

an international discussion. The United States Trade Representative has indicated that a unilateral sanction by any particular country is in violation of the World Trade Organization rules, but an ability to move under the United Nations' auspices is not.

We would obviously all like to see an international agreement under which these kinds of diamonds could be banned. If, in fact, observing that process it does not appear that it is going to reach any reasonable or positive conclusion in the timeframe within which we could act legislatively, I will tell the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) as well, that we would then bring up legislation.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) already has a bill in the hopper. We would examine that bill, if necessary, make the appropriate changes and look forward to moving that bill out of committee in a timely fashion.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, when the chairman says a timely fashion, I hope that he is meaning before the end of the year or before we adjourn.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, definitely a timely fashion means before the session of Congress ends; and it seems to me that if, in fact, the committee moves, it should not be difficult to deal with the scheduling to bring it to the floor, if that is the appropriate thing to do on the basis of leadership's decision.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's answer. I think it is a good answer. I look forward to seeing it on the bill soon. I think the longer that we keep this piece of legislation from passing in this Congress the more kinds of civil wars we are going to see in Africa; and it is just horrendous, when you see these people, how they have had their lives terrorized.

Americans can help Africa, it is very interesting, through a piece of legislation, by being very careful through the kind of diamonds they buy in America.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for agreeing to bring this up.

The reason this is so important is that many of these groups who are being funded from these diamonds are really connected to all of the disreputable groups that are around the world.

The passage of this legislation, one, will save the diamond industry, because if this does not pass the diamond industry, particularly in New York City and other places, may very well collapse because I think there may be a boycott against it.

Secondly, the opportunity to bring about a lot of good whereby people will

no longer have their arms cut off or limbs cut off. There are indications that the RUF in Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor in Liberia, have been connected with many of the other terrorist groups around the world and were even together earlier this year meeting and agreeing and talking, and the resources of this may very well be used by terrorists and many others around the world.

I called Senator GREGG from New Hampshire, and he was very gracious and said he would attempt to work this out. He is committed to doing this. Hopefully we can resolve this issue whereby it will be worked out, the conferees on Commerce, State, Justice can be appointed, which has a lot of counterterrorism money, lot of money with regard to the Justice Department and other areas, INS, money with regard to the State Department, embassy security, diplomatic security, we can move ahead.

So with the gentleman from Ohio's (Mr. HALL) promise to move it as a freestanding bill, hopefully the Senate can resolve that issue; and I want to thank my friend from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for his faithfulness on this issue and thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for his commitment.

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

I just want to give assurances to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) that I will be working with Mr. HOUGHTON and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, not only on the legislation but on our trade ambassador to make certain that he is giving this a priority.

When it reaches the point that we can meet together, see where we are and then if we do not get the type of response that we believe is adequate, then you can depend on me working with the committee and the chairman to see that this is done.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Bakersfield, California (Mr. THOMAS), for yielding me time; and I would like to congratulate the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking minority member.

This concern was first raised to my attention by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) of the Committee on Rules late one night; and we have been trying since that time when he, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and I discussed this, to move ahead.

I would simply like to congratulate the leadership of the committee on

Ways and Means for addressing this very important human rights issue, which I believe can see successful resolution, and will look forward to the progress that is made.

I thank my friends for bringing this to our attention and for the work they have done on it.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

□ 2041

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2590. An act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2590) "An Act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes," and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints, Mr. DORGAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. STEVENS to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.