

Given that so many elderly and disabled people were at risk to lose much-needed benefits due to welfare reform, it is my opinion that Citizenship USA actually served as a partial solution to some of the negative effects of welfare reform and in response to the criticisms aimed at a high number of these newly naturalized citizens registered to vote, I must ask, is it not a double standard? In an election year where apathy seemed to be a common tune ringing throughout the land, why criticize any group for exercising their right to vote? Do we not teach all citizens that voting is not only the epitome of living in a democracy but a responsibility as well?

I submit that the very fabric of our social, economic, cultural, and political institutions has changed into a great, great mosaic due to our Nation's newcomers. Immigrants are an integral part of our work force, tax base, and cultural diversity. May we as a Nation of immigrants not turn on ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will now shift to another idea, one that we have been discussing, debating, and talking about and will continue to do so as we talk about the reauthorization of ISTEA. I appreciate having this opportunity to speak in behalf of projects which have been proposed for the Seventh Congressional District in the State of Illinois, which I have the honor to represent.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of this country are in favor of policies and programs that meet discernible needs, create jobs, promote economic development, protect and improve the environment, and improve the overall quality of life. I shall describe four projects which are consistent with these goals and trust that they will be seriously considered by the Congress for funding, as they will greatly benefit the residents of Chicago, its western suburbs, and Cook County.

One, Marion Street mall-to-mall transit center and commuter parking facility in Oak Park, IL, is one of these projects. This project will increase rider access to several different forms of public transportation, including bus, elevated trains, and passenger rails. It will provide reciprocal access to suburban and city of Chicago residents who need public transportation to get to and from work. It will promote commercial revitalization for the villages of Oak Park and River Forest and reduce the number of cars on the roadways, thereby enhancing air quality and improvement of the overall environment.

Mr. Speaker, the second project is the funding of a preliminary engineering project to determine the feasibility and cost of widening the Union Pacific bridge over Illinois State Route 43 at Harlem Avenue.

Presently this stretch of road, which is considered a strategic arterial route, has shortcomings which cannot be easily and readily remedied. Principally the bridge embodies a dangerous center pier which severely impedes traffic

flow. Simply by widening the two-spanned structure, we can decrease the potential number of accidents as well as facilitate the flow of traffic. The reduction in congestion on the bridge will diminish the amount of air pollution and gridlock on the road.

The third project calls for the establishment of an Intelligent Transportation Systems Research Institute. This institute would marshal the research capabilities of the University of Illinois at Chicago and Champaign-Urbana, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Purdue University in Indiana, and the Argonne National Laboratory.

In an effort to employ communications technology as a solution to some of the region's inter- and intrastate traffic problems, the target area is the region spanning from Gary, IN, through Chicago, IL, and on to Milwaukee, WI. This stretch is essential for efficient commercial travel throughout the region.

An example of the technology that the Intelligent Transportation Institute will explore includes computerized traffic lights. These lights will be capable of detecting the approach of a massive public transportation bus or a commercial truck and will stay green longer to permit their passage.

Mr. Speaker, this is an idea whose time has truly come. This innovation will facilitate a way of ingress and egress from Chicago's commercial districts to the expressways linking Gary and Milwaukee. It will also expedite travel time for all workers. Through such technologies, we will be able to create a more effective transportation system.

In addition, this system will provide through the use of communications technology real-time schedules for public transportation. One will be able to access the scheduling information from work and from home. At a time when both parents work most of the day and single parents are forced to work two and three jobs, any way we can make travel time more predictable, reliable, and efficient allows American citizens to spend more time with their families. Our transportation policies can and should work to strengthen families.

Evaluation results to date show that the intelligent transportation system will yield major benefits in congestion mitigation, safety and environmental impact. To date, public and private organizations have succeeded in raising half of the financing required for the project, which has a total cost of \$6 million. Therefore, the Federal share of this worthwhile endeavor will be only one half the actual cost.

The fourth project proposes a north-south computer rail line by Metra with the station in the Village of Bellwood. Bellwood is ideally located as a crossroads of the Chicago metropolitan area at the juncture of Interstates 290, 88, and 94, between O'Hare and Midway Airports. Both Metra and the Village of Bellwood view this project as a real opportunity for partnership in dealing

with transportation needs and economic development for the region.

Mr. Speaker, I feel, and the people of the Seventh Congressional District in the State of Illinois feel that each one of these projects is viable, valuable, greatly needed and will seriously enhance the quality of life for the residents, of people who live in that particular area.

Now to conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I shall address briefly the issue that I think is so vitally important in this country, and that is the issue of children's health. I firmly believe that the greatness of a society can be determined by how well it treats its old, its young, and those who have difficulty caring for themselves. If this is the case, then by all standards we are not moving toward greatness because we are not doing well by our children.

In my own hometown, Chicago, the city of the big shoulders, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that 10.9 percent of all children born are considered low birth weight. According to the Voices for Illinois Children, more than 13,200 of all new mothers in the State, 4,000 in Chicago alone, receive virtually no prenatal care. We all know that there are more than 10 million children in this country who have no health insurance. We know that a disproportionate number of our children are being born to teen parents and are destined to live in the squalor of poverty and deprivation.

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We know that it is tough to be hungry and not have food; demoralizing to be broke and not have a job; agonizing to be cold and not have heat; and frustrating to be illiterate and not have hope. But to be sick and not be able to get health care adds another dimension to all the other problems.

The blues singer Marvin Gaye asked the question, "Who will save the baby? Who is willing to try? Who will save a world that is destined to die?" Another songwriter said that "Our children are indeed the future. Teach them well and let them lead the way."

