

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the House of Representatives for honoring one of Idaho's finest public servants, former Representative and U.S. Senator James A. McClure, by renaming the Federal building and United States courthouse in Boise after him. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER), from the First Congressional District, for working with me and leading this effort to recognize Senator McClure, and Idaho Senators LARRY CRAIG and MIKE CRAPO for their efforts in the Senate.

Jim McClure served the people of Idaho in the United States Congress for 24 years, including 6 years right here in this Chamber as a Member of the House of Representatives. Before coming to Washington in 1967, Senator McClure had a distinguished career in Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho Law School in 1950 and was immediately hired as the prosecuting attorney of Payette County, Idaho, where he worked for 6 years. In 1953 he became the city attorney for Payette and served in that capacity until 1966.

In 1961, Senator McClure began his long and distinguished political career by seeking and obtaining a seat in the Idaho State Senate where he served until his election to this House of Representatives. In 1972, after 6 years in the House of Representatives, he was elected to the United States Senate where he served three terms and established himself as one of Idaho's political giants.

Senator McClure came to Washington and immediately made a name for himself as one of the foremost experts on the issues most important to the people of Idaho. His experience and expertise in energy and natural resource issues were unmatched in Idaho's history, and his leadership was vital in the passage of many important legislative initiatives, including the creation of Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in my home State.

As a Member of Congress, Senator McClure was also known for his steadfast advocacy of rural Idaho and the rugged individuals who built and still inhabit the western United States. He fought to improve the rural economy and ensure those who want to live in rural America will always find opportunities in rural communities. He strove to enact policies that balanced the public's interest in natural resource protection and natural resource enjoyment and always understood that no American should have to see their job eliminated and family uprooted through ill conceived Federal forest, mining, or grazing policies. Like most Idahoans, he staunchly believed in an individual's right to keep and bear arms; and as a veterans of the United States Navy during World War II, he was an ardent advocate of a strong military to protect our Nation's most treasured possession: our freedom.

Today, Senator McClure remains an advocate of the issues that matter most to many Idahoans. He continues to work with Congress and those of us in the Idaho delegation on natural resource and energy issues, and he serves as a trustee for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Senator McClure remains a trusted leader for Idaho and a true friend to those of us who know him well.

Senator McClure would be the first to acknowledge that none of his accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of his gracious and lovely wife, Louise. Mr. Speaker, I know of no one who is more deserving of the recognition we approve today in the House of Representatives. I will always be proud to have played a role in the establishment of a James A. McClure Federal building and United States courthouse and grateful to have known and worked with a man as respected, trusted, and revered as Senator McClure.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks that have been stated earlier by my colleagues, especially the chairman of the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, as well as my good friend from Utah, and especially my friend and colleague from Idaho.

Those of us from the islands just want to share with my colleagues that we do have a sense of real appreciation and a real sense of gratitude for what this Senator has done for those of us who come from the insular areas. I do want to also pay a very special tribute to the Senator from Idaho, Senator McClure. Many of my colleagues may not know, but his name is well known in the islands. For his tremendous sense of compassion and sensitivity to the issues affecting the needs of those of us who come from the insular areas, I want to pay special homage and honor to Senator McClure for all that he has done.

Some of my colleagues may not be aware, but Senator McClure was also one of the instrumental leaders that assisted greatly in the passage of the Compact of Free Association which was very, very important, especially for the security needs of our country.

I remember also the strong working association Senator McClure had with the late Congressman Phil Burton and the efforts that they made to help those of us who come from the insular areas of the United States. I want to again thank our friends here for bringing this resolution to the floor. I could not think of a better person to have the Federal building named after than this great man, and I sincerely hope that maybe my good friend from Idaho will come and visit us so we can let

him know that we have not forgotten this good man from Idaho, Senator McClure, for all that he has done for the territories.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time on this side.

This is a good and appropriate piece of legislation. I did want to remark that I have had the pleasure of serving in this body now for 7 years, and I always marveled at how tough the legislators were from the State of Idaho, and now I understand that when they have recreation areas named Hell's Canyon and River of No Return, it must be a very tough place to live, indeed.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1459.

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. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1459 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 82, the measures just considered by the House.

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

There was no objection.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2722), to implement a system of requirements on the importation of diamonds and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2722

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 "Clean Diamond Trade Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Funds derived from the sale of rough diamonds are being used by rebels and state actors to finance military activities, overthrow legitimate governments, subvert international efforts to promote peace and stability, and commit horrifying atrocities against unarmed civilians. During the past decade, more than 6,500,000 people from Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been driven from their homes by wars waged in large part for control of diamond mining areas. A million of these are refugees eking out a miserable existence in neighboring countries, and tens

of thousands have fled to the United States. Approximately 3,700,000 people have died during these wars.

(2) The countries caught in this fighting are home to nearly 70,000,000 people whose societies have been torn apart not only by fighting but also by terrible human rights violations.

(3) Human rights advocates, the diamond trade as represented by the World Diamond Council, and the United States Government recently began working to block the trade in conflict diamonds. Their efforts have helped to build a consensus that action is urgently needed to end the trade in conflict diamonds.

(4) The United Nations Security Council has acted at various times under chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to address threats to international peace and security posed by conflicts linked to diamonds. Through these actions, it has prohibited all states from exporting weapons to certain countries affected by such conflicts. It has further required all states to prohibit the direct and indirect import of rough diamonds from Angola and Sierra Leone unless the diamonds are controlled under specified certificate of origin regimes and to prohibit absolutely for a period of 12 months the direct and indirect import of rough diamonds from Liberia.

(5) In response, the United States implemented sanctions restricting the importation of rough diamonds from Angola and Sierra Leone to those diamonds accompanied by specified certificates of origin and fully prohibiting the importation of rough diamonds from Liberia. In order to put an end to the emergency situation in international relations, to maintain international peace and security, and to protect its essential security interests, and pursuant to its obligations under the United Nations Charter, the United States is now taking further action against trade in conflict diamonds.

(6) Without effective action to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds, the trade in legitimate diamonds faces the threat of a consumer backlash that could damage the economies of countries not involved in the trade in conflict diamonds and penalize members of the legitimate trade and the people they employ. To prevent that, South Africa and more than 30 other countries are involved in working, through the "Kimberley Process", toward devising a solution to this problem. As the consumer of a majority of the world's supply of diamonds, the United States has an obligation to help sever the link between diamonds and conflict and press for implementation of an effective solution.

