

Higher debt means higher spending on interest payments. The most wasteful spending possible is spending on interest payments on the debt. The government will spend nearly \$2 trillion paying on interest on the debt over the next 10 years. We will spend \$170 billion in interest payments this year alone, and spending on interest will continue to increase through 2007. Spending on interest on the debt is the most wasteful, as I said, use of the taxpayers' dollars. The amount of the budget consumed by spending on interest takes away resources that could be used for our priorities such as defense, health care, education, et cetera.

More than \$1.2 trillion of the national debt, roughly one-third of the publicly held debt, is held by foreign investors. In 1998, the U.S. Government paid \$91 billion in interest payments to foreign investors.

The national debt places a drag on the economy and a burden on the family budget by keeping interest rates higher than they otherwise would be. Budget deficits and a large national debt have a major negative impact on the economy and the finances of American families by keeping interest rates high. Congress must also enact rules or extend rules enforcing budget discipline. Strong budget enforcement rules are important, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) said, as a component of restoring fiscal discipline and making sure that the budget remains in balance.

Mr. Speaker, having the privilege to go back to my home district every weekend since I have been a Member of Congress is one of those things that just maintains one's sanity, and I am sure the gentleman from Texas agrees; going back to the real world where the real problems are discussed. Just this weekend, where I direct the music in my home church, Sunday evening we had a church-wide groundbreaking for a new building project of a Christian life center. Less than 9 years ago, we broke ground for a new auditorium that seats nearly 500 people, the third building program we have had since I have been a member and known anything about that program, and building a church, the Star General Baptist Church there in North Eldorado, Illinois, where my grandfather was pastor way before I was born.

And at that groundbreaking, the best news that we all, as Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and we do not even know party affiliations and most do not care, all those who I grew up with and know and worship with and serve in the community with and live with, that night we celebrated the fact that we would start several \$100,000 building programs with a debt-free building program behind us. Debt-free. We even purchased a parsonage in the last couple of years, paid off, debt-free. We did not do that by fooling ourselves, knowing that the mortgages and the debts that we created were incurred and that we would not be foolish

enough to take on a new project, knowing that we could compromise our debt that we have at our local bank. That is integrity. That is about family values. We are teaching our children there. One does not start something bigger than what one already has that one has to pay for.

Now, I realize in this body it may not be quite that easy, at least it has not appeared to be. But surely, as a group of reasonable elected people, we can acknowledge the magnitude of the problem. It is funny that the gentleman from Texas mentioned the blame game, because my pastor mentioned that Sunday morning, the blame game, shirking your responsibility, side-stepping, telling someone else it is their fault what has happened. Well, I do not think so. My son just turned 21 a couple of weeks ago, and he knows by now life's hardest lessons, to accept your own destiny, make your own decisions, and live by them. That is what we are doing now.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can come to grips with coming together and fashioning a Federal budget in the face of an economy that has been impacted in ways in which we did not anticipate, which is no one's fault; but let us acknowledge it is time to come to an agreement with a new plan to save Social Security and Medicare, pay down our debt, and still finance the priorities of the war on terrorism, education, health care, and those things that we have all promised, prescription drugs, and everything else that we would said that we would do.

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, as I was sitting here preparing my remarks, I listened to the remarks of my colleagues; and it is encouraging, to say the least, to think that there are people on both sides of the aisle who have concern about the fiscal house that we try to keep in order around here. It is discouraging to think about the fact that regardless of who happens to run this place, the Republicans or the Democrats, it appears to me, anyway, as we look over the numbers over the last couple of decades, that it really hardly matters most of the time; that we are spending certainly more than we should and that our deficits are a result of our inability as a body, not as a party, but as a body, to control our appetites, to control the willingness, the desire, the need to respond to a plethora of programs and supporters of programs throughout the Nation that constantly demand more. Nonetheless, I am glad to hear it, and I am always hopeful that we will be able to actually change the situation around here when

it comes to spending. I do not hold much hope out for it, but I have that spark of hope that does remain alive.

Mr. Speaker, before I get on to the issue that usually brings me to the floor of the House, which is, of course, immigration and immigration-related issues, I would like to just for a few moments talk about something that I am also very, very concerned about and also, I think, should be a concern of the Members of the body, and that is the situation in Sudan, a country that has experienced at least a decade, actually 2 decades of incredible internal conflict, a country that has experienced more casualties of its population, 2 million dead at the present time, more than 4 million displaced. These are numbers that are far higher and far more significant, frankly, than any other country since the Second World War.

