

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Madam President.

CONDOLENCES TO NEW YORKERS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise for a moment to bring the best wishes and heartfelt condolences again to our colleagues from New York for this additional tragedy that has befallen them. All of my friends and family and the citizens of Michigan have their hearts going out to you. There has been such a difficult time for New York, as well as the entire country.

AIRLINE SECURITY AND THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I would like to share an experience this evening and commend a group of individuals who were involved in U.S. Airways Flight 969 last evening where I was a passenger going from Pittsburgh to National Airport. It was diverted into Dulles, as many of us have heard. There was a situation where someone stood up in explicit contradiction to the words from the pilot about what was to be done under national policy. Once you are within 30 minutes of Reagan National Airport, passengers are not under any circumstances to leave their seats. Unfortunately, this individual did and headed towards what appeared to be the cockpit.

I commend the air marshals who were on that flight. They responded with professionalism. They responded quickly with what appeared to be a threat to those of us who were on the flight.

I commend the pilot on U.S. Airways Flight 969 who responded with professionalism. He calmed what obviously was a potentially very confusing situation and what could have been great panic. This was the result of the pilot, the flight attendants, and the crew.

I would like to give my thanks and congratulations to everyone who was involved in this incident with the way they conducted themselves.

I was thinking as I sat in the 11th row and the B seat that this is an example of what could happen with national law enforcement officials professionally trained to do our airline security. It reaffirmed my commitment to the belief that we need to do what this Senate did 100 to 0, which is to pass a law that says those who look at the baggage and those who do the security checks of our carry-ons are professionally trained Federal law enforcement officials. I call on my colleagues to bring that bill back from the conference committee with that provision in it.

I don't believe there was a person on that plane last night who was not grateful for the fact that we had Federal law enforcement officials trained to protect the people on that plane; they responded professionally as Federal law enforcement officials.

Every day we are grateful to receive that kind of protection from our Capitol Police as well, and I think our families deserve to have that.

I encourage my colleagues to reflect on what is best for all Americans, and not what is best for the interests of one party or the other.

I can say with great confidence—and it was reaffirmed last night for me—that having Federal law enforcement officials who are trained both on the ground checking the baggage as well as on our airplanes is in the interests of all of our families.

I find it interesting now as we are grappling as a body of the Senate and the House and coming together as Americans to support the President; this is our team on the field. We are the team of Americans. The coach is the President, and we are all there together. We are supporting the President. We want him to be successful. We all need to be successful in fighting these terrorist attacks and making sure that our people are safe.

I think it is also important and it is our responsibility to be able to disagree about a particular play or a particular strategy when the team is on the field.

In this particular case, I urge the President to join us in embracing the principle that we should have Federal law enforcement security at every level of airport and airline security.

I also ask our colleagues to focus now as we stimulate this economy and put money back into people's pockets as well as homeland security. The time is now to act. We know that workers need assistance. We know the economy needs stimulus. The best way to do both of those is to provide relief to workers who need it the most. Economists across the country agree that providing relief to low- and moderate-income families is one of the most successful ways to stimulate the economy. Why? They will immediately take those dollars and go to the grocery store. They will buy shoes for their children who go to school. In Michigan they will go buy a winter coat. They may buy a new car, which we would also be very happy about in the State of Michigan.

People will turn those dollars around because they need to be able to live and to be able to care for their families. Studies have shown that every \$1 invested in unemployment insurance for those who have lost their jobs because of September 11 or other downturns in the economy generates \$2.15 in gross domestic product. Directly, we know that \$1 generates \$2.15.

So I hope this week we will embrace what the Democrats have proposed to stimulate this economy, to put money back in people's pockets, who will then use it to care for their families, to spend in the economy, and that we will invest in those critical homeland security measures that are absolutely necessary for us to move forward as a country.

This is an opportunity to get it right. This is an opportunity for us to take action, action to keep us safe in airports and on airlines, action to keep us safe whether it relates to bioterrorism or food safety or other critical measures that have been proposed for action by the Democratic caucus, and action as it relates to focusing on those who are unemployed and those who are low- and moderate-income families who need to have money in their pocket to help stimulate this economy.

The time to act is now. I call on my colleagues, this week, to put that at the top of the agenda for both of those items.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I would like to speak a little about the stimulus economic recovery bill that is now pending, particularly from the point of view of what the provisions are that affect small business.

In the aftermath of September 11, it became clear that our economy generally was going to suffer. I remember reading an article. It was kind of stunning in a certain aspect; that is, if the terrorists were aiming the planes at the "masters of the universe"—New York bond traders, and so forth—it did wreak tremendous devastation and tragedy for so many people who do trade in securities, but to an even greater degree it has affected the economic livelihood of small businesses, shop owners, different communities in the city of New York. It is middle-income and lower-income people, who live in New York and across the country, who are hurt the most, who are hurt more than higher income people.

The loss of life is beyond description. But, in addition, the economic devastation has hit small business more than it has hit big business. And small businesspeople have a much harder time adjusting than do big businesses. So for that reason, because we have limited resources, we want to make