

The leadership in this House, the Republican leadership in this House, is refusing to allow this bill to even come to this floor. And every day that an American citizen buys an airline ticket and gets on an airplane, they are in danger; and they need to know that.

I had a young stockbroker call me from New York City the other day when he heard about our efforts to get this done. He told me that he had a sister-in-law who was on, I think, the 19th floor of the first tower that was hit by the plane in New York; and thankfully, she was able to get to safety. But this young man said, "I am taking my family on a vacation in early November," and he said "I am outraged because I have always assumed that when I check my luggage, it was screened for explosives." He said, "What can I do to get this legislation passed into law?"

I suggested to that young man that he contact his Senators and that he contact his Representatives in this House, and I shared with him that the Senate has done their work, Republicans and Democrats alike. Not a single dissenting vote in the Senate. The most conservative Senators, the most liberal Senators, all agreed that it is time to take airport security seriously; and they joined together in a bipartisan way. They cast their votes, 100 to nothing.

The American people have a right to ask why is the House not taking action? Why is the House preventing this legislation from coming to this floor for a vote? It is unconscionable. I am convinced that if we do not deal with this legislation, Mr. Speaker, that American citizens some day in the future will get on a plane and it will explode and they will lose their lives. And if that happens, it will be because this House has been negligent and derelict in its duty.

We owe this to the American people. They want it, and the only thing that is keeping it from happening is the leadership on that side of the aisle that refuses to allow this legislation to come to the floor for a vote.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STRICKLAND. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman raises a very important point. You know, we have had to have a little bump in the road because of this anthrax issue to prevent us from working. But it is not anthrax that is keeping us from working, it is the poisonous special interests which have got the Republican leadership to refuse to allow the House to vote.

I will tell you, we are going to get over this anthrax thing. We are going to find a way to open our mail, a way to vote. If we do not get the Republican leadership to put this on the agenda, the House is not going to be working.

So I have confidence, we are going to get over the scare, but we have to get over the leadership decision to prevent us from voting.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time. My friend from Washington, and I took an amendment to the Committee on Rules this evening asking that this be made a part of the stimulus package. That request has been denied. This is just unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman raised a very important point. We are not voting on airline security, yet we are voting on a stimulus package, yet the two industries that are most hurt, the airlines and tourism, is there anything in this so-called stimulus package that does anything to get our airlines flying better, any deductions, any support? Is there anything in that stimulus package for the airlines?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, Not to my knowledge.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from characterizing actions of the Senate.

MUNICIPAL PREPARATIONS STRATEGIC RESPONSE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House on the Municipal Preparations Strategic Response Act of 2001, H.R. 3161.

Mr. Speaker, I think it has become clear to a number of Members that September 11 has clearly changed the lives of all American citizens. And, as we reflect on the events of September 11, I do not think it is lost on the Members here about the tremendous heroic effort that was put forward on behalf of the victims of the World Trade Center, of the Pentagon, and those valiant people of Flight 93. But also not lost on the Members of this body and the other body was that it was not the FBI or the CIA or the FAA or the Armed Services that was first to respond to these tragic events of September 11.

□ 2100

They are local firefighters, police, emergency medical teams, allied health professionals, hospitals. They are, in fact, our first line of defense.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the President for his appointment of Tom Ridge and the emphasis on homeland defense. What the Municipal Preparations Strategic Response Act of 2001 recognizes is that homeland defense begins at home, and it begins with those who are in the front lines, those that respond first.

The genesis for this bill comes from a series of meetings that a number of Members on both sides of the aisle have

been conducting back in their home districts. In the process, what we have heard is that when it comes to the Federal budget with respect to dealing with terrorism, that of approximately \$8.9 billion that is appropriated, only a scant \$300 million makes it back out to our municipalities. The rest remains here in the beltway with Federal agencies.

The concern, of course, is that in our ability to deal with terrorist attacks, we must make sure that all of our frontline responders are well equipped, are well trained, and are well prepared. As important, as many municipalities and many States, as has the great State of California, have prepared for many natural disasters, there is much that we can learn from our local county and State government, and that should all be part of the bottom-up strategic planning that goes forward as Mr. Ridge takes over his most important office of Homeland Defense. But without appropriate funding, without making sure that the first-line responders have the kind of financial aid that they are going to need, this simply will not take place.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined this evening by several of my colleagues who have both conducted hearings and are co-authors of this legislation. Let me prevail first upon the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, who most recently this past week had one of these such meetings.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding, and I thank him very much for being the prime mover in this effort to make sure that our local community first-responders are fully engaged as this Nation prepares to deal with the threat of terrorism at the local level, and for coming up with legislation that recognizes the difficulty of doing this, but also provides the resources so that it can be done properly; so that, in fact, assessments can be made at the local level of exactly what those kinds of threats might be to our communities; so that there can be regional cooperation; so that the HAZMAT teams can work together, they can learn to share their resources and their knowledge and their training of their personnel and of their response plans; so that there can be a working together, both up and down the infrastructure of our local communities between police and fire, HAZMAT, public health, private health hospitals, people who are going to be called upon to respond to possibly decontaminate a significant number of citizens, or to help a local agency next to them respond with an attack that could take place there. This is not about getting overly dramatic, but it is recognizing that this is something the local communities have done for many years.

