November 18, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

30789

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 promote 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 was forbidden by China’s own Constitution as well as by 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 inhuman 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 murderer, 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 defrauded, 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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? There was no objection.

The Clerk read the title of 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”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideas of “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 clerk read as follows:

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 resolution was agreed to.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 376) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of “National Children’s Memorial Day,” 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”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideas of “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.

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

The clerk read as follows:

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
House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA OR THE HONORABLE FRANK R. WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE AND TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF 106TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, November 18, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Constance A. Morella or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable Frank R. Wolf to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designations are agreed to.

There was no objection.

COMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:


Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of the House, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am transmitting herewith copies of the resolutions approved on November 10, 1999 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as follows:

Committee survey resolutions authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the following potential water resources projects: Brazoria County Shoreline, Texas; Dickinson Bayou, Texas; and for the City of Brownsville, Texas.

Committee resolution authorizing the natural Resources Conservation Service to undertake a small watershed project for the Middle Deep Red Run Creek Small Watershed, Oklahoma.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Bud Shuster,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each:

DISTURBING PATTERN OF PAKISTANI ACTIONS DEMANDS SERIOUS SCRUTINY BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday in this House we approved on a bipartisan basis a resolution congratulating the people of India and their government for the successful parliamentary elections recently concluded. It is likely that thriving democracy, I was pleased to support that resolution and to speak in favor of it.

Unfortunately, action on another resolution that has been approved by the Committee on International Relations and Committee on the Judiciary on this floor has been delayed. That other resolution would express the strong opposition of Congress to the recent military coup in Pakistan that overthrew the civilian government. While individual Members of Congress, including me, have spoken out against the Pakistani coup, it is important for the House of Representatives to go on record collectively stating that we do not tolerate the overthrow of an elected government.

I am very disappointed, Mr. Speaker, in the Republican leadership for the continued delay in bringing up this resolution. Since we are about to adjourn, I feel the resolution is dead for this year.

Last month, Mr. Speaker, the military coup in Pakistan was one of a series of disturbing actions that deserve very close scrutiny and clear condemnation by the U.S. government, the Congress, as well as the administration. One of the most shocking of these was last week’s rocket attacks against American and UN targets in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. The rockets were aimed at buildings in the heart of the capital, including the U.S. Embassy, a library and cultural center known as the American Center, and an office tower housing several UN agencies. Thank God, no one was killed, although one person was injured, a Pakistani guard at the American Center.

Mr. Speaker, the attacks came 2 days before UN sanctions were scheduled to go into effect against the Taliban regime for support of Afghanistan. But the Taliban, the international terrorist who has masterminded attacks against American and western targets in various countries. There has been solid evidence in recent past linking bin Laden’s operation with Pakistan, so this connection is extremely plausible.

As the New York Times reported last Saturday, November 13, the list of possible culprits is short. Apart from the Taliban itself, Pakistan is home to several well-armed paramilitary groups sympathetic to the Taliban and hostile to the United States, in addition to thousands of Pakistani militants, who, over the years have trained side-by-side, with Taliban Members in Islamic schools.

I should add, Mr. Speaker, that Pakistan has for years been identified with the violent separatist movement in India’s state of Jammu and Kashmir, causing the deaths of thousands of civilians and the displacement of hundreds of thousands from their homes. Pakistan’s role in selling death and destruction in Kashmir was exposed to the world earlier this year when Pakistani military leaders, many of the same elements who carried out last month’s coup d’état, precipitated a major crisis by unilaterally attack against Indian positions in the area of Kargil, along the line of control that separates India and Pakistani controlled areas of Kashmir.

Pakistan’s actions were condemned by the U.S. and the international community, and Pakistan was forced to essentially withdraw. But the attacks by Pakistani forces on India army positions continued day-to-day, causing casualties on both sides and threatening the stability of the entire South Asia region.

You have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, why the U.S. continues to try to win the favor of the Pakistani regime, given the proven collaboration between Pakistan and the fundamentalist Taliban militia in Afghanistan, and with bin Laden. By supporting and the Taliban represent the height of violent anti-Americanism, and yet here is the Pakistani regime tolerating, if not directly supporting, the operations of these movements in their country.

We have rarely seen another example of the lack of respect for democracy and the rule of law on the part of the new Pakistani military regime with the initiative to indict the deposed Prime Minister, Sharif, on trumped up charges of treason and hijacking, charges which carry the death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get carried away singing the praises of Mr. Sharif. He was deeply involved in the ill-fated military campaign in Kashmir earlier this year. But he was the recognized legitimate leader of the nation. He had apparently attempted to dismiss the army’s Chief of Staff, General Musharraf, and, instead, the general turned the tables and dismissed the prime minister, indicating who is really in charge in Pakistan. The turn of events indicates that the notion of democratic civilian leadership and the rule of law are not well developed in Pakistan.

Reports in the last day out of Pakistan indicate that Prime Minister...