

Live, involving the center's report of an abnormally high number of births to babies with severe anencephaly and a possible connection to certain airborne toxins being emitted from nearby chemical plants. Here, obviously, the center is serving both as an information source and as an advocate for its community.

Generating action in response to community needs, even in case where those needs might not appear to be health-related. Whether it is the affordable, low income housing developed by health centers in Boston and Wood River, RI, or the community water supply and sewer systems spawned by centers in Beaufort County, SC, and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, health centers all over the country have played key roles in organizing their communities to address pressing local needs.

Providing jobs and meaningful employment for community residents. In particular, when respected community people are employed and trained by the health center as outreach or community health workers, or as patient advocates, or in any of the dozens of clinical and administrative positions, it can be the start of a long and rewarding health career. Many health center directors today are community residents who have worked their way up the ladder at the health center over the past 15 or 20 years. Employees with the longest tenure at health centers—often dating back to the center's founding—are local community residents. One such person recently stated, "It's been a wonderful experience, working at a great place like a health center, serving the community and helping my neighbors and friends—and being paid a decent salary to boot!"

Serving as a source of information and inspiration—complete with role models—for the community's youth, encouraging them to pursue a health professions career, and showing them how (and where) they could put that professional training to good use by coming back to serve their old neighborhood or town. Dr. Jack Geiger, one of the founding fathers of the health center movement, recently spoke of what he saw as the real successes of one of the country's first centers, in Mound Bayou, MS. In doing so, he noted that the center had either trained or assisted in helping to train the county's first black sanitarian, several of the physicians now working at the health center, and literally dozens of other professionals working there and at other centers across the country.

Serving as an "anchor" in their communities, helping by their presence to attract or retain other local businesses—including other physicians, diagnostic services, pharmacies or other health providers—or to bring in other forms of community or economic development. In a very real sense, many health centers have played pivotal roles in sustaining a sense of "community" in neighborhoods or towns that otherwise might well have completely disintegrated, giving its residents a feeling of pride and a "can-do" attitude, which in turn has led to significant neighborhood or community revitalization.

Thus, the critical, distinguishing factor that separates the health center model of community empowerment from other, less successful models, is that the community has been directly involved in virtually every aspect of the center's operations—from setting policy to staffing vital services, from providing information on community needs to determining whether the center is properly responding to those needs, and, in turn, the health centers have become an integral part of their communities—providing meaningful jobs for local residents, a means to attract other businesses and other forms of community/economic development, informa-

tion and opportunities for pursuing health professions careers, a base for community advocacy and action, and a source for developing community leaders and giving them recognition and stature in the community. The greater the degree of community involvement in the health center, the greater the center's role and strength as a vital part of the community itself.

Today, we are in the midst of sweeping changes in the way health care is both financed and delivered, all across the country. As the numbers of uninsured have reached levels not seen since before the creation of Medicare and Medicaid, and as health care costs continue to skyrocket, health care has reached the "hot button" level as a public policy issue. The growth in HMOs, PPOs, institutional networks, financing bureaucracies, consolidated services, hospital closings and transitions, self-funded insurance plans—all these things point to major, fundamental shifts in our health care system. By the end of the decade, there will be no more Marcus Welbys, even in group practice form. Every provider—physician, dentist, midlevel—will work for "the man". For us, the big question is who will "the man" be? Will it be the government, an HMO, an institutional network—or the community?

The health center model is our last, best hope for community-directed, community-responsive health care. Health centers may well be the closest things to Marcus Welby in the 21st century—the last real opportunity for the community to have a voice in how its health care system functions and meets their needs. We in the health center movement—yes, we still see it as a movement—have our plan, our Access 2000 plan, to bring top quality health care to all 43 million medically underserved Americans by the turn of the century. It's a hefty order, to be sure, but we are committed to that vision, that struggle; and yet, we cannot succeed without an equally committed band of health professionals—and we need to find and train them in record numbers, if we are to have any chance at success. As our health center movement expands and grows, we will continue to need the best and brightest clinicians, to provide care and leadership.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to urge my colleagues to support Community, Migrant and Homeless Health Centers and other community-based providers that comprise successful models for health care delivery across this Nation.

