

more, we are going in hock to foreign interests. We need to ask, how do we take our country back? At a minimum, how do we owe the money to ourselves rather than other Nations? In prior generations, when we were faced with a problem like this, we didn't turn to foreign bankers; we turned to the American people. We did it through balancing our budget, and we did it through savings bond sales. There used to be a time when savings bonds could be purchased easily at any local bank or even in smaller denominations at our U.S. Postal Service.

It was a way the average American, who is as patriotic as anybody in this world, could invest in their own country. They could buy bonds in very small denominations, and they knew their investment was secure and that they were investing in America, not someplace else.

But in recent years, the Federal Reserve and our Treasury have gotten lazy. They are selling these denominations in big, big numbers, thousands of dollars apiece, and they like to do it through just a few cushy dealers on Wall Street. They love dealing with the big bond houses to get fees for every bond they sell. It is a very undemocratic bond system.

In fact, the Federal Reserve loves to reward their friends on Wall Street instead of strengthening our Nation down to the average citizen and their ability to own a piece of the republic. I would like to restore that spirit of independence to our country, and this method, tried and true, of savings bond purchases helped us through military wars and economic depressions.

Savings bonds can be called upon again, in a new war, to maintain America's economic independence and take it back from foreign investors who are owning larger pieces of us every day. Independence, independence, independence. Reduce America's ownership by foreign interests.

□ 2215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND BORDER STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for half the time before midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized and the ability to have the chance to address the House this night on the issue we all know is the most critical issue our Nation faces today, that is the security of the American borders and the sovereignty of our Nation.

I rise because I am from Texas, and I grew up crossing the Mexican border with our neighbors from Mexico all of my life. I have even been several times to the great international celebration in Nuevo Laredo for George Washington's birthday, a time in which thousands and thousands of Texans joined their neighbors in Mexico for a great fiesta. I consider Mexico, my entire life. I have considered them my friend and our neighbor to the south. I actually went to school in Mexico. I am very familiar with the country, and I have a warm regard for the people of Mexico.

However, the world we live in today is not the world I grew up in. I have had the occasion in the last 6 months to visit Nuevo Laredo with Congressman CUELLAR on two occasions. I have been down there with Congressional delegations that have visited the border to talk about the incursions into the United States by literally hundreds of thousands and millions of people coming out of Mexico across our southern borders from San Diego to Brownsville.

But the world I know is Texas, and I am going to talk about the Texas border that I am familiar with. I want to tell you that I sat out in a pickup truck on the side of the Rio Grande in a mesquite thicket in the dark with one lone border patrolman and his electronic equipment, which was a camera that scanned 2.5 miles in either direction, a stretch of the river, right in the city limits or on the edge of the city limits of Laredo, Texas.

I got to sit out there on that lonely job with that young man for a pretty good while and talk to him about what he has experienced. He says what every rancher and farmer and homeowner that lives on the border of Texas today repeats: This is not the same bunch of people that used to come across our border.

They are coming in waves, and they are doing damage and breaking into homes, and they are stealing things. Whereas they used to come by a pepper's house with their hat in their hands and the rancher wife would put dinner out on the back porch for them, today they break into the house; they have no regard for private property. They have no regard for anything that is going on in Texas. They just think it is their right to come into Texas, and they are acting that way.

This young man told me, he said, I asked him, I said, how many people? The first time I visited was in the wintertime. I said, how many people will come across? He said, well, it is winter. Maybe a couple of hundred tonight. But in the summer, maybe a couple of thousand in my sector that I will turn back on some given nights.

This is a number that way surpasses anything we have ever experienced in our State, and all the other States along the border are experiencing this problem.

But, you know, I have been thinking about this, and this is not a problem

that just started last week. I firmly believe that we enhanced the problem of the Mexican border, especially our southern border, with the amnesty bill that we passed in 1986. We gave a message, and in that message, it was clear: Come on in, boys, you are welcome, and in they came.

Their thoughts were, I can go, most of them came for jobs. But I used to be able to say, when I was a young man and a teenager, the people who came over here are coming to work. I am telling you, you can't say that today. You can't say that every person that crosses that border comes to work. That border patrolman told me a tale that will chill your soul. In the El Paso sector in December, they stopped 15 illegal immigrants, all of whom claimed to be from Mexico, all of whom voluntarily agreed to return.

So they fingerprinted them and processed them and took them back to Mexico. They ran those fingerprints through, I think it is NCI or whatever it is that they use with the Border Patrol, and about five of those fingerprints had previously been recorded by the United States Government. Those prints came from a cave in Afghanistan. Now those were not people coming across our border from Mexico to get a job. But they were blending in with those who were.

