

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that according to an African proverb, when two elephants fight, the grass gets trodden. A little twist to this African proverb by a remark made years ago by the former Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, the Honorable Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese, who also said that when two elephants make love, the grass still gets trodden.

Mr. Speaker, what is obviously meant by this is that let us not forget the economic and social needs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania when the United States intends to conduct major trade and business transactions with Europe and Asia.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 320. I would like to thank the esteemed Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, the gentleman from New York, Mr. GILMAN, and the Ranking Member, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HAMILTON, for their leadership on this issue. I would also like to salute the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, for all of the hard work he has put in in drafting this important resolution. His leadership along with his foresight and keen awareness of foreign policy has been instrumental in making this resolution become reality. As the co-chair of the Congressional Baltic Caucus, along with the other co-chair, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, his ability to work in a bipartisan fashion for important measures such as this are certainly appreciated by this Member.

Around sixty years ago, the three nations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had their freedom stripped away by the Soviet army. Under a secret, illegal and immoral agreement between Hitler and Stalin, the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression tore Eastern Europe apart. After the Soviet Union invaded Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in 1940, the cultural identities of those nations were ruthlessly suppressed. These invasions and occupations were not only illegal under international law, they were immoral and atrocious crimes against humanity.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of Ronald Reagan, the fall of communism during his watch eventually freed the Baltic States from communist tyranny. Since their independence in 1990, each nation has been working diligently towards democratic reforms including religious freedom and movement towards free market economies. The brave efforts of the Baltic States must be supported by the U.S.

H. Con. Res. 320 will do just that. It sends a message to the world that we support the Baltic States. Since their independence, Russia continues to refer to the Baltic States as former Soviet Republics despite the fact that they were illegally invaded by the former Soviet Union, and it appears that Russia continues to view the Baltic States as part of the Russian "sphere of influence." We must demonstrate our support for the Baltics. These are fledgling democracies who peacefully overturned the tyrannical rule of communist aggression.

This important resolution will reaffirm the U.S. policy of not recognizing the illegal occupation of the Baltics, urge Russia to renounce the illegal Nazi-Soviet Pact, reiterate our support for the U.S.-Baltic Charter signed earlier

this year, and call on the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to work to ensure that Russia understands the Pact should be considered illegal.

I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution. Let us support freedom, let us support peace, let us support democracy, and let us support the pursuit of justice.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 320, legislation supporting the Baltic People and condemning the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact.

Prior to the cold war Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia proudly declared their independence and became democratic states with membership in the League of Nations. But, during the cold war Germany and Russia decided to split the Baltic States into two parts by forcing Estonia, Latvia, and a portion of Poland to become part of the Soviet Union and by forcing Lithuania and the rest of Poland to become part of Nazi Germany. I have never recognized the legitimacy of such a decision and I am proud to say that the United States has taken the same point of view. Additionally, I must add that the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union does not have and will never have a legal basis in international law.

In 1990, when the Baltic States re-established their independence, the United States along with many other countries boldly recognized their independence. Many of the Baltic States have successfully made the transition from an authoritarian political system to that of a democratic system. It is interesting to note that in light of all these political changes Russia continues to recognize the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression. This pact illegally divides the Baltic States into "spheres of influence", therefore, precluding the Baltic States from asserting their autonomy and joining NATO or entering into other such alliances.

As faith would have it, Russia itself has undergone tremendous democratic and free market reforms but has yet to recognize the independence of the Baltic States. It is only fitting and just that Russia denounce the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression and recognize the autonomy of the Baltic States and demonstrate to the world that it truly believes in the principles of democracy and individual freedom.

I strongly urge President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright to work with the Russian government to ensure that Russia understands the importance of denouncing the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression and endorsing the right to self determination by the Baltic States.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to support the Baltic people and to condemn the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact. I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS] for his leadership on this issue and in organizing the Congressional Caucus on the Baltics.

In 1918, the nations of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia declared their independence and became democratic states with membership in the League of Nations and diplomatic representation in the United States.

In 1939, emissaries of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin signed an agreement, known as the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression, which contained secret protocols to divide Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. Estonia, Latvia and part of Poland were made subject to the Soviet Union, with Lithuania and most of Poland going to Nazi Germany.

In 1940, the Soviet Army invaded Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This occupation has never been recognized by the United States, and all successive U.S. administrations, whether Democratic or Republican, maintained continuous diplomatic relations with these countries as sovereign nations throughout the Soviet period, never considering them to be Soviet Republics.

