

the continued success of the peace process. We offer these two prime ministers then our support by our actions today in passing this bill. Today we have an opportunity to help the Middle East peace process move forward. I urge the adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL].

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Indiana for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, first of all, to say that bringing this up again, I think the fifth time, reminds me of the old saying by Yogi Berra saying: "it is deja vu all over again."

We have had these temporary extensions time and time again. This is no way to run things. This is no way to fund the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. I think the process is, frankly, terrible.

We ought to be marking up a bill that I introduced many, many months ago to have peace facilitation, or the Helms-Pell bill, which the Senate has discussed. To me, this is the way it ought to be done, not a simple extension. Every time we come back here, a month later, 2 months later, 3 months later, nothing has been done.

I think the chairman is absolutely right: This House did pass a new Middle East Peace Facilitation Act as part of the foreign operations appropriations bill. Unfortunately, that bill is stalled due to a fight on abortion, which has nothing to do with foreign operations in terms of funding MEPFA, so we are being held hostage once again.

This ought not to be the way that we fund things. This ought not to be the way that we do things. Prime Minister Rabin lost his life in the fight for peace. Certainly as partners in the peace process, the United States ought to be doing things in a little better way:

Quite frankly, our Government here is shut down because appropriations bills were not passed. The majority here has not done its job by the end of the fiscal year and passed the appropriations bills. That is why our Government here is shut down. The Republican leadership talks about a family friendly Congress and family values in Congress, and Congress is now going to be in session not only this week, but through next week and Christmas week and so on and so forth. If we simply had a continuing resolution to keep funding the Government the way we should have because the Republican leadership did not do its job, the Government would not be shut down.

Frankly, if the Republican leadership did its job and did not stall this over a dispute on abortion, we would have a foreign operations bill, and we would not have to be doing this now with a temporary extension of MEPFA.

So I just think the leadership here has not been doing its job, and that is why we are in the pickle we are in now. We are shutting down our Government,

we are not fulfilling our obligations, we are stalling Middle East peace by not having MEPFA in place. Not only is the PLO not being funded, but the Government of Israel, the Government of Egypt, and other countries that get foreign aid are not getting their foreign aid, because, again, we are not passing the foreign operations bill, which is what we should be doing.

So while I certainly support peace and I certainly will support this, I think it is a tribute to Prime Minister Rabin and Prime Minister Perez, who came here last week, this is no way to run a Government. This is no way to run foreign operations. This is no way to have an extension for the fifth time again. We ought to be doing a markup of a separate bill and ought to be passing the foreign operations bill. I tell you, comes March 31, we could be coming here again asking for another extension. This is not fair for the Middle East peace process, and it just to me shows a tremendous lack of leadership in the way this House is run.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will support this, very reluctantly, this way, because while I certainly support peace, I think, as I have said before, that we must hold all parties to the agreements feet to the fire. I am not worried about the Israeli Government not keeping its end of the bargain, I worry about Yasser Arafat and the PLO. He has agreed to a number of things. I think we should hold his feet to the fire.

I want to see those covenants calling for the destruction of Israel removed from the PLO, from the Palestinian Council. I want the Palestinian Council to remove that. I want them to agree to everything that they agreed to when they signed the Middle East peace facilitation act, nothing more, nothing less.

But if Yasser Arafat and the PLO and the Palestinians said they would do certain things, then we ought to make them do those certain things before American aid flows. I think American aid should flow, because American aid is very, very important to the peace process. But I also think when parties say they are going to do something, they have an obligation to fulfill what they say. That is all we are looking for. That is why it is important to have new MEPFA language, not to simply keep renewing the old one.

Again, I reluctantly go along with this. I hope we will not be back here on March 31 doing the same thing all over again.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2808.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

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 and include extraneous material on H.R. 2808 and House Resolution 274, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

REAUTHORIZING TIED AID CREDIT PROGRAM OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2203) to reauthorize the tied aid credit program of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and to allow the Export-Import Bank to conduct a demonstration project, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2203

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIED AID CREDIT PROGRAM.

(a) Section 10(c)(2) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635i-3(c)(2)) is amended by striking "1995" and inserting "1997".

(b) Section 10(e) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635i-3(e)) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1996 and 1997."

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

Notwithstanding section 4701(a)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, the Export-Import Bank of the United States may conduct a demonstration project in accordance with section 4703 of such title.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2203, a bill that protects American businesses from unfair trading practices of other countries, primarily Japan and Germany. I am grateful to enjoy the support of Representative JIM LEACH, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services. On the other side of the aisle, Representative GONZALEZ, former committee chairman, and Representative FLAKE, the ranking member of the subcommittee have provided their strong support