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No. 156

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED WHITFIELD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 130. Concurrent Resolution authorizing printing of the book entitled "Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress".

H. Con. Res. 264. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of Congress to welcome the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the occasion of his visit to the United States, and to affirm that India is a valued friend and partner and an important ally in the campaign against international terrorism.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

AVIATION SECURITY

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 months since terrorists used our civilian airliners as weapons of mass destruction. Yet we have not made major changes in aviation security here in the United States Congress. A few steps have been taken by executive order, by the FAA administrator, by orders from the President and the Secretary of Transportation. Reinforcement of flight deck doors. We have got people looking over the shoulders of the private security firms, whatever good that does if you do not watch them every second of every day. But the major things that need to be done need to be done by statute, by change in the law. Yet it is not yet done.

How could it take so long? Well, there is a major hang-up and the major hang-up is that the majority whip and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), are adamantly and absolutely opposed to true federalization of aviation security at the airports, that is, taking the failing private security firms, putting them out of business, which is what they deserve, and bringing in Federal law enforcement just like we have outside the doors of this Chamber and at many other Federal installations to provide security around the country to make certain that people do not bring weapons on board airplanes and smuggle weapons or bombs into baggage and other critical areas of the airports.

They say, well, we will more closely supervise those private firms. Well, the record is pretty miserable. Since September 11, there have been 24 incidents, major breaches of airport security by these same private firms. Twenty-four in 2 months. That is better than they

usually do because actually over the last 5 years they have averaged one breach that was finable or prosecutable a day for the last 5 years. So they are doing better. About 50 percent of the days, they are doing a pretty good job, or at least as far as we know.

But the failures are pretty notable: the guy with the seven knives, the stun gun and the mace in Chicago; the honest passenger on board Southwest Airlines who rang his call button and asked the flight attendant to come and take his loaded gun because he forgot it was in his briefcase and opened his briefcase on the plane; the concourses and planes that had to be returned to concourses because people were waved through security. At Logan, one of the Argenbright folks actually saw a weapon go through the screening device, but they were in the middle of their nap or their trance; and the person was long gone down the concourse before they said, oh, wait a minute, I saw a knife or a weapon about 5 minutes ago, and they had to empty out the concourse.

They say they will do better. I do not believe that these firms will do better. They say they will be better supervised. What is better supervision than probation? Argenbright, the largest private security firm in the United States of America, owned by Securicor of Europe, was last year convicted, criminally convicted. Unfortunately, none of their executives went to jail. That might have gotten their attention. They did not. But they were criminally convicted of hiring known felons, maintaining known felons on staff, falsifying documents of the Federal Government regarding the training of employees and the background checks of employees. They were fined \$1.5 million and put on probation. Well, guess what? About a month ago, they were found to be in violation of their probation. For doing what? Hiring and maintaining known felons on staff, falsifying Federal documents. They are

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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going to be fined again, and their probation is going to be extended.

This is closer supervision? What closer supervision can you provide, except, as I said, maybe to put some of these executives of these failing private firms in jail, you will get their attention. Maybe that would shape them up. But I think the cleaner way to deal with this is the way we deal with other Federal Government law enforcement functions, and, that is, to admit it is a law enforcement function and put qualified law enforcement personnel in all of the critical places, in all our airports to assure the safety of the flying public.

Two months is way too long to delay. And it will be extraordinary if because of the opposition to Federal law enforcement by a few Members of the majority that this Congress before the busiest travel weekend of the year, Thanksgiving, does not act in the long-term interests of security and the flying public. We have an opportunity this week. The bill must get done.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PATTERN OF DISTURBING ACTIONS IN MIDST OF BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the pattern that appears to be emerging within the U.S. Justice Department under the leadership of the Attorney General of deviating from what ought to be the course of action appropriate right now. We were victimized on September 11 by a fiendish, unfortunately skillful group of mass murderers who wreaked terrible destruction on innocent people. And clearly a tough, effective law enforcement response is one of the things that is called for. We worked hard in the Congress to enhance the law enforcement powers of the Federal authorities. There was virtual unanimity that they should be given increased surveillance powers.

In the end, some of us were disappointed that some safeguards we had devised were not in the final bill and some of us opposed it, but we did not oppose it because we opposed the enhanced surveillance powers. We agreed on those. We should be going further. Congress is partly guilty of having insufficiently funded the Immigration Service and others who are our first line of defense. There is broad support in the Congress and in the country for this kind of increased law enforcement, but I fear that the Attorney General's actions may be jeopardizing that consensus and he is introducing into a subject that ought to be one of virtual unanimity a degree of conflict.

First, we have a couple of issues that ought not to have been pursued at this

time. In my judgment, they should not have been pursued at all. But recently the Attorney General, in the midst of telling us that he is going to reorient the FBI and reorient the Justice Department to focus on terrorism, at a time when we know we have done a poor job of keeping track of people admitted into this country for limited periods and limited purposes, we have done a poor job of enforcing those limits, the Attorney General is engaged in a couple of ideological crusades, in both cases ignoring referenda passed by two States. States' rights is sometimes respected by my conservative colleagues; but it is sometimes, I guess when it gets in the way of their ideology, ignored.

The people of Oregon twice voted in a referendum to allow doctors to help with suicides. People outside of Oregon may not like it, that is their right; but that was the vote of the people of Oregon. There was an effort by the Congress to overturn that. While the House passed the bill, the Senate rejected it so the law was not changed. The Attorney General has nonetheless found time in this fight to divert energies into trying to overrule, in effect, the vote of the people of Oregon.

Similarly, the people of California and many other States voted to allow the medical prescription of marijuana. The Attorney General simply again diverted law enforcement efforts to go after people who were guilty only of trying to use marijuana to alleviate their pain.

And even more troubling is what is going on in law enforcement itself. Yes, all the powers available to law enforcement should be used to protect us against terrorists. But a refusal by the Justice Department to tell us exactly what numbers of people are being detained, how many are being released, what are the conditions of the detention, those serve no law enforcement purpose.

□ 1245

What they do is raise questions in people's minds about whether or not powers are abused. If people fear powers are abused, we will resist granting those powers. In fact, there are powers that ought to be there.

The Attorney General disserves our effort by allowing controversy to exist where it should not. The most recent announcement that monitoring of conversations will now take place between people who have been confined and their lawyers is very disturbing. Remember, we are not talking here about terrorists having their conversations overheard. We are talking about people who have been detained; who have been convicted of no crime; who are guilty, as far as we know, maybe of something, maybe of nothing, but who have not had any adjudication; and we are talking about monitoring their lawyers' conversations.

Now, the Justice Department acknowledges that to do that in a way

that was relevant to a trial would not be permissible, so we are told that we will monitor those conversations, but information gained in that monitoring would not be admissible at trial.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that invites judicial intervention, so that if they do proceed in some cases with a trial and a conviction, that could be jeopardized.

We have past experience. We have the case of Wen Ho Lee, an American citizen who was accused of espionage, and the FBI abused his rights. A Federal judge criticized the FBI for that.

That is the point we want to make. We are not talking here about defending terrorists; we are not talking about defending people who are guilty. We are talking about the rights of people who have been accused of crimes to prepare their defense.

I hope the Attorney General reconsiders this pattern of disturbing actions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Vincent A. Cummings, Chaplain, Captain, United States Air Force Reserve, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Father, we gather here today as public servants, assembled collectively inside this, the United States House of Representatives. Use us as instruments of Your will. We thank You for the life, health, wisdom and love You have bestowed upon our Nation.

First, we ask that You confer upon us, whether rich or poor in spirit, Your most holy traits of mercy and humility. Place a burden on the hearts of these legislators for those who have the least. Let them constantly remember their duties to their citizens, but most of all, those who are the meekest: the homeless, the poor, and the oppressed. Anoint these great men and women to also be protectors of the future, our children, and never allow them to forsake their well-being for the interests of the present.

Continue also to develop the tenets of selfless service and honorable character in all of us, as we serve this great country as its leaders. Teach us to do what is right for all time, not what is acceptable for the moment at hand. Let us also remember that freedom is not free. As witnessed through our Nation's recently shed blood, a price was