November 18, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

to urge the Government of the People’s Republic of China—
(A) to release from detention all Falun Gong practitioners and put an immediate end to the practices of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment against them and other prisoners of conscience;
(B) to allow Falun Gong practitioners to pursue their personal beliefs in accordance with article 36 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China; and
(C) to prohibit the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. GILMAN (during the reading).
Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution, as amended.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. Gilman:

Insert a complete new preamble as follows:

Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful and non-violent form of personal belief and practice with millions of adherents in China and elsewhere;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has forbidden Falun Gong practitioners to practice their beliefs;

Whereas Falun Gong violates China’s own Constitution as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas thousands of ordinary citizens from all over China have been jailed for refusing to give up their practice of Falun Gong and for appealing to the government for protection of their constitutional rights;

Whereas there are many credible reports of torture and other cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment of detained Falun Gong practitioners;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has enacted new criminal legislation that the government’s official newspaper hailed as a “powerful new weapon to smash evil cultist organizations, especially Falun Gong;”

Whereas some of the detained Falun Gong members have been charged with political offenses, such as violations of China’s vague “official state secrets” law, and under the new legislation Falun Gong practitioners will be charged with such offenses as murder, fraud, and endangering national security;

Whereas other Falun Gong members have been sentenced to labor camps, apparently under administrative procedures allowing such sentences without trial;

Whereas Chinese authorities in recent months have confiscated, burned, or otherwise destroyed millions of Falun Gong books and tapes;

Whereas thousands of Falun Gong practitioners in China have lost their jobs and students have been expelled from schools for refusing to give up their beliefs; and

Whereas the brutal crackdown by the Chinese Government on Falun Gong is in direct violation of the fundamental human rights to freedom of personal belief and practice, expression, and assembly:

Mr. GILMAN (during the reading).
Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the preamble be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the matter just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble.

The Speaker read the bill, as follows:

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

SECTION 1. REDENOMINATION.

The Federal building located at 701 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California, and known as the Compton Main Post Office, as the “Mervyn Malcolm Dymally Post Office Building”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 376

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime;

Whereas a supportive environment and empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one, and

Whereas Senate Resolution 118 would designate December 12, 1999, as “National Children’s Memorial Day” in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died;

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. OSE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. OSE:

Strike the final “whereas” clause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the