

over the course of a year as people throughout the world get to know fellow-humans of other backgrounds.

I hope that Members of our House and of the public will carefully consider the sense of the House and the Senate as expressed in this resolution and if they feel it is appropriate that they will act accordingly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Senate concurrent resolution.

The Senate concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING APPROPRIATE ACTIONS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF FORMER MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AGAINST JAPANESE COMPANIES

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 158) expressing the sense of Congress regarding appropriate actions of the United States Government to facilitate the settlement of claims of former members of the Armed Forces against Japanese companies that profited from the slave labor that those personnel were forced to perform for those companies as prisoners of war of Japan during World War II, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 158

Whereas from December 1941 to April 1942, members of the United States Armed Forces fought valiantly against overwhelming Japanese military forces on the Bataan peninsula of the Island of Luzon in the Philippines, thereby preventing Japan from accomplishing strategic objectives necessary for achieving early military victory in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas after receiving orders to surrender on April 9, 1942, many of those valiant combatants were taken prisoner of war by Japan and forced to march 85 miles from the Bataan peninsula to a prisoner-of-war camp at former Camp O'Donnell;

Whereas, of the members of the United States Armed Forces captured by Imperial Japanese forces during the entirety of World War II, a total of 36,260 of them survived their capture and transit to Japanese prisoner-of-war camps to be interned in those camps, and 37.3 percent of those prisoners of war died during their imprisonment in those camps;

Whereas that march resulted in more than 10,000 deaths by reason of starvation, disease, and executions;

Whereas many of those prisoners of war were transported to Japan where they were forced to perform slave labor for the benefit

of private Japanese companies under barbaric conditions that included torture and inhumane treatment as to such basic human needs as shelter, feeding, sanitation, and health care;

Whereas the private Japanese companies unjustly profited from the uncompensated labor cruelly exacted from the American personnel in violation of basic human rights;

Whereas these Americans do not make any claims against the Japanese Government or the people of Japan, but, rather, seek some measure of justice from the Japanese companies that profited from their slave labor;

Whereas they have asserted claims for compensation against the private Japanese companies in various courts in the United States;

Whereas the United States Government has, to date, opposed the efforts of these Americans to receive redress for the slave labor and inhumane treatment, and has not made any efforts to facilitate discussions among the parties;

Whereas in contrast to the claims of the Americans who were prisoners of war in Japan, the Department of State has facilitated a settlement of the claims made against private German businesses by individuals who were forced into slave labor by the Government of the Third Reich of Germany for the benefit of the German businesses during World War II: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that it is in the interest of justice and fairness that the United States, through the Secretary of State or other appropriate officials, put forth its best efforts to facilitate discussions designed to resolve all issues between former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were prisoners of war forced into slave labor for the benefit of Japanese companies during World War II and the private Japanese companies who profited from their slave labor.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution sets out the sense of Congress that the United States Government should support ex-Prisoners of War held by Japan who were slave laborers in their effort to obtain an apology and just compensation for the period they suffered in Japan.

They suffered months of forced labor, beatings, and starvation; many of their fellow-prisoners, of course, did not survive.

As a veteran of the Japanese theater in World War II, I, together with my contemporaries look at our comrades who were held as slave laborers and readily say "there but for the grade of God to I."

But everyone who values freedom should put themselves in the shoes of those valiant survivors. I am gratified that my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), has led this fight. What would we ask for in their position?

We are not legislating a solution. We are asking that the Administration devote itself, in the time remaining in the lives of these brave men, to facilitating the discussions they are seeking.

I hope that the strong support that this resolution will surely gain today will send a signal both to the Administration and to Tokyo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Senate concurrent resolution.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2943, S. Con. Res. 138, and S. Con. Res. 158.

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

There was no objection.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to speak out of order for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks).

EXPRESSING THANKS TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, these were the last three bills I will bring to the floor in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and I would like to express my thanks to all of the members of the committee and all of our colleagues for their constructive cooperation over these past years.

I have some additional remarks that I would like to insert in the RECORD.

The House leadership, for whom we have great regard, has made it possible to bring our bills and resolutions to the floor and I appreciate their support and understanding of our concerns.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) in particular. Through him and the other presiding officers who stood in the place of the Speaker, we have brought innumerable matters to the floor. And I would like to say to the leadership staff, to those who work on the floor and in the leadership offices our particular thanks. We have had able help over the years from the Office of the House Legislative Counsel, especially from Mark Synnes, Yvonne Haywood, Sandy Stokoff, the unsung heroes.

Our chief of staff, Dr. Garon, has coordinated the work of a wonderful group of professionals; and we thank all of them for their good work.

I particularly want to wish the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) well in the days ahead.

COMPUTER CRIME ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2816) to establish a grant program to assist State and local law enforcement in deterring, investigating, and prosecuting computer crimes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) for an explanation of the bill.