

ment of Conscience and Call to Action, subsequently commended or endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America, in which they pledged to end their "silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith" and "to do what is in our power to the end that the Government of the United States will take appropriate action to combat the intolerable religious persecution now victimizing fellow believers and those of other faiths";

Whereas the World Evangelical Fellowship has declared September 29, 1996, and the last Sunday in September each year thereafter, as an international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians, and that day will be observed by numerous churches and human rights groups around the world;

Whereas the United States of America since its founding has been a harbor of refuge and freedom to worship for believers from John Winthrop to Roger Williams to William Penn and a haven for the oppressed, and has guaranteed freedom of worship in this country for people of all faiths;

Whereas historically the United States has in many instances failed to intervene successfully to stop anti-Christian and other religious persecution; and

Whereas in the past the United States has forcefully taken up the cause of other persecuted religious believers and the United States should continue to intervene on behalf of persecuted Christians throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the Nation's historic devotion to the principles of religious liberty;

(2) unequivocally condemns the egregious human rights abuses and denials of religious liberty to Christians and other persecuted religions around the world and calls upon the responsible regimes to cease such abuses;

(3) strongly recommends that the President expand and invigorate United States international advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians and other persecuted religions and initiate a thorough examination of all United States policies that affect persecuted Christians;

(4) encourages the President to take organizational steps to strengthen United States policies to combat religious persecution, including the creation of a special advisory committee for religious liberty abroad which has an appropriate mandate and adequate staff or to consider the appointment of a White House special advisor on religious persecution; and

(5) applauds the actions of the World Evangelical Fellowship in declaring an annual international day of prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GUNDERSON, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. HAMILTON, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GUNDERSON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and

said agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶113.33 NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES ACT

Mr. BOEHLERT moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3217) to provide for ballast water management to prevent the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GUNDERSON, recognized Mr. BOEHLERT and Mr. CLEMENT, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GUNDERSON, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶113.34 WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER

AGAINST THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 2202

Mr. QUILLEN, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-829) the resolution (H. Res. 528) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2202) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶113.35 WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER

AGAINST THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 3259

Mr. QUILLEN, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 104-830) the resolution (H. Res. 529) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3259) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶113.36 WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(B) OF RULE XI FOR CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. QUILLEN, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 525):

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported from that committee for the remainder of the second session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following:

(1) A bill or joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, any amendment thereto, any conference report thereon, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

(2) A bill or joint resolution that includes provisions making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1997, any amendment thereto, any conference report thereon, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time for the remainder of the second session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress for the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules, provided that the object of any such motion is announced from the floor at least one hour before the motion is offered. In scheduling the consideration of legislation under this authority, the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the minority leader or his designee.

When said resolution was considered.

After debate,

¶113.37 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House during debate, and during the course of his remarks,

Mr. SOLOMON made a point of order, and said:

"Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and that is against the House rules. We need to stay to the germaneness of this expedited procedure."

Mr. VOLKMER was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"My earlier comments were perhaps not in order, but where the gentleman has interjected himself, I am speaking of matters that already have been resolved by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and are no longer pending before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GILLMOR, sustained the point of order, and said:

"The Chair is prepared to rule, and the question is whether the matters are properly pending before the House. The issue is not just whether they are now or only at a prior time were ever before the committee, since the matters are not now properly before the House as a question of privilege, and debate on those matters, therefore, is not in order at this point."