

provides \$250 million a year for 4 years to reimburse state and local governments and local health care providers for emergency health services provided to undocumented aliens.

The Congressional Budget Office says helping border states deal with this problem will cost \$1.45 billion a year. The United States should not have to bear this burden alone. The Government of Mexico has an obligation to provide its citizens with greater health care services and help stem the tidal wave of illegal immigrants into this country. One way the Mexican government can be helpful is to provide matching funds for projects like the Nogales Trauma Center. It seems to me that the better job the Mexican government can do to provide medical care for its own people, the fewer Mexicans will be attracted to cross the border to obtain medical care. In Arizona and other border states the Mexican government needs to do more and I will work with you to urge them to take these matters seriously.

However, if the Mexican government is unwilling or unable to work with us over the next year, I fully intend to offer an amendment next year that would eliminate all aid provided to the government of Mexico in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill and redirect those funds to states, localities, and health care providers to help deal with the crushing burden of health care costs for illegal aliens.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Congressman HAYWORTH's concern on the issue of medical care for undocumented aliens. He and I are both from Arizona. We know very well the concerns of our state.

Together, we are actively working to get the federal government to compensate state and local governments along the border for the costs resulting from illegal immigration or undocumented entries along the border. There is currently no federal or state policy to reimburse medical care providers for their treatment of illegal immigrants not in custody or who do not possess proof of residency in Arizona. During the past six years, Arizona has experienced a drastic surge in illegal immigration due to recent policy of sealing off Texas and California borders. Therefore, Arizona hospitals and ambulance service providers have had to shoulder an increasingly harsh economic burden.

If we fail to act quickly, our hospitals will go bankrupt leaving the citizens in many areas of Arizona without access to medical care.

Just this week, I introduced H.R. 2807, The Border Hospital Survival and Illegal Immigrant Care Act. This legislation aims to address the

shortcomings created by Immigration and Naturalization Service policy instructing the Border Patrol to not apprehend illegal immigrants injured in the process of crossing the border thereby avoiding financial responsibility.

It is a bipartisan effort being supported by several Republicans and Democrats across the border region, including Representatives REYES, FILNER, PASTOR, RENZI, and GRIJALVA.

I know the intent of Congressman HAYWORTH's floor amendment to the Foreign Operations appropriations bill is to get greater Mexican attention and resources on this issue. I think that is appropriate.

There is an innovative pilot project underway that may actually yield commitment on a larger scale from the Mexican government on these issues.

Just recently USAID contributed resources to establish a triage and stabilization unit at the General Hospital in Nogales, Sonora located in Mexico just across from Nogales, Arizona.

This unit would seek to take care of most emergency medical needs of Mexican citizens on the Mexican side of the border in Nogales, Sonora. I encouraged and supported this leadership by USAID and the U.S. government.

In the spirit of public private partnerships, its funding composition has several components:

\$350,000 from USAID/Mexico and a USAID Global Health agreement with EngenderHealth, a U.S. NGO,

Nearly \$200,000 of cost-sharing support from Arizona partner organizations, principally the USAID grantee, Tucson's University Medical Center Foundation,

2,000,000 pesos from Mexican Federal and State Government, and

1,000,000 pesos from local Mexican business association.

I recognize the goal of Congressman HAYWORTH and I appreciate his willingness to withdraw the floor amendment to the Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

As I continue to work on this issue, I would propose that he and I work together to bring greater focus to this important issue.

Cooperation in support of Mexico's economic and social development and its consolidation of democratic institutions and practices ranks high in the range of U.S. policy interests. This national interest of the U.S. mirrors what is in our intense local Arizona interest.

I plan to work with the distinguished Member of Arizona on this issue. In the near future, I hope you can consider co-sponsoring H.R. 2807, The Border Hospital Survival and Illegal Immigrant Care Act.

HONORING GEN. LESTER L. LYLES
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gen. Lester L. Lyles, United States Air Force, who will soon be retiring from the U.S. military after 35 years of distinguished service to our nation.

Gen. Lester L. Lyles is currently the Commanding General of the Air Force Material Command, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the 7th Congressional Dis-

trict. The command conducts research, development, test and evaluation, and provides acquisition management services and logistics support necessary to keep Air Force weapons systems combat-ready.

The general entered the Air Force in 1968 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force ROTC program. He has served in various assignments, from the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Force, to the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC). The general became AFSC headquarters' Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Requirements in 1989, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Requirements in 1990.

From 1992 to 1996, he served consecutively as: Vice Commander and then Commander of the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, and then commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base in California.

The general became the Director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization in 1996, which is certainly one of the most politically charged offices in the Pentagon.

In May 1999, he was assigned as Vice Chief of Staff at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. He assumed his current position in April 2000.

I have had the privilege to work with the General on many occasions, since we have the mutual goal of seeing the Air Force (and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) maintain its role as the preeminent leader in aerospace and advanced technology research.

General Lyles has always understood what has needed to be done, and we have worked very well together to maintain a robust research atmosphere at Wright-Pat. In addition to being a great leader and administrator, General Lyles is also the only African-American four-star general in the Air Force.

This makes him an outstanding role model for the youth of today as an example of what can be accomplished through hard work and perseverance. In fact, in February of this year, General Lyles received the Black Engineer of the Year Award for lifetime achievement. This award is presented on behalf of the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Lockheed Martin, Daimler Chrysler and U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology Magazine.

As befitting a leader of his stature, General Lyles has an impressive academic background including: a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and a Master of Science degree in mechanical and nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology Program at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

Through his advancement in military rank, he has also attended: the Defense Systems Management College, the Armed Forces Staff College, the National War College, and most recently he completed a National and International Security Management Course at Harvard University.