(7) Failure to curtail the trade in conflict diamonds or to differentiate between the trade in conflict diamonds and the trade in legitimate diamonds could have a severe negative impact on the legitimate diamond trade in countries such as Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

(8) Initiatives of the United States seek to resolve the regional conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa which facilitate the trade in conflict diamonds.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONFLICT DIAMONDS.**—The term "conflict diamonds" means rough diamonds the import of which is prohibited by United Nations Security Council Resolutions because that trade is fueling conflict.

(2) **DIAMONDS.**—The term "diamonds" means diamonds classifiable under subheading 7102.31.00 or subheading 7102.39.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(3) **POLISHED DIAMONDS.**—The term "polished diamonds" means diamonds classifi-

able under subheading 7102.39.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(4) **ROUGH DIAMONDS.**—The term "rough diamonds" means diamonds that are unworked, or simply sawn, cleaved, or bruted, classifiable under subheading 7102.31.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(5) **UNITED STATES.**—The term "United States", when used in the geographic sense, means the several States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

SEC. 4. MEASURES TO PREVENT IMPORTS OF CONFLICT DIAMONDS.

(a) **AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT.**—The President may prohibit, in whole or in part, imports of rough diamonds into the United States from any country that does not take effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds as long as the prohibition is—

(1) necessary to protect the essential security interests of the United States, or pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolutions on conflict diamonds; and

(2) consistent with the foreign policy interests of the United States, including the international obligations of the United States.

(b) **EFFECTIVE MEASURES.**—For purposes of this Act, effective measures are measures that—

(1) meet the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds;

(2) meet the requirements of an international arrangement on conflict diamonds as long as the measures also meet the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds; or

(3) contain the following elements, or their functional equivalent, if such elements are sufficient to meet the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds:

(A) With respect to exports from countries where rough diamonds are extracted, secure packaging, accompanied by officially validated documentation certifying the country of origin, total carat weight, and value.

(B) With respect to exports from countries where rough diamonds are extracted, a system of verifiable controls on rough diamonds from mine to export.

(C) With respect to countries that reexport rough diamonds, a system of controls designed to ensure that no conflict diamonds have entered the legitimate trade in rough diamonds.

(D) Verifiable recordkeeping by all companies and individuals engaged in mining, import, and export of rough diamonds within the territory of the exporting country, subject to inspection and verification by authorized government authorities in accordance with national regulations.

(E) Government publication on a periodic basis of official rough diamond export and import statistics.

(F) Implementation of proportionate and dissuasive penalties against any persons who violate laws and regulations designed to combat trade in conflict diamonds.

(G) Full cooperation with the United Nations or other official international bodies examining the trade in conflict diamonds, especially with respect to any inspection and monitoring of the trade in rough diamonds.

(c) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The provisions of this section do not apply to—

(1) rough diamonds imported by or on behalf of a person for personal use and accompanying a person upon entry into the United States;

(2) rough diamonds previously exported from the United States and reimported by

the same importer, without having been advanced in value or improved in condition by any process or other means while abroad, if the importer declares that the reimportation of the rough diamonds satisfies the requirements of this paragraph; or

(3) rough diamonds for which the importer provides evidence to the satisfaction of the United States Customs Service (or analogous officials of a territory or possession of the United States with its own customs administration) that the importation does not include conflict diamonds.

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF POLISHED DIAMONDS AND JEWELRY.

The President may prohibit specific entries of polished diamonds and jewelry containing diamonds if the President has credible evidence that such polished diamonds and jewelry were produced with conflict diamonds.

SEC. 6. ENFORCEMENT.

Diamonds and jewelry containing diamonds imported into the United States in violation of any prohibition imposed under section 4 or 5 are subject to the seizure and forfeiture laws, and all criminal and civil laws of the United States shall apply, to the same extent as any other violation of the customs and navigation laws of the United States.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the effective date of this Act, and every 12 months thereafter, the President shall transmit to Congress a report—

(1) describing actions taken by countries that have exported rough diamonds to the United States during the preceding 12-month period to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds;

(2) identifying those countries that have exported rough diamonds to the United States during the preceding 12-month period and are not implementing effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds and whose failure to do so has significantly increased the likelihood that conflict diamonds are being imported into the United States;

(3) describing appropriate actions, which may include actions under sections 4 and 5, that may be taken by the United States, or actions that may be taken or are being taken by each country identified under paragraph (2), to ensure that conflict diamonds are not being imported into the United States from such country; and

(4) identifying any additional countries involved in conflicts linked to rough diamonds that are not the subject of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on conflict diamonds.

(b) **SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.**—For each country identified in subsection (a)(2), the President shall, every 6 months after the initial report in which the country was identified, transmit to Congress a report that explains what actions have been taken by the United States or such country since the previous report to ensure that conflict diamonds are not being imported from that country into the United States. The requirement to issue a semiannual report with respect to a country under this subsection shall remain in effect until such time as the country implements effective measures.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the effective date of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of the provisions of this Act in preventing the importation of conflict diamonds under section 4. The Comptroller General shall include in the report any recommendations on any modifications to this Act that may be necessary.

SEC. 9. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT.**—It is the sense of Congress that the President should take the necessary steps to negotiate an international arrangement, working in concert with the Kimberley Process referred to in section 2(6), to eliminate the trade in conflict diamonds. Such an international arrangement should create an effective global system of controls covering countries that export and import rough diamonds, and should contain the elements described in section 4(b)(3).

(b) **ADDITIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the President should take the necessary steps to seek United Nations Security Council Resolutions with respect to trade in diamonds from additional countries identified under section 7(a)(4).

(c) **TRADE IN LEGITIMATE DIAMONDS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the provisions of this Act should not impede the trade in legitimate diamonds with countries which are working constructively to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds, including through the negotiation of an effective international arrangement to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES.**—It is the sense of Congress that companies involved in diamond extraction and trade should make financial contributions to countries seeking to implement any effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds described in section 4(b), if those countries would have financial difficulty implementing those measures.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003 to provide assistance to countries seeking to implement any effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds described in section 4(b), if those countries would have financial difficulty implementing those measures.

SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) each will control 20 minutes.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and following that, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), and I ask unanimous consent that Mr. HOUGHTON control the remainder of the time.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to tell my colleagues that the process of accommodation and compromise is alive and well. The legislation we have in front of us is supported by the administration, and I have for the **RECORD** and, when appropriate, I will place in the **RECORD** the letter from the United States Department of State which indicates that the administration supports H.R. 2722. It does so as a means to sever the link, the letter says, between the rough and conflict diamonds, while preserving the trade in legitimate diamonds.

The letter goes on to say: “The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the administration’s program, there is no objection to the submission of this letter.”

Mr. Speaker, I will insert the letter for the **RECORD** at this time.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, DC, November 27, 2001.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Administration supports H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, as amended.

Funds derived from the sale of rough diamonds are being used to fund rebel conflicts and commit atrocities against unarmed civilians. Passage of H.R. 2722 would further the objectives of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on these conflict diamonds by giving the President the discretion to prohibit imports of rough diamonds into the United States from any country that does not take effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds. The Administration supports this amended bill as a means to sever the link between rough and conflict diamonds while preserving the trade in legitimate diamonds.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration’s program, there is no objection to the submission of this letter.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

PAUL V. KELLY,
Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and especially on the committee, the chairman and the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON). I know also that the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) was involved, as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) was involved, and the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) was involved in producing a piece of legislation in which we meet the basic objectives, but which no one is now in opposition to, and that includes the administration.

That is the way we are supposed to resolve the legislation in areas that are so sensitive, and the question of whether or not we try to regulate the movement of every diamond on Earth, or we set up a process in which people who are utilizing the sale of diamonds to carry out acts of terrorism and other heinous acts are unable to do so.

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

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

I rise in support of this important legislation. First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for their tenacity and commitment in seeing this bill through. Each of them has helped keep the spotlight focused on the terrible toll this trade in conflict diamonds has had on the people of sub-Saharan Africa.

Second, I want to express our appreciation to the administration and certainly to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) for working with all interested parties, including the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), a member of the committee, to develop this bill.

I know that the administration and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) had reservations with the legislation; however, they took the time necessary to review those reservations and to develop a mutually acceptable response to this issue. As the gentleman from California has said, no one opposes this legislation at this time.

The bill we are discussing, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, sends an important message of support to a continent which has seen far more than its fair share of pain and suffering. It reflects a strong commitment to the ongoing international dialogue that is aimed at dealing with this difficult problem. As with all compromises, this bill does not have everything the original sponsors would like to see in it. However, it is a significant step in the right direction.

Passage of the Clean Diamond Trade Act will undercut a conflict diamond trade that has financed organizations that have killed several million people, driven millions from their homes, and committed countless human rights abuses. The violent conflicts spurred by these groups are an impediment to growth and development throughout sub-Saharan Africa. By stemming this illegal trade, we can remove a key barrier to progress and prosperity in these countries.

Passage of this bill also will help our war against terrorism, as conflict diamonds have become increasingly part of the money laundering activities of the al Qaeda organization. Furthermore, if we pass this bill, we will preserve the dignity of an entire industry which can and should be a source of wealth for countries around the world. If we pass this bill, we promote legitimate diamond trade, allowing countries like Botswana to continue to benefit from the rich natural resource endowment.

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If we pass this bill, Mr. Speaker, we send a signal to the international community that we are engaged, that we take this issue seriously, and we hope an international agreement can be reached soon that will bring us one step closer to eradicating this blight.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to also thank various individuals. Obviously, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI). I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) on the other side.

I would like to thank particularly the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) on this side. I think the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and

the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) are an absolutely lethal one-two punch. They are terrific, and they have done an absolutely fabulous job in this.

Let me talk a little bit about this bill. I may be redundant, but I would like to express my own feelings.

This is a bill which was drafted by a variety of us, and the USTR and the State Department also agrees with it. It authorizes the President, as has been said earlier, to ban all rough diamonds from any country that has not made an effort to control the trade in conflict, or, as we call them, blood diamonds.

This bill, H.R. 2722, gives the administration the authority to ban the import of these diamonds. This would go a long way to help end the international traffic of blood diamonds which are responsible for really three things: first of all, strong rebel activity in Africa, primarily Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Congo; secondly, horrendous human rights atrocities in these countries; and third, also, funding of terrorists and other illegal activities, such as the al-Qaeda terror network.

The bill gives plenty of flexibility to the administration to use diplomatic avenues to address the problem before outright banning all diamonds from the country. It also protects the legitimate diamond trade, ensuring that countries such as South Africa and Botswana, Belgium, and Israel are not adversely affected.

The bill also defers to the so-called Kimberley process, which is a process that is working on the implementation of the system of standards and controls which are currently developed in these multilateral negotiations. It does not adopt a system or otherwise undermine any of those negotiations that are going on.

Most importantly, in the Committee on Ways and Means the bill remains consistent with the international trade obligations.

There are so many people to thank, and a lot of them have already been thanked. Others will be thanked later on. This is a good bill. We hope that it is passed today and accepted by the Senate so the President can sign it before the end of the year.

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

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL).

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has been a long time in coming. I remember when the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and I went to Sierra Leone. We have visited many difficult places in Africa and Asia, but I remember especially the time we went to Sierra Leone almost 2 years ago to this week.

There we saw just hundreds of thousands of people that were just not only

destroyed, maimed, run off their homes and places where they needed to grow the crops, but it is happening all over parts of West Africa: Angola, Sierra Leone, the Congo.

What people are doing is taking these diamonds, they call them conflict diamonds or blood diamonds, and then they seize them and use them to buy arms and goods and services and training and drugs. Then they terrorize whole countries and populations. We have even found in the last few weeks that a lot of this money has gone into the terrorist association of bin Laden.

What this bill is all about, really, is very simple: It is about saving lives. It is about drying up civil war. It is about drying up the problems that come with trading with conflict diamonds here in the United States.

Why is this important to us? Why should we even care about it? What does it have to do with us in the United States?

Well, it has a lot to do with us. We buy somewhere between 60 and 65 percent of all the diamonds in the world every year. So people sitting in Dayton, Ohio, or Boise, Idaho, they can do something about it because they do not have to buy diamonds certainly that are blood diamonds or conflict diamonds, but they can be careful.

But because we did not have any system of regulations or rules, we have not had a law. It is just like the shoes that we wear today: We know exactly where they came from, who made them; the piece of cheese we eat tonight, we know exactly where the cheese came from. Maybe we will have a glass of wine, and we will know exactly where it came from; the suits on our backs, the ties. But with diamonds, we have no idea where they came from. There is no system, no regulation, and there is no certification.

