

organization very much like the NATO organization to help us in the global fight against terrorism. NATO was the most successful organization in the modern history of the world for creating a cooperative defense structure. In fewer than 50 years, its principal enemy imploded without NATO ever having to declare war or engage in serious hostilities against that enemy, the former Soviet Union. Why did NATO succeed? I believe it succeeded for three reasons. First, there was a clear and obvious threat and enemy, the former Soviet Union.

Second, defense against that threat was larger than any one country could handle. It required cooperation among Nations.

Third, it was much more intelligent and efficient to have that cooperation so that costs, both economic and military, could be shared.

The synergy that was created by the integration of the NATO countries permitted those NATO countries to forcefully make the argument to the rest of the world that the way of life that is based upon the rule of law, tolerance and freedom and the free enterprise system was far superior to the world view that NATO was opposed to.

Today we are faced with a very different threat. It is the threat of an international network of terrorists who seek to destroy anyone who does not share their view of life and the world. That threat is not manageable by any one country. Even this one, as mighty and as powerful as it is, cannot defeat the threat of terrorism by itself.

President Bush and the members of his administration have done an exemplary job since September 11, 2001, in knitting together an alliance of civilized nations and peoples everywhere in revulsion against the acts of September 11. That same kind of integration is necessary on a permanent basis to win the war against terrorism.

Finally, the resources that are needed, the money, the intelligence, the arms, are much more powerful if they are multiplied and shared among nations.

I believe that the first place to start with the creation of this new NATO is on the question of the development and deployment of national missile defense. As our President this week meets with President Putin of Russia, they have made great progress toward agreement between our two countries on the necessity of developing and deploying a weapon shield that would prevent innocent people from being attacked by an accidental or rogue strike of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

I believe that shield must be constructed by far more than just two nations. I believe that to succeed against the new common enemy of the terrorist network, against the likelihood or certainty that that network will achieve the ability to deploy and use strategic weapons, that we need the creation of a new type of structure that follows and tracks NATO. We need

a NATO for the 21st century. It should not be bound by geography the way the NATO that followed World War II was.

I believe it should not even be bound by ideology as the first NATO was. It needs to be bound together by the common interest in preparing for the likelihood, some would say the certainty, of attack by terrorists with strategic weapons. Our President is taking an important first step in that regard in his meetings with the Russian president this week. I and the members of the other body wish him well. We need to build on the success that I believe will come this week.

In the defense authorization bill which passed this Chamber and is now in conference with the other body, there is report language that was inserted at my request that encourages the administration to build on an existing regional missile defense system called the MEADS system. Presently, Italy and Spain have joined with the United States in pursuing this system. I believe that this instruction to the Department of Defense and our administration can lay the foundation for the development of a new NATO for the 21st century that will reach across nations, across oceans, across ideological divides to build and deploy a common defense shield against the use of the worst weapons of destruction by the worst destroyers that we have seen in the modern history of the world.

On September 11, 2000, people would have said it was alarmist to worry about the construction of such a shield. On August 11, 2001, others still would have said that. But no one can say after the events of September 11, 2001, that any hideous evil is beyond the reach and imagination of people who are sworn to destroy us in these terrorist networks.

We can hope that they do not get access to the weapons of mass destruction, or assume that they will. I believe we must prevent them from getting them with every fiber of our strength, but we also must assume that there will be failures and they will get access to these weapons. The only way to sustain a defense against this likelihood or probability is the creation of a defensive shield. I believe the only way to successfully create that shield is to follow the lessons of our predecessors when they built NATO: recognize the common threat of terrorism, recognize the futility of any one nation dealing with that common threat by itself, recognize the advantages of knitting together the resources of many nations to build that shield.

When we do, the prosperity that will result, the humanity that will result, the respect among nations that will result, will provide the best evidence for those who are not under the shield that they should change their own governments, change their own countries and come within the protective shield of that umbrella.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a partisan issue. It is not an issue between the

legislative and executive branch. It is a matter of necessity. It is our time to learn the lessons which followed World War II, to build on the successes of World War II and build a permanent structure for peace, not only on the land but in the skies and in the heavens.

I believe that the proper way to do that is by the construction and maintenance of a NATO-type structure that will defend us in space and in the air against the threat of errant or rogue or terrorist intercontinental ballistic missiles. I would urge Congress to follow that course.

AIRLINE SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Monday's plane crash was another devastating blow to the residents of New York and the citizens of this great Nation. Although we do not know the cause yet, I have been hearing it called a routine plane crash. God help us all if we ever accept a plane crash as routine.

I was in New York Monday and had to take the train back to D.C. I was talking to the train conductor who said that the U.S. lawmakers have failed the American people. This is what our citizens think of this Congress. How many planes must go down before we truly deal with the safety issue? Not just who screened the baggage, but the safety of the entire transportation infrastructure, including ports, rails, bridges, tunnels, and maybe after yesterday, more safety inspectors for airplanes. Does this Congress have to wait until another disaster strikes again to act to protect our transportation infrastructure?

Mr. Speaker, we do not want the American people to feel that we have failed them. I do not hold much hope, but I ask the conferees to support the Senate version of the airline security bill so we can move on to other areas of homeland security.

There is something that the American public needs to know. At this very moment, American flight schools are training pilots from countries sponsoring terrorism. All those terrorists need to do is pay in cash, and those schools will teach them anything they need to know. Preventing those with ill intent from acquiring flight skills, which they can use in a hijacking, is just as important if not more important as other issues being addressed in this legislation.

