

I also wanted in my comments today, and I want to reiterate it, and that is my appreciation for countries that will assist us in this kind of defense, in putting together a missile defense system. There are countries out there like the United Kingdom and others that will help us with this defensive system; and at some point in time, they will be beneficiaries of it.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks by again reiterating my deep appreciation and the deep appreciation of the United States of America to our NATO allies, to all of our allies including Japan, Mexico, any of the allies that are not in NATO; but specifically I want to thank our NATO allies who, as I said earlier, when the 911 call came into their office, the garage doors opened and the fire trucks came out. Every country without exception, every nation in NATO responded immediately by putting up article 5 and by coming forward with the necessary resources or whatever help the United States requested.

I want to remind everybody, today as I speak, flying over U.S. air space are NATO AWACS aircraft. Why? Because we needed the U.S. AWACS aircraft out into the theater of operations so we needed a backfill. NATO put the backfill in that fast. It is good to have friends, but it is even better to have friends when the going gets tough. By gosh, we know the going is tough, and now we can count the friends that really are friends.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENshaw). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1752

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE) at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 169

Whereas Mike Mansfield, the son of Irish immigrants, was born in 1903 in New York City and raised in Great Falls, Montana;

Whereas Mike Mansfield was the youngest Montanan to serve in World War I, having enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of fourteen;

Whereas Mike Mansfield spent eight years working in the copper mines of Montana;

Whereas Mike Mansfield, at the urging of his wife Maureen, concentrated his efforts on education, obtaining both his high school diploma and B.A. degree in 1933, an M.A. in

1934, and became a professor of history at the University of Montana at Missoula, where he taught until 1952;

Whereas Mike Mansfield was elected to the House of Representatives in 1943 and served the State of Montana with distinction until his election to the United States Senate in 1952;

Whereas Mike Mansfield further served the State of Montana and his country in the Senate from 1952 to 1976, where he held the position of Majority Leader from 1961 to 1976, longer than any Leader before or since;

Whereas Mike Mansfield continued to serve his country under both Democratic and Republican administrations in the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan from 1977 to 1989; and

Whereas Mike Mansfield was a man of integrity, decency and honor who was loved and admired by this Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Mike Mansfield, formerly a Senator from the State of Montana.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution recognizing the important contributions of the Youth For Life: Remembering Walter Payton initiative and encouraging participation in this nationwide effort to educate young people about organ and tissue donation.

S. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution honoring the law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency rescue personnel, and health care professionals who have worked tirelessly to search for and rescue the victims of the horrific attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT ALLOW MILLIONS TO SUFFER NEEDLESSLY IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I hope the international community is not once again going to sit back and allow another giant humanitarian disaster to unfold. U.N. agencies have warned that the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is fast approaching historic proportions. The situation in Afghanistan grows worse by the day.

Incredibly, the scale of the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis is now exceeding even the scale of the monumental

refugee disaster which followed the 1994 Rwanda genocide. I cannot believe that just 7 years after Rwanda, we are now preparing to allow millions of innocent men, women, and children to perish in Afghanistan.

The World Food Program now estimates that 6 million Afghan men, women, and children will require food aid inside Afghanistan from October 2001 until the end of March 2002. The U.N. estimates that as a result of the military operations, a further 1.5 million Afghans will flee into Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan and place the aid agencies in those countries under yet more pressure.

The greatest tragedy is that the children of Afghanistan are being forced to bear the greatest burden of this war. Almost 1.5 million of the at-risk population are children under the age of 5 years; and for them, hunger, illness, and cold conditions can easily lead to death. Even before the September 11 attacks, UNICEF had estimated that one in four children born today in Afghanistan could expect to die before their fifth birthday. Save The Children Fund confirms that the lives of Afghans and especially the hundreds of thousands of Afghan children aged under 5 years are at risk of dying during the coming winter months.

The World Food Program believes that they need to deliver a total of 493,000 metric tons during the next 6 months in order to feed an estimated 6 million people. They have asked for roughly \$250 million. Our Armed Forces have deployed and are using military assets including three aircraft carrier battle groups, including destroyers, escorts, submarines, and other support ships, B-1 and B-2 Stealth bombers, dozens of F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, and F/A 18s, together with helicopters, AWACS, and heavy lift transport, all worth billions of dollars. The World Food Program asked for \$250 million or the cost of 15 cruise missiles. That is the amount that we fired on the first night, or maybe the cost of just two wings of one B-2 Stealth bomber.

The tragedy is that while our military celebrates its precision bombing, millions in Afghanistan suffer.

In Rwanda, up to 1 million people died in the genocide as the U.N. Security Council and member states stood by and cut U.N. troops back from 2,000 to 400. After the worst of the killings were over, international troops were deployed in neighboring Zaire to deliver aid and smile for the cameras. But once the cameras left, hundreds and thousands of Congolese and Rwandan refugees were left helpless. It is now estimated that some 3 million Congolese have died from malnutrition, disease, and other preventable diseases. That amounts to a staggering 7,000 civilian deaths each and every week for the last 3 years, and the number is still counting.

We love our children and we know that the Afghan people love theirs as well. What will they do and all the nations surrounding Afghanistan if the

United States and Britain allow so much needless suffering to unfold in the name of the war against terrorism. Millions of Afghans are going to starve and perish and yet, what we will have is another generation rising up in bitterness and hatred against us.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Britain do not need that, and we should not allow untold millions to suffer needlessly in Afghanistan.