In California we have earthquake plans; we have flood plans; we have fire

plans in some of our rural communities, trying to determine what the threat would be to these communities, how we can respond and whether or not the resources and the training and the personnel will be there. When we now overlay the threat of terrorism on many of these plans, we recognize that we have to go back to the drawing board.

I represent an area that has many, many petrochemical facilities in my congressional district, and we have many plans to deal with the communities for the releases or the explosions or the accidents that take place at these facilities from time to time to try and warn a community, to have a shelter in place, or to go to the hospitals or to have a warning system so that they can get immediate information. As many times as we have been through it, it does not always work the way it should.

In my meeting yesterday with the county sheriff, with the members of the board of supervisors, with the chiefs of police from the city of Richmond, the city of Martinez, from the Consolidated Fire District, from the HAZMAT personnel, from the people from Kaiser Permanente, the largest health care deliverer in my area, what became very clear was that they need additional resources to do the planning so that the resources will be in place if our communities need these kinds of responses.

So the gentleman has put together legislation to provide this money to the local community. I was startled when a number of weeks ago the gentleman told me the percentage of the money, if the gentleman would repeat it.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, of \$8.9 billion appropriated, only \$300 million.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we appropriated in the Congress \$8.9 billion.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Only \$300 million makes it outside of the beltway.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, \$300 million goes outside the beltway, and yet these are the people who are going to respond. As somebody pointed out earlier, the reason that we have to provide these resources is that these are events that are not of the local community's making. These are events that are going to occur for a whole host of reasons, none of which can justify them happening; but this Nation has come under attack and, in all likelihood, from the information we receive from our intelligence agencies, will very likely come under attack again. That response is not, that event is not of the local community's making; but the community will be called upon to do that. We need to make sure that our citizens have the assurance that there will be a plan in place that will try to minimize the harm and the casualties that could occur in the community.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, in the gentleman's discussion with the county and local governments out in California, or in the gentleman's congressional district, do they feel that they are amply prepared to deal with biochemical threats, and what did the gentleman learn from that? Is there something instructive that we can take or that the rest of the Nation can take from California?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, a number of our colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) had a meeting in her local community; the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) had a meeting in her local community; the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) had a meeting last week in her community, and some of those meetings were attended by Special Agent John Lightfoot from the FBI. And he also was making assessments of some of the plans around bioterrorism, about the HAZMAT, hazardous materials resources available in the community to deal with these.

The fact of the matter is that it is a very checkered situation. Some communities like my own, because of the nature of the industry, we have a very sophisticated HAZMAT program with highly trained chemists and people on board to deal with toxic materials, and yet next door they might not have anything. So immediately, the conversation was, how would we respond? And in many cases they said, when we have a refinery explosion, we know people are going to be coming to the hospital, because there has been an explosion, there has been a release of perhaps harmful material; and in this case people will just start walking into the hospital and that is when we will first discover that an event has taken place. The people from the hospital said, we can decontaminate a couple of people; the HAZMAT people said we can decontaminate a few dozen people, but if we have hundreds or thousands of people coming in, we have no plan to deal with that, and we would have to call on the resources of the entire San Francisco Bay region, but those resources are not completely coordinated yet. There are many communities that have absolutely no ability.

So the gentleman raises a good point.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, that is a point that is consistent with the issues that have been raised, both on the Task Force on Terrorism that has been conducted by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and others in the caucus, but the concept of commonality of communication and interoperability seem to be two of the most paramount things that we have to accomplish by providing these frontline responders with adequate planning money so that they can, in fact, strategically respond, even though, in many instances, as the gentleman points out is the case in his district and in California, where they

are already well prepared in specific areas, but perhaps not to deal with a threat of this nature.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we have dealt, and again, we do not know the nature of a terrorist attack, how it is carried out on a target, but we have dealt with an individual refinery explosion or release of toxic materials, we just had one this last week in my hometown. But if multiple refineries were the subject of the attack, there was talk in Texas of where the concentration of petrochemical industries there, in California and in my area and elsewhere, that would immediately outstrip the current resources. Because the current resources are designed for an isolated, although maybe harmful event, or lethal event, but yet isolated compared to perhaps what we might experience.

