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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PENCE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 24, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE PENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

AIRLINE SECURITY

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, Congress rushed through a \$15 billion airline bailout, and I am not going to revisit all of the problems with that legislation here this morning, with one exception. That legislation failed to allocate one cent toward additional airline security or mandate an iota of change in a system that we know has failed.

Now, the failings of aviation security were well documented before the terrorist attack. I introduced my first bill

to enhance screening at airports and checking of baggage in 1987. Many other Members of Congress have introduced legislation in those intervening 15 years and even before that, but they were always opposed by the Air Transport Association acting on behalf of a number of their member airlines successfully and even in those few cases where we were able to mandate enhanced measures such as credentialing and standards for training and background checks for the screening companies.

The ATA and member airlines and the private security industry itself fought tooth and nail to delay the implementation of those regulations for 5 years. Amazingly, on the floor on Friday night, some of my colleagues on that side of the aisle said we need to privatize the system that failed us.

It took them so long to get out these regulations. It took so long because the private industry, the private security companies fought it. There was not one single airline passenger in there objecting to these regulations, raising concerns, threatening to sue and making comments, except favorable comments, on these improvements.

In 1996, Ms. Hallett, the head of the Air Transport Association, in testimony to the White House commission said it has been suggested by some that we must radically alter our Nation's air transportation system in order to make it secure from terrorism. Based upon our understanding of the threat presented, this is not the case. The measured and deliberate steps to enhance security which we have put forward are responsive to the need. They then began to fight the recommendations of that commission.

It has always been driven by costs. We had the best system of security you could get by pinching pennies and always, always hiring the lowest bidder to provide the screening at the airports.

A year and a half ago in a hearing I said, and this is what I think has prevailed among the American public for a long time, I have got to tell you, when I am flying, I doubt that I could ever find one person in the plane who would say, gee, I would be really upset if I had to pay one-half of 1 percent more for my ticket to know that the person who screened me was not convicted of various felonies and at high risk of allowing something to happen on this plane. It is just extraordinary to me that we would let this system continue in this way, the lowest bidder.

Tragically, we have. In fact, last week, amazingly, after the tragedy, the CEO of Alaska Airlines told me directly in response to my suggestion that we levy a \$3 surcharge on tickets for security, he said no one would ever fly again if I was successful in getting that \$3 security surcharge. He said there is only one thing people respond to, quote, "people do not respond to anything other than total price." I guess he probably flew out here on his own executive jet, and he was not too worried about security. That is how out of touch this industry is.

Then last week at Miami International, a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent acting on his own, having notified authorities, attempted to smuggle at one time on his person three knives through security. He was successful. He even stopped and said to the people, is there anything wrong here, did something go off? And they said, oh, go, go, go. So he had given them an extra chance to ask him some questions.

Now, this same firm had been fined \$110,000 in fines and restitution for failing to do background checks on at least 22 employees and then lying about it to Federal regulators, sentenced to 2 years' probation, but they are still providing security at that airport; and their manager was sentenced to 5 years in Federal prison, and they

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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are still providing security at MIA. This is the system we get with privatization.

Security at airports needs to be and is a legitimate function of the Federal Government of the United States, a security function, a law enforcement function. We should no longer resist that on some sort of ideological bias or an attempt to buy security on the cheap. The administration has convened a task force on kind of a slow timeline; they are proposing to come forward on October 1.

We know what we need to do. Let us not delay another day. I am amazed that this body rejected my motion last Friday night to begin the federalization process now to begin to put firms like this one in Miami International convicted of violating the law and leave them in charge. We need to take charge and make flying safer.

COMMENTING ON LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS AFTER THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Speaker's recognition. Certainly the people of Indiana are proud to see him in the chair, and we are delighted to be reconvening this Monday morning.

Let me just thank, as chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, my colleagues for working quickly on Friday to bring about some financial stability to the airline industry. And of course today, as I speak, the market, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up some 350 points, and so we hope we have turned the corner on pessimism; and I know there is still opportunity to review and reflect on what the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) just spoke of.

