

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES SHOULD ENCOURAGE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY IN PERU

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 43) expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should encourage free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Peru, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding to me.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, makes an important statement of American policy towards Peru. It was passed unanimously by the Senate.

Independent election monitors in Peru have expressed grave doubts about the fairness of the electoral process now under way in Peru.

This resolution notes the absence of free and fair elections in Peru would constitute a major setback for the Peruvian people and for democracy in the hemisphere. It could result in instability in Peru and could jeopardize United States anti-narcotic objectives in Peru and the region.

Mr. Speaker, at this moment, Peru's electoral authorities are moving to finalize the vote count for the first round of that election. It is important that the House add its voice to the unanimous voice in the Senate and send a proper signal of U.S. support for democracy in Peru.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for bringing this resolution to the floor.

This resolution really comes at a very decisive moment in Peru's history. The votes from this past Sunday's election in Peru are being counted as we speak. International and Peruvian observers have already declared the electoral process to be damaged. The Organization of American States, the National Democratic Institute, and the Carter Center are among them.

Mr. Speaker, I have served as an international observer in the recent Nigerian elections and also in the elections in South Africa several years ago. We must value the importance of our international observers in their understanding and clarification of what is taking place abroad.

These nonpartisan Peruvian observers also have included the well-respected group *Transparencia*, and they have noted that the Fujimori government has attempted to unfairly manipulate this process to President Fujimori's advantage.

Now, the legitimacy of the entire process is in the balance. Pre-election polls and, more telling, election day exit polls and independent quick counts all point to President Fujimori's coming short of the 50 percent vote needed to win in the first round. Official vote counts appear to be inching toward 50 percent while independent tabulations show the count to be 47 to 49 percent.

This resolution, S.J. Res. 43, actually calls on Peru's government to ensure a clean, legitimate electoral process. For the Peruvian people and for the U.S.-Peruvian relations, we implore President Fujimori's efforts, and we implore him to do the right thing in this instance.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate joint resolution, as follows:

S.J. RES. 43

Whereas presidential and congressional elections are scheduled to occur in Peru on April 9, 2000;

Whereas independent election monitors, including the Organization of American States, the National Democratic Institute, and the Carter Center, have expressed grave doubts about the fairness of the electoral process due to the Peruvian Government's control of key official electoral agencies, systematic restrictions on freedom of the press, manipulation of the judicial processes to stifle independent reporting on radio, television, and newspaper outlets, and harassment and intimidation of opposition politicians, which have greatly limited the ability of opposing candidates to campaign freely; and

Whereas the absence of free and fair elections in Peru would constitute a major setback for the Peruvian people and for democracy in the hemisphere, could result in instability in Peru, and could jeopardize United States antinarcotics objectives in Peru and the region: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That it is the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should promptly convey to the President of Peru that if the April 9, 2000, elections are not deemed by the international community to have been free and fair, the United States will review and modify as appropriate its political, economic, and military relations with Peru, and will work with other democracies in this hemisphere and elsewhere toward a restoration of democracy in Peru.

The Senate joint resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on Senate Joint Resolution 43.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes on proposed questions will be taken tomorrow.

ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2884) to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through fiscal year 2003, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2884

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

**SECTION 1. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.**

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) by amending section 166 (42 U.S.C. 6246) to read as follows:

“AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“SEC. 166. There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 such sums as may be necessary to implement this part.”;

(2) in section 181 (42 U.S.C. 6251) by striking “March 31, 2000” both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 2003”; and

(3) in section 281 (42 U.S.C. 6285) by striking “March 31, 2000” both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 2003”.

**SEC. 2. PURCHASE OF OIL FROM MARGINAL WELLS.**

(a) PURCHASE OF OIL FROM MARGINAL WELLS.—Part B of Title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6232 et seq.) is amended by adding the following new section after section 168:

“PURCHASE OF OIL FROM MARGINAL WELLS

“SEC. 169. (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts authorized under section 166, in any case in which the price of oil decreases to an amount less than \$15.00 per barrel (an amount equal to the annual average well head price per barrel for all domestic crude oil), adjusted for inflation, the Secretary may purchase oil from a marginal well at \$15.00 per barrel, adjusted for inflation.

“(b) DEFINITION OF MARGINAL WELL.—The term “marginal well” means a well that—