

are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator KYL be recognized following my comments.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING CONGRESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we will begin this week with a vote at 6 o'clock this evening, and we will turn to other issues. I want to make some comments about the most important issues we face in Congress and what I think we ought to be doing to address them.

I just flew in from Chicago a few moments ago and noticed in the Chicago papers this morning that yesterday a man got through the screening process at Chicago O'Hare Airport with nine knives and a stun gun. He was selected for advance screening at the gate in addition to going through the metal detectors.

When they opened the baggage of this particular person, they found nine knives and a stun gun that had been missed at the screening as the individual entered the concourses.

That ought to demonstrate, as so many other studies have demonstrated, that the current system for screening passenger baggage and passengers is not working. That is quite clear.

The largest company that employs workers to screen baggage at airports has been found guilty of violating all kinds of FAA rules and regulations. They have violated training. They have hired ex-criminals. They have not adequately supervised them. They have falsified records. They were fined by the Federal Government for their behavior and 2 years later, after being put on probation, were discovered to have violated their probation with the same problems. This is the largest company in this country that hires these workers. In fact, it is a foreign company, but it is the largest employer of screeners in America.

One wonders why this company is still working at airports screening passengers when it has already been fined, when it falsified reports and then violated the probation that was established for it.

My point is that we have just had a significant debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on the issue of airport security and baggage screening. We in

the Senate passed legislation 100-0—all Republicans and all Democrats supported it. Then we had a couple of our friends from a southern State, Texas, whom I shall not name, who decided that the legislation was not good and needed to be altered. God forbid somebody was going to make Federal workers out of the screeners. So they ramped up a huge effort in the House of Representatives to defeat the proposal we passed 100-0 in the Senate.

My hope is that in the next week or so—in the next few days, in fact—we will convene a conference and work aggressively and to immediately pass an aviation security bill. It is unforgivable we have taken this long. After September 11, everyone understood we had a new requirement, a new duty, and a new responsibility to pass an aviation security bill, and that legislation has not yet passed despite the fact we passed it through this body with every Republican and Democrat supporting it—100-0 only to have it languish week after week in the other body.

I regret the House did that, but now that they have passed legislation that will get us to conference, it is very important that we take this seriously and find a way to develop the compromise necessary so the American people will feel confident that when they walk through airports about to board an airplane, there is not some goofball someplace carrying nine knives and a stun gun.

This person explained he had forgotten. How do you forget you have nine knives and a stun gun, for God's sake? How do you forget you have that in your luggage? How do you qualify to fly if you have a mind like that—that you take nine knives and a stun gun to the airport?

In any event, having said that, that is just the latest information in this morning's paper. Last week, it was the audit that was done at Dulles Airport and the screeners who missed what they should have known.

Why does all this happen? Because people leave screening jobs to fry hamburgers so they can make more money. These are low-paying jobs. The people are ill trained by companies that want to put the least cost employees in those positions and make good money doing it.

I am not interested in that. I am interested in accountability and security for the American traveling public. That is all I am interested in. I am not interested in the debate about for whom they work. All I am interested in is accountability.

We have had a circumstance where these employees have been working for very large firms, one of which I already described that has been fined by the Federal Government and is guilty of falsifying records. We have already had that experience. We know that does not work. So perhaps we ought to try what the Senate has suggested in the legislation it passed 100-0.

That is what is in front of us in the next few days, and I hope, as a member of the committee that generated the bill that passed the Senate unanimously, with the help of Senator HOLLINGS and Senator McCain leading the effort, we can find a way to solve this very quickly.

Let me turn to the next challenge we have in addition to aviation security. The other challenge we have is to pass a stimulus package. What does "stimulus" mean? Stimulus means pass legislation that will provide some incentives to help boost this economy of ours.

Last Friday, we received word that another 415,000 people lost their jobs in the last month. Mostly, these are people at the lower end of the economic ladder. These are not people making a lot of money, in most instances. These people and their families know about second jobs, secondhand, second mortgages, and second shifts. They are the same people who during tough times find they have lost their jobs. Then they find out, at least with some people in the U.S. Congress, they are also second choice. There are some people in Congress who do not want to help them very much because they say that would not provide the incentive for those families to look for work again.

In my judgment, these people who are laid off during a very difficult and soft economy require our help. We have always, during a severe economic downturn, extended our hand and said: We will extend unemployment benefits to help those who have lost their jobs and are down and out.

That is stimulative. That money is spent immediately by the families who have lost their incomes and are struggling. That is a way to stimulate this country's economy. We must do that when we construct a package of incentives to provide lift to this economy.

What are the other incentives we could provide that would help this economy? We can do traditional things, such as tax credits that would incentivize investment. We can do things that will incentivize consumption. We can do things that will incentivize production. There are all kinds of menus with which to do that: Expensing, bonus depreciation, and targeted investment tax credits, for example.

In addition to tax credits and other incentives in the Tax Code, we can stimulate economic activity by building roads and bridges, by repairing schools, and by making other public investments that put people back to work so that at the end of the time when we have enacted a stimulus package and made those investments, we can look back and say: We not only stimulated the economy, we have something to show for it.

My colleague, Senator BYRD, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is working with a number of us in the Senate. He has taken the leadership position on the infrastructure

needs and the investment in infrastructure as part of a stimulus package. That is important as well.

We have the issues of extending unemployment benefits, health care issues for the unemployed, the issue of what kind of tax cuts might be employed to stimulate and lift this economy, and then the issue of what kind of infrastructure investment we can make that puts people back to work building, repairing, and making things. All of these should come together in a package designed to stimulate this economy.

