

presence, his guidance and his blessing on this House as we begin our critical work today and into the future.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair announces there will be 10 1-minutes on each side.

SECURITY IS WHAT IS IMPORTANT AT AIRPORTS

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as cochairman of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I urge this House to immediately pursue the airline security measures that we see before us.

We can do a lot of promotion. We can spend a lot of money. We can urge people to travel. But if we do not make our airlines safe, they will not fly.

I just left a meeting with the theme team, with Secretary Norman Mineta, former chairman of the Democratic Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, he was then in the minority, who seems to share the same goals that I have, that we have security at the airports, not necessarily labeling them as Federal employees.

In Palm Beach County, our airport, currently we could use the sheriff's department. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department could be hired with Federal resources in order to secure those going on planes.

The other side of the aisle seems to insist that if they are not Federal, Civil Service employees, then we will not proceed with this bill. I think it is more important to have security in the cabin of the airplane and making certain it is accomplished with Federal guidelines than simply calling them Federal employees.

We have to do this and we must do it now in order to encourage our citizens to travel safely once again in the skies.

CONGRESS SHOULD FIRE CIA AND SUPPORT HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reports persist that there are still a growing number of Arab people opposing their own governments. Now, if this is true, the governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan could be toppled, thus destabilizing the entire world. Yet nothing, my colleagues, from the Central Intelligence Agency.

This is ridiculous. We spend \$40 billion a year and we get these reports from Fox and CNN. Beam me up. I think the Congress of the United States should fire the Central Intel-

ligence Agency and put on contract Fox and CNN.

I yield back the fact that Congress should also support a homeland for the Palestinian people before this fiasco escalates to World War III.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Jacinto Acebal and his many fellow workers at the Miami General Mail Facility of the United States Postal Service are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

This Friday, events will unfold celebrating Hispanic history and culture in our country as well as the contributions of Hispanics in all areas, public service, politics, entertainment, sports, business, science and military service.

As we face attacks that threaten the very core of our freedom and security, it is particularly fitting to mention the participation of Hispanics in the defense of our country. An unprecedented number of Americans of Hispanic heritage in active and reserve duty are serving in our military branches, helping to ensure that our way of life remains the standard to which many freedom-loving nations aspire.

As the first Hispanic American woman in Congress, I am proud to know that Jacinto and those at the Miami General Mail Facility are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating with them.

AIRLINE BAGGAGE SCREENER SHOULD BE FEDERAL OFFICERS

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in addition to attempting to assure safeguards for the taxpayer, who has to foot the bill, one of my principal concerns in questioning the airline bailout was the need to at the same time address the security of passengers on our airlines. But even I could not imagine that we would still be here 7 weeks after the disaster of September 11 without this House doing anything to address airline security.

The other body acted with unanimity and in a bipartisan way and approved an approach to address and secure our airlines so that the people who are out there checking our baggage are not people who are paid less than the people that clean the bathroom at the airport or who bus the tables at the airport, as occurs right now. The people will be Federal law enforcement officers.

That is the kind of person we rely on to screen the baggage that comes into this building and into our own office buildings. We should demand no less

for the American traveling public. It is time to move forward on airline security.

TRIBUTE TO TOM TURK

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, thousands of Americans have volunteered to help New York and Washington recover from the devastating attacks and damage that was done on that date. Today, I am privileged and honored to come to the floor to recognize and commend Mr. Tom Turk of Elko, Nevada, who has spent the last 3 weeks at ground zero in New York City.

As a battalion chief for the Nevada Division of Forestry, Mr. Turk had never been east of the Mississippi until he left on September 18 to assist FEMA in the aftermath of those terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Recently, Mr. Turk mentioned what he will remember most about his experience in New York, and I think we can all relate to his words, which I would like to share, and I quote, "It has taught me not to take this life or the importance of family for granted. It has also taught me despite all this destruction and evil, that people, the public, the emergency workers, the residents of New York City and the people across this country are good to the core as a whole."

As America continues to brave this dark chapter of history, let us find strength in Mr. Turk's words; the good will and spirit of America will always survive.

HOUSE SHOULD FOLLOW SENATE'S LEAD ON AIRLINE SECURITY LEGISLATION

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I heard my dear friend from Florida rise, and I had not risen in some time but I wanted to have the record corrected.

I was a part of a group of many Members on both sides of the aisle some few weeks ago who believed the argument put forward by many in the airline industry that if we did not pass an immediate industry stabilization package, I think totaling some \$5 billion in cash and \$10 billion in loan guarantees, that the industry would sink.

Here we are, some several weeks after, 130,000 employees laid off, yet I still believe we did the right thing. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have expressed trepidation and concern about that vote, but here we are several weeks later still having done nothing to ensure the safety of those flying.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is a friend, and a dear friend.

