

WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Friday's job report clearly reminds us that the number one issue remains jobs and the economy.

Every day the House majority fights for solutions to grow the economy by advancing an all-of-the-above energy plan, promoting a fair and simpler Tax Code, and making it easier for families and students to afford college.

On May 23, the House passed H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, a bill based on the President's 2014 budget request that would provide a market-based interest rate for student loans and prevent the scheduled rate hike on July 1.

Rather than encouraging the Senate to join the House in this good-faith effort, the President chose politics over students and threatened a veto—for a solution that is based on his own proposal.

From student loans to reliable jobs, Americans want a strong economy and a more secure future. We can deliver on this, Madam Speaker, but only if the President starts leading and the Senate stops campaigning, and both start working for the greater good of the American people.

SUPPORT H.R. 1864

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, sexual assault in our military is nothing short of a crisis. We owe it to our men and women in uniform and to our veterans too to do all that we can in the United States Congress to prevent military sexual violence, improve medical services for survivors and hold attackers accountable.

We must safeguard those who report these crimes and ensure that they are not retaliated against for doing the right thing. That is why I am a proud sponsor of a bipartisan bill, H.R. 1864, which is included in the House National Defense Authorization Act we are voting on this very week.

Introduced by my good friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI and LORETTA SANCHEZ, this important legislation would strengthen protections for whistle blowers who report sexual violence in the military.

This reform has bipartisan support in both Chambers, 102 cosponsors in the House and the strong backing of many of the new representatives who are focused on working across the aisle to actually get things done.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1864 and to continue working together to end sexual violence in our military.

JERRY NAUSS, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I just want to recognize a true American hero, World War II veteran Jerry Nauss.

After enlisting in the U.S. Army shortly after Pearl Harbor, Jerry served for the duration of the war in the 1st Infantry Division, nicknamed the Big Red One. He served as a wire troubleshooter and risked his life time and time again to ensure that communication lines remained intact.

Jerry was a native Minnesotan, led a distinguished military career and exhibited immense bravery landing on the beaches of Normandy on D-day and fighting through Europe, including in the Battle of the Bulge.

Because of his heroic actions, Jerry has now been named a Knight of the Legion of Honor by French President Hollande. The Legion of Honor is the highest decoration in France and commemorates remarkable military service.

It is important that we always remember our Nation's veterans and keep those who still serve in our thoughts and prayers.

I would like to thank Jerry Nauss for his service and congratulate him on a much deserved honor. You make Minnesota proud.

□ 1910

CONGRATULATIONS, PALACE MALICE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when Dogwood Stable's Palace Malice of Aiken, South Carolina, won the 145th running of the Belmont Stakes Saturday, he fulfilled all the promise that Dogwood's president, Cot Campbell, foresaw in the colt. As Palace Malice crossed the finish line with a defining first place victory, the people of Aiken County, identified by The New York Times as one of the world's greatest equestrian centers of excellence, were overjoyed by the horse's accomplishment.

Congratulations to W. Cothran "Cot" Campbell, president of the Dogwood Stable, and his wife, Anne; his partners, Paul Orefice, Mike Schneider, Margaret Smith, Carl Myers, and Charlie Pigg; Todd Pletcher, who trained the award-winning horse for the race after he departed Aiken; jockey Mike Smith, who rode Palace Malice to victory; and Brad Stauffer, the individual responsible for training the horse over the Aiken Training Track.

Palace Malice continues a winning tradition to be trained over the Aiken Training Track and win the third jewel

of Thoroughbred Racing's Triple Crown as Danzig Connection won the Belmont Stakes in 1986. The Aiken Standard today correctly identified this as "a win for every single Aiken resident."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1960, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1256, SWAP JURISDICTION CERTAINTY ACT

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-104) on the resolution (H. Res. 256) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1256) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to jointly adopt rules setting forth the application to cross-border swaps transactions of certain provisions relating to swaps that were enacted as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week New Jersey lost its senior Senator, and the Senate lost its last remaining World War II veteran when Senator Frank Lautenberg passed away at the age of 89. He died from complications from viral pneumonia in New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Since then, on this floor on multiple occasions, in the United States Senate, throughout the State of New Jersey, and, frankly, across the Nation, all of us have paused to express our deepest respect for Senator Lautenberg and sorrow on his passing. To Senator Lautenberg's family—his wife, Bonnie, his six children, and his 13 grandchildren—please accept our deepest condolences and our prayers.

Senator Lautenberg served five terms in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the people of the State of New Jersey. He was first elected to the Senate in 1982, re-elected in 1988 and 1994. After a brief retirement, Senator Lautenberg made

an unexpected comeback and won a fourth term in 2002 and was again re-elected in 2008.

In December 2011, he cast his 9,000th vote and now holds the record for the most votes ever cast by a New Jersey Senator.

While serving in the Senate, Frank Lautenberg became a leader of public health and safety issues. He led the effort to ban smoking on airplanes with the enactment of Public Law 101-164, and will forever be remembered for his efforts to protect individuals and children from secondhand smoke.

Frank Lautenberg also fought for transportation improvements and chemical plant safety. As the author of the Lautenberg amendment, he worked to assist members from historically persecuted groups with a credible fear of persecution to qualify for refugee status, including religiously persecuted Soviet Jews. He also fought for relief for the victims of terrorist attacks, including the first responders who experienced health complications after the 9/11 attacks, and for the families and communities across our State recently devastated by Superstorm Sandy.

Senator Lautenberg was the last veteran of World War II—part of the Greatest Generation—to serve in the U.S. Senate. The son of poor immigrants, he enlisted in the Army to serve his country in uniform, went to school on the GI Bill, began a successful business, and then ran for the Senate to, in his words, “pursue a career in public service and to give back to the country that helped give him so much.”

Senator Lautenberg has been a mainstay of New Jersey politics for decades, and with his passing, the Senate and our State has lost a dedicated public servant.

I now yield to the former mayor of Paterson, a good friend and colleague, Congressman BILL PASCRELL.

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Congressman SMITH, for your great service to your State and your country.

Madam Speaker, we've lost a great man. When Senator Lautenberg passed away Monday morning, last Monday, I lost a good friend. The Silk City has produced many great individuals and characters alike, but few, if any, have a life story like that of Frank Lautenberg.

Like me, Frank grew up on the streets of Paterson—literally. Both of us came from families of immigrants who came to Paterson, like pilgrims, like Plymouth Rock. It was Paterson/Plymouth Rock. That's what it was, when you come down to it.

We had the same dreams. Many thousands in our city had the same dream. Through hard work and determination, we learned that you could provide your children with a better life and a successful future. Despite all their dreams for their young son, I don't think that Sam and Molly Lautenberg, Frank's dutiful parents, deceased, ever could have imagined all that Frank would eventually achieve. Only in America.

But then again, Frank never forgot the sacrifices family made for him. He learned what real hard work was from his father, who labored into the silk mills of Paterson to provide for his family. He learned how to persevere from his mother, who raised him in the face of poverty. They lived in four or five different places in Paterson as they moved around.

His dad passed away when his dad was 43 years of age. In the face of poverty, at the age of 19, Frank Lautenberg had to summon all those lessons and more when his father passed away leaving him to support the entire family. He never forgot those hard lessons. They served him well throughout all the journeys of his life.

He spoke about those journeys every time he came before a classroom in Paterson, New Jersey. He visited, revisited, and revisited and brought computers. He brought computers. And, of course, ADP was one of the great corporations in America, formed in a garage in the back of a house in Paterson, New Jersey.

□ 1920

And I say, Madam Speaker, how many people must be kicking themselves for not having invested way back when they thought it was a wild idea, taking care of people's payroll.

It's not easy to grow up on the streets of Paterson, New Jersey. Take it from me personally, Congressman SMITH. You have to fight for every inch in order to get ahead.

Frank truly embodied what it means to be a fighter. That's what made him such a successful representative from New Jersey. You've heard the Congressman, Congressman SMITH, specify all of the issues that he was involved in; and when he was involved, he was totally immersed in the subject therein to help Americans.

