

vigorously enforce laws to prohibit the trafficking of women and of illicit narcotics; (7) Accelerate governmental structural reform and land privatization policies which benefit ordinary citizens; (8) Adopt a more comprehensive program to protect the environment; (9) Support internationally recognized standards of transparency in monitoring of elections; and (10) Remedy trade disputes involving violation of international property rights, transshipment of counterfeit goods, and dumping of such products as steel into the United States market in such increased quantities as to cause harm to the domestic industry.

Despite our high aspirations for the Ukraine, we do not believe that these conditions have been met, although we are mindful that there are people in civil society working to bring these principles to fruition.

The Jackson-Vanik requirement for annual review of the trading relationship was originally intended as a way to sanction anti-Semitic regimes. According to the Anti-Defamation League, in a document attached to this statement, that we attach for the RECORD, at least one university in Ukraine, sadly, is still teaching anti-Semitism in Ukraine.

We have both worked to ensure human rights, labor rights and environmental quality standards are including in trade agreements. However, the WTO does not permit trade on this basis. This makes new entrants into the WTO highly vulnerable to the export of their jobs to nations which offer cheap labor and no standards. A transfer of wealth from the great mass of the people of Ukraine to multi-national corporate interests will result unless there are safeguards. Any nation, and Ukraine is no exception, which is heavily influenced by oligarchical interests, could easily be sacrificed. We remain committed to continuing to work with the valiant people of Ukraine and the wonderful groups of the diaspora to lift up the economic, political and social progress of the Ukrainian people. We are optimistic about the blossoming of freedom, economic democracy and human rights in Ukraine.

#### UKRAINE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLING IN ANTI-SEMITISM

##### MAUP: SCHOOLING IN ANTI-SEMITISM

MAUP is the main source of anti-Semitic agitation and propaganda in Ukraine. It organizes anti-Semitic meetings and conferences, regularly issues anti-Semitic statements and publishes two widely distributed periodicals, Personnel and Personnel Plus, which frequently contain anti-Semitic articles.

At the same time, MAUP is a bona fide university—its English name is the Inter-regional Academy for Personnel Management—accredited by Ukraine's Ministry of Education, with more than 50,000 students enrolled at campuses in various locations. Business, political science and agriculture are among the subjects taught.

The anti-Semitic activities are directed by MAUP's President, Georgy Tschokin, and a number of his colleagues. In addition, Tschokin is the head of another body called the "International Personnel Academy" (IPA), which he also uses to issue anti-Semitic statements.

White supremacist David Duke has close links with MAUP: he "teaches" a course on history and international relations, has been awarded a doctorate for a thesis on Zionism and was a key participant in MAUP's June 2005 conference on "Zionism: Threat to World Peace".

On November 22, Tschokin issued a statement of solidarity with Iranian President

Ahmadinejad's threat to wipe out Israel. The statement blended traditional Christian anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism: "We'd like to remind that the Living God Jesus Christ said to Jews two thousand years ago: 'Your father is a devil!' . . . Israel, as known, means 'Theologian', and Zionism in 1975 was acknowledged by General Assembly of UNO as the form of racism and race discrimination, that, in the opinion of the absolute majority of modern Europeans, makes the most threat to modern civilization. Israel is the artificially created state (classic totalitarian type) which appeared on the political Earth map only in 1948, thanks to good will of UNO . . . Their end is known, and only the God's true will rescue all of us. We are not afraid, as God always together with his children!" .

MAUP's June 2005 anti-Zionist conference was attended by anti-Semites from all over the region, as well as Duke, French Holocaust denier Serge Thion and Israel Shamir, a Russian Jew who converted to Christianity and is notorious for publishing anti-Semitic essays on the internet. The Palestinian Authority representative in Ukraine, Walid Zakut, was also reported to have attended.

MAUP's anti-Semitic activities can be traced back to at least 2002. MAUP's leading figures have been at the root of attempts to bar Jewish organizations in Ukraine and, more recently, a call to ban "The Tanya", a classic work of Hassidic Jewish literature, on the grounds that it promotes racism against non-Jews.

##### MAUP: CONTEXT AND RESPONSES

At the Auschwitz liberation ceremonies in January 2005, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko declared that his country had adopted a policy of "zero tolerance" towards anti-Semitism. Yet over this year, there has been a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents, including the brutal beating in August of a Yeshiva student in Kiev, who remains hospitalized in Israel in a coma. Following this attack, 30 Ukrainian rabbis declared: "Calls to violence against Judaism and Jews are published in the press, freely distributed and sold. On the walls of synagogues, buildings, bus stops and along the road, anti-Semitic symbols appear more and more often."