So I just want to commend the gentleman, if I might, for bringing this legislation to the Congress and securing the coauthors that he has, and also making this a point of discussion in our Homeland Security Task Force in the caucus where I know he and others have raised this. I have been on the other task force, but on this one, Members have told me.

Also, I think the gentleman ought to be very proud of the fact that when we go home and we talk to the people on the front lines, they look at this and they say, this is what we need to do our job if we are, in fact, going to be called upon to provide the kind of protection that we think the citizens that we represent will want. So the legislation is clearly in tune with the needs of the first responders; and clearly it is in tune with their understanding of the kind of threat and the match of resources that would be necessary in a terrorist environment.

So I want to commend the gentleman very much for devising this legislation; and hopefully, the House will get an opportunity in short order to deal with this legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for also coauthoring this very important piece of legislation and for his leadership. As the gentleman points out, there are more than 70 Members on a bipartisan basis that have signed on to the bill that really, from a pragmatic standpoint, just makes all the sense in the world. I think intuitively when our first responders, our local officials, our county and State officials hear about the legislation, this is the kind of thing that they are looking for from us.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, my last point, we have had a lot of debates, and I am in the middle of one now that has gone on for several years on the education bill. The desire on both sides of the aisle has been to drive the dollars to the classroom, recognizing that very often education dollars get siphoned off and they do not quite carry out the intent, which is to

provide an education to America's children. They are used bureaucratically, a lot of other ways on the State and Federal level.

I think in this, it is the same idea with the gentleman's legislation, that we have to drive these dollars down to the people who in fact are going to be put into the position of responding on behalf of our communities. Driving those dollars for planning, driving those dollars for coordination, for cooperation among various departments and agencies within a region is really about the frontline and the first line of defense for American citizens. So I think this is also very consistent with what we have talked about in this Congress on a number of other subjects about giving local communities that flexibility, but giving them the resources so that they can respond in a first-class fashion. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his insight.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to the gentleman from Texas, but before I do, I just wanted to review a little bit more about this bill which will provide a total of \$1.5 billion in funding, \$1 billion of funding to cities, counties, towns, boroughs, tribes, and other municipal authorities for strategic planning needed to ensure that local emergency responders, including municipal, private, volunteer fire departments, police departments, sheriffs' offices, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and other health professionals, as well as our area hospitals, are fully prepared, equipped, and trained for emergency and security issues that arise from terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas, because of his unbelievable and outstanding and exemplary work with missing children, certainly knows this issue probably better than most. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) at this time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to be able to join the gentleman and so many other cosponsors as an original cosponsor on this bill, the Municipal Preparations Strategic Response Act of 2001. It is a critical piece of legislation, obviously; and the reason is that we all know that our cities and our local governments are the ones that are indeed on the front line of homeland security.

I have been conducting meetings at the local level with airport officials, port officials, petrochemical people that run refineries and other facilities in southeast Texas; and each of these groups is committed to doing everything that they can possibly do to ensure the safety of their facilities and the people that work in them and live around them.

□ 2115

We all want that. After all of those meetings, it is abundantly clear to me that we must take a bottom-up approach.

I was listening to what the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) was saying in talking about the many different facilities. We can make it even simpler than talking about significant facilities like the petrochemical industry. We can look at our airports. Everybody sees those at home.

We have police departments, sheriffs' departments, local people that local funds, local tax dollars are paying for being absolutely strapped in an effort to try to provide an adequate number of personnel to protect those airports. Those are mandates that come from us. We have to have people there keeping those facilities secure.

Congress is saying, do it, the people want it done, yet they are having to pay for it. This is an opportunity for us to share that burden with all of those local governments, to the people that the gentleman just mentioned a minute ago, the cities, counties, towns, boroughs, tribes, the other municipalities and municipality authorities, for the strategic planning that is necessary to put these critical things into place.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that should be pointed out as well about this legislation is something that they heard in California and we have heard in Connecticut, and I am sure the gentleman has heard in Texas, as well; that is that because the municipalities and counties are strapped already, what they are saying is that these monies have to come to us ununencumbered.

That means that traditionally through a number of programs, we would require a matching grant on the part of the municipality, State, or the county. In this case, because it is now part of homeland defense, and in some instances money is already being expended and appropriated which many of us feel should be included in the \$20 billion we have already appropriated for these events; but having said that, clearly, as our legislation does, what we wanted to make sure is that there would be no matching grant required.

