

Our amendment, Madam Speaker, accomplishes these objectives, and I urge my colleagues to support the Boehlert-Kind-Gilchrest-Dingell amendment.

AIDING OUR CITIZENS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the recent terrorist acts against our Nation have scared and angered us. Many have been directly affected by this tragedy and some have lost loved ones, and some are experiencing job displacement and others just need someone to talk to. There is help for those affected by this misfortune.

There are forms of aid available to them and their families and friends in this difficult time. I wanted to ensure our citizens that they have knowledge and access to these helpful programs.

If folks are out of work because of the attack, they are eligible for disaster unemployment assistance including access to health insurance. It is possible for states to receive funding from the Department of Labor if a large amount of their citizens have experienced job loss. If employment has been terminated due to a downsizing in the company resulting from these events, there are employment services that will assist in finding a new job.

Madam Speaker, looking to our neighbors and offering help at times such as these is what makes America and our citizens resilient. Our land may have been damaged, but our strength is indestructible.

HONORING THOMAS JOHNSON

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Thomas Johnson, a professional truck driver for Roadway Express and proudly one of my constituents.

Mr. Johnson was recently invited into the ranks of the Individual Million Mile Safe Drivers, a small group of truck drivers who have driven their vehicles more than one million miles without accident.

To put what Mr. Johnson has done into perspective, the average car driver would have to travel around the world at least 40 times to equal this milestone. This is a remarkable accomplishment, and is an outstanding safety achievement. I rise today to congratulate Mr. Johnson for his hard work and for the example he sets for other professional truck drivers and regular motorists.

Mr. Johnson has been with Roadway Express for over 8 years and I know that they are as proud of him as I am. I wish Mr. Johnson, his family, his company all the best for the future and hope that he will keep on trucking safely for many years to come.

FIGHT HUNGER TO REDUCE POVERTY

(Mr. QUINN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUINN. Madam Speaker, October 16 is United Nations World Food Day. This annual event, as we know, seeks to raise awareness for the problem of hunger around the world, as well as to provide a plan to address and make a significant reduction in the number of people who are without food. This year's theme, Fight Hunger To Reduce Poverty underscores the U.N.'s belief that fighting hunger is the first step in reducing poverty.

In conjunction with the food bank of Western New York and Buffalo, we are honored to sponsor a Columbus Day food raiser Monday, October 8. Food and money donated to this event will go towards supplying families in our area food items over the holiday and Thanksgiving times. In my district and throughout the region, the food bank is dedicated to feeding hungry people, providing over 90,000 individuals with close to a million meals per month.

Madam Speaker, I would encourage all of our colleagues to work with their local relief organizations to continue to fight hunger.

IMPORTANCE OF URBAN FORESTRY

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we consider the agriculture relief package today, I urge my colleagues to support the increase of funding for Urban forestry. In my district, the city of Atlanta, loses 50 acres of green space each day. The city, once known as the city of trees, is in danger of becoming the city of asphalt, strip malls and sprawl. Urban forestry helps to correct this problem.

Madam Speaker, this is an important issue. It is about more than just a few trees and parks. We need to open green space in our cities so that families can come together and watch the wonder of nature. We need open green spaces in our communities so that young people can belt 3-2 pitches over the fence. We need open green space in our neighborhood so that our seniors can sit and talk about the days gone by.

Madam Speaker, we need urban forestry.

RETURN TO THE SKIES

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today Washington, D.C. Ronald Reagan National Airport reopened, a reopening that reflects the freedom to access the

world's seat of democracy. This is yet another sign that our country is recovering and we will not cower to the threat of terrorism.

I applaud the administration for their commitment to assuring the American public and that it is safe to return to the skies. Washington, D.C., like other favorite tourist destinations in our great Nation, welcomes millions of visitors every year and the reopening of Ronald Reagan National Airport will once again allow people to travel from the farthest corners of the world to see our Nation at work, to see our Nation's capital and to see democracy at work.

Our Nation is strong. Our resolve is strong. Madam Speaker, we will not allow terrorists to shut down our airports, our society or our freedoms. I encourage everyone to battle terrorism individually by returning to their normal day-to-day work routines and to enjoy the freedoms of travel and enjoy their lives as Americans.

ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Adoption Information Act which I recently introduced.

The act requires that eligible family planning clinics that receive Federal funds provide information listing the adoption agencies in that State to every person who enters these clinics and requests family planning services.

Opinion surveys consistently find that the general public views adoption as an attractive option in the case of an out-of-wedlock pregnancy or other situations in which the mother is unable to care for the unexpected child. Yet very few women choose adoption when confronted with an unwanted pregnancy. I believe this is in part because adoption information is not available to them and they often have to search for a provider of adoption services. This bill is a small step in the right direction and provides women with another option.

