

Accusations of RUC support for the murder of Catholic leaders abounds. Rosemary Nelson appeared before the International Relations Committee and testified that she had received death threats from members of the RUC.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers has found that the RUC is engaged "in activities which constitute intimidation, harassment, [and] hindrance" of defense lawyers [in Northern Ireland] in the course of their professional duties. He also labeled the RUC's intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland as, and I quote, "consistent and systematic."

This is not acceptable. There must be an independent investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson to determine who is responsible. Those who are responsible must be brought to justice. If members of the RUC are confirmed to have been involved, the RUC should be disbanded and a new police force created.

Mr. Speakers, Northern Ireland needs a police force for all the people. Defense attorneys in Northern Ireland must be protected so that they can do their jobs. I support H. Res. 128 and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 128, a resolution which condemns the brutal murder of Northern Ireland human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson and calls for an independent inquiry into her death.

Ms. Nelson's murder was truly a tragedy—a cowardly act by those who are enemies of peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

Rosemary Nelson spent her life trying to help others. She was a champion of human rights worked tirelessly to protect ensure these basic rights for her fellow countrymen. Ultimately, she was killed because of her work.

We must not allow her death to be in vain—we must not allow the enemies of peace to win. We have all worked too long and hard to achieve peace and the people of Ireland deserve no less.

Today, I join with my colleagues and call for an independent investigation into the death of Rosemary and all human rights attorneys in Northern Ireland who have lost their lives in the pursuit of helping others.

We owe it to the memory of these courageous individuals—and we owe it to the cause of peace and justice, both in Ireland and throughout the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge a "yes" vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 128, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD FRIDAY PEACE AGREEMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 54) recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 54

Whereas Ireland has a long and tragic history of civil conflict that has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas since 1969 more than 3,200 people have died and thousands more have been injured as a result of political violence in Northern Ireland;

Whereas a series of efforts by the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to facilitate peace and an announced cessation of hostilities created an historic opportunity for a negotiated peace;

Whereas in June 1996, for the first time since the partition of Ireland in 1922, representatives elected from political parties in Northern Ireland pledged to adhere to the principles of nonviolence and commenced talks regarding the future of Northern Ireland;

Whereas the talks greatly intensified in the spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was critical to the success of the talks;

Whereas on Good Friday, April 10, 1998, the parties to the negotiations each made honorable compromises to conclude a peace agreement for Northern Ireland, which has become known as the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas on Friday, May 22, 1998, an overwhelming majority of voters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved by referendum the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas the United States must remain involved politically and economically to ensure the long-term success of the peace agreement; and

Whereas on Good Friday, April 2, 1999, a one-year deadline passed without agreement among all major parties, putting the entire peace process in jeopardy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

(2) salutes British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the elected representatives of the political parties in Northern Ireland for creating the opportunity for a negotiated peace;

(3) commends Senator George Mitchell for his leadership on behalf of the United States in guiding the parties toward peace;

(4) congratulates the people of the Republic of Ireland and of Northern Ireland for their courageous commitment to work together in peace;

(5) encourages the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland with the active involvement of the United States to continue to work together to ensure the forward movement of the peace process; and

(6) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the United States and the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, which ensure that the United States and those Governments will continue as partners in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, next week the British and Irish governments will resume talks with the major political parties of Northern Ireland in an attempt to move the promises held in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to try to move them from good rhetoric to actual implementation.

This resolution that is being offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is really a message of encouragement and hope. It urges all those who have worked so hard to achieve the Good Friday Agreement on paper to now rededicate themselves to the actual implementation of its provisions so that peace and justice will take root in the north of Ireland.

Last year, by overwhelming majorities, the people of Ireland, both north and south, embraced the ideals put forth by this peace agreement. Only those who are enemies of peace and justice in Northern Ireland could be content with the prospect that the agreement may be stalled or parked as a result of new time lines and deadlines injected into the process.

