

Mexican workers. Their wages are less than one-third of what they were in 1980. Some 14.9 percent of Mexicans live below the poverty rate, which is less than \$1 a day. In fact, the Mexican Government even has policies to hold down the wages to attract investments despite the thousands of people living on less than \$1 a day.

In 1995, one out of every five Mexican workers worked for less than the Mexican minimum wage, and 66 percent got no benefits whatsoever.

Since Mexican workers do not make very much money, they can barely afford to put food on the table, much less buy American products. Mexican infant mortality is very high, 13 deaths per 1,000 live births. For those children who do survive, 10 million of them are sent to work, violating Mexico's own child labor law.

From what I can tell, Mr. Speaker, nothing at all has been done about the horrendous environmental degradation in Mexico. Thirty percent of the population of Mexico have no access to sanitation. I have heard that some of the workers that live in some of these new industries that have gone down to Mexico are still living in refrigerator crates.

Mr. BONIOR. The gentleman makes a very good point. The American Medical Association, in examining this border, the maquiladora border that the gentleman is talking about, termed it a cesspool of infectious disease. This is our American Medical Association. That is how bad the environmental degradation is in that area, and that has caused, as the gentleman has correctly stated, numerous health problems, literally babies born without brains. There are hideous examples of deformities, just unconscionable activities on the part of the corporations that have gone down there and the governments that have allowed it to happen. I thank the gentleman for raising that point.

Mr. MOAKLEY. The gentleman from Michigan is absolutely correct. On some days the children in Mexico City can hardly breathe. This polluted air is making its way into this country. The ozone levels in El Paso, TX have increased steadily since NAFTA. The rate of hepatitis in the border region of the United States has risen to about four times the U.S. average.

Mr. Speaker, hepatitis is a very contagious disease that does not respect borders, yet the NAFTA agreement looks the other way. As the gentleman from Michigan alluded to, we import fruits and vegetables from a country that has virtually no environmental regulations and that many times these fruits and vegetables are filled with pesticides that are not even allowed in our country.

But despite all of these problems, Mr. Speaker, the administration now is proposing expanding NAFTA to Chile and possibly the rest of the southern hemisphere. I think this is a very dangerous idea. Any agreement we make

should include very serious and very specific regulations on labor, on the environment, and on human rights. These conditions should not be left for later action because, as we have seen with this trade agreement, provisions that were left out of the original agreement never really happened.

I am glad to join my leader, an expert on this matter, and I look forward to continuing this debate with him.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for his leadership and passion on this issue and for bringing to light some of the important facts on workers' rights and health and safety. We appreciate the gentleman's contribution.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPENDING EPA STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MASCARA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I was supposed to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] this evening to talk about the problems associated with the impending standards to be implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency.

First of all, I would like to give a historic perspective to illustrate why I have joined so many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to speak about the national ambient air quality standards. First let me clear the air, no pun intended. I support, as do many Members of Congress, clean air and a sound environmental policy in this country. The key word is "sound."

I would like to share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, a historic perspective about the 15 years' experience that I had in county government. During that time I served on the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission and during those 15 years I served as chairman 3 years and also as chairman of the Plan Policy Committee which had the responsibility of implementing ISTEA, which is the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 which were a companion bill. So I had an opportunity as a county commissioner to see the system from the bottom up and now as a Member of Congress to see it from the top down. I do have some experience in dealing with legislation that applies to clean air and air quality standards.

As a member of the Regional Planning Commission, we covered six counties, including Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland and the city of Pittsburgh. I also served as chairman of this Plan Policy Committee that had the responsibility of implementing those two pieces of legislation, including the National Highway System Act.

This enabled me to have a better understanding of the problems associated

with implementing those standards in southwestern Pennsylvania. I led a group of county commissioners in 1994 suggesting that the nonattainment status in southwestern Pennsylvania was incorrect, and that we as county commissioners and the city of Pittsburgh council requested that an independent testing firm test the quality of air in southwestern Pennsylvania to determine whether in fact we did not reach attainment. We found at that time that some of the equipment that was used in measuring the quality of air was faulty, we found that the air quality samples that were taken were taken on the hottest days of the year. We requested and the Department of Transportation in Pennsylvania and the Department of Environmental Resources agreed to permit a testing company, an independent testing company to measure the quality of air in southwestern Pennsylvania.