And, like any successful person, General Lyles is supported by a strong family relationship with his wife of 33 years, Mina, and their four children.

During my tenure in Congress, it has been my honor to work with several consecutive commanding generals of the Air Force Material Command. Each one has been professional, dedicated and a credit to the caliber of general officers in the U.S. Air Force. However, General Lyles has greatly impressed not

only myself, but also many business and community leaders in the Miami Valley. When General Lyles retires, we will be sorry to lose the man I consider to be the best leader in the distinguished history of the command.

As the Congressman who represents Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations to Gen. Lyles on his well-deserved retirement and on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and thank him for all he has done to preserve our freedoms.

HONORING WILLIAM STRAUS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Straus, rancher, environmentalist, and father of the family whose Straus Family Creamery has set a new standard for organic dairy products. Mr. Straus, who lived in Marshall, CA, died on July 6, 2003, at the age of 88.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1914, Bill, whose father was the first German Jew to earn a doctorate in agriculture, also studied agriculture before fleeing to British-controlled Palestine in 1936. Although he planned to settle there, relatives lured him to California where they were expecting to find oil near San Luis Obispo.

No oil was found, but Bill fell in love with the land. He earned a degree in agriculture from UC Berkeley and purchased a ranch in Marshall. In 1949, fearing he would not find a Jewish girl to marry in West Marin, he traveled to New York twice to meet Amsterdam-born Ellen Prins. The couple married soon after, and Ellen moved to the ranch where she too fell in love with the rolling hills and beautiful landscape.

The Strauses soon became leaders in efforts to protect the land and to develop environmentally sound farming practices. The couple understood that ranchers and conservationists needed to work together to preserve open spaces. Bill was the first rancher to join the Marin Conservation League, and in 1980 Ellen co-founded Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT). In 1994, son Albert Straus established the first organic dairy west of the Mississippi.

Bill and Ellen created a warm, hospitable household based on their Jewish roots and were welcoming to friends, family, and a parade of visitors. Ellen Straus died last November. Bill is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Straus left a legacy based on stewardship of the land, close personal relationships, commitment to agriculture and love of the landscape. His spirit lives on in the beautiful hills of West Marin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence on Friday,

July 18, 2003 and Tuesday, July 22, 2003. I attended the funerals of Sgt. Roger Rowe, a Tennessee National Guardsman killed in Iraq, and Rose Barker, a longtime friend. I wanted to pay my respects to Sgt. Rowe and thank his family for his dedicated service to our country. I also wanted to say farewell to a very good friend in Rose.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend from Montana, Mr. REHBERG, to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act. The companion to our bill is also being introduced today in the other body by Senators PETE DOMENICI and MAX BAUCUS.

In 1998, Congress passed legislation creating the National Drought Policy Commission. The Commission was tasked with the responsibility to examine current U.S. policy on drought. To summarize the Commission's fifty-page report in a few short words, "The U.S. does not have a policy on drought."

I wish I had just made a joke. The fact that we don't have a drought policy, however, is a joke—and not a good one at that.

Drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, crop yields decrease, and in many instances, people die.

Here in Washington, it's been raining all month, so people aren't talking about drought. However, just because we aren't talking about it, doesn't mean that we shouldn't be doing something about it.

In my home State of Florida, we are always taking steps to mitigate the effects of hurricanes and floods—regardless of what season it is. In the Midwest, similar efforts are made to plan for tornadoes, and in the West, the same could be said for wildfire prevention and earthquakes.

It is time for America to move away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more pro-active approach that focuses on preparation and planning. Coordination between Federal, State, and local governments, in addition to watershed groups, farmers and ranchers, and resource dependent businesses, is the only way we will successfully curb the effects of drought before we find ourselves in one. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

Our bill accomplishes four major goals:

First, the bill begins to move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more pro-active approach focused on preparation and planning. The new national policy will provide the tools and focus for Federal, State, tribal and local governments to address the diverse impacts and costs caused by drought.

Second, the bill will improve the delivery of Federal drought programs. To ensure improved program delivery, integration and leadership, the National Drought Preparedness Act

establishes the National Drought Council under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will provide the coordinating and integrating function for the more than 80 Federal drought programs currently in existence.

Third, the bill establishes new tools for drought preparedness planning. Building on current water policy, the Drought Council will assist states, local governments, tribes, and other entities in the development and implementation of drought preparedness plans. The bill does not mandate state and local planning, but is intended to facilitate the development and implementation of drought plans through the establishment of a Drought Assistance Fund. Importantly, the bill also preserves State authority over water allocation.

Fourth, the bill improves our forecasting and monitoring abilities. Under our legislation, the Drought Council will facilitate the development of the National Integrated Drought System in order to improve the characterization of current drought conditions and the forecasting of future droughts, as well as provide a better basis to trigger Federal drought assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between Federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, and time is of the essence.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Bureau of Investigation Reform Act of 2003," legislation that strengthens the accountability, enhances the security and improves the management of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I am joined by Representatives BERMAN, JACKSON-LEE, DELAHUNT, BLUMENAUER, WAXMAN, FARR, and CARSON of Indiana.

The report released today by the joint congressional committee investigating the September 11th attacks was quite disturbing. It provided ample evidence of key clues and signals that astute FBI agents should have picked up on. Line after line of the report reveals incidences of missed opportunities. Beginning with the FBI's neglect of the now infamous "phoenix" memo and ending with the mishandling of potentially valuable informants, the FBI engaged in a pattern and practice of activities that did very little, if anything, to protect this nation from the devastating attacks it experienced on 9-11.

To address some of the obvious miscues and intelligence failures highlighted in the report, we are introducing the FBI Reform Act of