

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, November 16, 2001

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of nations and Prince of peace, we pray today for Afghanistan.

Merciful God, throughout the ages You bring good news to the poor and raise up the lowly who turn to You with religious faith. We rejoice with the liberation of the Afghan people who have not been humiliated but lifted up to new aspirations of peace and security. Guide the many factions within this country, that a strong coalition may bring law and order to suffering people. As You do here, so in Afghanistan raise up true leadership that looks not to positioning or power, but to uniting people in doing what is right and what is timely for all.

We thank You for the safe release of those who were held captive. We are one with those who never forgot them in prayer and ask Your just reward for those who risked their lives in their escape.

Lord, our refuge and defense, continue to protect and guide our military forces as they seek to create a future for people in the wake of bringing terrorists to justice. You have opened our eyes by compassion to this rugged terrain and the strengthening independence of the Afghan people. Let us never forget them in the winter of this war. Match freedom with food and policing with human understanding, for You alone measure our success and our life now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OSBORNE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute periods.

UNIFORM AVIATION SECURITY IS IMPORTANT FOR RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I have been surprised and amazed that nearly all the debate over airport security has focused on one issue, and that is the federalization of airport screening personnel.

In my mind, three critical issues have been largely ignored. These issues are probably more important than any other.

Number one, the Senate bill applied to only 142 of the largest airports in the country. Hundreds of airports were not regulated. In the State of Nebraska only one airport would have been regulated under that bill. The compromise bill applies to all airports in the United States regarding standards and personnel.

Second, the Senate bill did not address the screening of checked baggage. The compromise bill requires 100 percent screening of all checked baggage.

Third, the Senate bill did not regulate baggage handlers, caterers and mechanics. The compromise bill does.

Closing these loopholes has been critical. The American public will be much safer due to these changes. I think it is very important that we pass this bill.

FOOD SAFETY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I suspect that a lot of us become a little impatient in light of the terrorist

threat, and I rise this morning with a little impatience to scold the United States Department of Agriculture, maybe request that they give consideration to a resolution that 30 of us introduced. That resolution, which is H. Con. Res. 258, called for more cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture and HHS in the food inspection at our borders, the food products coming into the United States. There is a lot of overlap. We need better cooperation.

If it is an open-face sandwich, one agency inspects it. If it is two slices of bread, another agency inspects it. If it is a burrito with cheese, then it is inspected by HHS. If it is a burrito with meat, then it is inspected by USDA. At this time we need better cooperation. I would request that USDA evaluate this and either act to make the difference or come up with support for this resolution.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday an article ran in a Virginia paper revealing serious security breaches at a Richmond City drinking water plant. A reporter was able to walk right through the front gate and wander the site for an hour each day for a week. He and a photographer had access to the water supply and the potentially dangerous chemicals used to treat it. No one questioned their presence.

The good news is that this plant appears to be something of an anomaly. Similar surprise inspections at neighboring county facilities had very different outcomes. But this only makes it clearer that Congress must act now to ensure that all our water supplies are safe from terrorist threats.

Yesterday, the Committee on Science approved unanimously the Water Infrastructure Security and Research Development Act which would help us ensure the long-term safety of the water our constituents drink and use every day. It would provide \$60 million in grants over the next 5 years to identify threats and respond to them. Similar legislation is moving through the Senate. We should act quickly to give every American peace of mind when turning on the tap.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.