□ 2130

Yet, little is known about the situation in Sudan. Unfortunately, relatively few people seem to care. But there are folks who do care. Since this past Wednesday, people have been gathering in Galvez Park here in Washington, D.C. to pray and stand for the people of Sudan, who are subjects of a brutal, genocidal campaign.

Saturday, September 21, high school and college students led an all-day vigil. These young people represent the best of American ideals. They are acting on behalf of the people that they have never met, but whom they know are being oppressed. We should marvel at their commitment, but more so, we should join them.

I stand here today to talk about what has brought these young people from across the country here to the Nation's capital, and to talk about how the government of the Sudan, the National Islamic Front, has for years and continues today mercilessly to drive back Christians and animists from their homes, starve them, kill them because they are not Arab Muslims.

I want to tell the Members about the bombing. The government of Sudan has converted Russian cargo planes into primitive bombers called Antonovs. These planes regularly fly over villages and towns in southern Sudan, far from the front lines of the fighting. These villages have no military value, the only people who live there are civilians; yet, still the bombers come. Sometimes they drop bombs; sometimes they do not. That is part of the terror campaign the government is waging. No one in southern Sudan knows if they will be next.

When the planes drop bombs, they are not precision weapons, like we used in Afghanistan, to avoid civilian casualties. Rather, they are crude homemade bombs, sometimes 55-gallon drums packed with explosives and nails, designed to maximize civilian casualties.

These primitive bombs are rolled out of the back of planes, falling at random

on those below. These bombs maim and kill, they destroy crops and homes, they fall on hospitals and churches. No one in southern Sudan is immune from their reach, and it may be only a matter of the shifting winds whether you or your neighbor is hit by a bomb.

The first country I visited as a Member of Congress, and I had only been here as a Member of this body for a few months, and this was a little over 3½ years ago, the first country I ever visited was Sudan. I went there with a delegation led by Senator BROWNBACK.

I will never forget, we went into a little town called Yei. When we got there, all the kids in the village gathered around us very closely, and they would hardly move. As we tried to move through the village, they were almost stuck to us. They were yelling something. Of course, I did not understand it. I asked our guide to interpret for me, what was going on; why were they clustering around us so closely. He said, it is because they believe that because you are an American Congressman, they won't be bombed; they cannot be hit by a bomb, if one flies over; that they won't bomb you because you are here from the United States. Of course, I was hoping the same thing, to tell you the truth.

The reality is, of course, there was no such discrimination, and there were bombs that fell, even while we were there. They destroyed hospitals and they destroyed schools and they destroyed people.

The government targets churches, relief compounds, hospitals, markets, fields, and homes. It rains bombs down on villages with no military value except to further the government's campaign of terror. The barbaric bombing is going on as we speak.

On September 9, the bombs came down on the town of Yabus, killing two children, ages 4 and 7, and wounding eight. Yabus has no military value, but is one of the major staging areas for the relief workers in Sudan.

Last Thursday, the government bombed the town of Lui, the site of no military installations, but of a large hospital run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization headed by the Reverend Franklin Graham. This is the only hospital serving approximately 400,000 people. Yet, the town has been bombed repeatedly. These attacks are appalling, and they are plainly directed at killing civilians, either directly, or by denying them food and medical aid. It is an unimaginable horror.

The people in Galvez Park prayed all week for the victims of these bombings. We must join with them. We cannot tolerate the Khartoum regime's brutal actions. We must stand firm with the people of Sudan in their quest for peace and for life.

Mr. Speaker, this House passed a bill that I sponsored called the Sudan Peace Act. It went to the Senate, where it has languished. Senator BROWNBACK has introduced an amend-

ment to the bill that I hope will be the thing that actually does allow it to move forward. I believe that will happen relatively soon. I hope it will happen in time to save the lives of the people who are now so directly affected by this campaign of terror, the most recent campaign of terror.

Only a few days ago, really, I had the opportunity to meet with some representatives of the Khartoum government in Sudan. They assured me that there was no such action; that they were being cautious in the way they advanced the efforts on the part of the military, and that the bombing of civilians and the strafing of civilians was absolutely prohibited. But, of course, that is apparently not true.

I do hope that the good Lord hears the prayers of the people that have been gathered here in Washington all week for those in the Sudan who hunger for nothing but peace, but who, for now a generation, have heard nothing but war and seen nothing but war.

I hope that the Sudan Peace Act quickly comes back to the House and we are able, in a conference committee, we are able to address this issue as a body, as a Congress, I should say; and that the President will sign it, and that will affect the outcome of this war, that it will bring it to a quick close.

