

care for their Medicare patients because of the Medicare reimbursement being so bad. We know that we have to fix this Medicare reimbursement for our doctors so they will continue to be able to afford to treat our senior citizens.

In the Senate reconciliation that they are introducing, they have a \$10 billion fix so we could help the doctors, so they can continue to take care of our senior citizens. In the House version, they are saying they are not going to include the \$10 billion, and the doctors are going to have to take care of themselves.

But the misery about this and the hypocrisy is the Republican leadership is telling the doctors, Don't worry about it. We're not going to put it in the budget reconciliation so that you can continue taking care of senior patients. We're going to put it in Labor-HHS.

Well, we have already passed Labor-HHS, and there is no \$10 billion for the doctors.

So that means that we are perpetrating a fraud on the doctors, the patients, and the seniors in this country, and we need not to do that.

THE RIGHT RECONCILIATION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Republicans hope to jam through a reconciliation the day before Veterans' Day, including \$54 billion in cuts. He talked about a helping hand? Doubling the origination fee for student loans, cutting \$14 billion in student loans is a helping hand for the next generation of Americans? Cutting foster care, school lunches, Medicaid, not to reduce the budget deficit but to make room for \$70 billion of tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year. That is what they are doing.

We should reconcile a few things around here. Let us reconcile their hypocrisy. Let us reconcile their purported support for the troops and our vets with the fact that the budget is inadequate to provide promised benefits, and they are doing nothing about that in the budget reconciliation.

Let's have some reconciliation and do things that are right for America.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 505

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House International Relations Committee will hear a resolution of inquiry into the White House Iraq Group.

A White House task force was organized in August of 2002, 7 months before the invasion of Iraq, with the objective of marketing a war in Iraq to the Congress and the American people. The group consisted of advisers to the

President and Vice President, including Rove, Libby, and Rice.

According to the Washington Post, the White House Iraq Group produced white papers that provided "gripping images and stories," and used "literary license" with intelligence; I might add, intelligence that was later proved false. These memos served as the basis for talking points for the President and his advisers.

The intelligence used in the White House Iraq Group's white papers included the false claim that Iraq had sought uranium from Niger, as well as the claim that the high-strength aluminum tubes Iraq purchased from China were to be used for the sole purpose of building centrifuges to enrich uranium.

This White House Iraq Group was putting out lies to the American people. The Congress needs to find out what happened. Tomorrow, we can find out in International Relations.

Support House Resolution 505.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SUPPORTING THE ACCESSION OF ISRAEL TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 38) expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 38

Whereas Israel has been trying to join the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2000, when it met the OECD's membership requirements relating to industrial and per-capita product criteria;

Whereas in March 2005, OECD Secretary-General Donald Johnston stated that expanding the OECD's membership to include more countries is vital if the group is to remain a forum for discussing global economic policies;

Whereas in 2004, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and then Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent a joint letter to the foreign and finance ministers of the 30 member countries of the OECD, stating that Israel's involvement as a non-member country in the OECD's various committees is increasing, and that Israel meets the economic and institutional criteria required to join the OECD;

Whereas in October 2004, then Israeli Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu stated that joining the OECD was of strategic im-

portance for repositioning Israel's economy from an emerging market to a developed one, adding that membership in the OECD would attract foreign investment;

Whereas in August 2004, the Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority was invited to become a full member of the OECD Environment Policy Committee, the first committee that Israel has been invited to join as a full member;

Whereas Israel was asked to take part in the OECD's Insurance and Commerce Committees;

Whereas in March 2005, Israel was formally accepted as an observer on the OECD's Financial Statistics Committee, allowing experts from the Bank of Israel and Central Bureau of Statistics to participate in the committee's meetings;

Whereas the World Bank ranks Israel among the 25 countries in which it is easiest to do business;

Whereas Israel's tax burden, encompassing income and property taxes, customs duties, value-added taxes (VAT) and national insurance, is much lower than in most OECD member countries;

Whereas membership in the OECD could enhance Israel's status on the global market and within international financial institutions, lowering the risk factor on foreign loans to Israel;

Whereas Israel's economic and technological standing could potentially benefit OECD member countries in the science and technology, including high-technology, sectors;

Whereas in 2003, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 20th out of 102 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index, and the World Economic Forum's Technology Index ranked Israel 9th, before Canada (11th), Norway (13th), Germany (14th), the United Kingdom (16th), and the Netherlands (18th); and

Whereas Israel is carrying out far reaching economic reforms based on the OECD's recommendations with respect to taxes, labor, competition, capital markets, pension funds, energy, infrastructures, communications, and transport: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) Israel shares the commitment to democratic government and the market economy that is the foundation of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

(2) Israel meets the OECD's membership requirements and has been an active participant as a non-member country in various OECD activities, such as adherence to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises; and

(3) the United States Government should support and advocate the accession of Israel to the OECD, including through coordination of efforts with Mexico, Great Britain, and other countries supportive of Israel's membership in the OECD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. 38.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the leadership for bringing House Resolution 38 before the House today. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the House International Relations Committee on September 15, and it expresses support for the accession of Israel to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the OECD.