It saddens me to know that the terrorists accused of these hideous acts on September 11 received their flight training at Florida flight schools. Obviously, current law regulating who may receive training and what kind of training they receive is insufficient. The other body passed a version that addressed this matter by requiring

aliens and other individuals, as determined by the Department of Transportation, to acquire a certificate indicating completion of a background investigation by the Attorney General prior to beginning flight training.

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Under this section, a background check consists of a criminal, immigration status and security check. Flight training includes in-flight training, training in a simulator and any other form or aspect of training as defined by the Secretary of Transportation.

I encourage the conferees to support the language of the other body. We have waited weeks for this legislation to reach the floor and we should not leave for Thanksgiving vacation until the American people feel safe to fly in their own country.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to appreciate you presiding over the body, the Chamber, today.

Mr. Speaker, I was tempted to ask unanimous consent that the body agree with me that Oklahoma be number one, but I would not want to put you in a position of having to object from the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. ARMEY. The Speaker is a gentleman for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today with some of my colleagues to talk about a serious subject, but let me begin by paying my respects to this great country. America is such a great country. We Americans are such hardworking people. We go to work, take care of our families, look after things in our community, we work hard, pay our bills, pay our taxes. Beyond that, maybe we save a little bit of something for our old age or our children's education or any number of dreams we might have.

We go to the private capital markets and put that savings where it will be safe and where it will grow and hope that those sacrifices we make today will give us a better day. And all of that activity that we do in what one of my favorite economists, Alfred Marshall, called the ordinary business of life, all that we do has resulted in this great land building the greatest economy in the history of the world. The wonders of product from which Americans consume daily and routinely are just magnificent and frankly the envy of the world.

But every economic system, every economy, every great Nation at a time can find a period of economic distress. We have a whole body of economic thought, financial analysis, study, by

which we respond to a very simple question: If the economy falls on hard times and if in that period of time people are losing their jobs, production falls, investment falls off, the energy seems to be sapped from the economy, what by way of government policy can be done?

There are basically two areas by which we can respond to this. It is called countercyclical monetary and fiscal policy. We can respond by monetary policy to try to expand the money supply and encourage growth for the economy. In that, Chairman Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board have been more than thorough in their efforts along that line. We have brought, through their efforts, interest rates down to as low a level as possible. We in the Congress of the United States need to turn our eyes toward the Federal Reserve Board and say, "Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, you have done so much, and we appreciate your effort." And at the same time we need to recognize that more can be done and in particular that more that can be done must come from us.

For reasons that are not altogether clear to everyone, the American economy began to downturn sometime last year. I remember the downturn became clearly evident to us, to the point that now Vice President DICK CHENEY as a candidate for that office spoke about it during that campaign season. I can remember how he was berated by his opposition for, as they said, talking down the economy, an unfortunate reaction in that while we had to have somebody who would say, "Hey, there is serious trouble on the waters and we need to be ready to respond to it," we really did not as a Nation need others to say, "Hush up, let's not recognize our problems."

So we went forward with that. And as the new administration took office, it took office with an understanding of this economic distress and a resolve to do something about it. And, of course, the President acted swiftly. I am proud to say this body worked hand in hand with the President as we passed earlier this year the one thing that we might do, that we could do, that we should have done and that we did do to stimulate the performance of the economy, which was to cut taxes. That tax reduction that we did in June of this past year has already showed up in the lives of most Americans. We have seen it by adjustments in our withholding taxes at work, we have seen it by the rebate of overtaxes from last year. And that may have been all that we needed to move this economy back to a good growth cycle where the jobs could have been not only sustained but in fact expanded.

Then on September 11, with that horrible, heinous act that was perpetrated in this country by international terrorists and the Nation took a blow, one that broke your heart in so many ways, most of which we have responded to and most of the correction for which is

well under way today as we see by events in Afghanistan, we committed this Nation to wiping out international terrorism, and this Nation is doing the job. Is it not marvelous, Mr. Speaker, the extent to which the Congress, from both sides of the aisle, cooperate with the President in this very important job of ridding the world of these villainous characters that would perpetrate such horrible acts?

But another part of the blow that we took on that day was a blow to our economy, and that blow to that economy really sent us to some extent back. Make no mistake about it, the American economy is still the strongest economy in the world and we are still doing well, but it is not performing as it can be, as it should be, and people are losing their jobs. They look to us to do something about it. The President of the United States has, after mobilizing all the resources, asking for and receiving as much as \$100 billion of new spending for these critical defense and security needs the Nation has, turned his attention to what else we could do and asked for us to give a pro-growth, job-creating tax reduction to the American people. We studied on that, the White House studied on that, others in town studied on that, and there developed a, I might say, scholarly consensus that if in fact you were going to use reduction in taxes to stimulate the performance of the economy, put us back on a growth path and, indeed, in the final analysis create jobs so that your neighbors can go back to work, your sons and daughters can graduate next spring and find those jobs that you have been hoping for, that we would have to concentrate our efforts on the investment side of the tax ledger.

Chairman Greenspan in one meeting that I attended said it, I thought so perfectly, when he said, every dollar's worth of tax money left in the hands of the American people for investment purposes will leverage to higher rates of growth than dollars left in consumer hands. And so, at the President's request, the House of Representatives created a tax bill that focused on investment, growth and jobs.

Let me talk about a few of the things in that tax bill that are being frankly misunderstood and publicly maligned. One of the other points that was made by Chairman Greenspan is that we ought to take all the good ideas on tax reduction and line them up and do what is known in the discipline of economics and finance as a cost-benefit analysis to see which of these will give you the most growth result as a consequence of their implementation. That was done. And there was a consensus that again was articulated before us by the Chairman when he said, the first most necessary thing that we must do is put an end to the alternative minimum tax as applied to corporations.

Why is that so important? First, we should understand that the alternative