It didn't matter what nationality, what ethnicity, what color. It didn't matter what religion. It mattered that you were a human being in the greatest country in the world. He talked about it often.

When he came back from the service, he talked about it. He served his country in the Second World War.

Regardless of how you feel on issues, you don't take on the gun lobby to ban firearms for domestic violence offenders, you don't take on Big Tobacco to ban smoking on airplanes without getting a few scars in the process.

The thing Frank's opponents didn't realize was that he got his scars long ago, growing up on the streets of Paterson, New Jersey. His roots are exactly what made Frank so successful, first in the Army, then in the private sector, and, finally, in the hallowed Halls of the U.S. Senate.

But despite all that he achieved, he never forgot where he came from. That's the secret. When you forget where you come from, when you forget your roots, when you forget the street you lived on, the guys and the gals that

you talked to, your mom and dad, how they sweated it out every day, I mean, when you worked in those silk mills it was no day at the beach, not by any stretch of the imagination.

We, many times, forget our roots, Congressman SMITH, and you know that. We forget where we came from. We think we're better. If you're a Congressman, oh, God. He never forgot where he came from. Despite all that, what he achieved, he knew his roots.

One of the proudest moments of my career was standing shoulder-to-shoulder with him when we were able to successfully pass legislation to finally establish the Great Falls National Historic Park in Paterson, New Jersey. It's our Yellowstone. It's our Grand Canyon. It doesn't take up nearly the amount of space, but it meant so much to not only Patersonians, but people in that area, Paterson, the third largest city, first industrial city.

Alexander Hamilton knew what he was doing. Frank Lautenberg knew what he was doing.

We'd been pushing many, many years for Federal recognition. In fact, I still have a picture hanging in my office of Senator Lautenberg and me touring the Great Falls when I was the mayor of that city. In the true Paterson spirit, despite opposition from the Park Service—we weren't getting off to a good start—and opponents in Congress who never wanted to see an urban national park, we never stopped fighting.

And just a few years ago, we finally reached our dream to get the Great Falls the Federal designation it deserves. Members of both sides of the aisle came together. And on that day, when Secretary Salazar was there, Democrats and Republicans joined together where industry started in this great Nation.

The park is now in the first stages of its development, and I believe one day it will be a crown jewel in the National Park System, thanks in no small part to our great Senator. It's a fitting legacy for him to leave to the city he loved so much.

These last few months, with his health getting weaker, necessitating long absences from the Senate, Frank never lost his passion for the issues he had spent his entire life defending. Despite his health, he came to Washington to cast a critical vote on a bill to expand background checks. No one was going to stop Frank Lautenberg from fighting to make this world a better place. Even the limitations of his own body couldn't hold him back.

I join my friends and neighbors in Paterson, where he used to cut his hair, Pasadena Pete's, where he used to stop at the markets, and he'd stop in to a coffee shop downtown. We mourn this tremendous loss of one of our favorite sons, one of our patriots.

He was a person first. He was a legislator second. He was the same man on the street that he was on the Senate floor. You always got the genuine article.

Frank Lautenberg was not a spectator to life. Frank Lautenberg was a leader, a loving husband, a loving father, a trusted friend, and a true Patersonian.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. PASCRELL, I want to thank you for your eloquent, very eloquent remembrances of Senator Frank Lautenberg and for your wonderful insights, especially as the former mayor and someone who has known him so intimately and so well for so many years. Thank you very much for that.

I'd like to now yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you. I want to thank my colleague, Congressman SMITH, for hosting this Special Order today.

Madam Speaker, I come before you today saddened by the passing of a fellow New Jerseyan. He was a dear friend and colleague, the honorable and venerated Senator from New Jersey, Senator Frank Lautenberg.

If anyone could embody the actual definition of the American Dream, it would be Frank Lautenberg. Born the son of Russian and Polish immigrants in Paterson, New Jersey, he grew up during the Great Depression.

When war hit our shores, he bravely served the country he loved in World War II, and he was the last of our Senators to do so.

