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REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 94

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the list of cosponsors of H.R. 94.

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

There was no objection.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION
ACT OF 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to House Resolution 388 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2870.

□ 1113

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests, with Mr. LAHOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

□ 1115

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Protection Act, to the House for its consideration. This bill was introduced last November by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. ROB PORTMAN), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHN KASICH), and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. LEE HAMILTON). The bill enjoys wide bipartisan support and is now supported by the administration.

Mr. Chairman, tropical forests are home to roughly half of all known species and plants and animals, and, under pressure from man, these forests are disappearing at a rate of almost 1 percent per year, roughly one football field lost every second or an area the size of Pennsylvania each year. Most of the forests are also located in developing nations, and most of those nations are poor, with crushing debt burdens.

With the twin crisis of tropical forest loss and the Third World debt crisis,

many of us in the Congress saw an opportunity. And I will note that two of our colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHN PORTER) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. DOUG BEREUTER) introduced the first debt-for-nature swap bill in 1988. In 1991, President Bush proposed the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, known as EAI. One part of that initiative was a program of debt relief in return for investments by the host country in environmental protection.

Under the EAI, the Bush administration forgave half of the \$1.6 billion owed by seven Latin American countries in return for \$154 million in endowments for conservation projects. Today, the Latin American economy is growing with some of the newest and largest tropical forest parks in the world.

H.R. 2870 writes chapter two of that EAI story. Many developing nations remain under crushing debt burdens, and some of them have the most valuable tropical forests that are still standing. We expand beyond Latin American to other critical habitats in Africa and Asia. I will note that Indonesia has one of the world's largest tropical forests still standing. My colleagues may have read reports that the smoke from the burning of these forests is so thick that it even interferes with commercial aircraft operations in Jakarta.

This bill will allow our President to go beyond the Latin American focus of the EAI to offer protection to tropical forests in Africa, to Asia and the subcontinent. In short, this bill authorizes our President to offer up to \$325 million in debt owed to the U.S. Government, a small fraction of the \$15 billion they currently owe. The loans were made by the Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture.

The bill specifically references the conditions for a government to get debt relief. These conditions include having a democratic government, a favorable climate for private-sector investment, cooperation on narcotics matters, and no state-sponsored terrorism.

The bill also enjoys wide support from the environmental groups, such as the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Sierra Club.

The administration has now endorsed the bill, expressing support for the measure's purpose, and the administration has offered detailed changes to the legislation which the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) and I made in a joint substitute to the bill when it was considered within our committee. The substitute cuts \$75 million in funding from the bill by deleting the authority to forgive Export-Import Bank debt.

We also included authority to do debt buy-backs in the bill. As carried out recently by the U.S. Government with the Government of Peru, debt buy-

backs are not scored against our budget because the purchaser repays the full market value of the debt that is owed. These transactions offer exciting opportunities for middle-income countries to reduce the face value of their debt and at the same time be able to protect the environment.

We have made other modifications requested by the Congressional Budget Office to tighten the budgetary impact of the bill and require appropriations clearly within the Credit Reform Act.

This bill was favorably reported by a voice vote of the full Committee on International Relations. We will only have two amendments that I know of. My amendment will give an extra level of protection by requiring further congressional notifications to the Congress. I have also reviewed the amendment of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), which is acceptable to our side.

I think that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. ROB PORTMAN) and his colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOHN KASICH), as well as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. LEE HAMILTON) have offered an excellent piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to strongly support the bill.

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

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my time under general debate be controlled by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, let me first of all compliment the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), for the Tropical Forest Protection Act of 1998.

This act has come to us at a very important time. As we know, the President will be leaving on Sunday to visit six African countries to talk about trade and investment, human rights, and the whole question of the environment, the ecology, education, health.

The whole world will be watching. We have over 200 news media people that will be going from the United States, and people from around the world will be focusing. So this bill is extremely important at this time.

As my colleagues know, the bill seeks to promote the efforts of low- and middle-income countries to preserve tropical forests, rain forests; and, secondly, the bill tackles the problem of large debt owed to the United States by some of these developing countries.

Under H.R. 2870, globally important tropical forests would be protected at a very relatively low cost to the United

States. First, certain debts of qualifying nations would be substantially reduced. In exchange, the countries would direct interest payments due on new loans into funds dedicated to preserving the tropical rain forests.

Secondly, the bill would allow eligible countries or third-party purchasers to buy back a country's debt. In exchange, the country would agree to implement the tropical forest conservation measures specified in this bill.

There will be four criteria that we will certainly look at. We will look at a country that has a democratic political system as a very important first step. Secondly, a country must have a solid record of performance with respect to human rights and governance, counternarcotics and terrorism. Third, we will be pursuing countries that pursue sound economic policies. And, finally, countries must meet any other requirements related to their environmental policies and practices determined by the President.

We think that this will certainly go to leveraging scarce U.S. foreign assistance dollars by producing immediate environmental benefits in exchange for reducing debt payments due to the United States. Secondly, by reducing debt, it will strengthen developing economies, helping them to diminish the fiscal pressures that put tropical forests at risk. Thirdly, it will help promote new environmental practices in developing countries. And, finally, it will advance U.S. national interests by preserving forests that are essential to the world's climate.

Let me give two prime examples. Liberia, a 7½ year civil war. The rain forest was starting to be devastated. This will be able to bring that country back into the right practices. Secondly, the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a tremendous rain forest, probably one of the largest rain forests in the world. If we can prevent what happened in Brazil and what is happening in Latin America by this bill, by preserving the rain forest in the Congo, in Liberia, in Sierra Leone, it will go far to improving and preventing the degradation that is going on now in the whole biosphere that is going throughout the world.

So we are in a global village. We are interconnected. What happens in one country impacts on the other. This bill is timely. This bill is right. This bill costs the U.S. taxpayers very little, but does a tremendous amount in return, and it is the right time because, hopefully, the President will be able to talk about this on his trip to Ghana. He will go to Uganda and will stop in Rwanda to look and talk about the genocide that happened there; then on to South Africa, up to Botswana, and finally in Senegal.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the sponsor of this legislation, who has done an out-

standing job in working with the committee and in crafting this legislation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for yielding me this time and for all his work over the years on this legislation and this idea. I also want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman, for moving this bill so expeditiously through his committee, for improving the bill through the process, along with the ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. LEE HAMILTON), and for getting it to the floor today.

I also have to commend my fellow sponsors, chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHN KASICH), and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. LEE HAMILTON), both of whom showed a lot of leadership in getting us to this point.

As has been noted by the previous two speakers, this is really the outgrowth of years of work by a lot of people that links two important facts of life: One is that, very important, tropical forests are disappearing at an extremely rapid rate; and, second, they happen to be located in less developed countries that have a hard time repaying their debts to the United States.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) will go further into the bill and what it does more precisely, but I want to take a minute to focus on why this bill makes so much sense to the American taxpayer.

Tropical forests literally impact the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the medicines that cure disease. Acting as so-called carbon sinks, tropical forests absorb and store vast amounts of carbon dioxide and other emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels. By encouraging both reforestation and by preventing deforestation, we can substantially offset carbon emissions right here in the United States.

When we look at the alternatives and the cost of developing alternative technologies to reduce emissions, I think this is a relatively efficient way to absorb so-called greenhouse gases. It is hard to imagine that a rain forest in Brazil could help with air pollution in Ohio, but in fact that is what occurs.

A major benefit all of us get from tropical forests also is the use of the vast number of species and plants found there for the development of drugs. For example, plants found in tropical forests help fight child leukemia and the Hodgkin's disease. And natural products found in rain forests were used to develop drugs like Taxol, that treats breast cancer; Calanolide, which is used to treat infectious diseases, and many others. In fact, half of the medicines used in the world today, every day, come from tropical forest plants, as do 25 percent of all prescription drugs.

Agriculture also benefits from tropical forests. Genetic diversity, used in plant breeding, has been critical in pro-

ducing grains for food and has accounted for about half of all the gains in agricultural yields in the United States between 1930 and 1980.

Finally, of course, tropical forests help regulate rainfall, which has the effect of stabilizing weather patterns around the world. Unfortunately for all of us, we have already lost about half the world's tropical rain forests since 1950. And every year we are losing about 30 to 40 million acres of forests, an area equal to the size of New York or Iowa or Pennsylvania. And, of course, this destruction is fueled by poverty and economic pressures on developing countries where most of these tropical forests are located.

As I mentioned at the outset, many of these countries have a hard time repaying their debt. In fact, a substantial majority of these eligible countries have sought so-called Paris Club or other debt relief arrangements. Instead of just having this debt outstanding that will never become repaid in full, or might be repaid not at all, the U.S. taxpayers should receive some benefit for the investment. By encouraging debt-for-nature swaps, the bill maximizes the chance of some benefit being received.

The bill offers three different options: First, for the poorest countries, whose debt is unlikely to be paid in full, we build on the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative. The gentleman from New York talked about it a moment ago, but it was begun in the Bush administration. There, part of the principal is paid back to the United States, and interest payments on the new debt have to be put into protecting tropical forests.

This is the one aspect of the bill that has some cost to it, because under the 1990 Federal Credit Reform Act, Congress has to appropriate funds equal to the so-called subsidy cost. That would be the difference between the net present value of the old loan arrangement and the new loan arrangement.

Second, the bill permits no-cost debt buy-backs. This is at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer. It is a debt buy-back for countries that can afford it. The country purchases its debt at the full asset value of the loan and then contributes an additional amount equal to 40 percent of that loan into a local fund to protect tropical forests.

