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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

THE SPEAKER. 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 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSETTINEN) for 5 minutes.

U.S. POLICY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ORIGINATING IN SOUTH ASIA

Ms. ROSETTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a regional approach to the war on terrorism is critical to success.

The U.S. national security team must fully understand the dynamics between actors, as well as the strategic considerations which are guiding the responses to U.S. requests in this battle of good versus evil.

In developing our policy toward Pakistan, for example, some have argued that it is imperative that we address the long-standing relationship between the ISI and the Taliban and between the ISI and Osama bin Laden. We must not ignore facts such as the ISI's past warnings to bin Laden about U.S. military action.

There are reports that on August 20, 1998, when the United States launched cruise missile strikes on bin Laden terrorist training camps in southeastern Afghanistan, it was the head of Pakistan's ISI at the time who contacted bin Laden to warn him about U.S. sur-

veillance and attempts to track down his whereabouts. He also cautioned bin Laden to relocate immediately because U.S. strikes were imminent.

We must also address the power relations within the Pakistani government to accurately assess the General's ability to contain challenges from the ISI. These and other factors have a direct bearing on U.S. short-term capabilities and long-term response to terrorism originating in this region.

In looking at Afghanistan, we must be careful not to follow a microcosmic view of the problem. While an immediate, comprehensive and multi-tiered military and political response to the September 11 terrorist attacks is necessary, the U.S. must also prepare a strategy which takes into consideration the myriad of factors contributing to the proliferation of terrorist activities in Afghanistan.

For one, we must look at the nature of the regime. This is not a reference to the process offered by the administration to evaluate intelligence sources. However, when formulating and implementing U.S. foreign policy toward a state, the nature and behavior of the regimes or governments which rule these countries is a critical variable to be considered.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, I bear witness on a regular basis to the carnage that some regimes undertake against their own people and how this abhorrent behavior manifests itself in their views and approach to global relations.

As the President stated during his address to the Congress last week, a regime such as the Taliban which tortures its own people and shows no regard for human life can never be trusted.

A regime such as the Taliban can never understand or appreciate the magnitude of the loss suffered by our country 2 weeks ago.

Secretary of State Powell stated, when he was chairman to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that our military objective must also have a political objective. This political objective in Afghanistan and elsewhere in south Asia should be to support and promote pluralistic representative systems guided by respect for human rights, civil liberties and religious freedoms; governments who would not promote and foster terrorism. Only then can we hope to achieve our long-term goal of eradicating the world of the cancer of terrorism.

As many have stated in the aftermath of the brutal attacks of September 11, democracy is the best antidote for Islamic militancy and radicalism. In studying the nature of the leadership which rules these countries and these regions, we must also differentiate between those who oppress and those who are guided by democratic tenets.

The U.S. must, as the Financial Times stated on September 17, be careful not to align itself too closely with authoritarian regimes that have dreadful records of suppressing minority groups. This view was echoed in a Washington Post editorial of September 24 that warned against forming tactical bonds with central Asian republics. It stated that in forming such bonds, America must not forget what it is fighting for as well as what it is fighting against.

Further, cooperation with the U.S. should not require inducements. Support for the U.S. and the war against terrorism should come from an understanding of the abhorrent nature of terrorist methods and tactics, not from a quid pro quo.

As President Bush has underscored, you are either with us or you are with the terrorists.

Ultimately, having learned the lessons of the Cold War, the U.S. must embark on this battle from a position

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of overwhelming strength if we are to be victorious.

I fully support the President and his advisors in this difficult journey and I wish them Godspeed.

MONETARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE AIRLINES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, you were in the Chair and I had taken to the floor for this session. As we have seen the impacts of September 11 continue to unfold, it does, as you and I have remarked, seem like a lifetime ago. Yet, in these times of emergency, the American public deserves our very best efforts. They deserve to have Congress look after the interests of all our citizens, America's workers as well as its businesses, in a careful, cost-effective manner.

In our rush to meet the growing demands created by the devastation in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, Congress would do well to follow Mr. Greenspan's cautious advice, that it is more important to be right than to be quick.

Last week, Congress approved \$15 billion in Federal support for airline carriers. While no one doubts that the aviation industry has had enormous impacts on our communities, on American business and on our people's daily lives, our rush to provide relief created what I feel is a dangerous precedent.

