

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1997 TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight Tuesday, August 5, 1997 to file a privileged report on a bill 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, 1998, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

CONGRATULATING INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 157) congratulating the people of India and Pakistan on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their nations' independence, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but under my reservation I yield to the gentleman from New York to explain the resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, has sponsored this timely resolution, and I welcome his support at this very timely moment.

It is indeed a matter to celebrate when two of the largest democracies in the world, both India and Pakistan, reach their 50th anniversary of independence. In particular, India has had a continuous 50-year tradition of democracy and rule of law and great respect for religious freedom. We very much agree that we look forward to broadening and deepening the United States cooperation and friendship with both nations in the years to come.

Finally, one of the clauses of this resolution notes that the House plans to send a delegation to attend the independence celebrations. It is going to be my honor to lead such a delegation,

and I look forward to being able to call to the attention of the House the fact that this resolution was fully agreed to in the House in such a timely manner.

We congratulate both India and Pakistan on their 50th anniversaries of their independence, and I thank the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for bringing this matter before us at this time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Under my reservation, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska as well. I thank him for his kindness.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we tend to give credit to the youth, to what is young. I think it is so very important to acknowledge Pakistan and India for 50 years of democracy. I know the gentleman from New York Chairman GILMAN has been a strong stalwart around this Nation in advocating the understanding of world affairs and applauding our neighbors for them upholding democracy.

Here we have two very fine nations that will celebrate 50 years. I want my colleagues to know that I may not be in India or Pakistan, I am not sure, but I will be celebrating with those citizens of that origin here in this Nation if I am not, and I will be gratified to be with them, because they set a very fine example for what can be, no matter how large a country you might be, that every individual is valued and democracy is valued.

I am proud to be of this Nation, that for the longest period of time has claimed itself as a free and democratic Nation, and I am very happy today to be able to extend my hand of friendship, applause, to both of these gentlemen for raising up this honor of these two very fine nations. They have been democratic, they continue to work for democracy, and they continue to work to have a free society for their people.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. Under my reservation, I would like to continue very briefly.

America's relations with India are strong and are improving, and has in recent years experienced extraordinarily successful elections. The social and economic progress it has achieved in the last five decades is truly remarkable, and it has laid a foundation, a strong one, for India's future. The United States and India have developed into important trading partners. Indian-Americans are making enormous contributions to both countries.

Similarly, Pakistan is an extremely important friend to the United States. Pakistan's commitment to democracy was most recently evidenced in the February 1997 elections, which brought about a change of government. Pakistani-Americans have also made major contributions to American society, and

our relationship has proven mutually beneficial.

It is this Member's understanding that the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, will be leading a delegation to India and Pakistan in the coming month, in part to celebrate this momentous occasion. Such a delegation is appropriate and timely, and this Member certainly congratulates the chairman on his decision to lead such an important delegation.

The resolution itself calls for an official appointed House delegation to visit the two countries within the next anniversary year.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 157 is a bipartisan effort sponsored by this Member, the distinguished ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from California, Mr. BERMAN, the distinguished chairman of the committee on International Relations, Mr. GILMAN, and the ranking Democrat of the Committee on International Relations, Mr. HAMILTON, as well as distinguished members from the House leadership, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GINGRICH, House Speaker; and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. BONIOR, the Democratic whip.

I would urge and expect to have support for this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield under his reservation, I just want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] for his supporting remarks and for sponsoring this measure. I also thank the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] for her support of this measure and for her kind remarks.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 157

Whereas in August 1947 the people of Pakistan and India gained their independence from the British;

Whereas the people of India, Pakistan, and the United States have a common interest in the promotion and preservation of democratic systems of government;

Whereas since independence in 1947 the people of India have maintained the world's largest democracy, one that serves as an inspiration for people throughout the world;

Whereas in recent years the people of Pakistan have reasserted their own strong commitment to building and sustaining a democratic system of government;

Whereas, in addition to democracy, the people of Pakistan, India, and the United States have had many shared values and interests over the past fifty years, including the desire to promote the peaceful development of the South Asian region;

Whereas Indian and Pakistani citizens, who have visited or lived in the United States, and United States citizens, who have visited or lived in India and Pakistan, have done much to improve mutual understanding and build friendship over the past fifty years;