

addresses the need for a cataloged list of the many different public war memorials of the United States. Thousands of public memorials dealing with the United States' involvement in military conflicts exist throughout the world. However, there is no index or record as to their location nor is there a cataloged assessment as to their condition.

Unfortunately, many of these memorials suffer from neglect, disrepair or have been relocated or stored in facilities where they are not accessible to the public.

Currently, the Federal Government only keeps track of those memorials that are federally funded; however, nonprofit organizations such as Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes have undertaken self-funded programs in an attempt to catalog these memorials.

H. Con. Res. 345 urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to collect and maintain information on public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States. The resolution also urges a coordinated effort between the Federal Government and other organizations like Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes and collecting and maintaining this information which would then be available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is ready to move forward, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 345.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) a Member who is the author of this legislation.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my dear friend, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the distinguished chairman, for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 345, which addresses the need to create a cataloged list of the thousands of public war memorials in the United States. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is the product of over a decade-long effort by Vietnam War veteran Brian Rooney and the nonprofit organization he founded, Remembering Veterans Who Earned Their Stripes, otherwise known as RVETS based in North Ridge, California.

Mr. Rooney believed that war memorials preserve the memories of our veteran's sacrifices and serve as a reminder of America's history. He discovered that today there is no detailed index or record of the thousands of public memorials dedicated to America's involvement in military conflicts, more importantly, dedicated to those who gave their lives for freedom.

Mr. Rooney investigated conditions for years. He found that these memorials suffer from neglect, disrepair and have been relocated or stored in facili-

ties where they are not accessible to the public. Currently, the Federal Government monitors only those memorials that are federally funded. We have relied on the hard work of individuals like Mr. Rooney who have conducted this arduous task.

H. Con. Res. 345 urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, to collect and maintain information on public memorials commemorating military conflicts of the United States.

It urges a coordinated effort between the Federal Government and other entities like RVETS in collecting and maintaining this information which would then be made available to the public. RVETS already has cataloged over 7,000 monuments. They already have done most of the work needed to establish the database.

H. Con. Res. 345 is a bipartisan effort to honor our veterans. I want to thank Brian Rooney for his dedication not just to the country as a Vietnam war veteran, but for the decade he has spent conducting this search so that veterans could be honored.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that this morning there has been some partisan bickering going on with respect to some of these resolutions, but I would just urge all of my colleagues to put that aside today so that we can appropriately honor veterans who have served our country and who have given their life and service for our country, and vote to support this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 345, and I urge its adoption by the House, and I commend the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) for helping to bring this matter to the floor at this time.

This legislation which urges the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Park Service, to gather and maintain information on public memorials commemorating U.S. military conflicts and to make that information available to the public, which will be very useful to the entire nation. It further urges that the Federal Government cooperate with private entities in accomplishing that important goal.

Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds, maybe thousands, of memorials and monuments dedicated to our fighting men and women of our Nation's military. These include monuments commissioned and dedicated by the Federal Government, State governments and various localities. Over time, their number has grown to the point where it has become difficult to keep track of all of the monuments that are now in existence.

This legislation will help simplify matters by requesting the Interior Department to initiate action to collect and disseminate information, a step they have undertaken on all of these monuments. The end result will be helpful to both tourists and researchers alike, but particularly to all of our veterans organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to lend this bill their full support, and I thank the gentleman for yielding the time to me.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 345.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCERNING THE EMANCIPATION OF IRANIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996, Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas Congress has deplored the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, and has condemned Iran's execution of more than 200 Baha'is and the imprisonment of thousands of others solely on account of their religious beliefs;

Whereas in July 1998 a Baha'i, Mr. Ruhollah Rowhani, was executed by hanging in Mashhad after being held in solitary confinement for 9 months on the charge of converting a Muslim woman to the Baha'i Faith, a charge the woman herself refuted;