Adoption is a safe, loving choice for both the mother and the child. I urge my colleagues to support the Adoption Information Act.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO THE PEOPLE IN THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, we have all heard stories over the past three weeks where Americans have gone out of their way and beyond the call of duty to help the victims of their families of the September 11 attacks of

the United States. I have seen several examples in Alabama and in the congressional district I represent, the Fourth District of Alabama.

One such example is in the northeastern part of the fourth congressional district in DeKalb County. A family there heard a firefighter tell of a need that was so simple, that many may not have even thought about it, the need for clean, dry socks. It should be noted that this area of the district is the "sock capital" of the world.

After a few phone calls to numerous sock mills in the Fort Payne area, those in Alabama's hosiery industry were there to help, offering socks made in America, from American materials, finished in America, packaged in America and, most importantly, for American heroes in their time of need.

The hosiery industry in Fort Payne and DeKalb County was presented with a need and answered the call within 24 hours. More than 5,000 pairs of socks were delivered to both New York City and the Pentagon.

I want to express my thanks for the actions of the people of the Fort Payne area and the thousands of other families in Alabama's Fourth District who work in these sock mills. I am proud to represent this community, Fort Payne, even though it may not have been in the headlines of the New York Times, they stood up in an important way to help their fellow Americans.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMBEST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 248 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2646.

□ 1026

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, Amendment Number 52, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) had been disposed of

and the amendment in the nature of a substitute was open to amendment at any point.

Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. TIERNEY

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 61 offered by Mr. TIERNEY: At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. 932. REPORT REGARDING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the National Academy of Sciences, shall complete and transmit to Congress a report that includes recommendations for the following:

(1) DATA AND TESTS.—The type of data and tests that are needed to sufficiently assess and evaluate human health risks from the consumption of genetically engineered foods.

(2) MONITORING SYSTEM.—The type of Federal monitoring system that should be created to assess any future human health consequences from long-term consumption of genetically engineered foods.

(3) REGULATIONS.—A Federal regulatory structure to approve genetically engineered foods that are safe for human consumption.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture \$500,000 to carry out this section.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, the safety of our food supply is one of our Nation's top priorities obviously, but increasingly, Americans are becoming concerned about the genetically engineered ingredients that are in their food. Because of that concern, I have introduced this reasonable amendment that provides for a National Academy of Sciences study to examine three important health-related aspects of genetically engineered foods.

First, that the tests being performed on genetically engineered foods to ensure their health safety are adequate and relevant.

Second, what type of monitoring system is needed to assess future health consequences from genetically engineered foods.

And third, what type of regulatory structure should be in place to approve genetically engineered foods for humans to eat.

Genetically engineered crops can be found in many of the foods we eat every day. Potato chips, soda, baby food, they all contain genetically engineered ingredients. Last year, many Americans became aware of the pervasiveness of these ingredients in our food when Starlink corn that was genetically engineered wound up in human food, and not just the animal feed for which it was approved.

We need to address this issue before we have more unexpected incidents like this.

Mr. Chairman, this issue is not going to be resolved on its own. Several States, including my home State of

Massachusetts, are considering legislation that would impose a moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered crops. In the meantime, the number of genetically engineered crops planted by farmers is continuing to grow.

In the year 2000, more than 100 million acres of land around the world were planted with genetically engineered crops. This is 25 times as much as was planted just 4 years before. If we do not make an effort to ensure the best testing, monitoring and regulatory structures are in place now, our farmers are going to suffer the consequences of any future lack of public confidence in genetically engineered foods.

This effort has been endorsed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an organization devoted to improving the safety and nutritional quality of our food supply, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this common sense amendment to protect our farmers and our families.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's offering the amendment, and I know that this is of great concern. I wanted to mention that numerous studies have been undertaken by private scientific societies, public universities, regulatory agencies and the National Academy of Sciences, which have addressed and dismissed this question.

While the initial reaction to this amendment may be to question the duplicative nature of yet another study, I recognize there is value in continued education, evaluation of the ability to oversee the application of new technologies to our food production and processing systems, and I would like to indicate to the gentleman from Massachusetts that the committee would be happy to accept the amendment.

□ 1030

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the chairman.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

It is generally agreed that the 21st century brings with it a new era of biological sciences, with the advances in molecular biology and biotechnology that promises longer, healthier lives and the effective control, perhaps elimination of a host of acute and chronic diseases. Right now we have the best safeguards in the world in testing any new food product.

The biotechnological development of new plants that is achieved through this new technology is more safe (according to witnesses testifying at five hearings I have had now in my Subcommittee on Research) more safe than the traditional cross-breeding or hybrid breeding of plants. Most everything that we eat now, and buy at the grocery store, has been genetically modified. The genetic modification has