

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States has asked us to pass an airline security measure tomorrow on this House floor. What our Commander in Chief and President has asked for is flexibility to hire people at airports to ensure the security of the traveling public.

Plain and simple: President Bush is not going to risk the lives of Americans by buying on the cheap, so let us not get tied up in how or where they are employed or if they are called Federal employees. That seems to be the call from the other side of the aisle, that unless they are given a Federal ID Card, they will not adequately protect the traveling public.

I suggest that we follow the guidelines laid out by President Bush. I must say, he has done a phenomenal job with our Nation in Afghanistan. He went to the Yankees game last night and stood on the mound and pitched the ball, showing he is not frightened to show up in a major stadium, and now he is asking for a tool to protect the American public as they travel.

I urge this body not to get tied up in partisan politics of who hires and where they are hired and what union they belong to, but instead ensure that when you get on an aircraft you have been properly and thoroughly searched, that you are safely going to arrive at your destination.

Support the President on this issue. It is important for travel and tourism in this country.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about domestic violence. I was pleased that President Bush proclaimed this month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. However, people should be aware of domestic violence every day. Domestic violence is an offense against our institutional values. One incident of domestic violence is one incident too much.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of domestic violence awareness. In 1999 I was proud to include in the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization language the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. The task force was established to review and evaluate current programs and policies associated with domestic violence in the Department of Defense. It reinforces the importance of preventing domestic violence because deterrence is key. However, when violence does occur, we must protect the victims while holding the offenders accountable.

I am confident that the task force will provide the Secretary of Defense with a comprehensive report and a plan

that augments our current efforts to eliminate domestic violence within the military. Furthermore, the task force findings will help in our national efforts to address domestic violence in our own communities.

ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EVERY TRAVELER

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as Americans start flying again, they deserve the peace of mind that can only come from knowing that strict security measures are in place for their protection. The stories we hear about baggage screeners with criminal records are appalling, but the answer is not merely placing these same people on the Federal payroll.

The Federal Government should provide standards and provisions. The private sector should provide hard work and ingenuity in order to update and manage the security measures. We must allow airports to think creatively and act decisively, but always under the watchful eye of the Federal Government.

Most importantly, we should give the President the flexibility to implement the measures by rejecting a one-size-fits-all approach and treating each airport as an individual unit.

I urge my colleagues to support the Young-Mica bill, and ensure that traveling people have the safety and security they are entitled to.

CONTINUE BOMBING DURING RAMADAN

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there are those in America that say that we should stop the bombing of the Taliban during the holy month of Ramadan. I disagree. Hitler did not stop on Yom Kippur, Japan did not stop on Christmas or Easter. In fact, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur during the holy month of Ramadan, folks.

Let us get real: This is war. This is not a coffee break nor do or should we take sabbaticals. It is time to root these terrorists out. Keep the heat on.

I yield back the fact that giving this Taliban regime 30 days, they will simply reorganize and kill many more Americans.

PRESENT A FAIR AND BALANCED AVIATION SAFETY BILL

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I take four airplane flights a week. As many

Members of Congress do, I fly home every weekend, two segments each time. So I am very familiar with security requirements and that what we have had has not worked.

Our purpose now is to make sure, number one, that we centralize responsibility; number two, that we have one play book that applies to all the rules, and that that play book works and is kept up-to-date. That means that we should put all the responsibility in one location for all modes of transportation.

We need something that is flexible, that is innovative, that can be changed and modified to meet circumstances as they change.

We want something that is non-partisan. We are sorry that the Senate bill became a partisan bill by advocating just one particular position. The House bill will allow the President to choose whether these should be Federal employees or whether these should be contracted out.

I just want to say, I believe the bill that will be before us tomorrow is a fair and good way to approach the issue of aviation security. It will get away from partisan wrangling. It will ensure that the traveling public will be safe and secure.

PROFESSIONALIZE SECURITY AT AMERICA'S AIRPORTS

(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, the security of America should be our first priority and it should not be turned into politics. Politics should not be part of this debate.

We use over 450 airports and over 3,000 employees to transport people across this country. The size and complexity of our system requires a Federal workforce that is professional, well-trained, and well-paid, not contracted employees making less than fast food wages.

If we are to restore public confidence in air travel, we must make real attempts to address the security problems. We cannot guarantee safety with a system that leaves national security in the hands of private companies that contract to the lowest bidder.

We stand a fighting chance against terror in the skies only if we have professionalism in the law enforcement function, where we can feel confident that they are well-trained, they are competent and they will be able to protect our citizens.

We should not privatize our national security. We do not privatize the Department of Defense, we do not privatize the FBI, we do not privatize security services. We must do the right thing.

COMMENDING THOSE WHO DEVELOP READING SKILLS

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend First Lady Laura Bush and our Nation's teachers who are helping our children develop their reading skills.

Reading is a path to successful life. I have personal knowledge of the role of special teachers and am very thankful for my good friend Dr. Ann Dugger at Will Rogers Elementary School in Stillwater, who spent many hours with our grandson Bradley learning to read.