Whereas 2 Baha'is remain on death row in Iran, 2 on charges on apostasy, and 10 others are serving prison terms on charges arising solely from their religious beliefs or activities;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny individual Baha'is access to higher education and government employment and denies recognition and religious rights to the Baha'i community, according to the policy set forth in a confidential Iranian Government document which was revealed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1993;

Whereas Baha'is have been banned from teaching and studying at Iranian universities since the Islamic Revolution and therefore created the Baha'i Institute of Higher Education, or Baha'i Open University, to provide educational opportunities to Baha'i youth using volunteer faculty and a

network of classrooms, libraries, and laboratories in private homes and buildings throughout Iran;

Whereas in September and October 1998, Iranian authorities arrested 36 faculty members of the Open University, 4 of whom have been given prison sentences ranging between 3 to 10 years, even though the law makes no mention of religious instruction within one's own religious community as being an illegal activity;

Whereas Iranian intelligence officers looted classroom equipment, textbooks, computers, and other personal property from 532 Baha'i homes in an attempt to close down the Open University;

Whereas all Baha'i community properties in Iran have been confiscated by the government, and Iranian Baha'is are not permitted to elect their leaders, organize as a community, operate religious schools, or conduct other religious community activities guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas on February 22, 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a formerly confidential Iranian government document that constitutes a blueprint for the destruction of the Baha'i community and reveals that these repressive actions are the result of a deliberate policy designed and approved by the highest officials of the Government of Iran; and

Whereas in 1998 the United Nations Special Representative for Human Rights, Maurice Copithorne, was denied entry into Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community, in a manner consistent with Iran's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements guaranteeing the civil and political rights of its citizens;

(2) condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the Government of Iran, including the denial of legal recognition to the Baha'i community and the basic rights to organize, elect its leaders, educate its youth, and conduct the normal activities of a law-abiding religious community;

(3) expresses concern that individual Baha'is continue to suffer from severely repressive and discriminatory government actions, including executions and death sentences, solely on account of their religion;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to permit Baha'i students to attend Iranian universities and Baha'i faculty to teach at Iranian universities, to return the property confiscated from the Baha'i Open University, to free the imprisoned faculty members of the Open University, and to permit the Open University to continue to function;

(5) urges the Government of Iran to implement fully the conclusions and recommendations on the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community made by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Professor Abdelfattah Amor, in his report of March 1996 to the United Nations Commission of Human Rights;

(6) urges the Government of Iran to extend to the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants of human rights, including the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and equal protection of the law; and

(7) calls upon the President to continue—

(A) to assert the United States Government's concern regarding Iran's violations of the rights of its citizens, including members of the Baha'i community, along with expressions of its concern regarding the Iranian

Government's support for international terrorism and its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction;

(B) to emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, particularly its treatment of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities, as a significant factor in the development of the United States Government's relations with the Government of Iran;

(C) to emphasize the need for the United Nations Special Representative for Human Rights to be granted permission to enter Iran;

(D) to urge the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights; and

(E) to encourage other governments to continue to appeal to the Government of Iran, and to cooperate with other governments and international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, in efforts to protect the religious rights of the Baha'is and other minorities through joint appeals to the Government of Iran and through other appropriate actions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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 on H. Con. Res. 257.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering a resolution to call once again for the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

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We have passed similar resolutions seven times since 1982, yet the Baha'is in that country continue to be deprived of their basic rights by their government, by the Iranian government. Despite the fact that they are committed to nonviolence, tolerance and loyalty to government, the Baha'is continue to suffer deprivations and harassment from the fanatical elements of Iranian society, ranging from local clergy and their uneducated followers to highly placed government officials. Eleven Baha'is continue to languish in Iranian prisons; arrested, tried and sentenced as a result of their personal religious beliefs and peaceful religious activity.

Baha'i religious gatherings and administrative institutions were banned in 1983. A 1991 government document calls for the continued obstruction of the economic and social development of the Baha'i community. The Iranian constitution recognizes only four reli-

gions: Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism; and official rhetoric continues to name those as the only religions whose members may enjoy full rights.

