

We have got to start reminding our folks not only of the danger but that most of us are safe.

Yes, I am struggling with the grief of two who died here; but at the same time, I tell my people that the two who died here of anthrax which gives flu-like symptoms, that 10,000 die of flu every year. We have got to put this into some perspective or else we are simply going to help paralyze our own people. We have got to remind them that the Nation's capital is the best protected city in the world notwithstanding the anthrax deaths. We have got to help the people of this city and of the United States get past this. We have got to help them understand that the House and the Senate and the Congress will soon be safe enough for all to come and see.

Above all, we have got to send a message that yes, school children can come again to their Nation's capital and can come to their Congress. I ask for your help in getting out to the people of this city and to the American people messages of reassurance that all now hunger for.

AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, ground zero is still burning while the House is fiddling. Six weeks have passed since terrorists attacked America by hijacking four airplanes. Six weeks have passed since that deadly day, September 11, 2001, in which terrorists attacked the United States of America. Six weeks have passed since nearly 6,000 Americans and other people perished in the deadliest day in the history of American soil.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time House leaders let the Members vote on the bipartisan aviation security bill, H.R. 2951, which I have cosponsored with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS). It is high time Congress acts to protect the American people from future terrorist hijackings.

We need to pass this bipartisan bill, because it provides the flexibility to hire a combination of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel to provide security for our Nation's airports. Airport security, Mr. Speaker, should be a law enforcement function, not a minimum wage function. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker, because that is the bottom line that divides us here in the House. That is what this debate is all about, and that is why the bill has yet to come to the floor. Airport security should be a law enforcement function and not a minimum wage function. The American people will not return to flying until they know the skies are safe.

Despite the changes made since September 11, security lapses continue. I recently met with several Minneapolis

St. Paul airport police officers, airport screeners, and supervisors as well as Northwest Airlines pilots and flight attendants. To a person, they all told me airport security is still inadequate. I talked to a supervisor of screeners, security checkpoint screeners at Dulles Airport, spent about a half-hour with this woman, this supervisor, and she said, "Congressman, airport security here is a joke. It's not uniform, 80 percent of our personnel at Dulles are not citizens, 40 percent of them don't speak English and don't understand what is expected in terms of our security."

Mr. Speaker, that was alarming to me and it is certainly not reassuring to the American people. Low-paid and undertrained baggage screeners and spot checks of passenger luggage are not the solution. They are the problem. When the president of a major flight attendants union says that flight attendants do not feel safe yet, how can we expect the traveling public to feel safe? How can we expect the traveling public to return to the airlines?

We all know that the President has said he will sign our bipartisan aviation security bill if we can get it passed in this body. It passed the other body 100-to-nothing, unanimously. It is high time to stop the delay and pass this bill now.

Aviation security delayed is aviation security denied.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days, I have been meeting with constituents in Maine, including a couple of meetings with fire department, police department, and EMT personnel about what they have been going through since September 11. My colleague, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI), and I did one of those meetings together; and I did another one yesterday morning in Portland.

What those people said to me over and over again is we need help with the added costs that we have run up since September 11; and, after all, this was an attack on the United States and not on the State of Maine or the City of Portland or the towns in my district or anywhere else in the country. Second, they said we need training to cope with these new threats, chemical and biological threats or other threats, that we are not entirely prepared for. And, third, they said we need better communication with Federal officials, State officials, and others, in fact with each other, in order to do the jobs that we have set out to do.

But when we look at what is happening to our States right now, we notice several things. First, costs are up. Costs are up because of overtime and all sorts of additional tasks that are being undertaken since September 11. Revenues are down because of the slow-

ing economy. Sales taxes have dropped; and other State revenues are down, so that for many States deficits are looming. In fact, for more than half a dozen States in this country, the deficits look like they could be over \$1 billion.

Tomorrow, this Congress, back in session, will take up an economic stimulus bill; and I have to say how disappointed I am in the bill that has been reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means on a partisan, not a bipartisan, basis.

First of all, it provides huge tax breaks to some of the largest corporations in the country. Second, it will cut State revenues, I said cut State revenues, by \$5 billion a year for each of the next 3 years. And, third, it is, as I said, not a bipartisan bill, not in the spirit of unity and resolve that we have shown in this Congress and around the country since September 11 but a partisan bill.

Let me touch for a moment on the tax cuts to corporations, largely coming from the repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax and certain AMT tax credit carry-forwards, a technical term. But let us look at this.

People around this country, many of them, got \$300 for a tax rebate a little while ago. IBM, if the bill passes tomorrow and is signed by the President and passed by the Senate, would get \$1.4 billion in a tax rebate. General Motors would get \$833 million in a tax rebate. General Electric would get \$671 million in a tax rebate.

What sense does that make? I cannot explain that to people back in Maine. We have \$25 billion going to some of the largest and most successful corporations in this country. They are good companies, they work hard; but these corporations do not need \$25 billion in tax rebates now.

□ 2045

Let me go quickly to another point. I mentioned what has been happening in our States. Revenues are down; costs are up. A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that the States collectively will lose \$5 billion in revenues over each of the next 5 years precisely because of the tax changes that are going to be made at the Federal level if the House bill passes tomorrow.

Now, why does that happen? It happens because so many States, in fact, 49, have their tax laws tied to the Federal tax laws, so when we make a change here, it affects State revenues. What does this mean for economic stimulus? It means that State revenues will be cut. They will have to increase taxes or lay off people because of the changes that we make. What will that do? It will slow down the economy.

So the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Republican majority tomorrow are steps that will slow down economic activity in our states. It makes no sense.