Community health centers benefit the residents and the areas where they are located in many ways. First, with the partnerships between business, government and the people, community residents have a greater sense of control over the quality of health care and the means of gaining health care. This is particularly shown in the health centers that are governed by consumer boards. These boards, where more than half of the board members are patients, represent the community served and give local residents a voice regarding the programs and center's services. With community representation on these boards, responsiveness is no longer a concern—who best knows what services communities need than the people who reside in the community?

Second, health centers service communities which are traditionally and chronically underserved. Often, the inner cities, migrant farm-worker communities, and isolated rural areas benefit greatly from these health care services. These often forgotten populations also now have access to quality managed care; health centers provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care. All patients, espe-

cially women with their particular health care concerns, can look forward to up-to-date yearly medical exams. We know that the key to health care is taking preventative measures. With community health centers, we can do this by low-income seeing patients early and regularly.

Finally, health centers save money. In total, they provide cost-effective, high-quality health care. The total costs for patients are on average 30 percent lower than for other providers serving the same populations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support community health centers. In my district these centers have played a vital role, as I am sure they have done in other districts, and we should support them as they continue to support our communities.

IN SUPPORT OF OXI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Oxi Day which symbolizes the absolute refusal of the Greek people to succumb to Mussolini's Fascist Italy during World War II.

In August 1940, Mussolini accused Greece of supporting Britain and demanded that she renounce the agreement of neutrality with the Allies. In that same month, the Greek Naval Cruiser *Elli* visited the island of Tinos during its highest religious holiday, paying a visit to the famous holy shrine there. In a sneak attack, the Italians torpedoed and sank the ship in the harbor. Mussolini also massed more than 150,000 troops on the Albanian border, and the Greek government was only able to place about half that number of its own ready to oppose them. In that tense condition on October 28, 1940, at the undignified hour of 3 a.m., the Italian Ambassador delivered an ultimatum from Mussolini to the Greek government set to expire at 6 a.m. that very same day. The Greek Prime Minister's response was oxi, which means "no" in Greek. The Italian army was well supplied, fully equipped and supported by state-of-the-art air and naval power. They, the Italians, were expected to overrun the Greeks within a short time. Yet before its expiration and without waiting for an official reply, Italian troops invaded Greece across the Albanian border.

Mussolini had expected an easy victory. His troops had penetrated less than 20 miles into Greek territory against light resistance when the

Greeks counterattacked. In spite of the cold and snow in that mountainous region, by the end of 1940 and early 1941, the Greeks had fought their way into Albania and by March, about one-third of Albania was in Greek hands. Hitler did not wait for the outcome. In mid-December 1940, he issued a directive launching Operation Mantra to mass German divisions in pro-Axis Romania and then move across the territory of another partner and into Greece if necessary.

The Greek army now had to face the powerful German war machine which was relentless. By the end of April 1941, Greece fell, and the Greek government fled to the island of Crete.

Crete became the next target for the Germans. While this large Greek island was difficult to assault, its strategic position in the Mediterranean made this action necessary. The two poorly equipped Greek divisions were reinforced by British troops. Germany attacked with an awesome force of 600 aircraft and 20,000 crack parachutists and glider borne troops. By the end of May, the Germans were victorious but had lost 7,000 of their men in their fierce fighting against a loss of about 3,000 British and Greek soldiers. Several thousand Cretan civilians were killed in the fighting and reprisals by the Germans on a determined and courageous population defending their homeland was what could follow.

But the real loss to Germany was time. The Greek invasion had used up nearly 2 precious months during which time Hitler's Operation Barbarossa, the attack on Russia, was delayed. The troops ran into the dreadful Russian winter at the end of the year before they could win their hard-fought campaign, resulting in appalling losses and contributing to the ultimate defeat of Germany.

Greece suffered a great famine in 1941 and 1942, under harsh conditions brought about by the combined German, Italian and Bulgarian occupation. It is estimated that more than 300,000 Greeks died of famine. Resistance by Greek partisans also cost thousands of civilian lives in hostile actions and reprisals.

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The attack by Mussolini's Italy against Greece on October 28, 1940, was the result of the imperialist and expansionist tendencies of Mussolini's fascist regime. The motives were strategic as well as political. Mussolini's ambition was by invading the strategically-located Greece and the Aegean Islands, especially Crete, to balance the German initiative. Until that move, the Italian initiative was almost nonexistent. Mussolini needed a victory desperately in order to share power with Hitler, who seemed to be the sole and uncontested leader of the Axis alliance.

