

blade and slashed his wrists in a suicide attempt.

The pilot made the appropriate judgment. There were two MTs on board. They saved his life. Actually, it probably was not life threatening. We diverted to Nashville. We made a flight change in response to a problem.

Now this administration has to make a change in the flight plan about who and how FEMA is being run. It is a disaster in itself. We need a flight change, and this is not a matter of accountability. There are more hurricanes on the way.

FEMA's job in this disaster is not done. We do not have confidence in the people and the organization in the FEMA cockpit. It could crash again. This President needs to change FEMA, and we should be doing it in this debate today.

□ 1015

VENEZUELA GASOLINE SHIPMENTS

(Mr. MACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I have been and continue to be gravely concerned with Venezuela President Hugo Chavez's march against freedom. But I appreciate that Hugo Chavez acted appropriately in a time of crisis when he recently offered to provide the U.S. Government with a supply of needed oil and gasoline in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

This morning's Washington Post includes a story which outlines that Chavez plans to ship 1 million barrels of gasoline in addition to its scheduled shipment of 1.2 million barrels to the United States in the coming month. While this may help alleviate consumers' concerns at the pump, we must all recognize that when we purchase Hugo Chavez's gasoline, we will be lining the pockets of a staunch enemy of freedom.

The United States welcomes efforts to help stem our temporary gasoline and oil shortage, but Hugo Chavez must understand that we will not yield an inch in our demand for freedom in Venezuela and around the world.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 426 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 426

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, September 8, 2005, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on

the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 426 provides that suspensions will be in order at any time on the legislative day of Thursday, September 8, 2005. This resolution will allow the House to consider and debate legislation to address the needs of the hurricane-ravaged areas of the Gulf Coast in our country, such as increased borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance program, the Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Response and Recovery Act, and a supplemental emergency appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, my community in South Florida was very fortunate that we did not have to bear the full brunt of this latest hurricane, Hurricane Katrina. Over a million of us in South Florida lost electricity. Many homes and businesses were flooded and some structural damage was caused to homes and businesses, but we did not bear the full brunt, the full fury of this latest hurricane, Katrina.

We in South Florida were very fortunate as well to receive generous aid from fellow Americans in the wake of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. As a Hurricane Andrew survivor, I have an idea of the trials and tribulations that face hurricane survivors. I am also very much aware that assistance from the Federal Government is essential for a comprehensive and robust recovery effort.

With that said, I wish to make clear to our friends in the Gulf Coast that we will continue to mobilize nationwide in response to this tragedy, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to the recovery effort, and we will not walk away from our obligations to our fellow Americans. Just as we did after Hurricane Andrew, Mr. Speaker, together it is that we will rebuild and together it is that we will recover.

In response to this terrible disaster, the majority leadership of this House has set out a plan to continue helping the victims of this terrible catastrophe. Last week, the House of Representatives passed emergency funding totaling \$10.5 billion to provide urgently needed relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Congress needs to do more for the victims of this catas-

trophe, and we will. We will consider, I am certain, other supplemental bills, and they will provide additional billions for recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast.

The American people have demonstrated their resiliency before and will do so again. We will continue to work to comfort those who suffer. Rescue workers are at this moment lined up across this great Nation to support the recovery effort that is under way, and volunteers from every corner of America are ready to support those efforts. Our prayers continue to go out to the victims, to their families and to all the valiant rescue workers. The spirit of community, of generosity and good will across the country gives me confidence that Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama will recover from this tragedy, and they will be better than ever before.

House Resolution 426, Mr. Speaker, is a necessary rule for our efforts to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I would like to say a special word of thanks to the Speaker, to the majority leader, to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and to the minority leadership for their swift action on this issue as was begun to be demonstrated last week. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support both the rule and support the emergency legislation that is authorized under this rule.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the vitally important bill before us today will help to begin the process of rebuilding one of our Nation's greatest regions and the lives of the people within it. It comes to us in the wake of what was last week nothing short of a catastrophic failure of responsible and competent governance. And not surprisingly, the way in which we are going about passing this bill is itself a tremendous failure, the most recent in a seemingly endless line.

It is a failure, Mr. Speaker, because almost no time has been provided for discussion of this bill and because no amendments have been permitted to be introduced. This body is about to spend more than \$50 billion and all the minority wants is to spend it wisely. All we want is to give the Members a chance to know where the appropriations are going and to actually give Representatives from the affected States a chance to make suggestions to the legislation before it becomes law. We want to ensure that that this body will address as quickly as possible the tremendous errors which have been made by our Federal Government in its response to Hurricane Katrina.