

over 100 acts of harassment or violence against Sikhs. A Sikh man was murdered in Mesa, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix, over the weekend. Balbir Singh Sodhi, who owned a Chevron gasoline station, was shot to death at his business. Some time later, the same gunman shot a Lebanese gasoline station owner. We demand that the man who killed Balbir Singh Sodhi, be prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Attackers threw a brick through the window of a local Sikh, Ranjit Singh of Fairfax, Virginia. Another local Sikh, Sher Singh, was arrested by police in Rhode Island after the attack, but was released the next day. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn, New York. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. An Egyptian Christian man was shot in San Gabriel, California. A Pakistani Muslim who owned a grocery store was shot in Dallas.

What a group of terrorists did Tuesday was a terrible crime and an act of war against America, but it was done by a group of individuals who are no more typical of their religion than Timothy McVeigh is typical of Christianity. Members of minority religious communities are being targeted for violence, and this is unacceptable, especially in America.

Sikhs are not Muslims. We are not Hindus. Like Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, and any other religion, we are an independent, monotheistic religion with our own symbols. Among those are a turban and beard. That does not make us followers or associates of Osama bin Laden, yet we are being targeted for violence in the wake of the atrocities last Tuesday.

We appreciate the support of Congressmen Dan Burton, Edolphus Towns, and all our other friends in the Congress who condemned the acts of violence against the Sikhs and other minorities. Their statements in the Congressional Record are available here.

I call on Attorney General John Ashcroft to look into this nationwide pattern of violence and I urge the victims of these attacks to call their police departments and their local prosecutors. This is the best way to ensure that those who perpetrate this violence are appropriately punished. Let's not let America descend to the level of those who attacked it.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN  
ALCEE L. HASTINGS INTRODUCING THE DISPLACED WORKERS RELIEF ACT OF 2001

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I received a call from George Mador. Mr. Mador is the President of L & M Aircraft Services and he called my office looking for help. L & M is a small aircraft maintenance company that services charter airlines transporting passengers to and from the Bahamas. L & M only has seven employees and many of them have been with the company for a majority of the company's existence.

However, in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, L & M is now facing imminent bankruptcy and its seven employees, therefore, are facing certain unemployment. George told me that he did not want to get out

of bed this morning because of the reality that he will have to lay off at least half of his staff by the end of the week as a result of zero income in the past two weeks. Last week's payroll left George and some of his employees without a paycheck and L & M \$500 in the hole. With no apparent income coming in this week, the future of L & M Airport Services and its seven employees are undoubtedly in jeopardy.

At the three international airports serving my district, Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood, Palm Beach, and Miami, there are more than 300 small businesses just like L & M that are now on the verge of bankruptcy as a result of loss of income. In Miami-Dade County, the airline and aviation industry is the County's primary economic engine, representing more than nine percent of the County's total workforce. Thousands of employees have already or will lose their jobs, and hundreds of business will go under nationwide if Congress does not act today.

To help remedy some of the future hardships sure to be faced by hundreds of thousands of people in the coming days, weeks, and months, I am proud to introduce the Displaced Workers Relief Act of 2001. My bill serves as the companion bill to S. 1454, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator JEAN CARNAHAN of Missouri. It provides those who have lost their jobs in the wake of the attacks of September 11 with the ability to pay rent, put food on their table, buy school books for their children, while trying to live their lives even in these difficult times.

My bill extends unemployment benefits from 26 to 78 weeks, provides 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who would not otherwise qualify, extends Job Training Benefits from 52 to 78 weeks, and provides up to 78 weeks of federally subsidized COBRA premiums; and provides optional temporary Medicaid coverage for up to eighteen months to those workers without COBRA coverage.

Under the Displaced Workers Relief Act of 2001, all airline and airport workers, including transit workers, as well as employees who work for airline suppliers, such as service employees and plane manufacturers, will all be eligible to receive these needed benefits.

In the past two weeks, more than 100,000 airline employees have been laid off, and airline analysts suggest that as many as 250,000 additional layoffs in airline-related industries may shortly follow. Everywhere I look in this country, industries and business are hurting. Hotels are reporting record lows in occupancy levels; travel agencies are losing customers by the dozen; the cruise industry has come to a virtual standstill; and service industries dependent upon airlines are closing their doors as we speak. As these businesses suffer, Mr. Speaker, so do their employees, many of whom no longer have jobs.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, last Friday evening, Congress missed a golden opportunity to assist American workers affected by this tragedy. Now, it is time for this body to recognize the responsibility it has to these hard working Americans and provide them with relief. The Displaced Workers Relief Act of 2001 is the vehicle which Congress can use to help these workers at a time that they need it most. For

if we fail to act today, then we are neglecting the responsibility that we have to serve the very same people who put us here to represent them. It is essential that Congress move swiftly and pass this legislation immediately.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 348, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 26

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine Administration's perspective with regard to the new federal farm bill; immediately following, a hearing on the nominations of Elsa A. Murano, of Texas, to be Under Secretary for Food Safety, and Edward R. McPherson, of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of Department of Agriculture.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Administration's national money laundering strategy for 2001.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold closed hearings to examine critical energy infrastructure security and the energy industry's response to the events of September 11, 2001.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine psychological trauma and terrorism, focusing

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on assurance that Americans receive the support they need.

SD-430

OCTOBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the status of proposals for the transportation of natural gas from Alaska to markets in the lower forty-eight states and on proposed legislation that may be required to expedite the construction of a pipeline from Alaska.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation security issues.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the interaction of old-growth forest protection initiatives and national forest policy.

SD-366

OCTOBER 4

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine the security of critical governmental infrastructure.

SD-342

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the science and implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan including its effect on species restoration and timber availability.

SD-366