

the Committee on the Judiciary. They replaced it at the last minute, without consultation and without even the opportunity for amendment, and without Members on this Chamber floor knowing fully the implications of what they were voting on, and locked it into statute for years to come.

The second threat is brewing as we speak. The economic stimulus package which, without the President's steady hand and the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), is going to turn into a grab bag of tax cuts that are to be charitable, wildly controversial, and extremely problematic in terms of affecting our economic recovery.

Here again, this is legislation that does not need to happen immediately. We can take our time and do it right in a cooperative and thoughtful fashion.

Last, and it is important and perhaps most frustrating, there is legislation that may be advanced that is designed to accentuate our differences on international trade, instead of enhancing bipartisan cooperation that is possible.

There is a little contest that is brewing between the legislation of the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and that of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), differences that are significant but not insurmountable.

If the decision is made to force this through and draw bright lines on trade issues instead of bringing us together, more than just an opportunity will be lost on the divisive and potentially explosive issue of trade. We could also slow the bipartisan momentum that is needed to deal appropriately with the threats of terrorism and the dangers to our economy.

The American public deserves better. This is a unique opportunity to do our best. The President and the Republican leadership should join with the Democratic leadership rising to this occasion.

The President can start today by insisting that any bill for trade promotion authority needs to have at least 250 votes on this floor, and we can do it. It should make serious advances in promoting trade while protecting the environment, worker rights, and having legislation that does not put foreign investor interests ahead of those that are of legitimate American and private citizen interests. He should exercise the unique leadership opportunity that he has to bring Congress and the American public together.

As our President and the legislative leadership have all united in communicating to the American public, we are in a long-term struggle. We are going to need the executive to do its job, we need Congress to function, we need to be able to trust each other, and we need our committees to operate the way that they are designed to do.

We all need to do our best. We can start with the contentious issue of international trade and make it into a bipartisan victory for us all.

SUPPORT ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, these are important times for our Nation as we respond to the attack on September 11, as we work to provide leadership to address the challenges that we face, as we work to provide the solutions to the military challenge, the international and national security issues, and also the economic security issues.

I particularly wanted to commend President Bush for the strong, commanding leadership that he has shown in response to the attack. I also want to commend the leadership of this Congress, particularly the Speaker of the House, for his calm, strong leadership that he has shown as we address the terrorist attack on September 11.

We have had several challenges. We have given full authority to the President for the military action that is now under way. We have funded that military action with \$40 billion, as well as the emergency and recovery effort. We have worked to address the financial challenges of our aviation sector, we have passed legislation out of this House, and we are working out the differences with the Senate on providing special powers for our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to go after terrorists.

There is another challenge that we have before us, though. That is a challenge that we were already feeling prior to September 11. That was our economic challenge.

President Bush inherited a weakening economy. The last 12 or 14 months we have seen changes in the direction of the economy. Unfortunately, the terrorist attack was also a psychological blow on our economy, causing many consumers and business decision-makers to step back.

The question is, what type of action should we take? Clearly, we need to act quickly. We need to provide strong leadership. We need to give confidence back to consumers, as well as business decisionmakers to spend and invest in the future of our economy.

I believe, as we look at what type of approach we need to take, that we need to be thinking short-term, what can we do to cause investment over the short-term to protect current jobs and get this economy growing again; essentially, a cash register effect; incentives that will cause business decision-makers as well as consumers to spend and invest.

Let me give an example of one sector of the economy that has had a big impact on our overall economy over the past decade which currently has been suffering. That is the technology sector. Over the past decade, the technology sector has generated one-third of all our growth in jobs; in fact, the majority of assets today that have

been purchased come out of the technology sector.

I would note in 1994, or in the year 2000, private investment in information processing equipment software grew at an average rate of 28 percent. Investment in computers and peripheral computers grew at an astounding 113 percent average annual rate during that same period of time.

However, that trend has reversed, and that sector that grew one-third of our jobs is now in a slump. We have seen a loss of almost 400,000 jobs in technology and telecommunications since January of this year, and actually an 8.4 percent drop in investment from the fourth quarter of 2000 to the second quarter of 2001.

We do need to act quickly. We need to provide incentives to invest in the creation of jobs, as well as revitalize important sectors of our economy. Clearly, the technology sector needs help.

This past week, the Committee on Ways and Means moved out of the committee and the legislation will now be before us in this House this week, what some call an economic stimulus package, but legislation that is called the Economic Security and Recovery Act, legislation designed to put more money in consumers' pockets, as well as provide incentives to invest.

There are three provisions in this legislation that will have a big impact in helping revitalize the technology sector, which we need to revitalize if we are going to get this economy growing again.

The three provisions include the 30 percent expensing, providing greater incentives to invest by business for the next 3 years, a temporary provision; increasing the opportunity for small business to invest from the current level of \$24,000 to \$35,000; and also, the net operating losses carryback, allowing businesses losing money now to credit that loss against previous income paid in previous years to get a refund to free up capital that they can invest.

These provisions will make a big difference in revitalizing the technology sector. As we look at depreciation reform, the opportunity for a business to expense 30 percent of the purchase cost of that asset will reward investment.

Currently, a computer is depreciated over 5 years. By expensing that first 30 percent, that would be a big incentive to allow a business to recover the cost of investing in technology, computers, software, peripheral equipment, medical technology, high technology telephone station equipment, wireless equipment, as well as DSL and networking equipment they can expense now with 30 percent, with the legislation we passed out of the Committee on Ways and Means that will be before the House this week.

