

AVIATION INVESTMENT AND REFORM ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1000) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I regretfully rise in opposition to H.R. 1000. Our country's aviation system is integral to our nation's transportation system and there's no question we need to continue to invest in America's aviation infrastructure.

The problem is that this bill takes the Aviation Trust Fund "off-budget" which means aviation taxes cannot be used for any other purpose, creating what's called a firewall around billions of dollars in aviation taxes. As a former member of the Budget Committee and a current member of the Appropriations Committee, I can safely say this makes a mockery of the budget process and threatens our surplus.

Supporters of the bill argue that since the money in the aviation trust fund comes from aviation taxes, it should all be spent for aviation purposes. As a matter of tax fairness, federal taxes should be spent for their intended purposes.

But this is simply a red-herring argument to justify placing aviation spending at the absolute head of the line in competition for federal funds. Furthermore, taking the trust fund off-budget means that there would be no budgetary constraints to control aviation spending.

This is troubling for two reasons.

First, why are we exempting aviation programs from the normal budget scrutiny that all other programs must endure? Do we really want to place aviation funding ahead of all other federal priorities such as education, health care, Medicare, or national defense?

Second, taking the trust fund off-budget means we jeopardize our surplus. AIR-21 will spend \$14.3 billion more over five years on airport construction, busting the budget caps. This additional funding, since it's not subject to the normal budget rules which require offsets, will be paid out of the surplus. While Republicans may be confused as to what their priorities are, Democrats are unified that any budget surplus should be dedicated to shoring up Social Security and Medicare.

Let's be clear. This bill is nothing more than an attempt to put one small part of the budget ahead of the other. At the same time, it busts our spending caps, eviscerates any notion of reasonable fiscal discipline and handicaps our ability to preserve the surplus.

If Congress feels we should increase the nation's investment in aviation, let's do that. But let's not permanently put one category of spending ahead of another. In the spirit of budget discipline and fairness, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from The Boston Globe on December 4, 1998 for the RECORD. The conflict in Sri Lanka has existed for over 16 years without any solution. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and to accept a third party mediation to end the war.

[From the Boston Globe, December 4, 1998]

A CHANCE FOR PEACE IN SRI LANKA

For the first time in four years, there is a glimmer of hope for peace talks to end one of the world's bloodiest conflicts, the war between the government of Sri Lanka and that country's Tamil minority. Terrible suffering on both sides has induced a war-weariness that may become the prelude to peace-making.

A call for negotiations last Friday from the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam drew a wary but welcoming response from Sri Lanka's main opposition party. "This is a major move by the Tigers, and it is a very positive one to which the government must respond," said the leader of the United National Party. This response is promising because for too long the opposition and the governing People's Alliance of President Chandrika Kumaratunga have competed to appear the more inflexible foe of dialogue with the Tamils.

Because Washington maintains warm relations with the Sri Lankan government, even providing training and arms sales to its armed forces, and since the Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran called for third-party mediation in his offer of negotiations, the United States could play a crucial role in ending Sri Lanka's long nightmare.

The State Department has been reluctant to become involved in the conflict because neither side had been willing to accept the premise of a negotiated solution, as the antagonistic parties did for the Oslo accords in the Middle East and the peace talks that George Mitchell guided in Northern Ireland. Even now the State Department does not want to rush ahead of events.

Nevertheless, Tamil intermediaries are sending exploratory messages to the Tiger leadership asking about the chances for a cease-fire. If the Tigers want to shed their well deserved reputation as incorrigible terrorists, they will accept the idea of a cease-fire. In return, the Chandrika government should agree to withdraw its troops from the northeast province. If these gestures of good will are made by the belligerents, the United States would do well to take on the role of third-party mediator in peace talks.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GILPIN RAY FEGLEY, UNITED STATES ARMY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Gilpin R.

