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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

THE SPEAKER. 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 Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

ISRAEL ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE

MR. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after a harrowing set of days, explosions, fire, innocent civilians running in panic through the streets; and I do not refer to life in America, New York City, or in the environs of the Pentagon on September 11; but I speak of Jerusalem and Israel. I speak of a nation that in the last week and past several days has grievously lost husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to the scourge of political terror.

I rise today humbly to speak of Israel and of the precious relationship that does and must continue to exist be-

tween the Government of the United States and the government of that great and historic people. As an American, a Christian, and a Hoosier, it is my firm belief now more than ever that it is my duty to insist that the United States of America never waver in protecting and defending the interests of the State of Israel in its battle for survival in this dangerous part of the world, and in its efforts now to open up, as the President's press secretary spoke yesterday, of the second front of the war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, many of these things may seem obvious, but many in the media are having a hard time figuring out who is right in the current conflict and how to best stop, we are told, the cycle of violence in order to help the parties get back to the negotiating table so they can iron out differences and misunderstandings. While I will say I am the first to admit that I know less than most of my colleagues do about Israel and its importance to America, let me say what I think this conflict is about and see whether my colleagues might agree.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to assert that I do not think that there is anything current about this conflict. I believe it is part of a continuing struggle being waged by many in the Arab world of extremists' views to do nothing other than to destroy the State of Israel, period. It is the historic aim of many in the terrorist organizations of Palestine and elsewhere, and the con-

flict today is simply an extension of that.

As to the question of who is right, that is simple. Mr. Speaker, it has ever been the policy of the United States of America and the people of this country since 1948 that Israel is right, believing as I do, as millions of Americans do, that He will still bless those who bless Israel, and so we stand with her.

A cycle of violence, I reject the term. When terrorists blow up a school bus or explode bombs in a mall killing children and innocent men and women, this is their aim. When Israel defense forces strike back, as they are at this hour and have in the last 24 hours, killing known terrorists and neutralizing terrorist assets, Mr. Speaker, this is not a cycle of violence; it is Israel performing her own self-defense.

As to returning to negotiations, one might ask what is there left to negotiate. Last summer at Camp David former Prime Minister Barak offered Yasser Arafat virtually everything. And how did Arafat respond? By launching a 9-month guerrilla war culminating this weekend, targeting women and children, some of whom were born in this country, and even in my State of Indiana. No, Yasser Arafat is not an effective negotiating partner. He is a terrorist, and it is time America stood strongly by Israel and said to Yasser Arafat, it is time that the terrorists and their capabilities are secured within the Palestinian Authority or else.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

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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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Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us of another time when a man of God stood alone with his servant and hostile forces were arrayed against him. His servant was frightened, and so he prayed that God might open the eyes of his servant, that he would see more of those who are with us than those that are with them. It is my prayer, Mr. Speaker, that Israel's eyes would be opened, to know that though her enemies are ruthless, her friends in this country and this government are many, many more.

INCREASED TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT IS A WIN FOR HOUSE EMPLOYEES AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress with the notion that the Federal Government ought to be a better partner with American communities, local governments, business and citizens to help promote the livability of these communities, to make our families safe, healthy and economically secure.

One of the examples of where we could in fact make a difference was found upon my arrival here in Washington, D.C. Despite the fact that the District of Columbia was reputed to have the second worst traffic congestion of any metropolitan region in the country, despite concerns about congestion, pollution, a lack of parking here on Capitol Hill, the House of Representatives provided unlimited free parking for our employees, but would not do anything to help those who wanted to use mass transit and perhaps be part of the solution, despite the fact that we were arguing that the private sector and other governments ought to step up and try and help their employees with transit.

Mr. Speaker, it took an effort of almost 2 years and working with the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) we were able to implement a transit benefit program for the House employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we have moved into a new era of that. We have more than tripled the benefit. Starting this month, employees will be able to have a \$65 transportation benefit for those who do not avail themselves of free parking on Capitol Hill; and starting January 1, they will be able to deduct pretax an additional \$35 for a \$100 transit benefit.