Then, finally, the third option is the bill would permit interested parties and nongovernmental organizations, third parties, to purchase debt of eligible countries from the United States Government, at its full asset value, in exchange for the debtor country putting money aside well in excess of that purchase price in a fund for conservation.

□ 1130

Again, this is at no cost to the taxpayer and provides substantial benefits to the United States.

The bill also benefits the U.S. taxpayer because, through these transactions, U.S. dollars are leveraged for

substantial amounts of conservation funding. This is because the cost of reducing debt, even as we have to score it here under the Credit Reform Act, is low compared to the amount of funding and local currency that will be set aside for conservation. In some cases, the ratio is as high as five to one or even ten to one.

Because it is leverage that you can get, I think this is a much better way to protect these globally important resources than through any kind of direct aid.

Debt restructuring also makes sense because, by clearing the debt off the books, it actually reduces the economic pressures that lead to a lot of the deforestation, so it actually gets at the underlying or root causes of much of the destruction of the rain forest.

Finally, let me make it clear that this is an authorization, this is not an appropriation. The bill and the committee report both make clear that any appropriation will be fully offset during the appropriations process.

Again, building on President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, this bill moves beyond Latin America. It provides this benefit worldwide to any eligible country, and it more precisely targets less developed countries that have the kind of tropical forests that provide the most benefits. If enacted, its effects will be not only to encourage economic growth consistent with conservation but, as Chairman Gilman noted earlier, it will be to promote U.S. policy interests, foreign policy interests. Because, if they want to participate, countries are required to have a good human rights record, counternarcotics program, counterterrorism policies, and democratic elections.

As I conclude, I want to thank this committee again for expediting and improving this bill; and I want to acknowledge the good work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and many others on this issue over the years.

This bill simply builds on these efforts by providing new incentives to protect tropical forests worldwide in a targeted and fiscally responsible way. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for the time and his leadership on this issue.

I certainly want to join my colleagues in commending the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his leadership, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for their leadership on this, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BEREUTER) as well, and all others who made this bipartisan, excel-

lent bill possible today, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations, I know full well what the debt of burden does to many of these countries. I also know that tropical forests contain about half the world's earth, plant, and animal species, many of which still have not been identified. They also are extremely effective sinks for carbon dioxide, significantly reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Our colleague very eloquently said what has always been clear to us, that everything in nature is connected, whether it is the benefit we receive in the rain forest in terms of pharmaceuticals or whether it is preventing greenhouse emissions from increasing and the greenhouse gases affecting the constituents of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) in Ohio.

So it is clear in terms of debt and it is clear in terms of protecting the rain forests, the tropical forests, that we have a need. There is opportunity based on precedent. The Bush Administration's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative presented a precedent and this is an expansion, as that has been indicated, and happily before the President's trip to Africa. The opportunity to reduce the burden of debt in these countries is being done with precedent and in a very wise way.

I am very, very pleased and want to make the point that the rule of nongovernmental organizations is very significantly mentioned in this legislation. Under the measure, each beneficiary country would be required to establish a Tropical Rain Forest Protection Fund to preserve, maintain, and restore its tropical forest. These funds would be distributed through competitive grants to local nongovernmental or other organizations with conservation expertise.

Further to that, management of the funds would be overseen by international boards consisting of officials appointed by the U.S. Government as well as by the host government; and these boards would include representatives of environmental, nongovernmental organizations active in the beneficiary country, local community groups, and scientific or academic organizations. I think this transparency and this involvement of nongovernmental and community-based groups is very, very healthy.

In conclusion, I want to say that this is a very smart approach, because the program established in the bill is intended to specifically target countries that have tropical forests with the greatest degree of biodiversity and that are under the most severe threat.

My colleagues have talked about the other criteria, that the country has to have a democratically elected government, not support active international terrorism, must support international narcotics controls, and may not engage

in violations of internationally recognized human rights. Under the measure, the President would determine whether or not countries meet the criteria.

I am very, very pleased to congratulate my colleagues for this strong bipartisan effort to preserve the rain forest and reduce the debt of these countries.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor.

The world's tropical forests, which are biodiverse, economically crucial and ecologically irreplaceable, are now disappearing faster than any other natural community. We heard the comments of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) on that subject.

Most of these forests are located in developing countries. Most of these countries are poor, many with crushing debt burdens. This body should view this legislation as a creative opportunity to address the twin problems of Third World debt and deforestation.

Mr. Chairman, one of the benefits of seniority is seeing some ideas gain acceptance after a period of time. Mr. Chairman, this is to trace a little bit of legislative history. But this proposal is, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) indicated, based to some extent on the success of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative from the Bush administration.

We saw good results from that. It is a creative variation of the EAI theme. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this Member would like to note that the forests and jungles of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand are rapidly disappearing. Vietnam, for example, has only 19 percent forest coverage today, compared to 43 percent 50 years ago.

The legislation before this body today will go beyond the Latin American focus of EAI to offer protection in tropical forests in Africa, East Asia, and the south Asian subcontinent, among other parts of the world.

Mr. Chairman, this Member was particularly interested in Bangladesh, which is one of the world's poorest nations. It is struggling with both overwhelming PL 480 debt and severe environmental problems. This Member would ask the body's indulgence to describe how today's legislation is likely to affect Bangladesh and what would be required of a country such as Bangladesh to participate in the proposed debt swap.

Now, to its credit, Bangladesh continues to service their debt, with great difficulty I might add. This, however, puts the United States in the rather embarrassing position of receiving almost as much money back as it is giving humanitarian assistance because of the PL 480 debt interest.

To be eligible for debt reduction under this legislation, a country must contain an appropriate tropical forest and meet specific and economical and political criteria. At the March 10, 1998, markup of this legislation by the Committee on International Relations, the administration testified that Bangladesh did indeed possess the requisite tropical forests of global importance. This was particularly true with regard to the forest's importance of habitat for various endangered species which we described, and the specific area in Bangladesh was noted.

The political eligibility criteria of this legislation requires the debtor country to have a democratically elected government which is not pursuing egregious policies in the area of human rights, narcotics or terrorism. The State Department has confirmed that Bangladesh would meet these political criteria, and that is a very important part of this bill.

The economic eligibility criteria required of a debtor country is to have in place or be making progress towards an IMF arrangement, World Bank structure, or sectoral adjustment loans if necessary, to have put in place major investment reforms and, if appropriate, to have agreed with its commercial bank lenders on a satisfactory lending program. It is this Member's understanding that the International Monetary Fund is negotiating a potential staff-monitored program with Bangladesh, for example.

In addition, as evidence of major investment reforms, Bangladesh has concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States. On a preliminary basis, the Department of the Treasury has determined that if Bangladesh concludes its negotiation on an IMF staff-monitored program, it should meet with economic eligibility requirements for debt reduction under this legislation.

Based on the above, it is my sincere hope that serious consideration will be given to Bangladesh within the provisions of this legislation. Debt buy-back such as envisioned in this legislation would permit Bangladesh to address its lingering debt problems while preserving its tropical forest. Mr. Chairman, I bring this specific country's example to our attention, but it is an example of how it will work elsewhere.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, this Member thanks the distinguished gentleman from the State of Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for introducing this important piece of legislation with creativity, with original cosponsorship, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH).

I commend the efforts of the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his leadership demonstrated over the years on environmental matters and for helping, with the cooperation of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), to bring this legislation to the floor.

As other Members in this body have noted, this legislation enjoys bipartisan support and is not opposed by the administration. The bill was favorably reported by a voice vote of the full Committee on International Relations without any discernible objection.

Mr. Chairman, I urge strong adoption of H.R. 2870; and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I commend the sponsors, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and others on the committee that have worked on this. It is a good bill. It deserves their support.

This bill builds upon the Conservation Organization's efforts that began the debt for nature swaps with the advent of many of these less developed nations in terms of trying to strive with meeting their needs by debt and find that the economic wherewithal to make the payments is not there. And the consequence, Mr. Chairman, is that, very often, they attempt to exploit in an improper way the natural resources of that country; and one of these natural resources, as has been pointed out, is these tropical and temperate rain forests.

While this bill focuses on the tropical rain forests, they may solve the problem of meeting their debt repayment for the year by sacrificing and selling off the tropical rain forest, but the problem is that they destroy their economic base and much of the biodiversity for the future.

Added to that, the activities of these nations as they are developing and struggling to make these debt payments by, in essence, selling their legacy, their patrimony of these natural forests as they look at it in South America and other parts of the world, there are natural phenomena that are also working against these areas.

Today, as we stand here on the floor, 23 to 25,000 square miles of uncontrolled fire has devastated parts of Amazonia, about 16 million acres in the last few months. In addition to that, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) cited the persistent problem in Indonesia in which millions of acres of rain forest have been destroyed.

So I think that we cannot do as much as we would like to do about controlling the weather. There are some ideas about that, if anyone has any, in terms of dealing with El Nino. But we can control what is happening in terms of these debt repayments.

This is a move forward to, in fact, try to achieve an international understanding and realization of the impor-

tance of these tropical rain forests that, as have been pointed out, are in less developed countries of the world and attempting to preserve them and all of the positive benefits that they give from being our pharmacy, for dealing with medications, the hydrological cycles that they represent, the presence of carbon in these areas, and of course I think most important the maintenance of the biodiversity which is so unique to many of these forests, which really have not been inventoried, much less fully understood, in terms of what the benefit and interrelationship might be with mankind and the benefit for mankind.

I urge support of the bill.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, and I want to commend my friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. Portman) for his leadership and his hard work on this important legislation.