We live in the world of 9/11. We live in a time when an enemy has launched and successfully accomplished the worst attack on the United States in the history of the United States. We have people we don't know coming across our border.

We are doing a lot of talk about enforcement. We are doing a lot of talk about writing new laws. We go, oh, my gosh, let us rush out, and we have got to come up and figure out how we get a work program. We have got to come up with citizenship for these people. We have got to know what to do with these people. Sure, these are problems that we have to address sometime, and I am sure soon.

But my concern is, we are not analyzing this problem the way the problems should be analyzed. The legislation we are hearing that is coming this way from the Senate, and my way of thinking, is a totally improper way to analyze a problem of the United States.

I spent almost 21 years as a district judge in Texas. I had many, many, times, where I had a multiple-issue case that I had to choose. But a jury would use the same analysis to try to figure out a solution to a problem. So I will use that example. But the same example could be used for a surgeon in an emergency room.

You have a problem, and you look at that problem, and you say, well, this problem has multiple issues we have to deal with. We have evidence to cover these issues. We need to examine those issues, that evidence closely and come up with a solution to these problems.

But first where is the ongoing harm? Where is the bleeding? You have got to

stop the damage that is there right now today before you move on to the damage that may be coming down the road or to work on other issues to determine the solution. I would say the bleeding is at the border. We have got to stop the bleeding.

The surgeon that is at the emergency room when they are bringing someone, if there is arterial blood flowing, he is not worried about a CAT scan or an X-ray or whether this man might have cancer or diabetes. He wants to stop the bleeding.

If we don't go and address the issues on the border as the House bill has done to stop the bleeding, if we don't do that, we are analyzing this problem wrong.

You know, we could stand around in this House, and we can talk about whose fault is it. You know, hindsight is 2020, but the truth is, the fault lies across the board, and we ought to step up and say so.

From 1986 until the present, we have had both Republican and Democratic administrations. We can all point the finger and say, you did it. But as you point that finger, point it back to you. The fact is, we have not met our duty to the American people.

But now we see a crisis. Ask any American, where is the crisis in immigration, and something like 90 percent of them will say, at the border. Before we deal with anything, we have got to stop the flow. That is why the House bill is so very important that we go forward on it.

You know, we took an oath in this House. The President of the United States took an oath. That oath was that we would, to the best of our ability, perform the duties of the office to which we had been elected and preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. We took an oath to do our job. Those people we hire to work for us assist us in doing that job.

□ 2230

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that as we rush to judgment on the issue of immigration, that we start talking about amnesty and we start talking about creating a program where people who have broken the laws of the United States are going to be given special privileges that even people who are born here don't get. There are things now being proposed in the Senate bill as to collecting back Social Security, having the Davis-Bacon Act apply to all of your wages, and unbelievable things where even every American doesn't have those benefits. Talk to my teachers back in Texas about some of their missing Social Security benefits they have been trying to get for, Lord, it has got to be 50 years. And yet we are looking at this and putting patches on it, and the patches are getting worse and the tire is going flatter.

Mr. Speaker, the executive and those on both sides of the aisle have failed. When we wrote the law in 1986, we had

laws that pertained to crossing our borders and we didn't enforce them. We had laws that pertained to employers and we didn't enforce them, and the Congress failed in its duty to do that also.

I would argue the worst offender of all are the bureaucrats. But all that is beside us now. We cannot continue on with a system that doesn't work at the border, where some nights 16,000 people come across that border.

I went out and pulled up some of the old law books just to find a few things, because you hear people say well, they are not really breaking any laws. Shame on you. Somebody wants to make this a felony. I don't think anybody has ever looked to see what it is. It is a civil, not a criminal file for the first crossing. But it continues on. Illegal entry carries a punishment of fine and imprisonment of up to 6 months. Harboring undocumented aliens carries a fine and imprisonment of up to 5 years. Alien smuggling carries a fine and imprisonment up to 10 years. Those are felonies, 5 and 10 year sentences, in my opinion.

A crime that causes a serious bodily injury to any person, the penalty is a fine and a sentence of up to 20 years in prison. Reentry into the United States is a felony charge punishable with fines and/or imprisonment for 2 or more years. If reentry is after a previous non-aggravated felony, it is up to 10 years. If it is after an aggravated felony, it is up to 20 years.