Baha'is continue to be denied government employment, denied university employment, denied legitimately earned pensions, denied admission to Iranian universities, denied access to the legal system, denied access to decent places to bury their dead, and a host of other civil liberties that we in our Nation have come to take for granted as basic elements of a free and just society.

The election of President Khatami in Iran and the subsequent relaxation of the clerical dictatorship have brought hope that the rule of law will eventually prevail in that nation, and that full rights will be granted to all of its citizens, including the Baha'is. We have seen some improvement in the treatment of individual Baha'is. In the last 2 years, Baha'is have been granted passports for travel abroad more frequently and some have been granted business licenses again. A significant concession to the Baha'is was a recent modification of the rules of registration of marriages that now omits references to religion, allowing Baha'is to register marriages and legitimize their children for the first time in many years.

Those steps are significant and they should be acknowledged as signs of promise for full emancipation to come in the future. Yet those actions have been taken silently and come far short of granting Baha'is the recognition under the constitution, the Iranian constitution, that would improve their situation and protect them from fanaticism.

We look to President Khatami to stand behind his promise of Iran for all Iranians and to take steps to extend the protection of his constitution to the Baha'is by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights. We cannot remain silent when a community of 300,000 people continues to suffer the effects of persecution and deprivation while their government proclaims its support of human rights for all.

The passage of this resolution will voice once again that the United States finds the situation of the Baha'is in Iran intolerable and will not rest until that community wins full and complete emancipation.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 257.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) for introducing this resolution and thank the

gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for moving it through the legislative process.

This important resolution concerns the continued persecution of the Baha'i community in Iran.

The resolution states that the Congress continues to hold the government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community.

The resolution also condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the government of Iran. These policies include, first, the denial of legal recognition of the Baha'i community; preventing the community from organizing and electing its leaders; stopping the education of Baha'i youth; and stopping the Baha'is from conducting the normal activities of a law-abiding religious community.

The Porter resolution also urges the government of Iran to permit Baha'i students to attend Iranian universities and to permit the Baha'i Open University to reopen.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls on President Clinton to continue to make Iran's treatment of the Baha'i community a significant factor in the development of U.S. relations with Iran; to emphasize the need for the U.N. Special Representative for Human Rights to be allowed to enter Iran, and to urge the government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community; and finally, to encourage other governments to appeal to Iran to protect the rights of Baha'is.

Mr. Speaker, the Baha'is in Iran have been persecuted far too long. Congress has gone on record since the early 1980s against harsh Iranian treatment of the Baha'is, and it is important that we do so again. Iran's leaders must understand that their anti-Baha'i policies are being closely watched by the international community. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 257.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 257, concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community. Mr. Speaker, the Baha'i faith is the most recent world religion. Its founder, a Persian nobleman, declared his mission in 1863, proclaiming he was the promised one of all religions who would usher in a new age of peace for all mankind. Among Bahauallah's most fundamental teachings are oneness of God, oneness of the foundation of all religions, oneness of mankind and all people are equal in the sight of God.

The Baha'i faith was established in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, in 1954, with the settlement of pioneers on St. Thomas. The first local spiritual assembly of the Baha'i of St. Thomas was incorporated in 1965. The Baha'i of the Virgin Islands have been and are active in, among other things, providing education and enrichment pro-

grams for young children and adults, working with the Interfaith Coalitions on St. Thomas and St. Croix, as well as assisting in hurricane recovery efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Baha'i community of the Virgin Islands strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution 257 because it would condemn the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the government of Iran, and expresses concern that individual Baha'i continue to suffer from severely repressive and discriminatory government actions, including executions and death sentences, solely on account of their religion.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this important resolution.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H. Con. Res. 257, concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

Thousands of human rights abuses take place around the world on a daily basis. Almost all go unnoticed by the U.S. media. The Baha'is of Iran are one such group.