□ 1145

It is nice to see Mr. PORTMAN's son Jed, who is 7 years old and in the second grade, on the floor of the House here this morning with his father, because his generation will benefit from the passage of this legislation in many ways. Congratulations, Jed.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) of the Committee on International Relations and also the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for all their leadership in shepherding this bill through the committee. I am pleased to be one of the original 16 cosponsors with my colleagues on this particular committee in supporting this legislation.

Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits to the entire world. They help to reduce greenhouse gases. They house many of the species used in the developing of lifesaving pharmaceutical products. They affect rainfall, which of course affects crop production and coastal resources worldwide.

As these forests continue to be exploited, last year an estimated 30 million acres, for example, were lost, the need to save them becomes more and more urgent.

Mr. Chairman, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act is a sound, free-market approach to a very serious global environmental problem. It will encourage the preservation of tropical forests without creating a burden for the American taxpayer. It is good, sensible legislation. It is worthy of our support. I urge adoption of the legislation.

I want to again compliment and commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for proposing this legislation.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation. Let me first extend my congratulations to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the chief sponsor of the bill. I think he has done marvelous work in bringing this bill to the floor of the House. It is a bipartisan initiative in every respect. I also want to extend my thanks to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his willingness to accommodate both the concerns of the administration and the concerns of other Members. Their constructive suggestions and amendments improved this bill. I also want to note that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who spoke previously has been a steadfast supporter of the bill, but was inadvertently omitted from the list of cosponsors.

This bill has been very well explained by my colleagues on the floor. I am not going to repeat what they have said. I do want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER). He was one of the early supporters of this program and has seen it through all the way. He gave us an excellent description just a moment ago of the impact the bill would have on Bangladesh.

We bring so many bills to this floor under confrontational and adversarial conditions. We all understand that is the way the process works. But it is a very great pleasure to participate in the development of legislation, such as the bill before us today, that has such solid, broad bipartisan support. It has been a pleasure for me to work on it.

Let me simply point out to Members that the administration's position on the bill is that they support passage of H.R. 2870. At the same time, however, the administration has expressed concern about the potential financing of the program. The sponsors of the bill hope that these financing procedures can be worked out in the future. But it is important to note that the administration supports passage of the bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2870.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, only to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON) for his kind remarks toward me.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, and I would like to commend the gentlemen, Messrs. PORTMAN and KASICH, from Ohio, for their efforts. The purpose of this legislation is simple—to facilitate greater protection of tropical forests while being cognizant of today's tight budgetary constraints.

The benefits derived from these biologically diverse forests are numerous. Rain forests should not be considered as just a source of

timber. They provide a livelihood for people, a habitat for plants and animals, and help stabilize the global climate. Unfortunately, more than half of the earth's tropical forests have disappeared. I believe it is in the best interest of America to cooperate with the rest of the world to protect this vital resource.

Developing countries face enormous economic pressures which have increased the pressure on the world's rainforests. By relieving the economic burdens that fuel this destruction and exploitation of fragile resources, we can help redirect a nation's development efforts to more environmentally friendly projects. HR 2870 addresses this need through an innovative program—restructuring the U.S. debts of extremely poor countries in exchange for local protection of tropical forests.

This program would not be open to any country wanting to restructure its debt. A country could participate only if it meets certain eligibility requirements, such as having a democratically elected government. Also, a country would be prohibited from supporting terrorism and would have to cooperate in the international war on drugs. These are not the only criteria a country must meet to receive the benefits of debt restructuring. An eligible country must use the funds only to "preserve, maintain, and restore the tropical forests."

Also, the distribution of these funds would be monitored by an administering body composed of U.S. Government officials and representatives from various environmental, scientific, and academic organizations.

This legislation builds on President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, providing an effective solution to deforestation while assisting less-developed countries restructure uncontrollable debt.

This bill shows what can be accomplished when everyone, irrespective of political and ideological views, puts their differences aside to solve a common problem. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2870.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill. In 1988, I offered the first debt-for-nature bill. This legislation was then incorporated into the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) by President Bush. This initiative forgave approximately \$800 million in debt from seven Latin American countries that would have never been repaid. This exchange generated approximately \$150 million in investment for the preservation of tropical forest ecosystems.

A recent World Wildlife Fund report stated the tropical forests are being lost at a rate of 42 million acres per year. The EAI has helped to preserve many important tropical forests in the Western Hemisphere, most notably the Beni Biosphere Reserve in Bolivia. I am a cosponsor of this bill because it builds on my initiative. This financial mechanism has been successful in preserving tropical forests in our hemisphere and we must now look to other important rainforests, especially those in Indonesia. Eighty-eight percent of the original forest in the Asia-Pacific region have been destroyed and current wildfires throughout the islands of Indonesia are exacerbating this situation. This bill expands the EAI to this region and will hopefully facilitate the protection of tropical forests throughout the world.

As Chairman of Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE USA) and Co-Chairman of the Congressional

Human Rights Caucus, I support the use of debt-for-nature swaps not only because of the success they have had in protecting rainforests but also because they utilize local non-governmental organizations. By working with and through these community groups, natural resources are preserved and the rights of indigenous peoples are respected. I have lauded the success of these debt exchanges in the past and I hope that this program will continue to expand.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2870

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

SECTION 1. DEBT REDUCTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH TROPICAL FORESTS.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART V—DEBT REDUCTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH TROPICAL FORESTS

"SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

"This part may be cited as the 'Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998'.

"SEC. 802. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

"(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

"(1) It is the established policy of the United States to support and seek protection of tropical forests around the world.

"(2) Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits to humankind by—

"(A) harboring a major share of the Earth's biological and terrestrial resources, which are the basis for developing pharmaceutical products and revitalizing agricultural crops;

"(B) playing a critical role as carbon sinks in reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, thus moderating potential global climate change; and

"(C) regulating hydrological cycles on which far-flung agricultural and coastal resources depend.

"(3) International negotiations and assistance programs to conserve forest resources have proliferated over the past decade, but the rapid rate of tropical deforestation continues unabated.

"(4) Developing countries with urgent needs for investment and capital for development have allocated a significant amount of their forests to logging concessions.

"(5) Poverty and economic pressures on the populations of developing countries have, over time, resulted in clearing of vast areas of forest for conversion to agriculture, which is often unsustainable in the poor soils underlying tropical forests.

"(6) Debt reduction can reduce economic pressures on developing countries and result in increased protection for tropical forests.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this part are—

"(1) to recognize the values received by United States citizens from protection of tropical forests;

“(2) to facilitate greater protection of tropical forests (and to give priority to protecting tropical forests with the highest levels of biodiversity and under the most severe threat) by providing for the alleviation of debt in countries where tropical forests are located, thus allowing the use of additional resources to protect these critical resources and reduce economic pressures that have led to deforestation;

“(3) to ensure that resources freed from debt in such countries are targeted to protection of tropical forests and their associated values; and

“(4) to rechannel existing resources to facilitate the protection of tropical forests.

“SEC. 803. DEFINITIONS.

“As used in this part:

“(1) ADMINISTERING BODY.—The term ‘administering body’ means the entity provided for in section 809(c).

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(3) BENEFICIARY COUNTRY.—The term ‘beneficiary country’ means an eligible country with respect to which the authority of section 806(a)(1), section 807(a)(1), or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 808(a) is exercised.

“(4) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the board referred to in section 811.

“(5) DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH A TROPICAL FOREST.—The term ‘developing country with a tropical forest’ means—

“(A)(i) a country that has a per capita income of \$725 or less in 1994 United States dollars (commonly referred to as ‘low-income country’), as determined and adjusted on an annual basis by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in its World Development Report; or

“(ii) a country that has a per capita income of more than \$725 but less than \$8,956 in 1994 United States dollars (commonly referred to as ‘middle-income country’), as determined and adjusted on an annual basis by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in its World Development Report; and

“(B) a country that contains at least one tropical forest that is globally outstanding in terms of its biological diversity or represents one of the larger intact blocks of tropical forests left, on a regional, continental, or global scale.

“(6) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible country’ means a country designated by the President in accordance with section 805.

“(7) TROPICAL FOREST AGREEMENT.—The term ‘Tropical Forest Agreement’ or ‘Agreement’ means a Tropical Forest Agreement provided for in section 809.

“(8) TROPICAL FOREST FACILITY.—The term ‘Tropical Forest Facility’ or ‘Facility’ means the Tropical Forest Facility established in the Department of the Treasury by section 804.

“(9) TROPICAL FOREST FUND.—The term ‘Tropical Forest Fund’ or ‘Fund’ means a Tropical Forest Fund provided for in section 810.

“SEC. 804. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FACILITY.

“There is established in the Department of the Treasury an entity to be known as the ‘Tropical Forest Facility’ for the purpose of providing for the administration of debt reduction in accordance with this part.

“SEC. 805. ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for benefits from the Facility under this part, a country shall be a developing country with a tropical forest—

“(1) whose government meets the requirements applicable to Latin American or Caribbean countries under paragraphs (1) through (5) and (7) of section 703(a) of this Act;

“(2) that has put in place major investment reforms, as evidenced by the conclusion of a bi-

lateral investment treaty with the United States, implementation of an investment sector loan with the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank-supported investment reforms, or other measures, as appropriate; and

“(3) whose government meets other requirements related to its environmental policies and practices, as determined by the President.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with subsection (a), the President shall determine whether a country is eligible to receive benefits under this part.

“(2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of his intention to designate a country as an eligible country at least 15 days in advance of any formal determination.

