

should seek guidance from the General Counsel. The USEC General Counsel, on my behalf, has consulted with the Office of Government Ethics on this waiver and will provide them a copy of it.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. RAINER,
Chairman, Board of Directors.

SALUTE TO JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johns Hopkins Hospital located in my district in Baltimore, Maryland for its recently announced number one ranking among the Nation's hospitals.

Treating nearly 600,000 patients per year, Johns Hopkins Medicine has been recognized for more than a century as a leading center for patient care, medical research, and teaching. The institution, which includes a hospital and health system and the School of Medicine, is noted for its excellent faculty and staff covering every aspect of medicine, its two world class medical campuses, and multiple outreach programs for regional, national and international patient activities.

The flagship of this institution, Johns Hopkins Hospital, is a 1,025-bed facility and encompasses renowned centers such as the Brady Urological Institute, the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

For the 10th straight year, the hospital has placed first on the annual U.S. News and World Report magazine hospital ranking. The rankings are based on three factors: reputation, mortality, and aspects of treatment such as technology and nursing care. Among 17 medical specialties evaluated, Hopkins ranked in the top 10 in 16 of them, including number one in ear, nose, throat, gynecological services, urology, and eye care. Further, 41 Johns Hopkins Hospital doctors were recognized in an American Health Magazine survey as among the best in the United States, more than any other medical center in the Nation.

Most significant to me, however, is Hopkins' commitment to Baltimore and the worldwide community. This institution has a sense of obligation and social responsibility that finds its foundation in instructions by its founder and benefactor. Over a century ago, the Baltimore merchant Johns Hopkins wrote to his trustees, and I quote, "The indigent of this city and its environs, without regard to sex, age or color, shall be received into this hospital."

In recent years, Hopkins has followed this commitment with the incorporation of the historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, better known as HEBAC. It is a coalition formed among Baltimore City, the

State of Maryland, Hopkins and the neighborhood to improve housing, attract new business, and offer social services to the 47,500 residents of East Baltimore, 43 percent of whom live in poverty. HEBAC was part of the city's successful bid to become a Federal empowerment zone and secure \$34 million from the Federal Government for physical rehabilitation of the neighborhood.

After more than a year of working closely with the East Baltimore community to identify their health concerns, Johns Hopkins also committed \$4.5 million over a period of 5 years to establish an Urban Health Institute to tackle the vexing health problems that plague the community. The Institute brings together a wide range of Hopkins health experts, community leaders, business leaders, clergy and State and local agencies to forge a partnership that will first identify the most pressing health issues and then develop the best methods, including research, education and community outreach to address these problems.

Health priorities identified by the community that the institute is expected to address include substance abuse, violence, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, environmental health, the elderly, and family maternal and child health services.

In my stead as a Member of this body, my focus is to create a livable community in my district of Baltimore as well as throughout the Nation. I believe that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity and social economic status, deserve livable communities where they feel safe, where their children can obtain a quality education, and where they have access to quality health care. All must share equitably in this American dream.

Johns Hopkins is truly making an effort to ensure that Baltimoreans and persons around the world are able to realize this dream by providing the kind of patient care that will allow them to live fruitful and productive lives. The hospital's commitment to medical excellence and to serving this community are deserving of recognition; and today, I salute Johns Hopkins Hospital for these efforts.

Congratulations to Johns Hopkins for being named the number one among hospitals and certainly a premier servant to our Nation's patients.

COURAGE OVER CAUTION—WE MUST HAVE PEACE IN THE MID- DLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in less than 48 hours, one of the most historic and, I believe, one of the most important meetings will take place just a few miles away from the Capitol of the United States of America, and that is the gathering of Presi-

dent Clinton, Prime Minister Barak and President Arafat on deliberating on peace in the Mideast.

