

can rural economies ever grow if we don't maintain transportation to those States?

When the airline stabilization bill came before the Senate, there were several legitimate reasons for us to support it. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the federal government had shut down the airlines for nearly three days, dealing a serious blow to their revenues. Furthermore, once the planes were in the air again, the airlines suffered a significant decline in passengers. When we passed the bill, we were looking to ease the blow of the shutdown and subsequent decline in ridership.

Now that I see how the commercial airlines are going to treat small- and mid-sized markets and rural States, it is clear to me that we may have rushed the airline stabilization package. Certainly, if I had known that the airlines were simply going to take the money and then announce they would no longer serve my constituents, I might have thought again about the vote I cast in favor of that package.

I have contacted the Secretary of Transportation to express my concerns and ask for a full review of these scheduled service reductions. I hope that my colleagues will join me in requesting this review, to ensure that the American people are getting a fair return on the investment they have made in the airline industry.

Perhaps the great lesson of the airline stabilization package is that, if we are going to enact policy to build and strengthen our economy, we need to have adequate discussion and debate to ensure that the policies are effective, constructive, and broad-based. In the coming weeks and months, as we take up other matters of economic policy, funding for defense and national security, and agricultural policy, let's take care to consider the ramifications and the realities of what we're dealing with so that we can do what's best for our entire Nation.

DEFENSE NATIONAL STOCKPILE

Mr. CLELAND. Madam President, I am pleased to join the Chairman and our colleagues from the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator COLLINS, and Senator HUTCHINSON, in a colloquy on the forest products industry and the release of materials from the Defense National Stockpile that poses a potential threat to this industry.

The forest products industry is an important industry for our Nation, and for my own State of Georgia as well. It is important in the sense that it provides materials critical to our way of life, and also because it employs a large number of our fellow citizens. It is an industry that reaches into a large number of States. Any process undertaken by a branch of our Federal Government that would harm the forest products industry would, therefore, be likely to draw the attention and the immediate response of this Congress. I

certainly would seek to participate in such a response, and to engender the greatest possible support among my colleagues.

We have been faced in recent weeks with the prospect that the sale or other release of sebacic acid, a lubricant and plasticizer made by the forest product industry, by the Defense National Stockpile might result in the harmful depression of the sebacic acid market and thereby harm the forest products industry. I have been following this matter closely. My staff coordinated a meeting between the officials responsible for the Defense National Stockpile and representatives of the industry, in the hopes that such a meeting and negotiation would resolve any potential problems associated with the authority for Federal sebacic acid release. The officials responsible for the stockpile assured me that the current authorization for release of sebacic acid was not excessive and that the release would be gauged so as not to have a negative impact on the price of sebacic acid. These assurances were made while acknowledging the release of an additional 400,000 pounds of acid, which I understand was needed this year in order to make up for the mismanagement of the contracting process for last year's stockpile release.

The forest products industry in Georgia and, indeed, across the country is highly concerned with this year's proposed release, and has requested that Congress restrict the authorization to release material from the stockpile. Having received assurances from the officials managing the stockpile release, along with their request that we avoid legislation affecting the annual authorization to release sebacic acid, I am here today to serve notice that I will closely follow the scope and effect of any sebacic acid release over the next year. If the release has a negative effect on the market for sebacic acid, I will vigorously pursue legislation in the next authorization bill to curtail future releases of sebacic acid.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Senator. As does the Senator from Georgia, I view this matter as one of national importance, deriving from the policies of the Department of Defense, which fall within the oversight of our Committee. I also share his concerns because, as does he and many of our colleagues, I have constituents who depend on the forest products industry for their livelihood.

I am also pleased that we have agreed to this colloquy as a bipartisan expression of our mutual concern over the current Department of Defense release authority for sebacic acid. Having taken this measured step this year, I will monitor the impact of Department of Defense sebacic acid release on the market, and will be ready to join my colleagues in taking legislative action as required.

