

predecessors' practice and signed both bills. The substantive effect would have been the same as it is today.

But that is not what the President chose to do. So we are here today, as the Congress, to deal with the first veto issued by President Obama.

Is it a veto based over substantive policy disagreements like President Bush's veto of stem cell legislation, or President Clinton's veto of legislation lifting the arms embargo for Bosnia and Herzegovina?

No, it is not. It is a veto that simply uses a now moot piece of legislation to re-ignite a battle between the legislative and executive branches dating back to the Nixon administration, a battle that the courts have generally sided in favor of the legislative branch.

I hope that in the future the President will exercise his veto power on substantive issues important to the American people such as vetoing bills that continue us on a path of reckless government spending.

Mr. OBEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

In accord with the Constitution, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings will be postponed.

□ 1045

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SUPPORTING CONTINUED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 981) supporting continued political and economic development in Ukraine.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 981

Whereas in 1991, Ukraine re-established its independence, and began the process of developing democratic institutions and a market economy;

Whereas the Ukrainian people bravely demonstrated their desire for a free, democratic, and prosperous country through non-violent protest during the 2004 Orange Revolution;

Whereas the United States and Ukraine have a strong relationship, as evidenced by the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed in December 2008

by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with the objective of expanding cooperation on defense, trade, energy, democratic development, and cultural exchange;

Whereas during the July 2009 visit of Vice President Biden to Kyiv, the United States and Ukraine agreed to create the Strategic Partnership Commission to help implement the Charter, which held its inaugural meeting in Washington, DC, on December 9, 2009, during the visit of the Ukrainian Foreign Minister;

Whereas a strong, sovereign, independent, democratic, and economically prosperous Ukraine is important to the interests of the United States and to achieving peace, prosperity and stability in Europe;

Whereas Ukraine has been a staunch partner of the United States and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) allies, as demonstrated by Ukraine's participation in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the NATO Training Mission in Iraq and by NATO's declaration at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008 that Ukraine will become a member of the Alliance;

Whereas the United States and the European Union provide assistance to help Ukraine foster peace and security, strengthen its democratic institutions, further economic growth, and counter HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia gave security assurances to Ukraine in the Budapest Memoranda of December 5, 1994, following Ukraine's commitment to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory and its accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapons state as well as the entry into force of the START Treaty;

Whereas the Joint Statement on the Expiration of the START Treaty issued by the United States and Russia on December 4, 2009, affirmed that "the assurances recorded in the Budapest Memoranda will remain in effect after December 4, 2009";

Whereas, as Vice President Biden stated when he was in Kyiv, the effort to reset the United States relationship with Russia "will not come at Ukraine's expense," and "the more substantive relationship we have with Moscow, the more we can defuse the zero-sum thinking about our relations with Russia's neighbors.;"

Whereas Ukraine and the Ukrainian people have suffered from the world financial crisis, and the government has sought and received assistance from international financial institutions, but still needs to overcome internal political and economic stalemates that prevent it from fulfilling its requirements and hinder its ability to achieve greater financial stability;

Whereas Ukraine will hold a presidential election on January 17, 2010, with a possible run-off election on February 7, 2010, if needed;

Whereas the initial 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine were marred by widespread irregularities, including fraud, intimidation, falsification of results, and media bias; and

Whereas it is vital for Ukraine's democratic development that the 2010 elections be free, fair, transparent, and untainted: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the strong relationship between the United States and Ukraine, and encourages continued efforts to implement the provisions of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership;

(2) expresses its support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to consolidate democratic institutions, rule of law, respect for human rights, and economic reforms;

(3) recognizes the suffering of the Ukrainian people due to the downturn in the world economy, and supports measures by the international financial institutions to assist Ukraine;

(4) urges all parties in Ukraine to seek resolution of disputes and to take active measures to enable necessary political and economic reforms;

(5) urges the Government of Ukraine and all political parties to ensure that the 2010 election is conducted freely, fairly, transparently, and without manipulation;

(6) encourages the Government of Ukraine and all political parties to welcome the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international election monitors, cooperate fully with them, and provide them unimpeded access to all aspects of the election process; and

(7) reiterates its enduring support and friendship for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This Sunday, Ukrainians will go to the polls to elect a new President. The successful conduct of these elections is important to our country, the United States. As Vice President BIDEN said during his visit to Kiev last summer, "we consider Ukraine to be a vital European partner for advancing stability, prosperity, and democracy on the Continent."

Six years ago, the Orange Revolution demonstrated the Ukrainian people's desire for freedom, democracy, and prosperity. Since that time, Ukraine has made great strides in developing a vibrant civil society, an open and free press, and a government accountable to its citizens. We welcome the government's registration of over 450 international observers for the elections, including from the OSCE and the International Republican Institute. We would take this means and opportunity to urge all parties in the elections to cooperate fully with the observers and ensure the elections are conducted without manipulation.

The United States and Ukraine have a strong bond, not least due to the fact that over 1 million Americans trace their roots back to Ukraine. These ties were solidified in the Charter on Strategic Partnership, which was signed in December of 2008 and which outlined numerous areas of engagement and cooperation. Last month, the Strategic