My nephew, Josh Rogers, is a student in Mrs. Trish Fellers' third grade class at Derby Hills Elementary School in Derby, Kansas. The class read Jeff Brown's book "Flat Stanley," in which Stanley is flattened by a bulletin board and mails himself to visit friends in California.

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My nephew, Josh, mailed "Flat Josh" to my wife and me to stay for a month. "Flat Josh" came to Washington, D.C. to visit his own Congressman, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), so "Flat Josh" is with us today.

I am grateful for First Lady Laura Bush, Dr. Ann Dugger, and Mrs. Trish Fellers and many other teachers like them, and I encourage all of us to read to our children and our grandchildren.

U.S. NEEDS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AT AIRPORTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been 7 weeks and 1 day since the terrorist attacks and more than 2 weeks since the Senate passed legislation 100 to 0, which was just referred to by one of my colleagues as a partisan bill. I thought the Senate had 49 Republicans and 51 Democrats. How could a 100 to 0 vote be partisan? We are still waiting in the House for needed legislation for aviation security because of one objection raised by a couple of the Republican leaders.

The Federal law enforcement officers would provide screening for passengers and baggage. Guess what? When it comes to security for Members of Congress, for those same Members of Congress objecting to this, private security is not good enough. We have uniformed Federal law enforcement officers, but when it comes to the traveling public, it has to be the private, for-profit sector, that has been failing miserably. The largest in the country, Argenbright, is under criminal indictment for the second time in 2 years for hiring and maintaining known felons on staff and falsifying documents; and they say, Oh, well, the Federal Government will regulate these firms.

We have been trying to regulate them. We are prosecuting them in Federal court. We are fining them millions

of dollars. It cannot work. We need Federal law enforcement at the airports.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). The Chair would remind the Members that it is improper in debate to characterize Senate actions.

AVIATION SECURITY

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today we must address and correct the security aspects of our total transportation system. Since the tragic events of September 11, we have focused solely on improving aviation security. We are all too aware of what the weaknesses of that system are: minimal standards, poor management, low morale, and little accountability. We must make security a priority for each mode of transportation. The next attack could be on an airline, a bus, a train, or even a cruise ship.

Operating within the Department of Transportation, a strong Under Secretary for Security will provide much-needed management and accountability. The Secure Transportation for America Act, of which I am a cosponsor, designates the Department of Transportation to provide the leadership for security. I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation. The people want it.

HEAVEN HELP THIS HOUSE

(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, my colleagues should be aware that when they get on their planes to go home to their districts this weekend, they should know that 90 to 95 percent of the bags that will go into the belly of their airplanes will not be screened for explosive devices. This is an enormous hole in our security system, and we applaud the efforts of the Secretary of Transportation and we applaud the efforts of the Congress, as we are going to do everything we can to take nail clippers away from passengers, but it does not do any good if they can put 40 pounds of C-4 high explosives in bags in the belly of our airplanes.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that the majority party is bringing to the floor of the House is not going to solve that problem. It will have some nice rhetorical flourish language that some day, at some unspecified date, by some unspecified means, we are going to check these bags, but that is not good enough.

We have offered an amendment, and I hope the majority party will allow this

House to vote on our amendment, which will assure by a specific date through a specific authorization that 100 percent of the bags that go in each jet airplane get screened to keep bombs out of them. And if we do not do that, heaven help this House.

TIME TO DO WHAT WORKS FOR AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we have the opportunity to change the way security is done at our airports for the better. Until now, airlines have been in charge of security at our airports. They, in turn, for the lowest bid, hire companies like Argenbright and I.T.S. and others who provide minimal training, low pay, and even falsified background checks. The result of airlines in charge is 100 percent turnover and weapons making it past security points. We can no longer allow the airlines to be in charge, nor allow businesses like Argenbright and I.T.S. to remain in our airports.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3150 puts the responsibility for day-to-day airport security with the Transportation Security Administration. It also gives this department flexibility in its mixture of Federal employees and private-sector folks under their direct supervision to do the job right; not a one-size-fits-all of all-private or all-Federal, but what works.

SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION PROVIDING \$5 MILLION REWARD FOR ARREST AND CONVICTION OF ANTHRAX TERRORISTS

(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, this House, ordinarily the United States Congress, passes what they call a Sense of Congress resolution. I am proposing a Sense of Congress resolution which I believe is a good-sense resolution in behalf of the United States Congress.

What it says is very simple, that the United States Government will pay \$5 million to any person who supplies information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who are responsible for placing anthrax spores in the United States mail system through to the United States Government mails, which have worked their way into the United States Government offices and into the lives of people in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I was appalled, as I am sure other Members were, to learn that we have lost yet another citizen, a lady out of New York who has now expired at 1 o'clock this morning because she had inadvertently inhaled anthrax.

It is the right approach for the United States Government because of