

how can we afford not to? During the Depression, President Roosevelt worked with Congress and initiated the New Deal. From Social Security to Job Corps programs, the WCC and the WPA, the New Deal succeeded in stimulating a dead economy, much more dead than ours is now, while at the same time creating a safety net and programs such as Social Security that would provide immediate relief as well as long-term security.

Reflecting on the programs that were created in the New Deal, President Roosevelt in 1936, the year of my birth, said, "America got something for what we spent, conservation of human resources through the CCC camps and through worker relief, conservation of natural resources, of water, soil, and forest; billions of dollars for security and a better life. While many who criticize today were selling America short, we were investing in the future of America."

Today, at a time when our country mourns and hurts, it is the responsibility of the Federal Government and the United States Congress to do what it needs to do in order to help all Americans deal with these hard times, all working Americans especially. For Congress to remain silent at a time hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their jobs as a result of the terrorist attacks would be nothing short of irresponsible.

Another Roosevelt quote from May of 1932. President Roosevelt said, "The country needs, and unless I mistake its temper, the country demands, bold, persistent experimentations. It is common sense to take a method and try it; if it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

Domestic security is not just protecting our borders with guns and soldiers. It is not just protecting our planes and airports. On the contrary, domestic security is also about protecting our economy.

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It is about protecting our industries and our entrepreneurs, and it is about protecting all of America's workers. If we fail to consider these crucial elements of our country, while charting a response to the cowardly acts of terrorism that occurred 3 weeks ago, then we ultimately allow the terrorists to succeed in altering our lives for not just days, but for years to come; and that new normalcy that we will have will be but a fading memory of the old normalcy before September 11.

I want to applaud, Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, all of the agencies of our government: FEMA, the firefighters in New York and at the Pentagon that came from all over this great country of ours; the police officers here on Capitol Hill that have worked, as reported today in Roll Call magazine, some of them, lots of them, most of them, 72 hours a week, protecting the interests of America's Congress persons, as well as those of us that live here and work

on Capitol Hill. I applaud those officers, the officers in New York, as well as those from around the country.

I would like to especially applaud the FBI for the enormity of the task that they have undertaken in the face of sometimes unwarranted criticism; the same for the Central Intelligence Agency, and FEMA, which lost its own building, its own offices, in the World Trade Center. They too are to be complimented.

But most of all, the people of New York City, the people of Washington, D.C., the people in Pennsylvania where the tragedies struck home the hardest, and they felt the victimization more than those of us with our rhetoric, more than those of us with our creative notions about what we can do in order to set and stabilize our economy. They felt that pain, and they responded in kind as Americans are wont to do when they are faced with difficult and tragic times.

I ask all of our colleagues, what would we be doing, what would we be doing if a tactical nuclear weapon had been used in either of the three sites where folks were victimized and lost their lives and families who are still mourning them? And what makes anybody think that if these fools had the tactical nuclear weapon that they would not have used them, for they feel they have some divine mandate from God to eliminate people who do not think like them.

Had it been a nuclear tactical weapon, none of us would have gone home, no airports would be open, and we would be here in this building and the people in the other body would be in that building until such time as we could conference with real solutions, not just for big dogs feeding at the trough, but for all Americans. I entreat this country to answer that question, How we can afford it? Simply by saying, we cannot afford not to afford it. There are outyears in this tax cut that has been put forward. Anybody in their right mind would know that we can repeal those tax cuts in the years 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and take care, as Franklin Roosevelt did, of the needs of our country now.

DISPLACED WORKERS RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also lend my voice to the 100,000 displaced airline workers. The terrorist act of September 11 left a colossal void in the hearts of all Americans. It has not only had an emotional impact on our Nation; it is having a significant economic impact as well.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we have a responsibility as Members of this House to assist those whose lives have been threatened by the downturn of the

aviation industry and their jobs are on the line for possibly cuts and layoffs. The economic crisis is not just limited to the employees, though, of the major commercial carriers who feel the pinch of an industry-wide slowdown. It is affecting the sky caps that do not know whether or not they can count on checking bags at curb sides to make a living. The crisis is affecting counter agents. I talked with a young lady who is a mother of six, single parent, Latino, who is saying that she is being laid off because there are not enough people who are coming to purchase tickets to get on the planes. It is affecting the travel agents who fear for the future of their small businesses as bookings decline. A lot of those, Mr. Speaker, are women-owned businesses. It is the hotels that are near the airport, where the workers, the cleaning ladies, the cooks, and all others are affected by this displaced workers program.