That is what this bill does, for the first time. It gives the President broad powers, and it gives our Customs broad powers. There is a program and they have to be certified. They have to be transparent. They have to come from a country. It has to be a legitimate trade.

This bill sets up the vehicle of the Kimberley process, which involves 30 or 40 nations, and I think they will get a lot of direction out of this bill. I think it is very important that we pass this.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who has been a great partner, a good friend, and has worked very hard on this. He has been a driving force behind it.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), who has been wonderful in the Committee on Ways and Means; the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and his staff; certainly the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL); the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), and many others; especially Senator DURBIN, Senator DEWINE, Senator FEINGOLD. They have been great on this issue. This has been a bipartisan effort.

This bill will go a long way in saving lives. That is a pretty nice thing to say, to say that we can pass a piece of legislation here that will go a long way to end the killing and maiming and the terrorist activity and to dry up their sources of funds by passing this legislation.

So I am very thankful to have a chance to speak on it, to be a supporter of this, and to be a sponsor, along with my friends. I urge the House to pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, today, Congress begins to put the muscle of the world's biggest market into efforts to end the scourge of conflict diamonds. These are gems that fund wars in Africa—and create the lawless chaos that terrorists need to build their operations. The Clean Diamond Trade Act will give the President ample authority to begin to right some terrible wrongs:

1. The President can use this legislation as a scalpel, to go after countries and companies who have let this problem fester. They are a cancer that threatens the legitimate trade in diamonds and the countries that depend on it.

2. He can use it as a spotlight, to name and shame countries that are doing too little to end this trade.

3. He can use it as a pair of spurs, to press for an effective international system of controls. And I hope the House of Representatives' action—coming as Kimberley Process participants conclude their work later this week—sends a clear signal that our nation will insist on a system that's up to any challenge mounted by this blood trade.

4. And, because this bill takes effect the day the President signs it, he can use it as a cannon—to fire a shot across the bow of those who shrug their shoulders; who say Africa's problems are not ours; who would let problems fester until they become even bigger problems for innocent people there, and in America.

The strength of this bill rests on two pillars. First, it presses countries to devise a system that helps rein in irresponsible traders and corrupt officials. This effort will link African and other producing countries with those who reap tremendous profits from this product. In turn, I hope this will enlist more countries and companies in work for peace in places that have been wracked by wars over these diamonds.

Second, this bill leverages the diamond industry's expertise and resources. For the most part, this is an honorable trade that produces something many Americans treasure. This bill gives it a way to help safeguard diamonds' image from being soiled by bloodshed—and imposes a responsibility to do more to stop the smuggling and corruption that are at the heart of this matter.

The compromise that makes House action today possible is not perfect. I wish the bill forced the President to act, instead of merely giving him needed authority and new tools. I particularly wish it treated all diamonds the same—whether they are the rough diamonds that have been the focus of UN work, or polished diamonds and jewelry. Diamonds are jewelry; there is no other end use for gem-quality diamonds. And making sure the finished products don't become a loophole will require continued vigilance by everyone who wants to sever funding for wars and misery.

In my judgment, this bill gets us 85 percent of the way. Seeing that it is implemented fully,

including by watching the trade in polished diamonds and jewelry closely, is the next phase of work on conflict diamonds. I am confident that the coalition behind the Clean Diamond Trade Act will continue this effort, and I hope they will return to win passage of any further legislation needed.

But our ultimate success or failure won't be measured in Washington. The value of this work and what follows instead will be determined by its role in transforming diamonds into the blessing they ought to be. Until people whose land produces diamonds see them improve the well-being of their children and strengthen their communities . . . no U.S. law will lift the curse of conflict diamonds permanently.

That means that—even after this bill becomes law—the biggest job is still ahead of us. It isn't one we can leave to international agreements or diligent customs enforcement. It's not something American consumers or Africans can do on their own. Nor can governments, industry, or civil society complete this task by working alone.

Today, everyone who cares about severing the funding for Africa's wars, can be proud of the few steps forward that House action represents. Together, we can complete this marathon.

To thank everyone who has worked toward this goal would be almost impossible. No list can begin anywhere but with FRANK WOLF, who began working with me on conflict diamonds two years ago. Soon after his name should come those on the Ways and Means Committee, including Mr. RANGEL and Mr. HOUGHTON, who have been invaluable allies. These sponsors, and their aides—Chris Santora, Bob Van Wicklin, and Viji Rangaswami—have done considerable work, and I am indebted to them. I also appreciate the extra miles that Chairman THOMAS, and Angela Ellard and David Kavanaugh of his staff, travelled to help us reach a compromise with the Administration. And Senators DURBIN, DEWINE and FEINGOLD have been terrific partners in this work; continued work on this bill is in good hands.

The humanitarian and human rights groups that have been our determined allies for the past 18 months, including Amnesty International, Oxfam America, Physicians for Human Rights, the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, World Relief, and World Vision, deserve special thanks. These organizations have been tireless advocates. I wish today's bill did everything we'd both hoped, but I appreciate their support.

Leaders of the diamond and jewelry industries, and the very effective team they fielded to win passage of our bill, made a critical contribution too. In particular, I want to thank Eli Izhakoff, Matt Runci, and Cecilia Gardner for their leadership and commitment; and Bruce Wilson and Warren Connelly—who ably assisted them and whose unflagging determination was essential to clearing this first legislative hurdle. I also appreciate the efforts of Greg Gill and his colleagues.

Finally, there are a countless number of "ordinary" people whose interest in this work has kept up the pressure we needed to finish this work. They, and the journalists who have responded to this keen public interest with extraordinary dedication to tell a complex story, should be proud of their efforts.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to first begin by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and acknowledging the work that he has done on this issue in bringing this bill, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, to the floor today.

The gentleman from Ohio has consistently, over the time that I have been in the Congress, distinguished himself in this body as a Member who speaks on behalf of the world's most vulnerable, and I am proud to have him as a colleague and as a good, good friend.

I also want to thank his staff, and Deborah DeYoung and Chris Santora of my staff, and all these staff members who have worked on this; and also the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for coming alongside of us from the Committee on Ways and Means; the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and his staff; and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), who back there that night gave us the commitment that he would bring this bill up. I would thank him for that.

I also thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and his staff member, Chris Walker, for helping to work the bill through the process.

