly our thoughts are in the right place. It used to be that people thought that the habitat of the Asian and the African Elephant was an endless frontier.

Now we know it was not endless, and the frontier is gone. So it is highly appropriate for us, along with the international community, to set aside a small sliver of habitat that can in some small way reflect the bounty that used to be so that generations unseen in the future will be able to enjoy the magnificence of the creation that we now see.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, four years ago we unanimously ap-

proved the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, in order to protect the endangered Asian Elephant that proves so vital for ecosystems in Southeast Asia. Our efforts were not in vain.

Four years ago the Asian Elephant was caught in a downward spiral towards extinction. Poachers indiscriminately hunted them for their hides, meat, tusks, and teeth. Farmers and urban expansion destroyed their habitats. The effects of these actions were evident in 1997 when there were only an estimated 35,000 elephants left in existence. Today there are an estimated 35,000–50,000 elephants, demonstrating that while our efforts have succeeded to some extent, much more needs to be done.

Extinction of the Asian Elephant is still entirely possible, and we must not simply stand idle while this happens. Like most ecosystems of the world, the Asian Elephant is a vital part of its natural habitat, and its existence and interaction with other species proves crucial in maintaining an ecological balance within the Southeast Asian region. For example, the elephants feed on bark from trees that they uproot; smaller species of mammals, insects, and birds rely on "leftover" debris from these trees as a dietary staple. Extinction of the Asian Elephant would have multiple and severely negative effects on the populations of countless other species.

We must continue to protect this species from poachers and the deforestation that threatens to permanently displace it. By appropriating funds we will also actively discourage poachers, and encourage education that will bolster conservation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in support in passing H.R. 700, so that we may ensure the survival of this beautiful and vital species.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 700, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on H.R. 643 and H.R. 700.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DEDICATED WORK OF SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 97) recognizing the enduring contributions, heroic achievements, and dedicated work of Shirley Anita Chisholm.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 97

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm has devoted her life to public service;

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm served in the New York Assembly from 1964 to 1968;

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm became the first African American woman to be elected to Congress in 1968;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm was a fierce critic of the seniority system in Congress, protested her assignment in 1969 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and won reassignment to a committee of the House of Representatives on which she could better serve her inner-city district in Brooklyn, New York;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm served as a Member of Congress from 1968 until 1983;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm proposed legislation to increase funding for child care facilities in order to allow such facilities to extend their hours of operation and provide services to both middle-class and low-income families;

Whereas in 1972 Congresswoman Chisholm became the first African American, the first woman, and the first African American woman to be a candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of President of the United States;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm campaigned in the primaries of 12 States, won 28 delegates, and received 152 first ballot votes at the national convention for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of President of the United States;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm has fought throughout her life for fundamental rights for women, children, seniors, African Americans, Hispanics, and other minority groups;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm has been a committed advocate for many progressive causes, including improving education, ending discrimination in hiring practices, increasing the availability of child care, and expanding the coverage of the Federal minimum wage laws to include domestic employment;

Whereas in addition to the service of Congresswoman Chisholm as a legislator, Congresswoman Chisholm has worked to improve society as a nursery school teacher, director of a child care facility, consultant for the New York Department of Social Services, and educator; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the dedicated work and outstanding accomplishments of Congresswoman Chisholm be recognized during the month of March, which is National Women's History Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the enduring contributions and heroic achievements of Shirley Anita Chisholm; and