We can certainly be Monday-morning quarterbacks and look back and see what we could have done differently. I hope prospectively we now start reviewing all the safety measures affecting our traveling public. We have to ensure stability in the marketplace. We have to make certain that airlines, of course, work on safety precautions, but the Government has to be a partner.

On Friday, some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle objected to any bailout, suggesting somehow that that was unfair to the industry. I can assure you today we would be seeing a lot more massive economic downturn and a lot more jobs lost had we not acted.

Today, I wanted to spend a moment on two things: one, a constituent of mine, Dino Laudati, wrote this the morning of the tragedy, and he calls it "Eternal Flame of America."

"As I watched in horror and grief as the towers of the World Trade Center burned, I cried in pain and disbelief. As

I wiped the tears from my eyes and removed my hands from my face, I had a vision.

"In front of me the burning towers turned into burning torches, torches of hope, torches of courage and strength, torches of unity and love, torches that will guide us into the darkness to seek and defeat our enemy. The same enemy that ignited that fire, believing he could bring us to our knees.

"Torches that will engulf our hearts with love and tenacity, torches that will always burn, for the freedom that America stands for and that every American will fight for and would rather die than succumb to defeat or submission.

"Torches that will always remind us that we are all equal no matter what religion, race or background and we stand together in peace, brotherhood and love. We believe that God is the only one who is above us. He enables us to carry within us the fire of the burning towers as torches of eternal light.

"To remind us that America is freedom and freedom is America. Our forefathers established it, our fathers believed in it, we will fight for it and our children will keep it forever.

"Dino Laudati, September 11, 2001."

Dianne Robbins from my district of office sent this along. Her daughter sent it to her, Beth Horner.

"On Monday we e-mailed jokes.

On Tuesday we did not.

On Monday we thought that we were secure.

On Tuesday we learned better.

On Monday we were talking about heroes as being athletes.

On Tuesday we relearned who our heroes are.

On Monday we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived.

On Tuesday we gave money away to people we had never met.

On Monday there were people fighting against praying in schools.

On Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying.

On Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their room.

On Tuesday the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids.

On Monday people were upset that they had to wait 6 minutes in a fast food drive-through line.

On Tuesday people didn't care about waiting up to 6 hours to give blood for the dying.

On Monday we waved our flags signifying our cultural diversity.

On Tuesday we waved only the American flag.

On Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed.

On Tuesday they were all holding hands.

On Monday we were men or women, black or white, old or young, rich or poor, gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian.

On Tuesday we were all Americans.

On Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses.

On Tuesday, grief stricken, they sang 'God Bless America.'

On Monday the President was going to Florida to read to children.

On Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children.

On Monday we had families.

On Tuesday we had orphans.

On Monday people went to work as usual.

On Tuesday they died.

On Monday people were fighting the 10 Commandments on government property.

On Tuesday the same people all said 'God help us all' while thinking 'Thou shall not kill.'

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned this week, the things we have taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.

These are messages from our community and our constituents. I am certain every Member in Congress probably has similar that they have received. The outpouring of support for our Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, has been wonderful.

In Palm Beach County, a county I come from, a typical blood bank volume is 500 pints a week. Last week when I visited Palm Beach County that same blood bank, and I will use the phrase used then by George Bush, the President, the President's father, a thousand points of light. Well, last week in Palm Beach County there were 7,000 pints of life supporting New York and Washington.

I commend my community. I commend this Congress. I am proud to be an American. I thank all who have witnessed and watched us work together on behalf of the American people.

GUAM STANDS READY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is in this time of national crisis and in this time of national need that I am proud to stand here in the House to reflect upon it and also to report that Guam stands ready to do its part. In fact, it is doing so as we speak and as we deliberate.

Guam's strategic location on the other side of the international date line, its very extensive military infrastructure, means that American resources and personnel, some of our strongest assets, are moving through Guam as we speak, through that part of America, on their way to South Asia and on their way to eventual victory.

The people of Guam have had a long experience with the military and, in fact, are very closely aligned with the military not only economically but socially and also politically. We have