



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

No. 62

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 17, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

ALLEGiant AIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, the CBS News program "60 Minutes" devoted more than half their show on Sunday to a 7-month investigation into Allegiant Air, a low-budget airline based in Las Vegas.

The segment was called "Allegiant Air: The Budget Airline Flying Under the Radar." According to CBS, Allegiant is one of the most profitable airlines in the U.S. and made a healthy profit for 60 straight months. And up

until word came out about the expose on CBS, its stock was doing pretty well, too.

In order to reward investors while still selling seats at rock-bottom ticket prices, however, Allegiant pushes their aging, secondhand fleet of 99 outdated aircraft beyond their limits. But, hey, apparently, in corporate America, profits are more important than people, even if carrying people safely is supposed to be your main concern.

So far, the only thing to crash with this airline is its high-flying stock price, which is down 11 percent since word of the CBS story first came out, because "60 Minutes" documented incident after incident—more than 100 in a less than 2 years—of aborted takeoffs, unscheduled landings, smoke-filled cabins, cabin-pressure loss, and other emergency situations.

A former prosecutor at the FAA with 30 years of experience says: "You know, if, God forbid, there is an accident, I think there will be a lot of people saying, 'Well, we knew. We knew and we did nothing.'"

Mr. Speaker, Allegiant Air is a tragedy waiting to happen. And they really should know better, and we as a country should know better, because the CEO of Allegiant is none other than one of the founders of ValuJet.

Do you remember them? They were the cut-rate airline that was apparently cutting corners on safety to boost their position with stockholders. But they aren't flying anymore because ValuJet flight 592, with 110 people on board, plunged into the Everglades after taking off from Miami International Airport 22 years ago.

What we learned after the fact was that the airline drove up profits, pushed its fleet to the edge, took extra freight in cargo holds to make extra money, and cut corners on the safety of its passengers. And you know what happened. People died.

We have seen this before, which leads to the very important question for

Congress: Why isn't anyone doing anything about it? Where is the FAA? Where is the DOT and the committees of jurisdiction here in the House of Representatives? I hear the Senators are doing something about it.

Why have there been no hearings and so little response from the Federal Government? "60 Minutes" made a compelling case that the regulators are not doing their jobs. Host Steve Kroft said: "Over the last 3 years, the FAA has switched its priorities from actively enforcing safety rules with fines, warning letters, and sanctions, which become part of the public record"—so we would all know about the safety of these airlines—"to working quietly with the airlines behind the scenes to fix the problems"—yes, at the backs of the American people that they are supposed to protect.

This airline, Allegiant, with 3.5 times as many serious emergency incidents as any other airline, might be a special case or it might just be typical, but we just don't know. And the American people just don't know.

If the FAA isn't doing a good job of making sure Allegiant Air is safe, what else are we missing about the airlines? We ought to demand that the experts inside and outside of Congress get the facts and all the people are accountable.

Now, I understand that the dirtiest word in the conservative dictionary is "regulation," and, frankly, it is not clear that the downside in regulatory oversight happened exclusively or even more rapidly since our current businessman and TV host President took office; but I think it is clear that following the rules being transparent and being accountable in American industry, especially the airline industry where millions of lives are at stake every day, ought to be a top priority.

When I sit down to dinner with my family, I want to know the chicken and vegetables on my plate are safe to eat.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3345

My car, my gadgets, and my flight home all deserve rigorous scrutiny. I want to know that the water my grandson drinks is clean.

The American people are losing confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the people who are supposed to be watching out for us are really watching out for us when we eat, drink, breathe, travel.

There is a big drive in Congress to cut government budgets, cut red tape, crusade against regulation. The other side demonizes regulation almost as much as the President demonizes immigrants. But I just want to make sure that, when the Federal Government and this Congress are cutting budgets, we are not cutting corners that allow airplanes with Americans on them, with anybody on them, with human beings on them, to fly out of the sky so that companies can make better profits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONGRATULATING UM-NSU CARD ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize the 25th anniversary of the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, known as UM-NSU CARD.

On April 28, friends, families, healthcare advocates, and community leaders from throughout our area in south Florida will gather together to celebrate this notable milestone at the Tropical Nights Gala on beautiful Biscayne Bay.