“SEC. 806. REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A RESULT OF CONCESSIONAL LOANS UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

“(a) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE DEBT.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—The President may reduce the amount owed to the United States (or any agency of the United States) that is outstanding as of January 1, 1997, as a result of concessional loans made to an eligible country by the United States under part I of this Act, chapter 4 of part II of this Act, or predecessor foreign economic assistance legislation.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) for the reduction of any debt pursuant to this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President—

“(A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(B) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and

“(C) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

“(3) CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS INAPPLICABLE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A reduction of debt pursuant to this section shall not be considered assistance for purposes of any provision of law limiting assistance to a country.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—The authority of this section may be exercised notwithstanding section 620(r) of this Act or section 321 of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975.

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF DEBT REDUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any debt reduction pursuant to subsection (a) shall be accomplished at the direction of the Facility by the exchange of a new obligation for obligations of the type referred to in subsection (a) outstanding as of the date specified in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) EXCHANGE OF OBLIGATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Facility shall notify the agency primarily responsible for administering part I of this Act of an agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with an eligible country to exchange a new obligation for outstanding obligations.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—At the direction of the Facility, the old obligations that are the subject of the agreement shall be canceled and a new debt obligation for the country shall be established relating to the agreement, and the agency primarily responsible for administering part I of this Act shall make an adjustment in its accounts to reflect the debt reduction.

“(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The following additional terms and conditions shall apply to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) in the same manner as such terms and conditions apply to the reduction of debt under section 704(a)(1) of this Act:

“(1) The provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 705 of this Act.

“(2) The provisions relating to interest on new obligations under section 706 of this Act.

“SEC. 807. REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A RESULT OF CREDITS EXTENDED UNDER TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.

“(a) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE DEBT.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may reduce the amount owed to the United States (or any agency of the United States) that is outstanding as of January 1, 1997, as a result of any credits extended under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to a country eligible for benefits from the Facility.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) for the reduction of any debt pursuant to this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President—

“(i) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

“(ii) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and

“(iii) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The authority provided by this section shall be available only to the extent that appropriations for the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) of the modification of any debt pursuant to this section are made in advance.

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF DEBT REDUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any debt reduction pursuant to subsection (a) shall be accomplished at the direction of the Facility by the exchange of a new obligation for obligations of the type referred to in subsection (a) outstanding as of the date specified in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) EXCHANGE OF OBLIGATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Facility shall notify the Commodity Credit Corporation of an agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with an eligible country to exchange a new obligation for outstanding obligations.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—At the direction of the Facility, the old obligations that are the subject of the agreement shall be canceled and a new debt obligation shall be established for the country relating to the agreement, and the Commodity Credit Corporation shall make an adjustment in its accounts to reflect the debt reduction.

“(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The following additional terms and conditions shall apply to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) in the same manner as such terms and conditions apply to the reduction of debt under section 604(a)(1) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1738c):

“(1) The provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 605 of such Act.

“(2) The provisions relating to interest on new obligations under section 606 of such Act.

“SEC. 808. AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAPS AND DEBT BUYBACKS.

“(a) LOANS AND CREDITS ELIGIBLE FOR SALE, REDUCTION, OR CANCELLATION.—

“(1) DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAPS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may, in accordance with this section, sell to any eligible purchaser described in subparagraph (B) any concessional loans described in section 806(a)(1) or any credits described in section 807(a)(1), or on receipt of payment from an eligible purchaser described in subparagraph (B), reduce or cancel such loans (or credits) or portion thereof, only for the purpose of facilitating a debt-for-nature swap to support eligible activities described in section 809(d).

“(B) ELIGIBLE PURCHASER DESCRIBED.—A loan or credit may be sold, reduced, or canceled under subparagraph (A) only to a purchaser who presents plans satisfactory to the President for using the loan or credit for the purpose of engaging in debt-for-nature swaps to support eligible activities described in section 809(d).

“(C) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—Before the sale under subparagraph (A) to any eligible purchaser described in subparagraph (B), or any reduction or cancellation under such subparagraph (A), of any loan or credit made to an eligible country, the President shall consult

with the country concerning the amount of loans or credits to be sold, reduced, or canceled and their uses for debt-for-nature swaps to support eligible activities described in section 809(d).

“(D) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) for the reduction of any debt pursuant to subparagraph (A), amounts authorized to be appropriated under sections 806(a)(2) and 807(a)(2) shall be made available for such reduction of debt pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(2) **DEBT BUYBACKS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may, in accordance with this section, sell to any eligible country any concessional loans described in section 806(a)(1) or any credits described in section 807(a)(1), or on receipt of payment from an eligible country, reduce or cancel such loans (or credits) or portion thereof, only for the purpose of facilitating a debt buyback by an eligible country of its own qualified debt, only if the eligible country uses an additional amount of the local currency of the eligible country, equal to not less than the lesser of 40 percent of the price paid for such debt by such eligible country, or the difference between the price paid for such debt and the face value of such debt, to support eligible activities described in section 809(d).

“(3) **LIMITATION.**—The authority provided by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be available only to the extent that appropriations for the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) of the modification of any debt pursuant such paragraphs are made in advance.

“(4) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall, in accordance with this section, establish the terms and conditions under which loans and credits may be sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this section.

“(5) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Facility shall notify the administrator of the agency primarily responsible for administering part I of this Act or the Commodity Credit Corporation, as the case may be, of eligible purchasers described in paragraph (1)(B) that the President has determined to be eligible under paragraph (1), and shall direct such agency or Corporation, as the case may be, to carry out the sale, reduction, or cancellation of a loan pursuant to such paragraph.

“(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Such agency or Corporation, as the case may be, shall make an adjustment in its accounts to reflect the sale, reduction, or cancellation.

“(b) **DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.**—The proceeds from the sale, reduction, or cancellation of any loan sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the United States Government account or accounts established for the repayment of such loan.

“SEC. 809. TROPICAL FOREST AGREEMENT.

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State is authorized, in consultation with other appropriate officials of the Federal Government, to enter into a Tropical Forest Agreement with any eligible country concerning the operation and use of the Fund for that country.

“(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In the negotiation of such an Agreement, the Secretary shall consult with the Board in accordance with section 811.

“(b) **CONTENTS OF AGREEMENT.**—The requirements contained in section 708(b) of this Act (relating to contents of an agreement) shall apply to a Agreement in the same manner as such requirements apply to an Americas Framework Agreement.

“(c) **ADMINISTERING BODY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts disbursed from the Fund in each beneficiary country shall be administered by a body constituted under the laws of that country.

“(2) **COMPOSITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The administering body shall consist of—

“(i) one or more individuals appointed by the United States Government;

“(ii) one or more individuals appointed by the government of the beneficiary country; and

“(iii) individuals who represent a broad range of—

“(I) environmental nongovernmental organizations of, or active in, the beneficiary country;

“(II) local community development nongovernmental organizations of the beneficiary country; and

“(III) scientific or academic organizations or institutions of the beneficiary country.

“(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—A majority of the members of the administering body shall be individuals described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(3) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The requirements contained in section 708(c)(3) of this Act (relating to responsibilities of the administering body) shall apply to an administering body described in paragraph (1) in the same manner as such requirements apply to an administering body described in section 708(c)(1) of this Act.

“(d) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Amounts deposited in a Fund shall be used to provide grants to preserve, maintain, and restore the tropical forests in the beneficiary country, including one or more of the following activities:

“(1) Establishment, restoration, protection, and maintenance of parks, protected areas, and reserves.

“(2) Development and implementation of scientifically sound systems of natural resource management, including land and ecosystem management practices.

“(3) Training programs to strengthen conservation institutions and increase scientific, technical, and managerial capacities of individuals and organizations involved in conservation efforts.

“(4) Restoration, protection, or sustainable use of diverse animal and plant species.

“(5) Mitigation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

“(6) Development and support of the livelihoods of individuals living in or near a tropical forest, including the cultures of such individuals, in a manner consistent with protecting such tropical forest.

“(e) **GRANT RECIPIENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Grants made from a Fund shall be made to—

“(A) nongovernmental environmental, conservation, and indigenous people organizations of, or active in, the beneficiary country;

“(B) other appropriate local or regional entities of, or active in, the beneficiary country; and

“(C) in exceptional circumstances, the government of the beneficiary country.

“(2) **PRIORITY.**—In providing grants under paragraph (1), priority shall be given to projects that are run by nongovernmental organizations and other private entities and that involve local communities in their planning and execution.

“(f) **REVIEW OF LARGER GRANTS.**—Any grant of more than \$100,000 from a Fund shall be subject to veto by the Government of the United States or the government of the beneficiary country.

“(g) **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**—In the event that a country ceases to meet the eligibility requirements set forth in section 805(a), as determined by the President pursuant to section 805(b), then grants from the Fund for that country may only be made to nongovernmental organizations until such time as the President determines that such country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 805(a).

“SEC. 810. TROPICAL FOREST FUND.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Each beneficiary country that enters into a Tropical Forest Agreement under section 809 shall be required to establish a Tropical Forest Fund to receive payments of interest on new obligations undertaken by the beneficiary country under this part.

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO OPERATION OF FUND.**—The following terms and conditions shall apply to the Fund in the same manner as such terms and conditions apply to an Enterprise for the Americas Fund under section 707 of this Act:

“(1) The provision relating to deposits under subsection (b) of such section.

“(2) The provision relating to investments under subsection (c) of such section.

“(3) The provision relating to disbursements under subsection (d) of such section.

“SEC. 811. BOARD.

“(a) **ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS BOARD.**—The Enterprise for the Americas Board established under section 610(a) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1738i(a)) shall, in addition to carrying out the responsibilities of the Board under section 610(c) of such Act, carry out the duties described in subsection (c) of this section for the purposes of this part.