Let me now talk about another issue that of course is of great concern to me, and is oftentimes an issue that is not very well addressed, or not very well amplified, either in the media or even here in the House. That is the issue of immigration and immigration reform.

In my own district, Mr. Speaker, over the last week or so, a little over a week now, we have had the most extraordinary discussion, I guess I should put it that way, public discussion in the press and in the media in general. Of course, on the radio and talk shows everybody is talking about a couple of things that I want to address tonight, address to the Members tonight.

As a matter of fact, the issues have spread beyond my district. They are now being discussed, as I see the clips coming into my office, they are being discussed in cities all over the country. These are two events in Denver, Colorado. Let me briefly review them.

A little over 1½ months ago, the Denver Post, which is the major newspaper in Colorado, printed a story, a front-page story, about a family, the Apodaca family. It was a story, according to the author of that particular piece, that was brought to the Post by the Mexican consulate in Denver. The name of the family was provided by the consul, and the purpose of this collaboration was to set the stage for a more general debate on an issue of state politics.

In this particular case, we are talking about whether or not people in the State of Colorado and in the United States, for that matter, illegally, that is to say, people who came into this

country without our permission, whether they should be given the same opportunities for subsidized educational expenses, in this case, higher education, as a citizen of the State of Colorado and as a citizen of the United States of America.

This is not unique to Colorado, this is happening all over the country. Legislatures in Utah, Texas, and California are dealing with this. Some have dealt with it already, and passed laws that will allow people who are here illegally to attend institutions of higher education and have their education subsidized by the taxpayers of the State.

This is being pushed by immigration advocates, immigration advocate groups all over the country. It is being pushed even by representatives of the Mexican government; as I say, the Mexican consul.

The story focused, as I say, on one family, the Apodaca family; in particular, the oldest boy of this family, who wanted to go to the University of Colorado, but could not afford it if he did not have that experience paid for by the taxpayers of the State. It presented them in a very sympathetic light.

They are, apparently, by all accounts very fine people, a nice family. The father is employed in some business that was not identified in Greeley, Colorado. They have, I think, maybe four or five kids. This particular young man that wanted to go on to school was an A student. So certainly, the story appealed to the emotional side and said, look, here are folks who have been here, they are hard-working, the kids have been in school. Why should we not give them access to higher education at taxpayer expense?

This goes along with the agenda or this is part of an agenda throughout the country to obtain all kinds of benefits for people who are here illegally: driver's licenses, welfare, tuition payments, and the like. The hope or the desire is that eventually we will eliminate all of those things in this Nation that would distinguish one as being here illegally.

That is to say, if they can come into the country illegally but have their children educated, as they can today; go through the public school system at our expense, at taxpayer expense; if they can have access to all of the social services that any other citizen of the United States has access to; if they can obtain a driver's license as their sort of passport into society, which a driver's license is in our country; if they can have all of these things, then there is very little, if anything, that can distinguish them as someone here illegally. They are just here. They are just simply in the United States, and therefore, they have all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the United States.

That is the desire of the folks who push this agenda. They used the Apodaca family perhaps willingly; that is to say that, for all I know, the Apodaca family was quite willing to

expose themselves to the public as being here illegally, as having entered this country without our permission. But they did not really have, or it did not seem from the story that they had a very big concern about that.

In a way, of course, we can understand why they could have been encouraged to come forward without some great fear of repercussions. There are 9 million to 13 million people living in this country illegally. The INS has done little if anything about it. This government has done little if anything about it.

There are many reasons why we have shirked our responsibility as a Federal government to assure the sanctity and integrity of our own borders, but for all the reasons that exist that have caused this situation to occur, we now see, as I say, people willing to come forward in the press and say, I am here illegally; essentially, what are you going to do about it?

I do not know about the Speaker, but here is what I thought when I read that article. I thought, is it not amazing? I am sure the Speaker, like every other Member of this body, is confronted by people in his office who is asking us to help them adjust their status in the United States; to obtain some sort of INS recognition that would allow them to stay legally.

□ 2145

We all know that there are literally millions of people around the country trying to come to the United States legally. We know there are people that have spent years in the process, filling out the forms, taking language courses, doing everything that we ask them to do to become American citizens legally. They do it. God bless them for doing it.

I speak to these folks as often as I get a chance. I have spoken to groups that have become citizens of the United States when they are taking their oath of citizenship; and I tell them, first of all, welcome to the United States, almost. Secondly, I thank them for doing this the right way, for coming here and working through the process to become an American citizen even though I know it is challenging, it is onerous; but I thank them for doing it the right way.

