

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

There was no objection.

MEDISCAM, NOT MEDISCARE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, in this town it seems it is always good to have a catch phrase. The latest catch phrase is "Mediscare," Mediscare, as though the cuts in Medicare were not really serious or not really painful. I think they are.

First, if you consider a premium increase of \$32 a month on a senior, I think that is pretty serious and pretty scary. If you consider that seniors will be forced to choose a doctor they can afford as opposed to the doctor they trust, I think that is pretty scary, when a senior is contemplating major surgery.

Third, if you contemplate the likely possibility that some hospitals will have to shut down, reduce services, or pass costs on to private patients, insured with private insurance, I think that is pretty scary.

When you hear the term "Mediscare," it should not be taken lightly. People say we have to do this to save the system. The trustees and the President suggest what we need is a modification, maybe \$90 to \$120 billion. But the Republicans are proposing \$270 billion. Why? So they can give a tax break to their rich friends.

If you make \$300,000, under this plan you are going to get back \$20,000 in tax breaks. This \$270 billion is not going back to save the trust fund. Not a penny will go back to the trust fund.

They mumble about the general fund. Translation: it is siphoned off for a tax break for the wealthy.

No, ladies and gentleman, the term should not be "Mediscare." It should be, "Mediscam," because that is what the American people are being subjected to in the latest Republican proposal on Medicare.

ENCOURAGING THE PEACE PROCESS IN SRI LANKA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 181) encouraging the peace process in Sri Lanka.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 181

Whereas, the United States has enjoyed a long and cordial friendship with Sri Lanka;

Whereas as one manifestation of the warm ties between the United States and Sri Lanka, the First Lady of the United States visited Sri Lanka in April 1995;

Whereas Sri Lanka is a vibrant democracy whose government is committed to political pluralism, free market economics, and a respect for human rights;

Whereas the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ("LTTE") have waged a protracted secessionist struggle in Sri Lanka for nearly 12 years;

Whereas an estimated 30,000 people have died in Sri Lanka as a result of these hostilities;

Whereas the Department of State's report on global terrorism names the LTTE as a major terrorist organization;

Whereas the LTTE is widely believed to have engaged in political assassinations, including the murder in 1994 of a leading candidate for the Sri Lankan presidency, and the killing in 1993 of President Ranasinghe Premadasa;

Whereas the government of President Kumaratunga initiated a dialogue with the LTTE in 1994, and took a number of other steps to ease tensions and set the stage for negotiations between the government and the LTTE, including lifting the ban on the transit of many commodities to Jaffna;

Whereas a cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka went into effect on January 8, 1995;

Whereas 4 rounds of peace talks between the government and the LTTE took place; and

Whereas in April 1995, the LTTE withdrew from these negotiations and resumed military operations against the Government of Sri Lanka that have resulted in hundreds of casualties, including many innocent civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) notes with great satisfaction the warm and friendly relations that exist between the United States and Sri Lanka;

(2) applauds the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Sri Lankan people, in defiance of brutal acts of wanton terrorism;

(3) commends the Sri Lankan people and the Government of Sri Lanka for the significant improvements in Sri Lanka in the area of human rights;

(4) applauds the cessation of hostilities in early 1995 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ("LTTE") and deplores the resumption of fighting;

(5) calls on the LTTE to desist in its resort to arms, and to return to the negotiating table;

(6) calls on all parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to ending the current armed strife in Sri Lanka and to finding a just and lasting political settlement to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict while assuring the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;

(7) believes that a political solution, including appropriate constitutional structures and adequate protection of minority rights, is the path to a comprehensive and lasting peace in Sri Lanka;

(8) denounces all political violence and acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka, and calls upon those who espouse such methods to reject these methods and to embrace dialogue, democratic norms, and the peaceful resolution of disputes;

(9) calls on all parties to respect the human rights of the Sri Lankan people; and

(10) states its willingness in principle to see the United States lend its good offices to help resolve the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, if so desired by all parties to the conflict.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

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

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, located at the southern tip of the South Asia subcontinent, the tiny Indian Ocean island nation of Sri Lanka has, for the last decade and a half, been the site of one of the bloodiest ethnic wars. The conflict has pitted the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—or Tamil Tigers—against the democratically elected government in Colombo, with at least 30,000—and possibly as many as 50,000—Sri Lankans of all ethnic persuasions perishing in this bloody conflict.

With both sides weary of the unrelenting bloodshed, a cessation of hostilities went into effect at the beginning of 1995, and the government and the Tamil rebels entered into a series of peace talks. Regrettably, this peace that was short lived, and the Tamil Tigers unilaterally resumed their attacks on April 19. The recent attacks have been particularly brutal, with a pair of transport aircraft being shot down, and a fishing village burned to the ground with massive loss of life.

In retaliation, the government has launched its inevitable offensive against Tiger-held territory, with government forces cutting a broad swath through positions long controlled by the rebels, thereby causing hundreds of casualties and displacing thousands of noncombatants.

This pattern of rebel offensives and government counteroffensives is all too familiar. Over the past dozen years, this cycle has been repeated time and time again. House Resolution 181 calls on the parties to break out of this vicious cycle of death and destruction. The resolution recognizes the good faith efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to work for peace, and commends the dramatic improvement in the government's human rights practices. It also denounces all acts of violence and terrorism, regardless of the perpetrator.

