

lengthy debate today on the airline bill, and a good piece of that debate centered over the Speaker's commitment to the membership of this body on the benefits for workers that have lost their jobs from the airline disaster, and the airline industry's economic problems.

I am just interested, if the gentleman from Texas could enlighten us, and I do not expect to have a complete answer here, given the fact that this was just done today, but when in fact we might expect action on legislation that was discussed on the floor in the colloquy between the Speaker and the leader.

□ 2310

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I thank the gentleman for the question, and just to be clear, the Speaker's exact words earlier this evening were, and I quote, the committees of jurisdiction have already been examining proposals to assist in this area. We will take a comprehensive look at the health care needs of these displaced workers and work together to bring an appropriate legislative response to the floor as soon as possible.

It is my interpretation that by that the Speaker meant the committees of jurisdiction are working; and at whatever point they can report legislation, we would make the floor available for that legislation. I simply cannot speak for the committees' work.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for that. I just want to encourage the gentleman from Texas and the rest of the leadership on the Republican side of the aisle to help expedite the hearing process and the committee process on this legislation. As I think the gentleman from Texas is aware, regretfully the numbers of laid-off workers have increased dramatically, especially, of course, in the airline industry; and we are probably going to see a fallout in some ancillary industries and other industries. I think it would be prudent, wise, and just to expect that we will move with some alacrity on these issues of health care, unemployment compensation, and, of course, training, when necessary.

It is not as if this is a difficult thing to do. It is pretty standard when we enter these economic downturns. And moving with some degree of speed on this would, I think, be appreciated, especially given the nature of the situation our country finds itself in today. So I will continue to raise this issue on a regular basis, with respect, but with urgency and with some passion. And I just want the gentleman to know that this is an issue that will be before us on many occasions as we go through these next weeks.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

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

I do have an inquiry of the majority leader. I do join the gentleman in the fervent hope we can complete our business for the week by Tuesday night. In the event that it was necessary for us to convene on Wednesday morning, could we convene at 9 a.m., in the hopes that maybe we could wrap up our business on Wednesday morning and not continue into Wednesday afternoon?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman from Michigan will yield further.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the inquiry. The gentleman makes a very good point, and I have to say, I think in full confidence, that as a matter of respect for our colleagues, should we have to propound such a unanimous consent request, I would guess that the gentleman would hear a resounding silence when asked if there were any objections. I appreciate the question.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the majority leader for doing everything possible to accommodate us.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY)?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

APOLOGY TO SIKHS, MUSLIMS,
AND ANYONE ELSE TAKING OFFENSE
AT PRIOR STATEMENTS

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was recently quoted as saying something that Sikhs, Muslims, and other Americans facing harassment and violence in this country took as offensive. I am sorry for any distress my statement caused,

and I want them to know that I do not approve of any harassment or violence against any American. All I intended to say was that if a person fits the established profile of a terrorist, that person should expect to be looked at closely by airport security, given the atrocity of September 11.

Many Sikhs are being subjected to harassment due to their beards and turbans, which are required by their religion. Americans of the Muslim faith are also receiving harassment. Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revered religion. It is not part of any other religion, although Sikhs are sometimes mistaken for Muslims or Hindus. There are 21 million Sikhs in the world, most of whom live in the Punjab state of India. Approximately 500,000 live in the United States; and most are naturalized or American-born citizens. Most have contributed to all walks of life. Most of the people who wear turbans in this country are Sikhs.

There are many reasons Sikhs come to America, but mainly they come seeking freedom. To persecute them only weakens American unity at a time when our country is under attack.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to let the Sikhs, Muslims, and other Americans who are facing harassment and violence know that I do not condone such acts, that I stand shoulder to shoulder with them, and that I am on their side.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICANS FACING UGLY
THREATS AT HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as America mourns its dead and prepares to launch a global war on terrorism, some Americans are facing additional ugly threats here on the home front, and they are not from foreign terrorists but, regretfully, they are from fellow citizens.

Since the attacks on New York and Washington last week, many Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, Sikhs, and other Americans of South Asian heritage have become the targets of terrible bigotry and violence based solely on their faith, their heritage, or their choice of traditional clothing.

□ 2320

Americans of just about every religion and ethnic heritage lost loved ones in this terrorist attack. At least five Sikh Americans were killed in the