

October 9, 2001

APEC Summit in China. The decision to invite President Chen would send a strong signal that China was committed to seeking peaceful resolutions to issues of mutual concern between the people of China and the people of Taiwan.

The key to resolving tension between China and Taiwan begins an open and wide ranging dialogue that encompasses all the issues important to both parties. China can take a critical step on the pathway of constructive engagement by inviting President Chen to attend the summit.

The United States seeks the fullest possible trading relationship with all APEC members. We want all nations to experience the benefits of globalization and sustained economic growth. We hope that China signals its support for this goal as well by reaching out to Taiwan and allowing President Chen to travel to Shanghai.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 42, which requires the American flags on all Federal office buildings to be lowered to half-staff each year in commemoration of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service held in Emmitsburg, Maryland, which honors our nation's firefighters who died in the line of duty.

During the recent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., firefighters did their jobs at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center buildings and emerged as true heroes, dedicated to saving and protecting lives. These are individuals who deserve our highest praise for their brave commitment to duty. September 11, 2001 was a tragic day that proved to the world that the resolve of our nation's firefighters is strong, as it is every day. The American firefighter goes to work every day and puts his or her life on the line for the protection of fellow citizens, whether the day is routine, or carries with it the face of national tragedy. There is no question that every fallen firefighter deserves this honor, and I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

I am proud to have close to thirty firefighters in my family. It is a deep rooted tradition and a strong dedication to service that has been in my family for years. As was evident to everyone across the world on September 11, firefighters are brothers and sisters bound together by duty. And on that tragic day, 343 New York Firefighters were lost, as well as one firefighter from New Jersey. Public service officers all over the world mourn the deaths of the firefighters who lost their lives in these attacks. Yet they know that tomorrow will bring a new day where people everywhere will count on firefighters to be ready to assist where they are needed most, ready to protect the lives of their fellow citizens.

This resolution is a great honor for our public service officers and a proud sentiment from a grateful Nation.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAFE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Securing American Families Effectively (SAFE) Act. The SAFE Act makes common-sense changes to federal law that will enhance the government's ability to prevent terrorist incidents. Unlike other proposals, my legislation in no way threatens the constitutional liberties of the American people. In fact, the only people threatened under the SAFE Act are terrorists.

The SAFE Act repeals regulations preventing agencies who deal with terrorism from sharing information among themselves. Currently, there are limits on sharing data with policy makers and there is a nearly unanimous agreement on lifting these restrictions. Removing the restrictions on data sharing is a good step which provides more—not less—openness and government transparency.

Hard as it may be to believe, there are actually existing directives in the law enforcement and intelligence communities which grant suspects "extra-legal" rights. These "special" rights could, and should, be clarified without changing existing law. This is why the SAFE Act adopts several of the administration's proposals to change the procedures regarding prosecutions of terrorism, such as eliminating the statute of limitations for terrorist offenses.

Perhaps the most significant change made to procedures is codifying that probable cause is the maximum standard for an investigation of terrorism. According to information received by my office some federal agencies actually have to meet a higher standard than the constitutional standard of probable cause in order to launch an investigation of suspected terrorists. It is absurd to make the FBI meet a higher standard to initiate an investigation of a terrorist than to initiate an investigation of an insider trader!

Finally, the SAFE Act drastically reduces immigration from countries on the State Department's terrorist list and countries which refuse to provide assistance in the battle against terrorists. Whatever one's feelings on other questions connected with immigration, I would hope we all could agree that the United States has an obligation to keep those who may be threats to the security of United States citizens outside the country. This is especially true considering that the programs I proposed limiting allow immigrants to take advantage of taxpayer-funded educational programs and provide other special privileges for immigrants from terrorist countries. It is the height of absurdity to allow immigrants from countries involved in terrorist activities against American citizens special preferences denied to immigrants from America's closest allies.

I would also hope that we could all agree that this is far preferable to systems of nationwide "surveillance," which could threaten the liberty of all immigrants and eventually all citizens. This is an instance where the interests of liberty and security coincide entirely.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in taking these common-

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sense steps to protecting the liberty and the security of the American people from terrorists by cosponsoring the Securing American Families Effectively (SAFE) Act.

SUPPORT OF AMERICAN MILITARY
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the American military and the American people. The terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 were inexcusably the acts of cowards," said Congresswoman JOHNSON. "The perpetrators of those acts have sought to pervert the Islamic faith and to use it as a justification, but in so doing, they have betrayed the very principles they purport to uphold. There is, and never will be, any religious justification for the killing of innocent people. Those who seek to convince the world that there is any sound reasoning behind the acts of terror committed is simply betraying their own insanity. America has every right, and should exercise every right, to protect its citizens.

I continue to encourage the use of diplomatic efforts to the greatest extent possible to win the war on terrorism. We should ensure that we communicate with our neighbors in the world community and develop alliances wherever those relationships will be positive. We should listen to people who think differently than we do. America does, however, have the right to defend itself and will not compromise the right to take whatever action is necessary to protect its people, militarily or otherwise. Clearly, there are people around the world who do not agree with all of America's international activities. In a civilized world, though, we deal with our differences through discussion. In a civilized world, we seek to change opinions. In a civilized world, we understand that the views of a small minority on the radical fringes of fundamentalism will never dictate the activities of the masses. America will never, ever bow to the wishes of terrorists. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to improving our democracy and making it more inclusive. We will continue to lead the world economy and find new ways to ensure that everyone participates in prosperity. Most importantly, our nation will continue to refine our model of freedom and hold that model up as a beacon for the rest of the world.

Like most of my colleagues, and most Americans, I support the actions of the President to take proactive steps to rid the world of the terrorist threat. We should continue to act against strategic targets and protect the lives of the innocent without fail. All of our constituents should understand that this will not be a quick process, and it will not be a perfect process, but it will ultimately result in a secure freedom for generations to come all over the world. While we should listen to the sentiments of other nations, we will never acquiesce to the demands of the sick forces of oppression.

Mr. Speaker, Osama bin Laden, and anyone else who thinks that they can divide the American people, or separate America from its