Now, I would like to know, are we enforcing those laws? I used to sit in the courtroom and do a jail call every Monday morning. I would call the jail and we would bring people over and find out who was in jail. Inevitably, once, twice, three times a month, we would have anywhere from two to 20 illegal aliens in the jail. Inevitably.

We would call INS and tell them, we got some of your people here. You need to pick them up. They would say if they are there on Thursday, we will get them. They would all bond out on Tuesday and be gone.

Now, is the Immigration and Naturalization Service doing the duty that our laws gave them to do? No. We have failed to enforce the laws that are on the books today. So we are not in a panic to create laws to prevent these people from coming in here. We have laws we are not enforcing. Now the tide has become overwhelming for law enforcement. This overwhelming of us is what we are talking about. This is where the bleeding is. This is where the bleeding has got to be stopped.

The bill that we passed through this House, I would like to add things to it, were I given the opportunity. Hopefully there will be more resources for our Border Patrol, resources on the border, electronic surveillance, unmanned drones and all of the other things that technology provides for us today, to help us stop this invasion.

I use the term "invasion," and I don't take that hesitantly. While I was

there, I saw a film of what now we are being told were drug dealers coming across the border in what looked like to everybody there Mexican military uniforms, carrying satchels of drugs with automatic weapons and vehicles. Now, it has not been resolved as to exactly who those people are, but, you know, if it looks like the Mexican army, I wonder if it is? I think we ought to know that. I think we ought to have an answer to that.

Most of Europe went to war over an invasion in 1939 and it ended up being World War II. I am concerned about the invasion across our southern border. I am concerned we are not enforcing the laws.

I am convinced that the solution to this problem is to do our job, and if we do our job and enforce the laws that are in place and make a conscientious effort to study the best possible solution for every one of the multiple problems that exist in this immigration and border security issue, let's stop the bleeding at the border and then let's put the good minds in this House on both sides of the aisle to work in cooperating to come up with real lasting solutions, and not forgetting that we have laws we can enforce now as we come up with solutions for these other things.

That is basically the way I view this thing.

I want to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who also would like to address this House on this important issue.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. I thank you very much, and associate myself with your remarks. I think what is really important at this point is that every American understands that the massive influx of illegal immigrants into our country has not been an accident. It is, instead, the result of an intentional strategy on the part of America's political elite.

Yes, the laws are not being enforced, just as you said. That is an intentional decision by someone that those laws are not enforced. The business community wants cheap labor. The movers and shakers of the liberal left, consistent with their Tammany Hall traditions want more political pawns who are dependent on government programs. They got what they wanted. Bear Stearns estimates that are there are between 15 and 20 million illegals now in our country.

By the way, one area I might disagree a little bit with my friend, although it is really not a disagreement, it is just not the border. Of the 15 to 20 million illegals, 4 to 5 million of them are visa overstayers, people who have come into our country on a visa and just overstayed their visa and melded right into the population. Many, many are from Mainland China, for example. And the decision of not having a visa system in which we check to see if anybody returns once they have come to the United States has been a conscious decision. We are not going to correct this problem.

Well, my own subcommittee held a hearing on that, and it was demonstrable that over the last two decades we have had a huge influx of people just overstaying their visa and becoming illegally part of our country.

The downside of all of this, 15 to 20 million illegals in our country, is becoming increasingly evident. In education we hear about overcrowding and the declining quality of our schools. The States are spending \$7.4 billion annually to provide K through 12 education to people who aren't supposed to be here in the first place.

Without school age illegal immigrants or the children of illegal immigrants, school enrollment would not have risen at all during the past decade. So when you hear about overcrowding or the decline of our education, that is where it starts. Our limited education dollars are being expended not for our children's benefit, but for children of foreigners who have come here illegally. That is a crime against America's youth. Our children are being denied a quality education because of our cowardice or incompetence to deal with this issue.

Similarly, our health care system is under siege. Illegal aliens account for 43 percent of those without health insurance in our country. At least \$9 billion then of our scarce health care dollars are being spent on foreigners who have come here illegally.

Yes, business gets their cheap labor. The rest of us end up with closed hospital emergency rooms and skyrocketing health insurance costs, which can be traced, among other things, to the care that is given to illegal aliens, which is then simply added on to our bill and sent to our insurance companies.

The effect on our criminal justice system has been no less catastrophic. Almost 30 percent of Federal prisoners are now foreign born. That is one out of every three Federal prisoners. In California, for example, about one out of every four persons in our prisons are illegal. The estimated cost, of course, of incarcerating an illegal for a year is \$22,517 per year.

