

their skills to get a decent job. As someone who has spent over 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, I also know that educational benefits are one of the most popular tools we use to retain and keep quality personnel in military. It is critically important that we preserve and protect the Montgomery GI Bill benefits that are offered to our service members.

Under the provisions of this legislation, those military personnel who are using their Montgomery GI Bill benefits and who are called up for Operation Enduring Freedom will have their monthly benefits restored.

Active duty service members, reservists, guard personnel and veterans enrolled in the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program, and the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program, will also be included within this legislation.

Service members will regain essential time to attend school by extending their Montgomery GI Bill date by the time of their mobilization tour of duty, plus four months, to the 10-year period of eligibility they already have. Congress provided similar relief during the War in the Gulf.

I urge my colleagues to support those patriotic service men and women who are responding to the call of duty at this challenging time. Preserve and protect their educational benefits while they are off fighting international terrorists who have viciously attacked our Nation. Pray that they get back safely and help them get back to school when they do return.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I express my strong support for H.R. 3240, the Reservists Education Protection Act of 2001.

We are facing a situation in which many of the men and women, currently pursuing their education with VA educational benefits, may need to leave school before the academic term is completed when they are called to serve in the war against terrorism. As many as 8,000 to 10,000 of the reservists, now being called up, will have no reinstatement of their educational benefits for classes that were interrupted.

This legislation will restore their entitlement for benefits and allow them to complete their education which has been interrupted by our fight against terrorism.

We are in a new type of war, one which seeks to deter those who seemingly have no moral compass and who are willing to kill innocent civilians in great numbers. Now, more than ever, we need to support our brave soldiers who are putting their lives on hold to protect our nation, and indeed, to protect the world. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3240!

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FAST TRACK PROFITEERING

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of September 11, some gas stations in northeast Ohio and across the country raised the price of gas to \$4, \$5, even \$6 a gallon. Many people called that war profiteering.

Unfortunately over the last 9 weeks or so, something not much different has occurred here on Capitol Hill. You might call it political profiteering.

First, Congress passed a bailout bill giving the airline industry \$15 billion in cash and loan guarantees with virtually no strings attached: no sacrifices for the airline executives, no assistance for the 100,000 unemployed airline workers, no money for any kind of airline safety.

Then 3 weeks ago, in the name of stimulating the economy, this Chamber passed new tax cuts and accelerated others for the richest people and companies in America. Again, very little was included in the plan for laid-off workers and those among us who needed assistance the most.

Then a couple of weeks ago, political profiteering reached new heights. That week, the Bush administration's trade representative, Bob Zoellick, sought to link the trade negotiating authority known as Fast Track to our Nation's antiterrorism efforts. He went further by claiming that those of us who oppose Fast Track are a bit indifferent to terrorism and perhaps unpatriotic. According to Mr. Zoellick, free trade is the way to combat terrorism around the world; and if you do not support it, then you do not support real American values.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Fast Track and free trade do not embody American values as well as our trade representative has indicated. In Qatar, where this week's World Trade Organization ministerial is being held, the people do not have freedom of speech, they do not have freedom of assembly, they do not have freedom of religion, freedom of association, and they do not have free elections. Qatar's human rights record may not be in line with American values, but it is familiar territory to many of corporate America's trading partners.

Supporters of Fast Track say interaction with the developing world spreads democracy, but as we engage developing countries in trade and investment, democratic countries are losing ground to dictatorships and to

authoritarian developing countries. Democratic India is less desirable for Western investors than authoritarian China. Democratic Taiwan is losing out to autocratic Indonesia. In 1989, 57 percent of developing country exports in the manufacturing sector came from democracies. Since then, exports from democracies fell to 22 percent. Fully 65 percent of developing country exports come from totalitarian/authoritarian nations. The fact is Western investors want to go to places like China and Indonesia, which are dictatorships, because they have pliable work forces, they have authoritarian governments, and they are very predictable for Western businesses. Western corporations want to invest in countries that have poor or nonexistent environmental standards, that have below poverty wages, that have no worker benefits, that have no opportunities to bargain collectively.

As American investment moves to those dictatorships where they do not have the values that we have, American working families lose out. Our trade agreements go to great lengths to protect investors and protect property rights; but they do nothing to protect workers in this country or in developing countries, and they do little to protect the environment.

Mr. Zoellick's call for an absolute trade negotiating authority in the name of patriotism must be recognized for what it is, pure and simple political profiteering. We have all watched with pride the indomitable spirit of working Americans in response to the events of September 11. The right response for us to defend the jobs and values of these same Americans is a "no" vote on trade promotion authority.

AIRLINE SAFETY AND COAST GUARD PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's plane crash was another devastating blow to the residents of New York and the citizens of this great Nation. Although we do not know the cause yet, I have been hearing it called a "routine plane crash." I want to repeat that, a routine plane crash. God help us all if we ever accept a plane crash as routine.

I was in New York yesterday, and I had to take the train back to Washington. In fact, I chose to take the train back to Washington. I was talking to the train conductor who said that U.S. lawmakers have failed the American public. This is what our citizens think of this House and this Congress.

How many planes must go down before we truly deal with safety? Not just who screens the baggage but the safety