We also have the tourist attractions. We know that tourism is \$6.7 trillion to this economy. If we do not have tourists coming to the various States coast to coast, workers will lose their jobs in the aftermath of this cowardly act of September 11.

It is the thousands of workers, including workers from Boeing and other aviation and engine manufacturers, who face massive layoffs as a result of this tragedy. It is essential for the administration and Congress to move aggressively in addressing the needs of America's workers. These men and women are hard-working individuals who are buying their homes, raising their families, and making significant contributions to the greater economy.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will face enormous financial pressures; and so will they, including credit card bills, mortgage payments, and utilities, tuition bills, medical bills, and other essential outlays. I would like to see the Congress take up an immediate package which would address the medical care needs, job retraining, and severance pay. The tragic incidents of September 11 have already touched and affected so many Americans, Mr. Speaker. We should do everything in our power to limit further damage to the American economy and, most importantly, to American families.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 140,000 airline industry workers who have been or are expected to be laid off.

I am a cosponsor of Mr. GEPHARDT's legislation, H.R. 2955, the Displaced Workers Assistance Act. I urge the House swift adoption of this or similar legislation. However, I also want to call attention to legislation I introduced in March, long before this crisis. My bill, H.R. 886, would eliminate Federal income taxation of unemployment benefits.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 90 percent of all unemployment compensation claimants owe taxes on their benefits and that Federal taxation eats up 17 percent of their benefits. This is a form of taxation that is regressive and cruel, because it takes

from those who need it most at a time when they are most in need.

The aviation sector is certainly the hardest hit due to the September 11 events. The effects are now rippling throughout the economy and have pushed an economy that was teetering on the brink of recession over the edge. My bill would not only relieve the economic hardship that airline workers will experience but also the hardship that workers in other parts of the economy will experience as the economic downturn continues.

While my tax cut is eligible to individuals who become unemployed regardless of their income, it would have the greatest benefit to low-income taxpayers who have to make the greatest adjustments to meet basic necessities such as rent, utilities, food, and clothing for themselves and their children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift adoption of H.R. 886, as a stand-alone bill, as part of an airline employee relief package, or in a broader economic stimulus package.

The terrorist attacks of September 11 not only caused tremendous physical destruction to lives and property but also dealt a body blow to our air carriers. Airlines hemorrhaged more than \$1 billion in the week following the attacks, when their planes were ordered by the Federal Government to be grounded. They continue to lose money because passengers are still hesitant to fly.

Airlines have taken painful steps to control their costs, including reducing flight schedules and laying off thousands of workers.

Congress acted swiftly and decisively to stabilize the financial situation of the airlines, by passing a \$15 billion package of grants and loan guarantees. I supported this legislation because I recognized that if it did not pass, American Airlines in my district could be forced to lay off even more workers and other airlines could be forced to file bankruptcy.

At the same time, I was troubled that the financial stabilization bill was an incomplete package that did not also provide relief for the heart and soul of our airlines—its workers.

Now that the airlines are already receiving their distributions in grant assistance, it is time to finish the job. We must ensure that there are adequate resources to provide airline workers with extended unemployment benefits, training opportunities, and continuation of health care coverage for them and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge expedited consideration of the Displaced Workers Assistance Act and my bill to eliminate Federal taxation of unemployment benefits.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in voicing support for a legislative initiative to address the tremendous economic impact the September 11 bombings have had on employees working in the airline industry.

Our efforts to support the airline companies will hopefully be matched just as quickly this week by action on H.R. 2946, The Displaced Workers Relief Act authored by my friend, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. HASTINGS.

Finally, as we move forward with this effort let us be mindful of the efforts by some airlines, like Delta, to offer alternative employee leave programs. Our efforts here in the Congress should not supersede these programs, particularly where the airline's offer may be better for the employee.

America's 100,000 airline employees need immediate relief and we should act this week,

Mr. Chairman, to make sure that they receive that relief. I urge my colleagues to support action for America's airline employees.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, thousands of workers have lost their jobs.

