

operate without a functioning airline system. We understand that. But we want to know whether or not the administration is in support of this or not. Secondly, I want a clear response that if the language that the gentleman from Florida is referring to is not retained in conference, that that conference will not be brought back to this House floor, period. We need answers to those two questions.

And then there is a very troubling provision which has yet to be explained in this bill. On page 5, line 2, it refers to suspension, delay or modification of any quarterly payment or other Federal financial obligations to the United States by the air carriers. Does that mean that they are delaying payroll taxes? What taxes to the U.S. government are they delaying? We are supposed to be defending taxpayers' money. We have to have answers about what this means for taxpayers' money. I have not decided what I am going to do yet. But I would like some answers before we have to decide.

□ 0020

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for the courtesies this evening. I support the language we are talking about. I hope we can keep it.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there further objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think it was only a week ago, well, maybe not a week ago at this time, at 12:20 in the morning, but about a week ago that individuals in this House of both parties expressed their concern about our budget, our financial situation, about whether or not it would be necessary with the budgetary pressures that we have to reach into those monies that are payroll taxes, that businesses and individuals have paid in for their Social Security, and use that for other purposes.

In the tragic week that has transpired since that time, the world has been turned upside down for families in New York, in Washington, across the country. Certainly our situation with regard to the budget has been turned upside down as well. But it is not one that has made our situation better. It has made the pressures on our budget worse.

Last night this House, with no explanation as to the specific purposes for which the monies would be spent, voted to approve the expenditure of \$40 billion out of what are basically Social Security monies. That number went up from \$20 billion in the morning to \$40 billion at night.

Perhaps there were those that were watching the success of the growth of

those funds, because now, tonight, before all the bodies are removed, before the dust has settled, before perhaps all the fires are extinguished, there are those that are lining up here at the Capitol door, at the public treasury, asking that they receive some public subsidy, right out of the Social Security fund. Perhaps that subsidy is well justified. I may vote for it myself because it is so compelling. But if it is so compelling, it will be as compelling in the bright light of day as it is with insults and threats at midnight.

I feel that the taxpayers of this country are owed a better explanation than to hear about a bill at 4, with promises and and's, if's, or's and but's, that is going to take perhaps not just \$2.5 billion, but perhaps \$15 billion out of that Social Security money, that they are entitled to know a little more about it.

If it is so desperate and if it is so essential that this be accomplished before Monday, then I suggest we stay and work on it. I am prepared to do that. I suggest that we stay and have a hearing. If the gentleman has so much wisdom and insight on this, I suggest he convey it to us in the course of an ordinary hearing.

I have been asked tonight what it is that I want. I do not want anything special. I simply want the same consideration I would want for any expenditure of \$15 billion out of the Social Security monies, and that is a fair chance to ask some questions about it, to see it deliberated, to get a little investigation to question whether there is business interruption insurance, to question whether or not there are other resources, to question those who say if we do not get all this approved by Monday, people would be laid off. What guarantee is there that they will still be hired on Monday if it is approved? To ask if it is so very, very important that we act here after the midnight hour, why the President of the United States has not found it sufficiently important to call for it in some kind of proclamation.

So, for all of those reasons, I object to doing this tonight. I certainly would have no objection to the kind of resolution the gentleman from Pennsylvania has talked about, or some other way of expressing our concern about this; but I object to this bill coming up, if it has even been filed. I suppose in the last few minutes it has.

I object to it coming up in this fashion, in this manner. It sends a signal to others who will stand at the door of the Treasury and ask for their subsidy.

Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, did the gentleman from Texas misspeak? Did he in fact ask to continue to reserve?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection was heard from the gentleman from Texas.

CONDEMNING BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ARAB-AMERICANS, AMERICAN MUSLIMS, AND AMERICANS FROM SOUTH ASIA

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 227) condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York City, New York, and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, first of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the leadership of this House for bringing this resolution up. Particularly, I would like to thank the Speaker; the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY); the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), who has been so active; the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER); and others. We appreciate the opportunity to have this resolution come before us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to object to this, but I think there are Members who would like to speak on this important resolution.

I will yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) and then to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct, this is a resolution which has been approved by everyone in sight and is very apropos at this moment in our Nation's history, considering the events of this past week.

The only comment I want to make before the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) will be elucidating on the subject is that we do not want to repeat as a Nation the insidious events that took place after Pearl Harbor with respect to the treatment of Japanese-American citizens, who had to suffer the indignities which are so well chronicled and which were so noted by this Congress in recent years.

So when we talk about treating Arab-Americans in the light of what happened this past week in similar ways, this resolution goes to the heart of that series of events.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I yield to the

distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for drafting this legislation and thank the gentleman even more for calling it to my attention and inviting me to be part of this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter. This goes to the heart of what we have been talking about for the last few days.

This Nation was attacked by criminal terrorists, barbarians. For what reasons, we do not know. Of course, we have asked ourselves why, and we have been offered a lot of reasons.

We are hurt, we are angry, we are disappointed. We intend to set this thing right. But we do not set it right, Mr. Speaker, if we paint the whole world with one brush.

These were people with hatred in their hearts. They are not all the people of a race, a religion or a creed. Indeed, most of the people in this country that are Arab-Americans, most of the people in this world who are Arabs, most of the American Muslims, most of the people in the world who are Muslims, most of the people in the world who are South Asians, are as shocked and horrified as we are.

These were criminals. These were thugs. I do not know their agenda, but it is wrong for us to spread the blame for that kind of behavior to any person other than those who are responsible. As a good decent Nation, we will hold those who are accountable, who are responsible for transgressing against the rules of human dignity accountable; and that same good decent Nation that holds them accountable with all the rigor of their law and force and might should use all the rigor of their law and force and might to speak up for and protect the innocent.

