watch our step on each rung, and no more does that reflection need to take place than in Darfur today. Prayer, inner reflection, a moment to look at ourselves, especially in places of conflict, I think, is a good thing to do, and this resolution is a good resolution calling attention to that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I thank the sponsor again.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in support of H. Res. 333, which encourages the National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur. The people of that troubled region have experienced almost unimaginable suffering. As many as 400,000 have already lost their lives to genocide, hunger, and disease. Two million more have been forced from their homes.

Almost one year ago, Congress recognized that the atrocities being committed in Darfur were genocide. Since then, we have begun to provide humanitarian assistance and funding for peacekeeping missions. I was pleased to vote for the recent Supplemental Appropriations Act, which included $400 million for emergency food relief and other humanitarian assistance in Darfur and elsewhere in Africa. Also included was $680 million for peacekeeping operations, much of which will be used in Sudan.

This is a start, but the Bush administration and Congress must do more to break the cycle of violence and hunger that grips Darfur.

Another step in the right direction is the commitment made at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles to double aid to Africa by 2010. A stronger Africa will be better prepared to respond to situations like Darfur, and hopefully to prevent them. We must now make sure that the United States leads the effort to reach this goal as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the last moment, or worse, not reaching it at all.

The National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection is an important effort to raise awareness of this terrible human tragedy. My hope is that it will also strengthen our resolve to end the atrocities being committed in Darfur.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 333.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. 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. Res. 333.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 343) commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 343

Whereas on May 16, 2005, the Parliament of the State of Kuwait amended Article 1 of the Election Law 35 of 1962, providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and run in the 2007 elections;

Whereas the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights, to be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural, or religious heritage;

Whereas the active advancement of women's rights throughout the world is and remains an important policy priority of the United States; and

Whereas the Department of State recognizes that the Kuwaiti parliamentary vote of May 16, 2005, was an important step forward for the women of Kuwait and the nation as a whole, and the United States views this step as a positive development on the road to political reform, serving as a positive example for other governments and societies in the region that are on the path to political freedom, inclusion of women, and full democratization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government and Parliament of the State of Kuwait for providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and hold public office;

(2) urges the full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country; and

(3) encourages the Government of Kuwait to continue taking positive steps to achieve full modernization of its political system and lasting democratic reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 343 introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and commend him for sponsoring this. At least ten other Members have joined him as cosponsors on the resolution.

In May of 2005, the Kuwaiti Parliament amended its basic election laws to provide something which we in America take for granted, the rights of women to vote and to run for office. This resolution puts the U.S. House of Representatives on record as commending this important step in the Middle East. The Kuwaiti Parliament has taken action to recognize the important role of women in international human rights, and the House states in its resolution how important that role is and how it must be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural or religious heritage. This action by the Kuwaiti Parliament underscores its recognition of these important rights and shows its support for the American policy of actively advancing women's rights all over the world.

This resolution recognizes America's view that this important step by the Kuwaiti Parliament is an important step for the women of Kuwait and for the nation as a whole. The resolution formally commends the government and the Parliament of Kuwait for this important action and urges full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country.

I urge support of this resolution, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I thank, again, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his kind words of support for this resolution as well.

Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2005, after many years of opposition, the Kuwaiti Parliament finally granted women the right to vote and to run for public office. If you and I, Mr. Speaker, had drafted this bill in the Kuwaiti legislature, I know it would have read somewhat differently. As worded, it states that ''a Kuwaiti woman, voting and running for political office, should do so while fully adhering to the dictates of Islamic Sharia.''

□ 1430

That suggests the possibility of limiting the application of this law.

However, my Kuwaiti friends assure me that the law indeed will be applied universally to all of Kuwait's women citizens, and it is my hope that that will indeed be the case. In any case, the Kuwaiti parliament's action marks an important step on the path towards full democratization.

It should also be noted that, with the enfranchising of women in Kuwait, women in every nation that holds elections now have the right to vote, except in Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, there still remain nations where neither men nor women have the right to vote, a peculiar and regrettable form of gender equity.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.