And that is only a small price that the American people are paying. Think of the other price, the price of the theft and property damage that is traced to these criminal aliens. And who can put a price tag on the violent attacks, the murders, the rapes, perpetrated by these foreign marauders?

And less easily recognized, millions of American families are being robbed of a higher quality of life and a higher standard of living as wages are bid down by hordes of job seekers who are not even supposed to be here in our country. A study by Harvard University professor George Borjas shows immigration accounts for the entire decline of real wages that has affected so many of our countrymen in the past two decades. Competition from the growing number of illegal immigrant laborers in the past 20 years means

American workers are earning, get this, an average of \$1,700 less every year than they would have otherwise been earning.

Now, who gets hurt? Well, unemployment among Americans with less than a high school education is at 14 percent. Fourteen percent of those Americans who don't have a high school education are out of work, with no hope. And who is taking their jobs?

Many of our citizens find they have a decline in pay in terms of real dollars. And who are these people who are mainly finding that their pay level is going down? It is the people on the bottom end of the scale. The less fortunate Americans we are trying to help are the ones who are being hurt the most by illegal immigrants.

So whether we are talking about education, health care, food stamps, housing assistance, school breakfast and lunch programs, all of which were intended for struggling Americans, all of these are being drained to one extent or another by people who have come here illegally, and in many cases these people have paid little or nothing into the system.

It is estimated that the average illegal alien uses \$2,700 or more in government services more than he pays in taxes. That is coming right out of the hide of America's least fortunate citizens. This is a crime perpetrated by America's elite on America's least fortunate people. It is a betrayal of our fellow Americans for whom these programs were intended.

Now, we keep hearing we need these illegals. We need people coming in to do jobs that Americans won't do. Well, that is so much baloney. Americans will do these jobs. If Americans are paid a decent wage, Americans will do the jobs.

I was on a TV show recently where a woman said she couldn't find an American woman to help take care of her children. This was a very wealthy person who ended up hiring an illegal Mexican woman. Yes, she hired her probably at about \$50. She wouldn't hire the American woman down the road who would be glad to work for her for \$20 an hour while her own kids are going to school, thus paying her \$100 a day.

Who was worse off? The worse off person is the American woman who would have loved to have worked for that job. Yes, the illegal got a little money, 50 bucks. Who is really better off? The rich lady who got that illegal at half the price she would have had to pay an American. This goes right down the line to so many other jobs.

We say now there are a lot of jobs, for example, in hotels. Yes, hotels, they say they need illegals to change the sheets in the hotel rooms. There are lots of American women who would love to help us with child care and help with changing the sheets in the motel room if we would pay them a decent wage. But we have hordes of illegals coming into this country bidding down

those prices so those American women stay at home and have no job at all. Who is being hurt? Regular Americans are being hurt by this.

The open-borders crowd are now throwing their weight behind the current Senate bill. Wake up America. This is the same gang that brought this crisis upon us, and the Senate bill will make the situation worse.

□ 2245

Even the bill before us from the United States Senate is not an anti-illegal immigration bill. It is a pro-immigration, a pro-illegal immigration bill, because that will be the impact.

The core provisions of the Senate bill around which everything else orbits is the so-called guest worker program, and the legalization status of those 15 to 20 million illegals who are now in our country. The Senate bill changes the status of these millions of intruders from illegal to legal.

The President does not want to call that amnesty. I call that amnesty, and there is no other definition I know for it. You are changing the status from illegal to legal of people who have come here in violation of our law.

Whatever you call it, if you legalize the status of those who skipped the line and came here in violation of our country's law, we are telling hundreds of millions of foreigners who are waiting to come to this country legally, they are waiting in line overseas, we are telling them they are a bunch of saps.

We will start a stampede towards America, just like what happened the last time we legalized the status of people who were here illegally back in 1986. No matter what is done to strengthen the border, any benefit from strengthening the border will be overwhelmed by the dramatically increased pull which is a result of legalizing the status of these millions of illegals who are in our country.

Now, the rest of the Senate bill. What does it include? It guarantees in-state tuition for illegals. Your kid has to pay full tuition if he crosses a border of a State line. These illegals do not. Now that is a way not to give anybody incentive to come here to our country.

And agricultural guest workers under this bill cannot be fired by their employers except for what the bill calls "just cause". However, American agricultural workers can be fired for any reason. Oh, well, that is going to keep them away from our country, isn't it?

The Senate bill will make illegal aliens eligible for Social Security. Get that, America. Wake up, America. The Senate has voted to give illegal immigrants Social Security. Hundreds of millions of desperate people living in poverty throughout the world who have no pension system available to them now know that the United States Senate has voted to make them part of America's pension system if they can just get here.

