

of this discussion tonight, it lays at the feet of Hugo Chavez. It lays at his feet. Because there was an agreement that was hammered out between his people and the DEA here in the United States. He asked for more time, we gave them more time. He wouldn't sign it nor would he give us a date certain when he would sign it.

How long do you wait? How long do you wait for drugs to continue to come into the United States before we get an agreement saying we are going to allow the DEA to do their job?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Today is the 26th of July, Mr. Speaker. The 26th of July. You know that I, and hopefully accompanied by others, was going to go to Caracas this August, have a conversation, and come back with a signed agreement. That is the hope. But with this language in this particular resolution, I will tell you what we have done. We have buried that agreement. And that is a tragedy because drugs will come into this country. That is the sadness.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Well, I didn't yield any more time to my colleague, he just started talking. But that is okay, I have a high regard for him.

Let me just say once again that we have gone the extra mile on this agreement with Mr. Chavez. He wouldn't sign it, nor would he give us a date certain when he would sign it. We adhered to my colleague and others' requests to extend the time period, he wouldn't sign it, and that is why we have this resolution tonight.

I don't know how it is going to play in Caracas, all I can say is it is time we get an agreement, and the DEA needs to be able to do its job.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 400, to express my concern that the government of Venezuela do what it can to secure its airport facilities from the trafficking of illegal goods. It is always essential to restrict the transport of these substances and the transport of laundered money from their sales.

International certifications in airport facilities help to ensure that such restrictions are in place. Recent evidence shows a general lack of enforcement in Venezuela of the measures necessary to avoid the trafficking of narcotics and other controlled substances. Especially in light of the discovery in April of a Venezuelan plane filled with narcotics en route to Mexico, we must seriously question the compliance of Venezuela's airports with such standards. I ask that my colleagues join me in requesting that the government of Venezuela exercise more effort in the future to ensure the security of their airport facilities.

This resolution would also express our wish to work closely with Venezuela and the other nations of this region that are so severely affected by this issue to combat the trafficking of narcotics and other controlled substances. It is not only out of concern for the welfare of our own Nation if illegal substances and laundered money are allowed safe passage here; we must also express our concern for the welfare of Venezuelans and others around the world. The control of harmful substances is an international effort in which we must all take part.

It should be the policy of the United States to work with the international community in ensuring adherence to the Organization of American States conventions and comprehensive treaties on narco-terrorism. This concurrent resolution serves to respect this and to assist in a review of the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Caracas in particular, in light of recent events.

I thank my colleagues on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations for drafting this resolution and urge my other colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 400, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AMENDING THE IRAN AND LIBYA SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5877) to amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5877

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES UNDER THE IRAN AND LIBYA SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.

Section 13(b) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking "on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "on September 29, 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 5877, a bill I introduced yesterday with Chairman HYDE of the House International Relations Committee;

Mr. LANTOS, coauthor of the Iran Freedom Support Act and ranking member of the International Relations Committee; and my ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, Mr. ACKERMAN.

This bill is a simple housekeeping measure to, on one hand, prevent the original Iran and Libya Sanctions Act from lapsing; and, on the other hand, to afford additional time for the House and Senate to reach an agreement on the final text of the comprehensive Iran legislation, the Iran Freedom Support Act.

The focus of the Congress continues to be that articulated through the Iran Freedom Support Act, which is to address the totality of the Iranian threat and strengthen our approach to this rogue state; to hold Iran accountable for its threatening policies; and to induce greater cooperation from our allies to compel Iran to cease and desist in its pursuit of nuclear weapons capabilities.

To achieve that end, Mr. Speaker, we need H.R. 5877, which would extend the original ILSA until September 29 of this year, affording us the additional time to finalize the text of the Iran Freedom Support Act to be sent to the President for his signature.

I ask for a "yes" vote on this bill.

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

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act is scheduled to lapse within days, and the legislation before the House will extend it until September 29. This reauthorization for a brief duration is necessitated by the fact that the House and Senate are still negotiating language on a new legislative construction of the Iran Libya Sanctions Act.

We hope to complete this process soon with the passage of new legislation that will strengthen sanctions against Iran and remove from law the outdated references to sanctions on Libya, sanctions which anyway no longer apply because Libya has fulfilled the required conditions.

I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as the work of the committee continues on this temporary reauthorization, I think it is important to have a few reflections. This is the 10th anniversary of the original sanctions law, and I think it would behoove us to ask what those sanctions have accomplished. This legislation seeks to renew for a period of 2 months a confusing, ineffective and, at best, counterproductive, at worst, counterproductive sanctions policy against Iran.