MUNICIPAL PREPARATION AND STRATEGIC RESPONSE ACT

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise this evening and discuss very important legislation that we intend to introduce tomorrow on the floor. My colleagues should know that this is the collaboration of more than 45 Members of Congress who have gone home and listened to their leaders, listened to their local fire chiefs, police chiefs, emergency medical people, allied health professionals, and who understand the importance of having a Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act. That is what our bill is called: the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act of 2001.

The September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States has prompted increasing debate and attention to several proposals addressing homeland security in the United States at the Federal level. The President is to be complimented for his appointment of Tom Ridge, who we believe will do an outstanding job in spearheading this effort in our Nation.

The one thing that the recent attack made clear was that for this new kind of warfare being conducted against the United States, that those truly in the frontline of defense are indeed our local firefighters, our police force, our emergency medical teams, the allied health professionals that get involved in meeting this kind of imminent emergency.

□ 1800

It has not been lost on Members of Congress as we have gone home to our districts and talked to people about what has happened at the World Trade Center, in the fields of Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon that the first to respond was not the FBI, the CIA, the FAA, or our Armed Forces, but indeed, they were firefighters, they were police officers, they were emergency medical teams, they were our allied health professionals.

These are the individuals that are most in need, at this very critical juncture of homeland defense, of the support and money necessitated to carry out homeland defense to make sure that our people here at home are safe and secure.

To do this, they require appropriate funding, and funding that will allow them from the bottom up, starting with our local communities, to become more involved with the strategic planning, and to be able to coordinate with State and Federal agencies in such a manner that will provide commonality of communication, that will allow them to prepare themselves with the various kinds of equipment they are going to need to handle this new threat, this new era that we are living in.

I am proud to join more than 45 Members in sponsoring this very important legislation. The nuts and bolts of this legislation are as follows:

This legislation would provide a total of \$1 billion in funding to towns, cities, and tribes for strategic planning needed to ensure that local emergency responders, including municipal, private, and volunteer fire departments, police departments, emergency medical technicians, EMTs, paramedics, and other health professionals are fully prepared and equipped and trained for emergency and security issues that arise from terrorist attacks.

It would also provide for the development of coordinated regional responses to terrorist attacks or other catastrophes utilizing Federal, State, and local agencies, and provide an additional \$250 million to the COPS program and \$250 million to the assistance to the firefighters program to establish grants specifically for counterterrorism response, training, and equipment; and most importantly, as we have heard from all of our local officials, with no local matching funds required.

It is important to emphasize how critical it is that we are proposing no local matching funds for these programs. The threat to our communities is now, and we cannot give those at war with the United States the opportunity to strike while our communities spend years saving enough money to pay the local match for Federal grants to provide the training and equipment necessary to safeguard the American people today.

In the edition of the Hartford Courant this past Sunday in my district, they talked about specific interviews they have had with local police departments who say that they are in no way prepared for the kind of terrorist threats that currently we can face here in this Nation.

With the State Department predicting it is near a 100 percent certainty that given the most recent attacks on Afghanistan that there will be a response, it becomes abundantly clear that we need to make sure that our front line defenders, that those who are the first to respond to these attacks, have the money in place, the training in place, the communication that is necessary in order for them to do their jobs.

Our bill specifically establishes a \$1 billion grant program for cities, coun-

ties, towns, boroughs, tribes, and other municipal or regional authorities to develop local emergency response plans that include the following, and I think it important to enumerate on these specific goals: That develop strategic response plans that provide for a clearly defined and unified response to terrorist attacks or other catastrophes. Municipal leaders feel very strongly, in acknowledging their role as the first responders, that it is important that Congress not make decisions in a vacuum; that we reach out to our local municipalities, that we involve discussion from the bottom up, and not foist a top-down decision upon them, so that we are better prepared to coordinate the activities and procedures of various emergency response units, and that we better define the relationship, the roles, responsibilities, jurisdiction, command structures, and communication protocols of emergency response units; that we coordinate response procedures with similar emergency response units in neighboring units of local government, as well as with State and Federal agencies; that we identify potential local targets of terrorism, and include specific response procedures for each potential target, notwithstanding concerns about our local schools, about water supplies, about nuclear generating power facilities. It is important that we take this kind of forward-thinking action, and we do so now.

The bill will also allow communities to prepare and issue reports to units of local government, State legislators, and Congress that include recommendations for specific legislative action; conduct public forums or other appropriate activities to educate the public about potential threats and steps the public can take to prepare for them.

I do not think there is a community that any Member of Congress has visited since September 11 where people have not been willing to roll up their sleeves and say, what can we do to help? But in meeting with our local officials, they have also said, as much as we are willing to help, we lack the necessary resources to do so.

The best way that we can help and engage in homeland defense is to make sure that our local municipalities have the resources available to carry out this function.

To help accomplish this goal, we have asked FEMA to designate for each State a representative, not to dictate but to assist and advise units of local government with the development of a strategic response plan, act as a liaison between units of local government, and coordinate the sharing of information about Federal Government initiatives and protocol.

It is clear in talking to a number of local officials, as well, that the commonality of communication is at the heart of being able to respond successfully. It is this commonality that local municipalities seek, recognizing that