This is beyond absurd. This is bizarre. This is horrible. We are including people who have come here illegally in America's pension system and expecting that not to attract tens of millions of other desperate people from around the world. And, of course, Social Security is not just a pension system for people. It is also a survivor's benefit program.

So when an illegal works here and then dies, we will take care of his or her children until they are 18 years old. The potential for corruption and the gaming of such a system boggles the mind. I can assure you right now, if this is put in place as the Senate has voted to do, we will be taking care and there will be payments from our Social Security system to millions of kids in China, and in Mexico, as people go back and their coroners claim they have died and their dependents are waiting for their check to be delivered.

And of course all of this is happening at a time when we are trying to keep Social Security solvent. Oh, yes, the Senate bill, of course, gives all employers amnesty too. So now employers are not going to worry about enforcing the law. Who cares if Americans are being denied the jobs? Who cares? Because actually employers now can hire people and these employers are now no longer held accountable for the illegals that they have hired.

And what is the final result? The insult, of course, is the Senate bill is providing money for those organizations that are helping illegals adjust their status. We are actually paying them to help fight our Government and our efforts to clear up the illegal immigration situation by sending illegals home.

There are a number of other provisions in the bill that should alarm small business. For example, this bill, the Senate bill, requires us to pay illegals the prevailing wage. And then, of course, we are setting up an entire bureaucracy to determine what that prevailing wage is for various different professions.

No, this will massively increase the bureaucratic power over our people and our country, and the private sector already. Illegal immigration has had a horrible, horrible impact on our way of life. Kids in my neighborhood do not cut the lawn any more. I used to cut the lawn. That is what I did for pocket change when I was a kid. Kids do not do that any more. Kids do not wash the cars any more.

No. What we have done is our values have changed because illegals have come in and changed our way of life. And we are told we have to bring them in because, for example, the fruit and the vegetables will rot in the fields without illegals.

Well, if we pay our American people they will do the job. And if they do not, we can be creative enough. For example, let us use prisoners to pick fruit, and pay them so that when they get out of prison, they will have \$10,000 or

\$20,000 in their pocket and they will have contributed money to their own incarceration, or for restitution to their victims.

We can come through this without importing millions and millions of people from foreign countries to come here and do this kind of work. We can. We can run the United States of America without a massive flow of illegals or a massive new flow of immigrants into our country.

Now, I support legal immigration. I think legal immigrants, legal immigrants deserve every right as every American citizen. We have the most generous legal immigration system in the world. We permit more legal immigration into America than any other country in the world.

The Senate wants to up that by so much, that if the Senate bill passed, we are talking about 100 million to 200 million more immigrants coming into our country over the next 20 years. Read that correctly.

If you put illegal immigration on top of that, we are talking about hundreds of millions, perhaps 300 million people coming into the United States of America. Wake up, America. We are losing our country. We cannot permit this massive flow of illegals to continue.

And we cannot just dramatically increase the number of legal immigrants coming into our country, which would then overwhelm our ability to assimilate them. We can be proud of legal immigration. We should keep it at the level it has been at.

But, no, we have people who are not watching out for the interests of the American people. That is what we need to talk about right now as we close this presentation. The American people need to pay attention. This vote that is coming up on the Senate bill versus the House bill, which is based on enforcement and trying to stop illegal immigration, the Senate bill is a pro-illegal immigration bill. The American people need to look very closely who is watching out for their interests and who is against them.

Who is on their side and who is on the side of foreigners who wish to come here? Again, these people who want to come here are wonderful people. Even the illegal immigrants who come here are wonderful people. 95 percent of them are wonderful people.

Our job is not to take care of every wonderful person in the world, providing them a pension, providing them health care, providing their children with education. Our job is to watch out for the American people.

We accept no apologies for that. We should have no apologies that we put the American people's interests first. But that is not what has been happening. There has been some very powerful special interests, as I say, in business who want cheap labor, and on the left wing and liberal left wing of the Democratic Party who want political pawns out of illegals who come here

and other people who immigrate here who are dependent on Government programs.

The American people have the power in their hands to control the destiny of this country. They must pay attention if we are to succeed in thwarting this threat to our freedom and to our prosperity. Wake up, America. It is time to hold accountable your elected representatives. Study the issues. See who is supporting this program in the Senate to give away our Social Security, and destroy that system. See who is supporting actual border enforcement and changing our visa laws so they can be enforced and protecting us from an overwhelming flow of illegals into our country, which lowers wages and threatens our way of life.

