

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I stayed in St. Louis to attend my pastor's visitation on March 11th and was absent for recorded votes.

Had I been present for those votes, I would have voted as follows on the following bills under suspension of the rules: H.R. 441—"yes"; H. Con. Res. 77—"yes"; H. Res. 19—"yes."

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 11, 2003 at 4:18 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a report in accordance with section 1205 of Public Law 107-107.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

#### PLAN FOR SECURING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MATERIAL, AND EXPERTISE OF STATES OF FORMER SOVIET UNION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

As required by section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107) and section 1205 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration which presents a plan for securing nuclear weapons, material, and expertise of the states of the Former Soviet Union and reports on implementation of that plan during Fiscal Year 2002.

GEORGE W. BUSH,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 11, 2003.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, March 12, 2003.

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

There was no objection.

#### WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL INDICTMENTS IN SIERRA LEONE

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a United Nations war crimes tribunal headed by an American in Sierra Leone indicted seven people, including rebel leaders and a powerful figure in that country's decade-long civil conflict.

The indictment is for crimes of murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, enslavement, and attacks on humanitarian workers; and all, if not most of these crimes, are directly related to atrocities committed to gain control of and profit from conflict diamonds.

These indictments are an important and necessary milestone in the long road to securing justice and restoring the human rights of the people in that part of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, 75,000 people died in Sierra Leone. But not until one actually sees someone, this young girl that Congressman Tony Hall and I visited when we were in a refugee camp in Sierra Leone, when you see someone who had their arms and legs and hands cut off by rebels to scare and intimidate the local population to gain control, do these numbers mean something.

My colleagues might also know, as reported in the press, that the rebels, these people that have been indicted, have been selling conflict diamonds to al Qaeda that have been funding the al Qaeda efforts.

So we want to salute the men and women that are working for us in Sierra Leone to bring about these indictments.

[From the Associated Press Worldstream,  
Mar. 10, 2003]

#### INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL INDICTS SIERRA LEONE REBEL LEADER

(By Clarence Roy-Macaulay)

Sierra Leone's international war crimes tribunal issued its first indictments Monday against seven former warlords, including imprisoned rebel leader Foday Sankoh whose followers gained infamy with a campaign of chopping off hands, legs, ears and lips of innocent civilians.

Also charged was Internal Affairs Minister Samuel Hinga Norman, who was arrested and cuffed Monday by police who surrounded him in his office in the capital.

Hinga Norman, the former deputy defense minister, orchestrated attacks by a pro-government militia of traditional hunters called

the Kamajors whose alleged human rights abuses during the country's 1991-2000 civil war included torturing and summarily executing opponents and recruiting child fighters.

Three others were also arrested Monday while two remained at large.

Sankoh, whose Revolutionary United Front launched a vicious insurgency to control the country's government and diamond fields in 1991, will be among the first to go to trial, said David Crane, the court's American chief prosecutor.

The rebels' signature atrocity was cutting off the appendages of civilians in a tactic to spread fear among opponents.

Sankoh has been in prison since being captured in early 2000 after his fighters gunned down more than a dozen protesters outside his Freetown home.

"Today the people of Sierra Leone took back control of their lives and their future," Crane told reporters. "The dark days of the rule of the gun are over."

Crane said crimes alleged within the indictments include murder, rape, enslavement, looting and burning, sexual slavery, conscripting children and attacking humanitarian workers and U.N. peacekeepers.

Crane did not reveal when the cases would be heard. Court officials have been reluctant to give many details in advance for fear of jeopardizing the safety of trial participants.

The court was launched by an agreement between the United Nations and Sierra Leone to try serious violations of international and Sierra Leonean humanitarian law since Nov. 30, 1996, when Sankoh's rebels signed a peace accord with the government that was supposed to end five years of war.

The peace deal was followed by a military coup and several more years of fighting until the end of 2000.

Also indicted Monday was Johnny Paul Koroma, a former junta leader who is wanted by Sierra Leone's government in connection with a failed January coup attempt—the first since peace returned to the country.

Koroma, who allied himself with Sankoh's rebel in overthrowing Sierra Leone's civilian government in 1997, is currently at large.

Since elections were held last year, in which Sankoh's rebels stood for parliament without winning a single seat, a shaky peace has emerged, protected by nearly 17,000 United Nations troops—the world body's largest deployment anywhere.

Sierra Leone's war crimes tribunal differs from those of Rwanda and Yugoslavia as it will be held in the country and have a mix of local and international prosecutors and judges.

The court is expected to operate for three years on a budget of just under US \$60 million paid for by contributions from about 20 countries, including the United States and Britain.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.