It was ironic in a way that several days after this story appeared, there was a very small story that appeared in both papers in Denver about all of the immigrants that were being sworn in as legal citizens of the United States, a small story relative to what this family, who chose not to come that route, but to come here illegally, small, small story compared to what the Apodacas got.

I thought that was unfair, simply and basically unfair. If a person comes to this country legally and they go through the process to have the newspapers showcase a family who has done it the other way, snuck into the country, albeit these folks are I am sure

fine people, I have nothing against them. They seem like, from what I read in the paper, to be people we would be happy to have as neighbors and friends, but that is irrelevant to the situation. The situation is they came here illegally, and they are being showcased; and we are being asked to give them a special advantage, an advantage that we give usually to citizens.

So we are telling all of the people who have come here the right way that they are nothing but suckers and that really they could have saved themselves a lot of time and money and certainly a lot of brain damage going through the bureaucratic hoops that they are put through to come here legally by simply sneaking into the country, staying under the radar screen, eventually we will give them all the same amenities, all of the privileges of citizenship. That is what that story said to me. It was unfair.

About a month after the story appeared, I called the INS in Denver, the head of the INS, a gentleman by the name of Mr. Comfort; and I said to Mr. Comfort, I have a question for you, a hypothetical question, and that is, What would you do if somebody came up to you on the street today, as you were exiting your building, and said you know, I am a good guy, I have a wife and family and a job and everything but I am here illegally and so is my family, what would you do about that if they confronted you with it? Well, of course, I would have to take them into custody, and I said, Really? He said, Yes. I said, Then what would happen? He said, Then we would have to go through a hearing process and if they were determined to be here illegally then, of course, we would set up deportation arrangements.

I said, Well, that is interesting. What did you do about the family that told you that in the paper about a month ago, the Apodaca family? He said, Well, we have not done anything about it. He said, We really do not have the resources; it is really not the same because it is not coming up to me on the street, even though, yes, it is on the front page of the Denver Post, and they tell you the name and where they are. He said, It is not the same. He said, And I do not have the resources to go after them. I said, I am not really asking you to send in the SWAT team or devote any resources away from the very important tasks with which you are involved, catching terrorists and felons who are here illegally; but I do wonder whether or not you would not just send a letter, why would you not just send a letter maybe to the family and ask them to come in and talk to you because they are saying that they are here illegally and you want to talk about the status.

He agreed that that could be done and that that would be done, and I hung up the phone.

The next day, the Denver Post printed another story and the headline was "Congressman Tancredo Demands De-

portation of Jesus Apodaca." Although I never mentioned him nor did I demand anything, that is the way the Post chose to portray this story; and they ran a picture of this young man, again a very sympathetic figure in this whole thing. He came here, of course, as a young kid with his parents. He had no choice in the matter, and I can certainly understand his plight.

This grew into a huge, huge debate in Colorado with everybody taking sides and the media getting involved and that sort of thing, the media actually promoting it certainly, because here we had set up this interesting debate; and it was worthy, I think, of the interest of the media, not to mention the way in which a portion of the media, in this case the Denver Post, chose to spin the story.

I assure my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that if the Apodaca family is here illegally as they claim to be, of course I do not know whether they are or not. I do not know whether they were put up to this or not. They may be perfectly legal, but they were used in order to advance this agenda that I was talking about of getting tuition and driver's licenses and all the rest of it; but if they are, in fact, here illegally, as they claim to be, then the law says they should face deportation hearings, and if the judge says that they should be deported, they should be deported. I am absolutely in support of that process.

I have no great hope that the INS will diligently pursue this, knowing the INS; but I think they should at least do what they told me they would do, that is, to write a letter to the family, ask them to come in and discuss this issue with them.

This, as I say, was playing out in the paper over several days when all of the sudden another story appeared. This was a front page, above-the-fold story again in the Denver Post. This was, I think, last Thursday or Friday. Apparently, according to the Post, two people came into the Post, the Denver Post, and identified themselves as being here illegally, in and of itself an interesting situation. I mean, do people really just advance that? Of course they do because they were put on the front page of the paper and no big deal; but they went one step further, and they said not only are we here illegally, but we are felons. We falsified the documents that we supplied to our employer so that we could get hired. That is a felony. They said we were hired by a company, a construction company that eventually did work in Congressman TANCREDO's basement. They put in a home theater and finished our basement.

So the above-the-fold headline, banner headline in the Denver Post, remember this story took precedent over the situation we were in with Iraq, the economy, a variety of things that I actually consider to be even more important, but the Post did not. The Post thought this was deserving of that kind of placement, and the headline was

something like Tancredo Hires Illegal Aliens to Finish His Basement.