Iran justly remains a focal point of security concerns for our Nation. It supports those who use violence as a means of settling political disputes. It

is threatening rhetoric with respect to Israel. And there is world concerns about its desire to ramp up nuclear production. All these things, in my judgment, make it mandatory the United States seek immediate talks with Iran.

We must reach out to parties in the region to begin to negotiate an end to the violence and the beginning of a peace process leading to a permanent resolution. Now, our leaders haven't taken that approach. They are seeking to isolate Iran, and instead we are starting to isolate ourselves.

These sanctions are indirect. They are not targeted at objectionable behavior. According to Anthony Wayne, the Assistant Secretary For Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, testifying before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on June 28, 2001, talking about the Libya and Iran Sanctions Act, he says that "it focuses on investment in order to limit revenue, rather than focusing directly on actions by Iran to procure weapons of mass destruction and support terrorism." He goes on to say that "it goes against some of the friendly countries whose cooperation we need in working towards nonproliferation and counterterrorism goals."

So these sanctions haven't been effective. There is a question about whether any sanctions are going to be effective here. These sanctions add to the price of gasoline in the United States. We are paying for these failed sanctions every time we fill up our tank.

Iran has the third largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia and Canada, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, equaling 132.5 billion barrels. Iran has the second largest natural gas reserves after Russia, equaling 16 percent of the world's reserves. The administration hasn't done anything meaningful to break our country of its dependence on petroleum, so the reality is that sanctions against investments in Iran's oil and gas fields will cause U.S. consumers to pay higher prices for gasoline and natural gas.

High prices protect the Iranian government from economic consequences of decreased investment. A military strike against Iran, which this country seems to be nodding towards, could send oil to \$130 per barrel, according to CNN, making the \$3 a gallon currently look like the good old days.

Now, we have to take a new direction. The same geniuses who brought us the war in Iraq, who are standing by while violence overwhelms the Middle East, these same geniuses have this plan to keep sanctions on Iran, which will drive up the price of oil, so Iran can make more money selling their oil to other countries, and the oil industry in the U.S. isn't complaining about it because they are making record profits.

□ 2215

We need to take a new approach. That approach is to engage Iran di-

rectly and to stop isolating them and to bring them to a peaceful resolution of the issues that are currently inflaming so much of the world. This is a time for us to take a new direction. I don't think that we are headed that way, but I think that when we are looking at renewal of a sanctions regime we ought to be talking about whether or not it is in the best interests of this country to take the direction we are taking.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman THOMAS concerning the bill H.R. 5877. "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006".

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 26, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,  
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: I am writing regarding H.R. 5877, a bill "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006," which is scheduled for floor consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

Because H.R. 5877 would amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (ILSA) to have the effect of extending the application of an import ban, it falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that this legislation is being expedited in order to ensure that ILSA does not lapse while the Congress is considering additional changes to ILSA such as those contained in H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which was passed by the House of Representatives on April 26, 2006. This action is also being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 5877, H.R. 282, or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,  
Washington, DC, July 26, 2006.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 5877, a bill "To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006," which is scheduled for floor consideration on Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

I concur that the underlying Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) contains provisions relating to imports, which fall within the jurisdiction of your Committee, as does H.R. 5877, which would extend the Act. I appreciate your willingness to waive consideration of this legislation by your Committee in order to ensure that ILSA does not lapse while the Congress is considering additional

changes to ILSA such as those contained in H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which was passed by the House of Representatives on April 26, 2006. I also concur that your Committee's willingness to forego consideration does not in any way prejudice it with respect to the appointment of conferees or jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 5877, H.R. 282, or similar legislation.

As you have requested, I will place a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

With best wishes,  
Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,  
Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5877.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS VACCINE INITIATIVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 844) congratulating the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative on ten years of significant achievement in the search for an HIV/AIDS vaccine, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 844

Whereas HIV/AIDS has killed over 25,000,000 people worldwide and poses a serious threat to the economic and political stability of the countries hit hardest by this terrible epidemic;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) was founded in 1996 as a public-private partnership with a mission to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines for use throughout the world, with a particular focus on developing countries, where the need is most urgent;

Whereas the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's research and policy programs have galvanized scientific efforts and substantially increased financial and political support for this vital effort;

Whereas since its founding, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative has advanced six vaccine candidates from concept to clinical trials, targeting the subtypes of HIV circulating in the developing world—a record matched only by one large pharmaceutical company;

Whereas ten years ago only a few developing countries had participated in HIV/AIDS vaccine trials, but today several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are actively participating in HIV/AIDS vaccine trials, a reflection of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's activism and commitment to working collaboratively with developing country partners;