

suspending the rules and passing the bill (S. 2318) to authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT CRIMES ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2076) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 145) calling for universal condemnation of the North Korean missile launch of December 12, 2012, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR PERSECUTION OF BAHAI MINORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on

suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 134) condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING EUROPEAN UNION TO DESIGNATE HIZBALLAH AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 834) urging the governments of Europe and the European Union to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization and impose sanctions, and urging the President to provide information about Hizballah to the European allies of the United States and to support the Government of Bulgaria in investigating the July 18, 2012, terrorist attack in Burgas.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2320

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, this is the last speech that I will ever give in this House and it saddens me the way I have to leave, because we leave as a divided caucus and a divided House.

The American public expects more from us, but the American public also expects us to recognize that we are spending their money, and we are spending ourselves into a debt that we will not be able to repay. Our children and our grandchildren will be the heirs of our misspending of our taxpayer dollars.

I voted "no" tonight because we were increasing our debt limit at an unprecipitated proportion. My dear colleagues

in this House, as I leave this body, I ask you to be conservative in your votes on spending. Remember, we have children and grandchildren that will be saddled with this debt. We are a great country, but we are a great country because we can afford to pay our bills. Let us not lead down into the path of fiscal irresponsibility or that will no longer be the case.

God bless this institution, and God bless the United States of America. And thank you for this 7 years and 4 months I was able to honor the Second Congressional District. God bless all of you.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have just been informed that we will be having perhaps no further votes in this Congress. I am deeply disappointed at that information.

We have millions of our fellow citizens who have been badly damaged by a storm called Sandy. Overwhelmingly, the United States Senate passed some relief. I can't remember a time when we had a very serious storm, tornado, fire, or flood when we did not act. This Congress is apparently leaving town without responding to that emergency.

There's not one of us, not one of us in this Congress that could not be in the same position. I live in a coastal State, but whether you live in the Midwest or the far west, whether you live in the South or the East or the North or the West, you could be and your citizens could be and your neighbors could be confronted by a natural disaster—or for that matter, a man-made disaster—and our fellow citizens would expect us to respond as the United States Senate has responded.

It was my belief, an assurance was given to me—not 100 percent—and the gentleman who gave it to me did not make this decision, but I am deeply disappointed, Mr. Speaker.

The people who have been damaged by Sandy, including Governor Christie, a Republican, and Governor Cuomo, a Democrat, should be deeply disappointed and, yes, angry that this Congress would adjourn without addressing the pain of our fellow citizens.

I've been to New York. I've walked the beaches. I've seen the homes that have been destroyed, with my colleague GREG MEEKS. I've talked to NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ. I've talked to other Members of Congress—Congressman CROWLEY, Congressman PALLONE, Congressman ROTHMAN—all of whom have had their citizens deeply damaged by the ravages of the, perhaps, storm of historical proportions that struck the Northeast. None of us is immune, not from a tornado or a flood or a fire.

I deeply regret this. I can't change this opinion, but it's not what we ought to be doing. There are Republicans who are deeply grieved by this

action and there are Democrats on this floor deeply grieved by this action. This is not the right thing to do. I would hope it would be reconsidered.

We have asked our Members to stay here, every one of them, knowing full well they wanted to go home just for a day to see their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope this decision would be reconsidered. I would hope that we would say to those citizens: We're here for you, one country, one nation.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Maryland said what had to be said, but I want to add that I've been in this House 20 years. We have seen droughts; we have seen storms; we have seen earthquakes; we have seen wildfires out west. This Congress has never, never failed to vote emergency appropriations for the aid of the beleaguered States. Never.

Hurricane Sandy struck on October 29, 8, 9 weeks ago. It's unprecedented that it should take so long, and yet we are now told that this House is going to adjourn sine die even though the Senate voted the aid, and we're going to do nothing? It's unprecedented. It is disgusting.

