

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during some of the votes on amendments to H.R. 339, the "Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act." I would like the Record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Watt No. 6/ Scott (exempt state agency actions to enforce state consumer protection laws concerning mislabeling or other unfair and deceptive trade practices): "Yes."

Watt No. 7 (preserve the right of state courts to hear cases brought under state law): "Yes."

Andrews No. 2 (exempt manufacturers of genetically modified foods that do not disclose that the food is genetically modified from the legal immunity provided in the bill): "Yes."

Ackerman No. 1 (exempt manufacturers and sellers of foods that have not taken steps to prevent meat from being tainted with mad cow disease from the legal immunity provided in the bill): "Yes."

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 553) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 553

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Tiberi and Ms. Harris.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a record vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which a vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

COMMENDING INDIA ON ITS CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 15) commending India on its celebration of Republic Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 15

Whereas the Republic of India is the world's largest democracy;

Whereas on January 26, 1950, India adopted its Constitution, which formalized India as a parliamentary democracy;

Whereas the celebration of India's Republic Day on January 26th is the second most important national holiday after Independence Day;

Whereas the framers of India's Constitution were greatly influenced by the American Founding Fathers James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams;

Whereas among the rights and freedoms provided to the people of India under its Constitution is universal suffrage for all men and women over the age of eighteen;

Whereas India's Constitution adopted the American ideals of equality for all citizens, regardless of faith, gender, or ethnicity;

Whereas the basic freedoms we cherish in America such as the freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of religion are also recognized in India;

Whereas Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi is recognized around the world as the father of India's nonviolent struggle for independence;

Whereas people of many faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, were united in securing India's freedom from colonial rule and have all served in various capacities in high-ranking government positions;

Whereas the Republic of India has faithfully adhered to the principles of democracy by continuing to hold elections on a regular basis on the local, regional, and national levels;

Whereas the people of the United States and the Republic of India have a common bond of shared values and a strong commitment to democratic principles; and

Whereas President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee are elected leaders of the world's two largest democracies and are actively cultivating strong ties between the United States and India: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends India on its celebration of Republic Day; and

(2) reiterates its support for continued strong relations between the United States and India.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 15.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 15, a measure commending India on its Republic Day and reiterating congressional support for continued strong relations between India and the United States.

This thoughtful concurrent resolution was introduced by the gentleman

from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the distinguished head of the Indian Caucus, and our colleague on the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY). It was considered and adopted without amendment by the committee on February 25.

As Members are aware, in recent years the relationship between the United States and India has been fundamentally transformed in exceptionally positive ways. Thankfully, the time has long since passed when it could be said that India and America are democracies estranged. Instead, in recognition both of the end of the Cold War and India's embrace of market economics, our two great countries have not only rediscovered each other but developed a remarkable degree of amity and rapport.

The United States/India political relationship is rapidly maturing. We are having regular meetings at the highest levels of government. At the summit in Washington in November 2001, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee articulated their vision of the relationship our countries should enjoy. The prime minister insightfully described it as a natural partnership.

Our deepening government-to-government relationship is complemented by a rich mosaic of expanding people-to-people ties. In many ways, the more than 2 million Indian Americans in the United States have become a living bridge between our two great democracies, bringing together our two peoples, as well as greatly enlarging the United States' understanding of India and Indian understanding of the United States.

In short, this timely resolution appropriately honors the world's largest democracy, a country with which the United States is enjoying increasingly warm ties and a people for whom Americans have a great and enduring affection.

I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I first would like to commend the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for moving forward with this legislation so expeditiously.

This important resolution commends India on its celebration of Republic Day which occurs on January 26. While we may be a few weeks late in commemorating this important event, our enthusiasm for reaffirming the strong and unbreakable ties between the United States and India remain strong.

Madam Speaker, a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between the United States and India was opened with President Clinton's historic visit to India 4 years ago. President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee broke