Instead, as friends of Northern Ireland and sponsors of this resolution, we call on the leaders of all parties to move beyond the current impasse, to stick to the agreement as approved, resist renegotiating or clarifying the promises it holds, and do whatever can be done to ensure that the guarantee of fundamental human rights for both communities of Northern Ireland remains the driving force behind all that is done and worked for.

When the guarantee of fundamental human rights supersedes all other negotiation considerations, then we will see a just and lasting peace take hold in the north of Ireland.

This resolution puts us on record as saying go forward, and I want to commend the gentleman from New York

(Mr. CROWLEY) for his sponsorship of this very timely and important resolution.

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to also thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and say that in the short period of time that he has been here he has been able to raise the profile of these kinds of issues. I think it is a testament to how successful and effective he has been in this short period of time.

I certainly want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) as well for the Rosemary Nelson, I think, opportunity where we could shed some light on that issue for the world to indeed see.

While we celebrate the first anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in the north of Ireland, an agreement which people in the north of Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have now offered their support for, we nonetheless, I think, have to call attention to the 1-year anniversary in this sense: The people voted for an agreement which is historic in nature. This problem, again the longest standing political dispute in the history of the Western world, begins in geography eight centuries ago, certainly was reinforced during the Reformation, but during the last 30 years it has been a battle about civil rights.

What I think is significant about the Good Friday Agreement is that again both communities in the north of Ireland, both traditions, voted for the agreement. So we ask ourselves today, why has it not been implemented as the people voted?

The answer is this: Because once again the unionist community has said the famous word "no". They are now suggesting that because decommissioning has not taken place from the Irish Republican Army, that in fact that is the reason not to proceed with the agreement.

Now, let me say this. After both traditions voted for this agreement, decommissioning was supposed to take place simultaneously to, not in advance of, the institutions of government being put in place.

What is striking about this current disagreement is this: All parties agreed to decommission in the month of May in the year 2000.

So now what we are seeing is, all parties have gotten to the goal line, and at the goal line David Trimble and the unionist community have essentially said, no, there was no touchdown scored; we are going to move the goalpost back.

The signal that that sends to the nationalist community is the historic reinforcement that no matter what is

done, it is not good enough; that if we are not arguing today about decommissioning we will be arguing tomorrow about how to fly which flag. We will be arguing again about what the schools are to be like, and just wait until we get to that issue of the role that Dublin is going to play in the day-to-day affairs of the north.

□ 1630

If we think that we are now at impasse, believe me, that is the next unionist position that they will reinforce.

David Trimble typically contributes to his own political problems by reminding everybody how difficult it is. If one wants to be the prime minister of the north of Ireland, one has to be the leader of all of the people. Forty-one percent of the people in America voted against Bill Clinton. He is still President of the United States. That is the notion of democracy. The greater number decide. That is precisely what we subscribe to here in our democratic ideals.

So why is it after there has been an agreement and the public has ratified the agreement, bringing that island closer to peace than they have been at any time in the last 30 years, does one party once again have the ability to veto what people have voted for?

I would call upon Prime Minister Blair, who by the way I think deserves some credit, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, and certainly Bill Clinton who deserves credit as well, to say to the unionist community, "We are going to proceed with the implementation of this agreement. On a prescribed date, we hope you are on board, because this is what the people voted for." That is the path that we should be traveling down; not once again to say, "Here is an agreement ratified by the public," only have to a small number of people say, "That cannot be," after it has been duly ratified by the voting public.

As those old visions and bad feelings sunset on that tiny island, I think we have an opportunity here to set an agenda where both traditions can live in accord. But we cannot do it if one party always says no. We cannot do it if one party simply says, yes, but. We cannot do it if one party says that our tradition somehow allows us to lord over the other tradition. In the end, that only generates bad feeling and it generates lasting feelings that cannot be overcome.

