

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.

GUNS, MONEY, AND A GREAT BIG BOOMERANG

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, what has the al-Qaeda organization, a heavy 50-caliber sniper rifle designed for elite troops, and a firearms manufacturer in Tennessee got in common? Guns, money, and a great big boomerang.

Last Sunday, October 7, 2001, the Violence Policy Center issued a report entitled "Voting from the Rooftops," which detailed, among other things, the sale and supply of 25 50-caliber sniper rifles manufactured by a local gun manufacturer, Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

The report cites evidence given earlier this year in New York during the African Embassy bombings trial that Essam al Ridi testified that in about 1988 or 1989 he had purchased 25 Barrett 50-caliber sniper rifles for \$150,000 and shipped them to al-Qaeda. The report went on to detail other sales of the special 50-caliber Barrett weapon to members of the IRA and other groups. Tragically, the report cited numerous incidents of British soldiers being shot and killed with sniper rifles.

The report said that there is no evidence yet available about whether Ronnie G. Barrett, the 1993 trading name of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, actually knew that the 25 guns being sold to bin Laden's al-Qaeda, nor do we know whether the guns were sold directly from the factory or through a dealer or dealers. Jane's International Defense Review reported in 1989 that, "Barrett will not identify its weapons purchasers." But the unavailability of evidence is not reassuring.

The fact is we should know all of the people who were in this country buying and selling these kinds of specialist weapons to terrorists and the hands that these specialist weapons pass through before they left this country. The events of September 11 have now made that kind of information vital to showing the links between the al-Qaeda members.

The Barrett and M82A1 50-caliber sniper rifle is a tremendously powerful weapon providing heavy hitting power with high accuracy out to an estimated 1,800 yards. U.S. Marines used the Barrett 50-caliber in the Gulf War to knock out Iraqi armored vehicles from 1,750 yards away. Mr. Speaker, for those of us in Washington, D.C., that is roughly the distance from the Smithsonian Institute metro stop to the west front of the Capitol.

These weapons are state-of-the-art firearms and can be used against vehicle armor, fuel tanks, penetrating concrete walls, aircraft and helicopters. These weapons should not be in the hands of terrorists. These weapons should not be in the hands of civilians. These are specialist weapons which should be sold and supplied only to the military.

Barrett Firearms Manufacturing company's Web site ironically states that "long-range shooting competitors and large caliber rifle enthusiasts throughout the world rely on Barrett products." Well, Mr. Speaker, I can think of a lot of adjectives to describe members of al-Qaeda and the IRA, but large caliber rifle enthusiasts is not among them. Now, not only might our young servicemen and women be confronted by the stinger missiles sold by the CIA, but it appears that they might be confronted with sniper rifles from Tennessee.

I understand that Senator FEINSTEIN and other Members of the Senate have introduced a bill to curb the sale and supply of these specialist 50-caliber weapons and that the NRA has already come out against it. Mr. Speaker, the NRA and its followers are fond of saying that "guns don't kill, people do." Well, in this case, the boomerang of unbridled arms sales and bad public policy might just come back to hurt us in Afghanistan. Arms sales are a boomerang.

TRIBUTE TO PENTAGON VOLUNTEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, soon after the tragic events of September 11, I went down to the Pentagon so that I could witness firsthand the destruction that was visited upon that spectacular building. As I made my way through the security lines and came to the perimeter that had been set up about 75 to 100 yards away from the actual destruction, I looked up and saw in full glimpse what a gaping hole that really was. The smoke and the ashes were still wafting from the rubble.

The next noticeable thing, which everyone had to observe who visited that scene, were hundreds of people still working in the rubble, sorting out different objects, pulling bodies and parts of bodies from the wreckage, and engaged in humanitarian efforts the like of which I hope we never see again but which were part of the normal scene at the Pentagon in that moment.

What was more amazing than anything was that in the second perimeter back of the immediate stage of recovery was something like a ring of covered wagons that we used to see in the Wild West movies, and these wagons were the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, McDonald's, and dif-

ferent food and beverage outfits that had, in effect, set up what they called a unity village, where the workers, who were exhausted, could go back and lie down for an hour, they had rest areas, or they could get a cup of coffee, or a full meal at some of the places.

These people were there 24 hours a day, volunteers from various sectors of the country, to aid and to help the people who were helping the victims and who were sorting out the wreckage. This was an amazing site, one that requires us to make sure that it finds its way into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. That is why I am here tonight.

Among those outfits was a Salvation Army unit from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the heart of my district. I spoke with some of the Salvation Army people there and was informed that within minutes of the crash into the Pentagon, within minutes, there were people on the scene rendering assistance.

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Within an hour, most of the governmental authorities were on the scene. Within 2 hours, most of the philanthropic and service organizations like the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army had established these extra perimeters. Out of this supreme tragedy, like in New York and the Pentagon, arose the American spirit which we still celebrate and which we have learned tonight will be further celebrated tomorrow with a nationwide Pledge of Allegiance coordinated at 2 p.m. eastern time. That is part of what has come out of rubble in real effect.

I will be providing for the RECORD the names of the people from central Pennsylvania, the 17th Congressional District, who did participate in the events of recovery in New York and at the Pentagon. The State of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency rushed to the scene with its volunteers. We had the National Guard from Pennsylvania and other entities eager to do what they could in the wake of those tragedies in New York and the Pentagon.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to our fellow citizens for coming to the aid of their fellow citizens; and as we begin the work of amassing the recovery efforts with the help of the funding from the Congress and the volunteer work that is yet to be done, I think we can all be proud of the fact that tragic as it was, that tragedy bore fruit in the renewed spirit exhibited in our country.

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

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)