“(b) **ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Enterprise for the Americas Board shall be composed of an additional four members appointed by the President as follows:

“(A) Two representatives from the United States Government.

“(B) Two representatives from private nongovernmental environmental, scientific, and academic organizations with experience and expertise in preservation, maintenance, and restoration of tropical forests.

“(2) **CHAIRPERSON.**—Notwithstanding section 610(b)(2) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1738i(b)(2)), the Enterprise for the Americas Board shall be headed by a chairperson who shall be appointed by the President from among the representatives appointed under section 610(b)(1)(A) of such Act or paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

“(c) **DUTIES.**—The duties described in this subsection are as follows:

“(1) Advise the Secretary of State on the negotiations of Tropical Forest Agreements.

“(2) Ensure, in consultation with—

“(A) the government of the beneficiary country,

“(B) nongovernmental organizations of the beneficiary country,

“(C) nongovernmental organizations of the region (if appropriate),

“(D) environmental, scientific, and academic leaders of the beneficiary country, and

“(E) environmental, scientific, and academic leaders of the region (as appropriate), that a suitable administering body is identified for each Fund.

“(3) Review the programs, operations, and fiscal audits of each administering body.

“SEC. 812. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS.

“The President shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees on a periodic basis to review the operation of the Facility under this part and the eligibility of countries for benefits from the Facility under this part.

“SEC. 813. ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than December 31 of each fiscal year, the President shall prepare and transmit to the Congress an annual report concerning the operation of the Facility for the prior fiscal year. Such report shall include—

“(1) a description of the activities undertaken by the Facility during the previous fiscal year;

“(2) a description of any Agreement entered into under this part;

“(3) a report on any Funds that have been established under this part and on the operations of such Funds; and

“(4) a description of any grants that have been provided by administering bodies pursuant to Agreements under this part.

“(b) **SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS IN ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than December 15 of each fiscal year, each member of the Board shall be entitled

to receive a copy of the report required under subsection (a). Each member of the Board may prepare and submit supplemental views to the President on the implementation of this part by December 31 for inclusion in the annual report when it is transmitted to Congress pursuant to this section."

The CHAIRMAN. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone a request for a recorded vote on any amendment and may reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the time for voting on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote, provided that the time for voting on the first question shall be a minimum of 15 minutes.

Are there any amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. GILMAN:

Page 10, after line 15, insert the following:

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The President shall notify the congressional committees specified in section 634A of this Act at least 15 days in advance of each reduction of debt pursuant to this section in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under such section 634A.

Page 10, line 16, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 12, after line 25, insert the following:

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The President shall notify the congressional committees specified in section 634A of this Act at least 15 days in advance of each reduction of debt pursuant to this section in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under such section 634A.

Page 13, line 1, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

Page 16, after line 21, insert the following:

(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The President shall notify the congressional committees specified in section 634A of this Act at least 15 days in advance of each sale, reduction, or cancellation of loans or credits pursuant to this section in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under such section 634A.

Page 16, line 22, strike "(b)" and insert "(c)".

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment merely gives the Congress an extra level of protection with regard to this bill. Under the current bill, the administration must notify the Congress when a country is eligible for debt relief. While that is comforting, the Congress would not know of the amount of debt to be forgiven, the financial commitment to the environment made by the host country, the specific habitat to be protected or the local groups designated by the administration and host country to carry out the project.

Under this bill, we are giving authority to the President to carry out debt

relief anywhere a country is eligible. We want to do projects in difficult nations like Indonesia and eventually the Congo where critical habitats are, but I have some concerns about the governments and local groups there. This amendment would give us one last look at the complete arrangement before moving forward.

We would reference section 634(A) of the Foreign Assistant Act, using a well-worn procedure of consultation between the Congress and the executive branch. I understand that the Treasury Department had some concerns with the amendment. I am totally willing to work with them to refine the notification process as the bill moves through the Senate. Accordingly, I urge our Members to support the amendment.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I commend the gentleman for bringing it forward. I think all of us agree that the Congress should be notified of any appropriations to eligible countries under the bill. I was pleased to hear the gentleman say a moment ago that he would work with the administration with regard to a notification process that conserves administrative resources and is not duplicative. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 388, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) will be postponed.

Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENTS NO. 2 AND 3 OFFERED BY MR.

VENTO

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I offer amendments, and I ask unanimous consent that they be considered en bloc.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendments.

The text of the amendments is as follows:

Amendments No. 2 and 3 offered by Mr. VENTO:

Page 19, after line 20, insert the following:

"(5) Research and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest plant life to treat human diseases and illnesses and other health-related concerns.

Page 19, line 21, strike "(5)" and insert "(6)".

Page 19, line 23, strike "(6)" and insert "(7)".

Page 23, line 12, after "scientific" insert "indigenous,".

Page 23, line 14, after "scientific," insert "indigenous,".

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, again I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the principal sponsor of the bill. These amendments are non-

controversial amendments. I appreciate the support of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), chairman and ranking member of the committee.

I would want to point out that this is a good bill, but one of the major ways that we gain information here is by consulting with the indigenous people of these areas from the rain forests that in fact have used many of the products, the plants, both the fauna and flora of these rain forests for medicinal and other purposes. That consultation process is recognized in Amendment No. 3 that I have here where I amend and put the word "indigenous," as well as consulting with the scientists, with the government officials and others, the academic side, to in fact consult with the indigenous people. What we really have in consulting with the indigenous people from these cultures is really the history of humankind in terms of the success, the trial and errors that they have used in terms of applying these plant substances, these animal substances for medicinal uses. It only is logical, in fact that is the way that most scientists, most ethnobotanists and others in fact gain the clues as to where to search for and look and seek these, what we call wonder drugs today, Mr. Chairman.

Secondly, this amendment would make in order on page 20 a new eligible activity for grant, which would be research and identification of medicinal use of tropical forest plants to treat human diseases and illness and other related concerns. In other words, Mr. Chairman, the concern here was that while I think it is consistent in the bill, the oft repeated goal of trying to preserve this pharmacological material from these forests, in fact, the grant process did not specify for this purpose. My amendment offered en bloc will do that.

Mr. Chairman, my interest in this springs from work that I conducted in years past leading the Parks and Public Lands Committee in designating as a park the fallow tropical rain forest of American Samoa. I encountered and became a friend of Dr. Paul Cox, a professor from Brigham Young University in Utah, and who now is leading the Tropical Forestry Botanical Garden in Hawaii. He is a noted scholar and has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the 10 top medical scientists in 1997. He related the experience that he had as a Mormon missionary first, and later as a professor of botany in terms of trying to gain the understanding and currently gain that from the indigenous people, from the American Samoan, from the Western Samoan people and has in fact been able to have several compounds and materials considered for medical use in the United States. Very often, he put it pretty bluntly that many of these countries in order to get a school or a building are prepared to sell off thousands of acres

of their land so they get a school or other building put up. The fact of the matter is the real value of those lands that we know and is within the biodiversity and other characteristics which they exhibit. What he has been able to do, and I know it is not the subject of this bill but I will be submitting legislation on it, was to in fact give the indigenous people, the American Samoan or the Western Samoan people, part of the profit that comes from the replication of these natural compounds and substances that were the intellectual property of these Samoan people. This is, I think, putting a real value on it and a positive incentive for others to share this information and then to benefit as well from such discovery.

H.R. 2870 is a positive bill. Its goal is to end or significantly curtail the destruction of the world's tropical forests with nature's debt for swapping a commitment to preserve such rain forests as a new and working policy and law. In the past half-century we have logged or burned half of the planet's tropical forests. In the eighties, as a matter of fact, they were disappearing at the rate of 30 million acres per year—roughly the size of Pennsylvania. And as we have seen again and again, when you slash, burn or log the forest, many species, the biodiversity, of flora and fauna are lost, most often permanently!

This legislation seeks to stem that tide. With passage of H.R. 2870, the United States will continue and strengthen its efforts to encourage developing nations to treat their forests responsibly. It expands the successful model created by the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) in which the United States offers debt relief to nations in exchange for the protection of important forest habitats. With passage of this bill, nations around the world will be able to participate in a program that has worked very well in the Americas. That's good news for Mother Earth because there are tropical forests around the globe—in Africa, Polynesia, Asia, and elsewhere.

I commend Mr. KASICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. HAMILTON for working together on a bipartisan basis to bring this issue to the floor. It proves something that I have been saying for a long time: The environment is not and should not be a partisan issue.

Today I seek to offer two amendments that address a unique aspect of our rain forests. The amendments focus on the role that tropical forests and the culture of the people that live in such areas play in the discovery and development of new pharmaceuticals.

An estimated one-half of the Earth's 250,000 plants survive in tropical forest ecosystems. Of these, less than one percent have been exhaustively studied for their possible role as medicinal substances. This is incredible considering that important medicines come from such natural plant resources including aspirin, codeine, quinine, which combats malaria, and taxol, which has proven effective in the first against ovarian and breast cancer, and many more. The basic chemistry comes from nature first and is replicated in our labs for commercial manufacture. These are the wonder drugs that save lives and improve our quality of life.

A very good friend of ours, Professor Paul Cox, has worked extensively in the field of ethnobotany—the study of the relationship be-

tween plants and people. I will seek unanimous consent that a profile of Mr. Cox that appeared in Time Magazine appear in the RECORD following my statement. Dr. Cox is our modern scientist learning from indigenous peoples. He has spent time in Polynesia and discovered an impressive array of pharmaceuticals used by the indigenous people to develop medicines from plants and animals that are found in their natural rain forest environment. Just among the most recent discoveries were medicinal substances to cure or reduce skin inflammation, rashes, diarrhea and asthma—all for the asking and understanding of the paleotropical rainforest people of Samoa, a Polynesian island in the Western Pacific.

