But to hear him suggest that Democrats or some in this body are blocking passage of this legislation because we want Federal employees, nothing could be further from the truth. We want to ensure that every airport security installation in this Nation is able to cross-share information with every other airport security installation in this Nation, which will secure the safety of all our passengers.

Let us follow the lead of the Senate and pass a bill here in this House that will allow for the safety of all Americans all across this great Nation.

□ 1015

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISION TO CURE WHAT AILS AMERICAN ECONOMY

(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, it is said that without a vision, the people perish. President Bush's vision for curing what ails the American economy is very simple. It is a vision of tax relief and expanded trade. Yesterday Republicans and many Democrats in this House came together to give the President the beginning of the first half of that vision as we passed nearly $100 billion in urgent tax relief in this year alone out of this Chamber and sending it to the Senate. But there is more work to be done, and that is the President's vision for expanded trade.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that this Chamber gave the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements. We must give the President trade promotion authority. Over 100 international trade agreements in the last decade, the United States of America is a party to two. Pro-growth tax policies, expanded markets for foreign exchange, this is the President's vision. This should be America's vision. It should be the House's vision.

95 PERCENT OF BAGS IN BELLY OF AIRPLANE NOT SCREENED FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is the 43rd straight day that the Republican leadership of this House has blocked any votes doing any single thing to keep our airplanes from being hijacked or blown out of the sky. Imagine that. We are being sent home to our district for a 4-day weekend instead of voting here to do something about airline safety.

Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to think about this. When Members get on airplanes this afternoon or tomorrow morning, 95 percent of the bags in the belly of the airplane have not been screened in any way for an explosive device. Yet we have been blocked from having a vote on this or any airline safety issues for 43 days from an ideological hesitancy to allow the House to work its will. The Democrats are not blocking anything. The Democrats are in the minority. We are asking the Republican leadership to bring this bill to the floor. Let us have a vote and let us do something for airline security. After 43 days, it is high time.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

(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, last Friday America lost two of its best and brightest. Specialist John Edmunds and PFC Kristofer Stonesifer died as their helicopter crashed in Pakistan while supporting a nighttime mission. Both of them were assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Georgia. Both men were committed to excellence.

Private Stonesifer's ROTC instructor said, ''He wanted to be the best soldier in the U.S. Army, and the best soldiers in the Army are in the Ranger battalion.''

On September 11, America was shaken. We learned once again that freedom is not free. Freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and press were won at the cost of American lives.

Mr. Speaker, this great Nation is learning once again, to preserve these freedoms some brave and dedicated men have to put their lives on the line.

On Friday, Private Stonesifer and Specialist Edmunds paid the ultimate cost for our freedom. Every American owes these two Americans a debt of gratitude.

AMERICAN ECONOMY LAGS BECAUSE CONGRESS DID NOT DO ITS JOB

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a bill that is labeled an economic stimulus package; but the fact of the matter is with $8 trillion taken out of the economy through declines in the stock market, and the decline in buying power anywhere from three to $400 billion, the amount passed in no way will stimulate the economy.

Despite the fact that the Fed will soon meet for the tenth interest rate cut, we are going to continue to see the American economy lag because Congress yesterday did not do its job. Instead, what Congress did was to give permanent tax cuts to those least likely to spend it: large corporations and those who are at the highest income.

Congress gave a retroactive tax cut, immediate rebates to large corporations, and nothing was in that bill for people who really need help, people who are expected to be unemployed, those employees who are at places like Kodak and others where thousands are being laid off.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to readdress and come back and look at this issue of economic stimulus to take care of those who are truly needy in this country and resist the urge to feed the greedy.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PULL TOGETHER AND FORGO NEGATIVISM

(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 along with others have been encouraged by the response to recent attacks on our country. We have seen a renewed patriotism, spiritual renewal in the country and a sense of unity. That unity has extended to the Congress. For the past 5 weeks, we have shown an exceptional spirit of cooperation here.

In that light, I was really disappointed in yesterday's debate. I saw a return to business as usual, negativism and blaming. My experience over a long period of time has been that having a common goal, having a larger purpose, having a sense of mission causes negativism and personal ambition and divisiveness to fall away.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time that this Nation and this body needs to pull together, it is now. So if our speech and our actions and motives are filtered through the lens of national interest, we will pull together. We need to do this over time and not just in the heat of the moment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will keep the national interest first and foremost in our thoughts and mind and prayers as we move forward as a body.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL IS CRUEL HOAX PLAYED UPON AMERICA

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis we come in and put our right hand over our heart and say, ''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.''

For the Democratic Party to be criticized for being opposed to this cruel hoax that passed the House of Representatives under the guise of an omnibus economic stimulus bill is a cruel hoax played upon America.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a day that we do not see scripts at the bottom of the screen on television about people losing their jobs. Yesterday, Hershey closed down, 1,100 people immediately lost their jobs.