

There was no objection.

REREFERRAL OF H.R. 1448 TO COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from consideration of the bill, H.R. 1448, and that the bill be re-referred to the Committee on Resources and to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

Mr. ISAKSON. 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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ISAKSON. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1600

SUDAN SPECIAL ENVOY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the President of the United States, President George W. Bush, for the appointment today of a special envoy, former Senator Danforth from Missouri to work on the issue of bringing peace in Sudan.

I also want to thank Secretary of State Colin Powell for his efforts and his work. I think the Bush administration, President Bush and Secretary Powell, have really taken a very bold and a very, very important step.

I also want to congratulate or thank or commend Senator Danforth for accepting this very difficult job. As many people know, there has been a war going on in Sudan for almost more than 18 years.

I have visited Sudan four times in the last 10 years. In Sudan more than 2.2 million people, most Christians, a number of Animists and a number of Muslims, have been killed as a result of this war.

There has been unbelievable famine in Sudan. In Sudan, every major terrorist group, Hamas, Abu Nidal and others, has had operations in and around Khartoum, and there is also, as many people know, Osama bin Laden had been in Sudan for a period of time.

There is slavery in Sudan. What happens is the militia go into the villages, kill the men, rape the women and take the children away for slavery.

So I think the move by President Bush today, working through the good efforts of Secretary Powell, appointing Senator Danforth will really make a tremendous difference. It is the greatest opportunity we have had in years to bring about a just and a lasting peace.

This puts a tremendous burden on the Khartoum government and both sides having to come together whereby the people of the south and the people of the north can live in peace.

This has been a particularly difficult time because with the revenue, over \$700 million this year of oil revenues, they are using that revenue to buy weapons and helicopter gun ships to kill the people in the areas where they have discovered and are now drilling for oil.

This is an opportunity.

I want to also thank all of the groups, and I will submit for the record all of the names, but those individuals who have been working on this issue for so long. I am reluctant to get into specifics because there are so many; but I will at the end of the statement submit with it their names and all the people who have been working for the last, some for 10, 11 and 12 years, a number of Members of Congress.

When I think on the Senate side, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK). On the House side, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and other Congressmen who have been to the region that are working on this. Also, the numerous groups of all denominations from throughout America that are participating and because of their efforts this day has taken place.

With prayer and with the hard work of Senator Danforth, it will be my hope that we can bring peace whereby the people of Sudan could live in peace.

In closing, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank President Bush

for this action, those on the President's staff who helped put this together; also Secretary Powell for his actions and those who work at the State Department that are involved in this very, very important issue. Perhaps they will all be like Esther: they are being called just for a time like this, to bring about peace, whereby the people in the south and the north can live together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and congratulate President George W. Bush and his administration for naming former Senator John Danforth of Missouri as the United States Special Envoy to Sudan. Earlier today, in a beautiful and powerful ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House, President Bush, supported by Secretary of State Colin Powell, expressed to Sudan and the world that the United States is deeply committed to helping resolve the conflict in Sudan that has claimed an estimated 2.2 million lives during the past 18 years of civil war. This is a conflict that has also driven another 4 million from their homes, threatens 2 million additional innocent victims with starvation, has witnessed deliberate aerial bombings of schools and churches by the government of Sudan, and has even tolerated the disgrace of slavery in the 21st century.

It was noted today, that the degree of difficulty in bringing an end to the suffering in Sudan is very high, but if there is even a chance of success, then the United States must accept this role of peacemaker in this struggle. I applaud Senator John Danforth for stepping forward and accepting this most challenging position of trust. I believe he has the experience, character and reputation around the world to succeed in this job.

Everyone who has been involved in bringing an end to the suffering in Sudan acknowledges that this job will not be easy. This effort will require the United States government to speak as one voice. It will require the desire for peace by the combatants in this war, the government of Sudan and the SPLA. It will require the support of the European Union and neighboring countries of Sudan, such as Egypt, Kenya and others. And it will require the support of non-government organizations, religious leaders and citizens of the world. I firmly believe that if successful in bringing a just peace to Sudan, Senator Danforth should win the Noble Peace Prize.

Today's ceremony announcing Senator Danforth as Special Envoy to Sudan was a long time in coming. It came after many long hours and hard work by many individuals and groups around our country. The bright blue skies and bi-partisan crowd in the Rose Garden reflected the perfect backdrop for this ceremony today and signal bright hope for tomorrow for the people of Sudan.

As I mentioned earlier, many individuals and organizations are responsible for helping shape the administrations policy with regard to Sudan. I applaud the bi-partisan efforts of members of Congress in supporting the appointment of a high-level Special Envoy to Sudan. Representatives DICK ARMEY, TOM TANCREDO, DON PAYNE, TOM LANTOS, ED ROYCE, SPENCER BACHUS, J.C. WATTS, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, CHRIS SMITH, TONY HALL, former Congressmen Walter Fauntroy and