

overarching question—what kind of agency is DHS that there need to be congressional inquiries on so many of their actions before they take into account basic standards of life, safety, health care, due process, and constitutional rights?

I am inserting into the RECORD a letter about the ill-conceived evacuation from leading national Latino and Asian-American civil rights groups: the Asian American Justice Center, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and the National Council of La Raza. I am also inserting a fact sheet from the United Food and Commercial Workers about the raids in Iowa, where there are disturbing allegations of union-busting and labor exploitation on the part of the factory owners.

I look forward to working with these groups to make sure that DHS remembers its duty to protect the civil rights of everyone on U.S. soil, regardless of their race, natural origin, or immigration status.

MAY 20, 2008.

Hon. MICHAEL CHERTOFF,
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHERTOFF: We are writing to express our utter outrage that the Border Patrol would jeopardize the safety of residents of the Rio Grande Valley in the event of a hurricane evacuation by checking the documents of evacuees before they are allowed to board evacuation buses. If you are interested in undercutting the safety of a large segment of the community you are charged with protecting, this is exactly the way to go about it. Indeed, the very news that such an effort is planned, which was reported by the Rio Grande Guardian on May 14, has already undercut the ability of the federal government to protect the population which could be affected by a hurricane or some other natural disaster.

To put it quite simply, a substantial segment of the population—immigrants and U.S. citizens alike—will not participate in an evacuation effort if they believe it to be tainted with the goal of immigration enforcement. Americans with immigrant family members will not participate for fear of jeopardizing their loved ones. In addition, most American citizens do not carry documentation that proves their citizenship. If you proceed with this approach, a great many U.S. citizens will be kept off of evacuation buses because they failed to bring their passports and birth certificates when they fled their homes. To put such people on Border Patrol buses and subject them to immigration enforcement, possibly separating them from their family members in a time of crisis, is foolish and offensive.

We have written to you on this subject in the past, when your decision not to suspend immigration enforcement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina made this the first Administration of either party to jeopardize the safety of disaster victims by conducting immigration enforcement during a rescue and relief operation. We have pointed out publicly that insisting on immigration enforcement in a time of crisis will jeopardize the safety of the American public by undercutting public confidence in vitally important public safety and public health initiatives. To put it bluntly, if the next major crisis is a flu epidemic, the actions of your agency will guarantee that major segments of the population will not come forward for vaccinations out of fear of immigration enforcement.

This tactic by the Border Patrol is not simply offensive, it is dangerous, and we are

shocked and outraged that it has proceeded this far. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to suspend it immediately, and reassure the public that the United States will not undercut our security in a time of crisis by asking for papers before taking people to safety.

Sincerely,

KAREN NARASAKI,
Asian American Justice Center.

ROSA ROSALES,
League of United Latin American Citizens.

JOHN TRASVINA,
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

ARTURO VARGAS,
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

JANET MURGUÍA,
National Council of La Raza.

AGRIPROCESSORS FACT SHEET COMPANY SUMMARY

Agriprocessors is one of the world's largest kosher meat producers. The company is based in Postville, Iowa, where it employs over 800 people and produces beef, poultry, turkey, and lamb. The company has a smaller plant in Gordon, Nebraska, which employs roughly 100. Agriprocessors produces meat products under brands such as Aaron's Best, Aaron's Choice, and Rubashkin's. The company's products are sold at well-known retailers such as Trader Joe's and Albertsons.

The plant has been the center of controversy for a variety of issues, including health and safety at the plant, environmental issues, food safety, and animal welfare.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

In the period of April 2001 to February 2006, OSHA records show no less than 20 violations at Agriprocessors, a meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa. Of these, 12 were identified by OSHA as serious. An examination of OSHA injury logs at the plant reveals over five amputations along with dozens of other serious injuries such as broken bones, eye injuries, and hearing loss.

On March 20, 2008, the Iowa Occupational Health and Safety Agency (IOSHA) charged Agriprocessors with 39 new health and safety violations with fines totaling \$180,000. For perspective, in 2007, IOSHA issued 19 violations for all meatpacking plants in Iowa with fines totaling over \$120,000. The new citations at Agriprocessors range from amputation risks, fire hazards, electric shock risks, and improperly labeled hazardous chemicals.

