

Mr. Stevens that there was a very, very odd behavior to the spinal fluid, and what he was detecting was of quite serious concern. He sent the material to the lab for further investigation because it was unlike anything he had seen in recent time, and immediately called Dr. Malecki at the Palm Beach County Health Unit.

This is where the professional response team came in and played a pivotal and important role in determining the disease that he was suffering from, the bacteria that had infected him. Then, of course, Dr. Malecki immediately alerted CDC and the FBI. They moved expeditiously to our community and secured the premises, looked back at where Mr. Stevens had been the last several weeks, investigated thoroughly all the various ways he may have been contaminated, tested all of the individuals working at the company, American Media, and did so in a relatively short period of time.

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Let me underscore the reason why I want to speak today and it is to applaud not only the Palm Beach County Health Unit, applaud Dr. Larry Bush for immediately investigating the pathogen that he discovered and alerting the authorities rather than maybe choosing otherwise and not to bring this to a heightened sense of awareness, and for John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital that has been in existence since 1960, ably represented by Mr. Phil Robinson who is the administrator for immediately doing the right thing, and that is public disclosure, that is notifying authorities, that is bringing in experts, that is conducting a total surveillance of a situation.

Let me read to you from the Palm Beach Post, our local newspaper. The editorial today is "Keep Confidence High During Anthrax Hunt." "To reassure the public as the anthrax investigation continues in Palm Beach County, the public health system must be at its best. Since last week, the community has seen the benefit of that system's strengths and the need for officials to face questions, not avoid them."

It goes on to say, Dr. Malecki, a specialist in epidemiology, the branch of medicine that investigates the causes and control of disease, began investigating Wednesday. A day later, CDC tests confirmed anthrax bacteria, and CDC officials immediately dispatched a team to our community as well as the FBI. Since the anthrax strain was not naturally occurring, goes the report, it is reasonable to conclude that someone introduced it to into the American Media building. Thus, the system will be tested further as the questioning increases. Conflicting messages and attempts to limit what information public receives will cause public anxiety.

That is where I want to stop and urge all people involved with this, and I

have no reason to doubt that they are forthcoming. But we need to reassure the public every step of this investigation what we are learning. Every likely contaminant that he may have come in contact with to bring into perspective what may be at stake here. Yes, this is a scary time for many; but it is no reason for panic because the professionals, the health teams, the FBI and others are down on the ground working.

What I would like to finish with in conclusion is the last paragraph. In fact, the system is working with a proper combination of urgency and responsibility. Some of the best medical minds at all levels of government are working around the clock to find out what happened and who did it. Let me repeat, some of the best medical minds at all levels of government are working around the clock to find out what happened and who did it.

Given the stakes and the jittery public mood, this is the public health system the public should see. I salute Dr. Malecki. I salute the team of professionals who are on the ground. I thank Secretary Thompson and his agencies at HHS for keeping me briefed on this urgent matter. I thank the FBI and others for their detailed and thorough investigation of this scene to reassure our community that we are on top of this situation and we will determine who caused this and when and how it was delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues as well for their support during the past several weeks for all of the victims of terror, for their support of the President and particularly his recent directive urging a little bit of secrecy, if you will, in the plans as he is outlining them so we do not have a rush to judgment nor a release of information that could harm some of our personnel as they enter into engagement in these battles.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRENSHAW). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and applaud the 23

million people of Taiwan for their support of the United States in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack on our country.

From the beginning, Taiwan's message for United States and the world has been clear. Taiwan condemned terrorism and especially those perpetrators who killed thousands of innocent people and disrupted the lives of million of people worldwide.

Taiwan has stood with the United States in its love for democracy and freedom. The strength of our nations to overcome disasters and terror has never been clearer.

The terrorists on September 11 hoped to destabilize our economy and strike fear in those countries that believe in the Democratic principals of freedom and peace. They did not succeed and will not succeed because of friends like Taiwan. On this day, I strongly believe that Taiwan needs a greater international presence. I support Taiwan's aspirations to be an active member in the international community. It has all the qualifications: a sound political system, a much admired economy, and a genuine desire to maintain peace and stability in East Asia and the world.

With a United Nations membership, Taiwan will become a very useful player, contributing its finances and ideas to combat nuclear proliferation, environmental abuses, human rights violations, and worldwide terrorism. I urge my colleagues to give all their support to Taiwan's bid to become a member of the United Nations and other key international organizations. Taiwan is worthy and a faithful friend of the United States of America.

So, again, I urge all my colleagues to join with me in commending and recognizing Taiwan for their friendship and the strong relationship that exists between our two countries.

POTENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, on September 11 our Nation was forced to begin to think of the unthinkable. As we watched the World Trade Center collapse and the attack on the Pentagon, our world was changed. It is not a pleasant thing to begin to ponder such consequences and situations, but ponder them I am afraid we must.

Had the fourth airplane succeeded in striking this great building while we were in session or were a terrorist organization to detonate a nuclear weapon during a joint session of the Congress, I am concerned that we could precipitate not only great loss of life but a constitutional crisis.

Under the United States Constitution which we are all sworn to uphold and

defend, House Members can only be replaced by direct election. In the event of a national crisis, we would be faced with a situation where our government would lack the counsel and wisdom of this, of this very body until we could be replaced by direct and special elections which could take weeks and possibly even months. Mr. Speaker, this is not a condition we want to exist under.

