

He is someone who always remembered that freedom is not free, we paid a tremendous price for it; and he tried to always express his gratitude to all of the men and woman who wore the uniform of the United States military, because he understood had it not been for them, their efforts and their sacrifice, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

It is so fitting that he was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery, which he worked 15 years to produce for the people of upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Solomon was famous for constantly saying “God bless America”; and today, I say may God bless Jerry Solomon.

SUPPORT YOUNG-MICA AIRPORT SECURITY BILL

(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, today we are dealing with airport security, an issue vitally important to the travel and tourism industry and to every American. I want to take a moment to reflect on this chart of the House aviation security plan, backed by the Secretary of Transportation, the former chairman of the Committee on Transportation for the Democratic Party, on this floor, a plan that he supports, President Bush supports, and I think every traveler will find comfort in.

My colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), in a moment will talk a little bit about another bill that exists on the other side of the aisle, or the other Chamber, but let me show you exactly what is involved in our plan.

It covers everything in airport security, from drop-off to transportation to terminal security to tarmac security, and it does so to ensure the American public that they are safe when they board aircraft.

There is going to be a fight and debate today about who should they be, Federal employees or law enforcement employees. My view is this: let us make it safe. In Palm Beach County, the sheriff department's deputized law enforcement officers are well-equipped to, in fact, be the persons to intervene in the baggage screening area. I would welcome that. I would be delighted to have that.

I wish their side would recognize that local flexibility is vitally important in securing our air space. Support President Bush today in his call for aviation security. Support the Young-Mica bill. You will be pleased with the results of passage of that legislation.

PROVIDING FEDERAL AVIATION SECURITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, those who oppose the aviation security bill which the other body passed 100 to 0 are arguing that the bill would create yet another public employee union. Those who preach the evils of public employees unions ought to remember one thing: the heroes of the World Trade Center disaster, the policemen, the firefighters, were union members, and about 400 of them lost their lives rescuing others.

Public employees do a great job protecting us here in the Capitol, and they can do a great job protecting our constituents at airports. We are at war. Polarizing a debate by criticizing working men and women who devote their lives to serving the public is exactly what we do not need to do. Terrorists look for weak spots. They do not care about unions either.

We cannot wait any longer for airport aviation security. Pass the Senate bill.

MAKING AIRPORTS SAFER

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, simply making an airport baggage and passenger screener a Federal employee will not make airports safer. Tougher standards and strict Federal oversight will make airports safer; and that is exactly what this act does, the one we have up today.

The American public needs to regain its confidence in flying. How will they do that if we do not have the ability to discipline or remove screeners who are not performing? How will they regain confidence if we cannot equip personnel with superior technology? And how will they regain that confidence if qualified retired Federal workers, such as Federal marshals, are unable to be hired because they will have to sacrifice their retirement benefits and their health care benefits?

The answer is they will not.

The Secure Transportation for America Act gives the administration the flexibility that they need to have the best possible employees screening passengers and baggage. The American people deserve no less.

CHINA AND PAKISTAN HELP TALIBAN

(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, a Taliban commander said, “China is secretly helping our Taliban government.” China has united.

In addition, news reports say that Pakistan is giving weapons to the Taliban. Pakistan has united.

Unbelievable here. China gets \$100 billion a year in trade surplus from

Uncle Sam, and Pakistan is now asking for foreign aid.

Beam me up.

I say it is time for China and Pakistan to stop their tricks and cheating here. I yield back the forked tongues of the lies coming out of China and Pakistan, who are subverting our mission against these terrorists.

SUPPORT SECURE TRANSPORTATION ACT FOR AMERICA

(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, I rise today in strong support of the Secure Transportation for America Act. The Good Book tells us if we owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

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I rise today to honor the President of the United States of America and his vision for airport security. As the gentleman from Florida indicated, it is a vision supported by his Transportation Secretary, who chaired the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a Democrat in this very institution, and the President's vision is the right vision.

As Robert Poole of the Public Policy Institute wrote recently, while all parts of airports need improving, the biggest hole is to secure areas. The truth is that the Senate bill does absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, to control access to secure areas of airport. Caterers, cleaners, refuelers and others who lack security background checks at the Nation's airports are not addressed in the substitute bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to honor the President of the United States, respect his vision for airport security and vote yes on H.R. 3150.

OVERHAULING THE AVIATION SECURITY BILL

(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 2 days since the terrorist attacks, 2 weeks since the Senate passed the aviation security bill 100 to 0. Finally, we can overhaul this failed system. There are three private foreign-owned firms that provide security at most U.S. airports. Their performance is miserable. One is under indictment for having violated its parole from its last criminal conviction.

Now we are going to have a choice today. We could pass the Senate bill and have a bill on the President's desk tonight and begin an overhaul, a major change, put those people out of business, or we can adopt the Republican manager's amendments, which will not only continue these failed private

firms and convicted felons in business, it will reward them amazingly with an exemption from liability for past actions.

Yesterday was Halloween, but today the Republican leaders are trying one last trick and treat on the American public. Reject the private firms that have failed us so miserably. Put Federal law enforcement in the airports and make the traveling public safe.

FEDERALIZING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the characteristics of an aviation security bill we must not lose focus of our responsibility to the flying public. Airline passengers must feel safe before they return en masse to the skies. Nothing will guarantee their safety until all items placed on an aircraft are thoroughly screened by skilled professionals using the best available technology. As we implement new changes to be aviation security, we must ensure that all baggage entering the plane is properly screened.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for their untiring efforts to draft the most comprehensive, sensible transportation security legislation possible. Enforcing strict Federal supervision on the Nation's screening programs makes sense. Furthermore, it is a method proven to work. Simply federalizing 28,000 employees will not change the quality of our screening process.

Now is the not the time to implement a one-size-fits-all cure. Rather, the security needs of each airport should determine what screening measures work best for their particular situation. It is absurd to think that mere federalization is the answer to such severe structural problems that presently exist.

Mr. Speaker, I adamantly believe that the Federal role is to set the standard and enforce it. Then each situation must be met as it dictates. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3150, the Transportation Act of 2001.

IMMUNIZATION FOR AMERICANS

(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 would like to speak today about something that is very important to our country, adult immunization. Immunizations have helped prevent many illnesses and possible complications due to illness. Unfortunately, there is a misconception that immunization is only for children and for childhood diseases. The fact is that adults benefit from immunizations also. Hepatitis B, chicken

pox, pneumonia are just a few examples of vaccine preventable illnesses affecting adults.

Data for the year 2000 show an increase in the number of deaths due to influenza and pneumonia, now over 67,000 deaths. This is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Although the flu vaccine may not prevent the flu, it greatly reduces the severity of the illness and the risk of complications, especially in adults over 50 years of age and those who suffer chronic health conditions.

Immunization is a cost-effective way of preventing disease and at a time when our Nation is faced with the possibility of unlikely yet very threatening infections, we must take the opportunity to be proactive against illnesses that we can prevent.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF MURDERED PAKISTANIS

(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, I rise today to offer condolences to the families of the 16 Pakistanis brutally murdered on Sunday as they worshipped in their church in Pakistan. Barbaric criminals burst into the church, locked the doors behind them and started firing guns into the worshippers. These twisted terrorists then continued to pump bullets into toddlers and women who lay wounded and dying in a pile on the floor of the church.

To the families of those killed, please know that our hearts and prayers are with you in this time of suffering and mourning.

In the midst of the important battles against terrorists and the Taliban, our Nation must also continue to stand with those around the world whose fundamental rights are violated at the hands of extremists in their communities. The danger faced by Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan cannot be overestimated, particularly in this time.

I commend President Musharraf for his unequivocal condemnation of this tragedy and his pursuit of the murderers, and urge him to do all in his power to ensure that this does not happen again and that they bring these criminals to justice.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR FEDERALIZING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES

(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, aviation security is a national security. Protecting our skies is a matter of national defense and we should not leave national security to the private companies that contract to the lowest bidder.

We would not expect the President to be protected by the lowest bidder. We do not do that. We do not expect our leadership here in the House to get protected by the lowest bidder contract.

The current system is broken and needs to be corrected. Contracting to the lowest bidder has created a workforce that suffers from high turnover, and we have seen the turnover over 400 percent, low pay and low morale. Baggage screeners should be a highly skilled, highly trained workforce that serves the frontline of this Nation's national defense. There is a broad bipartisan support for federalizing the workers.

The Washington Post just came out with a report that 82 percent of Americans support this effort. We need to make sure that every American feels secure when they go to the airport, and making them feel secure is by making sure that those people are well-trained and well-educated. The Air Pilots Association has endorsed it, and I ask your support.

FAITH IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the Senate version of the airline security bill. The plan presented by the majority is simply just flawed. It does nothing to ensure that screening routines in this country are uniform, where screening in La Guardia Airport in my district is the same as screening in Des Moines, Iowa, where the screening in LAX is the same as in Butte, Montana. That is what the Democratic substitute does and the majority bill simply does not.

The Senate bill passed 100 to 0 with 49 members of the Republican Party supporting that bill. Can they all be wrong? We need to give the American people full faith and confidence in the airline industry. The majority bill simply does not do that. The Senate bipartisan bill begins to do just that.

AMERICA'S FEAR OF FLYING

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, while America is afflicted by a fear of flying, this House, or certain Members are afflicted by a fear of federalization and I have to ask, what are you all afraid of? What is wrong with a Federal workforce? Is it the same thing that is wrong with a Federal workforce at the FBI that is now investigating terrorist incidents? Do you criticize the so-called Federal bureaucracy at NASA that won us the race to the Moon? Are you afraid of government influence, such as the government issue GI's who went ashore on D-Day and won us World War II? Would you privatize the military now fighting in the Middle East? Of course not.