In other parts of the world, indigenous peoples have used plants that fight anything from fungal infections of the skin to cancer. The problem is that there are neither enough scientists such as Dr. Cox nor enough money to fund their essential research. My amendment would address the grant expenditure provisions of this bill to include eligibility for the research and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest flora and fauna to treat human diseases and illnesses.

This is an urgent issue that merits our attention. Just as the tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate, the use of plants in traditional societies seems to be a pursuit of previous generations that are passing on with their know how. Two of the Samoan healers who worked with our friend Mr. Cox to develop a powerful antiviral compound passed away in 1994! Their knowledge went with them. One can only speculate about the number of healers Mr. Cox or other ethnobotanists have not yet reached. In passing this amendment, we may be able to capture much of this know how, a body of knowledge that is the experience of mankind and human history to exploit such natural resources.

While this small change won't translate into more money to definitively access and inventory potential medicinal flora and fauna, it is a very positive step to embrace the activity as eligible for such support and perhaps curing some of our most stubborn diseases today and tomorrow.

I am also offering in this enbloc amendment a policy to expand the consultation requirement for nations when they are shaping and writing Tropical Forest Agreements. The bill currently includes a requirement to consult with scientists and academics who are familiar with tropical forest issues. My amendment would be certain that indigenous representatives, the local people of such areas, are at the table, as well. As I note above, within these cultures there are, in many cases, a far more intimate knowledge of the utility of the earth's rain forests than we could attain. Let us use it daily and openly acknowledging and rewarding their special knowledge and culture. It is absolutely crucial that we include such input into the tropical forest preservation that this measure envisions.

An issue related to these two amendments that I considered raising today is the protection of the intellectual property—the value of such knowledge and know-how that healers in traditional society possess. Indeed, if a pharmaceutical company were to find a cure for cancer or AIDS with the help of healers and traditional medicine, we should certainly ensure that they were properly compensated and share in the reward and profit for the use of

their culture's intellectual property. As this is of course a more complicated issue and not as relevant to the issues in this bill, I will attempt to address this issue at a later date in a separate policy initiative. I simply wanted to note to the Chairman and the ranking member that this was something we should keep in mind as we proceed with the preservation and utilization of these biologically diverse rain forests.

Natural weather events over which we have little control today are resulting in fire out of control in Amazonia—23 to 25,000 square miles, in fact some 16 million acres have been affected. Additionally in parts of the Indonesian region, fire has devastated vast regions of virgin rain forest, areas that will be lost for all of the important qualities—a carbon sink, the hydrological regime of these ecosystems, the sheer biodiversity, and the major source of pharmaceutical products—for tomorrow is being adversely impacted by such phenomenon is essential that we pass this measure and most importantly make it work. The international nature of our environment has never been more apparent, but alas the willingness of the United States to lead and to participate seems to be subject to a paralysis of fear and suspicion. Hopefully this measure signals a reversal of the denial that has characterized a number of harmful House-passed measures that undercut voluntary conservation treaties and agreements key to a rational pursuit of global environmental policy based on success and cooperation around the world.

It was a pleasure working on this issue with the members of the Committee and the sponsors of this bill. I am especially pleased that we will be able to dispose of these important issues without controversy today. These are good amendments to a good bill and I ask for my colleagues support.

SEEKING ANSWERS IN ANCIENT RAIN-Forest REMEDIES IS A LIFE'S WORK FOR PLANT HUNTER

The teacher and student sit cross-legged, facing each other on the floor of the open-sided hut in Western Samoa. Behind them the rain forest rises to the pinnacle of a long-dormant volcano. Beneath the thatched roof, a gaggle of children intently watches the proceedings. The teacher is Salome Isofea, 30, a young healer who is demonstrating her art. The man opposite her, a Westerner named Paul Alan Cox, is no ordinary student. He is a botany professor and dean at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, a world specialist in medicinal plants and, far from least in this exotic setting, the paramount chief of the nearby village of Falealupo. To people here, he is known as Nafanua, in honor of a legendary Samoan warrior goddess who once saved the village from oppression and protected its forests.

Salome is explaining a traditional cure for pterygium, an eye affliction common to the tropics in which vision gradually becomes obscured as a layer of tissue encroaches over the cornea. The traditional cure used by healers is leaves of *Centella asiatica*, a groundhugging vine, which Salome chews into a poultice, smears on a cloth and then places as a compress on the afflicted eye for three consecutive nights.

But before this can be done, Salome explains, there is another crucial part of the cure. Holding a coconut-shell bowl containing ashes, she flicks them in the direction of Cox, who is playing the patient. When he soberly asks why the ashes are necessary, she replies that they enhance "spiritual transmission" between healer and patient. "We Westerners have to suspend judgment at these times."

ONLY YOUNG PRACTICING HEALERS, COX BELIEVES, CAN PREVENT THE LOSS OF CENTURIES OF KNOWLEDGE

Look at our own belief in doctors wearing white coats. In Western culture that uniform is comparable to the "spiritual transmission she sees in the use of ash."

Moments like this are typical of Cox's experience as he scours the world's flora in search of plants that will benefit Western medicine. Cox has spent years in Samoa interviewing or apprenticing himself to traditional healers. He has also traveled throughout the South Pacific, as well as in Southeast Asia, South America, East Africa and as far north as Sweden's Lapland. In Samoa alone, healers have led him and his colleagues to 74 medicinal plants that might prove useful.

Samoa healers concoct poultices and infusions from the leaves, bark and roots of local plants, using them for conditions that range from high fever to appendicitis. Among them are root of 'Ago (*curcuma longa*) for rashes, leaves of the kuava tree (*Psidium guajava*) for diarrhea, and the bark of vavae (*Ceiba pentandra*) for asthma. Virtually all the healers are women who learned their art from their mothers, who in turn learned it from their mothers. Now knowledge of the recipes and their administration, even the location of the plants in the forests, is endangered as more and more daughters forgo the long filial apprenticeships in favor of using Western pills and ointments.

For this reason, the discovery of young practicing healers like Salome delights Cox, who believes that only people like her can prevent the loss of centuries of knowledge. If he can carry Salome's knowledge to the developed world in the form of plants whose myriad chemical compounds might help combat incurable diseases—notably cancer, AIDS and Alzheimer's—the impetus to save the Samoan rain forest, and all forests, will be that much stronger.

Fewer than 1% of the world's 265,000 flowering plants, most inhabiting equatorial regions, have been tested for their effectiveness against disease. "We haven't even scratched the surface—not even in our own backyard," says Jim Miller, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden's natural-products program. Yet nearly a quarter of prescription drugs sold in the U.S. are based on chemicals from just 40 plant species. Examples are abundant. Codeine and morphine are derived from poppies. Vincristine and vinblastine, isolated from the rosy periwinkle, help treat cancers, including Hodgkin's disease and some leukemias. Curare, taken from several lethal Amazonian plants and often used to tip hunting arrows, is used in drugs that bolster anesthesia. An extract of the snakeroot plant, reserpine, traditionally employed in Asia to counteract poisonous snake bite, is the basis of a number of tranquilizers and hypertension drugs. Taxol, a compound in the bark of the Pacific yew, is used to treat some cases of advanced ovarian and breast cancer.

The drive is intensifying to collect and screen more natural products for their medicinal effects, says Gordon Cragg, chief of the National Cancer Institute's natural-products branch: "Nature produces chemicals that no chemist would ever dream of at the laboratory bench." All this is heartening for biologists and environmentalists concerned about the dwindling of the planet's biodiversity, mostly concentrated in a wide girdle around the equator. Human activity, from farming to logging and road building, is chewing at this girdle, driving countless species to extinction even before they have been discovered. "I see ethnobotany—the study of the relationship between people and plants—

as the key to the preservation of this vast collection of species as well as a pathway to halting many diseases," says Cox.

Cox, 44, a Mormon, first came to Samoa in 1973, when he was assigned to the country for his two-year compulsory missionary service after he graduated from Brigham Young as a botany major. His father was a park ranger and his mother a wildlife and fisheries biologist; his grandfather created the Utah state park system; and his great-grandfather was a founder of Arbor Day. Cox naturally expected to end up involved in conservation, but his stint in Samoa surpassed all his expectations.

He was not only impressed by the far-reaching influence of botany that he witnessed—beginning with the scene of a Samoan fisherman using a plant to poison fish in a river—but he also learned to speak and write Samoan better than many Samoans. (A difficult language, Samoan in its most elegant form requires extensive knowledge of local ritual and legend.) Cox went on to earn a doctorate in biology at Harvard, then joined Brigham Young's faculty as a botanist studying plant physiology and pollination.

In 1984 Cox returned to Samoa as an ethnobotanist, propelled there by personal misfortune. That year, Cox's mother had died a long and painful death from cancer. After witnessing her suffering, Cox experienced a revelation of sorts. Well aware of the rich tradition of folk healing he had observed a decade earlier, he now hoped to find a cure for cancer. "I vowed I would do whatever I could to fight the disease that killed my mother," he writes in *Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rain Forest*, a book being published this fall that recounts his work and life in Samoa.

This time he brought along his wife and four young children. The family settled on the island of Savai'i in the isolated village of Falealupo, the westernmost point of Western Samoa, one of the world's poorest countries (average annual per capita income: \$100). Here, far from many of the Western influences of neighboring American Samoa, Cox felt he could learn about the plants and the healers who use them before both vanished.

