

ahead with this invasion. But that decision should have been based on accurate reporting by our leaders and not by deceiving the American people."

Patrick and Sandra Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett of Avon, Ohio, in northern Ohio, write: "Democracy cannot endure without truth and integrity from its leadership. Look at what the Vietnam war, the Iran Contra scandal, and Watergate did to the public's confidence in government," the Garretts wrote from Avon.

Cheryl Elman from Akron, Ohio, wrote: "You and a handful of others may truly be all that stand between public ignorance about possible manipulations of policy in the Iraqi war. An enlightened public is a prerequisite for functioning democracy." Please continue your commitment "to free flow of information. Do what you can to shed light on this issue."

Teri Egan from Shaker Heights, Ohio, writes: "As the toll rises daily in Iraq with our troops in harm's way, we need to know if there is any credible reason for continuing in this manner."

Wanda Crawford from Cincinnati, Ohio, in the other end of the State, writes: "With American soldiers' lives at risk and American soldiers' lives lost already, the American public needs to know the true reason for our entry into war with Iraq. Covering up the truth dishonors the sacrifice of those in uniform. As a daughter and a sister of veterans," Ms. Crawford writes, "I am appalled that soldiers may have been lied to about the reasons they were sent to Iraq. Please support an independent, bipartisan investigation to get to the truth of the administration's call to arms."

Norma Roberts from Lexington, Ohio, writes: "I was alarmed at recent reports that our government led us into war without honest justification. President Bush responds by saying that such reports are attempts to 'rewrite history,' but the point is that the American people do not know the real history. If this country is to be a model of democracy, the people must be informed."

Madam Speaker, it goes on and on. We ask for this investigation. Literally hundreds of thousands of Americans have written to their Members of Congress asking for an investigation into the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

MEETING FUTURE LABOR SHORTAGES WITH TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, for the past few weeks, I have come to the floor of the House of Representatives to address an issue that I believe has to be addressed with a comprehensive legislative solution. The issue is illegal

migration and our current immigration policies.

Madam Speaker, this is certainly a very complex issue. Unfortunately, it involves a historical policy of turning a blind eye to the reality of the demand for workers for certain jobs in this country. Our migration policy has also not done a very good job of recognizing the way that people organize and lead their lives.

We must recognize that the U.S. economy and standard of living are better than that of Mexico. Mexicans migrate to the United States not simply because wages are higher, but because Americans are willing to hire them. The demand for these workers will not diminish for the foreseeable future. In a recent report published by Dan Griswold of the Cato Institute, we know that the Labor Department has reported that the largest growth in absolute numbers of jobs will be in those categories that require "short-term on-the-job training" of 1 month or less.

In fact, of the top 30 categories with the largest expected job growth between 2000 and 2010, more than half fall into that least-skilled category. These are all occupations where low-skilled immigrants can be expected to help meet the rising demand for workers. Across the U.S. economy the Labor Department estimates that the total number of jobs requiring only short-term training will increase from 51 million in 2000 to 61 million in 2010. That is a net increase of 7.7 million jobs. Meanwhile, the supply of American workers suitable for such work continues to fall because of an aging workforce and rising education levels.

The median age of U.S. workers continues to increase as baby boomers approach retirement age. From 1990 to 2010, the median age for the American worker is expected to rise from 37 years to 41 years. Further, younger and older American workers alike are now more educated. The share of adult native-born men without a high school diploma has plunged from 54 percent in 1960 to just 9 percent in 1998. During the same period, the share of workers with college degrees has gone up from 11 percent to 30 percent.

Certainly we recognize the fastest growing occupations in the next decade in percentage terms will require high degrees of skill and education. But as the economy continues to pick up steam, we have to recognize the realities of labor market demands. The demand for lower-skilled workers is growing while the American workforce is aging and increasingly well-educated.

Madam Speaker, I would argue that it is no coincidence that the number of low-skilled jobs in this country is expected to grow by more than 700,000 a year. That is precisely the number of new illegal immigrants that the Federal Government now estimates are entering the U.S. job market every year. If this is not an affirmation of this power of the market, and simple supply

and demand, I do not know what is. We have to consider that for an illegal worker, the prospect of unemployment in the United States is far more expensive than a similar situation in his or her home country. If jobs are not available, the treacherous journey across the border is simply not worth the risk.

□ 2045

To conclude, permitting immigrants to enter the country as part of a temporary worker program will eliminate a huge segment of the illegal traffic coming across and within our borders. At the same time, such a strategy will recognize that our economy continues to expand, and, as such, the expansion will require new workers.

GETTING AMERICA BACK ON TRACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I would hope that government could learn from its mistakes, and, if there ever was a mistake, it was America's entry into the North America Free Trade Agreement.

The victims of that colossal disaster reside in all of our Congressional districts. They are the unemployed auto workers, the steelworkers, the truckers and the textile workers. They are families who are struggling just to get by. They remember better times. They remember life before America entered the "race to the bottom," before their jobs moved overseas.

Let us consider where NAFTA has brought us. The U.S. trade deficit in 2002 was \$500 billion, the highest deficit ever recorded, and the combined trade deficit with Canada and Mexico is now more than ten times what it was before NAFTA went into effect. Think of that; our combined trade deficit with Canada and Mexico is now ten times more than it was before NAFTA went into effect.

But, sadly, Madam Speaker, it seems that some either did not learn, or just simply do not care, because this Congress is now being presented with more free trade agreements, this time with Chile and Singapore, and they are just more of the same; more jobs lost, more hard times for Americans. It is *deja vu* all over again. I will be voting against both the Chile and the Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Acts, because they mean nothing but hardship for American workers.

