

Gayle exemplifies the ideals upon which the Women's Chamber was founded, an outstanding female professional who leads by example.

Gayle Bainbridge will excel as President-elect of the Women's Chamber and will motivate young women to strive, to achieve, and to become successful in the business arena.

AIRLINE SECURITY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a strong airline security bill that federalizes airline screeners. Airline security is a national issue. Eight weeks have passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center, and we still do not have a sound airline security bill. How much longer do we have to wait?

We have heard numerous reports of passengers with knives and guns passing security checkpoints supervised by the companies that Republicans want to keep overseeing our security. These private companies' only interest is profit, not national security. Current baggage screeners are poorly paid, lack at times proper training and suffer from high turnover rates. Federalization means less employee turnover, more experience and better wages.

Those who protect our skies should be treated with the respect that their job demands. That respect means higher wages, more training and better qualified individuals. All of these objectives can be achieved by federalization of the airline security. Federalization means universal standards.

We need a sound airport security bill that would give the government the responsibility of overseeing safety. In a recent Washington poll, 82 percent of the public support federalizing airport security.

PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY BY ASSURING OUR ENERGY SUPPLY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Bush decided to refill our national strategic petroleum reserves to full capacity. This is very critical and very important and I applaud his decision. During this time of war, the last thing that our Nation needs to worry about is its energy supply. Obviously our President has the foresight to try to prevent a domestic energy shortage as we saw last year, and so did this Chamber and this House when we passed the Energy Security Act months ago. Yet the Democratic leadership in that other body refuses to act on this critical issue.

A majority of our energy supply comes from one world region, the Middle East. According to the Energy Department, the United States increased its oil imports between 1973 and 1996 by 40 percent. During these times of war, concentrating oil imports from any one region places America's energy and economic security at great risk.

It is time to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. It is time for the Democratic leadership in the other body to act and pass the Energy Security Act so it can be signed into law.

AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago New York suffered another tragedy in the skies, another day of mayhem, carnage, fire and tears. As we pray for the families of the victims, Americans are again doubting whether it is safe to fly. We need to pass a strong airport security bill quickly. We have the best military in the world, the best law enforcement agencies, the best firefighters and police officers and world-class security right here at the Capitol. All of these people are public employees and many of them are union members.

When we get serious about protecting our people, we put government employees on the front lines. It is time to get serious about airport security. That means x-raying every single bag that goes into the belly of an airplane, and it means replacing today's flawed system with the full resources, manpower and focus of the Federal Government.

Federalize airport security.

FREEDOM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today in Kabul and other cities in northern Afghanistan, men are shaving off their beards. Women are going outside unescorted by male relatives, and without wearing burqas to cover themselves head to toe. Children are playing music on their tape recorders. These may seem like minor things, but they are minor things that the Afghan people have been denied for too long.

We need to remind ourselves that our freedoms are not free. They were won by patriots who sometimes gave their lives. I am talking about the freedom to worship according to your beliefs. If you do that in Afghanistan, you are put to death. I am talking about the freedom of the press. If you try to publish a newspaper in Iraq, you are thrown in jail, never to return. I am talking about the freedom of assembly. If you try to organize a political rally

in North Korea, you will wake up in a concentration camp.

We are truly blessed in this country and those freedoms are worth defending. That is why we are at war, for freedom.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS AIRLINE SECURITY AND AN ECONOMIC STIMULATION BILL

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that this Congress is becoming less and less relevant to the important concerns of people all across our country. Last month, a record number of Americans lost their jobs. Yet a program to stimulate the national economy is still hanging fire here while people try to profiteer by providing huge tax cuts for the wealthy while providing no help for people who are out of work.

The same thing is true with airline security. We have a bill that has been in conference now for weeks. It is more than 2 months since the disaster struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Yet we have no program to provide security for the Americans who are traveling by air across our country and internationally.

It is time this Congress got to work and produced airline security and a proper economic stimulation bill. These are the things that are of most concern to the American people.

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PROVIDE JOBS, NOT WELFARE

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, it is true; there are hundreds, there are thousands, of good and decent people who are losing their jobs across the Lehigh Valley that I represent, certainly across Pennsylvania and across America. These losses are hitting our families, our neighbors, our friends. No one is immune to this risk.

The fact is, the people that I represent do not want to know how long they can stay out of work; they want to know how quickly they can get back to work. And it is our responsibility to have policy that helps to create an environment of opportunity so they can get back to work, because that is what they want, and that means lowering the huge tax barrier that stands between employers and employees, creating that opportunity to create those new jobs.

