

and instead have become the rule; there is great concern about the growing difficulty involved with enforcing access rights for parents; and in many instances, even where courts order returns, the enforcement of those orders is lacking or nonexistent.

We do not believe that the treaty itself should be modified, but practice guides would build upon recognized best practices under the Convention and provide a framework for applying the Convention. The practices identified and included in the guides would not be legally binding upon signatory countries but would serve as guidance to countries based upon research and the advice of experts in order to help ensure the most effective process possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of the House of Representatives to vote for H. Con. Res. 69.

I want to also recognize and thank so very much those Members who signed on to this resolution as a cosponsor when we needed them. I introduced the bill on Tuesday with the hope that my colleagues would recognize the importance of this statement and rush it to the floor by the end of the week. My colleagues stepped up to the plate.

I want to especially recognize those Members of Congress and staff who worked to move this along. After the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) obviously, it is the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), Tom Mooney, David Abramowitz, Dan Turton, Tim Friedman, Kirk Boyle, Nisha Desai and Hillel Weinberg.

I know it was not easy, but I sincerely appreciate the efforts put forth by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle to bring this to the floor. It is indeed a nonpartisan issue and one that we can all embrace.

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CHABOT:

In the text after the resolving clause, in paragraph (1)(F) and paragraph (2)(A), insert "Conference on Private International Law" after "The Hague".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution, as amended.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. CHABOT:

In the preamble, at the end of paragraph (8) of the seventh clause, strike "and" and insert after such clause the following new clause:

Whereas the Permanent Bureau of The Hague Conference on Private International Law has made significant contributions to the implementation of the Convention but recognizes that more needs to be done; and

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

ON THE ARMY'S DECISION REGARDING ISSUANCE OF BLACK BERETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week the Pentagon announced that an agreement had been reached regarding the Army Chief of Staff's decision to issue black berets for all Army personnel. After months of discord caused by what can only be called a gross error in judgment, it was decided that the Rangers would change from the honored black beret which they had been wearing since 1951 to a tan beret and the regular Army personnel would now wear the black beret.

Once again the Rangers, among the most elite soldiers that the Army has to offer, took a back seat to political correctness and social engineering within, and I quote, "the Army of one."

Mr. Speaker, I want to read for Members some of the letters that I have received from citizens regarding this issue.

This letter is from Mr. Harold Westerholm, a World War II Ranger from Oxford, North Carolina:

The Rangers fought hard to gain the respect and to be bestowed the honor of wearing a black beret. Merely giving the ordinary soldier the privilege of wearing a black beret will not improve his morale. Morale is gained through respect, respect which is earned through deed.

Let me also quote a letter from Mr. James Roe:

I strongly disagree with the United States Army ignoring the Made in America Act for the purchase of the black berets. It is unbelievable to me that you would allow our military to purchase the new headgear from

China. North Carolina is a major textile-producing State, which has been devastated by low-cost Chinese imports. How did you let this happen? How can our brave men and women be forced to wear Chinese-manufactured berets?

My answer to Mr. Roe and to the millions of other Americans who have asked that question is that it happened because the Congress was not consulted or informed of the decision to bypass the Buy American Act. I spoke with a small business owner yesterday who would have gladly bid on the order for the berets if she had only been given the opportunity. What is more, she could have made the berets for almost \$3 less than it is costing you and me and every taxpayer to import them from Communist China.

Also, I heard from retired Lieutenant Colonel William Luther. Colonel Luther wrote:

Those who can act on this matter need to wake up and understand that what they are about to let happen will cost the Army and our country far more than money can ever buy.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the letters that I have received on this issue, but these letters represent the feelings and sentiment of thousands who are sickened by this original decision and by the bogus resolution that the Rangers were forced to agree to. I am still greatly perplexed and extremely disappointed that this decision and the series of bad decisions that followed were allowed to stand. I hope that it is not too late for this Congress to intervene on behalf of the Rangers, small business owners and U.S. manufacturing companies before it is too late.

I along with many of my colleagues will not let this matter simply drop. We will continue to encourage the committees of jurisdiction to hold hearings so the American people can know the truth once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I close by saying, God bless our men and women in uniform, and God bless America.

REGARDING THE BUDGET FOR DEFENSE

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is quite familiar to me to stand here and address the subject of military budgets. For many years, under administrations of both parties, I have pointed out where we believe the House as a body and America as a Nation were failing to set appropriate priorities in the defense budget. Often, indeed far too often, I and other Members noted that we were trying to do too much with too little. In fact, last year I asked the Budget Committee to add \$12 billion for the Department of Defense.