The fact that an additional amount of acid is being released now, due to the acknowledged contracting miscues

on the part of Department of Defense officials last year, is a further indication that we must be prepared to act in our oversight role to restrict future releases of sebacic acid. The horrible acts of terrorism that befell us on September 11 have had an effect on our economy. I believe the Department must take current economic conditions into account as it implements its releases of sebacic acid over the coming year.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I thank my good friend from Maine, Senator COLLINS, and our distinguished colleagues from the Senate Armed Services Committee. I need not tell them that the forest products industry is an important industry in Arkansas. I will stand with you, if it becomes necessary, to restrict the Department of Defense authorization for release of sebacic acid. I know that we will be joined by many others, on both sides of the aisle. It is easy to see that the impact of this issue has the potential to affect the quality of life of working Americans across any number of states. I find it reassuring that our Committee is making such a strong statement of our intention to act if necessary. Our restraint this year demonstrates the trust we place in the Department of Defense to act reasonably within the scope of current legislative language. But that restraint will turn to resolve if the release of sebacic acid under the current authority proves harmful to the sebacic acid market.

Mr. LEVIN. I appreciate the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CLELAND, bringing this issue to my attention. I also appreciate the fact that the Senators from Georgia, Maine, and Arkansas have sought a colloquy on this issue to avoid offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 and thereby slowing its passage in this time of crisis. The current law requires the Department of Defense to ensure that its sales of excess materials from the National Defense Stockpile do not adversely affect the markets for those materials. It is especially important in our current economic situation that the Department not take actions that would harm the private sector. I fully expect that the Department will comply with the law and act prudently in this regard.

AMERICA: 'BACK ON THE JOB'

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I would like to recognize the tremendous outpouring of solidarity and support from America's citizens in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The nation's collective reaction to the horror of that day has been one of compassion and focused determination. I am pleased, not just with the response from our elected officials and our opinion-makers, but with all of our citizens across the country who have shown such courage in the face of adversity.

In an outcome that has surely flummoxed the mastermind of this

tragedy, a reality has emerged: America is still strong and, because of this tragedy, America ultimately will be even stronger.

There is no firmer support for this belief than the way in which Americans have worked, as directed by our Commander-in-Chief, to get back to the demands of our daily schedules. The best civilian offense in the aftermath of these attacks is not to cower to fears of future attacks, but instead to quickly 'get back on the job' and resume our routines. To that end, our nation has been constructing an effective and forceful civilian offense. But we can still do more.

I have come to the floor today to encourage the continuation of debate—specifically here in the Senate—on issues critical to our national security. A return to such a dialogue should not be frowned upon or considered as a sign of splintered resolve, but rather as proof that America and her values are alive and well.

I command President Bush and his advisors for their efforts thus far in preparing our minds and our military for the long battle we've undertaken. Our leaders, both civil and military, have built a coalition of nations sharing in our objective to thwart terrorist activity around the globe. We've sent a clear message to our friends, and they have responded with strong support.

And just this morning, we've communicated another message. By announcing our intent to reopen National Airport, we're telling not only friends, but the whole world, that we Americans will not live in fear within our own borders. I am pleased with President Bush's announcement. Now that added security measures have been implemented, I agree with him: It's time to unlock the symbolic front door to our nation's capital and re-affirm our commitment to get back to business.

That determination to get back to business is evident, not just at National, but at airports across the country. We have increased security measures at all airports, which in turn, have increased our sense that freedom has triumphed fear.

It's important to recognize, though, that the lack of convenience resulting from increased security measures cannot, and should not, be misconstrued as a loss of liberty. Let us not confuse the longer lines at airports and the time-consuming luggage screenings as threats to liberty; instead, consider these measures as threats to terrorism.

We are witnessing America's most important moment, and we are meeting the challenge with dignity and pride. With the events of September 11, tyranny has tried to mute the freedom that rings throughout our nation. We have defeated similar efforts in the past, and we will defeat them again. As long as we stand unified and stand strong, our spirit will never be silenced.