I can understand—I would not sympathize, but I could understand Members who might say the amount requested is too much, we should change it, we should quibble with it, we should debate it—fine. But to ignore it, to ignore the plight of millions of American citizens—unprecedented, disgusting, unworthy of the leadership of this House. They should reconsider or they should hang their heads in shame, Mr. Speaker.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me lend my voice to those who previously spoke, particularly Mr. HOYER.

My district was devastated by the storm. I have thousands of people who do not have homes, who are living in temporary circumstances. I have municipalities that have expended millions of dollars in trying to do the cleanup. The fact of the matter is that if we don't take action tonight and we let this House adjourn without taking action on the supplemental for the hurricane, we will suffer a great deal.

Many of these towns are waiting for the money to come through to provide funding for municipal services, for emergency services. Many of them are completely broke at this time in terms of their ability to provide help for their residents. This is a very serious matter. This need is immediate. This can't wait until next week or next month.

There's absolutely no way that that can happen without having a tremendous negative impact on the residents of my district.

So I implore the Speaker, please reconsider this decision. It is just not possible for us to continue without having some relief from the Federal Government.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, as a Republican, I stand up here today to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and associate my words with the gentleman from Maryland.

Even though my district was not impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, it is right and just that we take up this bill. I ask our Speaker to reconsider the decision that has been made not to address this supplemental in this Congress. And I join my colleagues across the aisle to ask for that relief so that we can get to the people that need it the aid that they so are in need of on this day and this age.

□ 2330

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me join my colleagues in my sadness that we are here at 11:30 on the 1st of January with time running out. We just had a historic vote, a bipartisan vote, something that people didn't think we could do here, but we did do that.

And now we're letting this opportunity slip away when people's homes have been destroyed, when people's businesses have been destroyed, and when tens of thousands of people who have suffered over 9 weeks have nothing to show from this Congress. That we would walk away without doing our part to help the people suffering in New York, in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania and other parts of the country is outrageous. It is simply outrageous.

We've done our part. We've worked with our colleagues. And I thank Mr. KING, and I thank Mr. REED and Mr. GRIMM for working with us. But it got us to no avail here. We needed to work to get this done for our constituency, and it has failed.

Mr. Speaker, please reconsider and bring this bill to the floor before we leave this Congress.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. KING of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, tonight's action not to hold this vote on the supplemental is absolutely indefensible.

There are thousands and thousands of people throughout Long Island, Rockaway, Staten Island and New Jersey and throughout the Northeast who are homeless tonight, who are without jobs, and who have lost their business. This is absolutely indefensible.

The fact is every bit of documentation that was required by the leadership of this House was provided by Governor Cuomo, Governor Christie, and Mayor Bloomberg. Everybody played by the rules, except tonight, when the rug was pulled out from under us—absolutely inexcusable, absolutely indefensible.

We have a moral obligation to hold this vote. The people who are out of their homes, the people who are cold, the people who are without food, and the people who have lost their jobs don't have the time to wait. We cannot just walk away from our responsibilities.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

(Mr. MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS. I'm sitting here in shock this evening. This is supposed to be the people's House. We are the United States House of Representatives. There are Americans that are suffering because of an act of nature. It is our obligation, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans to make sure that we come to the aid of Americans. And that's why in this issue, Democrats and Republicans have worked together in any kind of crisis. Especially when it goes to natural disasters, we've always come together.

How can we, at this critical point, turn our backs on Americans? This is not supposed to happen here. It happens other places.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot turn our backs on our citizens who need us. Some will not have a place to stay for a long period of time. People have suffered, and people need food. We are Americans. This is what's supposed to separate us from everyone else. I am absolutely shocked.

Mr. Speaker, you have to reconsider.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this body for 24 years, and I don't think I've ever been as angry as I am tonight. This is unconscionable. In the last debate, I got up, and I said that when President Truman campaigned, he campaigned against the 80th "do nothing" Congress, and that "do nothing" Congress passed three times as many bills as this current "do nothing Congress."

And isn't this a fitting way for this "do nothing" Congress to end, by doing