

assistance provided by representatives of the international community as well as the United States.

As we all know, in a cruel act of fate, two powerful earthquakes hit Central America this winter causing catastrophic losses in El Salvador. The full extent of the damage is still difficult to fathom. In all, these catastrophic natural occurrences left at least 1,200 people dead. More than one million people have been declared homeless. An estimated 200,000 homes were destroyed. Roads and bridges were completely washed out or severely damaged by the landslides. Many school and health care facilities had to be closed. Running and clean water is much needed. Most of the agricultural supply has been severely threatened. Moreover, survivors are threatened by serious epidemic and disease. Such an environmental disaster has resulted in a substantial and immediate disruption of living conditions in El Salvador and warrants our government's continued support and assistance. In short, the needs of El Salvador at this time are enormous and we need to act accordingly and generously.

I applaud the decision announced by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) following this tragedy to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to all Salvadoran nationals living in this country. This will be a relief for many Salvadorans who depend financially on their relatives living in the United States.

On March 7, I joined more than fifty of my colleagues to ask the President to address the needs of El Salvador in this time of need. We requested that the administration develop a significant multi-year relief package for El Salvador, targeted toward areas of housing, crop assistance, clean water and health care. We suggest that this plan be considered as part of an emergency supplemental appropriations bill. We will continue to press the administration to act accordingly.

The resolution we are adopting today is a step in the right direction and one of many that should be taken by this House to provide a compassionate and generous response from the United States toward El Salvador to help maintain the stability of the entire region.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those I represent for the people of El Salvador. I am saddened that El Salvador was struck by the devastating earthquake on January 13th and February 13th of this year. These earthquakes tragically ripped through El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, this earthquake is not the first time in recent memory that a natural disaster has brought devastation on such a wide scale to the people of El Salvador. In addition to this terrible earthquake, there has also been a serious outbreak of dengue fever, which is a very debilitating disease. And it was only two years ago that Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, leaving an unbearable toll on an already fragile region. In the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, more than 11,000 lives were swept away in the rain, winds, and massive landslides that Mitch wrought. In some areas, more than 70 percent of crops were demolished. The price tag of that devastating hurricane soared to more than \$4 billion once a full accounting was made.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador never lost hope in the wake of the devastation

wrought by Mitch. They worked to improve their lives. They rebuilt roads, and schools, and homes. They began to address the needs of citizens dealing with painful losses and an uncertain future. They began to pull themselves, with the help of international monetary and humanitarian assistance. These earthquakes simply threaten to stifle the development and progress El Salvador has made.

We cannot and should not ask the government of El Salvador, or their people, to walk the path toward recovery alone. We must not turn away from their suffering, but rather must respond swiftly and effectively.

I am pleased that the United States Government is actively participating in these international efforts through the work of USAID. To date, USAID assistance to El Salvador totals more than \$5 million, the majority of which was allocated for temporary shelter programs. In addition, the World Food Programme has provided 900 metric tons of rations, the International Federation of the Red Cross has released \$100,000 of disaster relief funds as well as sent a delegation of relief workers to assist the 1,200 person Salvadoran Red Cross. Every ounce of help from the international community helps.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador need our help. We have assisted many nations in desperate times of need. As a Nation of immigrants, we are well aware of the strong ties between El Salvador and the United States. Those ties have flourished in our Nation as the Salvadoran community has grown and prospered. Let us all do our share in helping rebuild and develop the affected areas that were struck by the earthquake.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to in strong support of H. Con. Res 41, of which I am a proud sponsor. This resolution sends an important message of support to the people of El Salvador, who are experiencing great hardship as a result of recent earthquakes.

Most of us will never know the heart-breaking trauma of losing everything important to us—possessions, homes, and especially loved ones—within a span of 30 seconds.

This resolution is necessary to publicly express our country's deep sympathy for the plight of El Salvadorans and to highlight the critical need for the timely delivery of much-needed relief and reconstruction assistance from the international community.

The United States is a Nation fortunate enough to be rich in resources and, I believe, rich in compassion. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our own Federal Government and others across the Nation to join international efforts to provide El Salvador with needed resources for recovery.

In this time of crisis, the Salvadorans have acted with amazing courage and strength. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in expressing our support to the people of El Salvador who are trying to rebuild their lives and their communities, by passing this resolution.

Mr. FALCOMA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House, H. Con. Res. 41, which speaks on behalf of the good people of El Salvador who are struggling to recover from two devastating earthquakes that struck the nation in January and February of this year.

I commend the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, and the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of

the House International Relations Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Mr. BALLENGER and Mr. MENENDEZ, for introducing this important measure. I further commend the Chairman and Ranking Democratic Member of the International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE and Mr. LANTOS, for their leadership in bringing the legislation to the floor. I am honored to join our colleagues in expressing concern and sympathy for the victims of the earthquakes in El Salvador and to support ongoing aid and relief efforts.

Madam Speaker, the people of El Salvador have had more than their share of suffering. In recent decades, El Salvador has been torn apart by civil war, a deadly and costly conflict which claimed the lives of more than 70,000 men, women and children before a peace accord was reached in 1992.

A little over two years ago, one of the most destructive natural disasters ever to hit the region, Hurricane Mitch, wreaked havoc on El Salvador. In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch's 180 mph winds and massive flooding, El Salvador and her neighbors, Nicaragua and Honduras, lost over 11,000 citizens with damages totaling over \$4 billion.

Madam Speaker, despite these major setbacks, the people of El Salvador have worked diligently and courageously to rebuild their nation and democracy. It is a tragedy and cruel fate that they have had to suffer once again.