The solidarity shown at the different levels of government of the past few

weeks, within the various agencies, and across party lines has been unwavering. Here in the Senate, we swiftly approved legislation to provide \$40 billion toward the recovery effort and to help finance the retaliation measures currently being developed by the U.S. Military under the direction of the President. In addition, we approved a resolution authorizing the use of force in response to the unwarranted attacks. Without question, this unity is an extraordinary asset for a country poised to wage an assault on terrorism.

A few weeks ago, at Yankee Stadium in New York, and earlier at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, thousands of people—Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Christians—people of all faiths—came together and honored and remembered the fallen heroes, the innocent lives, and the bright futures claimed by terrorism. At these services, and at services across the country and in my home state of Nebraska, people revived their spirits and their faith in democracy.

These gatherings are visual displays of unity signaling that America is on the mend. Sure, for some of us, it may not ever feel like 'business as usual' again, or at least for awhile, life in America may feel more like business as 'unusual.' Nonetheless, it is important for we policymakers to get back to work, including debate and discussion of all these issues. Such action will help ensure the continued viability of democracy and the continued vitality of the United States of America. After all, lockstep agreement among policymakers is not an American ideal. The free exchange of ideas, which helped America flourish, was the terrorists' true target on September 11. The terrorists, who likely don't even understand the true meaning of freedom, loathe America's system of government, her ideals and her liberty.

In response, we must show the world how the American government will carry on, that the people will continue to have their say, and that debate will still be the prelude to unity—and not the construct of obstruction.

To be clear, I am not saying we, as a nation, will no longer be unified in this effort to combat terrorism. I am simply saying that we all need to actively participate in developing, not simply rubber-stamping, policy.

As a legislative body, we can return to the comparatively mundane and, consequently, more polarizing issues without losing sight of our resolve to fight terrorism. By doing so, we will not have swayed our national values to placate forces of evil.

Yes, in times of tragedy, it is imperative to find a common bond to bring our nation together. But, as we heal our wounds, we must give all people, on all sides of an issue, a chance to be heard. After all, democracy is the healthiest alternative to war. Our weapons are words, and our nation's internal battles are fought on the grounds of the Constitution, rather

than on the grounds of the combat zone.

I do not believe in the bitter partisanship that has, at times, characterized our nation, but I do believe that debate is critical to a strong democracy. Freedom of expression is fundamental to life in America and, by extension, to healthy debate here in Congress. We in the Senate are free to speak our minds and hearts. And as a result of that freedom, we need to freely come together and return to 'normal' debate empowered by the Constitution. Then, and only then, we will have successfully given back to the country that has given so much to each of us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD SORIANO

• Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I rise today to honor a great military leader, MG Edward Soriano, the outgoing commanding general of 7th Infantry and Fort Carson, CO. Major General Campbell will assume command and General Soriano will be moving on to greater responsibilities. As he and his wife Vivian depart Ft. Carson, they leave with a record of outstanding public service and numerous significant accomplishments.

Among these accomplishments is the Army's first housing privatization project. This project has been a major success, is ahead of schedule, and is now a model for military installations throughout the country. Additionally, General Soriano has overseen numerous successful deployments of units, including the deployment of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to Bosnia. Now, as our military forces conduct the war on terrorism, it is evident that the service members and their families of Ft. Carson will benefit greatly from his work.

His efforts to improve the readiness and capability of Ft. Carson and its units has met with great success and will have a long lasting and significant positive impact on the soldiers and civilians who live and work there. Furthermore he has ensured that Ft. Carson will provide our President and Secretary of Defense a first class platform from which to deploy military power.

General Soriano has done his excellent work on the facilities at Ft. Carson, despite funding shortfalls. His most significant achievement, however, has been in preparing the war fighting capability of its people. The soldiers and civilians at Ft. Carson are among the best in the Army, and are proven performers. Any venture managed by the men and women of "The Mountain Post" will certainly meet with success.

Finally, General Soriano and his wife have developed and nurtured an outstanding working relationship with the people of Colorado Springs, surrounding local communities, and the