

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 10 U.S.C 4355(a), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mrs. TAUSCHER of California.
There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. COBLE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I will assure those Members, and especially the staff here this evening, that I will give them something to look forward to, and that is that we will probably not go half the time available to me, but I do appreciate the opportunity.

I wanted to address an issue of concern to me, and it is an issue that I have risen before to discuss here on the floor of the House and I think certainly deserves our attention again this evening, and that issue is immigration, and specifically the problems created by massive numbers of people coming into the United States illegally.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, a trial balloon was floated. It was floated by a working group that was appointed for the purpose of coming up with some proposals to deal with the issues of immigration, illegal immigration to the United States, and a variety of other related issues. That trial balloon was a proposal, and the proposal was to provide amnesty for up to 3½ million Mexican workers.

Now, I say it is specifically designed for Mexicans who are here in the United States. It is not Guatemalans, it is not Haitians, it is not any other nationality, it was for 3½ million Mexican people here in the United States illegally, and it was to essentially just give them amnesty if they had been here a long enough period of time. Well, that trial balloon was met with a great deal of resistance, to say the least. Certainly our office received many, many calls. I am sure the offices of many Members of the House and Senate were similarly affected by this trial balloon, and the response was almost unanimously in opposition to such a proposal.

There is a basic fairness issue here, a fairness issue that I think most Americans see. And it does not matter how one feels about the whole issue of immigration in general, those who are pro-immigrant, as I think most of us are. As a matter of fact, I think all of us have to be very cognizant of and very sensitive to the fact that we are all here as a result of someone's decision to come to the United States at some time in the recent past. Even those of us in the country who identify themselves as Native American probably came here, their ancestors, over a land bridge from Asia. So we are all in one way or another immigrants to this country.

The issue of immigration in general is not the point in this case. The point in this case is whether or not we are going to simply ignore the fact that people have chosen to violate the law of the United States to come here and then be rewarded for that action by being given amnesty. Now, we recognize that that, as I say, is at least unfair. I think most people would agree that it offends their sense of justice. And it should. It should.

What would happen if we would suggest that any other kind of crime be treated in such a manner? If someone comes here, if they were in the United States and involved with some criminal activity, and for a long enough period of time and they did not get caught, would we simply say, King's X, it is okay, they were able to avoid the authority long enough, so we should give them amnesty? Well, we do not do that. Of course not. And we should not do that in this case, and I think a majority of Americans feel the same way.

Well, as a result of the kind of reaction that that proposal had, we saw that today another proposal has been floated. This one is designed to be a "compromise proposal," and it says, all right, we will not just go ahead and grant three, four million people, and by the way it will be far more than that when all is said and done, but let us just take their numbers for the time being, we will not grant three to four million people amnesty who are here illegally just because they are here illegally, we will establish some sort of guest worker program into which these people can enroll and then we will grant them amnesty.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is really not a compromise. That is really not something anybody can get too excited about and say, oh, in that case, absolutely, all right, I see that it is worthy of doing. It is, of course, exactly the same proposal. We are simply going to reward illegal behavior by providing amnesty if they have been here long enough.

The other interesting aspect of this whole thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we have tried this before. The idea of giving amnesty to people who are here illegally and who have been here for a long time, or some period of time anyway, and can prove that they have paid rent here or a variety of other criteria that we establish to determine how long someone is here illegally, has been tried before. In 1986, we did this, exactly the same plan, and it was a result of the fact that people were concerned about the massive number of people who were coming across our borders illegally. And in order to get a handle on that and to strike a compromise with people who want massive immigration, people who essentially frankly want to essentially erase the borders, in order to strike a compromise with them and to not look as though we were being too antagonistic to these people who have arrived here and come in here illegally, we decided to have an amnesty program.

That was 1986. We adopted exactly the same thing. And it was designed to stop the flow of illegal aliens into the country. At that point we were going to get a handle on it and say, okay, if someone is here, if they have been here a long time, we are going to give them amnesty. Eventually they can become a citizen of the United States, even though they broke our laws to get here.

Well, of course it did not work. As anyone may have guessed, to suggest

that rewarding someone for that kind of behavior would stop that kind of behavior is counterintuitive, to say the least. It is hypocritical, I suppose, to even suggest that we should think that somehow or other the millions of people waiting outside our borders to come into the United States, tempted to do so illegally if they need to, are told if they do that, if they come in illegally, and if they can hide from the authorities long enough, they will be given legal status.

□ 2300

That was the message, right, that is the message we send. Just exactly as anyone would have expected, they came. They came in massive numbers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say I do not blame them for trying. I am sure that if I were in the situation they are in, many of these people, I would be trying to do the same thing. I would be seeking a better life as my grandparents did, perhaps yours. Certainly, as I say, everyone here at some point in their history looks back to someone who made that decision.

But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that there is a process we have established for immigration into this Nation. The process is one that we must actually adhere to if we are to even pretend that we are a Nation that has control of its own borders.

If you look on a map of the world, you will see every country identified by an outline, by a line around that country separating it from its adjoining neighbors. We have such a line separating us from Mexico and from Canada.

