

New York. Therefore, I missed roll call votes 190, 191, 192 and 193. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Vote 190, "aye" on rollcall votes 191 and 192, and "nay" on rollcall vote 193.

#### AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3707) to authorize funds for the construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

##### Senate Amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act".*

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*The Congress finds that—*

(1) *the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), the Congress established the American Institute in Taiwan (hereafter in this Act referred to as "AIT"), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the District of Columbia, to carry out on behalf of the United States Government any and all programs, transactions, and other relations with Taiwan;*

(2) *the Congress has recognized AIT for the successful role it has played in sustaining and enhancing United States relations with Taiwan;*

(3) *the Taipei office of AIT is housed in buildings which were not originally designed for the important functions that AIT performs, whose location does not provide adequate security for its employees, and which, because they are almost 50 years old, have become increasingly expensive to maintain;*

(4) *the aging state of the AIT office building in Taipei is neither conducive to the safety and welfare of AIT's American and local employees nor commensurate with the level of contact that exists between the United States and Taiwan;*

(5) *AIT has made a good faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building, but these funds will be insufficient to construct a building that is large and secure enough to meet AIT's current and future needs; and*

(6) *because the Congress established AIT and has a strong interest in United States relations with Taiwan, the Congress has a special responsibility to ensure that AIT's requirements for safe and appropriate office quarters are met.*

##### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$75,000,000 to AIT—*

(1) *for plans for a new facility and, if necessary, residences or other structures located in close physical proximity to such facility, in Taipei, Taiwan, for AIT to carry out its purposes under the Taiwan Relations Act; and*

(2) *for acquisition by purchase or construction of such facility, residences, or other structures.*

(b) *LIMITATIONS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may only be used if the new facility described in that subsection meets all requirements applicable to the security of*

*United States diplomatic facilities, including the requirements in the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) and the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (as enacted by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106-113; 113 Stat 1501A-451), except for those requirements which the Director of AIT certifies to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate are not applicable on account of the special status of AIT. In making such certification, the Director shall also certify that security considerations permit the exercise of the waiver of such requirements.*

(c) *AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.*

Mr. BEREUTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3707, which this Member introduced, is an important measure that enjoys wide bipartisan support. It was considered and approved without objection by this body on March 28 of this year. The other body subsequently approved the legislation on May 2, with two modifications.

The amendments to H.R. 3707 approved by the other body are minor in nature. One unnecessary introductory paragraph that refers to the "unofficial" nature of U.S. relations with Taiwan is deleted. In addition, the other body added a sentence to Section 3(b) noting that if the Director of AIT certifies that certain security requirements related to construction of a new facility are not applicable on account of the special status of AIT, that he shall also certify that security considerations permit the exercise of the waiver of such requirements.

Mr. Speaker, as a newly-elected freshman Member of this body, one of the first votes this Member cast was on passage of the Taiwan Relations Acts of 1979 (TRA). For over 20 years, the TRA has guided U.S. foreign policy and demonstrated our commitment to the security and well-being of Taiwan. And, after 20 years, our unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan are stronger, more robust, and more important than ever.

The Taiwan Relations Act established the American Institute in Taiwan, AIT, as a nonprofit corporation to conduct any and all U.S. Government programs, transactions, and other relations with Taiwan; in other words, to function as America's unofficial embassy.

The current AIT facilities, which consist largely of aging quonset huts,

are grossly inadequate and were not designed for the important functions of AIT. They were built as temporary facilities almost 50 years ago and are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.

From the perspective of security, AIT fails miserably in its structure. AIT is surrounded by taller buildings and lacking adequate setback. Major cost-ineffective enhancements would be required to bring it into compliance with security requirements.

Because of the unique status of Taiwan, the State Department is not able under routine authority to proceed with the planning and the construction of a new facility for AIT. The legislative branch, this Congress, must specifically authorize and appropriate the necessary funds.

AIT has made a good-faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building or complex. However, this effort, while significant, will never be sufficient to meet AIT's needs. Therefore, H.R. 3707 authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million for planning, acquisition and construction of a new facility for the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).

Mr. Speaker, this body has been seized with issues involving our relations with Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a shining example of political and economic development in Asia. It has made the transition to a fully functioning democracy.

Recently, Taiwan celebrated the successful conclusion of elections that, for the first time in its history, in fact the first time in Chinese history, saw the Democratic transfer of power to the opposition party. This weekend Taiwan's newly-elected president and vice president will be inaugurated.

In view of these developments, now is the appropriate time to send the message of our unshakeable, long-term commitment to America's critically important relations with Taiwan. With a new AIT facility, the United States is delivering the message that its presence will remain as long as it takes to assure that any reunification with the mainland is voluntary and as a result of peaceful means.

In the next few days, this body is likely to approve permanent normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China as part of our support for its accession into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Similarly, this Member is confident that this body will support simultaneous accession of Taiwan to the WTO, an action that has been too long delayed. We will support the accession of the PRC to the WTO because it is in our clear national interest to do so. But, at the same time, we will be making it clear that Taiwan merits similar consideration in the WTO and must have membership in it. I would hope it will come at the same session of the WTO.