□ 0030

That is what America is about.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this body pass this resolution, and I would say to my Nation that I love so much, vindicate our heroes, those that have come before us and those that we now fear we will have to put on the fields of danger, by having the ability to understand that all the world's people, each and every separate person in this world, is God's child that deserves our respect and our decent care and love and affection, only when they demonstrate that they do not hold any animus.

Finally, two thoughts from our scripture. We are admonished no matter how bad things are, no matter how angry we are, do not sin in your anger, Mr. and Mrs. America. Do not diminish yourself. Secondly, even for those who are criminal perpetrators, we are told to love the sinner, but hate the sin.

Let us try to rise to an occasion, an occasion where we can demonstrate in

our common ordinary business where we treat one another on the street, in their homes, in their places of religious observation, wherever we find them, irrespective of creed or national origin, that we treat everybody the same, with equal respect and decent treatment. Then, we as a Nation of people might be worthy of all that has been sacrificed by our national heroes.

Again, I thank the gentleman for bringing this to my attention. I know so many good Americans who happen to be Arab Americans, South Asian Americans, American Muslim communities, and they are hurt and they are injured and they are angry, and they too cry out with their heart, why this pain and why this harm should be brought to this great Nation. Let us let it end with us setting the better example.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for his eloquent statement.

Under my reservation, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), who has played a very important role in making this happen.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this issue.

Just in the last few days, in my district in Northern Virginia, anti-Arab graffiti was written at a local high school. We have had an Islamic bookstore that has been vandalized.

The vast majority of American Muslims and Arabs are as appalled at these acts of terrorism as the rest of us. Many of these Muslim and Arab Americans and Sikhs came to escape this type of terrorism in their own countries, and it has come here now. But they have come here, as most of our forbears, for the freedom and the opportunity offered in America. We cannot afford to let the terrorists divide our country between Muslim and Arab and Jews and Christians. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of World War II where we singled out Japanese Americans for discrimination. We need to show that Americans stand together: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and others in support of our President and against any type of discrimination. Against any group, discrimination cannot and should not be tolerated.

This resolution affirms our role as leaders in recognizing that no group should be singled out for discrimination simply because they share a common heritage or religious background similar to the terrorists.

I ask that we pass this resolution. Again, I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for his leadership.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding under his reservation.

I want to say that I strongly support this resolution. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for the leadership that they have shown on this very important issue.

There are few things that outrage me more than the kind of discrimination that was just outlined by the gentleman from Virginia that has taken place. The graffiti that has come up in the wake of Tuesday's tragedy is just horrible, and we need to do everything that we can to ensure that that does not happen. I believe that this resolution should send a very strong signal about the leadership that the United States is going to take in ensuring that this kind of discrimination does not take place.

Just a little more than 12 hours ago, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi, the leader of the North American Islamic Society, gave the opening prayer at the very moving service that most of the Members of this body attended. I believe that his presence at that service that we attended was a very strong signal from President Bush and other leaders in this country that we are not going to tolerate that kind of discrimination which has been described already here and which, frankly, is of concern to me and to others.

Attempts to bring about generalization is something that is very tempting for a lot of people, and I will simply say that we need to caution the American people against that. That is why I chose to stay here when the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) first mentioned to me the prospect of this resolution. I wanted to voice my very strong support for it.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Before I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. RAHALL), my good friend who is of Lebanese descent, I want to just say a few words, if the gentleman would permit me.

Like all Americans, Arab Americans, Muslims in America, Sikhs, they have strongly condemned these heinous and outrageous acts that have been perpetrated against America and its people. And like their fellow citizens of all faiths, they have joined in efforts to give blood; they have been parts of vigils around this country; they have conducted their own religious services. They were the firemen and the police that were involved in trying to rescue people in New York City. They are part of what we all are grieving and suffering from so painfully in these last 3 days, 4 days.

So I would say tonight that in the wake of this attack, it is really most unfortunate and sad and outrageous that the Arab American community

and the Muslim American community and the South Asian community, the Sikhs particularly, have been targeted with this bigotry that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) alluded to, and violence.

Near Chicago, bigots tossed a fire bomb at an Arab American community center. In old town Alexandria, vandals attacked an Islamic bookstore, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) said, and two Virginia mosques received threatening phone calls. In New York, a man tried to run over a Pakistani woman in the parking lot of a shopping mall, accusing her of destroying my country, and the list goes on and on. Many of the children in the schools are fearful because of their religion or because of where their ancestors or families may have come from. Women, Muslim women are fearful about wearing their head coverings in public, as well are Sikhs who have expressed that same concern to me today. It is a serious problem.

I think not only did Muzammil Siddiqi speak today at the service, but Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington, spoke as well.

□ 0040

He reminded us. He said this. He reminded all Americans in prayer that: "We must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent, or we become like them who are without moral guidance or direction." So I hope and pray in the days ahead that people will remember that.

When I was at the White House on Wednesday, the day after the tragedies, I had occasion to speak with the President and the Cabinet and the other leaders of the Congress. We talked about this issue. We raised this issue. There was agreement throughout the room that we would keep this issue in mind and in the forefront of our discussions as we proceed in the weeks and months ahead.

So I want to commend the President, because he soon thereafter condemned this bigotry on national television, and so did the Attorney General, John Ashcroft, and so did Mayor Giuliani, with quite a bit of force in New York City.

Today, we in the Congress lend our voices to this chorus for American tolerance, Mr. Speaker, and diversity, and for the rights of every American of every heritage and faith to live and worship with safety and confidence and pride.

