

will ensure safe transportation of nuclear waste through the State and across State lines. Transporting spend nuclear fuel is safe. It has been proven to be safe, and there is no reason to doubt that it will remain safe.

HONORING MICHAEL DUNCAN, JR.

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 months since the terrible terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. And since that fateful day, thousands of dedicated Americans have united to help build this country. Today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to recognize one of those great Americans, Mr. Michael Duncan, Jr., who was the only Nevadan deployed from the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, also known as DMORT. DMORT is a Federal-level response team which provides mortuary assistance in cases of mass fatality incidents like September 11.

Unfortunately, due to the heinous acts of the terrorists, our Nation has had to call upon DMORT for assistance at Ground Zero in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize the efforts of DMORT and specifically of Mr. Michael Duncan. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank him for his dedicated effort to a stressful, tragic and demanding job but a job which has to be done. Mr. Duncan serves as a role model for Nevadans and for all Americans.

STALLING THE FARM BILL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, several months ago back in October the House of Representatives passed a farm bill. Farm bills are important because in our food service delivery production chain, the government is very involved in the production end on the farm; and farmers cannot make planting decisions until the law for the coming year is stipulated. And one reason they cannot is they cannot borrow money to plant their crops because the banks will not lend money until they know what the farm bill says in it.

Now, because of the House of Representatives return by Republicans is responsible, we passed this many, many months ago. Unfortunately it is across the hall in a body led by the other party, and they are still sitting on it. It is sad when so many people have such a callous disregard for farmers in America and for production agriculture. We need food in this country.

The miracle of our food, to think that less than 2 percent of the population is serving 100 percent plus the world; and yet we cannot get the other

body to pass the farm bill. It is ridiculous. Let us move on for the sake of farmers and for the sake of American consumers and get this thing done.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 3448, PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3448) to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MS. ESHOO

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. ESHOO moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill H.R. 3448 be instructed—

(1) to work diligently to reconcile the differences between the two Houses in order to promote public health security and address potential bioterrorist threats;

(2) to recognize that Federal resources to combat bioterrorism and other public health emergencies have been increased through recent appropriations bills, to enhance preparedness and response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies for fiscal year 2002, and that the managers on the part of the House should be careful not to disrupt or delay this much needed funding for fiscal year 2002;

(3) to recognize the pressing need to establish a national system for tracking the possession and use of deadly biological agents;

(4) to recognize the need to prioritize Federal and State resources to address potential threats to the food supply;

(5) to acknowledge the need to work with the Administration to ensure feasibility of enhanced food safety regulatory programs; and

(6) to provide for vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans, and other actions with respect to public drinking water supplies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of this motion of the House bill and emphasize the need for conferees to address and quickly resolve their differences on the bioterrorism legislation.

We live in unsettling times. Our hope is that we never again experience an act of terrorism, but we have to plan

and prepare to respond to further attacks. The conferees face a complex task. The bills passed by the House and Senate cover many subjects including grants to our first responders, regulation of select agents, protection of our food supply, and protection of our water systems.

The motion recognizes the need for conferees to coordinate the final legislation with ongoing efforts to support existing plans and programs. Bioterrorist threats and public health emergencies can come in many forms, in many places; and the House bill is sensitive to that fact. We want an aggressive response to this problem.

Title I of H.R. 3448 provides a funding structure that focuses resources towards first responders with a minimum of delay and with maximum efficiency. This bill is a down payment, not a full measure of what will be needed for our citizens and our community to prevent, prepare for, and respond to terrorist attacks.

Title III of H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001 which we overwhelmingly passed on December 11, 2001, establishes important new regulatory authorities for the protection of our Nation's food supply. These new authorities enable the Food and Drug Administration to allocate its limited inspection resources more effectively where they are needed the most, at the ports of entry into the United States. In addition, the bill authorizes the appropriations of new funds for increased inspections of food, the development of rapid testing technologies, and an assessment of threats for the adulteration of food.

□ 1030

Along with improving FDA's information management systems as they pertain to imported food, the bill mandates that FDA notify relevant States when it has information indicating that a shipment of food presents a threat of serious adverse health consequences and requests that such States take appropriate remedial action.

Mr. Speaker, this is a motion on which I would expect all of my colleagues would agree. The bill passed the House by a vote of 418 to 2, and I believe my colleagues are unified in their desire to pass this legislation as soon as possible, and I urge them to do that.

I would also like to add that, as we have emphasized, a good part of the legislation is built around first responders, that what they will have in their hands, the tools that they will use, represent the best of the biotechnology industry of our country, the technology industry and high technology, both of which find a home in the 14th Congressional District of California. So America's best will be placed in America's best hands as first responders. I am very proud of that, and I know that my colleagues are as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for the work that has been done on one of the most important bills that the House of Representatives will pass.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion offered by my dear friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), a valued member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and thank her for this motion.

This motion is obviously to instruct the conferees on H.R. 3448, the other Tauzin-Dingell bill, the Tauzin-Dingell Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act; and also I want to, obviously, thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for again an extraordinary bipartisan effort to do what I think is something awfully important and necessary for our country.

