

No. 2, could a larger question be how could an Army private gain access to so much secret information?

No. 3, why is the hostility mostly directed at Assange, the publisher, and not our government's failure to protect classified information?

No. 4, are we getting our money's worth from the \$80 billion per year we spend on intelligence gathering?

No. 5, which has resulted in the greatest number of deaths: Lying us into war or WikiLeaks' revelations or the release of the Pentagon Papers?

If Assange can be convicted of a crime for publishing information that he did not steal, what does this say about the future of the First Amendment and the independence of the Internet?

No. 7, could it be that the real reason for the near universal attacks on WikiLeaks is more about secretly maintaining a seriously flawed foreign policy of empire than it is about national security?

No. 8, is there not a huge difference between releasing secret information to help the enemy in a time of declared war, which is treason, and the releasing of information to expose our government lies that promote secret wars, death, and corruption.

No. 9, was it not once considered patriotic to stand up to our government when it's wrong?

Thomas Jefferson had it right when he advised, "Let the eye of vigilance never be closed."

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

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

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S AIRSPACE REDESIGN PLAN

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong and continued opposition to the Federal Aviation Administration's airspace redesign plan, and, frankly, it just gets worse and worse and worse. First they say that there will be hundreds of new air flights from Newark Airport flying over my constituents in Rockland County, New York, and now we learn that they have changed the plan and made it even worse. They are now redirecting an additional 100 flights per day from John F. Kennedy International Airport over Rockland County.

The FAA made this decision without consulting me or, to the best of my knowledge, any other elected official whose constituents are affected by the increased air traffic. More so, when we originally requested that the redesign

be altered so that the flights would be directed over less populated areas, the FAA had the gall to say that the plan could not be changed because it could then be opened up to lawsuits. Now we find that they have gone and changed the plan anyway to suit their own ends. I find this insulting and hypocritical, typical government agency bureaucracy.

This plan was concocted with zero input from the residents it harms the most, particularly my constituents in Rockland County who would be most adversely affected by the plan. And specifically, in addition to the 300 to 400 planes heading daily to Newark Liberty International Airport, this plan would now direct 100 flights a day from JFK airport. The FAA doesn't seem to mind inconveniencing residents on the ground.

Additionally, there was no consultation or notification to myself or any other elected officials whose constituents are affected by the proposed plan. While several town halls were held throughout the FAA airspace redesign process, they were held throughout the FAA redesign process, a redesign that, again, I strongly oppose. I have not been made aware of any community involvement with this recent decision.

In the past, I was able, after begging, pleading, cajoling and threatening, to get the FAA to hold a town hall meeting in Rockland County, where 1,200 residents attended and spoke in universal opposition to this plan. But, again, the public be damned. The government knows better. The FAA did not listen then, and look where we are now. In this instance, however, we have had no such opportunity.

It's been clear for many years that the FAA has had no intention to listen to the people of Rockland County, and this recent decision only reinforces that. I have spoken to and written letters to the FAA and to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood asking for reconsideration of their redesign plan, and I am outraged at the decision to direct even more flights over the county. There are other ways to address the problems facing airports and delayed flights without requiring the people of Rockland County to bear this burden.

As my constituents have noted to me, the noise and air pollution in the area will increase. It is unknown how this increase in air pollution will affect a disproportionate rate of childhood asthma in my district.

Another issue not taken into account by the FAA is a lack of preparedness for severe airline emergency in this densely populated area. It is likely that first responders would have to be trained for the event of a catastrophic airplane crash, God forbid, causing added cost to local police, fire, and EMT departments that are already stretched thin.

In addition, while the flight plans will not route commercial aircraft directly over the Indian Point nuclear power plant, the proximity could lead

to an extremely dangerous scenario. Over 20 million people live within 50 miles of Indian Point.

I believe it is clear this redirection will cause a significant decrease in the quality of life for my constituents in Rockland County. And what for? The expected result of this scheme is the paltry reduction of delays—an average of 3 minutes per flight.

The modernization of our aviation system is necessary to bring it into the 21st century, to keep pace with the increased number of flights, and to also maintain our technological advancements by implementing new equipment to keep our system the safest in the world. However, there are several alternatives to this new plan, including the redirection of these flights over the underutilized airspace over the Atlantic Ocean.

I am outraged by this decision, and I call on the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration to not say one thing only to do another, all to the detriment of my constituents in Rockland County. I am against this new move by the FAA and will continue to fight against its implementation.

□ 1410

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

PARTISAN POLITICS IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, the average American might have gotten the impression that partisan politics is the only force to be reckoned with in Washington, but that is not always the case.

Members of Congress certainly often disagree on how to move our country forward. Nevertheless, I am confident that underscoring our divergent world views is a bedrock desire to see our country thrive, prosper and succeed.

In fact, I've had conversations with outgoing Representatives from parts of the country like Wisconsin and New Jersey who lost elections last month. You know what? The thing they pressed home with me was not bitterness in defeat. No, it was their desire for me and others to lend our support to those who defeated them because they want them to be successful as Representatives of their districts and their country.