Critically, Mr. Yushchenko has done nothing against MAUP, aside from resigning from its Board.

Ukraine needs to take decisive action now. Measures could include the following: Invoking anti-incitement laws against Tschokin and his colleagues; the Education Ministry revoking recognition of MAUP diplomas; a statement of condemnation by Mr. Yushchenko and a ban on David Duke entering Ukraine.

Mr. SHAW. 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 California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1053, 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. SHAW. 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 question will be postponed.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO ESTABLISH A FULL DEMOCRACY

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 673) expressing support for the efforts of the people of the Republic of Belarus to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and urging the Government of Belarus to conduct a free and fair Presidential election on March 19, 2006.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 673

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2006 presidential election in the Republic of Belarus and of a genuinely democratic political system are prerequisites for that country's integration into the Western community of nations;

Whereas the Government of Belarus has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the 1990 Copenhagen Document;

Whereas these commitments, which encourage transparency, balance, and impartiality in an election process, have become the standard by which observers determine whether elections have been conducted freely and fairly;

Whereas the election on March 19, 2006, of the next president of Belarus will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the commitment of the Belarusian authorities to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas previous elections in Belarus have not met international standards;

Whereas the 2004 vote on the constitutional referendum in Belarus did not meet international standards;

Whereas it is the duty of government and public authorities at all levels to act in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing election procedures and to ensure free and fair elections throughout the entire country, including preventing activities aimed at undermining the free exercise of political rights;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which neither administrative action nor violence, intimidation, or detention hinder the parties, political associations, and the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry, including organizing supporters, conducting public meetings and events throughout the country, and enjoying unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on an equal basis;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote free from intimidation, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote-counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas control and manipulation of the media by national and local officials and

others acting at their behest could raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Belarusian authorities to free and fair elections;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials and others acting at their behest to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign will call into question the fairness of the upcoming election in Belarus; and

Whereas the arrest or intimidation of opposition political parties and candidates, such as the leader of the Unified Democratic Forces and other people involved with the opposition, represents a deliberate assault on the democratic process: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) looks forward to the development of cordial relations between the United States and the Republic of Belarus;

(2) emphasizes that a precondition for the integration of Belarus into the Western community of nations is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;

(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Belarusian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Belarus;

(4) urges the Government of Belarus to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by national or local officials or others acting at their behest;

(5) urges the Government of Belarus to meet its Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) standards and commitments on democratic elections, including the standards on free and fair elections as defined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document;

(6) urges the Belarusian authorities to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the 2006 presidential election;

(B) unobstructed access by election monitors from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), other participating States of the OSCE, Belarusian political parties, candidates' representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations—both foreign and domestic—to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;

(D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

(E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels via selective tax audits and other regulatory and bureaucratic procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations and libel suits, among other measures;

(F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies; and

(G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;

(7) encourages the international community, including the Council of Europe, the

OSCE, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to continue their efforts to support democracy in Belarus and urges countries such as Lithuania and other Baltic countries and Nordic countries to continue to provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations and other Belarusian organizations involved in promoting democracy and fair elections in Belarus; and

(8) pledges its support to the Belarusian people, their commitment to a fully free and open democratic system, their creation of a prosperous free market economy, and their country's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 673, sponsored by our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, expresses support and solidarity for the efforts of the people of Belarus to establish a full democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights. It also urges the Government of Belarus to conduct free and fair Presidential elections on March 19.

I would like at the outset to commend our distinguished colleague, Mr. SHIMKUS, for his hard work on this resolution and his great interest and passion for supporting freedom in Belarus and in other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Belarus, as my colleagues know, is often described as "the last dictatorship in Europe." In the past 3 or 4 years, especially since the 2004 parliamentary elections and referendum, President Alexander Lukashenko has increased repression against NGOs, media outlets, any opponents of the government, including youth groups. Perhaps most disturbing are the cases of forced disappearances of lawmakers and journalists and others who have dared to criticize the Lukashenko dictatorship.

To date, the Government of Belarus has refused to conduct an impartial investigation into these disappearances and has refused to allow an independent U.N.-appointed investigator to look into these cases.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the Lukashenko regime has only become more dictatorial with the passage of time. The assault on civil society, the NGOs, the independent media, democratic opposition, and increasing pressure on unregistered and minority religious groups has only intensified, becoming daily occurrences. Despite innumerable calls for Belarus to live up to its freely undertaken OSCE election commitments, elections in 2000, 2001, and 2004 were neither free nor fair.

