

Mr. ARMEY. If I might be very careful here, it will be on the floor next week. I would not say right now whether exactly it would be Tuesday or Wednesday.

Mr. DOGGETT. It could be as late as Wednesday?

Mr. ARMEY. There will be an announcement regarding that. If the Committee on Rules has an announcement regarding that, I would expect them to make that on Monday.

Mr. DOGGETT. Would it be the gentleman's recommendation that there will be an opportunity to consider an amendment on a substitute to the bill as it was reported by the Committee on Ways and Means?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman from Michigan continues to yield.

Mr. BONIOR. I continue to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ARMEY. Let me just say, I will have to participate in a discussion on that. At this point, I am not prepared to even make a recommendation myself. We will have some series discussion on the matter, and I will just have to report back later how that discussion goes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Does the gentleman expect to have a recommendation or does the gentleman have one at this time concerning approximately how much time we will have to debate a matter of this importance?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, if the gentleman continues to yield, let me just say that I have just in the last day or so not had the time to focus on this; I must get focused on it. We will have that meeting, and at that time I will inform you.

Mr. DOGGETT. Let me just say, that despite our differences on arranging matters, I want to be quite sincere in expressing my appreciation for your assurance today that we will have an opportunity next week to consider this matter, and I wish the gentleman a good weekend; and we will get ready for that vigorous debate.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE
26, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO IRAQ'S FAILURE TO RELEASE PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 275) expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq's failure to release prisoners of war from Kuwait and nine other nations in violation of international agreements, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 275

Whereas in 1990 and 1991, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested on the streets of Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation;

Whereas in February 1993, the Government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the existence of 605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which passed those files on to Iraq, the United Nations, and the Arab League;

Whereas numerous testimonies exist from family members who witnessed the arrest and forcible removal of their relatives by Iraqi armed forces during the occupation;

Whereas eyewitness reports from released prisoners of war indicate that many of those who are still missing were seen and contacted in Iraqi prisons;

Whereas official Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait chronicle in detail the arrest, imprisonment, and transfer of significant numbers of Kuwaitis, including those who are still missing;

Whereas in 1991, the United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly passed Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687 that were part of the broad cease-fire agreement accepted by the Iraqi regime;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 686 calls upon Iraq to arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the ICRC and to return the remains of the deceased personnel of the forces of Kuwait and the Member States cooperating with Kuwait;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 calls upon Iraq to cooperate with the ICRC in the repatriation of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, to provide the ICRC with access to the prisoners wherever they are located or detained, and to facilitate the ICRC search for those unaccounted for;

Whereas the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 686, immediately released all Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Geneva Convention;

Whereas immediately following the cease-fire in March 1991, Iraq repatriated 5,722 Kuwaiti prisoners of war under the aegis of the ICRC and freed 500 Kuwaitis held by rebels in southern Iraq;

Whereas Iraq has hindered and blocked efforts of the Tripartite Commission, the

eight-country commission chaired by the ICRC and responsible for locating and securing the release of the remaining prisoners of war;

Whereas Iraq has denied the ICRC access to Iraqi prisons in violation of Article 126 of the Third Geneva Convention, to which Iraq is a signatory; and

Whereas Iraq—under the direction and control of Saddam Hussein—has failed to locate and secure the return of all prisoners of war being held in Iraq, including prisoners from Kuwait and nine other nations: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the Congress—

(A) acknowledges that there remain 605 prisoners of war imprisoned in Iraq, although Kuwait was liberated from Iraq's brutal invasion and occupation on February 26, 1991;

(B) condemns and denounces the Iraqi Government's refusal to comply with international human rights instruments to which it is a party;

(C) urges Iraq immediately to disclose the names and whereabouts of those who are still alive among the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and other nations to bring relief to their families; and

(D) insists that Iraq immediately allow humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the living prisoners and to recover the remains of those who have died while in captivity; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the United States Government should—

(A) actively and urgently work with the international community and the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687, to secure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and other prisoners of war who are still missing nine years after the end of the Gulf War; and

(B) exert pressure, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, on Iraq to bring this issue to a close, to release all remaining prisoners of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and to rejoin the community of nations with a humane gesture of good will and decency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Con. Res. 275, and I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for his leadership on this issue.

I extend my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who successfully had an amendment during our committee's consideration of the resolution.

During our markup last week, the amendment of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) calls on our government and those in the international community to resolve the case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Speicher, who was shot down over Iraq in January of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, during the Gulf War, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested during the Iraqi occupation. The government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the evidence of