Hold those elected officials accountable, and kick them out of office if they are not representing your interests. They are supposed to be working for you. And with that I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, can I ask how much time we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Roughly 15 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to Mr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to join both of my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas, Judge CARTER, who is managing the hour with the gentleman from California that you just heard from, Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Representative ROHRBACH, who very passionately explained what the issue is.

You know, and again, I think as I represent the 640,000 or so constituents of the 11th District of Georgia, West Georgia, great, great people. And when I go home, and I am sure Representatives CARTER and ROHRBACH are hearing the same thing from their constituents, they say and I agree, that this is a country of law abiding people.

And we have to have respect for the rule of law. I was real interested, Mr. Speaker, this weekend on one of the Sunday morning news shows, one of our colleagues, in fact, indeed one of my colleagues from Georgia, Representative NORWOOD, who is such a great spokesperson on this issue was debating one of the Senators who happened also to be from the Southeast, in regard to the Senate bill versus the Sensenbrenner, very sensible, as the name would have it, the legislation that we passed in the House before the first of the year that emphasizes border security and border security first.

And that is what my colleagues were speaking about before me, that there is all of this talk about, you know, what to do with 11 or 12 million people who are in this country illegally, and what to do about the fact that there are certain sectors of our economy that are dependent on a lot of foreign workers.

Unfortunately, a lot of those foreign workers are among the 11 or 12 million that are here illegally. So maybe we need a temporary worker program. I

agree with my colleague who just spoke that if the pay and benefit package and health care and these things that go with those jobs were a decent wage, I think in some instances, Mr. Speaker, they are, but in some instances, maybe far too many, they are not.

If they were, then there are plenty of legal aliens, legal immigrants, United States citizens who are out of work today who would take those jobs. Now, everybody says, well, golly, we have this low unemployment rate of 4.5 percent. Well, that is 4.5 percent of people without jobs. Until it gets to zero percent, I cannot really see where we necessarily need a temporary worker program.

But what I was saying about that program, Mr. Speaker, that television news show this past Sunday morning, we are talking about the rule of law. The Senator incredulously said, well, the law is okay as long as it is a "just law". You know, that is just shocking to me. I do not know what the Senator's occupation is or profession, I know there is a lot of lawyers over there in the other body. But our laws are our laws. If they are not just laws, we have a way in this chamber and that chamber to change those laws, because after all we are the ones that make them.

If they are not just laws, then we change them, and we do it in the right way. We do not just ignore it, if we do not like the law. There are lots of laws that I do not like. But by golly I abide by them, whether I am on this Hill, inside the Beltway, or back home in Georgia. And that is the way my constituents feel, and that is the way my colleagues who are sharing this hour with me feel.

I am dead set with them on securing our borders first and foremost. The President spoke to the Nation the other night, Mr. Speaker, talked about putting some National Guard troops, 6,000 I think he said on a temporary basis, to sort of back up the Border Patrol. We have got what 10,000 or 12,000 U.S. Border Patrol agents on the southern border.

I think we need more. I think my colleague, Mr. NORWOOD, on Sunday morning said maybe we need 30,000. But at least we need 18,000 or 20,000. And we are going to get there. And we are going to, according to the House version of immigration reform to secure the border, we are going to build facilities and have more bed space so that we can retain these illegal immigrants that are referred to as OTM, that acronym that stands for Other Than Mexicans, that we have been catching and releasing in that catch-and-release program.

□ 2300

I think the whole point here is history: if you do not pay attention to it, you are going to repeat it; and you are going to make the same mistakes over and over again if you do not learn from

the past. We can go back; my colleagues have probably already done that in the earlier part of the aisle. I may have missed part of that discussion, but that Bracero program that we had from 1942 to the 60s, dismal failure. That was a temporary worker program. Dismal failure. And then our great communicator and one of my very favorite all-time Presidents, Ronald Reagan, in the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, an amnesty, really pretty much a blanket amnesty for 3 million people.

Now, that would probably have been okay 19 years ago if we had secured our borders, but we didn't. There was no border security that went along with that as a companion. And we estimate and, Mr. Speaker, do not take my word for it, this is a CRS report that I am reading in front of me dated May 15, 2006. That is pretty darn recent, I think. It is talking about the fact that there probably are today 11 to 12 million illegal aliens in this country. If you do the math, that is about 500,000 a year that are coming through that border which is nothing but a sieve, and that hemorrhaging continues. And if we grant any kind of amnesty program today and we do not secure that border, you do the math. In 20 years from now, we will be talking about 35 or 40 million illegal immigrants, illegal aliens in this country.