Many in Congress have worked closely with the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States to bring attention to this situation. The Baha'i faith was founded in what was Persia in the 1840's and has grown to the largest religious minority in Iran. In the United States today, there are approximately 300,000 Baha'is. More than 90 percent are native born, and many of the remainder are refugees from Iran who have fled persecution.

One of these refugees is Firuz Kazemzadeh, who for over 30 years was the elected leader of the Baha'is in the United States, until he stepped down 2 years ago. Dr. Kazemzadeh immigrated to the United States from Iran in the 1950's and became a professor of history at Yale University. He has devoted a great deal of his time and efforts to improving the condition of his fellow Baha'is in Iran. He has quietly, in his way, been a tremendously effective fighter for his fellow Baha'is and has clearly saved many Bahai lives and much Bahai suffering. I would like to specifically commend Dr. Kazemzadeh for his decades of work helping the Baha'is.

Baha'is have suffered persecution since their religion was founded, but the situation gravely worsened in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Many of the leaders of the Baha'i community were jailed at that time and many were executed solely for their religious beliefs. The fact the Baha'i community has survived in Iran over the past 20 years is a testament to the Baha'i people and their commitment to their faith.

This adverse situation for the Baha'i community could be completely reversed by the Iranian Government at any time. The repression of the Baha'is is spearheaded by the religious government of Iran in the form of laws and regulations that explicitly deny Baha'i basic rights accorded to other citizens of Iran, including other religious minorities. Religious intolerance has caused the world's people untold suffering and its presence is felt across the entire world. But in Iran it is institutionalized and written in law. And it is not only discrimination. In Iran it can mean torture, imprisonment, and death.

H. Con. Res. 157, similar to ones passed in previous sessions of Congress, calls on the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'is and afford to them in practice rights which

should be inalienable to any human being which they are being denied. Before this administration speaks about opening relations with Iran and the positive reforms which are supposed to be taking place in that country, the Baha'is must be granted the same rights and privileges as all other Iranian citizens.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his dedication to human rights and to the Baha'is and to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New Jersey (CHRIS SMITH) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for again playing a leading role in bringing this resolution to the floor. Each of them have been dedicated leaders for the basic human rights of every person on earth. One of the real privileges and honors of being a Member of this body has been to serve side by side and work for human rights with these outstanding leaders. I urge Members to support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the repression of the Baha'i community in Iran is one of the most egregious ongoing violations of human rights, and I am very pleased that we are calling attention to it today. I first want to commend the gentleman from New York, the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, (Mr. GILMAN) for his bringing this important resolution to the floor today.

I also want to thank particularly the sponsor of the bill, my good friend and colleagues from Illinois, Mr. PORTER. I have had the very good fortune over the past 20 years of working very closely with JOHN PORTER on a vast number of human rights issues, and I commend him for his outstanding dedication to human rights. He has unwaveringly worked to alleviate the suffering of people around the world, and thanks to his efforts we can honestly say that the world today is a better place.

Mr. Speaker, one of the human rights issues that JOHN PORTER has championed since the day he was elected to the Congress is the situation of the Baha'is in Iran. The Baha'i has suffered greatly since Iran's Revolution in 1979. The constitution created by the Ayatollahs establishes Islam as the state religion of Iran. It also recognizes Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians—religions that flourished in Persia before Islam—as "protected religious minorities" which are afforded legal rights. Iran's 350,000 Baha'i however, are not afforded these protections, and they enjoy no legal rights whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, this blatant, officially sanctioned discriminations has far-reaching and inhuman consequences. Until recently, Baha'i marriages have not been recognized in Iran. As a consequence, no Baha'i couple married according to their own religious rites since 1980 are legally married in the eyes of the Iranian government. The women have been liable to charges of prostitution and Baha'i children are considered illegitimate. It is not legal for property to be passed within Baha'i families. Baha'is cannot enroll in universities. Baha'is cannot hold government jobs, and those that once did are denied state pensions.