When he returned home from war, Senator Lautenberg earned his degree on the GI Bill, which he later staunchly advocated for the extension of for our current men and women in uniform.

And never taking for granted the opportunities that lay before him, after his graduation, he and three of his friends, with just an idea and an entrepreneurial spirit, began an extremely successful company, ADP. If you get a payroll check these days, it is likely ADP printed your check. I guess you could say Senator Lautenberg was the proof that anything is possible if you firmly believe in what you're doing and what you put your mind to.

Later, he seamlessly transitioned from CEO of ADP to public servant, often demonstrating determination, grit, and leadership throughout his time in office that came to define Frank Lautenberg.

Throughout his five terms in office, Senator Lautenberg never forgot his roots. He was a committed advocate for the working middle class that he was the product of. As Senator Lautenberg knew best, We've got to open doors and not slam them shut. And he always practiced this outlook, no matter what he set out to achieve.

He tirelessly worked to make health care and higher education more affordable for working and middle class families. Even into his later years, Senator Lautenberg was one of the leading progressives on social issues. Thanks to Senator Lautenberg and his tremendous environmental work, we have cleaner water to drink and cleaner air to breathe.

He also recognized early on the proliferation of gun violence in our communities and the damage it was doing to our children and families. As a champion of gun-safety legislation, he made our neighborhoods a safer place to work and live.

□ 1930

And nothing was going to keep Senator Lautenberg from casting a critical vote on background checks on gun purchases this past spring. Though the late Senator did not get to witness the successful passage of this legislation, the fight in Washington will continue as we carry out the work of Senator Lautenberg's vision to keep our families and our children safer.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Bonnie, his daughter who I was able to meet last week, and his grandchildren. I had the honor of attending Senator Lautenberg's final tribute last week, and it was clear from that beautiful ceremony the incredible impact Senator Lautenberg has had on so many lives.

Senator Frank Lautenberg had a love of life and a commitment to the people in New Jersey that will be deeply missed in the Halls of Congress and in New Jersey. He was a great mentor to me, especially as the newest member of the New Jersey delegation. I will forever be grateful for his guidance and for all his tremendous work he did for New Jersey and our great Nation. We owe him an immense debt of gratitude for making New Jersey a better place to live. There is no doubt Senator Lautenberg will certainly be missed.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. PAYNE, thank you very much for your moving words and sentiments expressed today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I would ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues from New Jersey in paying tribute to our late senior Senator, Frank R. Lautenberg.

For the past several days, America has been reintroduced to Senator Lautenberg, and it is a story worth repeating here.

He came from a family of working-class immigrants from Eastern Europe—Russia and Poland.

When he was 18, during the middle of World War II, Frank Lautenberg enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served with distinction in the Signal Corps.

He was very proud of his military service. In fact, when he passed last week, he was the last World War II veteran serving in the United States Senate.

When he came home from the European Theater, he attended Columbia on the GI Bill—just as so many other Americans did.

What distinguished him from many other returning soldiers is that through hard-work and perseverance he founded his own company. And under his leadership, that firm, grew into the largest computing company of its kind in the world.

So working his way from humble beginnings to a prosperous career as a chief executive in New Jersey's private sector, he lived the American Dream.

But Frank Lautenberg's true calling was public service and giving back to his community, our State, and our Nation throughout his life.

In this regard, New Jersey lost a tireless advocate on June 3.

For many years, we worked together as New Jersey's Appropriations team—looking out for our state's needs on Capitol Hill. I was proud to work with him on issues so important to the citizens of our state—transportation, homeland security and open space. In fact, in his final months, we worked in a bipartisan way to ensure that New Jersey has the resources to recover from an historic storm.

Yes, we owe much to this dedicated public servant. We have lost a great fighter who lived a life from which we all could learn.

May the tributes and prayers of so many of his colleagues here today be a source of strength to his family.

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Senator Frank Lautenberg, who spent his life serving this nation and the people of New Jersey as a member of the military and a five-term Senator. With Senator Lautenberg's passing, the Senate has lost its last veteran of World War II.

