than a year, our Government has been in constant dialog with the Russian leadership regarding Russian assistance to the Iranian ballistic missile program. The meetings have been going on, more talks are scheduled, more summits are held, yet the Iranian military continues to make rapid progress in developing long-range missiles with critically needed assistance from Russian firms. Unless something happens soon, according to press reports, Iran is likely to achieve the ability to produce its own ballistic missiles within less than 1 year.

It is now time for the Congress to say that enough is enough. We need to back up our rhetoric on nonproliferation with meaningful action. With this legislation, we will be giving Russian firms compelling reasons not to trade with Iran. The sanctions which this legislation threatens to impose will force those firms to choose between their short-term profits from dealing with Iran and potentially far more lucrative long-term economic relations with our own Nation.

To make certain that the President takes a careful look at this legislation, the amendment before us also adds to our Iranian sanctions measure the text of Senate 610, the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1997, which passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year. Unlike the Chemical Weapons Convention itself, which was controversial in the Senate, the implementing legislation is strongly supported all across the political spectrum, from the administration to Senators such as JOHN KYL and JESSE HELMS who have led the fight against the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980's the world stood by as Saddam Hussein built up the Iraqi arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. This bill will help make certain that Iran does not follow the example of its neighbors in Iraq and become the next threat to international stability. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act of 1997 is intended to close loopholes in our counter-proliferation laws in order to address a matter of critical concern to our national security—the risk that Iran may soon obtain from firms in Russia and elsewhere the capability to produce its own medium and long-range ballistic missiles.

This legislation enjoys extremely strong support on both sides of the aisle. At last count, 263 Members had asked to be listed as cosponsors, including both the Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, and the Democratic Leader, Mr. GEPHARDT. A companion measure in the Senate currently has 84 cosponsors, led by the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. LOTT, and by Mr. LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

Once implemented, this bill will help to stop the scourge of missile proliferation that directly threatens our troops and our allies throughout Europe and Asia. It will help the Administration in its efforts to stop Russian institutes and research facilities from assisting Iran's medium and long range missile program, and will defuse the growing Iranian missile threat in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

The urgency for this legislation is apparent from recent press accounts regarding the status of Iran's ballistic missile program. For more than a year, our government has been in a constant dialog with the Russian leadership on the issue of Russian assistance to the Iranian ballistic missile program.

On April 14 of this year in a letter to Senator MCCONNELL, the President assured the Congress that the Administration will ''continue to engage the Russians at the highest levels on this sensitive subject to prevent any transfer or cooperation inconsistent with Russian government policy and contrary to its assurances to us.''

However, several months—and many meetings—later, on September 11, State Department Spokesman Jim Foley noted that ''We're very concerned by reports indicating that Russian entitles may have provided * * * missile assistance to Iran. * * * While we appreciate * * * assurances [from the Russian government], we remain disturbed by the discrepancy between these assurances and reports of Russian firms cooperating with Iran.''

The meetings go on, more talks are scheduled, more summits are held, yet the Iranian military continues to make rapid progress in developing long range missiles with critically-needed assistance from Russian firms. Unless something happens soon, according to press reports, Iran is likely to achieve the ability to produce its own ballistic missiles within less than a year.

It is now time for the Congress to say that enough is enough. We need to back up our rhetoric on nonproliferation with meaningful action. With the adoption of this bill, we will close the loopholes in our existing sanctions laws, and help the Administration convince the Russian government to act decisively to crack down on their cash-strapped institutes and firms.

Equally important, with this legislation we will give those Russian institutes and firms compelling reasons not to trade with Iran. The sanctions this legislation threatens to impose will force those firms to choose between short-term profits from dealing with Iran and potentially far more lucrative long-term economic relations with our own Nation. Under this legislation, firms that sell missile technology to Iran will be denied all arms export licenses, all dual use export licenses, and all U.S. foreign assistance for at least two years.

Now it is well-known that the Administration does not support this legislation. As is almost always the case, they would rather deal with proliferation to Iran through quiet diplomacy rather than through meaningful sanctions legislation.

To make certain that the President takes a careful look at this legislation, the amendment before us adds to our Iranian sanctions measure the text of S. 610, the ''Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1997'', which passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year. Unlike the Chemical Weapons Convention itself, which was very controversial in the Senate, the implementing legislation is strongly supported all across the political spectrum, from the Administration to Senators such as JON KYL and JESSE HELMS, who led the fight against the Chemical Weapons Convention.

There is one technical point with regard to the text of S. 610—now title II of H.R. 2709—that Chairman HYDE of our Judiciary Committee has asked me make.

