

So the anthrax bacillus with the genetic coding of the Ames strain could have been and may well have been obtained by Iraqi germ warfare scientists.

We also know that European government and CIA officials reported meetings between al Qaeda members and Iraqi intelligence officials before September 11, and the 9-11 terrorists also we know from confirmed accounts in the press, attempted to rent crop dusters, presumably as delivery vehicles, for chemical weapons.

Lastly, according to U.N. weapons inspector Richard Spertzel, Iraq has conducted military exercises to explore the possibility of disbursing anthrax using crop dusters.

These are all facts that suggest an international connection, perhaps even an Iraqi connection. This week I will urge the Justice Department and the administration to follow the facts wherever they lead.

PROVIDING ADEQUATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month Congress made a choice. Republicans in this body passed legislation giving literally hundreds of billions in tax breaks, hundreds of billions of dollars, to the richest one-half of one percent of Americans, to decamillionaires and to billionaires. The choice that Congress made was between a tax cut for the richest, most privileged Americans, and an adequate, legitimate real prescription drug benefit for America's seniors.

This week, unfortunately, America's seniors will begin to pay the price for that choice that Congress made, that choice that Republican leadership pushed through Congress of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans over a prescription drug benefit for America's seniors.

Now, Republicans will say, as we will find in the Committee on Energy and Commerce this week as we mark up the prescription drug bill, Republicans will say that they in fact have a prescription drug bill that they are offering in committee. What they will not say is that prescription drug bill is very inadequate for seniors' needs.

Their bill serves three purposes. Number one, it is the launching pad for Medicare privatization. If their prescription drug plan becomes law, it will be the beginning of full scale, turn-it-over-to-the-insurance-companies privatization of Medicare, something clearly seniors in this country and the rest of us in this country do not want.

The second purpose that their legislation will serve, their so-called prescription drug bill offered in committee this week, is it will shift Federal resources away from seniors and into tax cuts. We simply cannot give

hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts to the most privileged people in society and still afford to do an adequate prescription drug benefit for seniors.

The third purpose that the Republican bill serves that will be offered in committee this week on prescription drugs is it is what the drug industry wants. The drug industry wrote their legislation.

Congressional Republicans couched these three motives in choice rhetoric. They will argue that seniors should not be forced into a one-size-fits-all prescription drug program, that they deserve, quote-unquote, a "choice" of private plans.

Think about that. What kind of choice is actually desirable when it comes to drug coverage? A drug plan either covers the prescription drugs, or it does not cover the prescription drugs. Disbursing seniors into multiple complicated private plans serves the best interests of the drug industry, to be sure, the best interests of the drug industry, something that my friends on the other side of the aisle are always intent on doing; but it would undercut seniors' collective purchasing power, enabling the drug industry to continue charging their outrageously high prices.

The Republican prescription drug plan, unlike the Democratic plan, the Republican plan does nothing about bringing down drug prices. Why? Because the prescription drug industry wrote their plan.

Their approach chips away at the value of traditional Medicare, setting the stage for Medicare privatization. Both the Bush administration and congressional Republicans have argued that adding a real prescription drug benefit to Medicare is too expensive. That is why their proposal would still leave seniors liable for up to \$3,000 of prescription drug expenses. It is hardly a real prescription drug plan if the senior still could be on the hook for \$3,000.

Retirees contributed to Medicare during their working years; and our current prosperity reflects their hard work over the last 2, 3, 4, 5 decades. Adding real prescription drug coverage to Medicare is an unfulfilled responsibility that this institution, that this Congress, the Members of both parties, must fulfill. Seniors have earned, and they richly deserve, comprehensive health coverage, including modernizing Medicare by including a meaningful prescription drug benefit.

The President and the Congress have a choice when it comes to drug coverage for seniors: we can stand up to the drug industry, devote the necessary resources to a drug benefit, bring prices down for prescription drugs and add a real drug benefit to Medicare; or, or we can cut taxes on the richest, most privileged 1 percent of the people in this country and pass a drug bill that only the prescription drug companies and their friends, their Republican friends in Congress, really want. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is pretty obvious.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We bless You and praise You, Lord God, source of all authority on heaven and earth. This weekend in worship service and at family meals, we gathered to thank You and pray for our fathers. As You guide and protect this Nation through the governance of the President and Congress, so You strengthen and direct family life in this great country through parental authority. Shape the men of this House to be models of leadership, but most of all to reflect Your presence in being good fathers. Surround them with love so that they may manifest understanding and seek every opportunity to strengthen character in their children.