It follows along a downward trajectory that began a decade ago when Lukashenko, through an illegitimate referendum, took control over the leg-

islature and the judiciary and manipulated the Constitution to remain in power.

Mr. Speaker, Belarus, which borders on EU and NATO member countries, has become an increasingly stark anomaly in a growing democratic Europe. The Belarusian people have become even more isolated from the winds of democracy following neighboring Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Lukashenko's fear that the people would follow the Ukrainian example has led to further clamping down on those who dare to speak out for freedom.

Among the numerous examples that can be cited here on the floor: Just last week, one Belarusian opposition candidate running for next week's elections was detained by security forces and severely beaten. Yesterday we received reports that five members of the campaign of the United Opposition Candidate, Alexander Milinkevych, was held by police and driven away. In recent weeks Lukashenko has launched an intensive campaign to encourage a climate of fear and stoke hostility among the Belarusian people through a Soviet-style propaganda campaign against the opposition: Europe and the United States.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, as the prime sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act, which was signed into law by President Bush, I welcome the administration's growing engagement with the people of Belarus. I am pleased that President Bush and other high-ranking officials met with Irena Krasovska and Tatyana Zavadzka, two of the wives of opposition figures believed to have been murdered with the complicity of Belarusian senior officials. I would note, parenthetically, that I have had the privilege of meeting with them and others on a number of occasions over the last 6 years and have admired their determination and courage to seek an accounting of their loved ones, in most cases their missing, possibly murdered husbands.

Given the disturbing, Mr. Speaker, preelection environment, where meaningful access to the media by opposition candidates is denied, where independent voices are stifled, and where the regime maintains pervasive control over the election process, it is very hard to imagine that next week's elections will be free. They are already not fair. In the event that protests are held in response to electoral fraud, we are reminded by Belarusian authorities that the right to peaceful assembly is a fundamental human right and a basic tenet of the OSCE. Any violent suppression of peaceful protests will have serious repercussions and only deepen Belarus' self-imposed isolation.

Over the course of the last century, the Belarusian people have endured great suffering at the hands of murderous dictators such as Stalin and Hitler. Twenty years ago they endured,

and continue to endure, Chernobyl's dark cloud. The Belarusian people deserve the freedom and the dignity long denied them, and Belarus deserves its rightful place in a free, prosperous and democratic Europe.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First, I want to commend my good friend CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey for his leadership on this issue, as well as all of my colleagues who played a role in its development.

Mr. Speaker, Alexander Lukashenko is, in fact, the last dictator of Europe. He is running for reelection as President of Belarus for the third time, and there is really no suspense about the outcome. He is running a neo-Stalinist dictatorship with the usual techniques.

Although it is now a decade and a half since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Lukashenko is conducting elections that would make Leonid Brezhnev and Nikita Khrushchev blush.

Freedom of the press is nonexistent in Belarus. All television and radio stations are either owned or controlled by the government. Newscasts offer nothing but sickening praise for Lukashenko. The main opposition candidate, Alexander Milinkevich, says that his name has never been mentioned on television.

A publication called "People's Will" is the last remaining newspaper in the country which is not yet under the thumb of Lukashenko. The state-owned media distribution network refused to distribute this newspaper, and the state-run press kiosks are prohibited from selling it.

Last year a government-controlled court found this newspaper guilty of slandering a progovernment politician properly accused in the U.N. Oil-for-Food investigation. This so-called court imposed a fine of \$50,000 against the newspaper, an absolutely incredible figure in a country such as Belarus where \$50,000 sounds like \$500 million to us. Of course, the newspaper, which has a very modest circulation, was unable to pay the fine, and its loyal readers contributed in small amounts enough money to pay the fine.

The editor of this paper was informed by the government that the printing company, which was under contract to print the newspaper, was breaking its contract and would no longer print it. The newspaper had to find a printing house in Russia, and copies of the paper are mailed to subscribers, but, of course, they arrive days or weeks later.

Mr. Speaker, the government's techniques for keeping journalists in line is quite simple. Over the past several years, journalists known for their critical coverage of Lukashenko died under mysterious circumstances. Independent journalists simply vanished without a trace.

In October, Lukashenko pushed through a law that makes it a crime to

discredit the state or any of its officials. This "crime" carries a sentence of 2 years in prison. The head of the Belarusian Journalists' Association said, "All information that contradicts official propaganda is blocked."