Though it is difficult to contemplate that scenario, we must contemplate it, which is why I am proposing and will introduce this week an amendment, an amendment to the Constitution which provides for the following scenario: in the event that one quarter or more of the Members of this body should be unable to fulfill their duties due to death or disability or disappearance and presumed death, under that circumstance the Governors of the States from which the Members were absent would be empowered to appoint replacements within 7 days of the loss of the initial Member and to serve until such time as a special election within 90 days will provide for replacement under direct election conducted by the States.

It is important that we do this. It is important that we do this so our own citizenry has confidence that even if we were to perish as individuals and even if this building were to be lost, our government and our Constitution would be preserved.

It is important that we do this so our adversaries know that even if they succeed in taking all our lives, the torch of liberty that we hold so dear, the Constitution that we are sworn to defend and uphold will persevere.

This is not a mere thing to contemplate, but I consider it comparable to an unlocked door on the cabinet of the Constitution. We cannot continue to leave that door unlocked. I urge this body, difficult though it may be, complex though it may be, to act with the greatest prudence and expedition in this regard.

Every day that we go without closing this potential gap is a day of vulnerability to our Constitution and to our form of government. I encourage this body to consider my amendment, to join together in reviewing the issues it raises, and to pass as expeditiously as possible some form, be it my amendment or some alternative, that will correct this problem.

Further, I urge this body to address potential ambiguities in the 25th amendment which addresses the line of succession for the line of Presidency and, furthermore, to address questions relating to where the Congress would convene and how it would convene in the events that catastrophic circumstances were to take the lives of our membership.

Finally, I hope State legislatures will contemplate a similar potential scenario within their own structures and implement measures to rapidly replace

the governors should that be necessary and to reconstruct their own State legislatures.

I will vigorously pursue this as I think frankly it is one of the single most important things this body can occupy itself with in the coming weeks. I want to thank the Office of the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives who have provided outstanding counsel on this issue, along with representatives from the Congressional Research Service, from the Committee on the Judiciary, and my own staff member, Ryan Hedgepath.

MISSILE DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, first of all in regards to my colleague before he leaves the House floor, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) I want to tell the gentleman he is exactly on point.

As the gentleman from Washington knows, we probably came within 30 minutes of a plane hitting this facility or the following day we had an evacuation notice of the Capitol. There is an interesting article that I just read about an hour ago in regards to executive replacement and how every corporation is being derelict in its duty to its shareholders if they do not have some type of transition plan for the chief executive. It talked about how many chief executives died unexpectedly last year and what it did to the corporations, including Atlas Corporation whose president died in a plane crash in the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think many of us, including myself, were aware that there was no provision in place in light of a tragedy like this. Now because of this tragedy I think the gentleman has very competently brought up the issue that we better fill in that gap. I hope it never happens, but the fact is it might and we need to have something so that the beat goes on, as our friend, Sonny Bono, used to say. The beat can go on and that is what we need.

I compliment the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS) and I look forward to working with him on this.

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I am back here again. I know in the news recently the horrible, horrible tragedy that our Nation suffered and there are a couple of things I want to visit about today.

First of all, I just returned from NATO meetings in Ottawa, Canada. I found those meetings very interesting. I want to go into some depth about the

NATO meetings, our allies, the commitment from our allies and so on and so forth. I then want to talk about missile defense.

It is time we got serious about missile defense in this country. I want to point out, although it has been buried in the news, about a week ago there was an accidental launch of a missile. It came somewhere from the Ukrainian military. They had no intention of that missile shooting down a passenger airliner and that is exactly what happened. That missile was not intentionally launched. It was launched by accident.

That points out very clearly that if for nothing else, we should have a missile defense system in place in this country in case of an accidental launch of a nuclear weapon or a bio-weapon against this country if it were launched accidentally. We need a defense. So I intend to go into some depth of why missile defense is very applicable under today's times, why it is the responsibilities of us in our leadership roles for future generations as well as the current generations to put missile defense into place for the security of this Nation.

□ 1430

It is absolutely essential.

Let me begin, however, with my remarks on NATO. I had the privilege, I have had the privilege, under the gentleman from Nebraska (Chairman BEREUTER) of serving on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. This week we had our meeting in Ottawa, Canada. We were there, in fact, when the United States deployed its response in Afghanistan to the terrible acts of September 11.

I can tell the Members that in the past in these types of meetings, I appreciate our allies, but I am not sure all of them have been soundly behind the United States. Whatever doubts I had were put on the back burner as a result of this meeting. As many Members know, for the first time in 50 years, the first time in the history of NATO, NATO within a few hours activated Article V. Article V simply says that an attack against one NATO country is an attack against all NATO countries.

As soon as NATO was advised of the attack that was occurring, simultaneously to the advisement in the United States of America, they began immediately to activate Article V. They had a completely unanimous approval of activating Article V.

In Canada, it was very interesting, whether it was the Canadians, who have always been good allies to our north, sure, we have some minor scraps here and there, but keep in mind that the Canadian border, and Canada, by the way, is the second largest country in the world, that the Canadian border between Canada and the United States