

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-124)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2003, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 2003.

□ 2320

CREATING JOBS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us will be paying tribute to those who lost their lives on 9-11. But I rise today to speak of the continuing plight of the unemployed in this Nation.

On this past Monday, I held an economic forum on the unemployed in my congressional district. Houston, Texas has an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent. It is in the top 5 States of the Nation. And the striking factor of that particular session was the pain of those chronically unemployed.

The very fact that the large corporations that have received these very enormous tax cuts by this administration has done nothing to retain jobs or to create jobs. It is imperative that we work with the Department of Labor and this Congress to insist upon incentives to be given to large corporations on the basis only of them retaining or creating jobs. We have ceased to become a power in manufacturing and we are not hiring or creating the opportunity for jobs for recent graduates, for working students, and/or for those indi-

viduals trying to support their families. This is intolerable and it is not reflective of the intelligence and opportunity that we represent in this country.

Corporations and this Nation must turn their eyes toward creating jobs.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT URIBE ATTACKS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past 3 years, I have raised many questions regarding U.S. policy in Colombia. In July, working with my good colleague from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the House Committee on Armed Service, I offered an amendment that would have made a modest reduction in U.S. military aid to the Colombian armed forces as a signal of grave concern about the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Colombia and the continuing ties between the Colombian military and paramilitary forces.

That measure was defeated, in part, because Members of Congress were reassured by Secretary of State Colin Powell and the Colombian government that President Uribe is a strong supporter of human rights and an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Unfortunately, throughout the month of August and the first 10 days of September, the human rights situation in Colombia has deteriorated even further. Scores of trade union and human rights leaders have been detained by official government forces in Arauca, one of President Uribe's highly militarized showcase provinces and where nearly 300 U.S. military personnel are active in the counter-insurgency war. And what was their crime? Quite simply, they denounced the links between government security forces and the paramilitary groups in the region.

According to Amnesty International, the detentions "appear to be part of an ongoing coordinated campaign to undermine the work of trade unionists and human rights activists and to expose those sectors to increased attack from army-backed paramilitaries."

Also in August, the Commander in Chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, General Jorge Enrique Mora Rangel, held a press conference in which it was alleged that a village of resettled refugees who were trying to protect themselves from the armed actors by putting barbed wire around their village

were somehow instead "a FARC-controlled concentration camp," a remark that puts these refugees and the humanitarian organizations that serve them, including the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, at further risk.

These accusations were made shortly after the Colombian Constitutional Court issued a decision allowing some of these organizations to proceed with a lawsuit against General Rito Alejo del Rio, for human rights abuses carried out when he was the Commander of the 17th Brigade in northwestern Colombia.

Over the past few months, one public attack after another against human rights defenders and organizations has been made by the very highest-ranking members of Colombia's government and military, culminating this week in statement by President Uribe himself.

On Monday, September 8, President Uribe, in a speech to Colombian military personnel, attacked human rights organizations as "politickers at the service of terrorism." President Uribe stated that human rights groups in Colombia are "terrorist agents and cowards who hide their political ideas behind human rights."

These highly inflammatory and dangerous remarks came on the same day as some 80 human rights groups released a report critical of President Uribe's security measures, which, in their view, have increased repression against the civilian population. The report was issued by some of Colombia's most respected human rights groups, including the Colombian Commission of Jurists, the Consultancy for Human Rights, and the Jesuit-affiliated Center for Popular Education and Investigation.

Equally disturbing, in President Uribe's speech to the military, the word "terrorist" is only used in reference to left-wing guerrilla forces; the paramilitary forces are referred to as "private justice groups," even though it is the paramilitary forces that are responsible for 70 percent of the human rights violations committed against the civilian population and nearly all attacks against labor leaders and human rights defenders, and are on the U.S. State department's list of terror organizations.

All of us in Congress have seen this pattern before.

We know that when high government and military officials start labelling leaders and organizations as "terrorists" or "sympathizers," their death soon follow.

When President Uribe made such statements, he knowingly and deliberately placed these democratic actors at great risk. The right to criticize, to disagree with official doctrine is a cornerstone of democracy.

Let me be clear: Colombia is not threatened by national and international human rights organizations, U.N. officials, judges, or Colombian government officials whose responsibility it is to protect and promote human rights.

Indeed, the most important step President Uribe could take to end terrorism within Colombia's borders is to investigate, prosecute, and punish all those responsible for violations of human right and international humanitarian law, including the paramilitaries and their military allies.

It is impunity, not human rights defenders, that is eroding any prospect for peace, democracy and the rule of law in Colombia.