Although Greece could have remained neutral or simply opened the borders and allowed the Axis forces to march in, instead she chose to stand up

and fight by defending the ideals of democracy, freedom and dignity.

The Greek Army fought an enemy which was superior in numbers, arms and technology. The Greek Army was superior though in spirit, enthusiasm and determination. With the full support of the Greek people, the Greek Army performed one of the most unexpected miracles of modern military history by beating one of the best-equipped and trained armies of that time, Italy.

The heroism of the Greek people, up against unbelievable odds, was the first glimmer of hope for freedom-loving people for the Allies. Americans of Greek descent, in fact, all Americans, can take pride in the sacrifice made by Greek people 57 years and one day ago. While they were defending their country, in reality they helped save Europe and the rest of the free world.

What I have said is fact, not fable. I believe it is important to speak about this because Greece's actions show the world that Greece is an ally that can be counted on through thick and thin, is an ally that fights for principle, no matter what the odds.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic that we are discussing the importance of Oxi Day to the free world when we have two brutal leaders who reject democracy visiting our country. The Premier of China will get a 21-gun salute and be welcomed with open arms by some, despite the well-documented human rights violations, religious persecution, and economic sabotage of the Chinese Government. Moreover, the leader of the invaded area of Northern Cyprus will be in Washington in a desperate attempt to try to find legitimacy to an illegal government created by illegal occupation.

I hope the lessons of Oxi Day and fighting for what is right and standing up to aggressive dictators will not be lost by the world community as these dictators visit our Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker, I see that I am joined by my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], and would like to yield to him.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just want to thank my colleague from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] for organizing this special order tonight. I was not here when the gentleman began, so I do not want to repeat what he has already said. But I did want to say that I am proud to join with the gentleman in paying tribute to this great moment in the history of the 20th century, which receives far too little recognition in many of our history texts about World War II.

Throughout history, the Greek people have been champions of freedom and self-determination, and their heroic actions against the forces of Hitler and Mussolini were instrumental in defeating fascism in the 20th Century. I am sure the gentleman mentioned about how when Greece entered the war on the side of the Allies when the

country was invaded by Mussolini's forces, that exactly 57 years ago today on the morning of October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens presented an ultimatum to Greek Minister Metaxas demanding unconditional surrender. The Prime Minister response to this unacceptable demand was as simple as it was eloquent, "Oxi," or Greek for "No." The Prime Minister and the King both went on the radio that morning to rally the Nation, and a general mobilization was declared.

Mussolini's forces invaded Greece on that fateful day, but there was a very spirited resistance from the Greek people, and then the Greek Army actually launched a counteroffensive, driving the invaders back into Albania. Of course, Hitler's forces eventually came into the war and subdued Greece, but not without significant resistance. In May of 1941, when the Nazis launched an airborne invasion on the Island of Crete on a scale unprecedented in history, the Germans again had to fight a very significant resistance, probably one of the greatest resistances in the whole history of World War II.

I just wanted to say, if I could, to my colleague and to those who are listening this evening, that the heroism with which the Greek people fought essentially delayed Hitler's planned invasion of Russia by about three months, and essentially made it possible ultimately for the Allies to win the war, and made it more difficult for Germany to expand the areas that it sought to conquer.

The Greek resistance movement also continued for four years during the war, and they suffered horrendously for their resistance. The Germans executed thousands of civilians and randomly decimated entire towns, villages and communities. I know that in my district, in Asbury Park, a few years ago I went to a commemoration, I do not remember the details, but a commemoration of one of the smaller towns in Greece that was just totally annihilated, every man, woman and child was killed.

I think we have to resolve that to ensure that the Greeks who fought this resistance movement did not suffer in vain. It is important for us to bring it to the attention of our colleagues and to the American people that we never forget the role the people of Greece played in defeating fascism, and that is why I am very proud this evening to be joining with my colleague from New Jersey in this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] and my other colleagues this evening in paying tribute to a great moment in the history of the 20th century which receives far too little recognition in many of our history texts about World War II. Throughout history, the Greek people have been champions of freedom and self-determination. Their heroic actions against the forces of Hitler and Mussolini were instrumental in defeating fascism in the 20th century.