Numerous reports in the media and an investigation by an independent commission of Rabbis have revealed numerous cases of worker mistreatment including lack of training, job favoritism, and unsafe conditions.

In January 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Agriprocessors must obey a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruling to bargain. Agriprocessors refused to bargain in September 2005, after a large majority of its distribution center workers voted to join the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW). Agriprocessors argued that, despite having hired them, many of these employees were undocumented and therefore they could not vote or belong to a union. The NLRB ruled against Agriprocessors, maintaining that every employee, regardless of immigration status, has a collective bargaining vote.

ENVIRONMENT

On August 30, 2006, Agriprocessors, Inc., signed a consent agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), following a lawsuit arising out of alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. The agreement included specific monitoring and reporting provisions by which the company is required to abide. According to a document obtained by the UFCW through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, Agriprocessors was in violation of some or all of those requirements as of March 29, 2007. A telephone conversation with the EPA on August 28, 2007 indicated that Agriprocessors notified the EPA that the company had recently completed the required audit. It is unclear if the EPA considers Agriprocessors tardy in completing the audit and what penalties, if any, will be levied. Any findings and recommendations from the audit are also unknown at this time.

In a separate letter from the EPA to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) concerning Agriprocessors' NPDES permit renewal, the EPA raised concerns about compliance with the Clean Water Act at the Postville plant (see attachment).

FOOD SAFETY

Various food safety problems have been documented at both Agriprocessors' facilities, the main plant in Postville, IA and a smaller plant in Gordon, NE. These reports were based on documents from the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and revealed a variety of issues, including multiple violations related to monitoring procedures for BSE, or "mad cow." The FSIS also issued citations for sewage problems, fecal and bile contamination of beef and poultry along with foreign objects, and some metallic found during sausage and poultry production. Issues at the Postville plant led one FSIS official to issue a Letter of Warning and to comment in the letter, "These findings lead us to question your ability to maintain sanitary conditions, and to produce a safe and wholesome product."

HONORING MR. FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES AND ALL WHO SERVED OUR NATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise out of a deep respect for our Nation's sons and daughters whom we honor each year on Memorial Day. On May 26, 2008, the people of our United States will observe the memory of our men and women in uniform, who, throughout our history, made the ultimate sacrifice out of service to our great Nation.

In Kansas City, Missouri, we will gather at Liberty Memorial, the National World War I Museum, to reflect and honor our dead. Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, from Missouri, is the last known surviving American World War I veteran and will be present for the ceremony. Mr. Buckles witnessed the evolution of our country from isolation, depression, immigration, to liberation. He was part of a generation who saw all Americans receive the right to vote. He experienced the technological transformation and globalization of our country. He also saw the heartache and ugliness of war.

Ninety-one years ago, our doughboys left home to engage in the War to End All Wars.

Like Harry S. Truman, another Missourian, Mr. Buckles had to manipulate the rules to enlist during World War I. Truman had to memorize an eye chart; at age 16, Mr. Buckles had to exaggerate his age. Private Buckles joined the Army and was detailed to the 1st Fort Riley Casual Detachment. He soon arrived in theater where he saw duty as an ambulance driver in England, France and Germany. During part of the conflict he was assigned the responsibility of guarding German prisoners and returned home with the rank of Corporal.

Nearly 4,744,000 Americans defended their country abroad during World War I, and 116,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. After the war, the compassionate people of Greater Kansas City raised enough money in 11 days to build the Liberty Memorial. At the dedication of the Liberty Memorial, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, stated: "The memorial also symbolizes the obligation that rests upon present and future generations to preserve that for which those men and women offered their all, and from many of whom the supreme sacrifice was accepted. May their memory live on, and may every American who looks upon this noble edifice be inspired by their devotion."

We were naive in those days to think that World War I would be the last World War. Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles saw the Second World War first hand as well. As a civilian he was employed by the White Star steamship line. While working in Manila in 1941, the Japanese forces attacked and took him prisoner. Three and a half years later he was freed by the 11th Airborne Division and returned to the United States.