As the gentlewoman explained, this bill came out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in December and passed the House by 418 to 2, again a remarkable expression of the concern all Members have on both sides of the aisle for protecting America from these chemical and bioterrorism attacks. I believe that now we have to work even more diligently to reconcile the differences between our House-passed bill and the bill the Senate eventually passed in late December and go to a conference and get this bill accomplished as quickly as possible.

At its core, H.R. 3448 is about the safety and about the security of our country, a country that is now faced with profound new threats of terrorism and public health emergencies. Increasing Federal resources available to identify, to prevent, to deter and to respond to threats of bioterrorism is probably the most important thing we can do now in improving our readiness to face an enemy that is now here at home and threatens a free and prosperous society.

For fiscal year 2002 we have already addressed increasing the funding to combat bioterrorism through appropriations bills and by administrative actions. We must be careful not to disrupt or delay this very much needed funding by unnecessarily imposing substantial new requirements on the grants or the funding for fiscal year 2002. We must also enact a strong framework that combines smart, innovative policy with these additional resources to prepare our country for these bioterrorism threats, to improve our abilities to respond, as the gentlewoman said, quickly and efficiently if, in fact, those threats not only arise but are carried out as many predict al Qaeda and other members are still attempting to do.

Title I of the House-passed bill is intended to step up our preparedness and our capacity to identify and respond to

these kinds of threats. The title will improve communications between and among the levels of government, public health officials, first responders, the health care providers and the facilities that must obviously take care of victims in the case of those emergencies.

As we work to reconcile the House- and Senate-passed bills, we must also enhance the controls on deadly biological agents in order to help prevent bioterrorism, establish a national database on dangerous pathogens. Even today we do not have a national system in place for tracking the possession and use of the anthrax that has already killed and injured citizens and continues to pose a threat to our national and economic security and public health and welfare, not to mention the lives of our postal workers and others in our society who are threatened by such an attack.

Title II of the House-passed bill imposes new registration requirements on all the possessors of the 36 most dangerous biological agents and toxins. It mandates tough new safety and security requirements to ensure that only legitimate scientists working in appropriate laboratory facilities can gain access to these potential weapons of mass personal destruction.

Title III of the House bill protects the food and drug supplies by increasing Food and Drug Administration resources to hire more inspectors at the border where so little of our food is inspected and by providing additional authority for the FDA to detain food and to investigate credible evidence of contamination and to improve access to records to assist in investigating any threats to our food supplies.

Finally, we must recognize the need to provide for the vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans and other actions with respect to public drinking water supplies. All of us should pay special attention to what is happening in Rome where tunnels were found and suspects arrested who had materials on hand designed to infect the water supplies of the Americans who work in our embassy there and could possibly have poisoned them and damaged them or hurt them or killed them. That single incident in Rome ought to stand as a stock warning to everyone in this country that it can happen here, too, if we are not careful.

Title IV of the House-passed bill requires a comprehensive review of the ways to detect and respond to chemical, biological, radiological contamination of drinking water, as well as ways to prevent and mitigate the effects of physical attacks upon those assets.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on both sides of the aisle for their tireless, extraordinary efforts to produce H.R. 3448. Once again, the House led the Senate in getting this legislation passed, but the Senate has done its job, too, now,

and we need to reconcile the differences between the legislation.

I look forward to working expeditiously with the House and Senate managers to resolve those differences so this country can quickly get a strong public health security and bioterrorism response bill to the President's desk, not just this year but hopefully by the time we conclude in another month. We ought to get this thing done not in months but in days and weeks, and we ought to put it on the President's desk so the country can have the benefit of this kind of security.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion and commend the gentlewoman for presenting it to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to congratulate the chairman of our committee for the extraordinary work that has been done on this bill and to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) our ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) for her leadership on this issue and her energy on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and also on the Homeland Security Task Force.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member of this full committee and stand to support this legislation, particularly as it relates to authorizing funding to develop antidote drugs in case of attacks, grants for emergency preparedness, aid to hospitals and other health and food programs.

This bill, along with the Justice Department reauthorization bill, H.R. 2215, is expected to deal with issues of terrorism, and of course, all of us are singularly committed to fighting against terrorism but also protecting the homeland.

I am particularly gratified that this legislation will help us stockpile vaccines and drugs, strengthen public health systems and promote other efforts to defend against biological attacks. We must reconcile the Senate bill with what we are attempting to do.

What I like about this legislation is it expands the role of the Centers for Disease Control. Many of us visited the Centers for Disease Control right after the September 11 tragic incident and right after the anthrax, and we saw there was great need in reinforcing its fund, reinforcing its expanse, because it relates to the public health system and also giving it money to help restore its physical plant. This is a very important aspect of this legislation.

As the chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, let me say how glad

I am that we have established the National Task Force on Children and Terrorism and the Emergency Public Information Communications Task Force. One of the greater or silent victims of September 11 was all of the children that were impacted by terrorism.

