

even rank as a cause of airline fatalities, yet FAA spends untold resources enforcing, fining, and monitoring this outdated requirement. All this is done in spite of the fact that TWA flight 800 exploded due to a mechanical failure.

□ 1045

In addition to asking the unproductive questions I mentioned, ticket agents must see a photo ID. I submit that not since the fall of the former Soviet Union have American domestic airline passengers or any passengers been subject to similar photo ID requirements.

Now, showing your photo ID at the ticket counter sure does a lot of good. Any fool could check in at a ticket counter, pass their ticket on to another passenger, who would then board the airplane. Now, if the passenger was required to show a ticket, a name, and photo ID as you boarded the airplane with your ticket coupon, that might match the passengers with the ID's that they present. Here again, FAA makes airlines and passengers jump through useless and needless hoops. Agents and airlines are fined if they fail to comply.

My response when I wrote the FAA, when I questioned and protested these ridiculous regulations, are actually dumber than the requirements FAA has mandated. Why not dedicate FAA personnel, energy, and funding for really improving airline safety and security? We know the causes of almost every fatal domestic airline crash with certainty except for several cases, and the FAA knows them.

One is a problem with 737's. These models carry a tremendous number of passengers. And there are two airline crashes, one in Pittsburgh and the other United, in Colorado, crashes because of problems with their rudders and their stabilization. FAA should be paying attention to this problem. Even in spite of Vice President GORE's announcement in 1996, simulation training and retrofitting of 737's could be expedited rather than taking 2 years as now planned. Further research and resources could be devoted to finding the mechanical problems that downed TWA flight 800 and killed 229 people.

After 10 years, FAA has blown billions of dollars and still failed to upgrade our outdated 1950's air traffic controller system. And after numerous fatal crashes of imported commuter planes, FAA has still not begun to crack down on these imported aircraft. Let us put the emphasis where it should be. Let us get FAA together.

THINGS ARE NOT QUIET ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. YOUNG of Florida]. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, is all quiet on the southern front? No, not really.

Despite the resounding silence from the press and the White House on the current situation in our neighboring country Haiti, things are far from quiet. In fact, things are so bad that the prime minister quit yesterday.

Over the past few weeks, we know Haitians have rioted in the streets of Port-Au-Prince and other towns. Incidents of assaults, rock throwing, and general lawlessness have resulted in death, injury and damage. Yesterday, as I said, things took a turn even for the worse when Prime Minister Rosny Smarth submitted his citing, in fact, the recent fraudulent elections.

Obviously, this is bad for democracy because at this time it appears that only one major party is participating in the elections, and that is not exactly democratic, but it is also bad for reform in Haiti, because with Prime Minister Rosny Smarth leaving, so goes one of the few champions of the tough but necessary economic program that we had envisioned for Haiti. Economic reform is all but a thing of the past in Haiti anyway, and without economic reform there is absolutely no hope for a Democratic future in Haiti.

So through all of this upheaval, one interesting and frankly disturbing fact seems to have surfaced, and that is the fact that the Haitian National Police have had to be supplemented with our military personnel to deal with basic law and order issues in that country. As one diplomat quoted in a wire report recently, "It is clear the military presence in Haiti is not just building roads." Our "road builders," including Special Forces, have been seen responding to the riots carrying on, doing the law and order business, extensive activity in the areas of drug control, those types of things.

Not only do these reports suggest that our troops on the ground are outside of the range of the mission we understood them to be on, which was road building, but it also suggests that our soldiers are at more risk than we have been led to believe. I think it is time for a little candor from the White House about what is going on.

We asked the White House, what is going on? So far we have not heard anything. Official silence reigns as well on the topic of Haiti's recent disappointing local assembly and Senate elections, which is the real reason behind the Smarth resignation and what should have been the starting point for the creation of a new judicial system and permanent electoral council forum in Haiti, which are mightily needed. Because without a judicial system, there is no hope for democracy in Haiti either.

Because the electoral council has decided not to handle blank ballots properly, they have wrongly allowed some candidates, like the infamous Fourel Celestin, to get past the finish line when according to the law they did not win the election. So we now have people who did not win serving as senators in Haiti.

Action on this issue is pending in the Parliament, but the Haitian electoral council is pushing forward for another round of elections, no matter what, this coming weekend. The fact is that each successive election in Haiti has disenfranchised and disenfranchised ever more of the Haitians voters, a point illustrated well in the single digit turnout in the last election in April, which, as I say, were fraudulent elections. Yet, I understand less than 10 percent of the people turned out to protest that fact.

What, we ask, will another election under a still darker black cloud do to advance democracy in Haiti? At the very least, the American taxpayers have a right to hear from the administration that enough is enough and that their tax dollars will not go to assist the Haitians to run another questionable if not fraudulent election this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, all is not quiet on the southern front. We know that. What we do not know is when the White House is going to tell us what is going on, when our troops are coming home, and whether or not that will be before the ruinous Haiti policy that the White House has put forth puts us back where we started more than 4 years and 3 billion of the U.S. taxpayers' dollars ago, sadly enough, with thousands of Haitians now today who believe that a dangerous trip across the windward passage to Florida offers them more hope than staying in Haiti.

Is that a policy that we want to back? Certainly not. I think it is time for the White House to give us some explanation and to end the silence of what is really going on in that tragic country where our friendly neighbors are suffering. All is not quiet on the southern front.

DETROIT RED WINGS—STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, at this very hour, thousands of Detroiters are lining the streets of Woodward Avenue in Detroit to honor their Detroit Red Wings, the 1997 Stanley Cup champions. After Saturday's 2 to 1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers, the Red Wings completed a 4 to 0 sweep to win hockey's hallowed crown, Lord Stanley's Cup, the World champions of hockey.

I was privileged to be at Joe Louis Arena on Saturday evening, and the atmosphere throughout the evening was electric. After the final horn sounded securing the cup victory, the standing room only crowd and fans everywhere rejoiced. There was no other picture that captured the victory better than Red Wing Captain Steve Yzerman circling the ice, holding the massive trophy over his head, sharing the victory