

and advocate of basic human rights, that we pass this legislation.

I want to thank the author of the bill, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his efforts.

I urge all colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Let me thank the gentleman from Texas for his eloquent statement, very well done, and thank you very much for your support of this legislation.

As we conclude, there were two other Members who indicated they wanted to speak, but I think that our time is about expiring.

But let me, once again, thank our chairman and ranking member for assisting us in bringing this bill forward. We hope that, as has been indicated, that we will be able to deal with modern-day slavery. We have problems in our country today where people are being brought in from eastern Europe and other areas where they are being exploited, and we need to really be more vigilant about wiping some of these terrible practices away.

And so, we hope that this commission will focus not only on the past, deal with the present, but also deal with the future. And we certainly appreciate the support from the other body and the senior Senator from New Jersey.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3432, the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade of 2007, which I am proud, along with over 95 of my colleagues, to cosponsor. This legislation recognizes the 200th anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and it establishes the rubric from which the Commission, to be known as the "Transatlantic Slave Trade 200th Anniversary Commission," shall be formed.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman PAYNE, for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman LANTOS, for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, though 200 years have passed since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, the legacy of slavery continues to have a profound impact on American society. The legacy of social and economic disparity lives on, as do hatred, bias, and discrimination. Despite two centuries of progress, the African American community continues to feel the impact of the transatlantic slave trade, and subsequent years of racism and persecution.

While our Nation has pursued the ideals of liberty and equality for all, there still remain steps that must be taken in order to ensure that even such a dark piece of our Nation's history be preserved and its conclusion at the hand of President Thomas Jefferson be celebrated.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us establishes a commission to cultivate and preserve the memory of a grave injustice in American history: we must recognize and in some small way try to rectify our past. In the early years of the Republic, the transatlantic slave trade

constituted a thriving economic vein of the United States. By 1807, millions of Africans had been captured and transported to the Americas, many perishing as the result of torture, rape, malnutrition, and disease. It was not until March of 1807 that President Thomas Jefferson signed into law "An Act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States," a Congressionally approved bill intended to end the heinous practice of the transatlantic slave trade.

It is in commemoration of President Jefferson's revolutionary act, and to explore further the impacts of the slave trade on our Nation that H.R. 3432 establishes the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission. This important commission will be composed of 11 congressionally appointed members charged with the task of planning, developing, and executing programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Though the Senate amendments to this bill strike the appropriation of funds for this important legislation, I still feel that this is an imperative first step in the right direction. While I am disappointed that the Senate did not see fit to allocate the necessary funds to see the formation of this unprecedented commission to fruition, I remain supportive of the significant mission of this legislation and hope to see it through to its completion.

January 1, 2008, marked the 200th anniversary of the "Act to Prohibit the Importation of Slaves." The United States today serves as a moral compass for the rest of the world and as such we must provide a voice for human trafficking issues. Our willingness to confront our Nation's past and to address the impacts of the slave trade and its legacy on the United States strengthens our undeterred commitment to serving as an advocate for human rights and freedom in the international community.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3432.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. GUTIERREZ) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4211, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 866, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4211, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4211.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 19]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie	Burton (IN)	Dent
Ackerman	Butterfield	Diaz-Balart, L.
Aderholt	Buyer	Diaz-Balart, M.
Akin	Calvert	Dicks
Alexander	Camp (MI)	Dingell
Allen	Campbell (CA)	Doggett
Altmire	Cannon	Donnelly
Andrews	Cantor	Doolittle
Arcuri	Capito	Doyle
Baca	Capps	Drake
Bachus	Capuano	Dreier
Baldwin	Cardoza	Duncan
Barrett (SC)	Carnahan	Edwards
Barrow	Carney	Ehlers
Bartlett (MD)	Carter	Ellsworth
Barton (TX)	Castle	Emanuel
Bean	Castor	Emerson
Becerra	Chabot	Engel
Berkley	Chandler	English (PA)
Berry	Clarke	Eshoo
Biggert	Clay	Etheridge
Bilbray	Cleaver	Everett
Bilirakis	Clyburn	Fallin
Bishop (GA)	Coble	Farr
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Fattah
Bishop (UT)	Cole (OK)	Feeney
Blackburn	Conaway	Ferguson
BlumenaUER	Conyers	Filner
Blunt	Cooper	Flake
Boehner	Costa	Forbes
Bonner	Courtney	Fortenberry
Bono Mack	Cramer	Fossella
Boozman	Crenshaw	Fox
Boren	Crowley	Frank (MA)
Boswell	Cubin	Franks (AZ)
Boucher	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Boustany	Culberson	Garrett (NJ)
Boyd (FL)	Cummings	Gerlach
Boyd (KS)	Davis (AL)	Gilchrest
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Gillibrand
Brady (TX)	Davis (KY)	Gingrey
Braley (IA)	Davis, David	Gohmert
Broun (GA)	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez
Brown (SC)	Davis, Tom	Goode
Brown-Waite,	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Ginny	DeFazio	Gordon
Buchanan	Delahunt	Granger
Burgess	DeLauro	Graves