It is very heartening to see Members on both sides of the aisle stand up in support of what this resolution says.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), who has always been, for the 25 years he has been in the House, a leader on these issues.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Michigan for

yielding; and I to want to commend him for bringing this to the floor this evening, as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on other relevant issues in this arena as well, and most particularly, his sponsorship and fight for the secret evidence legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are all justifiably angered about the events of 9/11 last week. We, often, in our rage, in our fit of anger, say and do things that, upon reflection, we perhaps regret. But the instances that have been referred to by previous speakers, including the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), go beyond those just temporary slips of judgment or temporary slips of the tongue. They go to what is basic about our American society, and it is really an attack upon what is basic about our military society.

Let us not forget that Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans, are Americans first. They chose to come to this country in order to seek a better way of life for themselves and their families. They pay taxes. They vote. They donate to various charitable causes within their communities. They have become well respected, and they have contributed in so many walks of life, whether it be the medical profession, the legal profession. Whether it be doctors, lawyers, whether it be teachers, whether it be laborers in our factories, they have contributed so much to our American way of life.

Let us not forget as well that there were members of these communities that were in those Twin Towers that lost their lives, as well. Let us not forget that fact.

So I guess the best way to describe these attacks against Arab Americans or Muslim Americans or South Asians is, as my hometown newspaper described it today, to paraphrase my hometown paper in Beckley, West Virginia, these are yahoos that are making these attacks, yahoos who happen to pose as great a threat to our American society, to our freedoms, and to our way of life as those perpetrators of those heinous crimes against our country last Tuesday.

They are ignorant, those who espouse these attacks. They are not the majority of Americans. No, they are a small group; and fortunately, these attacks are not as prominent today as they were in past occasions, like the Gulf War or the Oklahoma City bombing. That is because more and more recognition is coming to the communities represented by Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asians, because of their contributions to our American way of life.

As the gentleman from Michigan has mentioned, they have all, to the group, condemned, highly condemned, the acts of last Tuesday. They have orga-

nized themselves into blood donation drives, they are contributing their money, they are praying as hard as each of us for the victims of these crimes against our country, and for the hopes of their families and their futures.

So I commend the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this resolution to the floor and urge its unanimous passage.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

Continuing to reserve, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who has not only spoken out against this kind of bigotry, but has actually organized in her own district.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me, and the efforts and leadership of my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan, to end this kind of bigotry and discrimination.

In the face of this unspeakable assault on the American people, we have so many reasons to be proud this week. We look at the firefighters, the police, the other emergency workers who went into harm's way, and so we are celebrating as an American family an opportunity to embrace each other, even as we grieve, and congratulate those who have worked so hard to end the suffering.

At the same time there has been this one sour note, and that is, that there are those who have used this occasion to commit acts of bigotry and even violence against people who want to join with us as Americans, as residents of this country, as people offended by this act of terrorism and find themselves being the victim. It is hard for me to even imagine people who are feeling so hurt by what happened and then themselves go out in the street and find themselves to be harassed as somehow to blame for these acts of violence when they are completely innocent.

I have a district that is so diverse, all kinds of people, every race and religion and ethnic origin; and we are going to take a walk down Divine Avenue this Sunday, a street in my district that has shops, a booming commercial district of Muslims and Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Orthodox Jews, Jewish people. And we are going to walk from one end of the street to the other, just take a walk together, hand in hand, arm in arm to express our solidarity.

That is the kind of thing that we need to be doing in this hour of need in this country to help heal each other and not turn against each other, and that is the essence of this resolution that I hope everyone will support.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I think it is a beautiful idea, and I hope it is emulated around the country. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his leadership on this issue. He has been a continuing advocate for these issues, and as well, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims for bringing this particular resolution to the floor of the House. And I would certainly want to offer to the American people the fact that we are better than this.

Clearly, it is important during this time of great emotion, constantly seeing our brethren searching for those who may still live or those who do not live. It is stressful as we watch the continuous rescue efforts in New York, some still continuing at the Pentagon, the review of the heroic act of those who downed the plane in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, you want to lash out. You want to find some easing of your pain. But listening to a woman who was full of pain say we do not want them here is not the way that America shows its pain. America understands what freedom, what democracy, and what our values are all about.

So I think this is particularly important today for the Congress of the United States to use its national platform to be louder than those disjointed chords of confusion and hatred and really speak loudly to our local jurisdictions, our governors, our mayors, our county commissioners, our local law enforcement, our parishes, churches, synagogues and mosques, our community organizations, all of them, our neighbors, our schools. We must speak in one voice that we will not tolerate this kind of singling out of Americans, Arab Americans, South Asian Americans, and American Muslims.

In particular, I think one of the greater tragedies is what is happening to our children, children who have to go to and from school, children who have to mingle on school playgrounds, and it is in school classrooms and on school sports teams. What are we doing to them? Are we setting up a situation where those who believe this is the right thing to do because they heard adults say this? Are they then intimidating others who happen to be Arab American, South Asian Americans and American Muslims? We are dividing our children.

The one thing about a terrorist act is it is to instill an enormous amount of fear in society, and what happens out of fear? You begin to turn on each other. Let us show the perpetrators of these terroristic acts that we do stand against terrorism, and we are fearless. In fact, we are so fearless that we are going to unify with each other and we are going to find unity in being an American, an Arab American, South Asian American and American Muslim.

□ 0050

In my community, there is a situation going on that preceded this tragedy. A Pakistani woman lost her life through some unfortunate incident in a store. We came together with that community because we want justice. We respect civil rights, but we want to find out what happened to that woman. We are going to continue that fight and that unity.

In Houston, Texas, I believe we are going to share on Sunday afternoon as well with a community forum to have people come together and talk about how we are united and not how we are divided. So I again want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, and I also want to acknowledge the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, one of the original cosponsors, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who likewise offers very strong support for this resolution.