□ 1030

More than 50 years have elapsed since George Marshall's speech at Harvard, which led to the Marshall Plan and the creation of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, which is the forerunner for the OECD.

His vision of economic cooperation based on common values and policies is now shared by even more countries, which are enjoying mutually beneficial relationships for their membership in the OECD.

Israel has been attempting to join the OECD since the year 2000 when it met the organisation's industrial and per-capita product criteria. Not only could OECD membership enhance Israel's status in the global market and within international financial institutions, but also other OECD countries could potentially benefit in the science and high tech sectors due to Israel's economic and advanced technological standing.

Israel also shares in the commitment to democratic governance and free market principles, and those are the foundations of the OECD. As a result, in December of 2004, Israel was invited on an ad hoc basis to participate as an observer in discussions of the trade committee of the OECD.

Since then Israel has been asked to take part in the OECD's Insurance and Commerce Committees, and in March of this year Israel was formally accepted as an observer of the OECD's Financial Statistics Committee.

As articulated in the resolution before us, Mr. Speaker, Israel meets the OECD's membership requirements and has been an active participant as a nonmember country in various OECD activities, such as adherence to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of Israel's unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip, Israel needs the support of its staunchest ally, the United States, to help expedite the process of achieving full membership in all international forums. The United States must make it clear to the international community that Israel must be afforded full representation in all appropriate agencies and bodies.

Inclusion of Israel as a full member of the OECD is a positive and important first step.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I want to commend my dear friend and distinguished colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for introducing this very important resolution.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, this resolution, in a sense, is a response to the outrageous statement of the President of Iran calling for the extermination of the State of Israel. Israel has more than earned the right to full membership in the Organisation For Economic Co-operation and Development.

Some foreign policy judgments are difficult to make, but this one could not be any easier. Like other OECD states, the State of Israel is a democratic, prosperous, free market economy. And by all measures, Israel's economy outstrips that of several current members of OECD. For example, Israel's per capita income is greater than that of nine of the OECD's 30 members. The World Economic Forum's technology index ranks Israel in the top 10 nations on the face of this planet, ahead of Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom. Recently, Israel was the world's third largest software producer, exceeded only by the United States and Canada.

Israel, Mr. Speaker, is already an important institutional contributor to the OECD as a nonmember participant. Israel has long outgrown its nonmember status.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Israel meets every economic, political and institutional prerequisite for OECD membership. Its continued omission from that body would inevitably call into question the motives of some of the OECD members. And I hope we will not face that ugly prospect.

I urge the administration to support Israeli membership in the OECD and to lobby our fellow members to achieve that goal.

In connection with this resolution, Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to return to the outrageous statement of the Iranian President calling for wiping Israel off the face of the global map. The President of Iran, in making this outrageous statement, has evoked tremendous global outrage at his views, and I am very pleased to publicly recognize the decision of Secretary General Kofi Annan to cancel his trip to Tehran.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I wrote Kofi Annan a strong letter to which he responded affirmatively canceling his visit to Iran. I publicly want to acknowledge the Secretary General's fine decision and commend him for his action.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his continued steadfast leadership on the issues of democracy and empowerment, and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her insightfulness and the interest of this particular legislation.

I rise as well to give my support to this legislation which provides for the encouragement and the support of Israel acceding to the Organisation For Economic Co-operation and Development. And as I do so, might I associate myself with the words of my colleague from California and denounce, as well, the words of tyranny and disgrace offered by the Iranian President on extinguishing or exterminating both the people and the nation of Israel.

I would think that this particular legislation speaks to rewarding those who are advocating for democracy and independence, and that is what Israel stands for.

I would hope in Iran that the good people of Iran, the people who believe in freedom, the freedom fighters, those who are supporting the enhancement of the working and middle class, who believe in the expansion of the intelligentsia, will again speak inside of Iran against such devastating language.

In this instance, the OECD recommends economic democracy, if you will, and Israel is already a high-powered and technologically advanced society with a thriving economy that will add to the mission of OECD. The World Bank ranks Israel among the 25 countries in which it is easiest to do business. In 2003 the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 20th out of 102 countries in its growth competitive index, and the World Economic Forum's technology index ranked Israel 9 before Canada, which is 11; Norway, 13; Germany, 14; the United Kingdom, 16; and the Netherlands, 18.