In this House we passed an economic stimulus bill that moves in that direction of creating more job opportunities, but the Democratic majority leader in the other chamber refuses to

bring a bill to the floor. That chamber insists on dicking and dithering and bickering and political squabbling. They are talking about a so-called stimulus bill that will do nothing but line the pork-barrel politics and try to help out their own political futures and do nothing for creating jobs.

It is long past time to have that type of squabbling. It time to lower the tax barrier and give people the opportunity to get back to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded to avoid personal references to individual Members of the other body.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted today to join with my Republican colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), from the adjoining Congressional district to me, to start what we hope will be a bipartisan effort to pay tribute to all the victims of the events of September 11.

Here is the way we hope this will work: We want to try to set aside five 1-minutes each day and recruit our colleagues to join with us, to just come and make 1-minute statements about the victims of the events of September 11. If this starts to catch on, then perhaps we will come and try to do a bigger 1 hour special order, or, perhaps before the event is over, try to do a major day of tribute to the victims of the events of September 11.

I would like to invite my colleagues to join with us in this effort. We will provide the materials and information to our colleagues to make this possible, and hope that they will join us in this effort to pay tribute to those victims of the September 11 events.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1-minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague and friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) has just said, we hope to be able to tell you something about these people who lost their lives.

September 11 will be forever etched in the psyche of the American people, and we cannot change that. But what we can change and tell you about is the

good that came out of the event and all the new American heroes that we have, people who totally did things at that time that normally we do not do in our everyday lives. But when they were called upon, they did what was right.

So we hope this does catch on, that other people will be willing to join us in sharing all the good that came from that, and let you know how tremendous these people were that lost their lives on September 11.

AIRLINE SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, aviation security is matter of national security, protecting our skies is a matter of national defense, and we should not leave national security to the private companies that contract to the lowest bidder.

The current system is broken. Contracting to the lowest bidder has created a workforce that suffers from high turnover rates, from low pay and low morale. Baggage screeners should be a highly skilled, highly trained workforce that serves the frontline for our national defense.

There is a broad, bipartisan support of this particular effort. The Washington Post poll showed 82 percent of Americans support Federal Government taking over the airport screening. The Airport Pilots Association endorsed this. The Association of Flight Attendants endorsed this. The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed federalization. The Senate also endorses it, by 100 to zero. 100 Senators voted in favor of it.

The U.S. should be a leader in airline security. The size and complexity of our system requires a Federal workforce that is professional, well-trained and well-paid. We ask that we reconsider, and ask the House to pass the bill and federalize them as quickly as possible.

PASS AIRLINE SECURITY MEASURE REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT

(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, as the smoke rises from Rockaway in Queens, New York, we grieve with those who grieve and mourn with those who mourn. Questions remain about the cause, and yet Congressional action on airport security languishes, mired as it is in the politics of the moment.

As the gentlewoman from New York City who has lost friends in the last week said so eloquently, it is time, Mr. Speaker, to get serious. To get serious

about airport security we need only do one thing, and that is listen to the President of the United States and his National Security team and give them the airport security measures and protocols that they have requested, which happen to be the version that passed in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of the conference committee to be strong and courageous and do the work; that before we go home to give thanks, we would give the American people an airport security bill that will work and that they so richly deserve.

AVIATION SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1-minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, just last week an individual breached several security checkpoints at Chicago's O'Hare Airport with six knives, a stun gun and a can of mace. How many more examples like this will be reported in the press before we pass comprehensive airline security legislation making the security of the flying public a function of Federal law enforcement.

Why not? As the aviation security conferees meet to work out an agreement, I urge them to adopt the Senate bill. It passed 100 to 0, and it makes airline security the function of Federal, professionally-trained law enforcement officials.

The Border Patrol, FBI, INS and Customs Service are all Federal agencies that exist to protect the public. Capitol Police are Federal employees. They protect all of us. Why should we settle for anything less for the traveling public?

Aviation security is national security. It should not be left to private companies who contract with the lowest bidder who have been in violation of law.

As we quickly approach Thanksgiving, the busiest travel time of the year, let us do the right thing. Let us pass an airline security bill that makes airport security a critical component of our national security and a function of Federal law enforcement.

PASS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, in today's increasingly global world, we have two choices: We can lead, or we can follow. Historically, the United States has led the race for global competitiveness, and free and fair trade has been a significant factor in our economic growth.