We also want to thank the NGOs that have been involved in the industry for participants. Over 2 years ago, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) convinced me to travel to Sierra Leone with him.

While there, we saw the terrible suffering of the civilian population that endured years of civil war which was funded by the diamond trade. We saw children as young as 2, this young girl here, with arms and legs chopped off.

This picture that I purposely brought with me on the floor today was taken by my former chief of staff, Charlie White, a retired Navy captain who had been with me since 1984. Charlie went with us on that trip and took this photograph, along with many other pictures that were used to show people the terrible plight of the citizens of Sierra Leone.

Charlie was in serious pain. We thought he had a back problem. He was suffering and taking four to six Advil every 2 and 3 hours. When we returned to the United States, shortly thereafter, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and he died 7 months later, in the summer of 2000.

This issue had a special place in his heart, and I just wanted to bring the pictures to demonstrate that one person, one staff person, made a tremendous difference while he was suffering pain, and he helped bring this issue to the Congress.

Since returning from Sierra Leone, we have worked with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), under his leader-

ship, to bring this issue, which, as he said, will save a lot of people and a lot of lives in Sierra Leone, in the Congo, in Angola, and many other places.

Throughout this period of time in Sierra Leone, in Angola, and in Congo, over 2 million people have died and 6.5 million people have been driven from their homes, women and children and innocent citizens who live in these countries, who have been subject to brutal amputations, rape, and sexual abuse, which really has created the words that we hear: the generation of children soldiers.

Recently, we learned of another disturbing development involving conflict diamonds. Major media organizations, including the Washington Post, have reported direct connections between Sierra Leone rebel diamonds and the al-Qaeda terrorist network.

Addressing the issue of conflict diamonds is not only essential for those living in Africa, but for our national security.

I want to thank today Douglas Farrah of the Washington Post. His reporting of this issue several weeks ago brought additional momentum to that, to force it to be addressed here in the Congress. His exposure of the connection to terrorism, the connection of Liberian President Charles Taylor and the network that funnels rebel diamonds into terrorist group coffers, helped reignite this issue.

I would urge our Secretary of State to call our ambassador and tell him to go and see Charles Taylor to say that if anything happens to Douglas Farrah, who is the reporter, because his life has been threatened, our government will hold Charles Taylor and his government accountable if anything happens to this Washington Post reporter.

Mr. Speaker, today, Congress is taking the first step to stop the trade in blood diamonds by passing the Clean Diamonds Trade Act. This bill gives the President the necessary authority to take steps against those who are trying to export these blood diamonds into the United States.

I look forward to passage of the Clean Diamonds Trade Act in the House so we can move the bill to the Senate and onto the President's desk before Congress adjourns.

The Clean Diamonds Trade Act gives the President the ability to single out countries that are not taking effective measures to stop conflict diamonds and presses countries to devise a system that helps rein in irresponsible traders and corrupt officials.

As Congressman Hall mentioned, we believe this legislation will give a boost to the ongoing international negotiations known as the "Kimberly Process" to address conflict diamonds.

I will continue to work with the Administration, and am hopeful it will take a more assertive role in facilitating the creation of an effective international system. In the long run, this is a global problem and as the world's largest diamond consumer we have a responsibility to take a leadership role in addressing this problem on the international stage.

Finally, I want members of this body to know something else that is significant about

passage of this legislation. The small west-African country of Sierra Leone, which will benefit significantly from the efforts to eliminate conflict diamonds, holds a special place in American history. In 1750 John Newton was a slave trader who worked and lived out of Sierra Leone. He was known as a cruel man. One night as a storm raged off the coast of Sierra Leone, his ship was almost lost. He prayed that if only salvation would come to "a wretch like me," he would leave the slave trade and work towards its abolition. He was rescued and changed his life. He became an ardent abolitionist and a Methodist minister. Sierra Leone, where John Newton worked in the evil institution of slavery, was also where he changed his life and turned to good, commemorated by his greatest legacy, the song "Amazing Grace."

Mr. Speaker, there is much more that I could say, but with that I will just end by saying that I think this is a good opportunity to save lives, to make a big difference.

In closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) for this issue, and on hunger and civil rights; the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for helping us out, and all the other Members on the Senate side who are helping.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2722. This is good legislation whose time is long past due.

I want to recognize the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and that of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and also to compliment the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for his leadership in the Committee on Ways and Means, and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for his leadership in the Committee on Ways and Means.

I participated, along with five other Members, going to Botswana in a delegation led by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). I rise in support of this legislation, to also see how we could indeed rule out the conflict diamonds and this trade system that financed conflict and the great devastation that is happening.

We saw also, in that process, how legitimate diamonds were being used in Botswana and other countries in that area. I was pleased that Botswana clarified to us how diamonds could be used, clean diamonds, in a way that we could protect that democracy, undergird that development in that country.

So I am pleased that this legislation indeed is focused on ending the financing of conflicts in Africa and other parts of the world using the sales of diamonds. Also, it protects the legitimacy of diamonds, where it is appropriate.

Those who accompanied us on that particular CODEL were the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gen-

tleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), and others were also part of that delegation.

In Botswana, we met with the President. Since then, the President has come to this country because he, too, wants a distinction to be made between clean diamonds and conflict diamonds.

We met with the administration. He pledged his support. In fact, he has also been part of the U.N., writing part of their resolution, and made a statement to that effect, that they wanted to be part of a clean diamond industry, and also wanted to be part of the force that would make that distinction.

I raise that because it is important, Mr. Speaker. The good intention of this legislation also acknowledges those people who are following the law, and indeed, trying to do the right thing.

Again, I want to compliment everyone involved in this. Again, this legislation is long overdue. It has been brought to bear at a time when we know that not only the conflict in Africa but now conflict in other parts of the world is being financed by diamonds. So hopefully this legislation would not only curtail, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) said, the loss of lives, the lives of thousands of persons, not only killing them but killing in other parts of the country.

I want to thank all the persons involved in this, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation that we all should be proud of.

□ 1745

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for yielding me time.

This year we had a hearing to take testimony from witnesses about the state of affairs in Africa, and we all acknowledged the tragic facts of the illicit diamond trade and how it continues to fund rebel wars and poverty in Africa.

As I described at the hearing, we are looking at meaningful legislation that will help the administration tackle this problem, while not hindering the ongoing international negotiations that are supposed to conclude this year.