On October 28, 1940, Greece entered the war on the side of the Allies when the country

was invaded by Mussolini's forces, as part of an attempt by the Axis powers to seal off the Balkans from the south in support of Hitler's invasion of Russia. Exactly 57 years ago today, on the morning of October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens presented an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas demanding unconditional surrender. The prime minister's response to this unacceptable demand was as simple as it was eloquent: "Oxi," Greek for "No." The Prime Minister and the King both went on the radio that morning to rally the nation, and a general mobilization was declared.

Mussolini's forces invaded Greece on that fateful day. Despite their technological superiority, the Fascist invaders faced spirited resistance from the Greeks. On November 14, the Greek Army launched a counter-offensive, driving the invaders back into Albania. In February 1941, the Italian Army launched further attacks, but tough resistance and a harsh winter nullified many of these efforts; a second Italian offensive in March of '41 similarly met with strong Greek opposition. Finally, the Nazi German war machine was mobilized in an effort to rout the Greek opposition, both on the mainland area of Greece and on the island of Crete—in an effort to fulfill Hitler's ominous promise to "make a clean sweep in the Balkans."

It took Hitler's forces some five weeks, until the end of April, to subdue Greece. In May of 1941 the Nazis launched an airborne invasion of Crete on a scale unprecedented in history. With lightning speed, the Germans dropped some 20,000 troops on the island by air; in addition, the Germans and Italians launched a land invasion, sending troops by sea from the occupied Greek mainland. The ensuing battle put up by the people of Crete and other Allied forces against the superior Nazi war machine was one of the most significant of World War II. And though the Germans won the battle and took the island, they did so at the highest possible cost—they would eventually lose the war. Karl Student, the Nazi General in charge of the invasion, called the battle "the fiercest struggle any German formation had ever had to face . . ." The German High Command would never again attempt an operation of that size.

The heroism with which the Greek people fought delayed Hitler's planned invasion of Russia by three months. There were heavy losses on both sides. Strengthened by the knowledge that they were defending a concept—democracy—that had originated from their homeland, Greek civilians, including women, children and the elderly, joined the battle against the Fascists, suffering terrible losses, but also inflicting serious damage on their enemies. The Greek resistance movement for the remaining four years of the war zealously fought the occupying Nazi force. They suffered horrendously for their resistance; the Germans executed thousands of civilians and randomly decimated entire towns, villages and communities. Let us resolve, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that they did not suffer in vein.

We here in Congress should do our best to ensure our citizens never forget the role the people of Greece played in defeating fascism. Indeed, we honor ourselves by honoring not only a Prime Minister, but an entire people who dared to say "Oxi," "No," in the face of a seemingly overwhelming enemy.

Mr. PAPPAS. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey and appreciate his support for these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, we in our country are very fortunate to live in a country that is free, and special orders such as this are certainly significant to what our country was founded upon. I also view this as an educational process for those that may be viewing this around the country, even around the world, that can learn a little bit about the significance of October 28, 1940.

Mr. Speaker, 54 years before Oxi Day, October 28th in 1886, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated. I would just like to quote a saying, a phrase or a series of words that are associated with the Statue of Liberty which I think are appropriate to reiterate here as we commemorate Oxi Day. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free; the wretched refuse of your teaming shore; send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift up my lamp beside the golden door."

Mr. Speaker, we as citizens of this wonderful country owe a great deal, I believe, to the Greek people. Certainly freedom and democracy around the world owe so much to the Greek people who said "Oxi," who said "No," on October 28, 1940.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my friend and colleague from New Jersey, Congressman MIKE PAPPAS, to commemorate "oxi" day. The historical significance of this day and what it meant to the outcome of World War II cannot be overstated.

By October 1940, World War II had begun, and the Nazi war machine was already in high gear. Along with Hitler's ally Mussolini, the German and Italian forces were threatening the whole of Europe. European nations were bowing to tyranny and destruction as the Germans and the Italians marched through Europe.

Great Britain endured Germany's aerial bombardment, forcing Hitler to seek another avenue to subdue the British. Hitler intended to eliminate British operations in the Mediterranean in order to weaken their ability to deter German advances.