Sadly, U.S. policy is complicit in aiding and abetting this serious state of affairs in Colombia.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since I came to Congress in 1993, I have been very concerned about the future of Social Security. Because when I was chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee in the State of Michigan, it was brought to my attention that Social Security was running out of money. It seemed like an easy challenge to convince, if you will, America and Congress that something needs to be done if we are to save this important program that has been so helpful to so many senior citizens.

We talk about \$87 billion that the President has now requested for additional help in fighting the war in Afghanistan and Iraq and for homeland security, but retirement security is just as important. And the retirement security in this country is in great risk, and if we keep putting off a solution to the problem of Social Security, then the solutions are going to be more drastic as we wait years and years. And that is what I have found out over the last 9 years as I have introduced additional business.

Let me give some figures, dollar figure, Mr. Speaker, on how short of keeping our promises on Social Security we are. The actuaries estimate that it is going to estimate that it is going to take \$120 trillion, \$120 trillion over and above what we are taking in in the Social Security tax to keep our promises of benefits for Social Security over the next 75 years. And why are we unwilling to deal with this? So discouraged that there has only been on my count, 26 Members of either the House or the Senate that has ever been willing to sign on the bill to keep Social Security solvent.

There are two global forces coming to hit head on, not only in the United States but throughout most of the world. One force is the fact that our seniors are living longer we are having an aging of society. And that does not mean you are growing older. It means the number of old people in relation to young people is growing very rapidly. And the other force is the birth rate is going down.

□ 2330

Most countries in Europe and the United States have a birth rate that does not propagate and replace the mother and father of those children, so fewer children and more people living longer, and since we have a pay-as-you-go program, where current workers take their tax dollars and send it and immediately the next week it goes out to current retirees, the program is unsustainable.

Here is my challenge and my warning. If we do not do something, we can have the same kind of problem that countries like France and Germany and Italy and Spain and Japan are facing now. The payroll withholding tax in France is 51 percent for their senior citizens. Fifty-one percent out of every dollar they make is deducted to pay for their senior citizens in that country, and that is because there are so many senior citizens in relation to the number of people working.

In Germany, it is approaching 42 percent payroll tax deduction. Just think of the pressure on business because the only way they have to make up this money is to charge more for their product or to reduce what they are paying for their employees, and therefore, they are going to be less competitive.

Let us not let that happen in the United States. Let us not allow a program like Social Security that has been so helpful to so many of our seniors, that so many of our seniors in this country depend on.

Right now over 80 percent of our seniors depend on Social Security for over 90 percent of their total retirement income. It is a huge challenge. We need to deal with it. I ask my colleagues to examine this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask all Americans in the next election to ask the candidates that are running for office what is their solution to save Social Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NADLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, along with many of my colleagues in the New York delegation, tonight we remember September 11. Nearly 2 years after September 11 the shock, pain and trauma on that day lingers with my constituents in New York. While we resiliently cleaned up the site ahead of schedule and have begun to rebuild, no New Yorker can walk past a fire house or police precinct or gaze at downtown New York without an empty feeling in the pit of their stomach.

In my own District, 25 different fire stations lost people in the terror attacks, and more than 500 of my innocent neighbors who did what most Americans do every day, simply woke up and went to work, lost their lives in this terrible attack.

The hijackers chose two of the most prominent symbols of American prosperity, enterprise and strength. By taking down the symbols of America, the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, they hoped to show the weakness of American resolve. Instead, the opposite happened. America showed that in times of adversity ordinary people become heroes.

New York is the most diverse city in the world, but on that day, and I would say every day in our rebuilding effort, we were united as one.

Tomorrow, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), we will be presenting on this floor and hopefully passing the True American Heroes Act, which will award the Congressional Gold Medal to the brave rescuers who perished helping others after the attack, the police, the firefighters, the emergency medical. Our bill lets us honor the men and women who died so that others could live.

We must also remember that the World Trade Center disaster was one of the greatest rescue efforts of all time. Because of the heroic efforts of the rescue workers, the final death toll was less than 3,000. This is truly remarkable when we consider that more than 20,000 people may have been in the buildings when the planes hit, not to mention the 10s of thousands in adjacent buildings, subways and streets.

9/11 not only united New Yorkers, it united the Nation. Americans recognized that the attack on the World Trade Center was not an isolated event, experienced in Washington or Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania, or in New York. This was an attack on all of America, and Americans were unified in their response.

All over the country people joined together to send food, clothing, blood and prayers. To this day, everywhere one goes in the city of New York, in hospitals, fire stations, police stations, even stores there are messages of support and hope sent from around the country to help New Yorkers through this terrible period.

New Yorkers are standing with me tonight as I thank my colleagues in this Congress on their behalf. Within days of the tragedy, Congress appropriated \$40 billion for disaster relief