In this delicate time of international diplomacy we must be especially careful not to disrupt the administration's efforts, however well intentioned we may be. The suspension bill H.R. 2722 is an effective and balanced way to get at these conflict diamonds.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and the administration have crafted a bill authorizing the President to ban all diamonds from any country that does not have effective measures against the trade in conflict diamonds. I want to commend both for their leadership and flexibility in this matter.

In the last 2 weeks, many provisions sought by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) were added, including a non-circumvention clause for polished diamonds and diamond jewelry, more reporting from the government, and an enhanced description of what constitutes effective measures for diamond trading countries.

Some people say this does not go far enough, but I want to point out that the bar we set is already extremely high. A country like Botswana that relies upon the legitimate diamond trade for its economy must implement the United Nations' resolutions or the eventual international agreement or could be subject to a complete ban on all of its diamond exports. However, some people want to go further and say that all imports must be cut off from a country like Botswana in that situation. I think that would be extreme and tantamount to shutting down the entire world diamond trade.

To effectively end trade in conflict diamonds, the countries exporting and importing rough stones in particular must work together to make sure that these diamonds do not have a market so that conflict diamond peddlers cannot stay in business. A bill that mandates the shutdown of the diamond trade until every country can be certified by the United States is a unilateral solution that will not work. Legitimate diamond trading countries will have no incentive to complete their negotiations at Kimberley. The let the negotiations process finish. Next year we can evaluate how that process worked and whether further tools can be enacted to complement what we enact today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to be a doctor in the early 1980s in Sierra Leone in West Africa. At that time, Sierra Leone was poor. It was underdeveloped. There was a life expectancy of 42 years, but it was not a violent place to be. In this last decade we have seen the world's most brutal civil war, of which has been spoken earlier here today.

In April of this year, I visited Sierra Leone and was taken to the site of the old hospital that I had worked at, Serabu Hospital near Bo in Sierra Leone. It was burned to the ground by the rebels. It had a wonderful nursing school, a wonderful hospital. It did a lot of great outpatient work. It provided a secondary school for the local villagers and the employees. It was completely destroyed, nothing there but shells of the old buildings.

I do not know how to account for the dramatic change from the peaceful but poor country I had seen in the early 1980s to what has gone on in Sierra Leone in the last decade. The question is one of what spawns evil, which I do

not know if any of us know those answers.

Evil requires nourishment, and the diamonds of Sierra Leone have been the financial support and perhaps the motive for this brutal civil war. Now we are learning in the recent weeks of the potential involvement of al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in the diamonds of Sierra Leone as a source of their funding.

To neglect evil is to strengthen evil. We in the world should have gotten a handle on these diamonds, on these blood diamonds years ago, even though it seemed remote from the United States and the western world. But better today than more years and more deaths from now. I thank the sponsors on both sides for bringing forth this legislation today.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor I rise in strong support.

Throughout Africa we are seeing natural resources being misused and fueling conflict; and this is the case with diamonds in Sierra Leone, timber in Liberia, cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In many places on the continents, natural resources are bringing nothing but misery to the African people.

We listened to the testimony of little children missing their arms and in some cases without legs, testifying about their ordeal, representing over 5,000 children in Freetown alone, the victims of the Revolutionary United Front, the victims of men like Foday Sanko and Charles Taylor, both enriched by blood diamonds.

This legislation promises to help to ensure that diamonds do not fuel conflict. It is an important step. The international community needs to recognize its responsibility to not be party to the misuse of diamonds and other natural resources.

I would like to commend the Members who have worked hard on this legislation and especially to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), because they have worked tirelessly in trying to bring the issue of conflict diamonds before this body. They have worked hard to reach consensus with the administration, which is what this bill represents.

But let me say that after passage of this bill we still have to address as an institution the fact that there are heads of state in the region, like Charles Taylor of Liberia, who have enriched themselves, who have maintained their power through the use of blood diamonds, and there should be an accounting. There should be justice on behalf of those child victims that were, frankly, sacrificed, who lost their limbs, and in many cases lost their lives as part of this strategy to create wealth for a few men in this part of the world.

I do want to commend all of those who worked so hard on this, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF). I thank them so much.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Trade.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to start off by just saying a word to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), to all of my colleagues, for their work on this. I am not sure how many constituents have ever written to them about this, but they felt there was a need here, a deep human need, and the three of them and others led the way.

The gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and I and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) are proud to join with the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and others in doing what we said we would do and that is to get this legislation to the floor.

I rise in strong support of this legislation because I think it will help ensure that diamonds sold in our country have not funded civil war in West Africa or funded agents of terrorism. It is a good first step towards addressing a serious issue.

As mentioned, the countries that have been named, rebel groups have been funding their activities through trade in diamonds. Hundreds of thousands of people, I was asking Viji Rangaswami, who has worked so hard on this, do we know how many of the hundreds of thousands of people have died? We do not, but it is many. Many have died from the activities of these groups. Many millions more have been displaced, and there have been the worst kinds of atrocities.

As has been cited earlier, it has been reported recently that al Qaeda has reaped millions of dollars from the illicit sale of diamonds. We have to put a stop to this.

This bill will allow the President to ban the import of diamonds from countries that are not taking "effective measures" to stop trade in conflict diamonds. The bill is supportive of international efforts to end trade in conflict diamonds. It abides by criteria derived from the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

This week the so-called Kimberley process is moving forward, and I believe this bill will provide important momentum to this process. It is consistent with our international trade obligations.

This issue is a demonstration of the globalized and interconnected world we live in, where the purchase of an engagement ring in one country can con-

tribute to civil war in another. It shows the need, as I see it, to shape the rules of trade. Trade is not a panacea. It does not resolve all problems and sometimes, as shown in this bill, unfettered trade creates new problems.

By shaping these rules as we do today, and this is an effort to shape the rules of trade, we help ensure that American consumers, that our consumers are not unwittingly trading lower prices for human rights abuses abroad, and we help ensure that the benefits of trade flow to the countries involved in legitimate diamond trade rather than rebels and terrorists.

So I close, again, to say to the leaders of this effort that I hope they are proud of it. It may not score lots of political points, but it is going to save human lives, and in that sense I think the people who have worked on this have discharged their responsibilities with the highest honor.