Let me close on this simple note. John Hume said it best, the Nobel Prize winning John Hume. He said, at the end of the day, what we all ought to be able to come to accord on is an agreed upon Ireland, and that should be the goal of all of us.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and I thank the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who have traveled therewith, for their visionary leadership on this issue. Indeed, there is an opportunity to make the implementation of this historic accord stick.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me compliment the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for taking this time and handling this very important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today in support of the continuation of the peace process in the north of Ireland. I must begin by complimenting President Clinton, because it was his decision to allow Jerry Adams and the Sinn Fein organization to visit the United States after many years of being refused a visa, and that began to get the other side and the story of the work that was being done by the political wing of the movement in the north of Ireland.

Also, I have to compliment the skills and the patience and the deliberation of Senator George Mitchell for his work of for years forging an agreement between the parties. People who said they would never sit down together sat down and worked together, and I must compliment the people of the north of Ireland and Ireland for overwhelmingly approving the referendum that came to the agreement of the Good Friday Accords.

The Good Friday Accords were promulgated nearly a year ago this April with the best intent in mind: To end the authoritative rule and domination of the Protestant party over minority Catholics. It gave Catholics a real voice, for once, by ending three decades of conflict in the north of Ireland.

I became very interested and involved because as a youngster I was involved in the civil rights movement in this country, and I emulated and felt very close to the movement in the north of Ireland because of the same obstacles and the same freedom songs that they sang about "We Shall Overcome." So I became very involved as a young person in the struggle there.

But it will be two years this July since I went and spent time in the north of Ireland and had the opportunity to see for myself the violence and the killings associated with the Orange Order march in the village of Drumcree where I stayed, right there in the center of town. I also had the opportunity to visit the north of Ireland and Ireland with President Clinton on his historic trip back to that region.

The celebration of the victory of William of Orange, in which Irish land was seized and confiscated, is an assault on Catholics everywhere. Sadly, this parade glorifies a part of history and is provocative in its nature, and I have seen the walls that they marched down and threw pennies on both sides of the area, which just provokes people.

I believe that the political prisoner release of paramilitary groups on both sides was a good issue. I know that Tony Blair is receiving pressure to overturn this rule. I think it would be a very bad precedent for all involved if it was overturned.

In the same light, I know that the decommissioning issue was one of the last things discussed before all parties made the last push toward peace. We cannot allow decommissioning to be used as a wedge to keep Jerry Adams and Sinn Fein out of the government. Decommissioning of paramilitary weapons will take place, but I think we know that disarming the paramilitaries is going to be a very difficult task. This was never a precondition of power-sharing.

But let me say this: The peace agreement does not explicitly require a start on disarmament, but the politics of the accord compel it. I will hope that this could be worked out soon because we must have decommissioning, but it should not be a precondition.

If it is not, we are faced with confronting Bloody Sunday all over again in the future. We have gone too far, we have worked too hard, we have pushed too long to allow this. So this is the stakes that we all must make to ensure that peace in the north of Ireland becomes a reality and irreversible.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H. Con. Res. 54 with the intent to honor and celebrate as a Congress the one-year anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Accord and the involvement of the United States Senate majority leader, George Mitchell; our President, Bill Clinton; Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern; and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for their work in securing this important and historic agreement.

In particular, recognition has to be given to Senator George Mitchell. This peace agreement would not have been possible without his involvement, and also without the support of our President, Bill Clinton.

On May 22, 1998, an overwhelming majority of voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved the referendum to support the Good Friday peace agreement and establish a Northern Ireland Assembly. Unfortunately, though, the peace process has been dealt some recent setbacks.

The demand by unionist forces that Sinn Fein unilaterally decommission one year ahead of schedule before taking seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly has stalled the peace process. On Good Friday of this year, peace talks were suspended. The same happened again when talks in London were suspended. The outlook is not very optimistic. Today's Washington Post quotes Sinn Fein leader Jerry Adams as saying, "The Good Friday Peace Agreement is in free fall."

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom have invested too much to let this delicate peace agreement fall apart. Without a resolution between all parties, the peace process will come to a halt and the Northern Ireland Executive will not be established.