My colleagues talked about the stress that that puts on public education, on our health care system. The fact that we do not know really that these, hopefully the majority are law abiding. I think they are, but in this day and time after 9/11 and with the threat of a global terrorism, how do you know who is coming in this country? Are they all coming to work? Absolutely not. Some are members of gangs. Some are involved in drug trade. So it is absolutely imperative.

I commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Mr. Speaker, and I commend my House colleagues. I commend the Speaker, the majority leader, this Republican majority in this body, this House of Representatives for doing what we did. In fact, the first bill we passed was the REAL ID Act and that was in complete and total lockstep response to what the 9/11 Commission asked us to do in regard to driver's licenses and this abuse of the claim of asylum, to be able to in an expedited fashion to get rid of someone who was allowed to come in this country and then was involved in terrorist activity. So these things are so important.

I just thank my colleague, my good friend, classmate from Texas, Mr. CARTER, for letting me come and just share a little bit of time with him because we are compassionate. Everybody talks about the President and his great compassion. I do not doubt that. I think he does have great compassion. But I think if he wants to insist on granting an amnesty program that even comes close to what is happening in 1986, he is dead wrong on this issue.

I want to work with employers and I think in the House bill we do that. We are going to provide a biometric tamper-proof identification card so when we get this combined program done, and we do not have to do it all in the next 2 weeks, and I think if we can get the Senate to agree as my great colleague and Senator from Georgia, JOHNNY ISAKSON said, let's get the border secured first. We can do the rest of this stuff, which is in my opinion sort of cosmetic surgery, once you stop the hemorrhaging.

If we go back and look at a temporary worker program and what to do with the 11 million that are here illegally, I personally think, yes, they should pay back taxes, pay a fine, pass a criminal background check and then be notified that they have got about a year to make arrangements to go back home, to go to the border and then get in one of three lines.

One line would be to stay home, decide that they want to stay in their country of origin. The second line would be the temporary worker program. We could even give those who have been in this country for more than 5 years working and passing all those litmus tests, good people, we could put them in the front of the temporary worker line; or if they wanted to come back in this country as permanent legal residents and get on a track to citizenship, then they could get in that line.

Maybe it is too simple. Maybe I am a simple kind of guy. That is the way I see it.

I want to thank the judge for taking the time tonight and giving me a chance to share my thoughts with my colleagues.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I want to thank my colleague for joining us here tonight. He is always a very calming influence when he addresses the House, and I am always fascinated to listen to him speak.

This is my whole premise that I was talking about, Mr. Speaker, is that it is time that we take a deep breath and address one of the biggest issues that this House has had to deal with in a long time and an issue that actually can be, as has been explained here tonight, a nation-changing issue.

I personally have a great, as I started out saying, have a great compassion for our neighbors to the south. And I welcome good, honest legal citizens of this country as does everyone. And no one in this House is talking about the Trail of Tears massive deportation to the border. We have issues that have to be addressed. But the problem, the hemorrhaging, the bleeding is at the border today. That is where we have got to go and get this slowed down and get it ready. And then you know I would like to hear quite honestly from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have never really.

The Democrats' plan for immigration does not seem to be out there today. I would like to hear their solution to the

problem. I would like for both sides of the aisle to sit down and say, let's work this thing out intelligently. And I will give you just one example, a couple examples not being addressed. One right now, there is a tremendous backlog on background investigations of people who are coming and have come into this country illegally to get their visas extended. They have to have a background check or to get into this country with a background check. That thing could take anywhere from 18 months and the backlog just once they start processing it, it can take up to 18 months or longer.

Right now in my part of Texas, our San Antonio office is working on the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. We are going to take that system in its present condition and dump 15 million-plus people into that system for background checks? Or do they get to miss that part that the legal immigrants have to take?

Health exams have to be done for everyone that comes in the United States. What are we going to do to examine the health of 15 million people in this country to make sure that there are not communicable diseases in this country? This is an issue that is part of our law. It is required by law. If we are going to process them, that needs to be here.

Then a question I do not hear anybody addressing is what do we do to the people who do not join our program? We love America and we think everybody comes here to be an American citizen. But I can tell you from personal conversations with people who have come here, I have worked building fences side by side with folks that, I never asked them, but since they did not speak any English and they told me they were from Mexico, I kind of figured they were illegal aliens. I can tell you, they didn't come here to be American citizens. They came here to work. And their families were back in Mexico, and they really wanted to go back there. And they sent 80 percent of their paycheck home because they were able to live on social services over here so they can afford to do that.