Of course, no one knows the truth of that story and the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that that story could not have passed the discretion of a high school newspaper editor because, of course, what do we have here? We have an allegation made by two people who were not identified about their relationship to a company that I hired to finish my basement, a situation over which, of course, I have absolutely no control. I did not hire the folks that actually did the labor. I hired the contractor. It is a reputable firm in Denver. According to the newspaper, they have all of the documentation necessary by the law to confirm that these people were here illegally.

What do we have? What is this story? This is a fascinating thing. The story is that two people alleged, and they are themselves alleged to exist. I do not know that they exist. I do not know even if two people came to the Denver Post and claimed that they, in fact, were ever in my home. Let us face it, Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very emotional issue. It is possible that people would even make up something like that in order to advance a particular agenda. It is possible. I am not saying it happened. It is possible. I do not know what happened. Neither would I suggest does the Denver Post.

Of course, there is no way to tell. No one can judge the merit, the truth of this matter because they will not tell who these people are. They are withholding their names because the Post said they fear that these people will then be prosecuted. So the Denver Post, if they believe these people, they are harboring felons who have given false information in order to be hired.

Again, I do not know whether the people who worked in my basement, who were employees of the company that I did hire, were here legally or not. I have not the foggiest idea, to tell my colleagues the truth. It is not my responsibility to try and do that.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, if I were to go to them and ask them after they were hired, let us say they are working in my basement and I heard them down there and said I am just going to go down there and find out if these folks are here illegally, and if I went down there and said, hey, stop for a second, are you legal, I want to see your papers, of course, I would be sued. Of course, I can be sued under the Civil Rights Act because you cannot ask people like that. Only the employer can request that kind of documentation. Even the employer cannot say things like, are you here legally. They can say I need the documentation that you are a citizen. I have to fill out an I-9 and need Social Security and driver's license. If you are presented with that as the employer, that is what you keep on file, which according to the newspaper, this particular company I hired, has on file.

So what is the story? What is the story here that commanded front page, above-the-fold attention? Fascinating.

I do not where this will go. I have no idea. Will the INS investigate? I cannot get them to. I have a hard time getting them to actually do anything about people who are here illegally and that have been absconders; 360,000 people so far have been ordered deported already from the United States for various violations from rape, robbery, murder, just name it. They have been ordered to be deported. They have simply walked away from the courtroom, and the INS has never found them or gone after them.

So I doubt very much whether the INS is going to get too involved in either of these two cases; and as I say, I certainly do not want them and I do not rank these cases on the same level as the potential terrorists that are here, the felons that are here. I want them to devote a lot of time to that; but they should not ignore this case, either one really now because this is such big news. They certainly should not ignore the Apodacas.

□ 2200

I have not yet seen in the paper any company that comes and says, I would like you to showcase me because I hire illegal aliens, but they are all nice guys; so we should change the law. I have not seen that. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that should that be on the front page of the Post, I will call the INS and I will say, I would like to know, what are you going to do about this? I cannot demand anything because frankly I cannot. It is an executive branch agency. But I can inquire and I would inquire if some company did what the Apodacas did. I would inquire. I would say here are people that are blatantly claiming their status as illegal and/or claiming to have violated the law by knowingly hiring people who are here illegally. Either of those two cases, I think, demands a little bit of attention, if it is nothing more than a letter.

But the Post has written in the last 10 days, I think 28 articles so far. There have been 28 articles, editorials and/or commentary about this. I have never seen really anything command so much attention as long as I have been in political life, which has been a long time, and I am a very controversial figure; but I do not remember anything like this. That is just that newspaper. The Rocky Mountain News has also written story after story. It has been on the news. I get clips from California and Texas and Chicago and calls from all over the country about these two stories, the Apodaca case and my basement.

The issue of course is not the Apodacas. The issue that we should be really debating and discussing is not just the companies out here that are alleged to have hired illegal aliens or the companies that do, because of course we all know there are plenty of

them. I do not doubt for a moment that I have had dinner at a restaurant and been served by or had my meal prepared by someone who was in fact here illegally. I would bet any money that has happened. I would bet that I have gotten in a cab in this city and have been driven to a location by someone who is here illegally. We all know this happens.

The issue is not just the individual who has done that. The issue is the whole concept of immigration, immigration reform, and the integrity of borders. That is what we have to talk about tonight, and I hope night after night after night after night and day after day that is what we have to talk about because the ramifications of illegal immigration into this country, massive immigration, both legal and illegal, are enormous. As I have said on many occasions, they will determine not just what kind of country we are, that is to say, balkanized, factionalized, or united; but it will also determine if we will be a country. That is why I devote as much time and attention to this issue as I do.

