

calm the situation, explain NATO's mission, and thus helped the alliance to overcome the resistance of those who had earlier opposed it. And perhaps even more important, those listening to these broadcasts have sent letters and e-mails pointing out that these broadcasts helped them to survive through a most difficult time.

But despite these contributions, contributions that cost very little, many question why we should maintain RFE/RL when we also spend money to support the Voice of America. To my mind, there are several good reasons for this, all of which have been highlighted by the Kosovo crisis.

First of all, RFE/RL's South Slavic Service is unique in broadcasting to all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia in different languages but with a common perspective on the need for peaceful, democratic development. RFE/RL did not broadcast to Yugoslavia during the Cold War. Had it done so, we might be facing fewer problems today.

In addition, RFE/RL continues to be a "home service" for people whose governments often deny them the chance to have a free media. The Voice of America proudly presents America's position on the issues; RFE/RL makes sure that its listeners be they in Belgrade or in Kosovo have the information they need about their own country as well. These are complementary missions; we need both.

And finally, in Eastern Europe, RFE/RL not only has real brand loyalty but also represents an important symbol of American concern about the region. People there continue to listen to RFE/RL because it provides reliable information that they need, and they see the existence of this station as reflecting America's longstanding commitment to freedom and democracy in their own countries. VOA also plays a role, and it also enjoys this kind of support. But in our time particularly, symbols matter, and RFE/RL's broadcasts remain an extraordinarily important one.

Not only is RFE/RL effective in promoting our national interests, but it is remarkably efficient: It now broadcasts more hours each week than it did a decade ago when both its budget and its number of employees were three times larger than they are now. That is a record few other broadcasters or government agencies can match. And it is one that we should reward rather than punish, continue rather than stop.

As the tragic events of Kosovo and NATO's recent military conflict with Serbia have demonstrated, the transition to a peaceful and democratic Europe is far from complete. We should support RFE/RL's vital work as we enter the 21st century.

□ 1715

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Depart-

ment of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 247, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The bill 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.

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AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2415, AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2415, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, cross-references, punctuation, and indentation, and to make the other technical and conforming changes necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from Monday evening's votes. Had I been here, I would have supported three measures, H.R. 1033, House Resolution 25, and H.R. 1477, that passed under suspension overwhelmingly. Again, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 308, 309, and 310.

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CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-102)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iraqi emergency is to

continue in effect beyond August 2, 1999, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis between the United States and Iraq that led to the declaration on August 2, 1990, of a national emergency has not been resolved. The Government of Iraq continues to engage in activities inimical to stability in the Middle East and hostile to United States interests in the region. Such Iraqi actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and vital foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on the Government of Iraq.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 20, 1999.

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LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire from the majority as to what will be the remainder of the schedule for today, specifically as it relates to tax legislation.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how I found myself in the position other than the fact that I am standing at this microphone. But I do have a strong message that we are going to have a brief recess and then plan to reassemble. I would say check in about early evening.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, so that the Members will have an opportunity to plan the rest of the evening, is it possible to have some guesstimate as to what time the majority will be prepared to return to the floor?

Mr. GOSS. Approximately 6 p.m.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2561, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-247) on the resolution (H. Res. 257) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1074, REGULATORY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report