

conference committee will soon meet to decide on the final funding level.

The events of Sept. 11 underscore the urgent need for adequate resources for diplomacy, which Powell has aptly termed "America's first line of offense." As our diplomats go about forging an international coalition against terrorism, it is vital for the Congress to give them the tools they need to succeed.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I wish to explain my absence today, which resulted in my being unable to vote my strong support for the Emergency Appropriations Supplemental bill. I have been in lower Manhattan, where I have observed what can only be described as wreckage from a war zone. More moving, and more powerful, than the images of shattered skyscrapers and exploding airplanes, though, is what else I have seen. In New York, I have seen bravery and heroism that has transformed by deep sadness into a far more profound sense of pride. This may be America's darkest hour, but in many ways it is also her finest.

Much has been said regarding the cowardly nature of these attacks, which were perpetrated largely against unarmed civilians. And yet September 11 was a day of heroes too, because of the heroism of everyday Americans. The terrorists struck the innocent because they thought they would be helpless, but the opposite proved to be true.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, speaking of the Battle of Iwo Jima during another great American crusade, said famously, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Such was the case on September 11. On that day, a fourth plane, perhaps intended for the White House or the Capitol itself, was brought down in the fields of Pennsylvania through the courageous deeds of determined Americans, ordinary Americans, who knew they were near the end, and that their story would never be told. Uncommon valor was a virtue demonstrated in abundance by the passengers on United Airlines Flight 93.

In New York I also saw the rubble which entombs the bodies of perhaps three hundred firemen. Many of these souls perished attempting to rescue others from the doomed World Trade Center, charging up stairways filled with people fleeing downward. Their sacrifice is astounding when one considers the fact that we lose an average of 100 firefighters each year nationwide. 300 were lost in one day, in one city block. We also lost a staggering number of police officers on Tuesday, individuals who gave their lives while serving and protecting the people of their city. We will not forget them.

In New York, I brought word that the House of Representatives, the people's house,

mourns with the rest of the nation. I brought word that help is on the way. Let it be heard by all of those who were touched by this tragedy that the United States Congress will give whatever aid is necessary to respond to this disaster. The Congress will also stand behind the President, united with one voice, as he pursues those responsible for this barbarity.

The terrorists underestimated the spirit of America on September 11. While they must have known of the devastating military retaliation that would follow inevitably from their actions, they clearly did not anticipate how the average American would react that day. Terrorism did not inspire terror but instead courage, selflessness, and sacrifice. Many thousands were unable to defend themselves. However, those who were able to act did so with magnificent valor. America drew strength from these people as we stared together into the abyss. During our darkest day, these Americans gave us hope.

MISSILE DEFENSE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, How ridiculous it would be to start leaving the front door unlocked just because burglars had recently found it easier to enter through the back window. When it comes to national defense, America will regret leaving its front door wide open.

Our military's preparation and emphasis on modern warfare proved insufficient in preventing last month's terrorist attacks. Appropriately, congress reacted by devoting greater resources to preventing future acts of terrorism and compensating for certain weaknesses. But the needs for modern defenses have not diminished. In fact, they have only become more acute.

The United States needs to broaden its response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. It is not enough to focus on stopping terrorist attacks using commercial airlines, or the buildup of air power in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, or covert operations in Afghanistan against Osama bin Laden. The United States must not neglect building a defense against ballistic missiles and the possibility of terrorists making an unauthorized launch of ballistic missiles. Instead of the loss of six thousand lives, the United States could lose six million.

Even the accidental launch of ballistic missiles is possible, for example, from Russian nuclear-missile-carrying submarines where the command and control of nuclear missiles is much less secure than for United States ballistic missile submarines. Russian land-based or road-mobile ICBMs are also less secure than American Weapon systems and could similarly be taken over by terrorists and launched. Nor are accidents unthinkable. As recently as January of 1995 a Norwegian sounding rocket activated Boris Yeltsin's portable nuclear command briefcase for initiating a retaliatory missile strike against the United States.

In the early 1990's the United States recognized the threat of an accidental or unauthorized (terrorist) launch of ballistic missiles in President Bush's plan for building a ballistic missile defense called Global Protection Against Limited strikes (GPALS). To protect the United States from accidental or terrorist launches or rogue nations like North Korea, President Bush proposed building a space-based defense including high-energy lasers and Brilliant Pebbles interceptors. Unfortunately, Congress under funded the program, and President Clinton discontinued it.

The United States faces serious international implications affecting its security. On September 11, the same day of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, China signed a memorandum of understanding to provide economic and technical aid to the Taliban. For two years, Chinese companies have assisted the Taliban in its efforts to improve its telephone system in Kabul.

Unfortunately, the Congress is considering using the war on terrorism as a excuse to cut its ballistic missile defense programs, especially space-based defenses, evidently unaware of how china has threatened it with long-range missiles and is engaged in an aggressive arms buildup. China's ambitious buildup includes its DF-31 ICBM and JL-2 SLBM. China's road-mobile DF-31, which has been flight-tested and forms part of its Long Wall Project aimed at the United States, its forces, and allies particularly in the Pacific.

The war on terrorism extends to Iraq, which has helped equip Osama bin Laden with chemical weapons. It extends to the war on drugs as drugs are used to finance terrorism. Much of the world's supply of heroin comes from Afghanistan. The war on terrorism also extends to U.S. relations with other countries and alliances, and the alliances china is forming to increase its international influence and control.

Beneath the war on terrorism is a reluctance of the United States to end its vulnerability to ballistic missiles, unwilling to confront their use by terrorists or in acts of war by countries such as China, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and others. Most importantly, the Congress, in passing the \$343 billion House Defense Authorization Bill, cut its space-based ballistic missile defense programs by \$400 million, which will continue to leave millions of Americans vulnerable to destruction by ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

If the United States is to succeed in its war against terrorism, it must act decisively against Osama bin Laden, confiscate his nuclear devices and destroy his chemical weapons. At the same time America must guard itself against ballistic missiles, realizing that ballistic missiles can be hijacked by terrorists. It must rebuild its military strength and intelligence. It must build the best ballistic missile defense it can by accelerating its Navy Theater Wide program, and emphasizing space-based defenses, including high-energy lasers, Brilliant Pebbles interceptors, and particle beams.

Thriving democracy, abundant liberty and glorious freedom are the legacy of our republic. These profound American qualities continue to be the envy of the world and the hope for humanity; and they only exist today because of God's blessings and America's commitment to a robust, and proficient defensive