The Baltic peoples re-established their independence through peaceful means following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, and the United States recognized their independent governments in 1991. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have achieved significant success in the eight years since they gained their independence, including instituting democratic institutions, economic reforms, and civilian control over the military.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 320, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS], and to which I am a proud cosponsor, reaffirms the U.S. policy of not recognizing the occupation by the Soviet Union of these proud nations following the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Aggression. Further, it urges the now independent nation of Russia, in the spirit of democracy, to renounce the Nazi-Soviet Pact and its secret protocols as illegal. Finally, the measure welcomes and supports the signing of the United States-Baltic Charter by the U.S., Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—a charter that reiterates the strong historical kinship and support between the Baltic peoples and Americans.

Mr. Speaker, for all the progress, both democratic and economic, these three Baltic nations have made since regaining their independence in 1991, they continue to face many challenges and uncertain relationships with their powerful neighbors. Russia continues to be a threatening and intimidating force, which still views the Baltic nations as subject to its "sphere of influence."

H. Con. Res. 320 clearly signals U.S. support for these nations, for their independence, and for their democratic futures. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 320, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2431. An act to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3903. An act to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 417) "An Act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 2002." with an amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. GOODLING. Pursuant to H. Res. 575, I announce the following House Concurrent Resolution to be considered under suspension today:

H. Con. Res. 214, Recognizing Contributions of the Cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, to the Development of Country Music.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CITIES OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE, AND BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) recognizing the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, and their people to the origins and development of Country Music, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 214

Whereas the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, have long been a gathering place for musicians from the nearby mountainous countryside;

Whereas phonographic recordings made in Bristol in August of 1927 launched the careers of the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers, who are recognized as the first commercially successful modern Country Music artists;

Whereas these recordings have been called the "Big Bang of Country Music" by the Country Music Foundation in its publication "Country, the Music and the Musicians";

Whereas Jimmie Rodgers has been named the Father of Country Music and was the first artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame;

Whereas the original members of the Carter Family have been recognized as Country Music's First Family in part because their works have had an unparalleled influence on succeeding generations of Country Music artists;

Whereas "The Roots of Country Music", a three-part television series which aired nationally on the Turner Broadcasting System in June of 1996, recognized the significant contribution of the cities of Bristol to the development and commercial acceptance of Country Music;

Whereas in 1984 the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music"; and

Whereas in 1995, the Virginia General Assembly recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the critical contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol,

Virginia, and their residents to the origins and development of Country Music;

(2) congratulates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, for launching with the Bristol recordings of 1927 the careers of the Nation's first widely known Country Music artists; and

(3) acknowledges and commends the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of Country Music, a style of music which has enjoyed broad commercial success in the United States and throughout much of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 214.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 214, which designates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of country music. General Assembly of Virginia and Tennessee State Senate have previously made this designation. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) take their cue from their respective State legislative bodies and introduced an identical concurrent resolution in the House.

I must admit my age. My two country music stars just died: Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, let me say thanks to the committee for their consideration of this resolution and for allowing us to consider it here today.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Bristol is two cities: Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia; Bristol, Tennessee, being in the First Congressional District of Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, being in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia, and represented very ably by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).

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Mr. Speaker, in the 1920s, when country music was in its infancy, artists from throughout Tennessee and Virginia and the entire region gathered in Bristol to perform. Some of the most important developments in country music took place there.

In 1927, the Carter family, which later became the First Family of Country Music, and Jimmie Rodgers, who became the Father of Country Music, had recording sessions there, very significant recording sessions there.

These recordings became known in time by the country music foundation as the "Big Bang of Country Music." They are credited with propelling the Carter family and Jimmie Rodgers and country music itself to a commercially successful venture.

Today, country music is enjoyed throughout this country and throughout the world. As the Chairman pointed out, in 1984, the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the birthplace of country music.

Today we have this resolution which recognizes the contributions of Bristol and its people to the origins and the development of country music. This, I think, significantly is cosponsored by the entire delegations from the States of Tennessee and Virginia. I ask support for this well-deserved recognition.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. My colleagues may wonder why a city boy from Los Angeles would be so supportive of country music. But years ago when I worked in a factory, the gentleman next to me was from the south. In fact, he was from Tennessee, and he had a little recorder in there, and that is all he played was country music.

I remember one of the first songs that I was ever attracted to was a song by Johnny Cash, "I Walked The Line." It was very apropos of the way I felt at that time.

I could understand the words. A lot of the other music I could not understand the words. It seemed to me like every piece of country music tells a story, a story of some kind. Sometimes they are too sad. But, regardless, they do tell a story, and they are very interesting to listen to. I like the rhythms in a lot of them.

Of course I remember Jimmie Rodgers and I remember Gene Autry and all the people that the Chairman mentioned. But I am more into the kind of modern day country music stars like George Strait, Vince Gill, and a lot of the people that have really brought country music to the front.

But this legislation, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) has said, honors the cities of Bristol, Virginia, and Bristol, Tennessee, giving it much credit for the origin and the development of the country music. I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) for bringing this measure before the House.

As I said, I am a fan of country music, and I am pleased to speak in favor of this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).