Now, what about the guy who says, well, that is great, but I do not want to pay back taxes and I do not want to pay a \$200 fine, and I do not want to get a health check, and I do not want to get a background check; I will just stay in the shadows. Are we addressing that issue? Are there going to be consequences to those people who continue to stay in the shadows? If you care about the people that come in here, do we want anybody in this country starting their life on American soil under the cloud of criminal behavior?

But we know that 15 million people crossed our borders and broke the law. I did not say felony. I did not give a classification. I said broke the law. We have laws in this country, and it was broken. Let's be intelligent. Let's be smart. Let's seal the borders, put our resources there and then study this

program and get a system that we can administer and we can work and we can pay for.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, once again we are coming to the floor of the House of Representatives representing the 30-something Working Group. My co-chair will be here shortly, Congressman KENDRICK MEEK from Florida. And we want to thank our minority leader, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. HOYER and Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JOHN LARSON, our vice chair of our caucus, for allowing us the opportunity to come down here and speak not only on behalf of our caucus but on behalf of what we feel to be the opinion of many of those folks out in the country that are facing some of the challenges that have come from the legislation, that has come out of this Chamber, and has in many ways burdened them and their families because of the lack of leadership, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that has been coming out of this Chamber and out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Www.HouseDemocrats.gov/30-Something for those Members and loyal fans who would want to drop us an e-mail about their opinion of what we are saying here, an opinion of what is going on in the government.

I would like to start off today talking a little bit about unfairness and lack of investment in the future of the United States of America. This is a chart that is the Republican tax plan, an overview. And this overview will show you who is benefiting most from the tax cuts that the Republican majority has passed over and over and over again; and how this tax cut has disproportionately favored those people who make more than a million dollars a year.

Now, I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, for all of us to understand at this juncture that we do not have any money to give back in the form of tax cuts. We are borrowing \$500 billion a year from the Chinese Government, from the Japanese government, from the OPEC countries, and borrowing that money and giving it back to the wealthiest people in our country in the form of tax cuts for millionaires, \$16 billion in corporate welfare for the energy companies, primarily the oil companies.

So when you go to the gas pump, Mr. Speaker, and you ask yourself why is gas so high and the oil company profits so high and then you actually think about public tax dollars going to subsidize the oil industry, that really gets your goat. So not only are your gas taxes high, your gas prices are high, but the public tax dollars that you send down here instead of going into

education, instead of going into health care, instead of going into broadband service for all of the citizens in the country, instead of going to clinics, instead of going into all of these art programs and sports programs across the country, Mr. Speaker, the American tax dollar is going to subsidize the most profitable industry in the entire country. \$16 billion is going from the pockets of hardworking Americans all over the country to the oil companies.

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It is that simple, Mr. Speaker. It is that simple, and what we want to talk about tonight is how a Democratic majority in this House will begin to reform and transform these horrendous decisions that have been made and get our country going in a direction that is going to benefit all.

We will ask, as Democrats, everyone to contribute and we will ask and demand that everyone benefits from those basic contributions. We are going to challenge this country to move forward in a direction that is going to benefit everybody, and the days of we are going to take the public tax dollars and we are going to give them to this special interest group that is in the oil industry and we are going to let them move forward, those days are going to be over as of January 3, 2007.

We need a government, we need a Congress, we need an executive branch that is dynamic, that is mobile, that is agile, that can move in the context of an information economy. As businesses are going down the road, government is holding them back because we are not investing in our workers. We are not investing in education. We are not investing in making sure people are healthy.

To just illustrate how terrible the decisions have been, when you look at all the problems in our country, when you look at college tuition costs doubling, when you look at health care costs going up by 10, 15, 20 percent a year, when you look at the lack of investment into K-12 and the unfunded mandates from No Child Left Behind, when you look at all this and then you have the backdrop of what the Republican Congress is doing night in and night out in the United States Congress, this chart is the Republican tax plan.

Now, I know my friend Mr. MEEK, we are probably two of the more conservative Democrat Members. I am the most conservative Democrat Member in the Ohio delegation. Now, we would love to go to all of our constituents and say you all get a tax cut; this is going to be great. It would be good for us politically to be able to say that. Look what the Republicans are doing.

This big yellow bar here is what a millionaire got in the 2006 tax reconciliation bill. They will get \$42,000 back. A millionaire will get \$42,000 back. If you make \$500,000, you will get \$4,500 back. If you make \$200,000, you will get \$1,395 back, and then if you make \$100,000 you will get \$400 back. If you make \$40,000, you will get \$17 back.