Major technological advances in screening processes have helped Cox and other ethnobotanists immensely. Pharmacologists must analyze between 10,000 and 17,000 chemical compounds before finding one with the potential to be tested for efficacy in humans. Until recently, animal testing and clinical trials of a single drug required an average 12 years of research and cost up to \$300 million. But initial screening can now be done in a matter of days without using animals. Molecular biologists are able to isolate enzymes that can trigger human diseases, then expose those enzymes to a plant's chemical compounds. If a plant extract blocks the action of a particular enzyme—say, one that promotes a skin inflammation—they know the plant has drug potential. By extracting specific chemicals from the leaves, roots or bark with a series of solvents and testing each sample individually, scientists can determine which of the plant's thousands of compounds actually blocks the enzyme.

As a result of these advances, about 100 U.S. companies are searching out plants. Drug companies and scientific institutions are collaborating on field research all over the globe, racing to study as many natural substances as possible before they, or the native people who use them, disappear. Some work with the handful of ethnobotanists like Cox to ferret out drug candidates based on their knowledge of indigenous peoples. Others use a broad-brush approach, mass-collecting plants whose chemical compounds might contribute to new drugs.

One of the most extensive prospecting efforts is the National Cancer Institute's,

which is focusing on screening plants for compounds active against the AIDS virus and nine major types of cancer. Since 1986, the NCI has received samplings of thousands of different species from ethnobotanists as well as such institutions as the New York Botanical Garden, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In contrast to random collecting, Cox feels ethnobotanical field research provides a far more streamlined way of locating plants that have medical potential. "Indigenous people have been testing plants on people for thousands of years," says Cox. More important, healers may alert ethnobotanists to nuances that random collecting could miss. Take *Homalanthus nutans*, a rain-forest tree whose bark Samoans have used for centuries as a cure for hepatitis. Cox quickly found that he could not just casually go into the forest and gather the bark because (1) there are two varieties of the tree, and the bark of only one is effective, and (2) only trees of a certain size produce the desired extract.

After Cox collected the proper bark samples, he sent them to the NCI in the mid-1980s for testing. One isolate, called prostratin, appeared to inhibit growth of the AIDS virus, at least in the test tube, leading the NCI to patent it. If prostratin could ever be developed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration, both the Western Samoan government and the citizens of Falealupo could be in for a windfall under a royalty arrangement that Cox worked out between both entities and the NCI.

Cox has located three other medically promising plants. Two of the plants, used by Samoans to control skin inflammations, are being investigated by a pharmaceutical firm. The third doubles the life span of infection-fighting T lymphocytes in the test tube; its effect in the human body is not yet known. Cox's family has already benefited from the anti-inflammatories. After his infant daughter Hillary came down with a skin infection that did not respond to Western ointments, a healer ground up some leaves; the resulting greenish goo made the infection disappear. When Cox's son Paul Matthew was stung by wasps, healers rubbed bark on the wounds, and the swelling vanished.

When Cox first arrived in his adopted village of 2,000, he put himself under the tutelage of a healer named Pela, now 82, who agreed to be his mentor. Recently, Pela introduced Cox to cures for eye diseases other than pterygium: a poultice of beach pea leaves for sun blindness, fluid from immature coconuts for general eye injury, and eye drops from a fern (*Phymatosorus scolopendrium*) as a treatment for cataracts. Cox heard two other healers from different villages verify this use of the fern, and he was exuberant. "When three healers all use the same thing for cataracts, it's like a dream come true," he exclaimed.

Cox is more than a healer's apprentice. He knows that if the rain forests of Samoa continue to disappear, hundreds of potential drugs hidden there may never be found. So he spends much of his time between Brigham Young semesters trying to preserve the acreage that remains. More than 80% of the lowland rain forest has already been logged. Cox's aim is to offer cash-poor Western Samoans an alternative to selling out to loggers.

Samoans have traditionally used the forest for hunting, collecting medicinal plants, harvesting wild fruits and cutting trees for their dugout canoes. In this crucible of nature and culture, Cox believes, lies hope for conservation and the future of ethnobotany. "We can't save the forest without saving the culture," he says, "and we can't save the culture without saving the forest."

In 1988, Falealupo almost lost its 30,000-acre forest. The government told the villagers to construct a new school. It would cost \$65,000, and the village would have to foot the bill. Ironically—or tellingly—a logging company arrived in the village shortly afterward and offered to pay \$65,000 for permission to cut down the forest. The villagers, their hand forced, submitted.

Cox intervened just in time. He offered to raise enough money by mortgaging his home in Utah. But while in the U.S. to make arrangements, he pleaded the case to his students and two Mormon businessmen. Within six weeks they had raised the money, and Cox, back in Samoa, formalized an agreement with the villagers to protect their forest for 50 years.

It was during this period that the villagers informed Cox that they wanted to name him heir to the goddess Nafanua. When he declined, fearing that the title would interfere with his research, the villagers refused to sign the preservation agreement. Cox relented. "Being a deity is not my cup of tea," he says, "but Nafanua stands for conservation and rain-forest ecology, so I said to them 'O.K., I'll take the cards I've been dealt.'" Now chiefs and children alike respectfully address him as Nafanua.

As a result of this work, Cox and a chief who helped him shared one of the six prestigious Goldman Environmental Prizes for 1997. Each received \$37,500. Since then Cox has expanded his preservation efforts by establishing the Seacology Foundation, based at Brigham Young. Some of the foundation's funding comes through Cox's ethnobotanical success with medicinally, or in this case cosmetically, valuable plants. When Nu Skin International, a Utah-based personal-care company, wanted to hire Cox as a consultant, he charged a \$40,000 fee that he plowed into the foundation. He also asked Nu Skin and Nature's Way, another Utah cosmetics firm, each to match his Goldman Prize award. Subsequently, Nu Skin began using extracts of a plant with anti-inflammatory properties in a foot cream. Seacology receives 25¢ for every tube of the cream sold.

The foundation has since provided money for the Western Samoan village of Tafua to preserve its 20,000-acre rain forest. It helped persuade Congress to authorize the National Park of American Samoa—about 10,000 acres of forests and 420 acres of coral reefs in the neighboring archipelago. And it has helped villages build schools, medical clinics and cisterns to catch rainfall, the main source of drinking water.

In Falealupo, the foundation paid for the construction of a series of connected platforms and a walkway 200 ft. high between two huge trees at the edge of the forest. Administered by villagers, the serial complex has brought in about \$1,000 a month from tourists and school groups since it opened, profit that the villagers use to maintain the forest. "This is the first time these people have made money from the forest without destroying it," says Cox. "If they keep making this kind of money and other villages hear about it, the forests will be saved."

Cox dreams that one day soon the people of Western Samoa will see the benefit of preserving not only the rain forests surrounding their villages but also the vast cloud forests that still cloak the sides of the volcanoes that form the spine of Savaii. Here he hopes the villagers will agree to "make the biggest national park in the whole world," before the chain saws get there too. He wants them to become as excited about the project as he is, rather than have the impetus come from outside. Behind this goal lies a philosophy that runs through Cox's work: helping native people understand the wealth of their heritage so that they will want to preserve it

rather than sell it. Since it's no less than Nafanua who is urging them on, that seems a reasonable goal.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to commend him for his amendments. I want to notify the gentleman from Minnesota that we accept his amendments.

Mr. VENTO. I appreciate the gentleman's support and his interest in this matter.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just want to add to that that we think these are thoughtful amendments. One of the major underlying purposes of this legislation of course is to promote protection of plants that can cure diseases. I think his second amendment certainly does that. I think it clarifies the use of grants. It is helpful. I think the addition of the members to the EAI board is also helpful in that regard and also to be sure the indigenous people are represented. I think the amendments are helpful legislation. I join the chairman of the committee in supporting them.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendments. I think they are valuable additions to the bill. The gentleman from Minnesota has made a positive, constructive contribution. The first amendment pertains to expanding eligible activities to include research and identification of tropical forest plants for medical use. I am told that flowering plants and ferns have given rise to over 120 commercially sold drugs and account for some 25 percent of all prescriptions issued in the United States. This fact indicates the importance of this amendment.

The second amendment that was offered would include indigenous people in the consultation process to establish the local administering body. We should all recognize that the indigenous people play a very critical role in helping researchers identify plants and flora that have medicinal use.

□ 1200

Their guidance and experience provide very important direction to researchers. Mr. Speaker, these are two excellent amendments, and I commend the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendments offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 388, further proceedings on

the amendments offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) will be postponed.

Are there other amendments?