It is important that we pass this tonight. I am sorry that it is at 5 or 10 minutes to 1 a.m., but what this resolution will allow us to do is to go back and encourage and push our local fathers and mothers to ensure that the governments of our communities, the people of our community understand what being American is all about. I thank the gentleman again for his leadership on this. Each of us must be soldiers and, with this message, go back to convey to our communities that we will not accept this kind of intolerance.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for her eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who I have worked with on a number of these issues over the years.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I think it speaks well of all of us in this body and of our country that today, as we get to the business of designing our counterattack against savagery that has been unleashed against our countrymen, that we take this time to ensure that the rage that is felt throughout our country does not take us in the same evil direction that we plan to fight.

It is very easy to do. We understand that. Because as we are fighting a group of fanatics overseas, it is very easy for Americans to lose sight that people who perhaps are Muslim in their faith, and those people who are responsible for the attack may well and probably were Muslims, to generalize in that way. But that would be just a crime against our own citizens and against innocent people.

Our greatest strength as a Nation is that we are a people who recognize that we are of all races and of all religions. I was very proud today that at the National Cathedral we had all faiths represented there, including Islam. And if we break that strength,

we are actually weakening ourselves. We as a people do not want to compromise that policy and that strength of our country, which is that we are of all races and all religions. We are bonded together by a love of liberty and a commitment to each other. U.S., United States. That means us, and us now includes many Muslim fellow citizens. And they are heartbroken, as we are, at what has happened.

Just one thought. And I will be very quick because I know other people want to express this. Bin Laden wants us to alienate all the Muslims of the world, and especially to alienate our fellow Muslim Americans. That is part of this terrorist plot. Their strategy is that we, as Americans, will be so enraged, and we have a right to be enraged and angry, that we will strike out blindly and, without thinking, will alienate all of the Muslim world against us, including those Muslims who live as Americans next door to us.

We cannot be stupid enough to fall for his strategy. We must proceed in seeking revenge for those people, our fellow citizens that have lost their lives; and we must do it in a smart way and make sure that we do not alienate those Muslims. Instead, we need to recruit and reach out to Muslims throughout the world who are good and decent people, who are freedom-loving people, who will join us in a crusade to see that a new standard of morality is set for all of mankind. And that standard is that no noncombatants will ever, no people will ever tolerate an attack and murder of noncombatants in order to achieve their ends. In this goal we can enlist the Muslim community and we should try to do so.

It would be a crime against our own goals if we in some way fell to bin Laden's strategy and tried to strike out at all Muslim countries. We need to recruit the good people of that community.

I appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this. It is really important we do this tonight.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to my two colleagues from California, who have done very good work in this area, I want to yield, under my reservation of objection, to one of the leaders of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding to me, and I thank him for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I have received troubling reports of incidents involving south Asians being accosted, accused. Now, grief and anger are very, very understandable this week. We have been grievously attacked. Grief and anger are understandable reactions; but we must stand

together as one people, as Americans, as unhyphenated Americans.

The goal of terrorism is to instill fear, to divide, to break down that delicate fabric of civility that holds us together. Now, heinous things happened this week, but I would like to point out what did not happen. It is my belief that the terrorists struck us and then stood back, and what they hoped would happen is that riots would break out in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, my home of Oregon; that pandemonium would prevail; abandonment of duty. Instead, people rose to the occasion as one society, as one people. People stood at their posts, did their duty even unto death, even going into buildings that were burning and collapsing. We stood together as one people this week, and we will not be divided. Americans will not accuse fellow Americans based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

Tonight, I was at a candlelight vigil at the memorial for the internment of Japanese Americans which occurred during World War II. There are many eloquent phrases carved into the stone at that memorial, but I think the core concept which was carved into the stone there is that we must remember the mistakes of the past so that we will not repeat them. So let us, as we launch into this future, let us be at our best. Let us remember and learn from past errors. Let us have the courage to face the difficult days ahead and to seize this moment to build a free and safe world for all people, regardless of background.

□ 0100

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is beyond my possible understanding how in America, even the isolated incidents that have happened, could happen if we really view what those same people would like to have us do. We do not know who perpetrated this crime for sure. We think it may be Osama bin Laden or his allies. We do not know if Osama bin Laden is backed completely by Iraq or by other groups. We are not sure where the money comes from.

It is my personal wish, and I believe this body's wish, to find out; and once we find out, we eradicate the capability of those people who struck us so viciously once and for all. That is a reasonable response, and I believe America wants to make that response.

But we cannot make that response with clean hands if in fact we use the opportunity of this disaster to seek revenge against others in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot explain hate, and I would not try. What I would like to do for a moment is just share something from my own youth.

When I was in high school, I worked for Rabbi Kasen in Cleveland Heights. I

was in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, which is not bad for an Arab kid from Cleveland, and I got one of the best jobs a kid could get, I was working for the rabbi delivering poultry. I did not know much about the rabbi, but over the years as I would return the car at the end of the evening back to his home rather than where I picked up the poultry, I would learn a little more and a little more.

By the time I was done working for him, I had discovered that his entire family had been wiped out in the Holocaust. He bore a tattoo on his arm, and he was a Holocaust survivor. But I discovered something else, something more important that I think everyone in America has to understand when we look at these acts of violence.

He was a man of God because he bore hatred towards no one, including those who had so terribly disrupted his and his family's life. Instead, he felt pity for them because they would know no salvation, they would know no rest. They would be the recipients of only evil forever after, while he would go on doing his little duty of running a small shop in Cleveland Heights. He would run a little shop and he would raise his children.