That will reward investment in the creation of jobs. I would also note, it will reward investment in providing greater security. The vast majority of

offices and factories are all owned by the private sector. We need to help the private sector make their facilities more secure.

With this expensing provision of 30 percent expensing, they can recover the cost of electronic access equipment, biometrics, television surveillance, as well as computers and software to protect their data and information systems; also, electronic alarm systems and other components.

The bottom line is, this legislation, the Economic Security and Recovery Act, the legislation before the committee or the House this week, will reward investment, will create jobs. It will boost the technology sector, and will also help private companies make their offices and their factories much more secure.

I urge bipartisan support for this legislation. We need to get the economy moving again.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERALIZING THE WORK FORCE FOR AVIATION SECURITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) spoke in the well earlier about virtues of a privatized aviation security system and the handout of our colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), I did not object to it being put in the RECORD. I should have, because it was not written by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) or his staff; it was written by a former FAA senior employee who is now earning hundreds of thousands of dollars representing the private security firms, including the private security firm currently under indictment and prosecution by the Federal Government, Arkenbright. So that is his information, and the veracity of it is definitely in question.

In fact, according to an article in last week's Washington Post, at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, there are 1,300 police agents to supervise 1,500 private screeners, who are much better paid, trained, and have higher qualifications than in the United States.

If that is the route they want to go, we would end up having something more expensive than a totally federalized system with one Federal law enforcement person to supervise every two private employees. It would be bigger. It would be absurdly bigger than what we could do with the normal scope of supervision in a Federal agency.

The issue of private firms in the U.S., we have tried it. It has failed miserably. I am glad he had a good experience leaving Florida and they found his cuticle scissors, that is great; but they are missing other things, like fake hand grenades, fully-assembled weap-

ons, knives, bombs, or simulated bombs, which the FAA regularly gets through these systems.

The largest private security firm in the country, previously successfully prosecuted by the Federal Government, fined \$1.5 million, Arkenbright, and put on probation, who still is providing security, is now being prosecuted again.

Under the current system, the Federal Government cannot remove these incompetents and criminals from doing the job. This company is still employing known criminals, despite its probation. It is still hiring known criminals, despite its probation.

Thirty-two percent of its files include new violations and false statements on their employees. Yet, today they are providing security at Dulles, Reagan, Logan, LaGuardia, Los Angeles, Trenton, Detroit, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Columbus, Dallas, Fort Worth, Seattle and Cedar Rapids.

So my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, in his just visceral dislike of Federal employees, and more Federal employees and Federal bureaucracy, wants to continue a failing private bureaucracy that is not properly protecting the security of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, when we come through Customs, those are Federal law enforcement agents. When we come through INS, they are Federal law enforcement agents. If we go to Hawaii, the agriculture agents are Federal law enforcement agents. Even the beagles that they use in the airport have been deemed to be Federal law enforcement agents.

But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, a minority of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, just cannot stand the idea that the people who are the first line of defense at the airport to screen the baggage and the customers might be Federal law enforcement agents.

This is a blinding ideological position to take. After all that has happened, after all the documented failures, after the continued prosecutions in court, we have given the private firms every opportunity and they have failed the American traveling public miserably.

We need legislation, and we should take the legislation up today. But instead, today we will take up, and no offense to any of these people, they are outstanding people, the Francis Bardanoue United States Post Office Building Act; the Earl T. Shinoster Post Office Designation Act; the Congressman Julian C. Dixon, of whom I was a great fan, Post Office Building Designation Act; a bill to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers, et cetera, et cetera.

It has been more than a month since the attack by the terrorists, and the use of our own civilian aviation as weapons. Yet, not one penny has been mandated by the House to change that system. Not one single line of statute has been changed.

The first line of defense is still failing us; the House of Representatives must not fail us. The bill should come up today, and if they cannot bring it up today, how about tomorrow? They have got an alternative, we have got an alternative. Let us have a legislative process and see whose alternative wins.

I do not think they want to do that, because I suspect that they know that many of their Members would vote for the more comprehensive approach, instead of continuing to buy the worst security we can get on the cheap.

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AMERICA SHOULD PROVIDE MEALS AND EDUCATION FOR THE WORLD'S NEEDY CHILDREN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 weeks, discussions on how best to combat terrorism over the longer term have begun in the Congress and the Bush administration and in the international community.

The terrible events of September 11 are bringing governments and people together to reflect not only on how to meet the immediate challenge of rooting out the terrorist leaders and destroying the al-Qaeda network, but also on how to eliminate poverty, hunger, ignorance and intolerance, which often breed despair, disaffection, and deep resentment. It is not enough to demonstrate what we are against. We need to be equally forceful in showing the world what we are for.

Perhaps no one has articulated this longer term challenge better than Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair. Prime Minister Blair has called upon the international community to foster and use the "power of a global community for good."

He stated that such a community would encourage political inclusion and democratic principles throughout the world. It would more than redouble efforts to find just and lasting solutions to the world's lingering conflicts, including the Middle East. It would pledge to the people of Afghanistan that the West will not just walk away, as we have before, at the end of this conflict, leaving unresolved the political, social, and economic crises that have worn down Afghanistan for more than 2 decades.

Further, the international community should seize the moment as a new opportunity to tackle the serious problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, and intolerance that have plagued so much of the developing world. We should forge partnerships to bring greater social and economic opportunities to Africa and other regions of the world.

This is an exciting agenda, one which will create a stronger international