There is talk of closing down the Northern Ireland Assembly of 108 elected members until all parties can come to an agreement. This latest setback comes at a very terrible time. Weighing heavily is the fact that we are fast approaching the start of the Protestant Orange Order marching season, which acts as a catalyst for sectarian violence in the north of Ireland.

Now, let me say that my resolution does not attempt to take sides in the dispute over decommissioning and the seating of the Northern Ireland Executive, but rather commemorates the one-year anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Accord. I personally believe that Sinn Fein and Jerry Adams have been honest peace brokers in the peace process, and I find it troubling that David Trimble and the Ulster unionists have added preconditions to this agreement. They are holding hostage the people of Northern Ireland's right to determine their own local government and establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Executive.

Again, Mr. Speaker, my resolution does not attempt to speak on the subject of who is or is not to blame for the recent stall in progress. My resolution does attempt to speak loudly as a Congress and as a country that the United States is committed to working with both the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to ensure the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot sit idly by while the peace process in Northern Ireland comes to a halt. I am disheartened that instead of celebrating, we are admonishing the parties to come back to the bargaining table, to understand that peace will bring prosperity to their children and to their children's children.

Making peace is difficult. It involves sacrifice, it involves hard work, and it involves dedication. As someone who has worked in a former career in the State Assembly of New York and has been involved all my life in Irish affairs, and whose mother is from Northern Ireland, I personally know how important the Good Friday Peace Accord was and still is to those who live in Northern Ireland, as well as to Irish throughout the world.

As conflicts rage around the world, especially in Kosovo, we must not forget about Northern Ireland and the work that had been done and the work that will continue to be done to bring peace to this troubled region. This resolution, which has 107 cosponsors, intends to move the peace process forward

beyond this temporary hurdle and reaffirms the support of the Congress to the peace process as well as the work of all parties in establishing and securing a long-lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues and my cochair of the congressional ad hoc committee again, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN); the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking member; the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL); the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and all who have worked on bringing peace to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me this time and for the leadership that he has provided on this most important of issues in our international relations. I would also like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), new to this Congress certainly, but not new to the issues regarding Ireland and the civil rights issues that we have seen come so clear in these past few weeks and months.

The Good Friday Agreement, which is what we have been talking about for the better part of the afternoon, seemingly died this Good Friday on its first anniversary. The discussions surrounding bringing the government together, as Jerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein said just yesterday, are in free fall.

This agreement is a good agreement. It has brought all sides and factions together to form a government. It has been supported by the Republic of Ireland government, it has been supported by the British government, it has been supported by the Clinton administration and by this Congress, and we have played a very constructive and important role, the Members of Congress, and especially the President.

At this point, however, it is in danger of going the way of other agreements and other peace arrangements in the history of Ireland. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, what the answer is, but it strikes me, and I don't know if anyone else has suggested this, but it strikes me that maybe what we need to do is go to the President and say, Mr. President, you offered George Mitchell's good offices once before, and he was able to bring everyone together and get everyone working together to resolve this. Maybe what we need to do is see if we can enlist George Mitchell once again, the Senator from Maine, to go back and revisit this issue and try to

get people back on track and back on board in implementing the original agreement.

□ 1645

The original agreement was so finely crafted that nobody could change a comma, a period, a dot, or the crossing of a T. It was very delicate, and maybe he is the only one that can do that again.

But this was a good agreement. It needs to be stayed with. It requires the patience of all parties. But it is clear we are off track, and that even the best efforts of our president and the leaders of England and of Ireland have not been able to get parties back on track.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I would also suggest that we need to be patient. We need to pray, and we also need to stay in contact with the leadership of those political parties to try to get them to keep working this out.

Mr. Speaker, I have just been advised that the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) has reached out to Senator Mitchell to try to bring him back into this. I think that is wise, and I certainly support those efforts.

Let me conclude by saying that the issue regarding the murder of the civil rights attorney who has been discussed, Ms. Nelson, which has been discussed this afternoon, that inquiry into her death absolutely must be independent of the RUC.