We heard that loud and clear in Connecticut. I do not know if that is what the gentleman is hearing down in Texas, as well.

Mr. LAMPSON. If the gentleman will yield further, they have a significant need. We know security and preparedness comes at a cost. Those suits these people have to wear to go in and check a hazardous material that has been leaked into the atmosphere costs about \$800 or more a copy. That means a lot of fire departments or emergency management facilities or organizations do not have the ability to have access to this equipment, so we are expecting these people to go into situations that are dangerous to their own health; and we are not working with them.

I have discussed this situation with my mayor, the mayor of Beaumont, Texas, my hometown. He happens to be in Washington, D.C. tonight. Mayor

Moore is the co-chair of the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness for the United States Conference of Mayors. I want to be able to continue working with Mayor Moore and other elected officials in my district to ensure that our local emergency responders are fully prepared, equipped, and trained to respond to any future needs.

That is why this legislation is so very important. The Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act of 2001 will provide a total of \$1 billion in straight-out funding, and another half a billion or so, \$250 million, to the very successful COPS program, and another \$250 million or so to the firefighter programs within our communities.

These are straight-out grants to the local governments to be able to take care of the needs of our citizens at home from the bottom up, not from Washington, D.C. down.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, that is something that obviously, with the appointment of Tom Ridge, and again, I commend the President for that appointment. We sent a letter off to Mr. Ridge, knowing that he is obviously getting his arms around this very important task that he has, so it is understandable it may take him some time to reply to us.

But the offer is one of assistance and help, and one that, at its very heart in essence says, look, what we are hearing from our constituents is not to foist on us from the top down a Federal mandated solution to this problem, but to work with us from the bottom up so that, both from the standpoint of the knowledge and expertise that we have in dealing with these issues. And then also the plugging the gaps where we are doing things well, but there is a gap in being able to address those specific issues.

Mr. LAMPSON. If the gentleman would yield to me again, he said earlier it is \$8.9 billion that we have appropriated to help with homeland security.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Correct.

Mr. LAMPSON. Of all of that money, only \$300 million makes it out to local communities.

Mr. LARSON. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), who heads the COPS program at one of our local press conferences, laid that idea and concept out very clear. Instead of the \$8.9 billion that is appropriated to deal with terrorism, only \$300 million makes it outside of the Beltway. That is a very telling statistic.

As local officials are quick to point out to us, this is very problematic to them, because what they are concerned most with is that the Federal Government will create a mandate upon them that is unfunded.

Now, we are all dealing with, and we all know, and I know that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) has been in the forefront of promoting educational concepts like the full funding of the IDEA program, where once

again there is a lack of a fulfillment of a mandate.

But certainly when we are calling upon our front-line defenders to go out there and risk their very lives, we have to make sure that these are not unfunded mandates.

Mr. LAMPSON. Let me just make one final point before we go to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Just to commend the gentleman, I would tell him how proud I am to be able to join him as a cosponsor of the legislation. I would ask every one of our colleagues to join on as cosponsors of this legislation and let us move it forward. It is critical. It can make a difference in people's lives, and that is what we have to do. That is what we are about here. I thank the gentleman for his good work.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank him again for being a coauthor of this bill. I thank him for the input that he has provided for what I think is a very strong and bipartisan bill.

I have to point out that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who has been a tremendous help to me since I have been a Member of Congress, is an early signer onto this bill. He has also been very active with the Congressional Fire Services Caucus as well, and I think intuitively he understood how important this is.

I think once the Members get to see, and we already have more than 70 Members who have signed on, but I believe that people will sign onto H.R. 3161 because of its commonsense approach. That is what we are seeking to do here is to not only engage our local officials, but also recognize that they are on the front line, and not just pay them lip service but actually provide them with the funding to carry out the strategic planning, as well as providing them with the equipment and the expertise they will need if we are going to send them into battle.

Mr. LAMPSON. When we work together, we make good things happen.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. We sure do. I thank the gentleman from Texas; and I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), who is also a coauthor of this piece of legislation and has conducted and held meetings in his district in New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut, for yielding to me; but I thank him even more for putting together this good piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the gentleman is influenced by the work of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, two caucuses in which I am pleased to join the gentleman.

He has drawn on the ideas in the fire bill, the ideas in the COPS program, two very successful pieces of legislation that, as the gentleman says, get the program, get the dollars down to the people on the ground. That is one of the wonderful features of the Com-

munity-Oriented Policing Program. Yes, it is a national program because so many communities share in the need, but it is really a local program. This is not run with the heavy hand of the Federal Government. The COPS program actually gets money to police on the street, on the beats, in the neighborhoods.