I am interested also in the funding source, and I might raise this, I am concerned with first responders and local government. If someone comes out of local government, I am a former city council member, and I would like to make sure that those dollars get to the first responders and local governments. I know that we are dealing with block grants, and if I might put on the RECORD that it is very important that our mayors and county commissioners and those who are first responders are the ones that actually get those dollars.

I hope as we are resolving this legislation that we can assure that the ground firefighters and police and the emergency paramedics and hospitals get those dollars. As I met with those groups in my own congressional district, I can assure my colleagues that that is an important issue to us.

As I close, let me say that in my community we are establishing a biomedical center. Also, NASA is very much involved in biomedicine, and I believe we have a lot of good collaborators that can work with us on this issue, and I simply hope that, as we work together on these particular issues, we will make sure that those dollars get to those who need it.

Finally, might I say the food safety and security is extremely important. I do not know if we realize that the food supply of our farm animals even, the seed, needs to be protected, because that then generates into a potential for devastation among our population.

I rise again to ask support for this legislation, hope in conference some of my concerns will be addressed.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) from the Committee on Energy and Commerce who played an instrumental role in fashioning the very important frame upon which H.R. 3448 was built and who will be joining us on the conference committee with the Senate.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) for yielding me the time. I appreciate the ranking member and this motion to recommit, and I want to associate with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

On Monday I met with over 150 firefighters as they tried to figure out how to competitively complete work on the fire grant acts and try to get up to snuff to be able to respond. Of great concern to them is responding to bioterrorism. And I am a Federalist, I believe in Federal responsibilities and local responsibilities, but this new world, there is something new that has emerged.

We have a responsibility if we want to rely on these people to respond to these great crises that could face our country. They have to be trained. They have to be equipped. They have to be able to be there. Because no matter, as an Army officer, no matter how we drop in a field medical office, those firefighters, those police officers, those local sheriffs are going to be there and they better be equipped and trained and be able to perform the mission, not only them but our local hospitals.

This whole health care debate and the changing from hospital rooms, I think now there is a big gap. If there is a great crisis, where are these sick people going to go? How are we going to be able to respond? So the local hospitals, the community health clinics and those things are just critical, and I know this is a way that we are going to try to wrestle out some of those problems and get a way that we can help the local responders, and I am honored to be able to serve on the conference.

I look forward to working hard.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

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

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1045

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. COMBEST, BOEHNER, GOODLATTE, POMBO, EVERETT, LUCAS of Oklahoma, CHAMBLISS, MORAN of Kansas, STENHOLM, CONDIT, PETERSON of Minnesota, DOOLEY of California, Mrs. CLAYTON and Mr. HOLDEN.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker may supplement the appointment at a future time.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3448, PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3448 on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct conferees offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Clement	Gekas
Aderholt	Clyburn	Gephardt
Akin	Coble	Gibbons
Allen	Collins	Gilchrest
Andrews	Combest	Gillmor
Armey	Conyers	Gonzalez
Baca	Cooksey	Goode
Bachus	Costello	Goodlatte
Baird	Cox	Gordon
Baker	Coyne	Goss
Baldwin	Cramer	Graham
Ballenger	Crane	Granger
Barcia	Crenshaw	Graves
Barr	Crowley	Green (TX)
Barrett	Culberson	Green (WI)
Bartlett	Cummings	Greenwood
Barton	Cunningham	Grucci
Bass	Davis (CA)	Gutierrez
Becerra	Davis (FL)	Gutknecht
Bentsen	Davis (IL)	Hall (OH)
Bereuter	Davis, Jo Ann	Hall (TX)
Berkley	Davis, Tom	Hansen
Berman	Deal	Harman
Berry	DeGette	Hart
Biggert	Delahunt	Hastings (FL)
Bilirakis	DeLauro	Hastings (WA)
Bishop	DeLay	Hayes
Blumenauer	DeMint	Hayworth
Blunt	Deutsch	Hefley
Boehlert	Diaz-Balart	Herger
Boehner	Dicks	Hill
Bonilla	Dingell	Hilleary
Bonior	Doggett	Hilliard
Bono	Dooley	Hincheey
Boozman	Doolittle	Hobson
Borski	Doyle	Hoeffel
Boswell	Dreier	Hoekstra
Boucher	Duncan	Holden
Boyd	Dunn	Holt
Brady (PA)	Edwards	Honda
Brady (TX)	Ehlers	Hooley
Brown (FL)	Ehrlich	Horn
Brown (OH)	Emerson	Hostettler
Brown (SC)	Engel	Houghton
Bryant	English	Hoyer
Burr	Eshoo	Hulshof
Burton	Etheridge	Hunter
Buyer	Evans	Hyde
Callahan	Everett	Inslee
Calvert	Farr	Isakson
Camp	Ferguson	Israel
Cannon	Filner	Issa
Cantor	Flake	Istook
Capito	Fletcher	Jackson (IL)
Capps	Foley	Jackson-Lee
Capuano	Forbes	(TX)
Cardin	Ford	Jefferson
Carson (IN)	Fossella	Jenkins
Carson (OK)	Frank	John
Castle	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (CT)
Chabot	Frost	Johnson (IL)
Chambliss	Ganske	Johnson, E. B.