I am extremely grateful, Mr. Speaker, to the leadership of the Committee on Administration under the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member,

where they stepped up, worked with the committee and put in place a program that is going to allow us to provide an extensive benefit for our employees; but it also, in a time when we are concerned about the energy security of this country, when we are deeply concerned about the quality of life in and around our Nation's capital, and when we are watching the problems associated with increased security every day stack up cars as they are waiting to be inspected coming into our House parking lots, this transportation benefit is a win for the environment, it is a win for the morale and efficiency of employees on the House. It is a win for those who want to make sure that Congress leads by example.

I strongly urge that each office look anew at this enhanced benefit program to make sure that each eligible employee takes advantage of it, and in fact, that each Member of Congress and their chief of staff encourage others to take advantage of it, because it is going to be good for them in the long run. We want the program to be a success. It is an important step to save money, to save the environment, and make Capitol Hill a little more livable.

ANTI-DUMPING LAWS LAST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST UNFAIRLY TRADED IMPORTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, despite the overwhelming passage of a sense of Congress resolution urging the President to keep U.S. anti-dumping laws off of Qatar's negotiating table, the U.S. Trade Representative, Bob Zoellick, did just the opposite after a 410 to 4 vote.

U.S. officials have signaled that they are willing to negotiate on trade dumping laws that provide safeguards against countries selling products in the U.S. marketplace at below cost. The American steel industry, like so many others, relies on anti-dumping laws as their last line of defense against unfairly traded imports.

Unfortunately, since the WTO Uruguay Round, the steel industry's ability to defend itself against dumping has been severely weakened. Now, in Qatar, a couple of weeks ago, the U.S. Trade Representative has remained open to further weakening the rules on trade dumping, further jeopardizing American steel, further threatening American jobs.

Many of us were concerned about Qatar long before the negotiations began. It is a country that does not allow free elections. It is a country that does not allow freedom of expression. It is a country where women are treated not much differently from the way women are treated by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

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It is a country where public worship by non-Muslims is banned. The message that sends to people around the world that the trade ministers of all of the nations in the world are meeting in a city, in a country, where public protest will not be allowed, where free speech is not allowed, where public expression is not allowed, where freedom of worship is not allowed, and where free elections are not allowed, the message that sends is troubling. It is troubling because all too often our own trade minister, Robert Zoellick, has used in the past language to suggest that those of us who do not support his free trade agenda, his agenda to weaken environmental standards, to weaken labor standards around the world, those of us who do not support this free trade agenda, he implies, are indifferent to terrorism. He has questioned our patriotism saying, we do not really share American values if we do not support Fast Track, if we do not support his trade legislation because, he tells us, that is the way to combat terrorism around the world: You are either with us or you are against us. Many of us resent the U.S. Trade Representative questioning our patriotism, claiming we are indifferent to terrorism because we believe his Fast Track proposal is not coincident with American values and does not do the right things for our country.

Supporters of Fast Track argue that the U.S. is being left behind. They tell us we need Fast Track to increase American exports and provide new jobs for American workers. But this country's history of flawed trade agreements has led to a trade deficit with the rest of the world that surges well above \$350 billion. The 2000 trade deficit is 40 percent higher than the previous record set in 1999. The Department of Labor has reported that NAFTA, and these are very conservative government figures, that NAFTA has caused the loss of 300,000 jobs.

The American steel industry is no stranger to trade-induced adversity. Thousands of steel workers have lost their jobs. Mr. Speaker, 25 companies have filed for bankruptcy, 16 in the last year. We import 39 million tons of steel, double the 16 million tons we imported only 10 years ago, and steel prices, because of that, are below 1998 levels. In my home district, steel workers from LTV are learning firsthand that our trade policies put American workers in jeopardy. LTV terminated negotiations with its major union and went to bankruptcy court seeking permission to shut down its steel-making operations in anticipation of its sale. Now 11,000 jobs and the pensions and health benefits of more than 65,000 retirees and surviving spouses hang in the balance. LTV and the rest of the steel industry need Congress' assistance in solving this problem. Fast Track is not the answer. While our trade agreements go to great lengths to protect investors and protect property rights, these agreements do not