Section 603 of S. 610—which appears as section 273 of H.R. 2709—replaces the exceptions to the automatic stay in paragraphs (4) and (5) of 11 U.S.C. 362(b) with both a broader exemption for governmental units and explicit language embracing organizations exercising authority under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Although Members of this body were not involved in crafting this provision, we view it as important for the legislative history to emphasize that the new paragraph (4) relates only to enforcement of police and regulatory power—a term which cannot appropriately be given an expansive construction for purposes of interpreting the new Bankruptcy Code language. The automatic stay, for example, will continue to apply to the post-petition collection of pre-petition taxes because such collection efforts are not exercises of police and regulatory power within the meaning of new paragraph (4) of Bankruptcy Code section 362(b). The language of section 603 of S. 610—now section 273 of H.R. 2709—also explicitly excludes the enforcement of a money judgment—an exclusion designed to ensure that an exemption from the automatic stay cannot successfully be asserted for such an enforcement effort.

Because enactment of S. 610 is an Administration priority, and because it is something that we in the House will ultimately pass in any event, we have linked it to H.R. 2709 in hopes that the two measures can be enacted together.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s, the world stood by as Saddam Hussein built up his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and the recent events in that country indicate that we have yet to identify and uncover a number of these weapons. We cannot afford to pay any less attention to Iran as it shows every indication that it is fully prepared to use its petrodollars to purchase weapons systems that will threaten its neighbors and endanger our forces throughout the Persian Gulf region.

Your support for this bill will help to ensure that Iran does not follow the example of its neighbor and become the next threat to international stability.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. FLOWER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 5:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. ROEMER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 3:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 5:00 p.m. on account of personal business.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1564. An act to provide redress for inadequate restitution of assets seized by the United States Government during World War

II which belonged to victims of the Holocaust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 103. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to certain specified bills of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2366. An act to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1840. An act to provide a law enforcement exception to the prohibition on the advertising of certain electronic devices.

H.R. 1090. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error.

H.J. Res. 91. Joint Resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact.

H.J. Res. 92. Joint Resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact.

H.R. 1086. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code.

H.R. 2813. An act to waive time limitations specified by law in order to allow the Medal of Honor to be awarded to Robert R. Ingram of Jacksonville, Florida, for acts of valor while a Navy Hospital Corpsman in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict.

SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 68, and as the designee of the majority leader, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In accordance with the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 68, the Chair declares the 1st session of the 105th Congress adjourned sine die.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 68, the House adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5913. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense, transmitting the report on the Deep Digger program required by Senate Report 105–29; to the Committee on National Security.

5914. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's semiannual report on the activities and efforts relating to utilization of the private sector, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1827; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5915. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Technical Amendment to Definition of Deposits in Banks or Trust Companies [No. 97–38] (RIN: 3069–AA63) received May 27, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5916. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education, transmitting Final Interpretations and Waivers——National Center or Centers for Research in Vocational Education, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5917. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the notice of final interpretations and waivers—National Center or Centers for Research in Vocational Education, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5918. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the notice of final regulations— Standards for Conduct and Evaluation of Activites Carried out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement: Designation of Exemplary and Promising Programs, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5919. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the notice of final eligibility and selection criteria—National Awards Program for Model Professional Development, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5920. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule— Prevailing Wage Policy for Nonagricultural Immigration Programs—received November 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5921. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting notification that no exceptions to the prohibition against favored treatment of a government securities broker or dealer were granted by the Secretary for the calendar year 1996, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 nt.; to the Committee on Commerce.

5922. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Illinois [IL158a; FRL–5900–3] received November 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5923. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Michigan [MI38–01–6734; FRL–5884–1] received November 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5924. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Redesignation Request, Maintenance Plan and Mobile Emissions Budget for the Richmond Ozone Nonattainment Area [VA062–5030 and VA080–5030; FRL–5921–3] received November 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5925. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Comprehensive Guideline for Procurement of Products Containing Recovered Materials [SWH-FRL–5909–6] (RIN: 2050–AE23) received November 13, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5926. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 98–15), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

5927. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Ambassador Frank Wisner's report on the question of Russian-Iranian missile cooperation; to the Committee on International Relations.

5928. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled ''Report of U.S. Citizen Expropriation Claims and Certain Other Commercial and Investment Disputes,'' pursuant to Public Law 103—236, section 527(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

5929. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Federal Open Market Committee; Rules Regarding Availability of Information [Docket No. R–0983] received November 12, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

5930. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1997, and the semiannual management report on the status of audit followup for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

5931. A letter from the the Chief Administrative Officer, the U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period July 1, 1997, through September 30, 1997 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; (H. Doc. No. 105—170); to the Committee on House Oversight and ordered to be printed.

5932. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report with respect to the ''Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,'' pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5933. A letter from the the Acting Assistant Secretary (Civil Works), the Department of the Army, transmitting the report on a hurricane and storm damage reduction project for the Lake Cataouatche area on the west bank of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana, pursuant to Public Law 104—303, section 101(b)(11); (H. Doc. No. 105—171); to the Committee on