That lesson is a lesson America has to understand. We cannot let our grievances, no matter how great, turn into acts of violence. America has a right to respond to those who would hurt us and prevent them from doing it in the future, but we can only do that with our heads held high if we in America take the lead that Rabbi Kasen taught me as a boy, and do not seek to strike out against those who have done wrong; but rather, in fact, do not do what they did because only by, as Christians say, by turning the other cheek, will we have clean hands to seek the proper outcome, and that is justice for the acts done against us.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And this is a fitting time to say it. In the 9 years I have been in this Chamber, I have never seen the gentleman from Michigan take on a task, an assignment, without giving it his all, his commitment and his conviction. And I think all of us stand very proudly with the gentleman from Michigan in this case because oftentimes there are populations in this country that do not have people standing for them.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting in this House at 1 in the morning that as we send out some powerful messages what has happened over the last few days, that we do not forget to send this message as well.

This resolution is important, and I thank the gentleman from Michigan and all those who drafted this resolu-

tion. It is important because, as we know, a house divided cannot stand. We have demonstrated tremendous resolve in this Congress in the last few days, issuing resolutions which have committed this country and our young men and women to things that perhaps we will not want to think about as days pass, but we have done it in unanimous votes or near-unanimous votes.

As we send those messages, I think it is appropriate that one of the messages that is sent will be a message to all Americans that we will stand united, that we are not a house divided, and we want everyone to know that within our house that we call America, our neighbors deserve to be treated equally, whether the individual is of Arab-American descent, whether South Asian American, whether American Muslim, we are all Americans and everyone deserves to be part of that house united.

I believe it is so important that we conclude this day's session by giving not just this message that we are prepared to take on with resolve those who chose to try to plunder this country, but also send the message that all of us recognize that this will be done as a team; that when we take on this task that Congress has set forth with the President, that it is recognizing that we are a fabric made up of so many different people.

This Sunday we will be holding memorial services for one of our Americans who perished on one of those flights that was destined to a life of infamy. We will be honoring Mrs. Tooran Boloorehi, who happens also to be Arab American.

I hope that when we have these services for all of the Americans who perished, we will remember that we are honoring them for their service, for their life, and more importantly, for the dignity that they showed in this country. It is time for us to recognize that the more we come together, the more we will be that house that not only is not divided, but is a house that will portray to the rest of the world what we can do when we bring the diversity of the world together.

Mr. Speaker, that is why at the end of the day, our resolve through these resolutions that we pass will demonstrate not only that we will defeat terrorism, but that we will bring the world together, because in America we have proven it makes no difference being hyphenated as an American or not, we will come together.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) and all of my colleagues who have taken the time after a very long week to say to all of our American brothers and sisters, we stand together with them because they deserve it, and we will prove to them when they decided to come to America, they were right.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I have a special responsibility to speak tonight. I represent Bainbridge Island just west of Seattle. It is full of great people, and it is a great place to live. In early 1942, the United States Government herded up some American citizens of Bainbridge Island and marched them down to a dock and put them on a ferry boat and put them in camps.

I think the Congressman from that district owes it to the people now who are feeling the human passion and anger that is very understandable, to urge this country not to repeat, or even its private citizens, to repeat those kinds of mistakes.

I also have a responsibility tonight to speak in favor of this, because in my district some knuckle-head defaced a mosque in Lynnwood, Washington. Near my district, an armed man was arrested yesterday threatening to burn down a mosque. The child of my staffer's sister had to be taken out of day-care because somebody phoned in a bomb threat due to the heritage of the folks at the day-care center. I do not think those acts are American.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the American act. Today I asked one of my staff to go to that mosque in Lynnwood, Washington and talk to the people. By happenstance, when he drove up to the mosque, there were about 50 cars that drove up loaded with foodstuffs and flowers and Christians who had come from their churches to tell that mosque that that was not an American way and not consistent with religious liberty and our brotherhood in this country. That was an American thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say I am proud of some things that are going on in my district, too. Let us tell the people who are angry about this, and I understand anger. Tomorrow morning I am going to call two of my constituents whose son was lost in the Pentagon. I understand passion and sorrow and anger.

□ 0110

But those who have it, let us tell them that if you want to have an effective strategy to win this war against terrorism, let us let the Muslim people of the world know that we stand against terrorism and for brotherhood and respect for all religious faiths.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. The hour is late. There probably are very few folks here in this Nation that are watching us tonight. But I think this is one of those truly great moments in the history of this institution, tonight.

Let me echo the sentiments expressed earlier by the gentleman from California about the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR). Since I have been here for some 5 years, there is no one that has advocated for justice, for human rights as the gentleman who will be sorely missed in this institution.

It is clear that across the Nation, the anguish and the grief runs so deep. And the events of this week have saddened us all, all Americans. It has really seared the hearts of the Members in this institution and Americans everywhere. Our pain has given rise to a profound anger. And as the gentleman from Washington indicated, it is a righteous anger. It is a righteous anger, almost in the Biblical sense of that term. Our challenge now, and truly I suggest the test of our democracy, is to harness that anger and to respond in a manner that is firm, that is clear, that is resolute and is just, and that befits a great Nation. And that not just merely respects our ideals but honors our ideals. I believe that we are doing that right now.

I have never been as proud of serving in this Chamber as I am at this very moment. So many Members have stayed, and we are all tired. We are all weary. It has been an extraordinarily emotional week for all of us. But this is truly a proud moment. Now I think it is critical that we remind ourselves and our fellow citizens that we must never confuse that righteous anger with hate. They are different.