Why is the line there, I guess I would ask. If there is no purpose for a line that separates one nation from another, then we should erase it. We should just simply forget about the idea that we have established one nation a little bit different than any nation around us. That, therefore, we are identifying ourselves as this separate entity, separate laws, separate history, separate culture, certainly open to immigration but with a separate identity.

I happen to believe that that is an important aspect of nation state. I believe it is okay to, in fact, have that line. We have it whether it is good or not. The reality is if we are going to have a line that we call a border, then there is a responsibility of this House and of the other body and of the President of the United States to establish the policy of who comes across that border.

That is the true and one unique responsibility of the Federal Government. It is to decide who can come in and who does not have whatever it is we believe is important for entrance into this country. It could be on any set of criteria you want to establish. It could be because we need workers in various industries. We need farm workers. We need workers in the construction industry. We need workers in the high tech industry. All of these things

can be used as a reason for immigration.

We establish a policy. We say, okay, here is how many we need this year for this particular task. Here is who we want to come into the United States. We want people that perhaps are going to bring capital into the United States. That is a pretty good thing. Maybe we need more lawyers, I do not think so, but, whatever it is, if it is lawyers, if it is engineers, if it is agricultural workers, it does not matter.

What is important, Mr. Speaker, is that we make that decision who it is we believe with what attributes we think necessary to come into this country, the attributes we believe would be important and enhance life in the United States. That is why we have borders. That is why we pretend to have an immigration policy. But, Mr. Speaker, if you ignore that, if you pretend as though that border does not exist and you simply allow people to come across in the kind of numbers we have seen for the last 2 decades, many things happen.

Massive immigration into the United States both legally and illegally has been a factor in certainly the growth of the Nation, the population of the Nation. As a matter of fact, 50 percent of the Nation's growth in the last census was a result of immigration legally, legal immigration, and illegal immigration, 50 percent or more.

That is the census figure and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the census figures are far too conservative. But let us use them for the time being.

Fifty percent of the growth in the Nation is due to immigration, legal and illegal, far more illegal than legal. That means that 50 percent of the pressure applied in communities all over the Nation for more highways, more hospitals, more schools, the infrastructure that has to be built to support that kind of population is a result of this immigration pressure. It also has other ramifications.

The day before yesterday I happened to pick up the paper in my hometown, Denver, Colorado, and I read a story about the fact that several police agencies are having to either hire or ask volunteers to come on board that would go out with policemen on their calls, especially domestic violence calls or, in the case that was cited in the paper, it was an accident, a boating accident. People were drunk and they crashed their boat and about 8 or 10 had fallen overboard and some were drowning.

When the police got there, when the rescue teams got there, they could not communicate with any of the people who were in dire straits, and there was a lot of concern about the fact that this is not unique, that this particular situation is not unique, that there had been many times when police had been called out to a variety of different situations but had trouble communicating because the people did not speak English.

So now police departments all over the country, this is not unique to Colorado, they are putting people on who have a variety of language skills so that they can perhaps respond to these issues. They are becoming concerned.

Businesses are becoming concerned because they are fearful of lawsuits being brought by people who cannot speak English or read it; and, therefore, cannot read the safety warnings or whatever kind of instructions are on the product. So consultants are telling businesses that now they should be hiring people, they should be, of course, printing things in different languages and/or hiring people to be able to communicate in various languages.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how many languages will we have to try and communicate in in order to satisfy this sort of legalistic tendency on the part of many people in our country and to avoid lawsuits? In my district, I have school districts where there are over 100 languages that are spoken right now.

Mr. Speaker, we can handle immigration. I am not for a moment saying that we have to slam the door shut tight behind us and that no one else can come into this country. We can and should continue to allow people to seek access to the United States and to the freedom and the economic opportunity we offer. We should do so mindful of the fact that there is a certain number above which we cannot really accommodate that easily anymore.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that a million legal immigrants, plus those that we bring in under the status of refugee, plus the four or five million that stream across our borders illegally, I suggest that it is too much. We cannot handle the massive numbers coming in here. That does not mean that we, in fact, are opposed; or that I am opposed to any sort of immigration, but we cannot handle it at these numbers. There are ramifications to it. There are ramifications to it in our schools with attempts to impose bilingual education in classrooms, teaching children in a language other than English so they accomplish very little in terms of achieving the skills necessary to be successful in our society.

The pressures are there. Why? It is because the numbers are here at such a level as to force a change in the structure of society.

There are ramifications to massive immigration. It behooves us, it is our responsibility as the organization established, the entity established to, in fact, determine who comes into the country and who will not be allowed to come in. It is our responsibility to set an immigration policy that is good for the immigrants who we allow in and good for the United States on the receiving end.

An amnesty program for millions of people who came here illegally, that is not a good proposal. That is not a plan, Mr. Speaker. That is surrender. It may be, it has been suggested, as a matter

of fact, that this plan was proposed with the thought in mind that it would attract a certain number of voters from various ethnic communities, that they would support our efforts and the efforts of the party in the White House, my party.

