CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE 17881

September 25, 2001

Pushed aside for later consideration were many of the more difficult questions, providing assistance to over 100,000 airline employees laid off since the attacks, questioning what role the Federal Government should play to ensure greater airport security, or addressing the numerous collateral victims across the country directly related to air transport who have also been attacked and damaged, even though they live far away from ground zero.

These ripple effects need to be heard and addressed. The question is not merely whether the industry got too much money. When huge sums of taxpayer dollars are involved, we need to establish clearly what will be the value that the public receives in return. Is it going to receive an equity interest in return for an extraordinary investment? Or perhaps we could have purchased the noisy, polluting, inefficient airplanes and retired them from service.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that in the upcoming weeks and months, we know Congress will be asked to provide assistance to other interests and industries and clearly to help bolster our troubled economy. We would do well to seize this as an opportunity to be thoughtful in our approach and to capitalize on this renewed bipartisan spirit on Capitol Hill to craft legislation that addresses the complexity of the problems that adds real value and makes sufficient use of tax dollars.

This is not the time to throw money at problems without a sense of the trade-offs, without failing to include all impacted individuals and businesses or weakening labor, environmental or fiscal protections.

Above all, it is not a time to use the sense of crisis to push through questionable legislation, whatever the motivation. The American public deserves our best at the time of crisis, and we in Congress would do well to heed the open letter from taxpayers for common sense that calls for these very best efforts for our taxpayers, our citizens to make sure that we are equal to the challenge.

INTRODUCTION OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the most horrific attack in the United States history, we have seen many modern American heroes among us.

Today’s heroes are firefighters, police officers, chaplains, paramedics, steelworkers and those who have fought to prevent further destruction, and the families of the victims who display the strength of going on and living.

Their heroism is in the spirit of those who have gone before them such as Martin Luther King, Jr. John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Cesar Chavez, former founding president of the United Farm Workers.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce this bill that will honor one of our past presidents, Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers and passionate champion of human and civil rights. These values and beliefs and dedication to all working men and women, regardless of socioeconomic background, make him truly an American hero.

This bill will highlight his contributions by studying the ways to honor him within the National Park Service. It is a first step in honoring his tremendous accomplishments and the local communities where he placed his footprints.

Cesar Chavez was a humble man. Little did anyone know of the greatness he would bestow upon future generations. In his early childhood, Cesar was raised as a farm worker in Yuma, Arizona. Raised during the Great Depression, his family lost everything and were forced to join thousands of farm workers that wandered the southwest just to find work.

During his youth, the Chavez family migrated throughout the southwest working on various farms that fed our country. The young Cesar Chavez experienced firsthand the hardships and injustices of thousands of farm workers at that time. His home was barely livable and his school hardly fit to be called a schoolhouse.

Unfair labor practices, harassment, abuse, long hours, low pay, hazardous working conditions and limited educational opportunities kept many farm workers in an extremely difficult situation. He united many others who suffered similar atrocities with those who empathized with the struggle and became a part of the union movement, and back in 1952, he left the fields and joined the Community Service Organization. There he conducted voter registration drives and campaigns against racial and economic discrimination.

In 1962, he took that vast experience, his compassion, along with his brothers and sisters and developed a multiethnic struggle and started the National Farm Workers Association which today is known as the United Farm Workers of America.

The UFW, as it is known, succeeded in organizing the oppressed. They overcame this opposition through boycotts and pickets, and when all else failed, Cesar Chavez almost died by participating in a hunger strike.

Chavez was a student of Mahatma Gandhi’s nonviolent philosophies. He knew that he could not unite people through violent means but he could connect them by joining hands in peaceful demonstrations.

Since its inception the UFW has achieved incredible results throughout the country. Fair wages, better health care coverage, pension benefits, housing, pesticide regulations and countless other rights and privileges that protect all farm workers in the fields of the United States.

In the past, we have honored other heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement, through the national parks and land. The life of Cesar Chavez and his family provides an outstanding opportunity to interpret the history of agricultural labor in the United States through honoring him through this particular National Park Service.

Most importantly, this bill that I introduced today provides an excellent opportunity for us to honor a true American hero.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m. today.

PRAYER

The Reverend Walter L. Soloman, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of North Pratt, Birmingham, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, whose presence brings joy to every condition, and whose favor brings strength to every endeavor in life, we thank You for the blessings of this day. Thank You for life and for freedom. God, we acknowledge You as the ruler of our Nation.

