

RESCISSION PROPOSALS AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three rescission proposals, totaling \$132.0 million.

The proposed rescissions affect the Departments of Justice and Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 2, 1995.

CONDEMNING THE BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 135) condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 135

Whereas on Wednesday, April 19, 1995, a car bomb exploded outside the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, collapsing the north face of this 9-story concrete building, killing and injuring innocent and defenseless children and adults;

Whereas authorities are calling this the "deadliest terrorist attack ever on United States soil";

Whereas Federal law provides for the imposition of the death penalty for terrorist murder; and

Whereas additional antiterrorism measures are now pending for consideration in the United States House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous bombing attack against innocent children and adults at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City;

(2) sends its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those whose lives were taken away by this abhorrent and cowardly act; and expresses its hopes for the rapid and complete recovery of those wounded in the bombing;

(3) applauds all those courageous rescue and volunteer workers who are giving unselfishly of themselves, and commends all law enforcement officials who are working determinedly to bring the perpetrators to justice;

(4) supports the President's and the United States Attorney General's position that Federal prosecutors will seek the maximum penalty allowed by law, including the death penalty, for those responsible;

(5) commends the rapid actions taken by the President to provide assistance to the victims of the explosion and for promptly beginning an investigation to find the perpetrators of this crime, and it urges the President to use all necessary means to continue this effort until the perpetrators and their accomplices are found and appropriately punished; and

(6) will expeditiously approve legislation to strengthen the authority and resources of all Federal agencies involved in combating such acts of terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 135.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to my friend and colleague, the senior member of the Oklahoma House delegation, the gentleman from Oklahoma, [Mr. BREWSTER], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I truly wish the first bill that I had managed on the House floor would have been anything other than the resolution that we have before us today. I would like to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for allowing the House to consider this measure in such an expeditious manner. Over the next hour we will talk of lost innocence, tragedy, death, resilience, human spirit, and rebuilding. I thank my colleagues for taking part in this debate.

Mr. SPEAKER, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BREWSTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we have this resolution before the House today. I wish we were not here. I wish the tragic disaster that happened last April 19, had not happened. The deadliest terrorist attack that ever happened on America's soil happened in Oklahoma city.

This cowardly act killed more than 138 people, including 15 children. Over 40, including 4 children are still missing. Over 465 people were injured in the blast.

Mr. Speaker, it becomes very personal when you see and know the individuals affected. I have lost friends, and many of my friends have lost loved ones. I have attended memorial services and seen the pain—undescrivable pain—on these innocent faces. Children who have lost a parent; parents who have lost their children. Families torn

apart from the senseless act of terrorism.

The healing process will be long and difficult. Just today, Mr. Speaker, I read a letter written by one of the victims of the bombing. Susan Farrell, a 37-year-old attorney for HUD who grew up in Chandler, OK, was in the building during the explosion. She had written me only 2 days before the bombing asking for support for the Legal Services Corporation.

The shock waves from this cowardly act will long be felt in the heart of Oklahomans, and in the heart of Americans. April 19 has been burned into our history books as a day to remember the lives lost, the children who never saw another birthday, the families who felt the pain, and the innocence left behind in Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand proud to be an Oklahoman. Countless volunteers and workers have donated much of their time to help those suffering and help in the relief effort. I recall listening to those early news reports that continued to praise Oklahomans for being so kind, and reporting with shock that these citizens reached out with everything they had to help the victims. I was not surprised at the outpouring of love and support. Oklahomans are a proud and honorable people.

I want to also recognize the outpouring of all Americans. Relief groups traveled from all over the country to help Oklahomans in their time of need. Those people, and their efforts will not be forgotten.

It has been additionally heartwarming to hear the remarks by President Clinton, Rev. Billy Graham, Gov. Frank Keating and his wife Cathy, and Mayor Ron Norick throughout this tragedy. All have reached out to comfort and console those families and let them know this evil act will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution today expresses our condolences, sympathies, and prayer for the families of the victims, to the injured and also for the deceased. We pray for them and we want them to know of our outrage for the crime and our compassion for those individuals as well.

The resolution states our strong support for the President and the law enforcement officials who are doing everything within their power to apprehend and try and punish those people who are responsible, and it states that we support the President and the Attorney General as they say this is certainly a case in which the death penalty is appropriate.

This resolution also goes further to thank the volunteers and the countless people who have put so much into easing the pain.

In the aftermath of this terrible tragedy, we must be very careful not to go too far as we respond legislatively. We cannot be too careful when considering legislation which impacts every American—balancing constitutional rights with protections needed to prevent this