

the committee, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and the chairman. I know, in particular, that the ranking member of the subcommittee has been extremely vocal on expressing the need for a review by this Congress of Columbia VII.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, even though the investigatory body is still proceeding, I sense an urgency that they do their job and do it well but that the Congress and the House in particular begins to have hearings. And let me suggest to you why, as I read to you some very disturbing testimony and commentary in an article from the Houston Chronicle dated May 17, 2003. And, Mr. Speaker, might I say that we have been speaking about the issues of safety now for at least 6 to 8 years, the question of whether NASA has spent enough money.

This is not a question of Republicans and Democrats, not a question of a Democratic administration or a Republican administration. It is a question of me being outraged that time after time in putting the question on the record: What about safety? Are we funding safety? Do we have enough money for safety? Have we looked at an escape module? Even before this terrible tragedy. There are those of us from Texas who lived through the Challenger tragedy. I watched the Challenger as it exploded, and I know the family members. I know the family members that are living through this now. If we do anything to give them homage or to pay tribute to their loved ones, it is to insist that NASA begin to address through funding needs as well by design a safety program that can make this the right kind of program.

I am an avid supporter of human space flight, Mr. Speaker. An avid supporter. And I want to see humans in space and the Shuttle reinvigorated, as well as the work we have done, the cargo we have taken, the research, the discoveries regarding diabetes, the discoveries regarding HIV/AIDS, as well as stroke and heart disease. Miracles have occurred. But here is a commentary from Admiral Gehman:

"The safety organization sits right beside the person making the decision, but behind the safety organization there is nothing there, no people, money, engineering, expertise, analysis," said Gehman. "The engineers sit right to the other side, but the engineering department is not independently funded. The engineers all have to obtain funding from the space flight program. So their allegiance is to the program. The system is so flawed that even sweeping changes in leadership would be ineffective," Gehman argued. "We find the safety organization on paper is perfect, but when you bore down a little deeper, you don't find anything there," he said. "You will get the same wrong answers no matter how many times you convene the boards. It doesn't make any difference who the chairman is."

Mr. Speaker, this is indicting. Safety is there on paper, but there is nothing

there? And year after year, no matter what kind of administration we had, Mr. Speaker, they kept saying over and over again, oh yes, we are funding safety. It's safe. They are well trained.

Now, I am not here, Mr. Speaker, to call any names or to castigate any unfortunate soul who happened to have been part of that launch and who will ultimately have to answer to those who will raise the questions. I am here, Mr. Speaker, to save lives and to remind my good friends at NASA that we have repeatedly questioned you about safety factors and you have repeatedly, administrator after administrator, two that I have known, said the same thing. How in the world can we do this to the brave men and women that we challenge to go into space not for themselves but because of us?

So I am demanding, Mr. Speaker, immediate hearings to be held in the United States House of Representatives on the question of safety and the potential of an escape module, and I believe it is imperative that all of the documents that relate to this issue be presented to this body immediately. I think we fail in our job, we abdicate our responsibility if we, the Members of the House of Representatives, cannot join in having a full hearing on this matter and as well to move through the appropriations process and actually put in a mark that has the word NASA, and then under it, safety; shuttle, and under it, safety, and a line item of funding. This is an abomination and it must stop now.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, mention, if we are talking about money, and to sort of come to a reasonable conclusion, that we look at where we are and why we have so many difficulties as relates to our funding. And that is, of course, the \$550 billion tax cut that is now making its way through the United States Congress. And of course for those of us who vigorously opposed this tax cut, it seems that we are continually trying to defend ourselves.

□ 2300

Let me provide Members with a very simple explanation why I am opposed to it: because we have the largest unemployment that we have had I believe in the last 2 decades; because I believe Chairman Greenspan is hesitant about moving this Nation towards this huge tax cut; because the war on terrorism requires us to invest deeply, if you will, in homeland security and to promote terrorism as our number one issue of trying to thwart.