The RUC was implicated, not directly, certainly, but by her own testimony before the Committee on International Relations last year. She was concerned about them, about their statements and their actions regarding her own personal security, her inability to reach out to those, to that law enforcement agency, to help her to defend herself against threats against her life. It just makes good sense that they need to be held at arm's length.

We have offered the FBI. England has offered her constabulary in Kent. They need to do the investigation. The RUC needs to take a step back, especially given the volatility of the politics of the times, take a step back and let the professionals outside of Northern Ireland conduct this investigation, and do it fairly. Because if no one has any faith in the inquisitor in this, then there will be no faith in the result. There absolutely must be good faith in this process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak on these important issues. I thank my friends and colleagues for bringing this before the Congress, and I urge unanimous support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for his excellent statement and his leadership these many years on the

issue of Northern Ireland, just to underscore how important it is that that investigation be completely independent of the RUC in order to procure a result that we know we can live with, and will hopefully yield the results and catch the perpetrators, because there are people who actually did the killing, and there are many others who are probably a part of that killing, and the officials need to get to the bottom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), my good friend and another great leader in the cause of human rights in the north of Ireland.

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I want to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH) for his resolution regarding the investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson, and I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his work on bringing this resolution forward on this Good Friday Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the Irish peace process is now in a very critical point in Ireland. The fact is that it was over a year ago that the Good Friday Agreement came to fruition. It was a hard-fought compromise with all sides making concessions, moving forward.

The fact is that the Ulster Unionist Party and the leadership of David Trimble is preventing implementation of this agreement by insisting on the precondition of decommissioning.

It is really not for us to be arguing the merits of decommissioning. The fact is that the parties signed an agreement. It was ratified by over 80 percent of all the voters on the island of Ireland. It was 95 percent in the south, and 75 percent in the north agreeing to the Good Friday Agreement, which did not impose any precondition whatsoever as far as the issue of decommissioning or any other issue, for that matter.

The fact is that right now the agreement is not being fully implemented. It is being stalemated, it is being held up, and there is a real risk that the peace process could come undone unless the agreement is implemented and unless the parties go forward.

I know suggestions were made here today that Senator Mitchell get involved. Certainly to me that is a good recommendation. But I think most importantly, the parties have to realize, and the governments have the prime responsibility, specifically the British government, have to realize that the agreement must be implemented. They cannot allow David Trimble to be holding it up.

I would ask that the administration continue the very good work it has done in helping to bring about the agreement in the first place, and now to ensure that the agreement not be al-

lowed to founder and to collapse. Too much has gone on, too many lives have been lost, too much hard work has gone into this, too many sacrifices were made to allow one party to in any way frustrate the full implementation of the agreement.

This is something which has a tremendous human rights ramification, and it is something where so many people in the United States, including the President, have done so much to bring about the Good Friday Agreement.

When we talk about the implementation of the agreement, the fact is that it will never be fully implemented unless there is faith in the law enforcement system in the north of Ireland.

Quite frankly, there is very little faith in the Royal Ulster Constabulary among those in the nationalist community. That is why the resolution of the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH) calling for an independent investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson is so essential.

Rosemary Nelson testified before the Committee on International Relations last year. She felt that she was being threatened by the RUC. Now to allow the Royal Ulster Constabulary to investigate a murder in which its own members may have been involved to me is unbelievable, it is wrong, it cannot be done, it should not be done, and if it is done, then it is going to cause more and more disenchantment by the nationalist community toward the law enforcement authorities in the north.

This is not the first case. There was the case of Pat Finucane which I am sure has also been mentioned earlier today, 10 years ago where there was strong evidence that the RUC was involved in his murder, yet it has never been fully investigated.

So on both these resolutions, I think it is a tremendous step forward by the Congress of the United States to show our involvement, to show our interest; to show that all Americans, whether they be of Irish ancestry, whether they be Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, nonbeliever, we stand for the cause of freedom, the cause of justice, the cause of human rights.