Within a week of receiving airlines' demands for help, Congress passed and the President signed a \$15 billion package that appears to go well beyond the amount needed to provide the stabilization required for this vital part of the economy.

Pushed aside for later consideration were many of the more difficult questions, providing assistance to over 100,000 airline employees laid off since the attacks, questioning what role the Federal Government should play to ensure greater airport security, or addressing the numerous collateral victims across the country directly related to air transport who have also been attacked and damaged, even though they live far away from ground zero.

These ripple effects need to be heard and addressed. The question is not merely whether the industry got too much money. When huge sums of taxpayer dollars are involved, we need to establish clearly what will be the value that the public receives in return. Is it going to receive an equity interest in return for an extraordinary investment? Or perhaps we could have purchased the noisy, polluting, inefficient airplanes and retired them from service.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that in the upcoming weeks and months, we know

Congress will be asked to provide assistance to other interests and industries and clearly to help bolster our troubled economy. We would do well to seize this as an opportunity to be thoughtful in our approach and to capitalize on this renewed bipartisan spirit on Capitol Hill to craft legislation that addresses the complexity of the problems that adds real value and makes sufficient use of tax dollars.

This is not the time to throw money at problems without a sense of the trade-offs, without failing to include all impacted individuals and businesses or weakening labor, environmental or fiscal protections.

Above all, it is not a time to use the sense of crisis to push through questionable legislation, whatever the motivation. The American public deserves our best at the time of crisis, and we in Congress would do well to heed the open letter from taxpayers for common sense that calls for these very best efforts for our taxpayers, our citizens to make sure that we are equal to the challenge.

INTRODUCTION OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the most horrific attack in the United States history, we have seen many modern American heroes among us.

Today's heroes are firefighters, police officers, chaplains, paramedics, steelworkers and those who have fought to prevent further destruction, and the families of the victims who display the strength of going on and living.

Their heroism is in the spirit of those who have gone before them such as Martin Luther King, Junior, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Cesar Chavez, former founding president of the United Farm Workers.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce this bill that will honor one of our past heroes, Cesar Estrada Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers and passionate champion of human and civil rights. These values and beliefs and dedication to all working men and women, regardless of socioeconomic background, make him truly an American hero.

This bill will highlight his contributions by studying the ways to honor him within the National Park Service. It is a first step in honoring his tremendous accomplishments and the local communities where he placed his footprints.

Cesar Chavez was a humble man. Little did anyone know of the greatness he would bestow upon future generations. In his early childhood, Cesar was raised as a farm worker in Yuma, Ari-

zona. Raised during the Great Depression, his family lost everything and were forced to join thousands of farm workers that wandered the southwest just to find work.

During his youth, the Chavez family migrated throughout the southwest working on various farms that fed our country. The young Cesar Chavez experienced firsthand the hardships and injustices of thousands of farm workers at that time. His home was barely livable and his school hardly fit to be called a schoolhouse.

Unfair labor practices, harassment, abuse, long hours, low pay, hazardous working conditions and limited educational opportunities kept many farm workers from being self-sufficient and empowered citizens. Witnessing and experiencing this type of lifestyle, Cesar Chavez sought to make changes in the way farm workers were treated throughout the country.

He united many others who suffered similar atrocities with those who empathized with the struggle and became a part of the union movement, and back in 1952, he left the fields and joined the Community Service Organization. There he conducted voter registration drives and campaigns against racial and economic discrimination.

In 1962, he took that vast experience, his compassion, along with his brothers and sisters and developed a multiethnic struggle and started the National Farm Workers Association, which today is known as the United Farm Workers of America.

The UFW, as it is known, succeeded in organizing the oppressed. They overcame this opposition through boycotts and pickets, and when all else failed, Cesar Chavez almost died by participating in a hunger strike.

Chavez was a student of Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent philosophies. He knew that he could not unite people through violent means but he could connect them by joining hands in peaceful demonstrations.

Since its inception the UFW has achieved incredible results throughout the country. Fair wages, better health care coverage, pension benefits, housing, pesticide regulations and countless other rights and privileges that protect all farm workers in the fields of the United States.

In the past, we have honored other heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement, through the national parks and land. The life of Cesar Chavez and his family provides an outstanding opportunity to interpret the history of agricultural labor in the United States through honoring him through this particular National Park Service.

Most importantly, this bill that I introduced today provides an excellent opportunity for us to honor a true American hero.