

for years and ran afoul of the law would be deported.

That's hardly a welcoming gesture. It would make me wonder whether our nation, which has traditionally embraced all classes of people, really wanted me.

It screams election-year propaganda: "Look everybody; look how tough we are." Such tough talk is phony. But only three senators, including Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, saw it that way and voted against it.

All of which brings me to the act of becoming a citizen, which more than 19,000 people did through the Chicago INS office last year. Five times that many will take the oath to support and defend the United States this year.

Test question: What amendment addresses or guarantees voting rights?

Citizenship USA, an INS project, took over 18,000 square feet of the old Sears store on State Street on April 30. Workers are processing at least 800 people a day to work through a backlog of citizenship applications. In the 12-month period ending this fall, INS officials expect that an amazing 60,000 new citizens will have been naturalized in Chicago. That's wonderful.

The next celebration of citizenship will take place May 24 in the International Amphitheater, where 10,000 new citizens from scores of nations around the world will be sworn in.

Question: Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

Answer: For religious freedom. And a better life.

That's something we should keep in mind when we put up roadblocks to the process that enriches us as a nation. Immigration certainly enriched me.

A CRACKDOWN ON IMMIGRANTS IS RESTRICTING SCHOLARSHIPS

(By Dirk Johnson)

EDGAR, WI, May 9.—Vying to attend a prestigious camp for patriotic young Wisconsin scholars, one student's résumé sparked above the rest: a 16-year-old who earned straight A's, played violin, spoke French and displayed an interest in government.

But the girl, Pang Thao, a junior at rural Edgar High School, has been rejected by the camp's sponsor, the American Legion Auxiliary, because she is not a United States citizen, even though she will become one in a matter of months.

"Rules are rules, and unfortunately she's not a citizen," said Eileen Knox, a spokeswoman for the Auxiliary. "There are lots of American-born girls who are still waiting in the wings, hoping they can be chosen."

The rejection of Pang, who immigrated with her parents when she was two months old, follows a similar incident in Texas earlier this spring. The Houston Stock Show and Rodeo awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to a Texas honors student, only to withdraw the prize after learning the winner was not a United States citizen.

When it comes to anger toward immigrants and their children, a growing sentiment by almost any measure, Americans usually complain about unskilled and illiterate newcomers putting a drain on budgets and services.

But the rejection of the two young scholars, immigration advocates say, illustrates a wellspring of resentment against those who can compete, perhaps too well.

"On the one hand, we encourage assimilation and achievement," said Lucas Guttentag, a lawyer who specializes in immigration for the American Civil Liberties Union, "and we say we want immigrants to learn the values of American society. But then we turn around and exclude these peo-

ple from the very institutions that imbue those values."

The tough immigration bill passed overwhelmingly by the Senate, for example, would deny college financial aid to legal immigrants who are not citizens.

For Pang, the talk of policy and politics can be reduced to something very basic. "There are a lot of people out there who don't like me," she said the other night, while on break from her job as a waitress at her parents' restaurant. "They don't know me. But they don't like me."

In fact, Mr. and Mrs. Thao were among the thousands of Hmongs driven by Communist forces from Laos for helping the United States in the Vietnam War.

Pang is an exceedingly polite teenager who seems to bend over backwards to avoid sounding like a complainer. But she hears plenty of the stereotypes about minorities: "They get more welfare. They don't pay taxes. They're not loyal to America."

She has found herself saying in a flash of defensive anger: "Man don't you understand, I'm here because of you. I'm here because my relatives and my ancestors helped the Americans in the war."

Her parents, Long, 38, and Chong Thao, 38, delayed starting the citizenship process until last year. "It is hard to let go when you come from another country," said Mrs. Thao. "It's a part of you. But over time, we understand. This is our home country now. We are Americans." They run the Thai Cafe in a strip mall in Wausau, a city of 37,000 in central Wisconsin with a sizeable Hmong (pronounced mung) population. Pang works nights and Saturdays.

Mrs. Thao also works full time as a case-worker for the Marathon County Welfare Department. In addition, the family raises ginseng in the fields around their farmhouse here, about 20 miles west of Wausau.

The family, with six children, struggles financially. But the parents remember life in the refugee camp in Thailand. "The refugee camp was hell," Mrs. Thao said. "Not enough food. Poor sanitation. Hot. A lot of sick children. Many died. We were lucky."

Pang and her parents have been careful not to criticize the American Legion. And they have expressed gratitude to the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, which recently invited Pang to participate in an international conference there in June, as a consolation for her rejection at the Legion camp, Badger Girls State.

Those who defend the citizenship rule noted that favoritism for citizens goes back to the nation's founders. They point to the constitutional requirement that the President be born in the United States.

"Citizenship means something," said Mrs. Knox, of the Legion Auxiliary. "On Election Day, you cannot go to the polls and say, 'Well, I'm going to be a citizen next week.'"

The disappointment in the Thao family has been keen, although Pang, the oldest child, bristles at the notion of people feeling sorry for her. "I'm not complaining," she said. "I'm not whining, and I don't need anyone's pity." More than anything else about the citizenship issue, she said, she is bothered by the views of those who believe being born in the United States is a virtue. "I really dislike this idea of some people being superior over others," she said. "Most of the people here are just a mix of nationalities from somewhere else. The difference between me and you is the color of our skin and our background. And that's it."

At the time of the application for the camp, it appeared the citizenship approval might be granted in time. But the shut-down of some Government offices in the Washington budget dispute delayed citizenship applications and doomed those hopes.

"It's all right, Mom, it's really no big deal," Pang had said, knowing how badly her mother felt.

The students and teachers at Edgar High School, where minorities can be counted on the fingers of one hand, have supported Pang, said Mark Lacke, the school principal.

"She is a very bubbly, smart, popular girl," said Mr. Lacke, who had pressed the Legion to reconsider. If the Legion would not budge, Mr. Lacke asked if it would be possible for Pang to attend the camp as an observer, rather than as a delegate. The principal said he would drive the girl there himself, and the school would pay her expenses.

"They got back to me and said there was no latitude," he said. "There should have been some forum for an appeal here."

Pang, who will attend the University of Minnesota after she graduates from high school next year, plans to study architectural design. "The best schools are in the East, but they're really expensive," she said.

As Pang helped her harried parents clear tables and deliver orders, she spoke of the financial pressures at home, vowing to claim a piece of the American dream.

"After college," she said, "I'm going make big bucks, help my little sister get in to one of those Eastern schools—one of us has got to." ●

DEMOCRATS BLOCKING REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I am disappointed that again today, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blocked efforts to start to relieve the tax burden on the American people by repealing the 1993 Clinton gas tax increase. I wish we would have been able to repeal this tax today before the American people set off to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and the beginning of the summer driving season.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle had agreed to pass the gas tax repeal if the House passed the minimum wage bill in a form acceptable to them. Well, Mr. President, the House did pass a clean minimum wage bill. Yet, rather than keep their promise and pass the gas tax repeal, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have again blocked its passage. Time and again we have tried to accommodate them and time and again they have backed away from their promises. How are we to help the American people if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to renege on their promises?

I would like to remind my colleagues, that when President Clinton raised taxes \$268 billion in 1993, he said he was raising them on the rich. We knew then that that was not true. Now there is no doubt. President Clinton has raised taxes not only on the middle class but also on low-income families, and now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are denying these low-income families tax relief. The truth is, Mr. President, that every person who drives a car, who buys groceries, who takes the bus, the train, or a plane has to pay this tax. These aren't all rich Americans. In fact, Americans who are hit the hardest by this regressive tax are people at the lowest income levels,

those making less than \$10,000 a year. Repeal of this regressive tax, therefore, would benefit all Americans, especially those with modest incomes.

It is a well-known fact that the 4.3-cents-per-gallon motor fuels tax not only disproportionately affects low-income people, but it also hits people in rural areas harder than it does those in more metropolitan areas. President Clinton knows this. In February 1993, just months before he signed into law the largest tax increase in history, said, and I quote, "For years there have been those who say we ought to reduce the deficit by raising the gas tax a whole lot. That's fine if you live in the city and ride mass transit to work. It's not so good if you live in the country and drive yourself to work." Despite this statement, the 4.3-cents-per-gallon tax increase was enacted. I agree with President Clinton's 1993 statement. People in rural areas should not be penalized because they live in areas that require them to use their cars and travel longer distances. For example, in my home State of Delaware, which contains many rural areas, the average family pays \$463 in gas taxes per year. This figure includes both State and Federal gas taxes. When the 4.3-cents-per-gallon motor fuels tax is repealed, the average Delaware family's tax burden will be reduced by \$48—a good first step.

The Clinton gas tax increase did not get a single Republican vote because Republicans believe in cutting wasteful Government spending, rather than increasing taxes to pay for more Government spending. So while in the scheme of Government programs the 4.3-cents-per-gallon gas tax may not seem to be a paramount issue, it represents what separates Republicans from the big Government spenders. While the President purports to favor balancing the budget, at best he would do so by matching big spending with high taxes. Our belief is that we should cut spending and lower taxes.

Mr. President, it is time to give Americans a break from taxes and big Government. I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to allow the Senate to move forward, and stop blocking tax relief for working Americans.●

AMBASSADOR ROBERT KRUEGER

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, our former colleague in the Senate, Ambassador Robert Krueger, has been nominated to be Ambassador to Botswana after serving as Ambassador to Burundi. A report that he sent around to some friends about Burundi is worth reading for anyone interested in that troubled nation.

I ask that Ambassador Krueger's report be printed in the RECORD.

The report follows:

BURUNDI: AN OKLAHOMA CITY MASSACRE EVERY HOUR

(A Report by Ambassador Robert Krueger, April 24, 1996)

Summary: The situation in Burundi is more threatening to human life and democracy, with a greater chance for major conflagration, than at any time in the last two years. A European diplomat says that "if the world gives up on Burundi . . . perhaps a million may die" there. (End summary.)