That can best be advanced by the full enactment of this agreement, and secondly, by a full, complete, and independent investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH) for yielding time to me. I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his resolution, and I urge the adoption.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 54.

We are here today in for a very important reason—to recognize the importance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

House Concurrent Resolution 54 honors all those who played an instrumental role in

bringing peace to northern Ireland—from the Irish and English political leaders, to Senator Mitchell, to the people of northern Ireland. These people deserve our deepest respect—for their leadership, dedication and courage. They are the true heroes of the Irish Peace Process.

The resolution also reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exists between our countries and that we will continue to work together towards peace in northern Ireland. Because now is a crucial time in the peace process. It would be easy for us to say we have the peace accord and then put it on the back burner.

But we can't do that. If we are going to ensure the long-term success of the peace accords and really achieve peace in Ireland, we must remain involved.

It is only through our continued commitment and the commitment of the people involved that we will see a true and lasting peace in Ireland.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 54, recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement. In stark contrast to recent events in Yugoslavia, the Good Friday Peace Agreement stands out as a hopeful example of how deeply-rooted, persistent and intransigent problems can be resolved peacefully, and how the cycle of hatred and violence can be brought to a halt.

In Northern Ireland, we see a situation in which the two sides have taken courageous steps towards bridging the gap that divides them. Many steps remain, but the principles for peace have been agreed upon, and they are embodied in the Good Friday Peace Agreement. Now is the time for full and timely implementation.

Problems and violence persist in Northern Ireland. The murder of human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson represents one such unacceptable act of violence and a step in the wrong direction.

House Concurrent Resolution 54 communicates to our friends in Northern Ireland that we support them on their difficult road to a lasting peace, and that they must, now more than ever, stay the course. I urge support for the resolution.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 54, which recognizes the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement. When this agreement was reached on April 10, 1998, those whose lives had been destroyed by the last 30 years of violence, rejoiced at the promise of peace. Now, a year later, this historic peace agreement is dangerously close to failing.

The resolution before us today, salutes the parties who worked so diligently to bring about this historic accord, and it does so at a very appropriate time. Not only has the first anniversary of this agreement just passed, but its future is in jeopardy, the resolution reaffirms the need for the preservation of this accord and the ideals which it stands for. In today's Washington Post the head of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, is quoted as having said that "the Good Friday Agreement is in free fall." At this juncture, all of the parties involved in the creation and implementation of this Agreement

must try even harder to work together to create a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The commitment and support of the agreement by the people, in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, was demonstrated by the overwhelmingly supportive outcome of the vote on the referendum on May 22, 1998. This affirmation further demonstrates the need to ensure that this accord make it past this troublesome point.

The United States has committed to remain involved, politically and economically, to ensure the long-term success of the peace agreement. We realize the importance of continued economic growth and stability in the region, as it will prove to be an instrumental part of any lasting peace. This resolution reaffirms this commitment, and reaffirms that the United States, as a friend of both Ireland and the United Kingdom, will continue to facilitate this peace.

None of this can be accomplished however, without the commitment of both sides to this peace. The violence needs to end and the seeds of trust need to be planted.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this issue is very important to me. I will continue to do what I can to assist in this peace process, the violence has gone on long enough. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to continue to support the peacemaking efforts in Ireland.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln once said, "Let us have faith that rights makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Today, the leaders of Northern Ireland face a delicate, worrisome situation. It is up to the leaders to decide if the path to the future will be one of peace or one of war. After centuries of animus, and thirty years of vicious factional bloodshed, the opportunity for a lasting peace is real and within grasp. Just as real, unfortunately, is the grave possibility of renewed bloodshed, further factionalism, and renewed war.

Over a year ago, the leaders of factions in Northern Ireland made a monumental decision; they decided to pursue peace. It was a brave decision, one supported by all the people of Ireland but bitterly opposed by those unable to set aside their entrenched hatreds and swallow their bitterness.

