



Legislative Bulletin.....January 25, 2005

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H.Con.Res. 16—Congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform (Hyde)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 25th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 16 would resolve that Congress:

- “commends the people and Government of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and their determination to end the political crisis in that country in a peaceful and democratic manner;
- “congratulates the people and Government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair runoff presidential election which represents the true choice of the Ukrainian people;
- “congratulates Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine;
- “applauds the Ukrainian presidential candidates, the European Union and other European representatives, and the United States Government for the role they played in helping to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis;
- “acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine and expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people and the new Government of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; and
- “pledges its assistance to the strengthening of a fully free and open democratic system in Ukraine, the creation of a prosperous free market economy in Ukraine, the reaffirmation of Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's full integration into the international community of democracies.”

Additional Background: On October 31, 2004, Ukraine held the first round of its presidential election. On November 21, 2004, Ukraine held a runoff presidential election

between the two leading candidates, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko. International observers agreed that Ukrainian government resources were illegally used in favor of Yanukovich and that election fraud was rampant.

On November 27, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the runoff presidential election, and on December 1, 2004, Parliament passed a no-confidence motion regarding the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. On December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the runoff presidential election was invalid and ordered a new presidential election to take place on December 26, 2004.

According to the resolution, domestic and international observers declared this third election to be a “more democratic, transparent, and fair” election with fewer problems than the previous two elections. On December 28, 2004, the Ukrainian Central Election Commission certified the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko.

Committee Action: On January 6, 2005, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which took no official action on it.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. __—Commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism (Lantos)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 25th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Final text was not available at press time. The summary below is based, therefore, on preliminary text.

Summary: H.Res. __ would resolve that the House:

- “commends those countries throughout the world as well as the United Nations General Assembly and other international organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and using this tragic anniversary to increase awareness of the Holocaust;
- “recalls with gratitude the sacrifices made by those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, liberated the camps, or cared for those who survived;

- “urges all nations and peoples to strengthen their efforts to fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism; and
- “urges governments and educators throughout the world to teach the lessons of the Holocaust in order that future generations will understand that racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance and prejudice can lead to the genocide carried out in camps such as Auschwitz.”

Additional Background: Nazi Germany deported at least 1.3 million people to Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945, at least 1.1 million of whom were murdered there. On January 27, 1945, the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz and other affiliated camps were liberated by elements of the Soviet Army under command of Field Marshal Iyon Konev.

On January 24, 2005, in response to a resolution sponsored by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russia, the United States and the European Union, the Secretary General of the United Nations convened a Special Session of the General Assembly in New York City to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps.

Rep. Tom Lantos, the author of this resolution, is the only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in the U.S. Congress. Rep. Lantos spent time as a teenager in a Nazi forced-labor camp north of Budapest, Hungary. To read more about Rep. Lantos’ Holocaust experiences, visit this website:

<http://lantos.house.gov/HoR/CA12/About+Tom/A+Holocaust+Survivor/A+Holocaust+Survivor.htm>

Committee Action: On January 25, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the International Relations Committee, which took no official action on it.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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