House Resolution 181 calls on the parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to ending the conflict and finding a just and lasting peaceful settlement to the ethnic divisions while assuring the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The resolution also encourages the United States to lend its good offices to help in resolving the conflict, if so desired by the combating parties.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution passed unanimously out of the International Relations Committee. I would congratulate the ranking Democrat of the full committee, Mr. HAMILTON, for his initiative in drafting this resolution. First, it recognizes the very real efforts made by the ruling government to respect basic human rights and achieve a just peace. As House Resolution 181 notes, the resolution recognizes that improvements have indeed occurred.

Second, the resolution places the House squarely on the side of peace in a conflict that has been every bit as brutal as the war in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, this Member is pleased to cosponsor the excellent resolution of

the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] and would urge its passage. This Member would also note the thoughtful and important contribution made by the distinguished chairman of the International Relations Committee, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support for this resolution.

Sri Lanka has been wracked by a bloody civil war that has claimed the lives of at least 30,000, and perhaps as many as 50,000 people.

Sri Lanka is a country of only 18 million people. If the United States lost a comparable number of people, 730,000 Americans would have been killed.

Last winter the democratically elected President of Sri Lanka, President Kumaratunga opened a dialog with the insurgent Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, known as the LTTE.

Unfortunately, after four rounds of talks, the LTTE withdrew from the negotiations this past April and resumed military operations against the government—without provocation and in violation of the cease-fire.

Since the breakdown of the talks in April, the fighting has been heavy, producing many casualties, not only among the combatants but also among the civilian population.

Last month, the Sri Lankan Government, in an effort to reach out to the minority Tamil community, unveiled a plan that provides for a significant devolution of power to the provinces.

It is not for us to pass judgment on the merits of this or any other plan, but I think we can all applaud this effort to settle Sri Lanka's problems politically rather than militarily.

House Resolution 181 calls on the LTTE to return to the negotiating table, and urges all parties to negotiate in good faith with a view to finding a just and lasting political resolution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

It does not take sides in the conflict, but it does call for a political settlement that provides adequate protection for minority rights.

It does not commit the United States to any specific course of action, but it does indicate our willingness, in principle, to see the United States lend its good offices to help resolve the conflict, if this is desired by all parties.

This resolution has bipartisan support. It has the support of the administration as well.

I want to commend the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, and the ranking member, Mr. BERMAN, who have worked closely with me as cosponsors of this resolution.

I urge my colleagues to put the House on record in support of a peaceful resolution of this ongoing tragedy in Sri Lanka.

I urge a "yea" vote on House Resolution 181.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman of the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. BEREUTER, and the ranking minority member, Mr. BERMAN, for their work on this resolution. And I commend the ranking minority member, Mr. HAMILTON for his efforts in crafting the resolution.

The conflict in Sri Lanka has gone on for nearly 12 years and so many lives—some 30,000—have been lost. The LTTE took the promising young life of Rajiv Gandhi and in 1994 a bomb attack killed the opposition presidential candidate along with more than 50 others. The State Department's human rights report for 1994 concludes that the government has used excessive force in the conflict.

As the resolution suggests, the United States could play a role in resolving the crises if the two disputing parties desire it. It is believed that the current government of President Kumaratunga is serious about working with the LTTE in finding a mutually agreeable solution. If our Government can play a role it would be an honor for all of us to help end the bloodshed.

Accordingly I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 181.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 181.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 181, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 158) congratulating the people of Mongolia on the 5th Anniversary of the first democratic multiparty elections held in Mongolia on July 29, 1990, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 158

Whereas in 1990 Mongolia ended nearly 7 decades of Soviet domination and single party Communist rule;

Whereas the 1992 Mongolian constitution established Mongolia as an independent and sovereign republic and guaranteed fundamental human rights;

Whereas the people of Mongolia enjoyed their first multiparty democratic elections on July 29, 1990, and their first direct presidential election on June 6, 1993;

Whereas the Department of State's 1994 Country Report on Human Rights practices commended Mongolia for "steady—if sometimes uneven—progress in its transition from a highly centralized Communist-led state toward a full-fledged multiparty democracy";

Whereas Mongolia continues its efforts to develop a market economy;

Whereas the United States has sought to assist Mongolia's movement toward democracy and market-oriented reforms by granting most-favored-nation status and providing insurance by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, supporting Mongolia in international assistance organizations, and providing \$35,000,000 in bilateral assistance; and

Whereas United States-funded programs of nongovernment organizations, such as the National Endowment for Democracy and the Asia Foundation, have helped build democracy in Mongolia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Mongolia for courageous efforts to transform itself from a single-party state to a multiparty state and from a controlled to a free market economy;

(2) congratulates Mongolia for the swift and peaceful changes that have taken place since the appearance of the internal reform movement in December 1989;

(3) cites for particular praise Mongolia's first multiparty democratic elections on July 29, 1990, and first direct presidential election on June 6, 1993;

(4) urges the Government of Mongolia to continue to strengthen and deepen democratic reform and human rights, including the full protection of religious freedom and other civil liberties, in order to enhance representative and accountable government;

(5) commends the parallel movement in Mongolia toward a free market economy through economic reforms;

(6) notes that the best hope for accelerated economic growth is to attract more foreign investment by further liberalizing the economy and expanding trade with nontraditional partners, including the United States; and

(7) pledges its continued support for democracy, human rights, and the development of a free market in Mongolia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today has one simple objective—to commend the people of Mongolia for the remarkable progress that country has made since 1990. Mongolia has