

Mr. BOEHNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. We can't be helpful or, frankly, we can't know what is going on if we are not in the room.

I would be glad to yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I appreciate my friend yielding. The gentleman has been involved in a number of conferences himself over his long and distinguished career here in the House. And you realize that at some point, getting the basic framework or at least some beginning framework together amongst the principals, the committee Chairs, is essential before bringing other Members into this.

The chairman of the conference, Senator ENZI, and I have talked about this on several occasions, and I am very confident that you, all Members will have an opportunity to participate because it has been clear, as it is in all conferences that I am in, that nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. And so the gentleman should have no fears.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, I hope that is accurate. I understand that in any conference, the chairman of the conference ought to take the position that unless all things are agreed to the conference is not closed on other issues that might have been tentatively agreed to. But if, frankly, our side of the aisle is not included, does not have the opportunity to put our input into the issues, very frankly, too often, I have been here a long time. You are right, and I have been in a lot of conferences. And those have been real conferences. They have not been conferences that one side has agreed on, comes to the conference and says it's done.

The leader looks at me somewhat disparagingly or at least incredulously that there haven't been such conferences that occurred prior to the leadership of the Republican Party. I understand what he is saying, but this is a pattern, Mr. Leader. We have talked about it on a regular basis. And it is not good for this institution.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. I appreciate the concerns raised by my friend from Maryland, but I need to remind my colleagues that the Pension Protection Act passed right before Christmas with almost 300 votes. There was broad bipartisan support for this bill, and it is my intention to maintain that broad bipartisan support for an eventual conference report. And the gentleman has my word that all Members will have their opportunity to be engaged in this conference report.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the representation of the leader, and I take him at his word. I have found his word to be good in the past. I certainly take him at his word, and I thank him for that.

Mr. BOEHNER. It still is.

Mr. HOYER. No doubt in my mind. I am not going to quote Ronald Reagan.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4943, PREVENTION OF FRAUDULENT ACCESS TO PHONE RECORDS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. The Committee on Rules may meet the week of May 1 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 4943, the Prevention of Fraudulent Access to Phone Records Act. The Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered the bill reported and filed its report with the House on March 16.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AND NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 383) supporting the goals and ideals of the National Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day, 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 Georgia?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, in 1872 an outstanding Nebraskan, J. Sterling Morton, began the tradition of Arbor Day to encourage tree planting. One hundred years later, another outstanding Nebraskan, John Rosenow, founded the National Arbor Day Foundation to promote Morton's original goals. Today, I have the pleasure of honoring the fruits of their labor. There are over 1 million members of this organization nationwide.

These two visionary leaders recognized that the simple action of planting a tree can protect the environment and provide resources and beauty for generations to come. Thanks to their efforts and inspiration, today America is a much greener, healthier, and more beautiful place. Because of their foresight, people from around the world enjoy a better quality of life. The planting of trees is a great reminder of our duty to take responsible actions now that will benefit our children and our grandchildren later.

□ 1800

As J. Sterling Morton noted, "Each generation of humanity takes the Earth as trustees."

The resolution I introduced, House Concurrent Resolution 383, supports the goals and ideals of National Arbor Day and the National Arbor Day Foundation. I would like to begin expressing my sincere appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform; and the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the committee, for their help in bringing this resolution to the floor.

This resolution honors National Arbor Day, which our country will celebrate tomorrow. I encourage my colleagues and others to join in the celebration by planting a tree or by taking part in Arbor Day activities nationwide. By doing so, we can carry on the spirit and the tradition of J. Sterling Morton, who once observed, "Other holidays repose on the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 383

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972 and now has nearly 1,000,000 members;

Whereas John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation, has provided outstanding leadership of the organization since its founding;

Whereas the mission of the National Arbor Day Foundation is to “inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees”;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation works to protect and enhance the global environment by promoting rainforest preservation, urban and community forestry, and the planting of trees throughout the world;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation manages the 260-acre Arbor Day Farm to serve as a model of environmental stewardship;

Whereas National Arbor Day Foundation distributes more than 8,000,000 trees annually through its Trees for America program;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation has worked with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service since 1990, helping to plant nearly 4,000,000 trees in National Forests damaged by fire, insects, or other natural causes;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton recognized the need for trees in Nebraska and proposed a tree-planting holiday called “Arbor Day” in 1872;

Whereas it was estimated that more than 1,000,000 trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day in 1872;

Whereas the observation of Arbor Day soon spread to other States and is now observed nationally and in many other countries;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton once observed that “The cultivation of trees is the culmination of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man”;

Whereas National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, will be celebrated on April 28, 2006; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the National Arbor Day Foundation; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Arbor Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN’S DARFUR REGION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-101)

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) blocking the property of persons in connection with the conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region. In that order, I have expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan, to address the unusual and ex-

traordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Darfur, as described below.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1591 of March 29, 2005, condemned the continued violations of the N’djamena Ceasefire Agreement of April 8, 2004, and the Abuja Humanitarian and Security Protocols of November 9, 2004, by all sides in Darfur, as well as the deterioration of the security situation and the negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts. I also note that the United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned the continued violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sudan’s Darfur region and, in particular, the continuation of violence against civilians and sexual violence against women and girls.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 determined that the situation in Darfur constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region and called on Member States to take certain measures against persons responsible for the continuing conflict. The United Nations Security Council has encouraged all parties to negotiate in good faith at the Abuja talks and to take immediate steps to support a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur, but has continued to express serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Darfur in UNSCR 1651 of December 21, 2005.

Pursuant to IEEPA, the National Emergencies Act, and the United Nations Participation Act (UNPA), I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and have issued an Executive Order expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 to deal with this threat.

The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States, or in the possession or control of United States persons, of the persons listed in the Annex to the order, as well as of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State,

—to have constituted a threat to the peace process in Darfur;

—to have constituted a threat to stability in Darfur and the region;

—to be responsible for conduct related to the conflict in Darfur that violates international law;

—to be responsible for heinous conduct with respect to human life or limb related to the conflict in Darfur;

—to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred arms or any related materiel, or any assistance, advice, or training related to military activities to the Government of Sudan, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the Justice and Equality Movement,

the Janjaweed, or any person operating in the states of North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur, that is a belligerent, a nongovernmental entity, or an individual; or

—to be responsible for offensive military overflights in and over the Darfur region.

The designation criteria will be applied in accordance with applicable domestic law, including where appropriate, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The order also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the activities listed above or any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. I further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any persons from the Annex to the order as circumstances warrant.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All Federal agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 27, 2006.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 27, 2006.

BROWNWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Brownwood Texas Chamber of Commerce.

Brownwood began as a pioneer town in the 19th century. As the town’s population flourished, the cotton industry dominated. With the building of the West Texas District Alliance Cotton Yard and the establishment of the Freeman’s Journal, Brownwood became the center of the Farmer’s Alliance. In 1906, local farmers chartered the Brownwood Commercial Club, later renamed the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Brownwood Chamber is instrumental in helping the community