Father, bless these representatives that You have given the task of leading this Nation in times like these. Father, lead them to do Your will. Allow them to uphold the traditions that have made our Nation great. We pray that they will be led with vision, integrity, structure, and accountability.

Father, bless those of this Nation who are hurting, those who are weak, those who are weary. Bless our President and his cabinet with wisdom, that together they may lead our Nation during this period of restoration.

Bless our Nation with favor, that we might do great things in Your name.
Keep us together as one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Pitts) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND WALTER L. SOLOMON, MT. MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTH PRATT, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, we welcome Reverend Walter Solomon to this Chamber. We are very appreciative of his leadership in Birmingham, Alabama, and indeed in this Nation. His work on the national level with the National Baptist Convention is extraordinary. Many opportunities have been afforded this young man and many things are expected from him.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in these difficult times, there will be men like Reverend Solomon, who will make the difference. There will be men in this Chamber who will perform to the utmost. We thank him for coming this morning. May God bless him and his family, and may God bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches from each side.

ORGAN DONATION, THE GIFT OF LIFE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the stinging attacks of September 11 remind us of the fragility of life. Life is fleeting, and no one knows it better than the nearly 60,000 patients waiting to receive transplant organs. Today alone, nine patients will die because a match was not found.

The Transplant Foundation at the University of Miami is dedicated to transplant research because there is no greater gift than the gift of life. On October 13, the Foundation will host its sixth annual That’s Life ball to raise funds for patient services and public education. I congratulate president Donnie Coker and president-elect Ivan Gomez of the Transplant Foundation of Miami. Also Ellie Compton, Jeffrey Barash, John Venezia, and surgeons Joshua Miller, Andreas Tsakis, and Si Pham.

I commend the That’s Life committee and members of all boards who devotedly educate our community on organ procurement.

Becoming an organ donor is as easy as checking a box on your driver’s license, and it could literally mean a life to a transplant patient. I have signed up as an organ donor, and I encourage all of my colleagues to leave a lasting legacy by giving the gift of life.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, all around America firefighters, policemen, and rescue workers prove to be heroes. What is troubling though, in Washington State, weeks before the attack, four firefighters died because of red tape and the Endangered Species Act. Officials there delayed using helicopters and rescue workers prove to be heroes. What is troubling though, in Washington State, weeks before the attack, four firefighters died because of red tape and the Endangered Species Act. Officials there delayed using helicopters.

I yield back all the cod liver oil in the bowels of these conservationists and bureaucratic leaders.

PROTECTING LIBERTY AND FREEDOM

(Ms. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to mourn the senseless loss of thousands of Americans, let us begin to ensure that the tragic events of September 11 never happen again.

This week we will consider legislation to begin providing our military men and women the resources they have needed for years. According to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the United States military needs “every penny” of the $343 billion provided in the fiscal year 2002 Defense budget, because in real terms the Defense budget has declined every year from 1985 until 1998. Our battle to combat terrorism will require dedication and commitment not only by our armed services and by the American public, but by Congress, this very Congress as well.

We need to ensure that our military has every tool and resource available to enable them to protect freedom and liberty. Therefore, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the defense authorization bill, a down payment for our military to enable them to meet the challenges of today and to begin preparing for those of tomorrow.

KEEP FAITH WITH OUR AIRLINES

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 weeks, we have all seen what has become of our airline industry. Airport concourses across the country seem more like ghost towns than centers of international commerce. The lounges are empty, the taxi stands and busses are vacant. Across the country, airports that should be at the center of municipal liveliness, now seem to be monuments to a bygone era.

The terrorist attacks left our nation reeling, but they did not change the fundamental soundness of any of our industries or the safety of future fliers. Over the past 2 weeks, our airline system has been hurt much more by perception than reality. It is our responsibility in this Congress not only to provide cash to the airlines, but also to provide reassurance and security to their passengers.

Airport and airplane safety should now become the domain of the Federal Government. Before September 11, security was provided by the airlines that usually contracted this service to the lowest bidder. Safety of the traveling public should be a basic function of government. We have the Coast Guard to protect boaters, we make sure the State Police monitor our highways, the skill of government-trained air traffic controllers has all but guaranteed the safety of our space. Why should security in airports and airplane cabins be any different?

COMING TOGETHER IN A TIME OF NEED

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a great deal of pride to salute the communities I represent, Palm Beach County, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, and Highlands, the 16th Congressional District in Florida.

I am so proud because every citizen of our community rallied together for this Nation, supporting those who are