

the other Chamber, but let me show you exactly what is involved in our plan.

It covers everything in airport security, from drop-off to transportation to terminal security to tarmac security, and it does so to ensure the American public that they are safe when they board aircraft.

There is going to be a fight and debate today about who should they be, Federal employees or law enforcement employees. My view is this: let us make it safe. In Palm Beach County, the sheriff department's deputized law enforcement officers are well-equipped to, in fact, be the persons to intervene in the baggage screening area. I would welcome that. I would be delighted to have that.

I wish their side would recognize that local flexibility is vitally important in securing our air space. Support President Bush today in his call for aviation security. Support the Young-Mica bill. You will be pleased with the results of passage of that legislation.

PROVIDING FEDERAL AVIATION SECURITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, those who oppose the aviation security bill which the other body passed 100 to 0 are arguing that the bill would create yet another public employee union. Those who preach the evils of public employees unions ought to remember one thing: the heroes of the World Trade Center disaster, the policemen, the firefighters, were union members, and about 400 of them lost their lives rescuing others.

Public employees do a great job protecting us here in the Capitol, and they can do a great job protecting our constituents at airports. We are at war. Polarizing a debate by criticizing working men and women who devote their lives to serving the public is exactly what we do not need to do. Terrorists look for weak spots. They do not care about unions either.

We cannot wait any longer for airport aviation security. Pass the Senate bill.

MAKING AIRPORTS SAFER

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, simply making an airport baggage and passenger screener a Federal employee will not make airports safer. Tougher standards and strict Federal oversight will make airports safer; and that is exactly what this act does, the one we have up today.

The American public needs to regain its confidence in flying. How will they do that if we do not have the ability to discipline or remove screeners who are not performing? How will they regain confidence if we cannot equip personnel with superior technology? And how will they regain that confidence if qualified retired Federal workers, such as Federal marshals, are unable to be hired because they will have to sacrifice their retirement benefits and their health care benefits?

The answer is they will not.

The Secure Transportation for America Act gives the administration the flexibility that they need to have the best possible employees screening passengers and baggage. The American people deserve no less.

CHINA AND PAKISTAN HELP TALIBAN

(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, a Taliban commander said, "China is secretly helping our Taliban government." China has united.

In addition, news reports say that Pakistan is giving weapons to the Taliban. Pakistan has united.

Unbelievable here. China gets \$100 billion a year in trade surplus from Uncle Sam, and Pakistan is now asking for foreign aid.

Beam me up.

I say it is time for China and Pakistan to stop their tricks and cheating here. I yield back the forked tongues of the lies coming out of China and Pakistan, who are subverting our mission against these terrorists.

SUPPORT SECURE TRANSPORTATION ACT FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Secure Transportation for America Act. The Good Book tells us if we owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

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I rise today to honor the President of the United States of America and his vision for airport security. As the gentleman from Florida indicated, it is a vision supported by his Transportation Secretary, who chaired the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a Democrat in this very institution, and the President's vision is the right vision.

As Robert Poole of the Public Policy Institute wrote recently, while all parts of airports need improving, the

biggest hole is to secure areas. The truth is that the Senate bill does absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, to control access to secure areas of airport. Caterers, cleaners, refuelers and others who lack security background checks at the Nation's airports are not addressed in the substitute bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to honor the President of the United States, respect his vision for airport security and vote yes on H.R. 3150.

OVERHAULING THE AVIATION SECURITY BILL

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been 7 weeks and 2 days since the terrorist attacks, 2 weeks since the Senate passed the aviation security bill 100 to 0. Finally, we can overhaul this failed system. There are three private foreign-owned firms that provide security at most U.S. airports. Their performance is miserable. One is under indictment for having violated its parole from its last criminal conviction.

Now we are going to have a choice today. We could pass the Senate bill and have a bill on the President's desk tonight and begin an overhaul, a major change, put those people out of business, or we can adopt the Republican manager's amendments, which will not only continue these failed private firms and convicted felons in business, it will reward them amazingly with an exemption from liability for past actions.

Yesterday was Halloween, but today the Republican leaders are trying one last trick and treat on the American public. Reject the private firms that have failed us so miserably. Put Federal law enforcement in the airports and make the traveling public safe.

FEDERALIZING AIRPORT EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the characteristics of an aviation security bill we must not lose focus of our responsibility to the flying public. Airline passengers must feel safe before they return en masse to the skies. Nothing will guarantee their safety until all items placed on an aircraft are thoroughly screened by skilled professionals using the best available technology. As we implement new changes to be aviation security, we must ensure that all baggage entering the plane is properly screened.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman