

in San Diego, Tucson and Yuma, Arizona. The Border Patrol has also been equipped with computer equipment to speed up the time it takes to process illegal aliens—freeing up more agents for work on the line.

In addition, INS deployed a valuable new tool on the border: the IDENT system. This new technology is an automated fingerprint identification system that allows INS, for the first time, to readily identify criminal aliens, track illegal crossing patterns, and collect recidivism data. Over the past year, this system has been deployed in parts of California, Arizona and Texas.

This year, we will make our agents even more effective with the following new equipment:

Additional sensors for every sector along the Southwest border to detect illegal traffic;

Portable radios for all new agents and new vehicles. In addition, INS will install a new radio network in San Diego to handle encrypted voice communication;

Infra-red scopes across the border, including 16 to the San Diego Sector, 5 to the San Diego repair facility, 6 to El Centro, 7 to Yuma, 10 to Tucson, 6 to El Paso, 5 to the El Paso repair facility, 6 to Marfa, 15 to Del Rio, 4 to Laredo, and 8 to McAllen;

New equipment and software for the Border Patrol's computer-assisted dispatch system in San Diego; and

The complete deployment of IDENT to each of the sectors along the Southwest border and the installation of IDENT enhancements.

V. SUMMARY: A RECORD OF PROGRESS

The Clinton Administration has made clear progress to date. Today, the border is harder to cross than at any time in history. INS is advancing each of the key objectives of the border control strategy. It has secured areas of the border where just 2 years ago aliens freely crossed with impunity. As it has closed off traditional traffic routes, forcing illegal crossers to remote regions and to use longer and more arduous routes. In short, INS is successfully raising the cost and difficulty of entering the United States illegally. Communities across the Southwest border are encouraged by the measures we have taken to date.

The work that the Clinton Administration is doing on the Southwest border is essential to restore the rule of law to the region and to begin to control the problem of immigration into the United States. However, to effectively control illegal immigration, the Federal Government must remove the magnet of illegal employment that draws illegal aliens to the United States and must also protect our citizens from criminal aliens.

This Administration is committed to fighting the problem of illegal immigration on each of these fronts. INS is working with unsurpassed commitment not just to control the border, but also to back up border enforcement efforts with the aggressive enforcement of immigration laws at the work-site, tough penalties on criminal aliens who return to the United States, and an aggressive program to remove criminal and other illegal aliens from the United States. The agency is now armed with new resources to eliminate the job magnet and restore integrity to our immigration system. The measures being taken, and the enforcement plan at work, will bring greater security to the region and to the country for years to come.

A CHRONOLOGY OF PROGRESS ON THE BORDER: 1993-1996

March 1993—14-mile Fence Completed in the San Diego Sector

The San Diego fence, built with support of the military's Joint Task Force 6, has re-

routed illegal traffic, deterred illegal entry and forced alien and drug smugglers to use routes where the risk of apprehension is substantially higher.

October 1993—Operation Hold the Line Launched in El Paso, Texas

Operation Hold the Line employs an enhanced Border Patrol unit to engage in linewatch operations in the metropolitan El Paso area to effectively stop illegal immigration between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

October 1994—Operation Gatekeeper Launched in San Diego, California

The Department of Justice deployed new agents, added support staff to free additional agents to work on the line, and provided the San Diego Sector with new technology, including the prototype IDENT system, and equipment. INS uses these and other new resources in an aggressive new strategy to control illegal immigration into San Diego and to shift traffic to areas where crossing is more difficult and the risk of apprehension is greater.

October 1994—Operation Safeguard Launched in Arizona

Operation Safeguard utilizes a line-watching strategy, in the Nogales and Douglas areas of Arizona. As part of the Operation, and in order to channel illegal traffic to areas of enhanced Border Patrol control, INS built part of a 4.7-mile metal fence in the Nogales Station area in 1995.

January 1995—New Resources Deployed Across the Southwest Border

With new resources in FY 1995, INS announced that it would add 700 Border Patrol agents to the Southwest border to bring the on duty force to 4,400. These new agents are supported with new vehicles, equipment and technologies, and well as new roads, fences and lighting.

May 1995—Operation Disruption Launched in San Diego

With the INS border crackdown in San Diego, INS launched Operation Disruption to disrupt established alien smuggling routes and to prevent smugglers from developing new avenues for illegal entry into the United States.

June 1995—Phase II of Gatekeeper Launched in San Diego

Building on the success of Operation Gatekeeper, a second phase was launched to respond to changes in traffic patterns and to address smuggling. INS placed additional agents in East County and tightened security at ports of entry. In addition, the agency announced that it would maintain and improve checkpoints north of San Diego and a new temporary checkpoint in East County.

October 1995—Further Enhancements to Gatekeeper

Attorney General announced the detailing of agents to San Diego to beef up enforcement in East County and to reinforce Imperial Beach and other areas of San Diego. She also announced that INS penalties for fraudulent document users, new detention space to support the border crackdown, and the appointment of Alan Bersin, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, to be her Special Representative for the southwest border to coordinate the work of all Justice Department agencies, harness resources from throughout the Federal Government, and work with state and local law enforcement.

December 1995—IDENT Installed in Tucson, El Paso, McAllen, Yuma

The IDENT prototype system deployment continued, expanding in areas east of San Diego and bringing the useful apprehension and analytic tool to more Border Patrol sec-

tors along the Southwest border. By March, all nine Southwest sectors will have the IDENT prototype installed.

January 1996—Border Enhancements in California and Arizona

INS detailed 200 agents from Western, Central and Eastern regions of the United States to sectors in California and Arizona and 100 investigators/special agents as an advance deployment of FY 1996 resources. These new agents, along with improved coordination with the military and the support of local law enforcement, will increase control and further deter illegal immigration into the United States during a period when immigration pressures from Mexico are high.

February 1996—FY 1996 resources are deployed to California, Arizona and Texas

Department of Justice announced the deployment of new resources to be directed to the Southwest border. These include the addition of 1,000 Border Patrol agents to the front line and the extension of the border strategy to gain control of additional sections of the border where there is a high level of illegal traffic—providing significant support for San Diego, Tucson, and El Paso and McAllen, Texas.

FIGHTING CRIME TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, a long shadow is falling over Nebraska. Slowly, the shadow is blotting out the sunny streets and parks where children play. It's blotting out the moonlight where couples walk, carefree. It's even blotting out the warm, welcoming glow of our own houses at night.

That shadow is crime, and after many years of thinking it can't fall on us here—it has. The violence that trails gangs and drugs like a vicious dog drove homicides in Omaha to an all-time high in 1995. There were 41 killings last year in Omaha, 8 more than 1994. Omaha's police made nearly 20 percent more juvenile arrests in 1995 than in 1994. And the shadow even claimed the life of one of our brave men in blue. As Ronald Reagan once said, our police patrol "the thin blue line that holds back a jungle which threatens to reclaim this clearing we call civilization. No bands play when a cop is shooting it out in a back alley." Certainly none play when he can't even fire back.

We may have been free from the worst crime for many years, but now we must turn and face the shadow, and drive it back.

Today I want to talk about how I think we can restore safety to our streets and sanity to the system. I'm fighting hard to protect the American dream. An essential part of that dream is the freedom from fear. We must have safe streets and secure schools, and I believe that we can.

TOUGH CRIME BILLS

The fact is that moral principles—our values—underlie our criminal justice system. There's nothing wrong with these values, and we should never feel guilty about making those who violate those values pay. Theft is not some act of artistic or political expression. It is theft and it is wrong. Murder is not forbidden as a matter of subjective opinion. It is objectively evil, and we must stop it. No one but

thieves and murderers benefit when we think otherwise.

I've long argued for tougher punishment for those who prey on society. Back in 1994, I made my support for the death penalty a cornerstone of my bid for Congress. Since then, I've worked hard for tough crime legislation that made sure local law enforcement officials—and not Washington bureaucrats—decided how their funds were used.

A year ago, we in the House of Representatives passed six tough bills aimed at combating crime. For instance, the House unanimously approved the Victim Restitution Act. The bill instructs courts in Federal criminal proceedings to require convicted offenders to pay restitution to their victims. The fact that we passed the Victim Restitution Act without a single dissenting vote tells me Congress truly has changed. Nowadays, we all agree that criminals should have to pay for their misdeeds—literally.

The House also approved the Exclusionary Rule Reform Act, which would allow prosecutors in federal court to use evidence gathered by law enforcement officials acting in good faith. Today, criminals are frequently acquitted on technicalities, only because the officers investigating them unknowingly stepped over some arbitrary line. A typo on a warrant should never put a vicious criminal back on the street. This reform would help end that, while still protecting the rights of private citizens.

We passed the Effective Death Penalty Act, to limit the number of appeals of convicted felons already on death row. Currently, those on death row can file almost unlimited appeals, tying up the courts and using the appeals process to escape their sentence. We've seen that again and again in Nebraska as vicious killers like Willie Otey and John Joubert cheat justice for decades.

Fourth, the House passed the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act, which provided resources to states for prison construction and also contained truth-in-sentencing provisions intended to make convicted criminals serve more of the prison terms they are given.

Fifth, we passed the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act, which strengthens our ability to deal with aliens who are convicted of serious crimes while they are in the United States. It's a shocking fact that our Federal prisons now hold more than 25 percent non-U.S. citizens. Since 1980, the number of alien inmates has skyrocketed 600 percent. Why on earth should our States pay hundreds of millions of dollars a year to incarcerate foreign drug dealers?

The House capped its action on crime prevention by passing the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act. This bill would provide resources to States and cities like Omaha for law enforcement and allows them to spend it in the most effective way for their area. It will help local police fight crime without Congress dictating from Washington the best way to do it. A program along those lines will allow Sarpy County police to go high-technology this year, putting laptops in squad cars to keep them on the beat more and at their desks less.

All but one of these bills are waiting for approval in the Senate. But I'm not going to just stand around and wait for them. I'm going to be working to bring these bills up again in a revised form that addresses the Senate's con-

cerns. And I'm going to work to see that the Senate brings these bills up. I believe that controlling crime is one key concern of Americans nationwide.

CHRISTENSEN PRISON REFORM BILL

Some say prisoners are overcrowded. Some say prisoners are uncomfortable. Some say prisoners are denied access to recreation.

To them I say: So?

For too long, liberal judges, slick lawyers and misguided policies have turned prisons into playhouses. To fix that, I've put together legislation that makes it clear once and for all that our prisons are not country clubs.

First, the legislation would repeal all Federal prohibitions inhibiting or prohibiting the sale or shipment of prison-made goods. Simply put, this bill would give our Federal prisons the ability to require prisoners to produce goods and services that are actually demanded by market forces, as opposed to spending time on make-work projects such as busting rocks. Profits generated by the sale of such goods and services can then go to help reduce the costs of institutionalization and victim restitution, and take some of the burden off our overtaxed families.

Moreover, the prison reform bill assesses a 25-percent levy on all prisoner wages, with: 5 percent going to reimburse the prosecuting agency for the cost of prosecution; 10 percent going to victim restitution, and 10 percent to a new fund created to help to protect our officers from violent criminals, and to help the families of peace officers killed in the line of duty.

Second, the bill would institute a 48-hour-per-week work requirement for all Federal prisoners. If both parents in middle-class families are forced to work just to make ends meet, at the very least we should demand that those who have broken our laws and terrorized our families should put in an honest day's work.

Third, the Christensen bill requires Federal prisoners to study at least 12 hours per week. Part of the role of the prison is to prepare convicted criminals to reenter society. It's not their choice whether to spend that time playing cards or getting their GED. It's ours.

Fourth, the Christensen bill would prohibit the use of weight lifting equipment in Federal prisons by Federal prisoners. Why should taxpayers be forced to pay for criminals to become stronger and more deadly so that they can then prey upon our families and children upon release? Our prisons are not for recreation—they are for incarceration.

Fifth, the Christensen bill would ban the use of televisions in Federal prisons, with a narrow exception for educational purposes. So long as just one Nebraska family can't afford the luxury of cable television, then not one Federal prisoner should either. It's time we quit treating our Federal prisons like Holiday Inns.

Finally, the Christensen bill seeks an end to frivolous prison litigation. Inmates have claimed prisons have violated their rights to: Wear sunglasses; own soap on a rope; and eat off real china as opposed to paper plates.

Try finding those rights in the Constitution.

In my home State of Nebraska, inmates have sued claiming: a right to meals of his choice, complaining about soggy toast and cold hamburgers; cruel and unusual punishment because Nebraska taxpayers wouldn't pay for a nose job; and even a right to child pornography in prison, despite the fact that the

inmate was serving a sentence for first degree sexual assault on a child and manufacturing child pornography.

The bottom line is that these lawsuits are nuts, and they must stop. I believe this bill will make sure prisons are punishment, not playgrounds.

HARD TIME FOR GUN CRIMES BILL

Another bill I've been working on is H.R. 3085, the Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act.

This bill would make it clear that the problem with guns in our society is not the guns but the felons who use them for a criminal purpose. It would do so by dramatically increasing the penalties for the possessing, brandishing, or discharging a firearm during the commission of a federal felony.