The government is so paranoid about controlling the dissemination of information that even buying a copying machine requires the approval of the Ministry of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, complete control of newspapers, television and radio is not all this nondemocratic government is doing to ensure the reelection of Lukashenko. Less than a week ago, the opposition presidential candidate was accused of damaging a picture of the country's President and imprisoned.

The Belarus State Security Committee, which, significantly in Russian, has the initials of the KGB, which were the initials of Stalin's secret police, reported that it had uncovered a coup masterminded by the opposition, planned for the day after the election. The supposed coup became a basis for the Government of Belarus to ban 72 nongovernmental organizations which were accused of plotting this supposed coup.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution we are considering expresses support for the people of Belarus and urges the government to show respect for the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights of the Belarusian people. It calls for free and fair elections.

It is important that we put on record our indignation, our frustration and our outrage at Belarus' blatant disregard for civilized governmental procedures and human rights. We earnestly seek the establishment of good relations with the people of Belarus, but that can only happen if the government of that country guarantees its citizens the opportunity to exercise their civil liberties, their political rights and privileges, including the right to full freedom of expression.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important resolution. We must send a clear and unequivocal message to Lukashenko that before Belarus can be integrated into the community of civilized Nations, a democratic political system must be in place in that country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the resolution, and I insert at this point in the RECORD a statement by the National Democratic Institute.

STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BELARUS

Around the world, citizens have organized in a nonpartisan way to monitor elections as a means of promoting confidence and participation in the electoral process. The right of citizens to monitor their elections is a fundamental democratic principle, and over the past 25 years the National Democratic Institute is proud to have worked with nonpartisan monitoring groups in more than 65 countries in every region of the world.

In Belarus, civic activists have also sought to monitor their elections, a right which is guaranteed to them under Article 13 of the

Belarusian electoral code and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 1990 Copenhagen Document.

In 2001, the OSCE along with NDI provided support to a coalition of nonpartisan domestic monitors who observed the 2001 presidential poll, and NDI assisted the efforts of more than 3,000 Belarusian nonpartisan monitors for the 2004 parliamentary elections. These monitors acted with integrity and professionalism, although their attempts to register as a nonpartisan election monitoring organization had been rejected by the Belarusian authorities. A year later, many of the same monitors once again sought to register a citizen initiative called Partnership in order to monitor the upcoming presidential poll. Their request for registration was once again denied.

Two weeks ago, on February 21, several of these civic activists were arrested and their offices and homes raided. The KGB accused them of "slandering the president and illegally running an unregistered organization." In its propaganda campaign the Belarusian authorities falsely accused Partnership of organizing fraudulent exit polls and planning a violent uprising after the election. The activists were formally charged on March 3 and remain in detention.

NDI Chairman Madeleine K. Albright made the following statement:

"The National Democratic Institute deplores this attempt by the Belarusian authorities to deny the basic rights of their citizens to peacefully monitor the March 19 presidential election.

We condemn the recent arrests of civic activists and the accusations leveled against Partnership, whose only interest is to promote a democratic election process and peacefully monitor that process.

By refusing to register nonpartisan monitoring groups and restricting their access to assistance from outside organizations, Belarus is violating its commitments as a member state of the OSCE and other international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

We call on the government of Belarus to immediately release those detained and allow them to continue their rightful monitoring effort without interference.

The Belarus government cannot expect to earn international respect if it does not respect international norms."

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the author of H. Res. 673, my good friend and colleague.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, if my colleague Chris Smith will allow me to speak from this side, because I have great respect for Tom Lantos, and you know it is always in fashion to fight for democracy and freedom, it is an issue that easily, many times, most times, crosses across the center aisle, and I am proud of what you do and I am proud of what we do to fight for democracy and freedom.

We have got another opportunity to do that today with addressing the upcoming elections in Belarus and the last dictatorship in Europe.

I have with me the, it is being called the "Denim Revolution," and it has got the dictator concerned. How do you

have free and fair elections when you do not let the opponents campaign, or you let them campaign, but solely door to door, no mail, no advertising, no public billboards? There is no freedom for the opposition to get their word out.