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The tests that were done by this independent firm proved our suspicions that the earlier testing was inappropriate and resulted in inaccurate test results. The air quality in the Pittsburgh region had definitely met the air quality standards. The Pennsylvania DER advised the EPA that southwestern Pennsylvania had met its ozone standards, and the EPA sat on the new information and never corrected our status from moderate nonattainment to attainment.

Listen to this. Based on monitoring data between 1989 and 1994, western Pennsylvania's air quality met or exceeded the national standards for ozone levels. Apparently the application got lost in the bureaucratic maze, for it took the EPA over 2 years to respond instead of the mandated 18-month period. That summer, the summer of 1995, western Pennsylvania's ozone readings exceeded acceptable levels on only 9 days. Let me remind you that 1995 was one of the hottest summers on record.

Yes, we paid the price for clean air that we now breathe, and as I said earlier we all support clean air. Southwestern Pennsylvania citizens paid the price, and now they want us to believe the new standards could eventually put the remaining 100,000 miners out of work and impact workers in the few remaining jobs we have in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you that as a part of the 1980's and the decline in the steel and mining industry that we lost nearly 200,000 manufacturing jobs in southwestern Pennsylvania. And these new air quality requirements are without a basis of science, and we are asking the President, and I joined in with several of my colleagues in writing the President asking him to take another look at the air quality standards which will be implemented this year.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE GREAT MEN OF GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, with the Fourth of July having just passed, I wanted to reflect on some of the thoughts I had and shared with people in Glynn, Wayne, and Pierce County, GA, this past week. I started out by saying, you know, one of the big thrills of Washington is to occasionally go up to the top of the dome, and when you do that it is kind of a special feeling. You duck into an unmarked and inconspicuous door, you climb up about a story, some spiral steps in an old roundhouse that used to contain some sort of a heating turbine, and then you go on an 1865 catwalk in between the skin of the new dome and the limestone of the old dome. You go up, round and round, for maybe 20 minutes on a set of steel concrete and cables, about 200 feet. Finally you get to the top, and on the top you see one of the best views of some of the most significant monuments in our country. You can see the Washington Monument, the reflecting pond, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, Robert E. Lee's home, and hidden in the trees, you know, the Korean and the Vietnam Memorials are also there. Each one of these monuments contains a special chapter in American history, and if you look beyond these monuments, you can see a glimpse of America herself.

On the Fourth of July we celebrate our Nation's birthday. It is fitting that we reflect on these monuments and the great souls that they immortalize. We can think about from Concord and Lexington to Vietnam and Desert Storm we seek to understand more of our own history. We look inside ourselves, if you will.

Standing on the balcony of the dome of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, to the far left you see Thomas Jefferson's monument, the third President, founder of the University of Virginia, and author of the Declaration of Independence. His work formally began when Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution for independence in the Continental Congress. Congress, even then being Congress, decided to form a committee, and a committee was formed consisting of Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and the 34-year-old Thomas Jefferson. In the nearby draffhouse he worked late into the Philadelphia nights, these words:

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another" and so forth.

As he labored, surely he knew the death warrant that would become not just for him but for so many, the strife, the hardship and inevitably war.

What guided Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Benjamin

Franklin? They were smart, they were enlightened, they were visionaries, but did they also pray? I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that like so many of our great American leaders that they did indeed pray, because I think that our Founding Fathers were guiding them.

I also believe that they were men who were ready as this whole Nation to sacrifice for this thing called freedom, and I think, third, that they knew that freedom is fragile.

Let us talk about the godliness. We always hear about Thomas Jefferson being a deist, which seems almost a buzz word for atheist, yet on his monument Thomas Jefferson says: Can the liberties of a Nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just and that his justice cannot sleep forever. End of quote.

Very explicit words, Mr. Speaker, and indeed a warning.