Israel is carrying out far-reaching economic reforms on the OECD's recommendation with respect to taxes, labor, competition, capital markets, pension funds, energy, infrastructures, communications and transport. And I believe the important aspect of what Israel is doing is, in the region, it provides for a stabilizing force of democracy and an economic arm of democracy helping its Mid East neighbors to join as well along the pathway of democracy and economic improvement. And so I believe this is a very important legislative statement for us to move forward in encouraging the admission of Israel into the OECD. And as well, I think it says again that we are standing alongside of Israel in its attempt to embrace all who want to follow the pathway of democracy.

Might I say that I hope that we will also have this impact on the Palestinians as they work toward democracy, and this shared influence will impact the region positively.

Likewise, as I close, let me say that we hope that the President of Iran will

find his moral compass to cease such horrible and atrocious language that would suggest the elimination of a country that promotes democracy and cares for its people, like Israel. Israel shares a commitment to democratic government and the market economy, and that is the foundation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and this legislation should be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 38, "Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)."

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Israeli economy has been steadily transformed from an economy supported by farmers on hillsides to a technologically advanced and services-based economy. Trade liberalization, abolition of exchange controls, adoption of modern corporate governance rules and intellectual property protection enhancement have led to the establishment of a healthy economic environment ripe for domestic and foreign investment. Encouragement to high-tech industries and a wide network of international commitments have reinforced the beneficial effects.

Israel has been trying to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2000, when it met the OECD's membership requirements relating to industrial and per-capita product criteria. Membership in the OECD would strengthen Israel's status on the global market and within international financial institutions, lowering the risk factor on foreign loans to Israel. Israel's economic and technological standing could potentially benefit OECD member countries in the science and technology, including high-technology, sectors.

Israel is already a high powered, technologically advanced society with a thriving economy that will add to the mission of the OECD. The World Bank ranks Israel among the 25 countries in which it is easiest to do business. In 2003, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 20th out of 102 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index, and the World Economic Forum's Technology Index ranked Israel 9th, before Canada (11th), Norway (13th), Germany (14th), the United Kingdom (16th), and the Netherlands (18th). Israel is carrying out far reaching economic reforms based on the OECD's recommendations with respect to taxes, labor, competition, capital markets, pension funds, energy, infrastructures, communications, and transport.

I support H. Res. 38 for the foregoing reasons, and I appeal to my colleagues to follow suit.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. Before yielding back the balance of my time, I would like to make a general statement on this very important piece of legislation. Unfortunately, the world is filled with rogue states, failed states, basket-case states, states that neither politically nor economically function in a viable fashion. And to have the President of Iran call for the physical extermination of one of the relatively small number of democratic, viable, prosperous, civilized societies is the ultimate outrage of recent pronouncements by political leaders on the face of this planet.

I commend my colleague from Florida for introducing this important resolution, recognizing that Israel is one of the minority of states which are democratic, prosperous and civilized.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for House Resolution 38 and to strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution as well.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a group of 30 member countries—including the United States—sharing a commitment to democratic government and the market economy.

Its work covers economic and social issues from macroeconomics, to trade, education, development and science and innovation.

Israel has been attempting to join the OECD since 2000, when it met the organization's industrial and per-capita product criteria.

Not only could OECD membership enhance Israel's status in the global market and within international financial institutions but also other OECD countries could potentially benefit in the science and high-tech sectors due to Israel's economic and advanced technological standing.

Israel also shares the commitment to democratic governance and free market principles that are the foundation of the OECD.

As a result, in December 2004, Israel was invited, on an ad hoc basis, to participate as an observer in discussions of the trade committee of the OECD and has participated in numerous other OECD activities, however it has not been granted full membership.

House Resolution 38 expresses that the United States supports full membership for Israel in the OECD based on its commitment to democracy, the market economy, and OECD's principles and mission.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support Israel's membership in the OECD, and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his help on this resolution as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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, H. Res. 38, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 question will be postponed.

SAN FRANCISCO OLD MINT COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1953) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the "Granite Lady", and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1953

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress hereby finds as follows:

(1) The Granite Lady played an important role in the history of the Nation.

(2) The San Francisco Mint was established pursuant to an Act of Congress of July 3, 1852, to convert miners' gold from the California gold rush into coins.

(3) The San Francisco Old Mint Building was designed by architect A.B. Mullett, who also designed the United States Treasury Building and the Old Executive Office Building.

(4) The solid construction of the Granite Lady enabled it to survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, making it the only financial institution that was able to operate immediately after the earthquake as the treasury for disaster relief funds for the city of San Francisco.

(5) Coins struck at the San Francisco Old Mint are distinguished by the "S" mint mark.

(6) The San Francisco Old Mint is famous for having struck many rare, legendary issues, such as the 1870-S \$3 coin, which is valued today at well over \$1,000,000, and the 1894-S dime which is comparatively rare.

(7) The San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin will be the first commemorative coin to honor a United States mint.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and in commemoration of the San Francisco Old Mint, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the San Francisco Old Mint Building, its importance to California and the history of the United States, and its role in rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire.