

Reyes	Sherwood	Thune
Reynolds	Shimkus	Thurman
Riley	Shows	Tiahrt
Rivers	Shuster	Tiberi
Rodriguez	Simmons	Tierney
Roemer	Simpson	Toomey
Rogers (KY)	Skeen	Towns
Rogers (MI)	Skelton	Traficant
Rohrabacher	Slaughter	Turner
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (MI)	Udall (CO)
Ross	Smith (NJ)	Udall (NM)
Rothman	Smith (TX)	Upton
Roukema	Smith (WA)	Velazquez
Roybal-Allard	Snyder	Visclosky
Royce	Solis	Vitter
Rush	Souder	Walden
Ryan (WI)	Spratt	Walsh
Ryun (KS)	Stark	Wamp
Sabo	Stearns	Waters
Sanchez	Stenholm	Watkins (OK)
Sanders	Strickland	Watson (CA)
Sandlin	Stump	Watt (NC)
Sawyer	Stupak	Watts (OK)
Saxton	Sununu	Waxman
Schaffer	Sweeney	Weiner
Schakowsky	Tancredo	Weldon (FL)
Schiff	Tanner	Weller
Schrock	Tauscher	Wexler
Scott	Tauzin	Whitfield
Sensenbrenner	Taylor (MS)	Wicker
Serrano	Taylor (NC)	Wilson
Sessions	Terry	Wolf
Shadegg	Thomas	Woolsey
Shaw	Thompson (CA)	Wynn
Shays	Thompson (MS)	Young (AK)
Sherman	Thornberry	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Cubin	Hastings (FL)	Mink
Davis, Jo Ann	Hill	Pelosi
Davis, Tom	Knollenberg	Weldon (PA)
Frank	Kolbe	Wu
Goss	Meeks (NY)	

□ 1412

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the men and women of the United States Postal Service have done an outstanding job of collecting, processing, sorting, and delivering the mail during this time of national emergency."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was on the House Floor but inadvertently failed to vote during passage of H. Con. Res. 257. Had I voted, I would have voted "yea."

□ 1415

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ECKHARDT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the news that former Member of Congress Robert "Bob" Eckhardt passed away yesterday in Austin, Texas. He was 88 years old, and is survived by three daughters.

Bob Eckhardt actually was in District 8 from Texas, which is now represented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), but I represent most of the population in the geographic area

that in the 1970s was part of Congressional District 8.

Bob Eckhardt served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1967 to 1981, representing the Eighth Congressional District. He was born in Austin, Texas, and he graduated from the University of Texas Law School, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and prior to his election to Congress he served in the Texas House of Representatives.

I can say it best, I guess, with quoting the Houston Chronicle editorial in this morning's paper about Bob Eckhardt:

"Known in Congress as a serious scholar and a fervent ideologue, Eckhardt immersed himself and associates in complicated formulas and details that made him a master of the legislative process. Articulate and loquacious, irreverent and eccentric, Eckhardt customarily traveled by bicycle wearing his trademark bow tie, white suit and Panama hat, even years after he left Congress. He could incorporate a quote from Shakespeare or the Constitution in almost any debate. . .

"His anti-pollution initiatives for air and water sometimes chafed the oil and chemical business," industries in the district I now represent. "The toxic Substance Control Act, a landmark for occupational health and safety, was one of his proudest achievements."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family of Congressman Robert "Bob" Eckhardt, and we pay tribute to his very distinguished life.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GREEN of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was very distressed to hear about the passing of our former colleague, Bob Eckhardt. I am probably one of the few Members today serving that served at the same time with him.

He was a member of the Committee on Commerce. I must say he was a unique Member. He was a scholar, a man of enormous integrity, an expert in areas like the War Powers Act and the energy issues. He was a man you could always go to and get a clear-headed point of view. He was very, very thoughtful and highly regarded. He was eccentric, which made him even more beloved by those of us who knew him.

I want to join the gentleman in extending my condolences to his family, and my regrets to the people of Texas and to the House of Representatives and the American people for our loss of Bob Eckhardt.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California. I know the gentleman served with him. I was a State Representative in the seventies when he was my Member of Congress.

He was a man of integrity, honor, commitment, and service. He was a great man who gave himself selflessly for the betterment of others.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

B-1B LANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see the progress we are making in the war in Afghanistan and the turn it has taken for the better in the last week. We have seen cities like Mazar-e Sharif and Kabul and Kandahar perhaps falling, and systematically the resistance is moving forward. We are making progress.

I believe there is no reason other than the success of the concentrated bombing campaign, which has been led by Colonel Ed Rice, the 28th Air Expeditionary Wing commander and the commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

The reason we have met with such considerable success over there is due to the air power we have been able to project. The B-1B Lancer is a huge part of that success.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply note for the RECORD that the B-1 bomber brings a tremendous number of assets and attributes to the campaign. It is the only supersonic bomber in the Air Force. The speed that it travels at allows it to integrate seamlessly into huge fighter strike packages.

In terms of range, the large fuel load allows it to fly from great distances and loiter for hours over the battlefield.

It is flexible. It can carry a wide variety of munitions. It can carry more weapons than any other aircraft in the Air Force inventory.

Its lethality: The B-1 has the largest payload of any U.S. bomber. It is the monster truck of the U.S. bomber fleet.

Its ability to deliver a large number of weapons is what makes it so valuable to warfighting. It can carry 84 500-pound "dumb" bombs and 24 2,000-pound precision munitions.

A single B-1 flying just one combat mission over Afghanistan is able to destroy 24 different targets. That is economy of force. Because of the B-1s' huge payload, fewer combat aircraft had to go into harm's way during this war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, the B-1 has had a remarkable combat history: In Desert Fox, its combat debut in Iraq in 1999, with the Allied force there and the effort that went forward. The B-1 created an unparalleled record in Kosovo that may be unsurpassed in history, in which it completed 100 of 100 combat

missions and took off on time 100 percent of the time. Just seven B-1s dropped 20 percent of the bombs, over 2½ million pounds of munitions, during that conflict.

Now, currently in Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, B-1s are currently flying a large percentage of the bomber missions in Afghanistan and have destroyed a large percentage of the total targets. B-1s are dropping precision weapons and carpet bombing Taliban strongholds on a continuous basis. Mr. Speaker, the B-1 is playing a huge and important role in the war.

I would be remiss, too, Mr. Speaker, if I did not acknowledge the folks from South Dakota and my home State from Ellsworth Air Force Base who are doing a remarkable job in Afghanistan.

Ellsworth Air Force Base has deployed a large number of air crew members, maintenance, and support personnel to support the war on terrorism. South Dakota soldiers and airmen prepare meals and load bombs. Airmen from South Dakota put themselves in harm's way.

The Ellsworth Air Force commander, as I said earlier, Colonel Rice, commands all B-1 and B-52 operations over Afghanistan. In the war on terrorism, the men and women of Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, have shouldered a huge responsibility in an effort to make America safe against the evil that lurks in terrorist camps and caves throughout the world.

Air Force B-2, B-1, and B-52 bombers flew about 10 percent of the combat missions over Afghanistan, but dropped more than 80 percent of the tonnage expended, hitting 70 percent of the aim points identified, and damaged or destroyed about three-quarters of all the targets in this operation.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay special tribute to the folks from South Dakota and Ellsworth Air Force Base, and to Commander Ed Rice, for the tremendous effort those folks have played in leading us to the successes we are seeing and the progress we are making in winning the war on terrorism.

I would also acknowledge the important role that the B-1 bomber has played in this very important mission. We would not be where we are today, Mr. Speaker, were the B-1 not the workhorse in Afghanistan.

I believe it is significant in light of the discussions we are currently having about military strategy and force structure as we head into the future that the B-1 bomber, in its role in Afghanistan, that we acknowledge the tremendous success, the tremendous assets and attributes that this particular plane and weapons systems is able to possess and bring to our military arsenal, and our ability to protect America and to keep it safe in this new century against the evils of terrorism and other threats that may be projected against the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today I would simply close by, again, acknowledging the men

and women at Ellsworth Air Force Base, 28th Bomber Wing, and the B-1 as the workhorse of the bomber fleet we are using to win the war in Afghanistan.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FAILS TO MEET TODAY TO FINISH WORK ON AIRLINE SECURITY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to find out that the conferees on the House aviation security package have just canceled the conference at the behest of the House leadership for today.

That is extraordinary to me. It has been more than 2 months since the terrorist attacks, nearly 1 month since the Senate passed a bill 100 to 0, and next week is Thanksgiving, the busiest travel weekend of the year, at least historically in terms of aviation, although concerns about the system might crimp that a bit this year.

Yet, the conferees did not manage to work over the weekend. The conferees met yesterday for an hour and a half and did not manage to work late into the night. Today the conference is canceled. We hear that the Republicans are going to caucus with the White House but not include Democrats in the discussions. It sounds a little bit like a formula for disaster.

What is the system that they are defending? Here is the system that the Republican leadership is defending.

At Boston, part of a concourse, and this is yesterday, at Logan Airport was evacuated. Five hundred passengers were rescreened after an exit door was left unattended by the private security firm.

Chicago: A gentleman who boarded a flight in Miami was just randomly rechecked boarding a flight to Hong Kong in Chicago, having gone through screening, private screening, in Miami, and was found to have large cutting implements in his luggage; apparently innocent, he is a chef, but these are not allowed on the plane. We cannot even take our cuticle scissors. Yesterday he had something that more resembled meat cleavers.

Of course, there have been 24 major security violations prior to yesterday, and we are up to 26. Basically, they get about a 50 percent batting average; that is, every other day it seems like there are no known major security breaches in the screening system. However, before September 11, the private screening companies, over the last 5 years, averaged one security breach a day that was serious enough to be prosecuted or fined, one a day.

This is the largest private security firm in the United States of America, Argenbright Security, owned by Securicor of Europe. They have some problems. They were found last year to

have committed felony criminal offenses. They had hired and maintained known felons on staff and falsified documents to the Federal Government.

Of course, they provide security at the largest airport in Texas, and they are being very ably defended by the majority whip and the majority leader: Let us keep these people in business, they are doing such a great job.

Guess what: They were just found to have violated their probation which they were put on last year for their criminal violations, and their probation has been extended another 5 years.

They are saying, well, we will more closely supervise people. What provides closer supervision than probation? I guess if we started putting the CEOs in jail maybe we would get their attention. But right now I think that is the closest supervision they can provide, yet we are delaying the conference, delaying the bill, to defend the right of these pathetically failing companies to stay in business.

They say, well, we will have very strict Federal standards. We will set wages and benefits. The Federal Government will train the people, the Federal Government will supervise the people. They will be put in uniforms that look like Federal uniforms, but they will not be Federal uniforms. They will be made faux deputies; they will be deputized by the Federal Government but given no powers, and they will be given badges that look like Federal badges. They are going to do all of that.

What is the role left for these failing private security companies except to collect their ill-gotten gains, their profits? We will end up with more supervisors under that system because of all the promises they have had to make.

They say, we know it does not work very well, so we will put Federal supervisors at every screening point. We will put Federal supervisors at every conveyor belt. We will put Federal supervisors at every boarding gate.

By the time the Republicans finish defending the failing private security firms, they have created a Rube Goldberg that is twice as big as the Federal system would be if the solution had been adopted as was adopted 100 to 0 by the United States Senate more than a month ago.

But we cannot agree on that, and today we cannot even meet to discuss it. Last weekend they did not have time to stay in town and discuss it. Thanksgiving is looming very near in the future. They talk about not delivering a turkey bill. I will tell the Members what, the biggest turkey or the biggest bad April fool, out of date, will be if we do not give the American people a robust overhaul of this system before the busiest travel weekend of the year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the