Earlier tonight, both the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas, and the Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri, observed with great eloquence that America is great because America is good. That is true. We rightfully claim a unique moral voice among the family of nations. That is why, despite the imperfections that were alluded to by the gentleman from Texas in his remarks earlier, America represents the hopes and dreams of a world that truly yearns for peace, for freedom and for justice. Hatred has no place in America. Hatred had no place in America in the aftermath of the outbreak of World War II. And it has no place in America tonight. Hatred is an attack on and an insult to our values and our moral authority. Those who committed the atrocities that stunned the Nation represent the face of hatred. We can never yield to hate. For if we do, they will have robbed us, not just of our innocence but our values and our ideals and everything that this country is about.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for a beautiful statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding and for his leadership in

bringing forth this resolution which I strongly support, and I do so for several reasons. First, I represent a district from rural areas and smaller cities. We do not have a large number of Arab Americans in my district. But perhaps that is all the more reason to support it. Imagine living in an area where you have come to experience the freedom and democracy and economic opportunity and live in an area where there are few other people with whom you might identify based upon your religion or your ethnic heritage. It is all the more important that we strike a blow for that very freedom, that very principle in all parts of our country. Second, this is the founding principle upon which our country was founded. People fled all parts of the world to come here to experience religious freedom and freedom from tyranny. And so many of the people who have come here from Middle Eastern lands and other lands with a Muslim heritage have done so because others in those lands have mistreated them and have not lived by the principles that we espouse in this country.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I believe that the very success of the endeavor that we are now undertaking, which I think will be a long-term endeavor, to root out terrorism and to respond to those who have caused this hateful, devastating, despicable disaster that has taken place in this country. If we are truly going to be successful, we have to send the message that we are not directing this at anybody because of their religious beliefs or because of their ethnic heritage, we are directing this against terrorists. If we do not have that message, not only with Arab Americans in this country but with those of that background across the entire world, we will face a far greater maelstrom as we go along.

We must convince the people of the world that we are directing this as peace-loving people against those who would take away that peace and that freedom from us. If we do not convey that message, then we will be all the longer in struggling with the crisis that we face today. So I am very, very strongly resolved with the President and with every Member of this body that we are going to very forcefully respond to the terrorists who caused this despicable act. I also think we have to at the same time send forth a message that we are doing this as freedom-loving Americans who respect all other Americans and are not doing this directed at anybody from anywhere in the world simply because of their heritage or religious beliefs.

□ 0120

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, and I want to say what an honor it has been to work with the gentleman through my time in Congress on so many concerns relating to this issue which is before us. The gentleman and I share many common beliefs, values, and constituencies.

I am privileged to have one of the largest constituencies of Arab-Americans and Muslims and Arab-Christians and Asian-Indian constituencies in the United States; and I know, as has been recited tonight, that we are talking about Americans, our brothers and sisters, individuals whose sons and daughters serve this country; individuals who have built many of our communities; individuals who provide jobs for many of our families; individuals who own and operate many of our small businesses; individuals who are stalwart citizens in the community; individuals who believe in our Constitution; individuals who believe in our way of life; individuals who help describe what is good about America.

So it is appropriate that we are here past 1 o'clock in the morning to make a statement about what America represents, about what America stands for, about the principles which bring us to this House.

Now, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has been in this House much longer than I have, but I will say, as someone who has had the privilege of serving in this House for almost 5 years now, every day that I come into this Chamber and I walk along this counter, I see carved in the counter certain principles expressed in single words. Starting from my left, you see the word "peace," and then next to it carved in the wood is the word "liberty," and right here in the center is the word "tolerance." Behind me carved in wood, the word "justice," and right around the corner, the word "union."

These principles literally physically frame our debate every minute that we are here on the floor of the House of Representatives. You cannot miss them. They look out at us every moment; and by reference, they look out at America.

Arab-Americans are our brothers and our sisters, and we have the responsibility to stand up for them, just as in the last few hours we took a stand on behalf of those poor souls who perished by claiming the right to pursue justice on their behalf, because we do not need any more victims in this country. America does not need to incur any more losses on our soil, and we do not need to incur it at the hands of American citizens turning against U.S. citizens, turning against our own people. So tonight we plead for tolerance.

Now, tonight all across America people stood outside their homes and held candles in the darkness. Those candles

were held to send out the light of hope in the darkness of despair.

The previous night thousands of people surrounded the Reflecting Pool between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, and a ring of light framed the water, reflecting the stars above.

We know that light always shines in the darkness. That is the promise of so many of our holy scriptures. We know the light of tolerance shines in the darkness of hate. We know the light of justice shines through the darkness of prejudice. We know the light of liberty shines through the dark hold of emotional, spiritual, and physical chains. We know the light of peace shines through the darkness of terrorism. We know the light of union shines through the darkness of division.

My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light, protect us by thy might, great God, our king.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to commend our majority leader, and especially the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our minority whip, for his sponsorship of this important resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 227, now before this body for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I realize it is 1:30 in the morning, but this is certainly a very important issue that must be addressed by this institution. Certainly not taking anything away from the thrust of all the energies and the efforts that are made, not only by our President but by the Congress, concerning the tragedy that has just taken place in the past couple of days, but I must say that the United States Congress must express its firm opposition and strong condemnation of those in our country who advocate hatred, bigotry and racism against our fellow Americans whose cultural roots are from the Middle East, from South Asia, and especially our fellow American citizens who are members of the Muslim faith.

In my desire in echoing the sentiments of my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), I, too, would like to express my sincere appreciation and commendation to you, our minority whip, for your leadership and certainly the outstanding service that you have rendered to our Nation. I, too, will sorely miss not only your handsome face, but just being here as a fellow colleague and a Member of this institution.

I will always remember the gentleman as a true warrior, who has always advocated truly what freedom really means, the principles of human rights, and certainly the rights of working men and women all over

America and their struggles and efforts in making ends meet and providing for their children.

I thank the gentleman.

I, too, would like to associate myself with the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), as chairman of our Asia-Pacific Congressional Caucus expressing some concerns about the hate crimes that are now evident throughout some of our communities in America simply because our fellow Americans are Arab-Americans.