*June 22, 1999*

Fegley as he prepares to culminate his active duty career in the United States Army. Gil is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Colonel Fegley began his career more than 25 years ago when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and first served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate Trial Counsel in Grafonver, Germany. A graduate of the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the Command and General Staff College, Gil Fegley has met the many challenges of military service as an Army Officer, and has faithfully served his country in a variety of command staff assignments in the Continental United States, Hawaii, and Germany. Gil also deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

Gil has served in the Army Legislative Liaison Investigation and Legislative Division as the Chief, Legislative Counsel. During his tenure in the Legislative Liaison Office, Gil worked hard to represent the interests of the Army to Members of Congress. He presented a positive and impressive image of the Army during the course of his duties there.

He concludes his career as the Special Assistant for Installations and Legal Issues in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Always thorough and precise in applying his legal skills, Gil was also very generous with colleagues, both senior and subordinate, who sought out his advice on legislative matters. Senior Defense officials depended on Gil for his studious approach to matters and Congressional Members and staff looked to him for his honesty and professional assessment of any given situation.

Mr. Speaker, service and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Colonel Fegley's career. He has served our nation and the Army well during his years of service, and we are indebted for his many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Gil joins me in wishing him and his wife, Marion, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

NATIONAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Juneteenth National Museum, located in my home district of Baltimore, Md., and in observance of the National Juneteenth Celebration.

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, the Juneteenth National Museum held its 11th annual "Juneteenth" celebration commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is generally celebrated on June 19, which is considered as the day of emancipation from slavery of African-Americans in Texas. It was this day in 1866 that Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston, Texas, informing them of their new status as free men. Since then, Juneteenth was celebrated in Texas, and

quickly spread to other southern states, such as Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and eventually the rest of the country. In addition to a festival, the celebration included the purchase of lands or "emancipation grounds" by freed slaves in honor of the celebration. On January 1, 1980, under the provisions of House Bill No. 1016, the 66th Congress of the United States declared June 19th "Emancipation Day in Texas," making Juneteenth a legal state holiday.

"Ring the Bell of Freedom" was the Juneteenth National Museum's festival theme for 1999. Juneteenth is an important event in Baltimore that celebrates American history and historical figures. The annual occurrence of Juneteenth attracts people from across the state to downtown Baltimore in observance of this event.

Among the various festivities, the celebration included lectures on important historical figures, spoken word readings, musical attractions, and food venues that satisfied every taste imaginable. There were shopping opportunities for antique buffs, and a vast array of arts and crafts available for purchase. In keeping with this year's theme, the celebration featured an emotionally stirring re-enactment of a slave auction. Still, along with the painful images that accompany an event like a slave auction, came the sweet and pleasant visions of liberation and freedom. There was also a walk through a historical exhibit on Paul Robeson, along with a lecture from Dr. Beryl Williams, Dean Emeritus of Morgan State University.

Further, the Juneteenth festival featured both a tap and step dance exhibition, along with a family tent with activity and game tables for children and adults. It concluded with a performance by the New Baltimore Hand Dancers at the dance pavilion. The Juneteenth Festival has grown to be a vitally important part of not only Baltimore, but African-American culture as well. True to tradition, this year's celebration proved to be as exciting as ever.

I congratulate Juneteenth National Museum on a successful Juneteenth celebration.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SUSAN  
YOACHUM—POLITICS WITH PAS-  
SION

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, sadly I rise to remind my colleagues that today marks the first anniversary of the passing of Susan Yoachum, one of the most respected political writers in California.

Born on May 12, 1955 in Dallas, Texas, Susan Gail Yoachum graduated in 1975 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas with bachelors' degrees in journalism and political science. She was a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, the Independent Journal in Marin County and the San Jose Mercury-News, where she was part of the news team that won a 1990 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

At the Mercury-News she exposed chemical contamination of drinking water in South San Jose, disclosed unsatisfactory medical care for the indigent, and wrote about industrial espionage. She joined the San Francisco Chronicle in 1990. She wrote some of the biggest political stories of the 80's and 90's. She covered national, state, and local politics for the Chronicle. Her assignments included the 1992 presidential campaign, the governor's race in 1990 and 1994, the 1991 San Francisco Mayoral race and the 1992 U.S. Senate race. She also wrote in-depth about issues, from affirmative action to abortion, from tobacco tax to the hazards of toxic chemicals. Susan was promoted to political editor in 1994.