Likewise, Benjamin Franklin admonished delegates at the Constitutional Convention to pray to break a deadlock. His words were in the beginning of our war with Britain, we prayed daily for guidance. Our prayers were heard and were answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful friend? The longer I live, this I know to be true. God governs the affairs of men. For if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable a Nation can rise without his aide?

And George Washington on his tomb, rather than pontificating about the many, many achievements he has, he instead merely quotes the gospel of John.

I submit to you that our Founding Fathers were great men and women of God, and they had divine guidance in that America was not just born by luck or by accident. Second, Mr. Speaker, we can rest assured that they had made many, many sacrifices and were willing to, just as millions of Americans have also done, follow in their example. Indeed Thomas Jefferson and George Washington would be much happier spending their time at Monticello and Mount Vernon.

Robert E. Lee, as we look at his, the Custis mansion across the river, Robert E. Lee lost this to Arlington Cemetery; and adjoining him by way of Memorial Bridge, Abraham Lincoln lost his life because of the Civil War, as did 360,000 Union soldiers and 135,000 Confederate soldiers.

Their examples were followed in every war. The Revolutionary War, 25,000 died; the War of 1812, 2,300 died; the Mexican War, 13,000; the Spanish American War, 2,300; World War I, 117,000; World War II, 408,000. And while their monuments cannot be seen from the top of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, there are two very significant monuments. One consists of 19 life-sized figures. In the morning mist they seem to move. The wind catches their ponchos, their faces strained to the sky, their bodies bent in fatigues. They are Amer-

ican soldiers in the Korean conflict, a conflict that claimed 3 million Koreans and 1 million Chinese citizens. These soldiers are tired, hungry, cold. Their sunken eyes search for a sniper and surely for hope. They move slowly and eternally toward a black marble wall that merely says four words:

Freedom is not free.

They should know. Over 54,000 of them died. Their figures haunt us, but as we turn around through the trees across the reflecting pond and over the berm, there lies another wall. Here we face 58,211 names of other great Americans. This wall is still sober and forceful. Each name is a story.

Brantley, David Watson: Born 1946, Kite, GA; graduated 1964, Glynn Academy; died June 7, 1968 from an exploding mine in the Huz Nghiz Province.

Cameron, James Frederick: graduated Glynn Academy; shot down over the Tan Kieu Hamlet, September 13, 1969.

Smith, Russell Lamar: Born March 26, 1948; graduated Glynn Academy 1966; married, one unborn son; killed by small arms fire; DaNang, November 28, 1968.

Honaker, Raymond Kermit: Born February 16, 1949; graduated Glynn Academy 1967; helicopter shot down, August 31, 1968.

Armstrong, Atwell Asbell: Born August 19, 1947; killed by small arms fire, October 25, 1968 at Song Be.

Miller, Hebert: Killed April 21, 1971, near Quang Tri Province.

Rabb, Robert of Darien, GA; his loving mother Doris Rabb is with us today.

Grina, Thomas: Born November 16, 1949; killed December 19, 1967 by a ground explosion trying to rescue his fellow marines pinned in a killing field.

From Brunswick alone: Leonard J. Peacock, Roger E. Mathis, Carlton Amerson, Larry Williams Bailey, John Devvin Bell, and Rayford H. King.

The names go on and on and on from coastal Georgia, from the entire East Coast of the United States and all through the United States, each soldier a hero, each paying the highest price for this ideal we call freedom.

And on this national birthday let us proudly and sincerely appreciate their lives and their family. Let us recognize the high and significant advancement they gave the cause of freedom. The Vietnam war was to stop the growth of communism so we can say loudly: Mission accomplished.

Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, all once in great peril of Communist rule, are now out of danger and democratic nations today, and 179 out of 192 or 93 percent of the world's countries have free elections. And in the last 10 years 69 nations for the first time in their history have had free elections, and that includes five from the former Soviet Union.

Would this have happened without Vietnam? Hardly. Again I say: Mission accomplished.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we go back and review these monuments, let me close with this: Last summer when the Olympic torch came through Washington I asked one of the Olympic leaders, what happens when the torch goes out? He said, we merely relight it. And I said, is that it, you just relight it? He