We have taken also an understanding of what happened after the Oklahoma City bombing, and what was the first reaction by our local and Federal officials? It seems to me that all Arab-Americans were profiled. This is certainly not in good standing as far as I am concerned as far as what America should really be about.

I thank my good friends, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), and the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA). I certainly appreciate the comments made earlier about this very important issue.

In my youth, Mr. Speaker, I lived among people from various different cultural backgrounds. This, of course, was in the State of Hawaii, where you get to appreciate what it means to be going or living alongside or being with a student who happens to be of Filipino ancestry or Japanese or Chinese or Korean or Pacific Islander, or even those who are African-Americans.

But I am always reminded, and seemingly also, Mr. Speaker, in the past couple of days, that a great many of number of our colleagues of the House have always used the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, as a reminder, and in a very similar fashion, of what happened in the past couple of days.

□ 0130

Mr. Speaker, there is a very strong distinction that I want to share with my colleagues about what happened to Americans who happened to be of Japanese ancestry. The fact that it was our government that took some 100,000 Japanese Americans, born and raised here in this Nation, confiscated their properties, took everything that belonged to them, took them to what was known as "relocation" camps, I call them concentration camps, and, yet, despite all the bigotry that was heaped upon the Japanese in World War II, there were some 6,700 Nisei soldiers who volunteered from California, from all over the country, and especially from the territory of Hawaii, that organized two combat units known as the 100th Battalion of the 442nd infantry combat groups, and because of the racism President Roosevelt felt, as it was also with General Marshall, that maybe in their spirit of really wanting to defend the enemies of our Nation,

sent them to Europe, which they did, they went to Europe.

I want to share with my colleagues the results of their value and the courage that they displayed in defending this flag, despite the fact that their parents and their brothers and sisters were being placed in concentration camps throughout America. Mr. Speaker, 18,000 individual declarations were given to these men who died and fought for America, the Japanese Americans. Over 9,000 Purple Hearts were awarded. The 100th Battalion was sometimes known as the Purple Heart Battalion.

Mr. Speaker, 314 percent, the casualty percentage of those Japanese Americans who fought so bravely on behalf of our Nation. Some 562 Silver Stars, medals, were honored. Ironically, only one Medal of Honor was given to these Japanese Americans and, thank God, in 1996 when Senator COCHRAN introduced a bill to review the whole efforts of why only one Medal of Honor was given, despite the fact that some 52 Distinguished Service Crosses were given to these Japanese Americans.

But in view of the recent review that was made, and for which I am very grateful, the record has now been changed to 21 Medals of Honor were given to these Japanese Americans, including the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator INOUE.

I wanted to share this with my colleagues because I do not know if I would have been able to do what they did in World War II. Put yourself in their shoes. After spilling your guts out and being wounded and all that you have done for your country and you had to come back from Europe looking for your parents and brothers and sisters in a concentration camp. I do not know if I could do that, Mr. Speaker. But this is what these men did to defend the honor of our Nation.

I say this with sincerity, because I want my colleagues to know that we are now at the shadow of getting the same type of attitude, the same type of concern of hatred and bigotry towards people who are totally innocent from what has happened. So just because it was the Japanese military that bombed Pearl Harbor, I sincerely hope, and I am sure that my colleagues will agree with me, that this should not be the case given to our fellow Arab Americans throughout this country.

Yes, we should say never again that this should ever happen to our country, but always it seems that this happens all the time. I wish I did not have to be known as a Pacific American or a Chinese American or an African American. I never hear anybody saying I am a French American or British American or German American. Why is it that we have to do these labels? Is it not ironic that this is not French America, this is not British America, this is not Russian America, this is the United States

of America. We are a united America. The strength of our Nation, Mr. Speaker, lies in its diversity, and I think this is what makes us so unique. This is what makes this country so powerful and so much a great example before all of the nations of the world, what truly freedom means and what democracy is all about.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very eloquent and passionate statement. I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time. I thank those who have spoken so eloquently tonight on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in the immediate aftermath of the collision of those jets with the World Trade Center, the President of the United States addressed the people of this great country and he said, America is being tested, and he assured us that we would pass the test. We will pass that test. But we will pass it only if we pass it with compassion and unity and strength of all our diverse peoples, from all faiths, all national origins, all ethnicities, all united as one united people in this great United States of America.

These agents of aggression, of hatred against Arab Americans, are precisely the opposite of what makes this country great and what makes this country worth defending. We must stand united. We must unite to reject these acts of hatred, because we can only conquer terrorism with unity, and ultimately with love for our fellow human beings.

I rise in profound support, and I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his initiative and for all of those who have spoken on this resolution.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I too want to stand to thank the gentleman for introducing what I think is a very important and critical resolution. I just wanted to reflect for a second. I know the hour is late, but I will be brief.

When the hostages were taken in Iran, I can remember clearly, there were elected officials that began to want to introduce resolutions to ask students because they were from Iran, Iranian Americans, to actually not be able to be teaching assistants or to leave, and that whole fever erupted across the country. I can remember a scene in a restaurant where there were Iranian Americans, and in fact, it was in Ohio at the time, that people were saying, why do you not go home? These people were home. That type of fever prevailed.

Now we have amongst us over 1 million Iranian Americans that live in the

United States and live in neighborhoods, and people who know them, and people look back with embarrassment and shame about what happened. We do not want to see that happen again. So the feelings and thoughts have to be I think for us to realize that we need to learn our lesson and look back from what happened at that time.

Also, I just wanted to reflect on the children of people of Arab American descent and some of the comments that are made to them. It is incumbent upon us, and that is what we are doing tonight to spread this word, and to ask Americans that feel this passion for fairness to talk to other Americans when they make a comment that is a broad brush.