To achieve this, Hitler needed the axis powers to strike at British forces from Greece. By conquering Greece, Hitler would gain access to an important connecting link with Italian bases in the Dodecanese (Do-de-ca-nese) Islands. This would give the Italians a strangle hold on British positions in Egypt, where British forces were already facing attack from the Italian Army in North Africa. The British considered the defense of Egypt vital to allied positions in the oil rich Middle East.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian minister in Athens presented an ultimatum to Greek Prime Minister Metaxas (Me-ta-ksas), demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece. Prime Minister Metaxas (Me-ta-ksas) responded with the now historic word "oxi," which means no in Greek. His statement embodied the true spirit of the Greek people. His words of defiance echoed the same devotion and love of country that Greek patriots exhibited during their war of independence against the Ottoman Empire when they shouted the defiant words "Liberty or Death."

Prime Minister Metaxas' (Me-ta-ksas) actions marked the beginning of one of the world's most heroic efforts against tyranny and oppression. After its ultimatum was rejected, it took Italy less than 3 hours to invade Greece.

It is important to note that the population of Greece at the time was only 7 million. On the other hand, Italy's population was 43 million. In addition, the Italian Army had the advantage in military strength and technology.

However, despite their lack of equipment, the Greek army proved to be well-trained and resourceful. Within a week of the invasion, it was clear that Italian forces had suffered a serious set-back, despite having control of the air and fielding superior armored vehicles.

On November 14, the Greek army launched a counter-offensive and quickly drove the Italian forces back into Albania. By December 9, the Greeks had captured the town of Pogradec (Po-gra-des) in eastern Albania. However, a lack of supplies and difficult terrain stalled the Greek march through Albania.

By February 1941, the Italians had launched strong counter-attacks. However, the determination of the Greek army, coupled with the severity of the winter weather, blocked Italy's advances.

In an effort to bring the war to a close before Hitler would intervene, the Italians launched another assault on March 12, 1941. After 6 days of fighting, the Italians had made only insignificant gains, and it became clear that German intervention was necessary.

On April 6, 1941, Hitler ordered the German invasion of Greece. It took the Germans 5 weeks to finally end the conflict.

This delay proved to be critical to the outcome of the war. Italy's inability to capture Greece enabled the British to win major victories against Mussolini's forces in North Africa. This solidified British positions in the region as well as Cyprus. In addition, it contributed to the failure of the German campaign to conquer Russia.

Perhaps most importantly, the Germans never gained the advantage against the British. Although Germany had conquered much of Europe, its inability to decimate British and Russian forces early in the war would eventually prove to be fatal.

Mr. Speaker, "OXI" day is a day that marks defiance against tyranny. As an American of Greek descent and as a lover of freedom, I am proud to honor the memory of those brave patriots who fought for freedom on this important day.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most pivotal events during world War II, Oxi Day. In addition, I thank my colleague, Congressman MICHAEL PAPPAS, for arranging this Special Order to remember this important day.

On October 28, 1940, the Prime Minister of Greece refused to agree with the ultimatum presented to him by the Italian Minister in Athens for the surrender of Greece by stating "OXI", meaning "NO" in Greek. Thereby, resisting and hindering Hitler's plan to invade Russia.

By rejecting this ultimatum, Greece proved its courage, strength, an dedication to preserving democracy. Winston Churchill said it best: "Don't say that Greeks fight like heroes, say that heroes fight like Greeks." The soldiers and statesmen of this great land not only helped Greece and Europe free themselves from the shackles of the swastika, but their actions ensured that the future of democracy and freedom would continue to be strong and grow throughout the world.

Greece is one of only three nations in the world that has allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century. The actions that the Greeks took against the Axis powers, and communist rebels during and after World War II, cost many lives. However, Greece prevailed and emerged as the strong and victorious democracy it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Greeks from around the world are proud of the actions taken by their home country during World War II. I commend those who struggled, fought, sacrificed and lost their lives in the fight to restore and preserve the liberty and democracy Greeks and Greek-Americans enjoy today.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I will continue to work to ensure that the people of Greece continue to enjoy the freedoms they have today and will continue to work with my colleagues to bring justice to the people of Cyprus. The human rights abuses taking place on this island go against everything the soldiers and leaders of Greece fought so hard to save and preserve on October 28th, 1940.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the valiant Greek resistance against the Axis powers during World War II. Greece was the last stronghold in Continental Europe to fall to the Axis.

Today marks the anniversary of the Greek refusal of Mussolini's ultimatum to surrender to Italian forces. On October 28, 1940, the Greek government issued a resounding "OXI," (NO) to the Italian Fascists. A month after the invasion began, the last Italian soldier was driven from Greek soil and the Greek army was fighting Italian Fascist forces in Albania.