Over the past 3 weeks, over 100,000 people have lost their jobs. Individuals who earn their living in the airline, hotel, tourism, and other related industries have been hit extremely hard. Many other industries have felt the pinch, too.

We all know that the Twin Towers provided jobs for thousands of analysts, brokers, and other financial workers, but it was also the source of jobs for janitors, window washers, cooks, and others. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) represented over 500 of these workers.

These were not high paying jobs, and many of these individuals live paycheck to paycheck without large savings accounts. Now, their future remains in doubt.

Congress acted swiftly to help the airline industry but forgot about the airline employees.

Organized labor decried the bailout bill. They insisted that any bill passed should help all the workers who lost their jobs because of these disasters—not just the airline industry.

And they are right.

We should be extending and increasing unemployment benefits for workers. We should be increasing job training opportunities. And we should be increasing access to healthcare.

Our country's livelihood depends on these workers and we should do everything possible to assist them through these tough times.

Some of the proposals we have seen will help displaced workers, but we should do more by creating jobs by investing in infrastructure, helping small businesses, and supporting programs that help businesses invest in our communities.

If we pursue this course, jobs will be created and businesses will surely benefit.

We will never forget that thousands of lives were lost and many more were devastated because of these terrorist acts. But as Members of Congress we can help put these lives back together.

A NEW VISION FOR U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to lead a Special Order that we expect will involve a number of our colleagues who just returned last evening, as I did, from a whirlwind 5-day trip around the world to try to deal with the issue of, not just the terrorism that occurred on September 11, but to improve and change our relations with Russia.

Mr. Speaker, this trip was not scheduled after September 11, but rather had been scheduled in August, when our Russian friends contacted me and asked me to bring over some ideas that I had to improve the relationship between our two countries and to give them some of the ideas I was working

on as the basis for the upcoming Bush-Putin summit and to change direction in our relationship.

The preparation of a document entitled "A New Time, a New Beginning" was, in fact, the subject of that presentation; and the delegation that traveled with me that I had the pleasure of chairing, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), my good friend, as the cochair, was designed to present this document to the Russian leadership. We did that in a series of meetings in Moscow over 3 days.

We met with the representatives to the President of Russia; the Prime Minister of Russia; President Putin; leaders of the Duma; Deputy Speaker Sliska; the chairman of the International Affairs Committee Yablko; Chairman Kulikov; and a number of the various leaders of the Russian Government. And every one of them was extremely excited about this new direction in our relationship.

The package, which will not be presented here in detail, that will occur several weeks from now, it is just for discussion purposes now, involves us in 11 specific areas with the Russians. Instead of focusing on the differences in defense and foreign policy, the new initiative focuses on cultural relations, economic relations, energy and natural resources, defense and security, environmental cooperation, health care, judicial and legal, local government, science and technology, space and aviation, and agriculture. I will include a summary of these documents now, to be made a part of the RECORD of this Special Order at this point in time in the presentation.

A NEW VISION FOR U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

Those of us who value the U.S.-Russian relationship have been on a roller-coaster ride for the past decade. During the heady days of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the following collapse of the Soviet Union, it appeared that our two countries would cooperate as never before. The world cheered when Presidents Bush and Yeltsin hailed a new "strategic partnership" between America and Russia.

There followed, however, a dark period—marked by misguided American policies and rampant Russian corruption. The Russian economy sagged as American aid—money meant for the Russian people—was siphoned off and stashed in Swiss banks and American real estate investment. At the same, NATO's war in Kosovo strained the already sinking bilateral relationship. What were the results of this increasingly bitter disenchantment? A more aggressive Russian foreign policy, increased proliferation from Moscow to rogue states, and the final coup de grace: Russia and China announced last year a new "strategic partnership"—against the interests of America and the west.

Now is the time, with new leaders in Washington and Moscow, to improve the relationship for the long-term.

My interest in this relationship began when I was nineteen years old, when a college professor convinced me to switch my major to Russian Studies. Since that time, I have been fascinated with the Soviet Union and Russia—and have traveled there more than twenty-five times.

I began my travels when I was a member of my local County Council and was invited to