Mr. Buckles' presence at the Liberty Memorial on Memorial Day is a reminder to all Americans that our country has been repatriated by the sacrifices of our veterans. Memorial Day is our national holiday of mourning intended to honor those who valiantly served our great Nation. As we gather in honor of generations of Americans who lost their lives in battle, we turn to our veterans to extend our gratitude, and bow our heads in memory of comrades lost.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please join me in saluting Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, a true American patriot, and all of our veterans who died in service, and those who survived to make America a better place to live.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman KENNY HULSHOF.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, Budget Activity 02, Airlift Aircraft, C-17.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Boeing Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: The Boeing Company, P.O. Box 516, St. Louis, MO, 63166.

Description of Request: The C-17 is the world's most effective and flexible strategic/tactical airlifter. The C-17 has revolutionized the movement of troops and equipment into battle by allowing their delivery to parts of the world that were previously not accessible by conventional airlifters. As per Air Force Unfunded Priority List (UPL) #6, C-17 (+ 15 aircraft), \$3.9B, procures 15 C-17s, keeping only active strategic airlift production line open (and part of "required" force as per this UPL).

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise today to ask my colleagues to support H. Res 1208.

This resolution is very simple. It recognizes the many problems that face young people who spend time in foster care, and it thanks the many others who work to ease their transition from foster care to adulthood and independence.

In Georgia, there are thousands of children in foster care. Living in foster care is not a choice. These young people—of all race, ages, and backgrounds—were victims of neglect and abuse. Child welfare services share a common goal of finding safe, stable, and loving homes for these young people. Unfortunately, this dream is not always realized.

I have the privilege to serve on the Ways and Means' Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee chaired by my friend and colleague, Mr. McDERMOTT. Last year, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) invited two young people from my congressional district to testify about what it is like to transition from foster care to adulthood.

Anthony Reeves and Sherena Johnson both "aged-out" of Georgia's foster care system. They shared with us how difficult it is to find housing, health care, education, livable wage jobs, security, and stability. At a young age, when most are still relying on financial and emotional support from their parents and family, these young people had no one to fall back on. Mr. Speaker, these are the stories that break your heart.

Today, we honor those like Anthony, Sherena, and Kevin Brown—a recent Clark Atlanta University graduate—who are determined to find their way despite so many obstacles before them. We also pay tribute to the mentors, the volunteers, the parents, organizations, and many others who fill in the gaps in Federal and State coverage to help these young people during the most difficult times.

Most importantly, this resolution sends a message to the half a million young people currently in the foster care system. Congress tells them, "You are not alone. We love you; we support you. You are not forgotten; there is hope. You will survive, and you will succeed."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very simple resolution.

EXTENDING PROGRAM RELATING TO WAIVER OF FOREIGN COUNTRY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO INTER- NATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5571, which provides a 5-year extension of the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program. That program is of critical importance to my constituents and to our Nation as a whole because it provides a mechanism whereby doctors can be provided to medically underserved areas.

I have the privilege of representing New York State's 23rd Congressional District, a predominantly rural region which encompasses 14,739 square miles in 11 counties in northern and central New York. It is breathtakingly beautiful and contains national treasures such as Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and the Adirondack Mountains. However, it has a 13.5 percent poverty rate and some have characterized it as remote.

One of our greatest challenges is recruiting and retaining physicians. In fact, given its importance to our economy and quality of life, that challenge is almost always raised whenever I meet with the fine men and women who serve as local elected officials, business community leaders, or health professionals.

The Conrad 30 J Waiver Program is an invaluable tool in our effort to meet that challenge. In fact, since 1996, my office has helped secure waivers for 46 doctors, including 7 primary care physicians located in 6 of the 11 counties I represent. While these doctors have helped immensely in our effort to address our physician shortage, I am hesitant to imagine a scenario where we did not have the Conrad 30 J Waiver Program.

Accordingly, I greatly appreciate the work the Gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the Gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) have done to bring this measure to the floor and look forward to its enactment.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT RECIPIENT KARLYNDA JOHNSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the successes and achievements of Karlynda Johnson, who has received the Congressional Certificate of Merit award at Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas. Karlynda has shown exceptional leadership qualities through her involvement in numerous activities which makes her a great candidate for this award.

Karlynda is involved in numerous volunteer activities such as Camp Celebration, the City of Nolanville, and she is a Book Room volunteer at her school. On top of all of her volunteer activities, Karlynda is one of the top students in her class of 385.