Now we are engaged in a war on terrorism. We are engaged in conflict

abroad, and we are engaged in a major effort here at home to protect our citizens. We are asking our citizens for sacrifice; we are asking our citizens to pull together.

Tomorrow, we will have an economic stimulus package from the House Committee on Ways and Means on a partisan basis which hands out \$25 billion to the largest corporations in this country and will take away \$5 billion a year from our State governments at a time when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, the majority should be embarrassed by this legislation that is coming to the House floor tomorrow. These major American companies in energy areas, in automobiles, they should be embarrassed by this \$25 billion handout. We should turn our back on it and develop a real economic stimulus package for the people of this country.

AIRLINE SECURITY LEGISLATION NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 42 after the attack of September 11, and still this Chamber has not had one single solitary itty-bitty vote to do a darn thing about airline safety. It is incredible to me that tomorrow we will be voting on these giant handouts, corporate tax breaks; and we have done absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, for the traveling public of this country to make airlines safer.

Let me tell you why I feel so strongly about this. Thursday I was flying up to New York, and the fellow next to me was going through security. And we have got National Guardsmen standing there, and they are doing the great duty standing there. And our screeners are I think trying to do a little better job.

The guy next to me had a nail clipper, and the screening people said, "Sir, you can't have that." They took the nail clipper and ripped off the little pointed deal to take the nail clipper away from him.

That is great, that we are taking nail clippers away from people. But they did not do anything about the guy's bag that he checked in that could have had 40 pounds of C-4 high explosives in it, that went right into the belly of the airplane I was getting on, with another 150 people getting on, who thought, who thought the bags are checked for explosives in this country.

In fact, they are not, because, Mr. Speaker, the sad fact is that 90 percent probably-plus of the bags that go into our airplanes go straight into the belly of the airplane, and they are not checked for anything. They could have dynamite, they could have nitrates, they could have C-4, they could have gasoline, and they are not checked about that. Do you know what the

House has done about that for the last 40 days is zip.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I am very frustrated by the majority's refusal to bring up a vote in this Chamber to do anything about airline safety when this incredible risk is being faced by the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding and want to thank him and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) for rising also on this.

It is just unbelievable to our constituents when we go home and they ask about airport safety to tell them that we have done nothing; that the committee has completed its work, legislation is prepared to go, the Senate has passed the bill, and on the House floor we have done nothing.

It is even more unbelievable to them when they read one of the reasons the House has not taken action is that you have the leadership in the Republican Party now telling lobbyists that if they do not come and lobby against this legislation, they will not help them out in other pieces of legislation, they will not help them out on things that matter to them.

So what we have now is we have this lobbying game, or fund-raising game, or favors game being played in this Chamber, in this House, against the safety of the American people. It is an outrage to the American people, because the gentleman is so right.

Today I walked all over San Francisco airport. I saw the entire airport. I was in the line so I could get through the machines to clear your carry-on luggage. All that was was the appearance of safety. It was not safety, as the gentleman points out, because we still have not gotten to the point where we have the kinds of technology, the machines, the security, the training, the people in place.

So the gentleman is absolutely right. The leadership of this House on the Republican-side of the aisle absolutely ought to be ashamed. They are breaking faith with the American people on getting this legislation to the floor so that we can get on with it. And it is harming our communities, because the American people are not flying unless they absolutely have to. That is hurting the economies in Florida, Texas, Arizona, California, and the State of Washington and New York and all points in between, because the American people are still nervous. And they ought to be nervous, because this Congress has not addressed this issue.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, let me tell you, I represent Boeing Company. We make the airplanes. If the airlines do not have passengers, we do not sell airplanes. The majority party is bringing up a stimulus package tomorrow that basically is a tax bill out for some corporate interests, which is okay. That is a legitimate issue at least to vote on.

But the fact of the matter is you could do the biggest stimulus package in this known universe; and if they take down a couple more of our airplanes, the U.S. economy is going in the tank. Boeing is going to have major problems; I will tell you that.

This is an economic and safety issue. To me, it is just absolutely stunning, when we would pass this bill, airline security, that passed 100 to zip in the Senate; and it would pass with overwhelming bipartisan support. If we had a vote on this, Republicans and Democrats would link hands and say we need some modicum of airline safety. This would not be a partisan issue. But the leadership, which wants to hand out these special goods to special interests, is blocking a bipartisan majority in this House to keep planes from being blown up in the sky. I think it is ridiculous.

We have had some good bipartisan cooperation, sending a message to the world that we are united in dealing with this menace. But when it comes time to stand up to the special interests, the majority leadership is not allowing us to do it. And it is wrong; and we are going to talk on this floor, until this gets done, every night.

AIRLINE SAFETY

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a life and death matter this evening. And I think the American people, if they knew what is happening, would be justifiably outraged, because most people think when they go to an airport and they check their luggage, that that luggage is screened for explosive devices before it is placed in the belly of that airplane. So they get on that airplane, sometimes they allow their families, their children to get on those airplanes, thinking that it is safe to fly.

Now, by law, we have to put a disclaimer on the packs of cigarettes that says if you smoke these cigarettes, you are endangering yourself in certain ways. I believe if we continue to allow the current situation to exist, we should be required to put a disclaimer on airline tickets that says if you get on this airplane, you need to know that it has not been screened, the baggage has not been screened for explosives, and this airplane may explode in mid-air.

Now, I do not want to be overly dramatic or I do not want to be an alarmist, but the American people have a right to accurate, factual information. They have a right to know that although the Senate has voted 100 to nothing to move an airline security bill, this House has refused to even allow that bill to come to this floor so that we can debate it and talk about it and air our differences and have a vote.