When we are dealing with emergencies, with terrorist attacks such as we saw in New York City, or as we are seeing right now using less visible attacking instruments, biological weapons, it hits locally. It hits at home. The gentleman's bill gets the action locally and at home. So I am really very pleased to be able to join the gentleman, not only as an original cosponsor but as someone who is actively trying to build the list of cosponsors and move along.

I have just come from a meeting of the Homeland Security Task Force, where we are working to include this legislation in our proposal of overall efforts to deal with bioterrorism.

If I may for a moment, I would just like to point out a few of the features that I find so attractive in this bill. I have met a number of times with first responders in my district, most recently just last week. My district in central New Jersey has felt the blow of terrorism really quite directly, not only in the number of lives that were lost in the attack on the World Trade Center and in the plane crashes, but in the response of our emergency personnel on September 11, in the subsequent days in our urban search and rescue teams, and now with the bioterrorism that has touched Ewing and West Trenton in my district.

These local responders that I have met with, although they have really taken a blow, they are really strong in their determination. They have worked closely together, towns with other towns, towns with counties, towns with the State, individual rescue and emergency squads.

They like the idea of the gentleman's bill that provides an opportunity for a strategic response that is regional; for liaison between units of local government. They also like the idea of communication that the gentleman has built into this, communication with authorities in the event of an emergency and communication from authorities to the population at large.

They understand how critical communication is, clear, accurate communication, in a situation such as we have now in Ewing, where the post office has been part of or has been touched by this bioterrorism.

So the gentleman's bill, if I may say our bill, deals with these in a way that I find our local emergency responders like.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman appropriately says "our bill" because it has been the input of so many Members, and the input they have derived by going back out to their respective con-

gressional districts and meeting both locally, regionally, or county-wide with so many first responders.

Ultimately, that is what this is all about. It is standing together as we face down terrorism, both in terms of homeland defense and in terms of our resolve as a people to stay together and address this issue.

It is oftentimes, I think, missed on the general public when we are down here talking about lofty idealism and bills, and they are really anxious to help themselves; to go back to the gentleman's district, as he has done, and to seek the input of people who in many respects are more knowledgeable or have more pragmatic solutions in talking to a number of the people in my district.

I know in our case that what we found is that the concern exists for the overlap, or perhaps the gaps; the term "commonality of communication" in terms of responding, and chains of command, whether they be bottom-up or top-down. The interoperability and mobility between local, State, county, and Federal agencies is something that is going to require more planning on our part; and also the identifying of those gaps. This cannot be a decision that is foisted upon local officials from the top down or by some think tank, however productive and good some of those ideas may be.

□ 2130

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. If they are not joint with the frontline responders and if they are not part of this process of giving input, then I do not think we have the best in homeland security.

Mr. HOLT. If the gentleman would yield?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOLT. It is easy to say we can have good clear communication if we have a centralized authority. But, in fact, when terrorism has taken place, it is necessarily a group of individuals from neighboring towns that respond. And so the communication has to be set up in such a way that it flows in from many people, and it flows out to the whole population. And that depends on coordination, and in many cases that exists only in a really sketchy undeveloped form. This legislation would help develop that.

The other point that I wanted to make that is so very important, when we talk about the threat assessments, we talk about what might be the targets of terrorism.

Well, it is easy for somebody here in Washington in some agency to imagine what are vulnerable sites to attack around the country. But, in fact, it is the people who live in the town; it is the local police who know the town block by block, alley by alley, who are better, who are best able to determine what the vulnerabilities are out there. The gentleman's bill, again, if I may say, our bill gets at that and uses this

local talent in identifying the targets of terrorism using the guidelines that are developed nationally.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Our bill does do just that.

Again, several Members, and I especially want to commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), who has done an outstanding job in his district both conducting and holding meetings and someone himself who is often times entering other countries, going undercover, wearing disguises, et cetera, all in the pursuit of gaining information.

Also, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) mentioned earlier, and as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce perhaps he could provide insight here as well. He said one of the things that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) found that in conducting her meetings back home in her district is there is grave concern around the whole issue of schools, and what do we do, and how are we prepared with respect to schools.

I know this is a longstanding interest of the gentleman; and as someone who is in the forefront of education issues, is this something the gentleman is picking up in New Jersey?

Mr. HOLT. Absolutely. Schools in America are local. We talk about the education bills that come out of Congress and all of that, and there are certainly some important things we have done in setting the tone of fairness and accomplishment and accountability; but ultimately the schools are funded locally. They are staffed locally. They are designed and built locally. And if we are going to prepare the schools to deal with terrorist threats and other emergencies, that has to be done locally. The vulnerabilities have to be recognized locally and the responses have to be developed locally. Again, that is what this bill does.

It has a very local focus to a problem that is shared in every town, at every town and county around America. Remember, a lot of what we are talking about is preparing all of America for a dangerous time. It would be nice to think that it is only the urban centers that are going to have problems. Well, a week or 2 or 3 ago people would not have thought of Boca Raton, Florida, Palm Beach County as an area that would be touched by terrorism or West Trenton or Hamilton, New Jersey, as areas that would be touched by terrorism.

The point is if we are going to have presentation nationally, it has to reach every town and every county, just as a public health system only works if the doctors and the county health authorities and so forth are part of a network that is national.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. And to the gentleman's points, one of the things we want to point out with regard to H.R. 3161, The Municipal Presentation and Strategic Response Act of 2001, is that it coordinates a response

and procedures with similar emergency response units so that we are not reinventing the wheel here, in neighborhood units and in neighboring units of local government as well as with State and Federal agencies.

One of the things that I find instructive in meeting with people, and again I would say that the work of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) bore this out, that when one prepares an issue report to units of local governments, State legislatures, and Congress that include recommendations for a specific elective action, this is something that we really need to have come from the bottom up; that as we conduct public forums, as we start to look at the contents of strategic response plan, as people learn how to communicate with authorities in the event of emergency, something that perhaps in some States and in some regions we have done better than others because whether it be California having to deal with earthquakes or Florida having to deal with hurricanes. Programs the rest of the Nation can learn from. Also, where to go to find safer public assembly and other emergency shelters and any other appropriated information that needs to be gathered.

The silver lining in this: if there can be a lesson from the tragic events of September 11, is, in fact, that we are a Nation that is committed and involved more so than ever before. There has been an outpouring of patriotism. There has been an incredible desire on the part of the public to want to know what they can do to help and also what they have to do to be prepared.

Many of them have very solid and sound suggestions to make, and we ought to make sure in Congress that we are providing our local authorities, meaning our State, county, regional, and municipal governments, with the kind of resources that they are going to need to carry off this bottom-up strategic planning that is needed.

As my colleague knows, the bill itself provides \$250 million. It goes directly into the COPS program, as the gentleman was stating earlier in his remarks, as well as another 250 million that goes to firefighters. Again, I would point out that those come with no strings attached, no matching grants because they need the money now.

There is no time for these municipalities to save. Most of their budgets have long since gone to bed, and we have to make sure that we are providing our frontline defenders with the equipment and the training that they are going to need as we send them into harm's way, and ultimately that is the goal.

It was not lost on me that with the awful situation that took place in Senator DASCHLE's office the other day that it was two of our Capitol Police officers that responded and went in there and now are diagnosed. These are the kinds of things. It will not be Federal agencies that are going to be re-

sponding first. It will be the local entity that will be out there, and shame on us if we do not provide them both the equipment and the training and then the strategic planning tools that they are going to need in order to address these issues.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. The benefits of this will be there even in those towns that are not touched by terrorism. The benefit of strategic response, improved communication, local threat assessment, all of that will lead to better policing, better firefighting, better community protection, and better community spirit, if as we hope is the case, we do not have more terrorism strikes in these towns.

Although this is motivated by our national emergency, right now it is of general long-lasting benefit to our communities, and it is this sense of community that has grown out of our national emergency of the past 6 weeks.

A realization, recognition, even a celebration of the fact that we are dependent on each other, that is the great lesson of the past 6 weeks, how dependent we are on each other; and that is why the emergency responders, police, fire, medical, are held in such high regard now, because people are reminded that we are dependent on them and we should do everything we can to make sure that they are equipped, that they have the resources to do the job that we ask them to do.

I know that they are committed in their determination to public service, and it is not asking too much for us as a Congress to give them what they need to do their jobs.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Reclaiming my time, I spend a lot of time going out to a number of my public schools in the district, and parochial schools for that matter, and talking about September 11; and as the gentleman points out, clearly firefighters or police officers, emergency medical teams are viewed far differently than they were prior to September 11. And I find it incredibly heartening as well that the youth of our Nation also now are able to distinguish between celebrity and real heroes and perhaps look at their parents like all the parents on September 11 that either got on an airplane or went to work at the World Trade Center or at the Pentagon, and found themselves, ordinary citizens, involved in a heroic effort.

All too often in our culture we make icons out of sports and Hollywood and music celebrities; and while it is true that we should celebrate their accomplishments, there is a major distinction between celebrity and heroes that is being picked up by the youth of our Nation.

This bill that we have put forward today seeks to recognize those who lost their lives by understanding, as so

many people have said more eloquently than I, about those racing up the stairs in the World Trade Center while they were coming down and to memorialize them is to recognize their sacrifice, to put them in the pantheon of heroes that came about that day, but also recognize the need to further train and provide the appropriate equipment and provide for the kind of strategic planning that we are going to need to continue to root out terrorists and to make sure that at home we are safe and secure.

That is what homeland defense is all about; and I commend the President and Tom Ridge in their efforts, and it is my sincere hope that our efforts here in coordinating local, State and municipal officials, together along with Tom Ridge's new assignment, that we are going to be able to not build a fortress around America. I do not think anyone believes that that can happen, but to have energized, enlightened, involved, and committed communities to understand that we in Congress recognize their valor, their frontline defense and also all of our collective responsibility no longer to look the other way or to defer responsibility to someone else but actually to be participants in our community, not as necessarily elected officials, but as active, involved, committed citizens who, when they see things that are wrong, no longer turn their head and look the other way but step forward and address that and call upon the local authorities to make sure that we are looking out for one another and for our neighbors and not painting with the broad brush of prejudice the many when we know it is the fanatical few that have caused and perpetrated this unbelievable horror and nightmare on America.

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Mr. HOLT. I commend my friend from Connecticut for taking the time tonight. I thank him for sharing some of that time with me. I commend him for his eloquence. But mostly, now, I commend him for the work he has done to prepare this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of our colleagues will join in this because there is not a town in America that would not benefit from this legislation. I commend the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for the hard work he has put into preparing this and his energy in finding cosponsors and moving the legislation along.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and once again recognize the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. LAMPSON. All of what the gentleman has been saying is right on the mark in trying to look out for the local jurisdictions who are having a difficult time responding to many different needs that they are facing right now during such an unusual time in the history of our country.

Primarily, this bill will establish \$1 billion in grant programs for cities,

counties, towns, boroughs, tribes, and other municipalities and regional authorities to develop local emergency response plans that would do a large number of different things, such as to develop strategic response plans that provide for a clearly defined and unified response to terrorist attacks or other catastrophes; to coordinate the activities and procedures of various emergency response units; to define the relationship, roles, responsibilities, jurisdictions, and command structures and communication protocols of emergency response units; to coordinate response procedures with similar emergency response units and neighboring units of local government as well as with State and Federal agencies. That is a critical point right there.

One of our agencies got shut down in my congressional district just last week because of a lack of cooperation, a lack of questions about whose jurisdiction or whose real ground is this that we need to be responding to. That is unfortunate, and we need to find ways to make sure that all levels of our government are sharing information and are working to solve problems in unusual and very extenuating circumstances, to find situations where one organization or a person feels like they have the right or responsibility to do one thing and should not be checked by another agency, yet it is another agency's responsibility to be looking out after the security of a particular area. Those are arguments we should not be having right now.

This bill would provide the means for local governments, whether it is cities, counties or whatever level it might be, as well as Federal agencies to develop plans to work together.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Exactly.

Mr. LAMPSON. That is the kind of cooperation that is critical if we are going to solve the problems that are facing our communities and truly have the kind of safety that we all need and want to have.

This incident that occurred in my congressional district in Texas happened at a port. Ports are critical facilities for us, particularly when they are serving the petrochemical industry, which is a facility that develops the fuel that runs all our automobiles and brings products to all of us all over the United States of America. So is it a critical area we need to address? Unquestionably, it is. And this is a reasonable tool with which we can do something for the grass-roots level of people who are strapped for cash, who are trying their best to put good programs into place to stretch their means as far as they possibly can to make sure that there are an adequate number of policemen and firemen and other kinds of law enforcement and emergency management folks to do the jobs that have to be done. It is tough.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I had the opportunity to meet with the gentleman's mayor actually in Mystic,

Connecticut, where they were gathering at a regional conference and they were talking about the need for regional coordination. One of the things that he pointed out, and I thought it a very important point that he made, is, look, we would very much like to get involved in this not just because of the impact on the local municipality but the need for regional-wide planning and looking at entities where the money can flow to so that it gets dispersed in a manner that addresses the gaps that are occurring within some of the very important policy issues as they relate to responding to potential terrorist attacks.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) was pointing out earlier, depending upon the community one lives in and what kind of civil preparedness there is there to deal with natural disasters or what kind of HAZMAT training has taken place because of the location of, we will say a nuclear generating power facility or a petrochemical port, whatever the case may be, we find that there are different levels, some very sophisticated, some nonexistent. Yet, homeland defense has got to make sure that we are incorporating all of our communities, boroughs, municipalities, and make them part of this effort.

Mayor Moore's point was we can best do that through regional councils, through regional organizations where they already are meeting on several infrastructure issues, where they are already dealing with these things and often feel that they are the neglected stepchild of the Federal Government or that we bypass them and go directly to the State, and then they do not feel that they get money from us that goes to administration fees and other areas.

Mr. LAMPSON. What is unfortunate is that in some of those instances there are even people going out and raising money privately to accomplish some of these tasks. That is not appropriate. Many of these functions are of national scope and of national interest, and to have people in a local area having to go out and privately raise money on their own in order to achieve some of these specific tasks does not seem fair or right to me. That is why we have a government. That is why we choose to live in communities where we can all chip in and our few pennies mounted together turn into billions of dollars that can make a difference for all of the people of this country.

That is what makes this a good bill, I think, and a very excellent direction in which we should be going to solve these problems.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Texas again for his strong input; and through the gentleman, I thank Mayor Moore as well for his input.

Mr. LAMPSON. David Moore of Beaumont, Texas.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I think that that is what makes good legislation, especially when we have the bottom-up response that we have had.

Mr. LAMPSON. We hope our colleagues will join us all in cosponsoring this legislation and in seeing to it that it gets brought to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote quickly.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time, I again would remind our colleagues that it is H.R. 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act of 2001. Again, I am proud the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), and I cannot thank him enough for his input and help, is also a cosponsor of this legislation. The value that the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus have provided us, the insight that we have received from health care professionals, hospitals, the endorsement of municipal leaders of this legislation has all been terrific.

But before I leave the podium tonight, I cannot help but mention that I am deeply troubled by the stimulus package that is coming before this body tomorrow, primarily because I have been concerned for some time now about our inability to pay for a lot of the initiatives that we would like to see.

Homeland defense in this bill is \$1.5 billion. That is not an awful lot of money, but I have a sickening feeling going home to my home district and talking as I have to many groups, most notably to seniors. Tom Brokaw did this Nation a great service in his book "The Greatest Generation"; and in that book he heralded a unique generation that now has witnessed a second day of infamy. They lived through the Depression; they certainly lived through December 7, 1941; they fought and won and rebuilt the Nation and educated a whole generation of baby boomers. They have now lived through September 11.

As we project out, they are the first ones to rise up and say we must root out terrorism, we have to all stand together as a Nation, but it just confounds me that we will tap into Medicare and vanquish the Social Security Trust Fund in an effort to pay for all of this, so they will have sacrificed twice. At no other point in our history when we have gone to war, and make no mistake this is a war, have we asked one generation to sacrifice as much as we are asking them.

Mr. Brokaw, if you are listening, I hope you prevail upon the American public and upon the Congress to recognize that this cannot happen. These people deserve to live out their final days in the dignity that Social Security, Medicare and, frankly, prescription drugs should provide them.

Mr. Speaker, I just could not leave the podium this evening without addressing that concern. It is heartfelt. I hope that other Members share the same feeling and same concern about how we are going to pay for all of this. We ought to think long and hard about tax cuts; and truthfully, we ought to

think about rolling back some of our provisions or at least letting the top 1 percent of this Nation bear some of the sacrifice that we have already asked the greatest generation ever to do.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. BILIRAKIS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and October 24 until 2:00 p.m. on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. NORTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS AND A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 423. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of Fort Clatsop National Memorial in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 941. An act to revise the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the State of California, to extend the term of the advisory commission for the recreation area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1057. An act to authorize the addition of lands to Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1097. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1105. An act to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of State of Wyoming lands within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Sikh-Americans in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled

joint resolution of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 69. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1465. An act to authorize the President to exercise waivers of foreign assistance restrictions with respect to Pakistan through September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 24, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4372. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States; (H. Doc. No. 107-136); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

4373. A letter from the Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled, "Contracts for Performance of Firefighting and Security-Guard Functions at Department of Defense Facilities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4374. A letter from the Associate General for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision to Cost Limits for Native American Housing [Docket No. FR-4517-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AC14) received October 1, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4375. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's annual report to Congress on the FY 2000 program operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), the administration of the Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA), the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act for the period October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 942; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4376. A letter from the Director for Executive Budgeting and Assistance Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements [Docket No. 010925133-1233-01] received October 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4377. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Uniformed Services Accounts—received October 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.