Even in defeat, these Members were focused on the betterment of their

communities and the success of America. They entreated me to help their replacements learn the ropes and excel in the House of Representatives.

Such a perspective is not what makes headlines in the media, but it is one that will help us emerge from this difficult economic time stronger and more united. This perspective, the demonstration of deep character in the midst of defeat, serves our Nation well.

While the national media pursued tired story lines about partisan battles and legislative gridlock, I challenge this dull, status quo reporting. The American people deserve to hear that, despite Congress' many flaws and shortcomings, there are people here from all across the political spectrum who love our country and want nothing more than to see us living in prosperity and security.

Mr. Speaker, I want to praise my outgoing colleagues for their public service and their continuing desire for America to be great. We may vehemently disagree on public policy, but that does not keep us from remembering we are privileged to serve the people of the greatest Nation the world has ever known. And I hope no one who serves in the Congress ever forgets that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A REASONED CONVERSATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, let me thank you for your leadership. I think it is important to always engage our colleagues in reasoned conversation.

Before I begin a reasoned conversation and asking of the hard questions, let me, first of all, add my appreciation to this bipartisan House that saw fit to create opportunities for young, working Americans, and that is by passage of the DREAM Act.

And the only sentence I want to leave with you, beyond the idea of equality and justice, which many times we take lightly, we use it often, but it is very real. It is why so many Americans pledge allegiance to the flag and have an abiding faith and love in this country.

But also, this is an economic engine of investment for those young people who have come to this country, and perpetrated no criminal act of their own, and now will be able to work and contribute to society, serve us in the United States military, perpetuate community service and generally, as we always ask of our young people, to

be the kind of citizens that make this country great. Thank you for passing the DREAM Act.

Now we'll have many months to come to renew the effort that I had in Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act, that includes border security and reinforcement of the men and women in Border Patrol and as well, Customs and Border Protection, combined agencies now, but as well, new technology and working to secure America as we should. And so I look forward to that journey again.

However, there are other issues that I believe are enormously important, and many of us have engaged in what has been known to be the providing for middle class, middle-income tax cuts or relief, is what I like to call it. And I believe that there is some value to one's values.

So let me just say to my colleagues and through them, those who they represent, the American people, who are, in fact, our bosses, this is not a class warfare. This is not "dissing" one particular group, but it is holding true to what you have asked us to do, bar any political party, and that is to reduce the deficit.

So, my friends, a middle-income tax relief that would include, if you will, a child tax credit, that would include an idea of ensuring that the working Americans who are now, unfortunately, unemployed will have unemployment insurance, that would further include those who have run up against a brick wall, the "99ers" as they call them, don't have any more resources but still have mortgages and food to pay for and bills to pay, and they want to pay for it.

A reasoned tax relief legislation will be the real answer, not the answer, if you will, of a huge, ridiculous amount of dollars going to individuals who, of their own voice, have said, we are well. We are well. The economy is turning, the Dow is working.

If you ask our major banks, they have more than \$4 billion-plus in some of our major banks in the third quarter in profits. And as well, we see that the economy is moving. In fact, we know that some of the unemployment numbers even went down.

But we need to focus on reducing that deficit, not adding to it by a ludicrous, reordering of even the Bush response to estate tax. And that is, to create a \$68 billion, if you will, burden on the American people to give an unusual tax relief to an estate of a magnitude that only fits a small number of people, some 39,000 out of a 300 million-person country.

We're not trying to deny those working family farms, those small businesses that will have an opportunity to benefit again.

But let me remind you there were tax cuts in the stimulus. There were tax cuts in the recent Small Business Jobs Act, some 16 or more tax cuts for small businesses. In addition, there is \$30 billion sitting for small businesses in our community banks.

I believe some of the elements of any kind of tax relief should ensure that those who get tax relief, such as major corporations, should have accountability. Yes, they should have profit; but at the same time there should be a linkage to their commitment to retaining jobs and not laying people off.

We want the right kind of relief for the American people, and that's the kind of tax bill that I'll be supporting. And I look forward to my colleagues working with them.

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

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

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

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

FRANK BUCKLES—LONE SURVIVOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they went off to war singing George M. Cohan's song, "Over there," something to the effect that "Over there, over there, send the word to beware that the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming and we won't be back till it's over over there. Those were the World War I doughboys, as they were called in the great World War I.

One of those individuals is Frank Buckles. Frank Buckles is an interesting individual. He was born in 1901, February 1, and he was born in Kansas. And when he was 16, the great World War I had already started. And he was at the Kansas State Fair, and he saw a recruiting poster, "Uncle Sam Wants You." So he went to a local marine recruiter, wanted to join the United States Army to go fight the war to end all wars over there in Europe. The marines wouldn't take him. You're too small and you are not 18 years of age. And he continued to try to get in to the Marine Corps.

□ 1420

Finally, he decided he would try the United States Army. He went all the way to Oklahoma City. Being only 16 as he said later, I decided to really tell them a whopper and tell them I was 21. The Army recruiter said, Okay, we will sign you up. And he joined the United States Army after vigilantly telling people he was 18 when he was only 16, a volunteer to go fight in that war.

He signed up for the ambulance service, and the reason he signed up for the