

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the per-
mission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of
the Rules of the U.S. House of Representa-
tives, the Clerk received the following mes-
sage from the Secretary of the Senate on
June 16, 2000 at 9:12 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amend-
ment H.J. Res. 101.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid be-
fore the House the following commu-
nication from the Clerk of the House of
Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the per-
mission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of
the Rules of the U.S. House of Representa-
tives, the Clerk received the following mes-
sage from the Secretary of the Senate on
June 16, 2000 at 1:45 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Re-
port S. 761.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

APOLOGY FOR UNWARRANTED TERM USED IN COMMITTEE HEARING LAST THURSDAY CON- CERNING MERGER OF UNITED AND US AIRWAYS

(Mr. OBERSTAR asked and was given
permission to address the House for 5
minutes and to revise and extend his
remarks.)

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker,
last Thursday, the Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure held
a hearing on the proposed merger of
United Airlines and US Airways. In the
course of that hearing, I used an inap-
propriate and unwarranted term to de-
scribe the status of the spin-off carrier
DC Air that would be created if the
merger were to be approved.

Mr. Robert Johnson, CEO of Black
Entertainment Television and proposed
owner of DC Air, took justifiable excep-
tion of that characterization of the
proposed new carrier. In a letter to me
late Friday, Mr. Johnson said he is per-
sonally hurt and offended and called
upon me to change my attitude.

I take the well today to apologize to
Mr. Johnson and to the Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure for
my careless, inappropriate, and offen-
sive remark.

Madam Speaker, in my years of Con-
gress, I have staunchly maintained an

attitude of support for civil rights in
the United States and human rights
abroad. I will not detail that history
today except to say that, in the most
recent civil rights issue before my
committee, TEA 21, I championed the
inclusion of language to give a fair
share of Federal transportation ac-
counts to disadvantaged businesses.
Before coming to Washington, I spent
3½ years working in Haiti. During my
time of Congress, I worked to bring
economic and political stability to
that first black republic in the world.

I cannot let that record of 40 years be
tarnished by one ill-chosen, inappro-
priate, offensive word.

In the spirit of Psalm 51, verse 19,
“My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite
heart. A heart contrite and humbled, O
God, you will not spurn.”

Madam Speaker, it is further my re-
sponsibility and that of my colleagues
in Congress to stay focused on the
main issue here, the effects of this pro-
posed merger of United Airlines and US
Airways on air service in Washington
and throughout the country.

I have reviewed DC Air's business
plan and am concerned it would be tied
too closely to the newly merged United
and not be an effective competitor. The
concern is not based on Mr. Johnson's
ownership of the airline, for I have
great respect and appreciation for Mr.
Johnson's abilities as a businessman
and his success as an entrepreneur, but
on the new carrier's dependence on its
much larger partner. If the Justice De-
partment sees fit to approve this deal,
I would hope that it would require the
merging airlines to divest additional
assets to DC Air to make the start-up
carrier a stronger, more viable compet-
itor.

I am opposed to the United-US Air-
ways merger on its merits. I believe it
will diminish competition, spur addi-
tional consolidation in the airline in-
dustry, and result in fewer choices and
poorer service to the flying public. It is
a bad deal for aviation and for the con-
sumer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
to the provisions of clause 8 of rule
XX, the Chair announces that she will
postpone further proceedings today on
each motion to suspend the rules on
which a recorded vote or the yeas and
nays are ordered, or on which the vote
is objected to under clause 6 of rule
XX.

Any record votes on postponed ques-
tions will be taken after debate has
concluded on all motions to suspend
the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I
move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 3084) to authorize the Sec-
retary of the Interior to contribute
funds for the establishment of an inter-
pretative center on the life and con-
tributions of President Abraham Lin-
coln, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3084

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD ESTAB- LISHMENT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to sub-
sections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the Interior
shall make grants to contribute funds for the es-
tablishment in Springfield, Illinois, of an inter-
pretive center to preserve and make available to
the public materials related to the life of Presi-
dent Abraham Lincoln and to provide interpre-
tive and educational services which commu-
nicate the meaning of the life of Abraham Lin-
coln.

(b) PLAN AND DESIGN.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 18 months
after the date of enactment of this Act, the enti-
ty selected by the Secretary of the Interior to re-
ceive grants under subsection (a) shall submit to
the Secretary a plan and design for the interpre-
tive center, including a description of the fol-
lowing:

(A) The design of the facility and site.

(B) The method of acquisition.

(C) The estimated cost of acquisition, con-
struction, operation, and maintenance.

(D) The manner and extent to which non-Fed-
eral entities will participate in the acquisition,
construction, operation, and maintenance of the
center.

(2) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—The
plan and design for the interpretive center shall
be prepared in consultation with the Secretary
of the Interior and the Governor of Illinois and
in cooperation with such other public, munic-
ipal, and private entities as the Secretary con-
siders appropriate.

(c) CONDITIONS ON GRANT.—

(1) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—A grant under
subsection (a) may not be made until such time
as the entity selected to receive the grant certi-
fies to the Secretary of the Interior that funds
have been contributed by the State of Illinois or
raised from non-Federal sources for use to estab-
lish the interpretive center in an amount equal
to at least double the amount of that grant.

(2) RELATION TO OTHER LINCOLN-RELATED
SITES AND MUSEUMS.—The Secretary of the In-
terior shall further condition the grant under sub-
section (a) on the agreement of the grant recipi-
ent to operate the resulting interpretive center
in cooperation with other Federal and non-Fed-
eral historic sites, parks, and museums that rep-
resent significant locations or events in the life
of Abraham Lincoln. Cooperative efforts to pro-
mote and interpret the life of Abraham Lincoln
may include the use of cooperative agreements,
cross references, cross promotion, and shared ex-
hibits.

(d) PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTION OF OPER-
ATING FUNDS.—Grant amounts may not be used
for the maintenance or operation of the inter-
pretive center.

(e) NON-FEDERAL OPERATION.—The Secretary
of Interior shall have no involvement in the ac-
tual operation of the interpretive center, except
at the request of the non-Federal entity respon-
sible for the operation of the center.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There are authorized to be appropriated to the
Secretary of the Interior a total of \$50,000,000 to
make grants under subsection (a). Amounts so
appropriated shall remain available for expendi-
ture through fiscal year 2006.