Baha'is cannot sue in the country's court, and they are not legally recognized to defend themselves even if they are sued. Baha'is generally cannot receive Iranian passports, which note the holder's religion. Baha'is are denied the right to assembly or to maintain administrative institutions. Since the Baha'i faith has no clergy, the inability to meet and elect officers threaten the very existence of the faith

in Iran. Baha'is cannot teach or practice their faith or maintain contacts with their coreligionists abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on listing the abuses and atrocities to which the Baha'i in Iran are subjected, but these obvious violations of the most basic of human rights are a clear indication of the magnitude of the abuses that Baha'is in Iran face daily. I strongly support this resolution, which highlights these abuses and calls on the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I call on the Government of Iran to recognize the rights of Baha'is and afford them the rights by other Iranian citizens.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, 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 (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 257.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RWANDAN WAR CRIMES WITNESS REWARD PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2460) to authorize the payment of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2460

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

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF REWARDS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RWANDA.

Section 102 of the Act of October 30, 1998 (Public Law 105-323) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "or Rwanda" after "yugoslavia";

(2) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting "**OR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA**" after "**YUGOSLAVIA**"; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting "(1)" immediately after "REFERENCE.—"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) For the purposes of subsection (a), the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda means the statute contained in the annex to Security Council Resolution 955 of November 8, 1994."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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 on S. 2460.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, 1994, a massive genocide began in Rwanda. There was no mention of Rwanda in any of our papers on that day, but soon horrific accounts of a bloody and well-planned massacre filled the pages of our newspapers. A month later, 200,000 were dead and more were being killed each and every day, but White House spokesmen still quibbled with reporters about the definition of genocide.

Too many of the masterminds of that ugly chapter in human history are still at large. An international criminal tribunal for Rwanda exists, but it has failed to bring to justice all of the leaders. Rwanda needs reconciliation, but without accountability there will be no reconciliation.

Congress extended the rewards program to those providing information leading to the indictment of Yugoslavian war criminals 2 years ago. It is now time to place a generous bounty in U.S. dollars on the heads of all who seek power through extermination. The killers have fled to Paris, to Brussels, to Kinshasa and else where. With the passage of this measure, their havens will be less safe and their sleep will be less easy.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to fully support this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker I rise in strong support of this bill. First of all, let me commend the chairman in moving this bill through the Committee on International Relations and bringing it to the floor today. Rwanda is one of the great humanitarian disasters of this century. An estimated 800,000 people were slaughtered there earlier this decade, and only because of their ethnic identity. Expanding the State Department's reward program to persons having information leading to the conviction of persons responsible for the atrocities in Rwanda will enhance the prospect for justice for the victims.

I commend Senator FEINGOLD for moving this bill forward in the other body, and I urge my colleagues to support Senate bill 2460.

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

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman and my colleague for rising to introduce this bill, S. 2460, which would authorize the payments of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda. I commend them both for presenting that bill today.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, 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 Senate bill, S. 2460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4673) to assist in the enhancement of the development and expansion of international economic assistance programs that utilize cooperatives and credit unions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4673

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 "Support for Overseas Cooperative Development Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) It is in the mutual economic interest of the United States and peoples in developing and transitional countries to promote cooperatives and credit unions.

(2) Self-help institutions, including cooperatives and credit unions, provide enhanced opportunities for people to participate directly in democratic decision-making for their economic and social benefit through ownership and control of business enterprises and through the mobilization of local capital and savings and such organizations should be fully utilized in fostering free market principles and the adoption of self-help approaches to development.

(3) The United States seeks to encourage broad-based economic and social development by creating and supporting—

(A) agricultural cooperatives that provide a means to lift low income farmers and rural people out of poverty and to better integrate them into national economies;

(B) credit union networks that serve people of limited means through safe savings and by extending credit to families and microenterprises;

(C) electric and telephone cooperatives that provide rural customers with power and telecommunications services essential to economic development;

(D) housing and community-based cooperatives that provide low income shelter and work opportunities for the urban poor; and