It is not an issue that is easy for us to talk about. The stories that I have just described that were in the paper have caused a lot of people a lot of pain. The company that I hired was identified. It has received calls from people who have threatened them and left messages of the most vial nature. Families, a lot of people have been affected by it. Certainly I guarantee that our office has received a similar type of response along with, of course, an overwhelming number of people who are supportive of our efforts in this regard.

This is an issue America is talking about whether we want to talk about it or not. It is an issue that Americans care about whether we care about it or not. It is an issue that Americans want us to deal with whether we want to deal with it or not. Poll after poll after poll tells us that the American people want us to crack down on illegal immigration, want us to crack down on employers who are employing these people, want us to reduce the number of people coming into the country even legally because they know there is something happening in the United States that needs discussion and warrants their concern. We choose not to deal with it because we are fearful of the consequences. We are fearful of the kind of response that the stories in the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News have elicited, the vitriolic antagonistic sort of communications that we get when we start talking about this. Nobody likes this stuff, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I do not. Nobody likes being called names. Nobody likes being vilified in the press or anywhere else, I assume. And I assure that if I did not think that this issue merited the attention of this body and of this government, I would not bring it up. There are other things that I also believe are important; but this issue has, as I say, an overwhelming importance I think to

the American public and to me, and it has got nothing to do with race and it has got nothing to do with ethnicity, although that is always the card that is played when one talks about it.

But what is interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that I went on a television station in Denver, I think it was yesterday morning, as a matter of fact, and did just a 2- or 3-minute explanation of this issue, and as I was leaving, a young man came up to me who was evidently a staff person there, who had on a little microphone thing and earphones. He came up to me as I was leaving and he spoke with a bit of an accent, and he said to me, Congressman, I want to tell you that I absolutely agree with you, 100 percent agree with you. You know what I had to go through to get here legally, and I just got my papers a little bit ago.

And I thought this guy speaks for millions of people who do not get publicized by the Denver Post. His picture will not be on the front of the Denver Post. He did it the right way. But there are millions of people out there who recognize the injustice here, the unfairness of a system that in fact sets up these huge barriers and tells people that if they come to the United States and they want to be a citizen, here is what they have got to do. It is a very heavy responsibility, and here are all of the things that one must do to become a citizen and here are all the papers one has to fill out to become a citizen, and we will have to wait for years and we will go through processes, and one might have to go to court and might have to spend thousands and thousands of dollars to become a citizen, to come here legally; and yet people do it. While at the same time, the same government turns a blind eye to all of the folks coming across that border at their will?

Am I the only person who sees the injustice here, the unfairness of it? I guarantee I am not because I guarantee, Mr. Speaker, that we have heard from thousands of people in my office over the course of time who feel exactly the same way, and I know there are millions of people out there who also feel the same way. But we ignore it; we pretend it does not exist because there are all kinds of political pressures here. The Democratic Party does not want to deal with this issue because they know it means votes and the more folks they can bring in here, legally or illegally, the more folks will eventually end up in the camp of the Democratic Party. That is their experience; that is what they believe.

On the other hand, the Republican Party is loath to discuss this issue because there are of course workers, laborers who come here and compete for jobs and therefore keep wages low; and so as long as we can ensure the flow of low-skilled, low-wage workers, we will have the Denver Post and certainly the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal pressing for more and more immigration, both legal and illegal. We

have the administration that wants to make it a wedge issue in the next election; and, Mr. Speaker, even though we have gone through all of the debates in this body in the last several months over things like amnesty for people who are here illegally and we have been able to stop it from happening, I assure that after this next election when things quiet down and we have 2 more years before we have to face our electorate, there will be another push to provide amnesty for people who are here illegally and to essentially open the borders.

Here is what I suggest that we all do. I suggest that we have a larger debate on the topic of borders: whether or not they should exist, whether or not we should have them. What is the purpose? What purpose do borders serve? Are they anachronisms as some of our colleagues would suggest? Are they simply impediments to the free flow of goods and services? Or are they meaningful? Do they distinguish nation states? Do they indicate and actually give as an example what sovereignty is all about?

I think borders are important, but I may be in the minority, Mr. Speaker. Maybe a majority of the people in this House and the President of the United States believe that borders are of no significance. That could be. If that is the case and my side of this debate comes up short of the votes to sustain our position, so be it. That is the Nation in which we live. That is the democracy we all here take an oath to support. But let us at least have a debate. Let us at least have the bill. I want to see people go on record. I want to see people stand up and make a vote as to whether or not they want borders or they do not. Because, Mr. Speaker, if we have them, if we decide to have them, then that means something. It means they have to have integrity. It means they have to be defended and not in the halfway measures that we are presently doing, not just putting some folks down on the border putting their lives in peril as we are doing.

One young man a little over a month ago, Kris Eggle, 28 years old, a park ranger in Arizona, Organ Pipe Cactus National Park. Mr. Eggle and a border patrol agent interdicted a couple of people coming across the border from Mexico who had just killed four people in Mexico as a result of some drug war-type of thing. And Mr. Eggle got out of his car to go over and stop these people to put them under arrest. They got out of their car with automatic weapons and killed him. Mr. Eggle's face has not appeared on any newspaper that I know of, and his story has not been told by any major newspaper of which I am aware, but he died in the line of service to this country. He died because we told him to go down there along with his comrades in the border patrol and the custom agents and the U.S. Forest Service. We told him to protect our borders, protect the sovereignty of the Nation. But, Mr. Speak-

er, we do not believe in that war. We sacrificed Kris Eggle. And 2 weeks ago, two FBI agents were dragged across the border into Mexico and beaten almost to death with rocks. They are now in a hospital in Texas, both of whom, as I understand, in critical condition in a coma.

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Their faces have not appeared on any major newspapers that I have seen. The story has not been told. May 27, a Mexican vehicle from the Mexican Army, a Mexican Humvee comes across into the United States, is confronted by a border patrol agent and is fired upon by Mexican military. The bullet goes through the rear window of the vehicle and ricochets off the metal screen that separates the cab and the back and goes out the right window.

A foreign power, the military of a military power comes into the United States, and what they are doing, frankly, is protecting drug shipments. Many of the people on that border, many of the Mexican military and Mexican police are actually working for the drug cartels and protecting drug shipments into the United States.

On the northern border, we have drug shipments coming across in huge proportions. There are cartels up there that are run by Muslim individuals. There are 25,000 Muslims living in Calgary, Canada. A portion of them are involved with a drug trade into the United States, according to Mr. HUTCHINSON, our drug czar. A portion are involved with smuggling drugs into the United States, mostly methamphetamine components, which are cooked down here, sold down here, the funds go back up there, and they support terrorist activities throughout the world.

Both of our borders are places of warfare. The Denver Post and newspapers all over this land want to portray the face of illegal immigration as the Apodaca family, benign, good citizens, sympathetic in every respect. That is what they want Americans to believe is the face of illegal immigration. But the face of illegal immigration on the borders is something much uglier. It is the face of murder, of rape, of robbery, of drug cartels, drug smuggling, and of people coming into this country for the purpose of doing us great harm, terrorist infiltration. Go to the southern borders and the northern borders, see what I have seen. Look in the faces of the Border Patrol who know that they have been asked to hold back a flood, and have been given a sieve. They know that their lives are in danger, and we do not give them any support.

We do not really want to close those borders because it would mean the end of the flow of cheap labor, and the end of the flow of potential voters for the Democratic Party. How vile the motive. That is why we do not do it.

If people cared about these folks, if people really cared about the safety and security of even the people coming across illegally, they would stand with

me to try and stop that illegal immigration. It is a dangerous thing for these folks. They hire people, called coyotes, who bring them up to the United States, and sneak them in. Often the women are raped, the men are robbed and they are pushed into the United States into some desert area where they perish. Hundreds have perished. They are abused on the way, they are abused when they get to the border, and they are abused many times by unscrupulous employers in the United States who take advantage of them. Knowing that they are here illegally, they will pay them less, and not give them the benefits that they deserve, and they are cast aside.

If we cared about them, we would do something about our borders and we would do something about our immigration policy. We would create a guest worker program that would allow people to come into the United States legally to take the jobs that, quote, no one else will take, which we have heard and which I will challenge. If there are such jobs, fine. There are ways in which people can come into this country legally, that their rights can be protected. They do not have to hire coyotes. They do not have to come up here and be abused by employers. We can tell who they are, how long they are here, who they are working for, and when they return. But no, that program will not be adopted. I have a bill for that purpose. It will not be heard because it is easier, of course, to simply ignore the folks coming across illegally.

It is easier to hire them. People do not have to go through all of the paperwork. Just open your door and say where is your green card, where is your work permit, and those things are purchasable at just about any flea market in America. You can buy your Social Security card and any other kind of identification you want. So employers would just as soon not have that kind of burden.