The rout of Mussolini's forces in Albania required Hitler to divert valuable troops and arms to invade Greece in April 1941. Nazi forces faced fierce resistance in Crete and Macedonia. The Greek campaign delayed the planned invasion of the Soviet Union by several critical weeks.

The Germans were never able to occupy more than two-thirds of Greece. The Greek national resistance continued fighting in the rugged mountain terrain. Greek civilians and clergy sought to protect Greek Jews from the occupying forces at great personal risk.

Hitler diverted 50 battalions from the Eastern front and North Africa to Greece. In 1943, the Nazis were distracted into believing that the main Allied assault would occur in the Balkans, thereby enabling the Sicilian invasion. Greek Army units in exile also played an important role in the Allied campaign in North Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the resounding "No" Greece sent Mussolini 57 years ago marked the beginning of the valiant Greek resistance to invasion and occupation during World War II. Greece proved itself a faithful ally throughout the war effort with heroism and self sacrifice and at great cost in human lives and suffering.

A VICTORY FOR FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today the House rejected by a convincing margin a motion to instruct the conferees on the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill, which would have resulted in thousands of legal immigrants being forced to leave the country. I was proud to join with the majority of Members of the House in opposing this proposal. I rise to express my appreciation for the vote today in this body, which represents a victory for fairness and justice.

The result here in this Chamber today also shows that this body can work together in a bipartisan fashion on sensible and fair legislation to maintain the integrity of our immigration laws, while still keeping the doors of immigration open to those who play by the rules.

Speaking in opposition to the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] was a diverse cross-section of Members from both sides of the aisle, including both the chairman and the ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations, as well as the chairman of the Committee on International Relations and the Democratic leader. Speaker after speaker, Democrat and Republican alike, cited the indisputable reasons for opposing the motion to instruct and for supporting permanent extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as we heard during today's debate, Section 245(i) allows certain immigrants who have fallen out of status to have their papers processed here in the United States in order to become permanent residents, rather than forcing them to return to their home country to apply.

Those covered by Section 245(i) must pay a \$1,000 fee before obtaining their visa. Last year, these fees generated more than \$200 million for the INS, 80 percent of which is earmarked for INS detention purposes.

Mr. Speaker, 245(i) does not change the order in which a person's visa is processed. Contrary to the claims made by some during today's debate, it does not give illegal immigrants the right to live in the United States.

If we had passed the motion to instruct today, we would have torn families apart and deprived many families of their sole source of support. We would have forced the mother of children who are U.S. citizens to be separated from those children. We would have forced children who have grown up in the United States to wait out their applications for permanent residence in countries they barely know, and deprived many businesses, includ-

ing small businesses of valued employees. We would have lost services of foreign-born doctors, providing much needed care to medically underserved areas, and forced many churches and other houses of worship to lose valued participants, many of whom give their services voluntarily, and we would also have imposed a 30 percent increase in the caseload that our embassies and consulates around the world must deal with.

So I have to say, we have heard strong signals of support for permanent 245(i) from businesses, from churches, from professional organizations, labor unions and community groups. Our State Department has benefited from the \$100 million in additional annual revenues, while the reduced caseload in our consular offices overseas has freed up additional resources for providing resources to Americans traveling abroad and to enhanced anti-fraud efforts.

Given the belt tightening we have imposed on the State Department in recent years, it only makes sense to maintain a program that reduces costs and frees up resources. Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague from New Jersey talk about the Statue of Liberty. We are a Nation of immigrants. The American dream that attracted many of our ancestors still has profound meaning for people from around the world, from Latin America to Africa, from Ireland to the lands of the former Soviet Union, from India to the Far East.

We must guard against illegal immigration and punish those who deliberately violate our immigration laws, but we should not punish those who came here the right way, who played by the rules and who are simply the victims of an innocent mistake or a bureaucratic error.

Permanently extending 245(i) is not only the rational thing to do from an economic standpoint, it was the morally right thing to do. I was proud to vote to defeat the motion to instruct the conferees. This House, Mr. Speaker, can be proud for defeating this motion and for supporting fair and rational immigration law once again.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CUBIN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), from October 21 to the end of the first session of the 105th Congress, on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. KELLY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 6 p.m. on October 28 and today, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), after 4 p.m. today, on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to: