

the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1950

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1950.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

ENRON EMPLOYEES PROVIDED SEVERANCE BENEFITS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago in Houston, Texas, Enron filed bankruptcy. Hours after the bankruptcy filing occurred, 5,000 fellow Houstonians, many of whom were my constituents, were fired, terminated, with no relief and no benefits.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that a tentative settlement has been agreed to, yet to be approved by the court, to provide the ex-Enron employees with their needed and with their deserved and with their old severance pay.

Let me acknowledge the work of the AFL-CIO and Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and Reverend Jesse Jackson, working in a collaborative effort to encourage the employees not to be silent.

We made history today, Mr. Speaker. For the first time in a bankruptcy court proceeding, unsecured creditors were able to receive funding before any proceedings were to go forth. These employees, who basically have no standing in a bankruptcy proceeding, now with the creditors' committee, now with the lawyers, now with Enron as it presently stands, have agreed to provide this severance pay.

I think this is a historic day. But it gives the Congress the opportunity to change the Bankruptcy Code, and the bankruptcy laws as well, to ensure that employees who are victimized and not at fault will have the opportunity to receive their benefits.

I look forward to this Congress acting immediately. I would like to thank the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and, of course, the leader of the other body for their help.

PRIVATIZATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the administration decided last week to privatize our air traffic controllers by executive order. So why are we spending millions on transportation security, federalizing baggage screeners, if we are going to commit ourselves to unsafe air travel?

Our Nation's air travel problems were on the ground with the security screeners, not in the air with the traffic controllers. Why are we penalizing them? These men and women take pride every day in keeping their fellow citizens safe as they travel America's skies.

On September 11, the controllers landed 5,000 planes in less than 2 hours without an operational error. My question is, Where is the problem? Why are we privatizing it?

The President's recent steps toward privatizing air controllers is a step towards disaster, and I state, towards disaster, literally. On September 11, we quickly realized that using private companies to handle airport security was a mistake. We federalized airport security because private contractors could not do the job. Why would we lock the windows, only to open the doors to potential disaster?

Privatizing has proven to be a mistake in most prominent nations. I say this is wrong. Let us not privatize our system. Let us allow the controllers to do the job, to keep our airlines safe.

PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION

(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, this morning I, along with 30 other Members of the House, filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court to block the President from withdrawing from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972.

The President, by withdrawing from this particular treaty, insists that he has the authority to terminate any treaty and can do so without the consent of Congress. But according to article VI, clause 2 of the Constitution, treaties constitute the supreme law of the land and the President does not have the authority to repeal laws.

Article I, section 1 empowers the Congress to create laws and charges the President only with carrying out these laws. Thus, the President's termination of the ABM Treaty represents an unconstitutional repeal of a law duly enacted by Congress.

The world's geopolitical trash bin is already littered with treaties and agreements unilaterally discarded by the United States under this administration. It is critical that we reassert congressional authority and end this pattern.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PRIVATIZATION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. air traffic control system is the largest and most complex in the world, and it is the safest. President Bush issued an executive order last week stripping aircraft traffic control of its inherently governmental designation. This is the first step in his plan to privatize our air traffic control system.

Privatization has failed in other countries. Canada's air traffic controllers face 6-day work weeks, mandatory overtime and a contract that expired in March. Air traffic controllers on September 11 landed 5,000 planes in the span of 2 hours without an operational error. Yet President Bush wants to privatize the air traffic control system. He wants to privatize Social Security; that will not work. He wants to privatize Medicare; that will not work. Now he wants to privatize our air traffic control system, and that will not work.

Air traffic controllers should remain under the direct supervision of the FAA, which is doing a good job to maintain the necessary levels of training, of personnel, and of common experience.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 96, PROPOSING A TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-503) on the resolution (H. Res. 439) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 96) proposing a tax limitation amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4019, PERMANENT MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-504) on the resolution (H. Res. 440) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4019) to provide that the marriage penalty relief provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall be permanent, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.