

the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

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

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

¶88.16 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

¶88.17 REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. ROYCE moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following resolution (H. Res. 175); as amended:

Whereas President Pascal Lissouba defeated former President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in a 1992 election that was determined to be free and fair;

Whereas losing candidates raised questions concerning the results of the 1993 legislative election and used those concerns to cast doubt on the entire democratic process in the Republic of Congo and as the rationale for creating private militias;

Whereas thousands of citizens of the Republic of Congo have been killed in intermittent fighting between Government soldiers and private militiamen since 1993;

Whereas there are concerns about the unfinished census and resulting electoral list to be used in the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the recent fighting resulted from the Government's attempt to disarm former President Sassou-Nguesso's "Cobra" militia in advance of the scheduled July 27 election;

Whereas the fighting and uneasy peace has caused serious loss of life and diminished ability to care for those who are without access to adequate medical care or food and water;

Whereas the fighting between Government troops and militiamen have forced the evacuation from the country of foreign nationals and endangered refugees from both Rwanda and the former Zaire; and

Whereas African governments have attempted to bring about a negotiated settlement to the current crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the current fighting and urges the warring parties to reach a lasting ceasefire that will allow for humanitarian needs to be addressed as soon as possible;

(2) calls on all private militia to disarm and disband immediately to end the continuing threat to peace and stability in the Republic of Congo;

(3) commends African leaders from Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Benin, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Chad for their efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement and encourages their continuing efforts to find a sustainable political settlement in this matter;

(4) supports the deployment of an African peacekeeping force to the Republic of Congo if deemed necessary;

(5) urges the Government of the Republic of Congo, in cooperation with all legal political parties, to resolve in a transparent manner questions concerning the scheduled elections and to prepare for open and transparent elections at the earliest feasible time; and

(6) encourages the United States Government to provide technical assistance on elec-

tion related matters if requested by the Government of the Republic of Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, recognized Mr. ROYCE 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. GOODLATTE, 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 resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶88.18 BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIPS

Mr. GEKAS moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1596) to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, recognized Mr. GEKAS and Ms. LOFGREN, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, 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 was passed.

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

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

¶88.19 TAX COMPENSATION

Mr. GEKAS moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1953) to clarify State authority to tax compensation paid to certain employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, recognized Mr. GEKAS and Ms. LOFGREN, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, 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 was passed.

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

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

¶88.20 PRIVATE SECURITY OFFICER QUALITY ASSURANCE

Mr. BARR moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 103) to expedite State reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, recognized Mr. BARR and Ms. LOFGREN, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. GOODLATTE, 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 was passed.

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

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

¶88.21 VIOLENT CRIMES REPEAT OFFENDERS

Mr. MCCOLLUM moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 75):

Whereas a disturbing number of law-abiding citizens believe they are prisoners in their own homes because of increasing violence in our society;

Whereas law-abiding citizens have the right to be fearful knowing that violence offenders only serve on average 48 percent of the sentence they received

Whereas more than 3/5 of persons under correctional supervision are currently on parole and not incarcerated;

Whereas 1 in 3 offenders admitted to State prisons were on probation or parole violators;

Whereas the Federal Government eliminated parole in 1984 and prisoners convicted of Federal crimes now serve at least 85 percent of their sentences;

Whereas under current Federal law, States are eligible for prison construction funds if they keep felons in prison for at least 85 percent of their sentence;

Whereas in 1996, at least 25 States, among them Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, have laws that meet the 85 percent of sentence served requirements set forth in the 1994 crime bill; and

Whereas the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorney's Association, and the Safe Streets Coalition support the concept of an 85 percent minimum length of service for violent criminals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—