But to hear him suggest that Democrats or some in this body are blocking passage of this legislation because we want Federal employees, nothing could be further from the truth. We want to ensure that every airport security installation in this Nation is able to cross-share information with every other airport security installation in this Nation, which will secure the safety of all our passengers.

Let us follow the lead of the Senate and pass a bill here in this House that will allow for the safety of all Americans all across this great Nation.

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PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISION TO CURE WHAT AILS AMERICAN ECONOMY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is said that without a vision, the people perish. President Bush's vision for curing what ails the American economy is very simple. It is a vision of tax relief and expanded trade. Yesterday Republicans and many Democrats in this House came together to give the President the beginning of the first half of that vision as we passed nearly \$100 billion in urgent tax relief in this year alone out of this Chamber and sending it to the Senate. But there is more work to be done, and that is the President's vision for expanded trade.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that this Chamber gave the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements. We must give the President trade promotion authority. Over 100 international trade agreements in the last decade, the United States of America is a party to two. Pro-growth tax policies, expanded markets for foreign exchange, this is the President's vision. This should be America's vision. It should be the House's vision.

95 PERCENT OF BAGS IN BELLY OF AIRPLANE NOT SCREENED FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is the 43rd straight day that the Republican leadership of this House has blocked any votes doing any single thing to keep our airplanes from being hijacked or blown out of the sky. Imagine that. We are being sent home to our district for a 4-day weekend instead of voting here to do something about airline safety.

Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to think about this. When Members get on airplanes this afternoon or tomorrow morning, 95 percent of the bags in the belly of the airplane have not been screened in any way for an explosive

device. Yet we have been blocked from having a vote on this or any airline safety issues for 43 days from an ideological hesitancy to allow the House to work its will. The Democrats are not blocking anything. The Democrats are in the minority. We are asking the Republican leadership to bring this bill to the floor. Let us have a vote and let us do something for airline security. After 43 days, it is high time.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday America lost two of its best and brightest. Specialist John Edmunds and PFC Kristofer Stonesifer died as their helicopter crashed in Pakistan while supporting a nighttime mission. Both of them were assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Georgia. Both men were committed to excellence.

Private Stonesifer's ROTC instructor said, "He wanted to be the best soldier in the U.S. Army, and the best soldiers in the Army are in the Ranger battalion."

On September 11, America was shaken. We learned once again that freedom is not free. Freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and press were won at the cost of American lives.

Mr. Speaker, this great Nation is learning once again, to preserve these freedoms some brave and dedicated men have to put their lives on the line.

On Friday, Private Stonesifer and Specialist Edmunds paid the ultimate cost for our freedom. Every American owes these two Americans a debt of gratitude.

AMERICAN ECONOMY LAGS BECAUSE CONGRESS DID NOT DO ITS JOB

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a bill that is labeled an economic stimulus package; but the fact of the matter is with \$8 trillion taken out of the economy through declines in the stock market, and the decline in buying power anywhere from three to \$400 billion, the amount passed in no way will stimulate the economy.

Despite the fact that the Fed will soon meet for the tenth interest rate cut, we are going to continue to see the American economy lag because Congress yesterday did not do its job. Instead, what Congress did was to give permanent tax cuts to those least likely to spend it: large corporations and those who are at the highest income.

Congress gave a retroactive tax cut, immediate rebates to large corporations, and nothing was in that bill for

people who really need help, people who are expected to be unemployed, those employees who are at places like Kodak and others where thousands are being laid off.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to readdress and come back and look at this issue of economic stimulus to take care of those who are truly needy in this country and resist the urge to feed the greedy.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PULL TOGETHER AND FORGO NEGATIVISM

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I along with others have been encouraged by the response to recent attacks on our country. We have seen a renewed patriotism, spiritual renewal in the country and a sense of unity. That unity has extended to the Congress. For the past 5 weeks, we have shown an exceptional spirit of cooperation here.

In that light, I was really disappointed in yesterday's debate. I saw a return to business as usual, negativism and blaming. My experience over a long period of time has been that having a common goal, having a larger purpose, having a sense of mission causes negativism and personal ambition and divisiveness to fall away.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time that this Nation and this body needs to pull together, it is now. So if our speech and our actions and motives are filtered through the lens of national interest, we will pull together. We need to do this over time and not just in the heat of the moment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will keep the national interest first and foremost in our thoughts and mind and prayers as we move forward as a body.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL IS CRUEL HOAX PLAYED UPON AMERICA

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis we come in and put our right hand over our heart and say, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

For the Democratic Party to be criticized for being opposed to this cruel hoax that passed the House of Representatives under the guise of an omnibus economic stimulus bill is a cruel hoax played upon America.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a day that we do not see scripts at the bottom of the screen on television about people losing their jobs. Yesterday, Hershey closed down, 1,100 people immediately lost their jobs.