Well, I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if that is true or not, but I will tell my colleagues this. Even if it were true that we would find a huge number of Hispanics in this country changing their attitude about the Republican Party and, therefore, voting for us in massive numbers, I do not know whether that is true or not but it does not matter. We should not make laws in this country for specific groups in order to entice them to support us, our party or our candidacy.

□ 2310

We should make laws that benefit all members of our society.

I believe with all my heart, Mr. Speaker, that we can in fact entice, encourage, explain our position. We can provide an explanation of who we are as Republicans, let us say, explain the principles upon which our party is founded, principles of individual freedom, individual responsibility, and I believe we can make a case for someone to become a Republican on that basis. Certainly the Democrats are free to do the same thing. But that is the free marketplace of ideas. That is the whole concept behind this government, that people should be encouraged to support us one way or the other because of who we are, not because we make a law especially for them, not just because their ethnic group or their sexual preference or whatever. We have already divided this country up in so many ways, it is hard to really understand who we are as a Nation as opposed to some balkanized country in Eastern Europe.

We have divided ourselves into so many camps, Mr. Speaker, with so many different interests. We have constructed a political system that is supposed to now sort of accentuate these differences, but this is not healthy for this democracy, not healthy for this republic, and it is certainly the wrong reason to make law.

Mr. Speaker, the other day we had an event in Denver. A gentleman came up to me at this event and he told me a story. This was an elderly gentleman. He told me about an acquaintance of his who was a Filipino by birth. He had fought against the Japanese in the Filipino resistance in the Second World War. He eventually became associated with and worked in some capacity or other with American military in the Second World War. He was wounded in that process. After the war, this gentleman, after having, remember, fought the Japanese, supported the United States in that endeavor, fought on the side of the United States, fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen in the Philippines, this gentleman applied for citizenship to the United

States. Well, he waited one year and one year grew to two and two grew to three and eventually it was 20 years that went by before this gentleman, remember, a person who had put his life on the line, who had fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen, it was 20 years before he was allowed to come into the United States as a legal citizen. Not too long thereafter, I think 2 or 3 years after he was here unfortunately, he died. He had waited most of his life to come to the United States and to do so legally took him, as I say, 20 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what do we say to his relatives? What do we say to his memory? If we suggest, not only suggest but propose a law that would give what he so desperately sought, access to this country legally, if it would give it to millions of people who snuck into the country, who did not fight in any way, had no greater claim to come into this Nation than anyone else, except that they wanted the benefits of this life, of this society. What do we say to people like that? How can we look them in the face and tell them that they live in a just society?

Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds of millions of people like this gentleman who would give anything to come to the United States and who have in fact applied for entrance into this country. But we have a quota for people from certain areas and we establish how many can come in, supposedly. If you are going to do it legally, you wait. That is exactly the way it should be. You do it by the rules. It is a travesty to offer amnesty to people who ignored these laws. Again, I am not blaming them individually, but I am also saying that it has not been in our interest to reward them for that action.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that massive immigration into this Nation in the numbers we are talking about is one of the most serious domestic policy issues we face. It is extremely difficult to get many of my colleagues to stand up here and talk about this because there is a fear that if you do so, you will be branded as a racist, a xenophobe, a variety of relatively unpleasant things that no one likes to be called. Certainly I do not consider myself to be any of those things. I believe that I am pro-immigrant, having come from an immigrant family. I believe that the United States has been made richer in many, many ways by the contributions of immigrant families from the time our Nation was founded. I am not against immigration. We can handle a certain number of people in here every year. But we cannot handle the millions and millions of people who are streaming into this Nation and who are waiting to stream into the Nation.

What if we really did eliminate the border? What if we really said, "Well, if you want to come, come. Come on ahead." Does anybody wonder about what would happen? How many hundreds of millions of people would

stream into the country? Could we really handle this? Could we really provide for them and for ourselves and for our children the kind of quality of life that we have come to build and expect in this country? I do not think so. I do not believe anybody believes that.

So I ask to be rational in our approach to immigration. I believe that most of the immigrants who have recently arrived in the United States legally would agree with me, that that is the way it should be done. I believe most of the immigrants here today would say that the people coming in should not be rewarded for that kind of behavior, when they themselves, the people who came here legally, had to go through all of the hoops and did it right. So I do not think we are unique in calling for a complete reversal of this peculiar policy that has been proposed to give amnesty. I hope that we will once again regain control of our borders, I hope that we will establish guest worker programs that will satisfy the needs of business and industry in the United States, those that tell us day after day—they tell me, anyway—that they would go out of business if they did not have the opportunity to use guest workers, but in reality all of that can be handled through a guest worker program.

□ 2320

We do not have to rely on illegals in order to serve us, because the illegals themselves are exploited more often than not by these employers. They are paid less, they are ill-used, they are ill-treated, because they know that if you are here illegally, you are afraid to turn anybody in. This is not a good deal.

Illegal immigration is not a good deal for the immigrant, it is not a good deal for the United States, and it should not be rewarded by amnesty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for July 23 on account of a death in the family.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for July 23 on account of the funeral of a close family friend.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ENGEL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. TANCREDO) to revise and