Since 1993, the outstanding staff and professionals at CARD have excelled at providing specialized services to individuals living with autism and related disabilities. By working with a network of outreach centers, UM-NSU CARD is able to create lasting opportunities and growth for so many.

Currently, CARD assists over 11,000 families in our south Florida community, offering them invaluable support, resources, and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate all of the staff, the volunteers, the advocates, and the family members who get so much out of the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern Center for Autism and Related Disabilities on this proud 25th anniversary. I thank them all for helping those with autism, related disabilities, and spectrum disorders to achieve their full potential and leave their own beautiful mark on our beautiful world.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the organizers and supporters of the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame

Banquet. This wonderful event will take place this Thursday, and this year's festivities will be extra special because we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame.

I am a proud University of Miami Hurricane, where I earned my doctorate in education. I am married to Dexter, a fellow UM Cane. My stepson and daughter-in-law, Dougie and Lindsay, are graduates of University of Miami Law School, as is my stepdaughter Katherine Lehtinen. So the Lehtinen clan, we are real boosters of the University of Miami Hurricanes, and we wish all the best to the guests and participants of the banquet.

Congratulations to the University of Miami for its Sports Hall of Fame 50th Anniversary.

Go Canes.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on this day, as a lawyer and as a Congressman, I want to express my appreciation for the Department of Justice, the FBI, Mr. Mueller, Mr. Rosenstein, Mr. Wray, and others.

The attorneys in the Justice Department are among the best in the country, and Mr. Mueller and Mr. Rosenstein are in that group. The FBI have the finest law enforcement people in our country, and Mr. Wray heads that office up.

Besides being outstanding jurists, men of rectitude, and probity, what else do Mr. Wray, Mr. Rosenstein, and Mr. Mueller have in common? They are all Republicans, and they have all been attacked by our President.

Our President said, when the warrant was issued on his attorney's office for his materials, that that was an attack on our country. In my opinion, that statement and the attacks on our Justice Department and FBI, and on Mr. Rosenstein and Mr. Mueller and Mr. Wray, those were attacks on our country.

When one undermines the Justice Department and the FBI and, basically, people working in the Federal Government to protect us and see that our laws are carried out in an appropriate manner and that the rule of law, which this country is respected for all around the world, is meted out in evenhanded fashion, that is an attack on the fundamental principles of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I resent that suggestion. The fact is Mr. Rosenstein showed great bravery in seeing—as we say in jury charges, “going where truth dictated and justice demanded”—in seeing that that warrant was issued. They did it on the basis of probable cause and information that they had to have surveillance of Mr. COHEN. They had to have probable cause to even have surveillance. And then to go through—

knowing this man was the attorney for the President—and authorize the warrant and to know his job was on the line and his neck was on the line showed great courage, something we all in America should respect and hold up as an admirable quality in a man who exhibits the best characteristics of our citizenry.

Then Mr. Rosenstein, a learned attorney who didn't feel that attorney-client privilege was being infringed upon, sent the case to the Southern District of New York, where other lawyers who were trained took the case to a judge, who was also learned in the law, who said the warrant should issue.

Attorney-client privilege is alive and is being dealt with in the proper fashion in Judge Wood's courtroom. She is properly seeing to it that it is respected, but that information that is not that of an attorney-client privilege will be revealed to the American public.

For some reason, a lot of people today who normally are talking about the Second Amendment are talking about attorney-client privilege like it is the biggest legal principle in our country's fabric. What is more important than anything—and attorney-client privilege is being respected—is the information that has been garnered through that search warrant that could show the possibility of crimes being committed by the President of the United States of America. There is nothing more important to be seen, and attorney-client privilege is nothing compared to that. Why people are concerned about that and not the information that they are trying to keep quiet astonishes me.

We need a transparent President. We need a President who pays his taxes and reveals them to the American public and who doesn't try to squash the Justice Department, the FBI, and means of people of probity and rectitude and character.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Rosenstein, Mr. Mueller, Mr. Wray, the Justice Department, and FBI officials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

FREE SPEECH FOR ME, BUT NOT FOR THEE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Alexander Hamilton was 21 years of age; Aaron Burr, 20 years of age; James Monroe, 18; James Madison, 25 years old. These young Founding Fathers, some of America's most notable names, were college age when they stood against an opposing British monarch and demanded life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In fact, the right to freedom of speech was considered so important that James Madison, the author of the