

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.

DO NOT GIVE IN TO FEAR, THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF TERRORISM

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about terrorism from my perspective, both as a Member of the Congress and as a scientist.

It is very clear that the purpose of terrorism is an effort by a nongovernmental agency or group of individuals to disrupt the activities of legitimate governments and to do so by instilling fear in the citizens of that particular government. We have to recognize that that is the main purpose of terrorism. The cause may be hate, the cause may be a simple interest in vandalism, but the purpose is to disrupt and to cause fear.

There are various ways to respond to that. One, of course, is a military response, which this country is doing in response to terrorism. But equally important is to defeat terrorism by not letting the terrorists disrupt our country, by not letting them generate fear in our country, but rather by recognizing what their purpose is and to defeat them by not yielding to the terror and to the fear that they want to instill.

Obviously, when the terrorists attacked our Nation and killed roughly 6,000 people in a horrible, horrible attack on the New York World Trade Center, we as a Nation became very disturbed, as we have every right to be, and we are responding to that action militarily. But I am concerned about the response of fear that we also see, the fear of flying, the fear of going places, and the withdrawal into our homes. That is precisely what the terrorists want, and I encourage the citizens of our country to overcome that fear. Most of the Members of Congress fly every week as I do. I have found absolutely no reason to be fearful of flying. It is safer to fly today than it was before September 11, because the security is much better.

Our latest fear is anthrax. But it is very important to put these issues in perspective, and to look at them from the aspect of relative risk. Every day of the week, every day of the year, 120 people, on average, die in automobile accidents in this country. Very, very few people have died from anthrax; very, very few have died, until September 11, from terrorist activities. And so let us keep that in perspective.

We should be no more afraid to fly than we are afraid to get in our automobile and drive. We should be no more afraid of contracting anthrax than we

should be afraid of getting in our car and driving. In fact, the probability of incurring anthrax is far less than the probability of winning the Power Ball lottery, and we know that is very very small.

Now, why am I saying this? Am I not afraid of anthrax? Yes, I am, but I am not going to live my life in fear of contracting anthrax. It is very difficult to make biological weapons. It is even more difficult to disperse the biological material. In spite of the efforts made by the terrorists, very few people have been injured or have acquired the disease of anthrax. In spite of the efforts of the terrorists, it is simply very difficult to circulate enough biological material that actually causes someone to become ill, particularly to the point of death.

There are other fears we might have. I am more concerned, frankly, about chemical terrorism than about biological because it is easier to make and spread toxic chemicals and it is easier to kill a large number of people with it.

The main point, I want to make is that we should live our lives without fear. We should try to go about our normal paths but to be vigilant. Everyone in this Nation should be watching for terrorists who might be trying to do evil things. They should report these activities to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

□ 1700

Do not live your life in fear. Be vigilant but live a normal life and be grateful that you are living in the United States of America, the most wonderful Nation that has ever existed on this planet. Enjoy the blessings and benefits of this Nation. Do not succumb to what the terrorists want you to succumb to. Be brave, be bold, but be vigilant.

HOMELAND SECURITY TASK FORCE

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

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Homeland Security Task Force of which the leader on this side has convened and of which I serve as a member of that task force.

In preparing to meet with local municipal leaders and those agencies that are so critical in combatting any type of terrorist attack, I was encouraged on Monday when I convened a meeting in my district and met with 45 of those agencies. In speaking with them about the preparedness of cities and hospitals, schools, refineries, water agencies, postal services, I am convinced that we are prepared.

Of course, there are further resources that can be put in place for those city governments, and there is a critical

need for more training perhaps in small cities, where there is not a full-time person who can help in executing the plan that has been put in place, but in the State of California, the Governor has put a strategic plan in place to help the hospitals and to ensure that every hospital has a bioterrorism plan.

We have asked now for the sheriff's department and they have responded with a uniform plan that is in concert and coordinated with city block clubs and other organizations.

I am pleased to report to you that the water agencies have security on every front, especially in the State of California.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, we are ready. The connect is there; the coordination is there. The execution of those plans are there.

I would like to also inform my colleagues that FEMA has 28 Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, eight of which are in California, and these task forces integrate the plan from the Federal down over to the State and then the local levels. So I will say that I am encouraged by this whole notion that the municipal leaders, the municipal emergency preparedness plan is in place, especially in California.

I would urge all Members, though they may or may not sit on the Homeland Security Task Force, that they meet with their municipal leaders to draw from them their plan and to see whether it is coordinated across all of the agencies. I will say that more than likely they have such a plan, because with FEMA having the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, I am sure that all other States have put that in place.

Mr. Speaker, we are ready for any type of bioterrorism attacks from the Federal, State and local levels.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTOFOR STONESIFER

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

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 when America was attacked, nearly every American had the same response and that was that we needed to immediately defend our people and defend our Nation against this evil, and the Congress, including this House, immediately after that attack, authorized force, military force to accomplish that end.

Our military force are the airplanes and the aircraft carriers and the smart bombs and the weapons that we have, but that military force is nothing except for the men and women in our Armed Services, volunteers all, who fly those airplanes, who drive those ships, who leap out of airplanes with parachutes and are prepared to serve their country.

Last weekend, we lost our first two fine American young military personnel, and one of those fine soldiers was from my district. His name was

Kristofor Stonesifer, and he is the son of Rick and Ruth Stonesifer from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stonesifer, Jr., was a pretty extraordinary young man. He knew from a very young age that what he wanted to do was to be the best combat soldier this country had to offer. He left his service in ROTC because he wanted a greater challenge, and when he joined the Army Rangers, he found that challenge indeed.