One year after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, the people of Northern Ireland again face tumultuous waters that could easily cast their boat into the sea of despair. They must have faith that the course they are on is the right one, and must believe, as Lincoln said, that right will make might. They must do their duty as best they can, and build the peace that they seek and deserve.

Last year, Nationalists and Loyalists, Protestants and Catholics, were successful in reaching the Good Friday Agreement only by engaging in democratic dialogue, serious yet principled compromise, and a mutual understanding that continued violence benefits no one. I commend their efforts, and hope that in the future they will be able to focus on other issues of mutual concern: bettering the economy, educating their children, and creating a democratic society where every man and woman is equal.

There have been setbacks. The murder of advocates of peace and justice, like Rosemary

Nelson, should not be forgotten. But it is not their untimely deaths that should be remembered, but their lives, which they gave in hopes that others would enjoy the fruits of peace.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the many Irish-American residents of Michigan, I rise today in recognition of the many brave souls who have chosen peace over violence, and compromise over confrontation. I ask that all parties work together as partners to implement the Good Friday Agreement, and end the senseless violence that has plagued Ireland for far too long.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 54, which recognizes the ongoing peace process in Northern Ireland and the historical significance of the Good Friday Peace Accord which was achieved just over a year ago, on April 10, 1998.

I join with my colleagues in congratulating the people of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland for their courageous commitment to peace. By signing the historic Good Friday Peace Agreement in April 1998, leaders such as John Hume, David Trimble and Gerry Adams created a new era of peace and reconciliation for all the people of Northern Ireland. The recognition given to John Hume and David Trimble in receiving the Nobel Peace Prize was an important step toward memorializing the extraordinary achievements made by the proponents of peace. We should not forget, however, the many other people, without whom this process would not have even been possible. I commend the valuable and vital contributions to the peace process by President Clinton, former Senator George Mitchell, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Great Britain.

The Good Friday Peace Accord was an important achievement, marking the first step to ending thirty years of violence and bloodshed in Northern Ireland, reducing divisions between Unionists and Nationalists, and building new bridges of opportunity between the two communities. Through this process, they have committed ending years of mistrust and hatred, which has cost the lives of more than 3,200 people since 1969.

The text of the Good Friday Peace Accord contains important provisions calling for the formation of a Northern Ireland Assembly, a North/South Ministerial Council and a British-Irish Council. The agreement also contains critical provisions on human rights, decommissioning of weapons, policing, and prisoners. Voters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved the Peace Agreement by a remarkable 85 percent majority on May 22, 1998, and elections to the new assembly were held on June 25. Since that time, prisoners have been released and the British have reduced their troop levels to the lowest point in twenty years.

Last August, I had the opportunity to participate in a seven-member Congressional delegation trip to Ireland, led by the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich and DEAN JOHN DINGELL. Our visit included meetings with representatives of the various parties to the Good Friday Peace Agreement, including representatives of the Ulster Unionist Party, Sinn Fein and the Social Democratic and Labour Party. We also met with senior leaders of Ireland and Northern Ireland, including Taoiseach Bertie

Ahern, John Hume of the SDLP and Seamus Mallon, the Deputy First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

We were also able to review the peace process and discuss measures to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties between the United States and the Irish people. Through my experience, it was clear that there is a strong bond of cooperation between the people of the United States and Ireland, and deep appreciation for the U.S. role in negotiating the Peace Agreement.

Clearly, the discord in Northern Ireland will not be solved by the signing of one document. Significant progress must be made before lasting peace can be finally achieved. But we should recognize that the Good Friday Peace Agreement has changed the course of history for all the people in Northern Ireland. Lasting peace will only be realized by a thorough adherence to and completion of the measures outlined in the Good Friday Agreement and mandated by the people of Ireland.

As we recognize the first anniversary of this agreement, I am hopeful that all sides take every opportunity to make real progress toward its implementation. The United States has a strong national interest in helping this agreement to succeed.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CROWLEY's resolution on the Northern Ireland peace process is noncontroversial and worthy of everybody's full and strong support. It is also very timely. I congratulate the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, for his efforts. The Irish peace process today needs a little more encouragement, as it has once again run into some obstacles in Belfast.