In fact, today as I was coming down to the floor, I just received an e-mail, a great thing with the new technologies today, the ability to find out what is going on, and I want to read this to my colleagues: "According to the press release distributed by the office of the single candidate from the unified Belarusian opposition, Alexander Milinkevych, this morning, after a meeting of Milinkevych with voters in the 'Byarestse' cinema theater, five representatives of his team, including," a friend of mine who I have met a couple times, "Vintsuk Viachorka were held by the police and driven away. The opposition activists might have been beaten. For the moment, it is not clear where they are. Their mobile phones are switched off."

Now, what is really problematic about this is that usually the Belarusians, through the use of the KGB and the uniformed police, are very proud when they grab people who want to run for elected office, and they proudly display the fact that they are held in police custody. Well, we do not know where these gentlemen are. And we have no idea, there has been no claims of who has them. So, really, the basic plea right now is where are they. That is just a symbol of people would not believe that in Europe that we would still have this subversion of freedom and democracy.

So I want to thank the International Relations Committee, of course my good friend and colleague from Illinois, HENRY HYDE, and the ranking member, of course, CHRIS SMITH, who has done such a great job, and Chairman GALLEGLY, who was very helpful to me in moving this legislation because we talk about the issues of freedom a lot on this floor. I think our Founding Fathers would be very proud that we still take up that torch of freedom for all people, and, yeah, we may be accused of being biased to some extent at some time, but we are a human institution, and we need friends on both sides who will call us to account that freedom is good enough for all the countries in Europe and even in the last dictatorship. It is good enough for other areas around the world, and I am one that is not ashamed of standing up for freedom and democracy.

This is a great resolution. It is very timely. As we know, the election is coming, and we have got our fellow freedom fighters being jailed for activities that we take for granted here in the United States. This is right that we send a signal, and I am proud to join you, and I want to thank the ranking member, and I want to thank my colleague, Congressman SMITH, for the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the country of Belarus and their ongoing

struggle for free and fair elections. The last dictator in Europe, Aleksander Lukashenko, rules this country through a combination of intimidation and fear, suppressing the voices and rights of the Belarusian people as they watch their neighbors in Georgia and in the Ukraine rise up and take back their countries to emerge as thriving democracies.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Res. 673, along with my colleague Mr. GALLEGLY. This legislation, among many other things, pledges the support of the United States House of Representatives to the Belarusian people, and calls for a free and open election. Unfortunately, as we have seen in many events covered in the past week this will most likely not happen for the Belarusian people on March 19th. Instead the ongoing cycle of violence and intimidation will steal another election for Mr. Lukashenko.

I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in the support of the Belarusian people and keep them in your thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. As President Bush said, "The fate of Belarus will rest not with a dictator, but with the students, trade unionists, civic and religious leaders, journalists, and all citizens of Belarus claiming freedom for their nation." I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

□ 1300

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for authoring this legislation. It sends a clear, unmistakable message to the Lukashenko dictatorship, and a message of solidarity and concern to the people that hopefully there will be a brighter day for this important country. But it is only because of ongoing, dogged determination on the part of the pro-democracy advocates inside that country and their friends outside, like Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HYDE, Mr. SHIMKUS, and others; that we keep the pressure on from without so that someday human rights and democracy will flourish in Belarus.

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 Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 673.

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. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 673.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3505) to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3505

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2005".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—NATIONAL BANK PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. National bank directors.

Sec. 102. Voting in shareholder elections.

Sec. 103. Simplifying dividend calculations for national banks.

Sec. 104. Repeal of obsolete limitation on removal authority of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Sec. 105. Repeal of intrastate branch capital requirements.

Sec. 106. Clarification of waiver of publication requirements for bank merger notices.

Sec. 107. Equal treatment for Federal agencies of foreign banks.

Sec. 108. Maintenance of a Federal branch and a Federal agency in the same State.

Sec. 109. Business organization flexibility for national banks.

Sec. 110. Clarification of the main place of business of a national bank.

Sec. 111. Capital equivalency deposits for Federal branches and agencies of foreign banks.

Sec. 112. Enhancing the authority for national banks to make community development investments.

#### TITLE II—SAVINGS ASSOCIATION PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Parity for savings associations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Sec. 202. Investments by Federal savings associations authorized to promote the public welfare.

Sec. 203. Mergers and consolidations of Federal savings associations with non-depository institution affiliates.

Sec. 204. Repeal of statutory dividend notice requirement for savings association subsidiaries of savings and loan holding companies.

Sec. 205. Modernizing statutory authority for trust ownership of savings associations.

Sec. 206. Repeal of overlapping rules governing purchased mortgage servicing rights.

Sec. 207. Restatement of authority for Federal savings associations to invest in small business investment companies.