Let me salute all three of these gentlemen and particularly let me applaud the leadership of President William Jefferson Clinton. Many might offer to say that there is nothing else that he could do. Why should he not hold this summit? It is a win-win situation for him in the short time that he has to lead this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, peace is never easy. I think it is important to realize the leap of faith that is being taken by all three of these heads of nations. Camp David will be a very serious place; and, for many Americans, I believe it is important to focus our attention, our hearts and our minds on an effort to bring about peace to a region that has had 52 years of bloody conflicts. For more than half a century, there has been no peace in the Middle East.

I want to applaud the Prime Minister of Israel who realizes that he is on very dangerous ground. Already, three of the six of his coalition members have broken away and resigned because of its efforts to seek peace. Many have said he is fragilely kept in government, that no one will support him, and that there is no guarantee that he will remain as prime minister or head of government of the country of Israel. But I salute him for his words that he comes here with a profound sense of responsibility and, as well, to acknowledge that he has a mandate from the voters, the citizens of Israel to do all that he can to establish peace, not for those of us who live and those of us who are adults responsible for ourselves, but for the children and for those yet not born.

He is willing to consider giving 90 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians; he is willing to consider some answer to the problem of Jerusalem running some part thereof. The details are not all present, but he is willing to discuss the status of Jerusalem. He is willing as well to allow a small number of Palestinians, so it has been reported, to return to what is today Israel. Yes, we must answer the question of the Palestinians who continuously view parts of Jerusalem or Jerusalem as having a religious significance to them. Jerusalem has a religious significance to all of us of many faiths from around this world. We must find a way to solve the problem with a respect for all and dignity for all and peace for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that once this peace agreement comes to fruition, that we look at an international peacekeeping contingent, as has been suggested by the Palestinians. Yes, as Secretary Albright has already stated, this is an effort of high stakes. It is an effort that hopefully will avoid the tragedy of death of a young Palestinian mother and child experiencing the wrong turn at the wrong time, and they met their death during some bloody conflict just a few days ago. Apologies were offered by the Government of Israel, but how many more will

die? How many more mothers will lose their lives or babies or elderly? How many more Palestinians or how many more citizens of the State of Israel?

So as has been offered, it is high stakes, but frankly, I believe it is life or death. It is life or death for this world order. It is life or death for those of us who believe that the Mideast offers one of the strongest opportunities for anchoring the understanding of people from different walks of life and religious beliefs.

This is the time now to view this summit with all of the resources that we might offer as the United States of America to bolster the journey and travels of Prime Minister Barak, to acknowledge that he has lost his interior minister who has resigned, and his minister of foreign policy refuses to come. Yes, he is traveling a very difficult journey, but I believe that if the American people can offer to him their applause and congratulations along with our applause and respect for President Arafat, and to say to all three men and all that will be engaged in this discussion for peace, it is now time to select and to choose, Mr. Speaker, courage over caution. We must have peace.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO COLORADO AND THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to begin this evening, as my colleagues know, many of us have been delayed due to transportation difficulties with the airlines out there. Some of my constituents were surprised to learn that Congressmen, in fact, also have their bags lost, that Congressmen also are delayed on these flights. So tonight I thought I would show my colleagues a pretty clear demonstration, since they may see it as I speak, of exactly what happens to a Congressman who loses his baggage. If my colleagues will look down, they will see my dress socks. Obviously, the real socks are in the suitcase and somewhere the suitcase is out there in that system.

In all seriousness about that, in the last 8 years, in serving in the United States Congress, I have had very good air service across this country.

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As many of my colleagues know, we are very, very dependent in all walks of life in this country, we are very, very dependent on our service from one State to the next State or across the country.

I am telling the Members, in the last 3 months the air service in this country has deteriorated significantly. I have not, with the major airline that I fly, I have not, to the best of my knowledge, had an on-time arrival in 3

months. That has not happened, that kind of record has not happened in 8 years.

