

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.

□ 1015

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.

We bailed out the airline industry, only to see all of these airline people getting laid off. This House has not done anything for the very least of these people. We are spiritual, I believe; but Members are going to have to help my belief.

OVERSIGHT NECESSARY OF CHARITABLE AND RELIEF EFFORTS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the gentlewoman from Indiana with her comments to this extent: honorable people can disagree. Where I take exception is when patriotism is impugned and motives are attributed when there is honest disagreement. That is the key difference.

Now, to a sense of unity and a sense of action, let me call the attention of the House to a matter of concern that is neither Republican nor Democrat but totally American. That is the fate of the survivors and the dependents of the horrible attacks on September 11.

Mr. Speaker, various charitable agencies have come together saying they will help fund relief for the victims of the disaster. And yet there has been a disconnect between that promise and reality.

As a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I have called upon the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) to take oversight interest in the status of these charities to make sure that we helped people who have suffered and in that way restore our sense of unity and legitimate oversight. These people need our help.

AIRLINE SAFETY MUST BE ADDRESSED

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, nearly 2 weeks ago the Senate passed a bill on airline safety. It is now time for the House to take up that bill, and we would urge the leadership of the House to bring that bill forward immediately. We took care of the airlines. We have not taken care of the industry: the riders, the American people, the people who work in the airports, the airports, the concessionaires.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we take care of security, that we have all bags checked as they go onto our planes, and we make sure that the screeners who screen us are conviction-free and are able to do the jobs that it will take to secure the safety of the American flying public. Bring the bill forward now. We must protect Americans' right to ride airplanes, and we must protect the airports and the people who work in them.

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support granting the President Trade Promotion Authority, or TPA.

Formerly known as Fast Track Authority, TPA has worked well in the past, giving our Presidents the flexibility and authority they need to negotiate the best deals for America. From our first free trade agreement with Israel, to the FTA with Canada, the NAFTA with our two North American trading partners, and the Uruguay Round of GATT world trade talks which created the WTO, Trade Promotion Authority has proven effective.

Trade Promotion Authority for the President does not mean no authority for Congress and the American people. Our trade negotiators have proven their commitment to developing consensus positions so that, once the negotiations are concluded, the trade agreements will win the approval of Congress and the American people.

Without Trade Promotion Authority, there can be no more Free Trade Agreements. Without free trade, America loses.

AMERICA NEEDS AIRLINE SECURITY BILL

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we need an airport security bill. This is not a partisan issue. I share completely the views of my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary that appropriates money.

Mr. Speaker, we know what happened a few years ago in Northern Virginia. A Pakistani by the name of Mir Aimal Kasi walked up to several people sitting in line to turn in to the CIA, and brutally murdered them. Reached in with an assault weapon and killed them. It took years, but we found him. His roommate was a baggage screener at Dulles Airport. 87 percent of these people hired by Argenbright, who does the baggage screening at National Airport and Dulles Airport, are not U.S. citizens.

How can we do a background check on someone who is not a U.S. citizen, and many are illegal aliens, and they are doing the passenger and baggage screening at our airports? It is not working. The airlines have looked for the bottom line, the cheapest people who will work for the least amount of money. We need to federalize and professionalize them.

AIRLINE STABILIZATION BOARD SHOULD NOT HAVE FINANCIAL STAKE IN AIRLINES

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago we passed the airline bailout bill. I voted against that bill for several reasons, one of which is right now an airline stabilization board is deciding which airlines win and which lose. That is not a good position for the Federal Government to be in.

The Federal Government as a regulator of the airlines should not be in a position to pick winners and losers in the economy. What complicates this issue is that the legislation authorized this board to take a financial stake in those airlines through warrants, stock options, or other equity instruments. That is a bad idea, and I would encourage that board not to do so. By taking a financial position in those airlines, that board will then have an interest in making sure that those airlines that they choose to win will succeed, and that those airlines they choose not to fund and give loan guarantees to fail.

Mr. Speaker, as a regulator, the Federal Government should not be in that position. I would encourage that board not to take a financial position in airlines.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO REFOCUS ON SECURITY OF NATION

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Americans want Congress to strengthen homeland security and help workers after the terrorist attacks. They want us to look at our borders and make sure that they are secure and make sure we have sufficient vaccine and make sure that we are sure that we have the security that is needed.

But at the same time, Christmas came early yesterday. The leadership of the House decided to give a tax break to the corporations and the special interests of this country. At a time when we should be looking at what is occurring as far as the security of this country, they chose to send checks out.

Mr. Speaker, Ford Motors will receive a \$2.3 billion check. Chevron will get \$314 million. Exxon will get \$254 million. IBM will get \$1.4 billion. General Motors, they are going to get a check for \$832 million. Christmas came early.

The only ones that are benefiting from the atrocity of September 11 are the corporations. We need to refocus and concentrate on the security of this Nation. I ask the leadership of the House to reconsider their position.