So utilizing this money to give the top 1 percent of our population a tax cut is not an engine that will boost the economy. Using this \$550 billion to give \$40 billion to those making \$374,000 is not going to gain any number of jobs, nor is the cut in dividends going to infuse the economy with any great amount of activity.

In fact, those corporations say that a dividend tax cut is not going to do anything but cause them to escrow their

money and those who get a tax cut on the dividends I imagine are simply going to put it in their savings accounts.

But out of the \$550 billion, the number of jobs you will create are 1 million. That means it will take \$550,000 to create 1 million jobs, so one job will cost \$550,000. So when you spend \$1 million under the President's plan, you only get two jobs. If you were to take the plan that the Democrats are offering and invest \$1 million into transportation, for example, you get 13 jobs. If you invested \$1 million into local passenger rail, you get 15 jobs. If you invested it into State and local health care programs where States are seeing their health budgets implode, Medicaid going down the tube and people being thrown off Medicaid every day, 26 jobs would be created.

If we did it in public education, where in the State of Texas they are firing teachers, you would create 28 jobs. And if you invested it in fire and police, my good friends in Texas but also all over the Nation, the first responders who are still waiting for their homeland security money, they would get 27 jobs. Under the President's plan, a \$550 billion tax cut, the number of jobs that it proposes to create are 1 million that cost \$550,000 per job; and out of a million dollars, out of this plan, you only get two jobs per \$1 million.

Down here, and I am saying it again because it is so shocking: transportation, 13 jobs; local passenger rail, 15 jobs; State and local health care, 26; public education, 28; and, of course, police and fire, 27.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better in this Congress. I can show that the tax cuts do little for my constituents. Those average tax cuts get \$136, and those who are the high income get \$13,000. I am going to get a \$136 check for most of my constituents, and a few will get \$13,000.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an attempt to remind this Congress that we have come here not to work for ourselves but to work for our constituents. There are many grievances that we are facing around the Nation; and, unfortunately, these issues have not been solved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity to present these issues, and I hope that my colleagues will continue to roll up their sleeves and address the grievances of America and realize that we have come here to represent all of America and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and before 4:00 p.m. on May 20 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. JEFFERSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and before noon on May 20 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. ENGLISH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being unavoidably detained.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TOOMEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDLIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GONZALEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 459. An act to ensure that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty shall be presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public safety officer survivor benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 535. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-authorized official travel during the third quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2002

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Johnny Isakson (to participate in CODEL Dreier).	7/28	8/1	Moscow/St. Petersburg, Russia		1,402.00		(?)				1,402.00
	8/1	8/2	Tallinn, Estonia		202.00		(?)				202.00
	8/2	8/4	Tbilisi, Georgia		536.00		(?)				536.00
	8/4	8/6	Larnaca, Cyprus		516.00		(?)				516.00
Hon. Patrick Tiberi	8/6	8/7	Reykjavik, Iceland		321.00		(?)				321.00
	7/14	7/14	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba				(?)				
Hon. George Miller	8/28	9/4	Johannesburg, South Africa		1,751.73		6,402.49				8,154.22
Stephen Moody	8/26	9/4	Johannesburg, South Africa		2,005.73		6,402.49				8,408.22
Committee total					6,734.46		12,804.98				19,539.44

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2003.

AMENDED REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ann Witt	2/23	3/1	Switzerland		2,130.00		6,392.39				
Hon. Christopher Shays	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Vincent Chase	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Lawrence Halloran	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Hon. Mark Souder	1/31	2/1	Belgium		238.00		7,153.42				
	2/1	2/3	France		948.00		110.40				
Christopher Donesa	2/3	2/5	Germany		306.00		450.00				
	1/31	2/1	Belgium		238.00		7,153.42				
	2/1	2/3	France		948.00		110.40				
Thomas Costa	2/3	2/5	Germany		306.00		450.00				
	2/17	2/19	Austria		528.00		6,602.47				