I want to close by saying that I lived in Iran in 1978. I have been on the other side of this type of situation, and I was there during the turbulence during the fall of the Shah. At that time I can remember Iranians who told other Iranians to not make the comments because we were obviously American in our look. I want to thank those people that helped thousands of us to not have the harassment. I have been in those shoes, in a sense, and we have to just I think as Americans, Mr. Speaker, put ourselves in the shoes of these Americans of Arab descent, and I think this message will go out. I hope the media also, I say to the gentleman, keep hammering this in, that our country was founded on fairness and freedom that has been so eloquently expressed here tonight.

I thank the gentleman for doing something good and right for the people of this country.

□ 0140

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for adding to what I think has been a very extraordinary dialogue here this evening on something that is very fundamental to what we are about as a country, and that is the words that not only the gentleman shared with us here this evening, but the words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and others who referred to the notion of tolerance, justice, liberty, union, and peace. These are all ideals that we cherish deeply in our Nation.

I am so proud of the folks who came here this evening to speak and to make that differentiation that is so important to so many millions of Americans today who have lived in fear as a result of the actions that have been taken against their brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, let me just end with this. The Prophet Mohammed has taught that God does not judge according to our bodies or appearances, but he looks into our hearts, he scans our hearts, and looks into our deeds.

The holy Qu'ran teaches "Oh, Mankind, we created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you

peoples and tribes so that you may come to know one another," so that we may come to know one another.

As leaders and as Members of Congress, if we could take the message that we articulated so well this evening and spread that throughout our country over these next days and weeks and months, I think we will have done a good service. When the world watched our national prayer service earlier today, as many alluded to in their speeches on the floor today, they heard the healing words of many faiths: a Muslim Iman, a Jewish rabbi, and Christian clergy, Mr. Speaker.

These Americans, like the rest of the world, all worship God in their own way, but the common faith they share, what we have witnessed in the torrent of goodness this week, the neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, is that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit. That is the common faith that they share, that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of people in New York and Washington lost their lives in a brutal assault on our Nation that was a calculated strike at the heart of our freedom and national unity. Millions of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans and American Muslims around the country have shared our sorrow and outrage at Tuesday's terrorist attacks. They have donated their blood, their money, their food and their time to the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Now these same individuals who have mourned and prayed with us have come under suspicion by their neighbors and the threat of additional violence in the form of hate crimes at their homes, schools, community centers and mosques. As a part of our effort to protect America from violence, we must unequivocally condemn the attacks against these groups and pledge to protect their civil rights and civil liberties.

My district is home to one of the largest Arab and Muslim communities in the country. It is vital that we distinguish the beliefs of these Americans from the perpetrators of Tuesday's violence, and recognize that American Muslims share our values and contribute significantly to our communities. If we fail to do so, then we will have seriously undermined freedom—the same principle we find ourselves vigorously defending in the wake of Tuesday's attacks.

All Members should stand to condemn any acts of bigotry, violence or discrimination against Arab Americans, South Asians and American Muslims and call upon Americans of every faith and heritage to stand together in this time of national crisis. We must pledge that in our pursuit of national security government agencies will work to avoid activities that encroach upon the civil rights and civil liberties of citizens or legal residents of the United States.

As we should have learned from the shameful history of internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the civil rights and civil liberties of discrete groups of minorities

should be specially considered during times of domestic and international turmoil. Our sense of community with fellow Americans of Arab and South Asian descent and those of the Muslim faith should not be counted as another casualty of Tuesday's senseless violence.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their time this evening, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 227

Whereas all Americans are united in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, and in pursuing all those responsible for these attacks and their sponsors until they are brought to justice and punished;

Whereas the Arab-American, South Asian-American, and American Muslim communities are a vital part of the Nation;

Whereas on September 12, 2001, in a mass for the Nation and the victims of the terrorist hijackings and attacks, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington, D.C., reminded all Americans in prayer that "we must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent or we become like them who are without moral guidance or direction";

Whereas the heads of State of several Arab and predominantly Muslim countries have condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States and the senseless loss of innocent lives; and

Whereas vengeful threats and incidents of violence directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of Arab or South Asian descent, particularly the Sikh community, and adherents of the Islamic faith have already occurred: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) declares that in the quest to identify, bring to justice, and punish the perpetrators and sponsors of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia, should be protected; and

(2) condemns any acts of violence or discrimination against any Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res 227.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NON-IMMIGRANTS

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for a comment on the bill.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this issue comes before us at a very appropriate time. It was about 2 days ago, maybe 3 days ago now considering the time is after midnight, authority ran out for our government, through the Attorney General, to be able to bring in alien witnesses for cases involving terrorists, of all things; meaning that when the Attorney General, the Justice Department, and the intelligence communities of our government were able to mount a case against terrorists, so appropriate in view of the events of the past week, that they could bring in people with special information under what was called the "S" visa, a special program to permit aliens to come in for the specific purpose of providing information and testifying, as it were, in these cases constructed by our Justice Department against terrorists.

That authority has run out, and it ran out almost immediately after the events took place in the Pentagon and in New York. So we have to reinstate it as fast as possible. That is why we are here tonight, because now it becomes even more urgent that we be in a position to be able to authorize the Attorney General to continue building the cases against these new terrorists now and others yet to come, we hope not, which we will do everything we can to prevent, but we must reinstate the authority for these special visas, these "S" visas that would permit this extra arm of law enforcement to work its will.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Continuing to reserve my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for bringing this important initiative to the floor of the House tonight, particularly with the great need that we have. It is obvious that we are in a time deep of sorrow.

And Congress continues and will continue to seek all possible avenues which would help provide assistance to