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 388, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order: Amendment No. 1 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), and Amendments No. 2 and 3 offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

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

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GILMAN

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed, and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 416, noes 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 61]

AYES—416

Abercrombie	Buyer	Dickey
Ackerman	Callahan	Dicks
Aderholt	Calvert	Dingell
Allen	Camp	Dixon
Andrews	Campbell	Doggett
Archer	Canady	Dooley
Armey	Cannon	Doolittle
Bachus	Capps	Doyle
Baesler	Cardin	Dreier
Baker	Carson	Duncan
Baldacci	Castle	Dunn
Ballenger	Chabot	Edwards
Barcia	Chambliss	Ehlers
Barr	Chenoweth	Ehrlich
Barrett (NE)	Christensen	Emerson
Barrett (WI)	Clay	Engel
Bartlett	Clayton	English
Barton	Clement	Ensign
Bass	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bateman	Coble	Etheridge
Becerra	Coburn	Evans
Bentsen	Collins	Everett
Bereuter	Combest	Ewing
Berman	Condit	Farr
Berry	Conyers	Fattah
Bilbray	Cook	Fawell
Bilirakis	Cooksey	Fazio
Bishop	Costello	Filner
Blagojevich	Cox	Forbes
Bliley	Coyne	Ford
Blumenauer	Cramer	Fossella
Blunt	Crane	Fowler
Boehlert	Crapo	Fox
Boehner	Cubin	Frank (MA)
Bonilla	Cummings	Franks (NJ)
Bonior	Cunningham	Frelinghuysen
Borski	Danner	Ganske
Boswell	Davis (FL)	Gejdenson
Boucher	Davis (IL)	Gibbons
Boyd	Davis (VA)	Gilchrest
Brady	Deal	Gillmor
Brown (CA)	DeFazio	Gilman
Brown (OH)	DeGette	Goode
Brown (FL)	Delahunt	Goodlatte
Bryant	DeLauro	Goodling
Bunning	DeLay	Gordon
Burr	Deutsch	Goss
Burton	Diaz-Balart	Graham

Granger
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Greenwood
Gutierrez
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Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hansen
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Hastings (FL)
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Hayworth
Hefley
Hefner
Herger
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Hilleary
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Mink
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inglis
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui

McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
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McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
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McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (CA)
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Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
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Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pappas
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Paxon
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Redmond
Regula
Reyes
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryun
Sabo

Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Torres
Townes
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—1

Hilliard

NOT VOTING—14

Foley
Frost

Furse
Gallegly

Gekas
Gephardt

Gonzalez
Lewis (GA)
Martinez

Parker
Poshard
Rangel

Riggs
Schiff

□ 1220

Mrs. CUBIN changed her vote from
“no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 61, I was attending a meeting with the Senate on N.I.H. funding. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY MR. VENTO

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendments offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments.

RECORDED VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 335, noes 79, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 62]

AYES—335

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Baesler
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bass
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Berry
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehrlert
Boehner
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (CA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canady
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Castle
Chambliss
Christensen
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn

Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Cummings
Cunningham
Danner
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dicks
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Engel
English
Ensign
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Fawell
Fazio
Filner
Forbes
Ford
Fowler
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen

Ganske
Gedensson
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Green
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Hefner
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, E. B.
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kennedy (MA)
Kennedy (RI)
Kennelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick

Kim
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klecza
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink

Moakley
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Neal
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manton
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McDermott
McGovern
McHale
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Metcalf
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (CA)
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mink

NOES—79

Aderholt
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bonilla
Brady
Bunning
Burton
Callahan
Cannon
Chabot
Chenoweth
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
DeLay
Doolittle
Emerson
Everett
Fossella

Gibbons
Graham
Granger
Hansen
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Herger
Hilleary
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hutchinson
Inglis
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
McKeon
Mica
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neumann
Parker
Paul
Paxon
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering

Pombo
Radanovich
Riley
Rogan
Ryun
Salmon
Sanford
Schaffer, Bob
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Smith (OR)
Snowbarger
Solomon
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Wamp
Wicker
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—17

Doyle
Foley
Frost
Furse
Gallegly
Gekas

Gephardt
Gonzalez
Houghton
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Martinez

Poshard
Rangel
Riggs
Royce
Schiff

□ 1231

Messrs. CALLAHAN, HANSEN, and WICKER, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 62, I was attending a meeting with the Senate on N&H funding. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any further amendments to the bill?

The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. QUINN) having assumed the chair, Mr. LAHOOD, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests, pursuant to House Resolution 388, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 356, noes 61, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 63]

AYES—356

Abercrombie	Ballenger	Berman
Ackerman	Barcia	Berry
Allen	Barrett (NE)	Billbray
Andrews	Barrett (WI)	Billakis
Archer	Barton	Bishop
Arney	Bass	Blagojevich
Bachus	Bateman	Bliley
Baessler	Becerra	Blumenauer
Baker	Bentsen	Blunt
Baldacci	Bereuter	Boehlert

Boehner	Hall (TX)	Millender-
Borski	Hamilton	McDonald
Boswell	Harman	Miller (CA)
Boucher	Hastert	Miller (FL)
Boyd	Hastings (FL)	Minge
Brown (CA)	Hastings (WA)	Mink
Brown (FL)	Hayworth	Moakley
Brown (OH)	Hefley	Mollohan
Bryant	Hefner	Moran (KS)
Bunning	Hill	Moran (VA)
Burr	Hilliard	Morella
Buyer	Hinche	Murtha
Callahan	Hinojosa	Myrick
Calvert	Hobson	Nadler
Camp	Hoekstra	Neal
Campbell	Holden	Nethercutt
Canady	Hooley	Northup
Capps	Horn	Norwood
Cardin	Houghton	Nussle
Carson	Hoyer	Oberstar
Castle	Hulshof	Obey
Chabot	Hunter	Olver
Chambliss	Hutchinson	Ortiz
Christensen	Hyde	Owens
Clay	Inglis	Oxley
Clayton	Istook	Packard
Clement	Jackson (IL)	Pallone
Clyburn	Jackson-Lee	Pappas
Condit	(TX)	Pascarella
Conyers	Jefferson	Pastor
Cook	John	Payne
Cooksey	Johnson (CT)	Pease
Costello	Johnson (WI)	Pelosi
Cox	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (MN)
Coyne	Kanjorski	Pickering
Cramer	Kaptur	Pickett
Crapo	Kasich	Pitts
Cummings	Kelly	Pomeroy
Cunningham	Kennedy (MA)	Porter
Davis (FL)	Kennedy (RI)	Portman
Davis (IL)	Kennelly	Price (NC)
Davis (VA)	Kildee	Pryce (OH)
Deal	Kilpatrick	Quinn
DeFazio	Kim	Rahall
DeGette	Kind (WI)	Ramstad
Delahunt	King (NY)	Redmond
DeLauro	Kingston	Regula
Deutsch	Klecza	Reyes
Diaz-Balart	Klink	Rivers
Dickey	Klug	Rodriguez
Dicks	Knollenberg	Roemer
Dingell	Kolbe	Rogan
Dixon	Kucinich	Rogers
Doggett	LaFalce	Rohrabacher
Dooley	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Lampson	Rothman
Dunn	Lantos	Roukema
Edwards	Largent	Roybal-Allard
Ehlers	Latham	Royce
Ehrlich	LaTourette	Rush
Engel	Lazio	Sabo
English	Leach	Sanchez
Ensign	Levin	Sanders
Eshoo	Lewis (CA)	Sandlin
Etheridge	Linder	Sawyer
Evans	Lipinski	Saxton
Ewing	Livingston	Scarborough
Farr	LoBiondo	Schumer
Fattah	Lofgren	Scott
Fawell	Lowe	Serrano
Fazio	Luther	Shaw
Filner	Maloney (CT)	Shays
Foley	Maloney (NY)	Sherman
Forbes	Manton	Shimkus
Ford	Manzullo	Shuster
Fowler	Markey	Sisisky
Fox	Mascara	Skaggs
Frank (MA)	Matsui	Skeen
Franks (NJ)	McCarthy (MO)	Skelton
Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter
Furse	McCollum	Smith (MI)
Ganske	McCrery	Smith (NJ)
Gejdenson	McDade	Smith (TX)
Gibbons	McDermott	Smith, Adam
Gilchrest	McGovern	Snyder
Gillmor	McHale	Souder
Gilman	McHugh	Spence
Goode	McInnis	Spratt
Goodlatte	McIntosh	Stabenow
Goodling	McIntyre	Stark
Gordon	McKeon	Stenholm
Goss	McKinney	Stokes
Graham	McNulty	Strickland
Granger	Meehan	Stupak
Green	Meek (FL)	Sununu
Greenwood	Meeks (NY)	Talent
Gutierrez	Menendez	Tanner
Gutknecht	Metcalf	Tauscher
Hall (OH)	Mica	Tauzin

Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Thompson
Thune
Thurman
Tierney
Torres
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton

Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Walsh
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler

Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Young (FL)

NOES—61

Aderholt	Gekas	Salmon
Barr	Hansen	Sanford
Bartlett	Herger	Schaefer, Dan
Bonilla	Hilleary	Schaffer, Bob
Brady	Hostettler	Sensenbrenner
Burton	Jenkins	Sessions
Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Shadegg
Chenoweth	Jones	Smith (OR)
Coble	Lewis (KY)	Snowbarger
Coburn	Lucas	Solomon
Collins	Neumann	Stearns
Combust	Ney	Stump
Crane	Parker	Taylor (NC)
Cubin	Paul	Thornberry
Danner	Paxon	Tiahrt
DeLay	Peterson (PA)	Wamp
Doolittle	Petri	Watkins
Duncan	Pombo	Watts (OK)
Emerson	Radanovich	Young (AK)
Everett	Riley	
Fossella	Ryun	

NOT VOTING—14

Bonior	Gonzalez	Riggs
Doyle	Lewis (GA)	Schiff
Frost	Martinez	Smith, Linda
Gallegly	Poshard	White
Gephardt	Rangel	

□ 1249

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2870, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR PRINTING OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 2578, THE VISA WAIVER EXTENSION

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet next week to grant a rule on H.R. 2575, the Visa Waiver Extension.

Subject to the approval of the Committee on Rules, this rule may include a provision requiring amendments to be preprinted in the amendment section of the Congressional RECORD before being offered.

So, for example, if the bill is considered on the floor on Wednesday, as is currently anticipated, amendments would have to be submitted for the RECORD by Tuesday, March 24th.