On the weekend of April 19, Americans mourned again and reflected on the worst terrorist attack in our history: 168 people killed a year ago in Oklahoma City. Television cameras covered the scene; dignitaries spoke on the occasion; and citizens everywhere questioned how terror could strike so unexpectedly, shattering lives in an instant and a sense of security for years.

But if we adjust proportionately for the difference in populations, Burundi has an Oklahoma City-size massacre every hour of the day. Burundi's population is only about one-forty-second (1/42) that of the USA. Hence, 4 people being killed in Burundi are numerically equivalent to 168 killed in the USA. Regrettably, a reasonable estimate is that 100 people are killed daily in Burundi; or, four every hour, 24 hours a day.

Understandably, cameras in America focussed, on April 19, 1996, on Oklahoma City; or on Lebanon, where at least 75 were killed. And world attention naturally follows the camera. Yet, normally there are no international camera crews in Burundi. But the killing continues.

This cable is a reminder that in an obscure country in the heart of Africa, the killing is proportionately vastly heavier than what the cameras are covering; or, indeed, than in almost any place else in the world. And as the protagonist of Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" said, "Attention must be paid."

I recently sent a summary report (Secstate 80807) stating that I had perceived a steady destruction of democracy and an increase in mayhem during my almost two-year tenure as ambassador to Burundi. And the situation now seems to me worse than when the cable was first drafted several weeks ago. Even though I have not been in Burundi for the past 7½ months, and I must rely on the reports of various individuals whom I learned to trust when I was there, I am regrettably but firmly convinced that the situation in Burundi is at this moment more precarious, with a larger possibility of massive bloodshed, than at any time since my arrival in Burundi in June, 1994.

In 1994, and often in 1995, visitors would regularly ask, "Will Burundi be another Rwanda?" with, of course, all the fears of historically large genocide which the question carries. My response was "I won't predict for more than two months or so into the future; but, no, we will not have a Rwanda-type disaster in that period." And that much proved true.

But today, I find that the president of the large political party, Dr. Minani of Frodebu, has openly written in official public documents, just two weeks ago, that he believes Burundi is in a situation like that of Rwanda before April 6, 1994, the onset of the deluge. Other Burundi leaders and foreign diplomats with whom I have spoken sound more ominous tones than anything I had heard in Burundi during my time there.

"The center will not hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."—W.B. Yeats

While the international community and those who support democratic institutions in Burundi have both hoped that political centrists and moderates would gain greater control, the country has instead become increas-

ingly polarized. As the poet Yeats said, writing of another revolution, "The center will not hold." Certainly it has not held in Burundi, and the risk is increasing of mere anarchy being loosed—if not upon the world—then at least upon Burundi and other countries in Central Africa.

The president and prime minister no longer travel together, and are said to be openly at odds. The prime minister's party, Uprona, has renewed its periodic call for the president's resignation. Moreover, the divisions are not only inter-party, but intra-party. Many Hutu members of parliament are now more sympathetic with Nyangoma than with their official leadership. And divisions among the Tutsi community—in the army itself, within Uprona, within the various minor parties—are forcing people more and more to the extremes.

PRIME MINISTER TELLS THE POPULACE TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST "ENEMIES"

As is well known, the prime minister several weeks ago called upon the population to defend itself against its "enemies." But, as Dr. Minani pointed out in a recent Frodebu announcement, the Prime Minister did not define who those enemies were. That determination was left to the minds of the arming populace. Such calls to self-defense, it is reliably reported, have been repeated in the prime minister's visits to various locations in the countryside. Meanwhile, the FDD and other guerrilla groups have enlarged their attacks. And in face of an impotent civilian government incapable of protecting them, the majority of the population have sometimes given support to guerrillas even as they spread terror.

IMMOLATION AND MURDER

Consider some of the events of the last several weeks, reported to me from several sources that have proven reliable in the past.

(A) In an act of ethnic purification, over Easter weekend, 22 Hutu domestic workers were immolated in Nyakabiga quarter in Bujumbura by their Tutsi employers.

(B) Reportedly, 50 Hutus, including community leaders, were killed in the city of Gitega: all were members of Frodebu and related Hutu minor parties. The head of the agriculture department for that region and several teachers in secondary schools were among those murdered. The provincial governor has now fled, as have other Hutu political leaders from Gitega, the second-largest city in Burundi. To judge from recent government actions in other provinces, the civilian governor's departure will offer an excuse to replace him with yet another military governor.

(C) Even the national radio, known to favor Tutsi interests, and likely to underestimate the killing, has acknowledged that at least 300 people were killed in Gitega province between April 5-12.

(D) Tutsi extremists have driven the Red Cross from the city of Gitega so that it will be unable to witness and possibly report on the carnage.

(E) The FDD attacked and killed a large number of Tutsi students in an urban center (the name of which I failed to record).

(F) After an attack by the FDD against the army, at Bukeye, on April 10 the army killed more than 30 Hutu civilians in revenge.

(G) An official in the security service has confirmed that members of the military are recruiting Tutsi civil servants and students, training them, and issuing them weapons for use against their "enemies" in the countryside.

(H) A university official has confirmed that a letter circulating now on campus has been signed by over 100 Tutsi students, urging their classmates to stop academic work and take up arms with them against