I am not going to speak about transportation this evening any more than I am doing right now other than to point out that this problem is getting worse. Once in a while the airlines can blame it on weather, once in a while the airlines can blame it on mechanics, but the fact is that there is a deterioration of service, and it is incumbent upon the executives of these airlines to fix the problem, because our country is too dependent upon it.

The taxpayers in this country provide a lot of dollars for airports. The passengers in this country provide a lot of dollars in their taxes that are put on there, passenger taxes at airports to help supplement our airline service. We deserve more, in my opinion.

It was with some interest last week that I saw news stories about what I guess they call air rage. There is no place for anyone on an airplane to take out their frustrations, in my opinion, on a stewardess or someone else on the airplane. But I do want Members to know that there should be some understanding of some of the frustration being felt by these passengers across the country.

I was at Denver International Airport today and there was a lady there who had been stuck for 2 days at that airport. So as we talk about airplane rage or some of these other things, remember what is happening to the passengers in this country. We deserve more from some of these airlines. That is not all of the airlines. Obviously, some of them are performing well.

I think it is time we pay very close attention, Mr. Speaker, to those ratings that come out every month or so talking about which of these airlines are having a tough time with service and which of the airlines want to merge, and come to us and ask us for more dollars for airports and things.

I think we have every justification to stand out and say, "Hey, why do you not improve your service? There are a lot of people paying taxes out there for better service."

In Denver, for example, we have one dominant airline. We have some of the highest business rates in the United States. We should expect premium service. I should add again that for many, many years I have received premium service out of Denver, but something has happened in the last 3 months. It is going to damage our economy here before too long.

TOLL ROADS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO

Let me go on. I want to talk about several other things this evening. First, I want to talk about the proposition of toll roads in the State of Colorado. I want to move from there.

I have noticed several editorials in the last few days about estate taxes, actual editorials. In fact, it sounds to me like the Democrats, who have for years and years supported the death tax, and in fact, this year the Clinton

administration in their budget proposes an increase, an increase in the death tax, these editorials sound like they are writing for that portion or that section of the Democratic Party that supports these death taxes. They act as if we owe the government these death taxes.

I am going to talk about the death taxes for a few minutes after I finish talking about the toll roads, and then I will spend a few minutes on social security and talk about the plan that we as Congressmen have for our retirement, although we are also on social security; the plan that Vice President GORE voted for, the plan that Vice President GORE, under his policies, under his procedures, supported.

We will talk a little about social security. We will talk about the problems with social security. We will talk about, look, do we do what the Vice President has proposed, although he has recently changed his mind, and that is kind of, do not touch it? Of course we are afraid to touch it, but if we do not do something about it, that system is going to break. It is going to fall out of the air. The engines are going to start coughing and that plane is going to fall out of the air.

We have to keep social security firm. The way to do it in my opinion is take some bold moves. Frankly, those bold moves have been proposed by George W. Bush, the Governor of the State of Texas. I want to talk about these policies.

I am not here tonight to get into partisan politics, but clearly there is a big distinction when it comes to social security between the Governor of the State of Texas and the Vice President. We have every right to stand on this floor and debate what those differences are.

I would venture to say that by the end of the debate, the majority of my friends on the Democratic side will join us on the Republican side saying, hey, let us take a bold move. Let us do something with social security. Let us save social security.

I would also venture to say that the majority of my colleagues on the Democratic side need to wake up, in my opinion. I do not say that in a derogatory fashion, but be aware, probably, is a better word, be aware of the fact that this death tax is hurting a lot of people in this country. Their policy of the death tax in this country should be changed. We will get into that.

Let us first of all talk about the newest proposition in the State of Colorado by some elitists, in my opinion. That is, gosh, Colorado is a popular spot.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the Third Congressional District of the State of Colorado. That district is one of the largest districts in the United States. It is also the highest district in the United States. Basically, it is all of western Colorado, here to my left.

If we talk about the mountains, and for those not familiar with western and eastern Colorado, the easy way to