This was a young man who was aboard a helicopter in Pakistan, prepared to extract our special forces, when as we know tragically that helicopter crashed and he lost his life.

Mr. Speaker, we will undoubtedly lose more lives in this, what will probably be a protracted war, but the first of them was among the finest young men that we had to offer, and I on behalf of the House would like to extend my condolences and our condolences to his parents and remind ourselves as a House of Representatives, as a Congress and as a Nation that it is only because of the likes of Kristofor Stonesifer and his willingness to train and prepare for battle that we, in fact, can authorize force and can have a force that will prevail and will protect this country.

BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in acknowledging the loss of our fine young men and offer to their families my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the biblical verses that tell the story of the Good Samaritan. In that instance, a person of goodwill and caring attitude came upon a brutalized and broken person, having been attacked by those who would do evil. The person did not look around to secure help from anyone else but took that battered soul to a place of refuge, indicated to the innkeeper that whatever the expenses might be to secure him and to make him whole the Good Samaritan would return and pay for it.

It comes to mind that on September 11 it generated the opportunity for this government and this Congress to be good Samaritans, to heal our land and to embrace Americans and to respond to their very needs, the needs of securing America, the needs of ensuring that we had the military personnel and resources to fight against terrorism.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I was sorely disappointed in the legislation that was brought to the floor of the House in the name of stimulus, in the name of helping, when all it did was the simply take from a dying man.

The headline in the USA Today said it well, special interests payback. The stimulus package that was passed today was not worthy of its name. In

fact, I would say to those who have paid attention to this debate it was shameful, and as evidenced by the 216 to 214 vote, merely two votes that cast and made this legislation or caused this legislation to pass, it gives me reason to come before this House and to explain to the American people what we did today.

First of all, we are not secure at the passage of this legislation. No one single American has been made more secure. Not one single child has been educated. Not one single school has been built. Not one employee over a period of time will get immediate relief. In the Republican bill, workers will not see relief for some 6 months.

Listening to Daniels of the OMB, he made a statement about President Bush's main priorities. His quote, as I paraphrase as such, President Bush cares about agriculture, but if he cares about any two issues he cares about these two: Conquering international terrorism, I agree; and protecting Americans at home, I absolutely agree.

Let me tell you what the Republican stimulus package does. My son was born in 1985. He is 16 years old. The Republicans' stimulus package provides an elimination of the permanent repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax, and what that does is it retroactively gives that corporation dollars for over 15 years, almost \$20 billion. Seven corporations alone will have a \$3 billion gift.

Does that provide airline security? No, it does not. Does it give the men and women of the postal service, two that have lost their lives, the kind of equipment, the kind of protection or the kind of instruction that will allow them to continue to deliver the mail safely? No, it does not. Does it infuse energy into our public health systems, our county hospitals, our private clinics? Does it help private practitioners in rural America and urban America be sensitive to the potential threat of smallpox and anthrax? Does it provide vaccinations for 200 plus million Americans? No, it does not.

What it does do is it provides a permanent reduction of capital gains taxes. Seventy-two percent of the benefit of that reduction are to be enjoyed by 2 percent of the Nation's citizens.

Let me say this to my friends. I certainly believe that we should help businesses, small and large. I think we should help them provide opportunities for jobs. Most Americans would want to support those who are creating new jobs.

This past week I rode home with a constituent who indicated to me that there is a silent recession going on in this country. Four hundred people were laid off in one of our large accounting firms, investment firms, Pricewaterhouse. This is happening all over the country. Will giving corporations \$3 billion, \$20 billion by eliminating the alternative minimum tax, help anybody? Absolutely not.

Mr. Speaker, this today was a tragedy before this Nation. No one, Mr.

Speaker, has been helped today. No American has been secured. No military has been funded. No military personnel has been supported. No indigent people have been helped, and no medical care has been given to those who are in need. Where was our heart today? I believe at the bottom of our sleeve.

I would simply say, Mr. Speaker, that this is an important time in America's history, a time that we could rise to the occasion and be the Good Samaritan. Tragically we have taken from that laying down, broken person, dying on the side of the street, we have taken from them. We have not given to them.

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

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SCREENING LUGGAGE AT AIRPORTS

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, I would like to speak this evening about this matter of the airline security, because most Americans when they buy an airline ticket believe that when they get on that plane that the luggage that has been loaded into the belly of that airplane has been screened for explosive devices, and the fact is that it has not. Probably less than 10 percent of all the luggage that is put on passenger planes is screened for explosive devices.

□ 1715

Last week, this House left town on Wednesday evening. We returned this Tuesday at 6 o'clock p.m. We went into session at 10 o'clock this morning. We completed work before 5 o'clock this afternoon. And tomorrow we are told to be prepared to leave town by 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It has been 43 days since those two planes were hijacked and tore into the World Trade towers in New York City. It has been 43 days since the Pentagon was attacked and all those lives were lost. It has been 43 days since those innocent people went down in that plane in Pennsylvania. And we still have not passed an airline security bill in this House of Representatives.

Two weeks ago, the Senate passed an airline security bill 100-to-nothing. Every Senator joined together to vote to protect the traveling public. Yet this House has not acted. Why have we not acted? It is because the leadership here is opposed to making the people who work in our airports, to provide the security for our traveling public,