

China, Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, have increased by 79 percent in the first 5 months of 1998 compared to the same period of 1997;

Whereas year-to-date imports of steel from Russia now exceed the record import levels of 1997, and steel imports from Russia and the Ukraine now approach 2,500,000 net tons;

Whereas foreign government trade restrictions and private restraints of trade distort international trade and investment patterns and result in burdens on United States commerce, including absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade;

Whereas the European Union, for example, despite also being a major economy, in 1997 imported only one-tenth as much finished steel products from Asian steel-producing countries as the United States did and has restricted imports of steel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia;

Whereas the United States is simultaneously facing a substantial increase in steel imports from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, caused in part by the closure of Asian markets;

Whereas there is a well-recognized need for improvements in the enforcement of the United States trade laws to provide an effective responsibility to such situations:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the House of Representatives calls upon the President to:

(1) take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions, and for other purposes;

(2) pursue enhanced enforcement of United States trade laws with respect to the surge of steel imports into the United States, using all remedies available under those laws including offsetting duties, quantitative restraints, and other authorized remedial measures as appropriate;

(3) pursue with all tools at his disposal a more equitable sharing of the burden of accepting imports of finished steel products from Asia and the countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States;

(4) establish a task force within the executive branch with responsibility for closely monitoring United States imports of steel; and

(5) report to the Congress by no later than January 5, 1999, with a comprehensive plan for responding to this import surge, including ways of limiting its deleterious effects on employment, prices, and investment in the United States steel industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its properly being noticed.

The Chair will announce the Chair's designation at a later time. The Chair's determination as to whether or not the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at the time designated by the Chair for the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask to be heard at the appropriate time on the question of whether this resolution constitutes a Question of Privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman shall be heard at the appropriate time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I thank the Speaker.

WAIVING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 105TH CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY BILL OR JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING GENERAL OR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 580 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 580 provides for the consideration in the House of House Joint Resolution 131, waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the joint resolution, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader or minority leader or their designees, and it provides for one motion to recommend.

For Members who may not recall, the law, sections 106 and 107 of Title I of the U.S. Code, requires enrolled bills, measures that have passed the House and Senate in the same form and require the President's signature to become law, it requires that these be sent to the President on parchment paper.

From what I understand, this is a very time-consuming effort, especially for measures as extensive as the anticipated appropriations measures. It is my understanding that to enroll these bills on parchment paper could take over a week on each one, on each piece of legislation, meaning the President would not be able to sign them for that period of time.

This type of joint resolution has usually been considered in the House in

previous Congresses under a unanimous consent request. Unfortunately, attempts to reach a unanimous consent agreement were unlikely due to expected objections.

In fact, when we were in the minority, Mr. Speaker, in the 100th Congress, in 1987, during the consideration of the reconciliation legislation, Majority Leader Foley brought up an almost identical joint resolution waiving the parchment requirement for the enrollment of budget reconciliation and the full-year continuing resolution for fiscal year 1988.

Congressman Bob Walker, one of our parliamentary experts on our side of the aisle, asked Mr. Foley to explain if all the House was doing was to provide for the waiving of parchment copies, to which Mr. Foley responded in the affirmative. There was no objection from our side of the aisle, and the joint resolution was considered by unanimous consent.

However, because of possible anticipated objections certainly earlier in the week when we attempted to reach an agreement for unanimous consent, and because this type of joint resolution is not privileged, it requires a special rule to provide for its consideration.

Once these important bills have passed the House, enrollment on parchment paper will be the impediment keeping them from reaching the President's desk in a timely manner. Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to support this rule and the joint resolution so that these bills can be signed into law as soon as possible.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the time.

This is a closed rule. It essentially reduces the printing requirements for the appropriation bills that are passed during the remainder of the Congress. It will speed up, though, getting these bills to the President for signature. It is necessary to make sure that the flow of money to the Federal agencies is not interrupted when the current funding expires.

As my colleague has described, this rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

Mr. Speaker, this is noncontroversial. It has been done before when we needed to speed the printing of completed bills. It was adopted by voice vote in the Committee on Rules, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any speakers.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, we as well have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 580 just passed, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 131 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 131

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the provisions of sections 106 and 107 of title 1, United States Code, are waived for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to the printing (on parchment or otherwise) of the enrollment of any bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. The enrollment of any such bill or joint resolution shall be in such form as the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives certifies to be a true enrollment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 580, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, as was just discussed, Mr. Speaker, this resolution allows us to, notwithstanding the law requiring enrollment bills on parchment, to enroll any bill or joint resolution in such form as the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives certifies to be a true enrollment. That is the sum and substance of the bill.

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, we have no objections to this particular proposition. It is part of the house-keeping efforts to keep us going and trying to get things done.

But, frankly, we are about to leave town, in my opinion, without getting some of the most important things we need to get done. There are seniors losing their HMO benefits across my State and much of the Nation. We are not addressing that issue. We are not addressing the issues of class size and the quality of education our kids get. We left campaign finance reform hanging around, lingering a slow death.

Mr. Speaker, some people said this is the least effective Congress in the history of this Union. I am not interested in rating the Congress. I am interested in dealing with these issues. Our seniors deserve to have a Congress that is

engaged, and we should not be leaving until we deal with a couple of these critical issues. They are life-and-death issues.

Senator DODD and I had a meeting where one gentleman had a heart attack. He was so anxious about his health care policy and the company dropping him.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have no objection to this particular provision, but we do have an objection to the way this Congress has been run and the little it has done to deal with the needs of the American people.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I will restrain myself and tell the gentleman I have no further speakers if he wishes to yield back the balance of his time.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) has 28 minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have 28 minutes, and they have yielded back the balance of their time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, let me indicate that I will yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The joint resolution is considered read for amendment.

Pursuant to House Resolution 580, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on engrossment and the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON TODAY

Mr. THOMAS. Pursuant to House Resolution 575, I announce the following suspensions to be considered today:

H.R. 2675, Federal Employees Life Insurance and S. 2561, Fair Credit Reporting.

□ 1530

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule 1, the Chair announces that he 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, shall be taken later in the day.

#### AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2263) to authorize and request the President to award the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore Roosevelt for his gallant and heroic actions in the attack on San Juan Heights, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2263

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President is authorized and requested to award the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore Roosevelt, of the State of New York, for his actions in the attack of San Juan Heights, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War on July 1, 1898. Such an award may be made without regard to the provisions of section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, and may be made in accordance with award criteria applicable at the time of the actions referred to in the first sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

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

Mr. Speaker, on September 28 I chaired a Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing that examined the evidence supporting the award of the Medal of Honor to Theodore Roosevelt for his valor on July 1, 1898, during the Battle of San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.

During the hearing we heard compelling testimony about the courage and decisiveness of Theodore Roosevelt from two of our colleagues who studied his actions that day in great detail, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE).

We learned the details of the military battle that day and the political battle that followed from the historians, Dr. John A. Gable, the executive director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, and Mr. Nathan Miller, the author of the biography "Theodore Roosevelt, A Life."

Mr. Speaker, finally, we also heard from Mr. Tweed Roosevelt, the great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt. We heard about the man Theodore Roosevelt, a man of immense energy and intelligence and a family man, a man of unwavering moral fiber, a man of immense stature in the history of this Nation, and the great impact that he had upon his four sons. Then we stop and think about the fact that this is a family that lost four sons in a uniform, three in World War I and one in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored today to have Mr. Tweed Roosevelt in the gallery to witness this historic celebration of an important moment in the