Her love of language surfaced at an early age: She became the National Spelling Bee Champion in 1969, winning her title by correctly spelling the word, "interlocutory." Susan was renowned for her wonderful wit and sense of humor.

In 1992, she was the first to call Democratic Senate candidates Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer the "Thelma and Louise of American politics."

She had a passion for politics—the drama, the intrigue and, most important, the effect on the lives of ordinary citizens. She brought an unusual combination of idealism, pragmatism, and skepticism to her work.

Last year, when the candidates for California's governorship debated, Susan wrote one last memorable piece of political analysis.

"What I was hoping for, while I've been sidelined by illness, was a discussion of issues and what difference it would make who ends up being elected governor in a time of prosperity," she wrote. "I wanted to see the candidates discuss their plans for schools instead of acting like school bullies in their 30-second ads."

Susan brought to her fight against breast cancer the same indomitable spirit, tenacity, passion, and humor that served her so well as a political writer.

She was called a "real life Murphy Brown" for her courage in sharing her personal battle with cancer with hundreds of thousands of readers. But Susan was more than that. Her work has been a lighthouse beam through the fog of local and national politics," wrote the Wall Street Journal's Marilyn Chase. "She stands as a model of professionalism and courage in the workplace. The lesson for colleagues of cancer survivors: Professionalism doesn't disappear with a diagnosis."

Susan wrote movingly about the 180,000 women who get breast cancer each year. "I have metastatic breast cancer," she wrote last September. "It's a tough word to spell and an even harder one to say, but its meaning is rather simple. It means a runaway strain is careening through my body. I want there to be a face that goes with these statistics. It certainly doesn't have to be my face: it can be the face of someone you surely know and love who has had her life torn apart by this disease. This carnage has to stop. I wrote to plead for more and better research, for more and better treatment. Like too many women before me, I wrote to plead: Find something to save my life. To save all of our lives."

We can best remember Susan by working to ensure that America's families are spared the suffering she experienced.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW  
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at guns shows, and for other purposes;

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Chairman, during last week's consideration of the Gun Show Protection Act (H.R. 2122), my vote in support of the Rogan amendment to prohibit individuals who have committed "violent acts of juvenile delinquency" from possessing firearms as adults was not tallied by the electronic voting machine.

Although I opposed the underlying bill because the focus was on penalizing law-abiding citizens rather than criminals, I support the intent of the Rogan amendment to toughen penalties for violent criminals.

SPACE POLICY

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the important topic of America's space policy in the post-Cold War world. One of America's leading experts on this subject, Mr. James H. Hughes of Englewood, Colorado, has written many articles concerning this topic. I would like to submit Mr. Hughes' latest article entitled "Space Policy" for the RECORD.

The end of the Cold War brought with it the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and a euphoric victory, more completely realized after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. The U.S. sought to convert its "peace dividend" from winning the Cold War, into a new social order, rather than understanding the Cold War and seeking a responsible victory, much like the Marshall Plan after World War II.

Aided by a minor downturn in the economy and third party candidate Ross Perot who split the vote with George Bush, Bill Clinton won the 1992 presidential election, and utilized the "peace dividend" for an agenda of cutting spending for defense, and funding social programs. Accelerated spending of the "peace dividend" became a prominent theme in Bill Clinton's first term of office (1993-1997).

The Cold War victory of the U.S. was recognized by some as an incomplete victory. The Cold War—communism—had cost the Soviet Union dearly. The U.S. and Western Europe had won. The Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc were in transition, coming out of their socialist state economies and dictatorships. While time has shown that the Eastern Bloc is becoming westernized with the introduction of freedom, democracy, and private enterprise (for example, East and West Germany have become unified), Russia and many of the former members of the U.S.S.R. remain in transition, ten years later.

Today, Russia is vacillating between forces for democracy and economic reform, versus a