This economy is in much more trouble than most people understand. It was a very soft economy prior to September 11, and September 11 cut a hole right through the belly of this economy. We are beginning to see the evidence of that now each day with each additional number that describes the condition of our economy.

It is going to have an impact in every part of this country. It will touch virtually every family. So the question is, What can we do and how can we do it? How can we lift this drowning economy?

President Bush has said he wants Congress to act and act quickly. He is right about that. We should. We must. But just acting, if it is not the right thing, will not be the right approach. If we do not do the right thing, taking action is pretty irrelevant. What we need to do is take action now to do the right thing to give help to this country's economy. The House of Representatives passed what they called a stimulus package. I describe it as leftovers.

My mother used to talk about leftovers when she was talking about the supper table. What is for supper? We called it supper in my hometown. When she said leftovers, we all understood in our family what leftovers meant.

Well, I view the stimulus package that the House passed almost the same way, as leftovers. It is all the things they had left over from previous tax bills that they did not get, but they always wanted to do. It did not have very much at all to do with whether it is going to help this economy, whether it is going to stimulate this economy, whether it is going to lift this economy. It was just leftovers.

In fact, I will mention one. I will not go into great depth. One of them, at a cost of \$21 billion, was stuck in the House-passed stimulus package to incentivize investments overseas. Now, tell me how that stimulates the economy in this country. It is a big giveaway to companies that move and keep needed investment capital overseas and earn income overseas and do not want to repatriate the money. Now talk about the nth degree of goofy. At a time when our economy is on its knees, we have the U.S. House passing a tax provision that incentivizes additional investments overseas. Our investments ought to be to incentivize creating jobs in the United States, not elsewhere.

So we have a big job ahead of us to try to pass legislation that provides a

real lift to this economy. The President is right, we need to do it. It would be unforgivable, in my judgment, if Congress left town sometime between now and Christmas, whenever we finish our work, and had not passed a stimulus package to try to provide some lift to this country's economy.

I know some will argue we have economic stabilizers that we did not used to have in this economy and that recessions are not quite as deep as they used to be. We do not know that. We do not know what the consequences of September 11 will be on this economy. We do know that going into September 11, we were in the business cycle and we were on the contraction side of a business cycle. It is inevitable that there is expansion and contraction, and we were on the contraction side of that business cycle.

Then September 11 occurred. We shut down the airline industry. The entire travel industry in this country is in a huge amount of trouble. Some of us have proposed some loan guarantees to try to provide assistance in those areas. This economy took a huge body blow, and I think most do not understand how deep this likely recession could be or how long it could last if all of us do not now do the right thing.

This is not about Democrats or Republicans. It is about good ideas, having the capacity to employ opportunities for investment and consumption in this economy to try to rev this economic engine once again.

We went through unprecedented growth in our country for a good many years. We were blessed with that. In fact, some looked at those numbers and they looked at NASDAQ and the stock market and they thought this economy only goes one way.

It is true of the President. It was true of the Congress. Everybody said: You know something, we are going to have surpluses for 10 years in a row. The next 10 years we are going to do so great we are going to have surpluses every year. So let us put in a very large tax cut anticipating surpluses for the next 10 years.

That was just months ago. Those surpluses are very quickly vanishing, regrettably, and this economy has changed in a very significant way. I hope we can get back to the position where we have economic strength and opportunity, hope for American families who have lost their jobs and a growing economy that provides new opportunities for others in this country who are going to enter the job market. At this point, this Congress has no choice but to be with this President and, between the two parties, construct a stimulus package that really does give a lift and some hope to the American economy. If we do not do that, the American people should judge us harshly, in my judgment. Between now and when we leave this year, we have a responsibility to do that.

AMERICA'S FARMERS NEED A FARM BILL NOW

Mr. DORGAN. My colleague from Arizona is coming back to speak, but before he does I will mention the issue of the farm bill. We have had a substantial amount of discussion in recent days about the farm bill.

I mentioned aviation security, which we need to get done quickly. I mentioned the stimulus package, which we have a requirement to enact, and now a farm bill. We have the Secretary of Agriculture who has left, I believe, for Qatar. It is a country whose name most of us cannot pronounce. They are having the WTO meeting in Qatar because they cannot have them anywhere else. It is a country with very few hotel rooms, and so they will therefore accommodate very few demonstrators. These demonstrators tend to show up wherever they are discussing trade anywhere in the world, so they are having this meeting in Qatar. But we had hoped to meet with the Secretary of Agriculture last week.

We think it is very important to pass a farm bill in the next 3 or 4 weeks. The House of Representatives did so. It is better than current law. It is not good enough yet for wheat and feed grains and some of the things we need to do to improve it, but we have a responsibility to pass a farm bill, one that works for family farmers.

There are some who are counseling, as the Secretary of Agriculture, the head of the Office of Management and Budget and others have, that, oh, do not worry, do not do it now, do it next spring; the money will still be there. Nonsense. That money is in the budget this year, and it reserves a place this year and in future years, but it will not be there next year. Next year, we face an entirely different economy when we begin constructing a new budget. So we have a responsibility to do a farm bill in the next 2, 3 to 4 weeks as well, and some of us are going to fight like the devil to make that happen.

I prefer it be a farm bill that comes out of the Agriculture Committee. Senator HARKIN is leading the way, and I want to work with him. If it does not come out of the committee, then there is a farm bill sitting at the desk we could bring before the Senate and amend. It came from the House of Representatives. One way or another we owe it to the American farmers to write a farm bill that works.

I see my colleague from Arizona is in the Chamber, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEAHY). The Senator from Arizona.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS, THE WORLD SERIES CHAMPS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Dakota for arranging my time to speak. I will talk about two things: First is the victory last night in the bottom of the ninth inning of the Arizona Diamondbacks in