Of course as I have stated already, there are a lot of people here who want to simply abolish the borders. If we have a true guest worker program, then you need borders. Borders mean something then because then you are distinguishing who can come across them and who cannot. But if you do not want borders, then why would you want a guest worker program. You would not. What you want is to allow as many people as possible into the country, then chip away at every single law in the country that distinguishes someone as a citizen, that confers some right on them as a citizen. There are municipalities in this Nation, in this city, as a matter of fact, that are pushing for voting privileges for people here illegally.

Okay, as I say, Mr. Speaker, if that is where we are going, fine. Just make a decision. Make a conscious decision as to the direction this Nation is going. Abandon the borders or protect them. That is really and truly the choice we

have. As long as we ignore it and as long as we maintain this half-baked posture, we are abandoning them. That is exactly what is happening. We are doing that, I think, to our peril.

I have a dear friend by the name of Hugh Fowler. Hugh and Shirley Fowler have been friends of ours for 30 years or more. They gave me a great book. It is called "Crowded Land of Liberty" by Dirk Chase Elderidge, and I certainly recommend it to anyone. It talks about the impact of massive immigration.

There are all kinds of ramifications, as I mentioned, Mr. Speaker. Certainly just in terms of the numbers, the growth in our population, and everyone wonders how it is in Colorado we have this huge number of people coming into the State every year. Growth has gone wild. We are building highways and schools and hospitals. California has to build a school a day to keep up with the numbers. Where are they coming from? Is this the natural birth rate of the country? No, of course not. Our natural birth rate is almost replenishment level. It is almost 2.1. The increase in population in this country is as a result of immigration. Immigrants coming in, immigrants having children. That is the population increase. There are ramifications. Crowded conditions, crowded public lands. Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone, which you cannot get to any more. You have to wait in long lines. Pretty soon you will have to have reservations to go to scenic spots in America, and there are not that many scenic spots left any more because houses are popping up where there once was pristine grasslands. This is happening because of population pressure, population growth. Where is it coming from? It is coming from immigration.

Now, it could be okay. That may be absolutely all right with everybody, but it should be a condition that we establish in this country followed by an honest debate over a controversial issue.

Mr. Speaker, these are difficult issues. There is certainly no two ways about it, and difficult for us to discuss and deal with. I just want to say from a personal standpoint, it is good for us all to kind of stand back once in a while and think about things that put everything in perspective because we have a tendency for all of us to get wrapped up in this stuff.

A little over a week ago my youngest son and his wife had a baby. My daughter-in-law gave birth to a little boy named Gabriel. I went out to California the Saturday before last to see him. When my son walked out of the delivery room carrying him and handed him to me and I took him in my arms, I thought, This does put the world in perspective. It is for Gabriel and it is for Thomas, my oldest grandson, and for William, his brother, that we do all of these things, that we try all of us, not just Members of Congress, everyone I know, that is what we labor for. It is the future. And it is for them, Mr.

Speaker, that I do in fact try to advance this issue. I believe it is an important one. I want to leave them a country as good if not better than the one I grew up in. That is why we labor here.

WAGING THE PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AKIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, how we wage peace should be the agenda priority as we close out the 107th Congress. To attack or not to attack Iraq should not be the issue which dominates the final work of this Congress. To attack or not to attack should not be the question which overwhelms the minds of America at this critical hour as we move toward very important elections on November 5.

If September 11, 2001, has made the American people preoccupied with security and safety from terrorism, then let us examine all of the components and elements of a program to make our Nation more secure and more safe: Action involving Iraq, whether it is United Nations inspections or military offensive, at the conclusion of either one, we will still face major questions of security and safety from terrorism.

Only serious attention to the full agenda of the Congress can accomplish our continuing mission to make this Nation secure and safe. Our Nation is most secure not when we wage war but when we mount a sustained peace offensive. We must pass laws, we must appropriate money which supports the increase of prosperity and peace. Security and safety are enhanced when we have a foreign policy and a foreign aid program which promotes peace.

Our Nation's security is threatened when we conduct silly and wasteful sessions of Congress like the present session. The present session includes days like today when we voted on three resolutions. One was Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program, another was on the Sense of Congress Regarding American Gold Star Mothers, and another was Welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-Jen, the First Lady of Taiwan, three resolutions that got all 435 votes, three resolutions which could have been handled with a voice vote of no substance, and we have been doing this for the last 3 or 4 weeks as we close out this Congress.

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We need to focus on vital programs, such as senior prescription drug benefits, an increase in the minimum wage, minimum funding for school repairs, pension reform which stops corporate stealing and retrieves the millions of dollars swindled from ordinary workers. If we spend the remaining weeks and days of this Congress with a total focus on Iraq instead, we will engage in a major betrayal of our constituents.