Everybody is searching for a hero. People need somebody to look up to. And so I ask the question this day: Can the children of this Nation look to its Congress to be the hero? Can the children of this Nation look to this Congress to preserve, promote and protect the health of the Nation, the future of our country, and the destiny of our being?

So I ask the question: Will this Congress save the children? We sure can, if we are willing to try.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of clause 1 of rule XLVIII and clause 6(f) of rule X,

and notwithstanding the requirement of clause 1(a)3 of rule XLVIII, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. SKELTON of Missouri and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

There was no objection.

RECLAIMING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my 5 minutes. I was unfortunately delayed earlier.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES SHOULD PRESERVE A STRONG PATENT SYSTEM

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, earlier in these 5-minute speech periods we heard from one of my colleagues, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES], about a fight that Mr. Ray Damadian has gone through over these last 25 years in order to secure his right of ownership to a piece of technology that he invented. We are talking about the inventor of the MRI.

This technology, which has saved thousands, perhaps even millions of lives over these last 25 years and permitted the medical profession to diagnose people without having to cut them open, as in the past, has been a tremendous boon to all of mankind. It, in fact, has been a major export item for the United States of America.

The MRI was one of those great inventions, along with the airplane, along with the light bulb, along with so many other inventions that Americans are so proud came from the United States of America. And Ray Damadian, perhaps more than anybody that I know personally, reflects this type of creative genius for which Americans are so proud and this type of creative genius that had meant everything to our standard of living and improved the well-being of people all over the world in the process.

As my colleague Mr. FORBES stated, Mr. Damadian has been in a 25-year fight to maintain his patent rights. Twenty-five years he has fought against this huge corporation, General Electric, for the rights of ownership of his own creative genius.

Why this is important is because Mr. Damadian was protected by a relatively strong patent law and a strong patent system. In fact, the United States has had the strongest patent protection of any Nation in the world. This is what has given us the edge on all our other competitors around the world. This is what has made America safe and secure. This is what has given

the average person in America an opportunity and a standard of living that is basically sought after by people from all over the planet. It has been our technology and our freedom. And the American patent system is what has created this impulse, this momentum for the creating of technology.

Our patent system is under attack now. The Ray Damadians in the future, if we permit H.R. 400, a bill that is going through Congress as we speak, if H.R. 400 passes, the Ray Damadians of the world will be chewed up and spit out by the huge corporations, just like his counterparts in Japan and other countries are beaten down by the economic shoguns of their society.

What is happening is there is an attempt, and hold on to your horses here, folks, you may not have heard this before, what is happening is there is a move to make American patent law, which has been the strongest in the world, to be exactly a mirror image of the law in Japan, and they are not bringing up the Japanese standards to the protection our people have been afforded. They are bringing down the protections that have been offered to Americans.

In 20 years this will mean the United States will no longer be the technological leader of the world. The standards of our people will be under attack, and they will never know what hit them because they changed the fundamental laws.

It is happening very quietly here, and the multinational organizations have hired the best lobbyists in town to come here and influence Congress and unless the American people let their feelings be known, H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act, will pass, and the Ray Damadians of the world, the men who create the technology that changes our way of life, will find themselves vulnerable and pretty soon we will not be seeing the MRI's being invented, pretty soon we will not see the technology of the Wright brothers. In fact, the Wright brothers will end up vulnerable to the Mitsubishis of the world.

If that would have been the practice back at the turn of the century, the aerospace industry could have well been developed in Japan instead of the United States and the American people would never have known what hit them. We have to stand up for the United States of America and stand up for the fact that we need to be the technological leaders of the world.

H.R. 400, believe it or not, mandates that every person who applies for a patent in the United States, after 18 months, whether or not that patent has been granted, it is going to be published for the entire world to see. Every thief, every copycat, every economic adversary, every country that hates us and wants to destroy the American way of life will have the advantage of being in possession of all of our technological secrets even before the patent has been issued.

In Ray Damadian's case that means General Electric would actually have

had his information before the patent was issued to Ray and, for sure, he would not have been able to defend himself.

We will cease to be a great power. Our people will cease to have the standard of living if we cease to be the technological leader of the world. H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act, will make us incredibly vulnerable to our economic adversaries. And, by the way, it also obliterates the Patent Office in the U.S. Government. It will take away the Patent Office, which was established by our Constitution, and replace it with a corporatized entity, and who knows what kind of influences will be on the patent examiners when they are now in a corporatized job rather than a Government job.

Our patent examiners have worked hard. They have been part of our system but they have been protected by civil service and other protections and the knowledge that they were Government employees. The fact is that will not be the same if we make it a corporatized entity.

H.R. 811 and 812 will fight against H.R. 400 and protect the American patent system. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 811 and 812 and to oppose the Steal American Technologies Act, H.R. 400.

DEFINING DEVIANCY, UP AND DOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, let me say I think the gentleman from California has a wonderful idea and I am certainly pleased to be a cosponsor of his bill.

I wanted to talk today about something that occurred in this Chamber yesterday, something that was ridiculed by people that I consider to be radicals, dismissed by many in the media, called trivial by many observers, but in my mind we did something very significant yesterday.

We have seen over the past 30 years that the radical revolution of the left has torn this country apart at the seams. We live today in a country, as the Speaker says, that has 12-year-old children on drugs, 15-year-olds shooting each other, and 18-year-olds graduating from high school with diplomas that they cannot even read. America has lived in a valueless society that our radical policies of the past 30 years have created.

In 1994, there was a shift back to the center, and yesterday I believe that Congress passed a simple resolution that helped move us back to the right direction where our Founding Fathers wanted us to be.