Oh, but now we are being told that these agreements may require Chile and Singapore to meet international standards on workers' rights. Oh, but, of course, they provide absolutely no enforcement mechanisms. Foreign labor costs and practices will continue to undercut those of America's workers in this global race to the bottom, which simply means more jobs lost right here at home.

What is worse, these two agreements appear to be just the beginning of the NAFTA legacy. Next we are told there is going to be a so-called Central America Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA, that is currently being negotiated by the United States trade representatives. CAFTA has the potential to create a free trade zone in the Western Hemisphere that would flood our borders with cheap imports, and our only export, Madam Speaker, would be our good-paying jobs.

Madam Speaker, it is time we took a stand. It is time we put America's workers first.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to just simply look at the record. Our country has taken the wrong path. We cannot afford to go down this dangerous road any further. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Chile Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act and the Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. It is time we got our country back on track.

Madam Speaker, I represent 12 counties that stretch along the eastern and southern portion of Ohio. In one of my counties, Mahoning county, the unemployment rate this very day is 11.4 percent. In the City of Youngstown, the unemployment rate is 18.2 percent. I have people who have worked in steel mills and are now jobless. We have steel mills that are under threat. The china and pottery industry along the Ohio River is under threat. The titanium industry is under threat.

Our country is under threat, and I would urge the President and this Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, to recognize reality, to turn from our foolish ways and to return to the attitude that I believe our forefathers had before us, who believed that our first obligation as representatives in this body is to put this country and our communities and our constituents first.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWDON, GEORGIA

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I did not rise to speak on this issue, but I just feel compelled to respond to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are not directly questioning the honesty and truthfulness of President George W. Bush, but yet are doing it secondarily through these so-called "constituent letters."

I want to remind them that it is inappropriate, indeed, out of order, for a Member of Congress to speak in this House from this well and to suggest that the President is lying, that the President is untruthful, that the President deceived the American public. Whether they are saying that directly or they are suggesting it through these so-called constituent letters, they are

getting very, very close to crossing that line.

I want to remind my colleagues that this president was elected, for more than any other reason, because of his honesty and his integrity. The American people trust President Bush and applaud him for what he is doing, what he has done and what he will continue to do to bring peace to the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, actually I am rising today to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Bowdon, Georgia, a jewel of a city in the 11th Congressional District which I represent.

Bowdon has a proud history that dates back before the official founding of the city. In 1847, Carroll County troops from the Bowdon area, fighting under General Winfield Scott, defeated a large army under Santa Anna at Cerro Gordo, Mexico. The town of Bowdon was originally called Cerro Gordo to commemorate that victory. After Alabama Congressman Franklin Welch Bowdon assisted the town in securing a post office, the citizens honored him by renaming their town Bowdon in 1848.

Several years later, in 1853, about 30 local residents selected the present town site. Lots were sold to the highest bidder, with the most expensive lot going for \$10.50. The city grew quickly, and by 1855 Bowdon had five stores, several shops, a primary school and a high school. At least one of those original houses in Bowdon still stands today.

It was not long before the people of this community chartered Bowdon College in 1856. The college was the fifth chartered in Georgia. The school was a trailblazer in the State, as it was first to educate both men and women. With few resources, but with the commitment of a devoted community, Bowdon College educated thousands of poor but ambitious students until 1936. After the Civil War, Bowdon College was one of five endowed by the State of Georgia to educate wounded and disabled veterans, in 1866 and 1867. The program educated more than 200 veterans.

In the early part of the 20th Century, Bowdon flourished with cotton and lumber sales. Soon there was a demand for rail service, and a rail line was completed in 1910. Governor Hoke Smith and Congressman William Charles Adamson, a native of Bowdon, attended the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the line.

Bowdon expanded its job-base during the Great Depression, when Bowdon College graduate Warren Palmer Sewell opened a clothing plant in 1932. Warren Sewell Clothing was one of the top ten manufacturers of clothing in the country when he died in 1973.

Today, Bowdon remains a proud city in Carroll County. Each August, Bowdon holds its annual Founders Day celebration. This year, the city's 105th anniversary, the celebration will be particularly special.

INVESTIGATING REASONS FOR WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I know that this journey that we have taken since the beginning of the year involving the war against Iraq in many instances confuses the American public.

I certainly applaud the American public's willingness to wholeheartedly support the men and women in the United States military. America has always joined together around its brave, strong and diligent men and women of the United States military when they have been put in harm's way and when they are in harm's way because of the principles or the direction of Members of this government.

So this discussion this evening is to separate out the respect and appreciation for their bravery. It is an attempt to calmly state that this Congress needs to do its responsible duty in terms of determining the basis upon which this war was declared and the intelligence that was gathered and the reasons given for going to war against Iraq.

If you read the beginning pages of our Constitution, the Founding Fathers, all of whom had some history in fleeing a despotic government, determined that this would be a perfect Nation, a Nation grounded in democratic principles, a transparent Nation. In the opening lines of the Constitution, it said we are organized to create a more perfect union. They believed that. They believed in transparency and they believed in the honesty of government and the integrity of government.

I believe that this Congress has a responsibility to openly discuss the intelligence gathering that led to the representation that the United States of America was about to be under imminent attack by Saddam Hussein and his troops and that we were in immediate danger.

Many of my colleagues came to the floor of the House during that vigorous debate in the fall of 2002 with great pain, believing that they had to cast a vote for the resolution that was on the floor that allowed the President to go to the United Nations, but if, if, the United Nations did not move, then the President interpreted the resolution to be able to move unilaterally, unilaterally, against Iraq.

In spite of the fact that many of us argued vigorously that an outright declaration of war was required under the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, a vote of this body, members of the majority disagreed with that, and they fought against what I think is the right thinking and forward thinking view of 133 Members of both Houses, who said we must have a constitutional vote on a declaration of war.

Madam Speaker, we had not gone to war, if you will, by the time of the 2003