On January 13th of this year, a huge earthquake registering 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck off the coast of El Salvador, southwest of the city of San Miguel. Exactly a month later, a second crushing earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 struck east of San Salvador.

Madam Speaker, these devastating earthquakes have taken a tremendous toll on the people of El Salvador and resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe.

Over 1,500 Salvadorans have lost their lives, with thousands more injured. At least 200,000 homes have been destroyed, displacing over a million Salvadorans. More than fifteen hundred schools and dozens of hospitals, as well as essential segments of the country's infrastructure including water systems and the Pan-American Highway, have been badly damaged.

The destruction to El Salvador is estimated to exceed \$2 billion in costs.

Madam Speaker, I would urge our colleagues to adopt this legislation which evidences our heartfelt concern for the people of El Salvador and their tragic losses.

The legislation further supports relief efforts of the United States Agency for International Development for El Salvador's reconstruction, along with the assistance of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the international community.

To this effect, I commend President Bush for committing \$110 million in relief aid when meeting early this month with the President of El Salvador, Francisco Flores. This is a good beginning but more aid is needed. Also important has been President Bush's work permit initiative for Salvadoran immigrants, which has allowed many Salvadorans to continue sending home substantial sums for reconstruction efforts in El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the measure before us.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I must vote against HCR 41. While I certainly offer my personal sympathy to the victims in El Salvador, and also join in encouraging relief

agencies to increase their assistance to these individuals, I cannot support this resolution.

In the past I have complained that similar bills have come to the House Floor without going through the committee process. In this instance the committees were included and I applaud the Chairman for ensuring we had an opportunity to discuss this issue at committee. I am also grateful to the committee staff who worked with me in helping facilitate that discussion.

At the subcommittee I introduced an amendment for discussion purposes only. That amendment would have deleted the specific references to governmental assistance contained in this bill. Had that amendment been adopted I could have supported this resolution. Simply, I believe it is not proper for us to force taxpayers in this country to provide this kind of assistance by having the IRS collect these funds. Next, I believe that the Red Cross, for example, would not only be a more sympathetic entity for the purposes of collecting funds used for relief, but also that it would be a more efficient distributor of such funds than are the plethora of government agencies referenced in this resolution.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.Con.Res. 41.

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. DELAHUNT. Madam 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 NOTE), the Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment of the following Member of the House to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission:

Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2001.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (P.L. 106-173), I hereby appoint the following individual to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Mr. Phelps, IL.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary group:

Mr. HOUGHTON of New York, Chairman.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(d) of Public Law 93-642 (20 U.S.C. 2004(b)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri; and

Mr. SKELTON of Missouri.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 67, by the yeas and nays; and H. Con. Res. 41, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 67, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 67, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 2, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 51]

YEAS—405

Abercrombie	Coyne	Hall (OH)
Ackerman	Crane	Hall (TX)
Aderholt	Crenshaw	Hansen
Akin	Crowley	Harman
Allen	Cubin	Hart
Andrews	Culberson	Hastings (FL)
Armey	Cummings	Hastings (WA)
Baca	Cunningham	Hayes
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Hayworth
Baird	Davis (FL)	Hefley
Baker	Davis (IL)	Hergert
Baldacci	Davis, Jo Ann	Hill
Baldwin	Davis, Tom	Hilliard
Ballenger	Deal	Hinchey
Barcia	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Barr	DeGette	Hobson
Barrett	Delahunt	Hoefel
Bartlett	DeLauro	Hoekstra
Barton	DeLay	Holden
Bass	DeMint	Holt
Bentsen	Deutsch	Honda
Bereuter	Diaz-Balart	Hooley
Berkley	Dicks	Horn
Berman	Dingell	Hostettler
Berry	Doggett	Houghton
Biggert	Dooley	Hoyer
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Hulshof
Bishop	Doyle	Hunter
Blagojevich	Dreier	Hutchinson
Blumenauer	Duncan	Hyde
Blunt	Dunn	Inslee
Boehler	Edwards	Isakson
Boehner	Ehlers	Israel
Bonilla	Ehrlich	Issa
Bonior	Emerson	Istook
Bono	Engel	Jackson (IL)
Borski	English	Jackson-Lee
Boswell	Eshoo	(TX)
Boucher	Etheridge	Jefferson
Boyd	Evans	Jenkins
Brady (TX)	Everett	John
Brown (OH)	Farr	Johnson (CT)
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Johnson (IL)
Bryant	Flake	Johnson, E. B.
Burr	Fletcher	Johnson, Sam
Burton	Foley	Jones (NC)
Buyer	Ford	Jones (OH)
Callahan	Fossella	Kanjorski
Calvert	Frank	Kaptur
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Kelly
Cantor	Frost	Kennedy (MN)
Capito	Gallegly	Kennedy (RI)
Capps	Ganske	Kerns
Capuano	Gekas	Kildee
Cardin	Gephardt	Kilpatrick
Carson (IN)	Gibbons	Kind (WI)
Carson (OK)	Gilchrest	King (NY)
Castle	Gillmor	Kingston
Chabot	Gilman	Kirk
Chambliss	Gonzalez	Klecza
Clay	Goodlatte	Knollenberg
Clayton	Gordon	Kolbe
Clement	Goss	Kucinich
Clyburn	Graham	LaFalce
Coble	Granger	LaHood
Collins	Graves	Lampson
Combest	Green (TX)	Langevin
Condit	Green (WI)	Lantos
Conyers	Greenwood	Largent
Cooksey	Grucci	Larsen (WA)
Costello	Gutierrez	Larson (CT)
Cox	Gutknecht	Latham