Last Wednesday evening members of this Chamber expressed sorrow over the fact that the United States is the world leader in fatherless families. They prayed for responsible fatherhood in themselves and throughout this Nation, encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.

Lord, through deeper love and faithfulness in family relationships, renew lasting values in this society. Deepen belief in Your power, in commitments made, and relationships given us. Provide and protect children always. Free them from fear and all forms of abuse and manipulation now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HANSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1209. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to determine whether an alien is a child, for purposes of classification as an immediate relative, based on the age of the alien on the date the classification petition with respect to the alien is filed, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3275. An act to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings to strengthen criminal laws relating to attacks on places of public use, to implement the International Convention of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to combat terrorism and defend the Nation against terrorist acts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 672. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the continued classification of certain aliens as children for purposes of that Act in cases where the aliens "age-out" while awaiting immigration processing, and for other purposes.

S. 1770. An act to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings to strengthen criminal laws relating to attacks on places of public use, to implement the International Convention of the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to combat terrorism and defend the Nation against terrorist acts, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

MARTIN'S COVE LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4103) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain public lands in Natrona County, Wyoming, to the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4103

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Martin's Cove Land Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE TO THE CORPORATION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP.

(a) *CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.*—Notwithstanding the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall offer to convey to the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the public lands identified for disposition on the map entitled "Martin's Cove Land Transfer Act" numbered MC/0002, and dated May 17, 2002, for the purpose of public education, historic preservation, and the enhanced recreational enjoyment of the public. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Lander District of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Corporation of the Presiding Bishop shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the historic fair market value of the property conveyed under this section, including any improvements to that property.

(2) *DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall determine the historic fair market value of the property conveyed under this section, including any improvements to the property.

(c) *ACCESS AGREEMENT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop shall enter into an agreement, binding on any successor or assignee, that ensures that the property conveyed shall, consistent with the historic purposes of the site—

(1) *be available in perpetuity for public education and historic preservation; and*

(2) *provide to the public, in perpetuity and without charge, access to the property conveyed.*

(d) *RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.*—As a condition of any conveyance under this section, the Secretary shall require that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and its current or future affiliated corporations grant the United States a right of first refusal to acquire all right, title, and interest in and to the property conveyed under this section, at historic fair market value, if the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or any of its current or future affiliated corporations seeks to dispose of any right, title, or interest in or to the property.

(e) *DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.*—Proceeds of this conveyance shall be used exclusively by the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation located in Casper, Wyoming, for the sole purpose of advancing the public understanding and enjoyment of the National Historic Trails System in accordance with subsection (f).

(f) *USE OF PROCEEDS.*—Funds shall be used by the Foundation only for the following purposes and according to the following priority:

(1) *To complete the construction of the exhibits connected with the opening of the National*

Historic Trails Center scheduled for August 2002.

(2) *To maintain, acquire, and further enhance the exhibits, artistic representations, historic artifacts, and grounds of the Center.*

(g) *NO PRECEDENT SET.*—This Act does not set a precedent for the resolution of land sales between or among private entities and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4103, which I introduced, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to offer to sell 940 acres of BLM land in Natrona County, Wyoming, to the LDS Church for the purpose of historic preservation, public education, and the enjoyment of the public. Funds from the sale would be directed for the sole purpose of public understanding and enjoyment of the national historic trail system at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming.

These 940 acres, known as Martin's Cove, were the site of a truly remarkable and inspiring story of Mormon pioneers. In 1847, a mass migration of Mormon pioneers began to move west to Utah due to some of the most intense religious persecution in our Nation's history. This migration continued into the next decade, when, in 1856, a group of Mormon handcart pioneers, known as the Martin Handcart Company, departed Iowa late in the year and found themselves along the trail stranded with almost no food in freezing temperatures and deep snow. As they fought against intense weather conditions, between 135 and 150 of their party would perish, many of them at the site known today as Martin's Cove.

When Church President Brigham Young was notified by other pioneers just arriving in the Salt Lake Valley that there was still a company out in the trail, he immediately organized a team to go out and rescue them. While many still perished, many were rescued, and their families remember them and honor them to this day.

Unfortunately, despite the significance of what took place in Martin's Cove, the site has remained in relative obscurity as the Federal Government has simply not had the resources to serve the public or to care for the site. Prior to the involvement of the LDS Church, also known as the Mormon Church, the BLM was unable to do anything at the site. They did not have the resources to construct trails, to protect the resource, to provide interpretation, or even simply to provide a sign by the side of the road informing the public of what took place at Martin's Cove.

In fact, because the access to the site was controlled by the privately held Sun Ranch, when access was available,