It is worthwhile praising the tireless and courageous efforts of British Prime Minister Blair, and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, and former Senator George Mitchell on the Good Friday peace accord. I have done so myself on many occasions.

President Clinton, I am also proud to say, has always had strong bipartisan support here in the Congress on his own efforts to find lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland. I urge that he and our nation stay fully involved to help see the process through to lasting peace and justice in the north.

However, today we still see the old "unionist veto" in play. Once again the issue of arms decommissioning is being used to prevent the establishment of the cabinet executive as provided for in the Good Friday accord. There are some on the unionist side who when faced with the reality of living by the terms of the Good Friday accord and sharing power to which they and all of the Irish people consented to, decided to change the terms of the accord.

The negotiated solution in the north was based upon consent. It isn't the consent as dictated by one side, it's the consent of all of the Irish people—and they have spoken and agree to share power and end the unworkable unionist domination of the north.

The first anniversary of the Good Friday accord has come and gone. Yet today we do not yet have established the power sharing mechanism that the accord and the good Irish people both north and south, fully envision for the new Ireland. The people voted in referendum last May and then elected a new assembly to

bring about real and concrete change. The status quo will no longer do.

I would urge both governments in the region, and President Clinton, to again call upon the good offices of Senator George Mitchell to once again be an honest broker to end the current impasse that may lead to the collapse of the Good Friday accord.

It may take again the master stroke of a man like George Mitchell, who is accepted by all sides as fair and objective, to save the Good Friday accord he worked so hard to develop and to gain consent from all the parties. George, we need you one more time! I hope both Governments will take this proposal to heart.

It is really time to get on with it, to create a new cabinet and to bring about real change and power sharing that will make the bomb and gun an obsolete means for resolution of grievances on both sides in the north of Ireland.

I urge the adoption of the Crowley resolution to both send a message of support for the peace process, as well as a call for the process to go forward within the frame work of the Good Friday accord as agreed to by all the parties.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Good Friday Peace Agreement signed on April 10, 1998, and to the continuing efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland.

The conflict in Northern Ireland has been agonizing, not only in the region, but also among many Americans, including myself.

As a Texas State representative, I visited Belfast in the early 1990's and learned a great deal about the sources of so much tension and hatred in that historic region.

On that trip, I had a chance to meet many of the principals on all sides of the dispute.

I was able to put faces and personalities behind the struggle: members of Sinn Fein, Unionists, and other individuals that were trying to make a difference.

After my return from Northern Ireland, I worked with both parties in the Texas Legislature on the issue.

We passed legislation based upon the MacBride Principles to hold companies in Northern Ireland engaged in business with the State of Texas to nondiscrimination and equal justice.

As a Congressman, I have continued to deal with the Northern Ireland issue, endorsing efforts to leverage our presence in the region to foster a more tolerant and stable society.

I joined all of us in welcoming the breakthrough for peace last year by Special Envoy George Mitchell and the administration as they tackled this delicate problem.

As a cosponsor of this bill, H. Con. Res. 54, I continue to share in the hope that this region will take the final steps in realizing a just and lasting peace.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House sus-

pend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 54, 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.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG ELIMINATION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1379) to amend the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, to make a technical correction relating to an emergency supplemental appropriation for international narcotics control and law enforcement assistance, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1379

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Technical Corrections Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS RELATING TO RESOURCES FOR ILLEGAL NARCOTICS IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subtitle B of title VIII of division C of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105-277), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 826. FURTHER MISCELLANEOUS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State for fiscal year 1999 such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291).

"(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) are in addition to amounts made available to carry out section 481 of such Act under any other provision of law."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title VIII of division C of such Act (Public Law 105-277) is amended in the table of contents in section 801(b) by adding at the end of the item relating to subtitle B the following:

"Sec. 826. Further miscellaneous additional resources."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in subtitle B of title VIII of division C of such Act (Public Law 105-277).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that