I am glad, in a small way, with my colleagues, with the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and others on the committee, to join them. I hope we will overwhelmingly, indeed unanimously, pass this legislation.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) for yielding me the time, and I commend him for introducing this bill and especially commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for their hard work on it for a number of years, and I am pleased to have been a cosponsor of each and every bill they have introduced on this.

My acquaintance with the problem goes back some years, and my interest with Sierra Leone goes back to 1978 when I chaired a world hunger task force for the denomination of which I am a member, and since I am results oriented, I insisted that we not only prepare a report but that we come up with an action plan and that we adopt a country where our small denomination could have a major impact.

We adopted Sierra Leone in 1978. Our church, through its missionary efforts and through its relief efforts, has been active there ever since, and I have some friends who have served there for a number of years.

The news I have received during the past decade was intensely dismaying. The atrocities that were taking place, the difficulties that were developing, the rebels who were acting as if they were political rebels but, in fact, were bandits, they were simply seeking to get the natural resources of that country, and they did not care what they had to do to get it.

I have to tell my colleagues, it is heartbreaking to meet a 4-year old child whose arms were amputated when she was two because she was not worth

the price of a bullet. The soldiers had killed her parents, killed many people in the room, and the soldier said, What should I do about her? The commander said, She is not worth a bullet; just cut her arms off.

Fortunately, she survived but handicapped for life, and I could repeat this story over and over: Incredible cruelty and a desire to get the diamonds and to get the power that they represent.

Just a few weeks ago we discover that Osama bin Laden is buying the diamonds from Sierra Leone because he can no longer ship money across borders, and so he has decided to buy diamonds because they are easier to ship across borders and finance his operations. It is a problem that has been there for a long time, but a solution has not been forthcoming as it should have been.

I commend some of the individuals I have worked with on the African desk in the State Department over the past few years. They have been earnest, and they sincerely wanted to resolve the problem, but, unfortunately, the upper levels of the State Department over the past several years have simply not been willing to spend the political capital to do that.

I am pleased that now we have worked out an agreement where we can make a difference, that we will no longer be encouraging the chopping off of arms and hands and limbs, that we will not sanction the arbitrary killing of citizens of Sierra Leone, as happened to a friend of a friend there.

□ 1800

A leader in the church walking down the street was shot by a soldier. When they asked why he did it, he said, I haven't killed anyone for about a week. We thought it was time to kill someone else. We cannot tolerate that type of behavior on this planet. We have to ensure that we do not encourage it.

This is one bill that will take strong steps to ensure that there will not be any profit in the actions they have taken, and we hope that with the cutback in Charles Taylor's actions that, above all, we may have peace in the beautiful land of Sierra Leone.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time both sides have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) to conclude.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I was listening to what the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) said about sometimes on bills like this, legislation like this, we do not get a lot of publicity, and that is true. It is interesting, our profession, because some-

times when we do not work too hard on something, we get a bunch of press, a lot of publicity; and we do not really deserve it. But on things we really work hard on, sometimes it is very, very hard to get a mention.

This is one of these kinds of bills where it does not really matter whether we get a mention or not; but what matters is, especially to those Members that are very close to this issue, that when we go home tonight, we can say to ourselves that it has been a good day. It is a good piece of legislation, and I am proud of it. It is not a perfect bill. We got about 80 percent of what we really wanted. We never get 100 percent around here, but it is a good bill.

We also want to thank the NGOs. They have been wonderful, and we have had 100 of the top human rights' groups in the world firmly behind this bill. All the way up till today they have been absolutely wonderful. A lot of them are disappointed in the end, but many of them are very, very supportive. Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, World Vision. They have been just tremendous in their support.

I want to thank Matt Runci, Jewelers of America, World Diamond Council. When they came to our support this year, and we were not always together, they added a lot of clout and credibility to our cause.

I want to thank Deborah DeYoung on my staff, who worked very hard in negotiating and working behind the scenes. She has really kept her eye on this piece of legislation.

This is a good bill. It is a good bill for legitimate businesses. Because the way it was looking for diamonds, there were no good diamonds. But the fact is that is not true. Most of the businesses are honorable and good. Most of the countries that deal in diamonds are very legitimate. We are talking about 5 to 15 percent of the diamonds, which we call conflict diamonds, or blood diamonds, that find their way into this country that are not good and that are causing death. So that is what we have been after, and we think that this will help the legitimate businesses in the long run.

We are going to regulate diamonds for the first time, and they are going to have to be transparent. They will have to be certified. And if they do not come in in that way, they will not be accepted in this country. This bill takes effect immediately when the President signs it.

It is not a perfect bill, it is a bill that will probably not get a lot of publicity, but when we go home tonight, we can say this has been a good day. This is a bill that will save some lives. That is not all bad.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) have said everything. It is a good bill, it is

a timely bill, and it is a needed bill. I wholeheartedly support this.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamonds Act, to ensure that America, the largest importer of diamonds in the world, helps to eradicate the purchase and sale of illicit diamonds around the world.

For the last eight years, a rebel group known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) has used the illegal trade and trafficking of diamonds to fund a civil war in Sierra Leone. This brutal war has garnered the attention of numerous international human rights groups for its incessant violence and human rights abuses. An estimated 12,000 children have been separated from their families for the sole purpose of becoming soldiers and diamond miners. Women and girls are raped or used as sexual slaves by the top commanders of the rebel army. Boys and girls alike live in fear of having one of their limbs hacked off with machetes—one of the most notable forms of torture used by the rebel groups. These and countless other unscrupulous acts have severely destabilized Sierra Leone and other African countries, including Angola, the Congo and Liberia.

To make matters worse, recently we have learned that Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network is also linked financially with the diamond trade in Sierra Leone. The same revenue collected by conflict diamonds to fund wars and illegal weapon sales in Africa is being used by the terrorist network, which carried out the unconscionable attacks on America on September 11th.

The violence and suffering fueled by the trade and sale of diamonds has been carried on too long. America must do its part to help end these atrocities once and for all.

First and most importantly, we as a nation need to make more informed purchasing decisions about the diamonds we buy. Just as we have taken steps to eradicate slave labor in manufacturing sweatshops, we must guarantee that our demand for diamonds does not contribute to a cruel and destructive war against innocent children and families. We must ask questions and seek assurance from our retailers that the diamonds we buy this holiday season and beyond are in no way connected to this illicit trade.

Second, even the most discerning consumers can unknowingly and unwillingly purchase diamonds illegally traded on the world market. Therefore, we need to find a way to keep these conflict diamonds out of our stores.

