

The leadership of the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] and the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and others enabled us to call to the attention of our colleagues and to our country the concerns that we have about the United States-China relationship. Most certainly we believe in engagement, but it must be effective engagement, that instead of contributing to an increased trade deficit and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction with impunity and ignoring of the repression in China, instead, that effective engagement would make the world safer, the trade fairer, and people freer. And Radio Free Asia, the Radio Free Asia part of this package is further to the point of making people freer.

So many people have told us, and I know that my colleagues have addressed this, that in the course of the cold war their consolation was Radio Free Europe, that people in the outside world had not forgotten them, that we did respect their aspirations to live in a freer society. It was true then in Europe, it is true now for Asia, and we reject the notion that democratic freedoms and individual human rights are Western values. Indeed, they are universal values written on the hearts of men. The people in China who aspire for a freer China have quoted Thomas Jefferson, really quoted Thomas Jefferson. They have lived his words, not mocked them, as President Jiang did when he came here.

□ 1545

They have fought, risked their personal lives, the security of their families, and, indeed, their lives for principles that we as a country have advocated.

We say that promoting democratic values is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. If indeed it is in the world, it must be also in China. Radio Free Asia is the mechanism for us to give some encouragement to those who take such risks for freedom. Those people are the legitimate heirs of our Founding Fathers. For that reason, I commend my colleague for his leadership.

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

Madam Speaker, for the sake of freedom in China and throughout Asia, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2232, as amended, the Radio Free Asia Act of 1997.

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2232, a bill to authorize additional funds for Voice of America broadcasts in Chinese and Korean.

As a young boy growing up in Seoul during the Communist invasion, I can remember huddling around the radio with my family listening to these Voice of America broadcasts. In occupied Seoul, VOA was a prime source of news and inspiration in desperate times by providing timely and accurate news, unfiltered by our North Korean oppressors.

Today, North Korea is the most isolated, closed society in the world. The Communist

regime maintains tight control of the dissemination of information within North Korea. Our VOA broadcasts are the people's lifeline to outside news and information, and otherwise available.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with two North Korean defectors who were visiting Washington. They told of how North Koreans—desperate for real news from the outside world—risk their lives to listen to VOA broadcasts. If found by North Korean authorities, they face certain execution on the spot. Yet thousands surround secret, miniature radios listening to our VOA broadcasts.

Madam Speaker, VOA broadcasts to China and North Korea provide those people with their primary source of accurate news and information about events in their country and around the world.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2232, the Radio Free Asia Act authored by Congressman Ed ROYCE. I believe this legislation is one of the most important pieces of the China package that the House of Representatives has been considering this week because it gives people hope. It is the most tangible way for the Chinese people to learn about the democratic rule of law, human rights, and current events around the world. It will also audibly demonstrate the aspirations of the American people to have a positive relationship with China as we enter the 21st century.

The Radio Free Asia Act is a direct counterpoint to the oppressive policies of the Chinese Government. The lack of a free flow of information within China makes it all the more important that the broadcasts of Voice of America and Radio Free Asia are heard loud and clear. While the government of China can stifle their own press and attempt to jam our broadcasts, by increasing the number of hours on the air as well as the variety of dialects, a message of hope and freedom will be heard by countless millions.

My colleague, Congressman FRANK WOLF, recently came back from a trip to Tibet and he reported that the broadcasts of Radio Free Asia were a great source of encouragement to the Tibetan population. The least that we can do is to ensure that these broadcasts continue by providing the necessary funds to sustain and increase these broadcasts.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Radio Free Asia Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 302, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule I, further proceedings on this matter are postponed.

DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR REMAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF 105TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 9, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions for the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is agreed to. There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

Washington, DC, November 4, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker, United States House of Representatives, Capitol Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: On Wednesday, October 29, 1997, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 606, approved fifteen resolutions authorizing appropriations for federal buildings and leased space. Please find enclosed copies of these resolutions.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,

*Chairman.*

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion 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 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

VETERANS' BENEFITS ACT OF 1997

Mr. STUMP. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 714) to extend and improve the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to extend certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to services for homeless veterans, to extend certain other authorities of the Secretary, and for other purposes, as amended.