For instance, under my bill, if you fire a gun during the commission of a Federal crime: If it's the first offense, you'll get 30 extra years in jail. If it's the second offense, you'll get a minimum 50 extra years in jail.

The key message is that we've had it with gun-related violence. Americans have zero tolerance for gun crime, so our justice system should too. Our families and children shouldn't be afraid to walk to school, go to the grocery store, and leave their windows open at night.

I believe firmly that gun control is not crime control. Why would someone willing to commit murder respect gun control laws? Gun control, while often well-intentioned, has simply failed. We have over 22,000 gun control laws on the books today. Yet the States with the toughest gun laws tend to have the highest crime rates, and those with the least gun laws tend to have the lowest. Controlling those who use guns in a criminal way is far more effective than cracking down on the vast majority of law-abiding citizens who own firearms for hunting and their own protection.

That's why I think we should work to keep those who would misuse guns in jail. No more slick criminal defense attorneys pushing criminals to freedom through legal loopholes. No more soft sentences after teary speeches before the bench. No more legal gymnastics setting criminals free after a fraction of their allotted time in jail.

My hard time for gun crimes bill sends a clear message: If you use a gun to commit a felony, plan on spending the next few decades behind bars—no exceptions.

WELFARE REFORM

The bills passed by the House last year and just last week are aimed at fixing our desperately broken criminal justice system. I'd like to add my measures, which will both keep criminals in jail and make jail a punishment once again. I believe that as a package, these get-tough measures will transform America's attack on crime and make it effective once again.

But before I close, I want to touch on one other major crime control initiative that I have supported from the beginning of my campaign. It may not always be presented as crime-control, but I believe strongly that it is. That initiative is welfare reform.

Over the past 30 years, the rise in violent crime parallels the rise in families abandoned by fathers. High-crime areas also overlap with concentrations of broken families. One study indicated that a 10-percent increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent households leads typically to a 17-percent increase in juvenile crime. According to policy analyst Patrick Fagan, "In high-crime inner-city

neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable homes do not become delinquents. By contrast, only 10 percent of children from unsafe, unstable homes in these neighborhoods avoid crime."

And it is where welfare is most prevalent that families break up. If family break-up causes crime, and welfare causes family break-up, why do we keep kiting checks to destroy our most vulnerable communities? Reforming welfare is not just a matter of saving money—it is a matter of fighting crime. Reforming welfare is a moral imperative for those who care about our children's safety.

Last year we worked hard to end welfare as we know it, to spring our Nation's most vulnerable members from the trap of dependency, sloth, and moral decay. The Personal Responsibility Act, as it was called, was a revolutionary proposal that delivered the true, tough welfare reform Americans have been demanding for so long. In spite of cries to the contrary, this legislation will improve the lives of the disadvantaged children trapped in today's collapsed welfare pit. Welfare reform will, over time, begin to heal the diseased underbelly of society. And as it does, I deeply believe the cancer of crime will begin to recede.

The current welfare system is a cause, not a cure, of the ills afflicting inner-city America. Nothing could be more cruel to our Nation's children than a system which lures their parents into dependency, traps them in broke down public housing, and subsidizes failure, illegitimacy, and substance abuse. This system is hurting the very disadvantaged children it was intended to help—and turning ever more of them to a life of crime.

The current welfare state fuels crime by paying poor people to break up their families, use drugs and alcohol, and abandon their responsibility for their own lives. Over half of the 5 million families on welfare remain trapped on it for 10 years or more.

The Personal Responsibility Act I supported would end welfare as a way of life, both by requiring recipients to work for benefits after 2 years, and by cutting off welfare altogether after 5 years. The measure would get even tougher with faceless Washington bureaucrats. It eliminated their bloated headquarters, turning the resources over to States to design programs that work at the local level. I want to make sure our money is used in Nebraska where it's needed, not Washington where all too often it's wasted. That way the resources can be used to lift families out of poverty, instead of anchoring them in it. The seemingly hopeless, pointless communities blasted by the top-down welfare state breed crime, and true welfare reform would allow Nebraska to heal those communities. We could save children not just from poverty, but from depravity.

Moving to an opportunity society rather than a welfare state will favor families over illegitimacy, local control over Federal centralization, and responsibility over dependence. And, ultimately, it will fight crime by giving our poorest, most disillusioned children hope rather than handouts. The best way to fight crime is to have fewer children becoming criminals.

Those who truly care about our safety—as well as our disadvantaged—should come together to reform the failed Federal welfare state. I'll continue working hard to see that that gets done.

CONCLUSION

I believe that the new Congress and I have brought true change to Washington. I've

worked hard to balance the budget for the first time in a generation to put the Nation back on track, just as I said I would. I've worked hard to clean up our broken court system, to stop the blight of runaway lawyers and rampant lawsuits crippling our Nation, just as I said I would. I've worked hard as your representative on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee to reduce the burden on hard-working Americans and job-creating businesses to restore the upward climb of our families and workplaces, just as I said I would. And I've tried always to keep my word, to restore the bonds of trust that make a democracy work—just as I said I would.

This fight to bring Nebraska's values to Washington is well on its way. The day will come when the occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will have the courage to sign a balanced budget, welfare reform, and tax relief—and to keep his promises. But to restore the American dream for us and our children, none of this will be enough. What does a balanced Federal budget matter if Nebraska's children can't play in the streets? What consolation is the restoration of a good income to a woman who's lost her husband at the hands of a violent criminal? What do good jobs and opportunity matter if people are barricaded in their houses?

That's why we need to come together as Americans to fight this shadow off. Men and women of all ideologies, all races, and all creeds agree that the shadow of crime has frightened our children long enough. I say those who care should work now—today—to restore our streets to safety. We should work now—today—to knit up our Nation's fraying social fabric. We should work now—today—to stop coddling criminals and start crushing them.

I'm confident my colleagues will join me in this hard work, because it is hard work. And I also know that many Americans on the front lines of this battle are working far more effectively and bravely than any of us could to combat crime. But until more and more of our families live free from fear, and less and less of our children cry themselves to sleep, I also promise you this: No one will outwork JON CHRISTENSEN.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am in opposition to the rule for H.R. 2202, the Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995. If passed, this bill will dramatically change the way that we deal with immigration in this country. I am concerned, therefore, because a number of very important amendments, specifically those relating to the bill's legal immigration provisions have been excluded from consideration.

H.R. 2202 attempts to do too much too fast. By combining the enforcement of illegal immigration and the reform of legal immigration in one bill, I fear that we are sending the wrong

message to the American public. While I, like most Americans, believe that we must stem the tide of illegal immigration to this country, legal immigration serves important national interests.

Given the legal and administrative complexities of the reform challenge at hand, we must examine each component to the fullest extent. I am hopeful, therefore, that my colleagues will support the Crane-Dooley-Davis amendment, which would strike the parts of title V (subtitles A, B, and C) that would virtually prevent American citizens from sponsoring their adult children, siblings, and parents; reduce America's support for refugees; and place additional experience requirements that will complicate companies' ability to hire foreign scientists and engineers.

The current legal immigration system is specifically designed to strengthen families by reuniting close family members and fueling prosperity by attracting hardworking individuals. We must not abandon these principles. At a time when strong family bonds are more important than ever, restrictions, in family based immigration will hurt legal immigrant families in America.

It is disturbing to think that Government policy will keep such families, even parents and their children, apart just because a child is older than 21 years of age. Energetic young people, about to enter the work force, are exactly the type of new Americans that complement the existing work force. Not only will they fuel our economy along with our existing population, but they will be here to care for their aging parents. Most Americans do not think that their children, at any age, are ever distant family members.

Similarly, barring entry of brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens because of the current backlog in that visa category is especially unfair to the citizens and their siblings who have followed the rules and waited patiently in line—some for 15 years or more.

H.R. 2202 imposes nearly insurmountable obstacles for U.S. citizens seeking to bring their own mothers and fathers to the United States. The legislation enables the U.S. Government to control and overrule the decisions of families by requiring that U.S. citizens purchase high levels of insurance for their parents and lowering the priority for the parents' visa category. This category will only receive visas if any are left over from other categories. The State Department projects that within 3 years after the law takes effect no visas will be available for parents.

In addition, H.R. 2202 will require citizens and legal residents to show that their income will be 200 percent above the poverty line in order to bring their parents, minor children, or spouses to the United States. More than 35 percent of Americans, over 91 million people, have incomes below 200 percent of the poverty line. The bill will have a devastating impact on American families who will be barred from living in the United States with their own husbands, wives, parents, and adult children.

Proposed restrictions in employment-based immigration will have a negative impact on the U.S. economy. It is crucial that the American workplace reflects the international character of its customers and responds to both domestic and international competitive pressures. Achieving such a work force requires looking