The Clean Diamonds Act will do just that by authorizing the President to prohibit the importation of diamonds from countries that are not willing to adopt an international diamond certification system that will track diamonds from the point of extraction to retail sale. Under this international system, exporting countries would be required to provide a certificate of origin and authenticity, indicating that their diamonds were not mined or laundered by rebel groups in Africa. America buyers could then shop with confidence, knowing that their diamond purchases were in no way contributing to civil war in Africa or terrorist activities against the United States and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, just as we have all united to put an end to the terrorist networks that exist around the world, we should also unite to put

an end to the trafficking of these conflict diamonds and the cycle of violence they perpetuate in Africa and in our own backyard. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2722.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamonds Trade Act, which implements a system of requirements on the importation of diamonds. This Act combats the contribution of "conflict diamonds" to the continuation of violence in West Africa and other developing nations. The situation in West Africa is one of the great human tragedies of the modern age.

The Clean Diamonds Trade Act will help end the international trade in conflict diamonds, the proceeds from which are being used to wage war and terrorize innocent people. The failure to enact this legislation allows rebel groups in Africa to continue to profit from their illegal diamond sales. Furthermore, recent press reports indicate that the al Qaeda terrorist network has been involved in the illicit diamond trade, making the Clean Diamonds Trade Act an essential weapon in America's war on terrorism.

Accordingly, I strongly support H.R. 2722.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamond Trade Act. For several years, rebel groups in sub-Saharan Africa have been using diamonds extracted from illegally controlled mines to finance civil war activities that have displaced and killed several million African people, including innocent young children. The United States is one of the largest consumers of diamonds. Therefore, the United States, like it or not, indirectly contributed to the current situation in Africa. It is, thus, imperative that Congress pass meaningful legislation that will clean up the diamond conflict. H.R. 2722, will allow the importation of diamonds and diamond jewelry into the U.S. only from countries that have adopted effective controls on the import and export of rough diamonds. This alone would be a great incentive for other nations to take appropriate action within an acceptable timetable. The legislation would also encourage the President to negotiate an international agreement leading to a global control system. This broadly supported legislation demonstrates the United States' commitment to curbing the trade in "conflict diamonds". We have a moral obligation and responsibility to help stop the violence, the brutality, the needless killing of innocent lives. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much needed legislation.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of important legislation, H. R. 2722, the Clean Diamonds Trade Act. First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. HALL, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mr. WOLF for their tenacity and commitment in seeing this bill through. Each of you has helped keep the Congressional spotlight focused on the terrible toll trade in conflict diamonds has had on the people of sub-Saharan Africa while continuing to encourage international agreement through the Kimberly negotiating process. You have worked diligently and responsibly to address the concerns the Administration and Chairman THOMAS raised. You have also worked to address concerns I initially had on the impact of rough diamond regulations on legitimate diamond trade in countries such as Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

Now more than ever we need to ensure that the revenues from legitimate diamond trade

with African countries such as Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, and others are used to build the economics and infrastructure of nations who support the Kimberly Process. Botswana, for example, through its legitimate and peaceful diamond trade, has successfully increased its average annual income from eighty dollars three decades ago to approximately three thousand six hundred dollars today. In addition, Botswana's diamond trade revenues account for three-fourths of all exports earnings, one-half of government revenues and one-third of its gross domestic product. Botswana's diamond revenues are used to build schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, homes, and offices.

It is our duty as lawmakers to penalize those countries that fuel conflicts with diamond revenues, but is also our responsibility to protect those African nations that are using legitimate diamond trade revenues to strengthen their economies, educate their people, and to be good and responsible neighbors to other countries around the world.

I want to thank the Bush Administration for its assistance and willingness to consult with us. I know that the Administration had reservations with the legislation, and appreciate the time it spent to work through those reservations and to develop a mutually acceptable response to the dilemma of addressing this problem legislatively while continuing to support the Kimberly Process. The bill before us today is a prime example of what can happen when Members on both sides of the aisle commit to work with each other and with the Administration to address matters which are critical not only to the American people but also to the entire international community. I only wish that the cooperation shown on this bill would carry forward to other pending legislative matters. The bill we are discussing today, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, sends an important message of support to a continent which has seen far more than its fair share of pain and suffering.

It reflects a strong commitment to the ongoing international dialogue that is aimed at dealing with this difficult problem. As with all compromises, this bill does not have everything I would like to see in it. However, it is a significant step in the right direction.

Passage of the Clean Diamond Trade Act will undercut a conflict diamond trade that has financed organizations that have killed several million people, driven millions more from their homes, and committed countless human rights abuses. The violent conflicts spurred on by these groups are impeding growth and development throughout sub-Saharan Africa. By stemming this illegal trade, we can remove a key barrier to progress and prosperity in these countries. If we pass this bill, we work to preserve the dignity of an entire industry, which can and should be a source of wealth for countries around the world.

This piece of legislation and its provisions are very important to the Congressional Black Caucus members and other friends of Africa who are dedicated to stopping civil conflict which impedes development and who continue to work on increasing trade opportunities and promoting economic growth for African nations. Through this bill, we seek to promote legitimate diamond trade, allowing countries such as, South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana to continue to benefit from their rich natural resource endowment.

I think it's particularly important that we are discussing this bill today, as negotiators from over thirty countries are gathered in Botswana as part of the Kimberley Process, an effort to develop international standards for certifying legitimate diamonds. If we pass this bill, we send a signal to the international community that we are engaged, that we take this issue seriously, and that we hope an international agreement can be reached soon that will bring us significantly closer to eradicating this blight.

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 New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2722, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT AMERICANS SHOULD TAKE
TIME DURING NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH TO RECOGNIZE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY NATIVE
PEOPLES

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 270) expressing the sense of Congress that Americans should take time during Native American Heritage Month to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions made by native peoples.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 270

Whereas Native Americans were the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States of America;

Whereas Native American governments developed the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of powers in government, and these principles form the foundation of the United States Government today;

Whereas Native American societies exhibited a deep respect for the Earth and its resources, and such values are widely held today;

Whereas Native Americans have served with valor in every American conflict, from the Revolutionary War to the war against terrorism, often serving in greater numbers, proportionately, than the population of the Nation as a whole;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art;

Whereas Native Americans deserve to be recognized for their individual contributions to American society as artists, sculptors, musicians, authors, poets, artisans, scientists, and scholars;