Senator Lautenberg served his country proudly during World War II, earning distinction in the United States Army Signal Corps. After being deployed overseas, he came back home and founded Automatic Data Processing, a company that grew to become a giant in the payroll industry.

First elected in 1982, Senator Lautenberg was a champion of the middle class and left the state of New Jersey stronger for his years of service. Policies he championed, including public smoking bans, raising the drinking age, and lowering the DUI limit saved countless lives. Senator Lautenberg was also a longtime advocate of Amtrak and transportation infrastructure in New Jersey, helping to grow the state economy.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with the rest of the New Jersey Congressional delegation in remembering Senator Lautenberg for his dedication and tireless work. His death has left a void in the Congress, the state of New Jersey, and the nation. For Senator Lautenberg, service was not just a buzzword—it was an ethos and a purpose. All of us gathered in these hallowed chambers should remember not just the man, but his legacy, and his example. We join the people of New Jersey and the United States in remembrance of Senator Frank Lautenberg, an extraordinary public servant.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Senator Frank Lautenberg. I have known Senator Lautenberg for decades and I have been honored to call him a colleague and friend. My heart and thoughts go out to his wife Bonnie, his children and grandchildren.

Senator Lautenberg always believed that the Congress should be there for people in need and that there were a lot of problems out

there, but Congress needed to work together on a bipartisan basis to solve those problems. In this era of partisanship, it was always refreshing to have Senator Lautenberg there to bridge gaps and get things done.

Over the years I had the pleasure of working with him on a number of critical issues that helped people in New Jersey and across the country. For example, when I first came to Congress in 1988, Senator Lautenberg and I worked together to close ocean dumping sites off the Jersey coast so the water millions of people swim in would be cleaner.

We also worked together on Superfund and Brownfields issues. The Senator always fought to ensure that polluters, and not taxpayers, would foot the bill when it came to cleaning up toxic waste sites in New Jersey. Through his advocacy, numerous toxic sites in New Jersey have been cleaned up and redeveloped, creating jobs and cleaning the environment.

I always admired Senator Lautenberg's commitment to helping 'the little guy' and the way he fought to make sure all Americans were on an equal ground to work toward the kind of success he achieved in his life. I particularly respected his tireless efforts to improve the safety and security of all Americans by working to end gun violence. I was proud to stand with him in that effort and supported his initiative to keep our communities safe.

I enjoyed working with him to provide health care for 9/11 first responders. We both worked hard to pass the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, which pays for the monitoring and treatment of health conditions that resulted from the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks for first responders and community residents.

And most recently, he worked tirelessly to advocate for rebuilding our state after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. He fought hard to make sure New Jersey got the disaster relief funding it deserved so that we could rebuild and recover. He was able to accomplish all of these things because of the hard work that he put into everything he did.

Like all New Jerseyans, I am grateful for Senator Lautenberg's service to our state and our nation. I will miss him dearly and will do my best to continue working on the issues that were so important to both of us.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to spend a few moments this evening talking about things that are on my mind, and I suspect on the mind of the American public. There's certainly a lot of news recently about collecting data on American citizens. Having attended a conference this afternoon, I can tell you that I think the great majority of the 435 Members of this House share the deep concern of the American public about our civil liberties perhaps being taken away from us in the process of data collection. I would expect that this House of Representatives and a couple of our committees, the Judici-

ary and the Intelligence Committees, will be spending time over the next few weeks going into this in great detail trying to assess whether we all made a mistake when we voted for the various laws that have allowed the National Security Agency and the other agencies to collect data on all of our phone calls and more. I would hope that's the case.

We need to know exactly what's happening, how it has happened and what impact it may have on our civil liberties. One of the most precious things given to us in the Bill of Rights is that freedom, freedom from an oppressive government. So we'll see what happens here. For my own part, I want those hearings to take place right away. I have great concerns about all of this, and we'll see how it all plays out.

As to people stealing secrets, yes, that's against the law and there ought to be a punishment, and I suspect they will very quickly find that punishment available for those have who have stolen these pieces of information.

Now, moving on, I wanted to talk this evening about the American Dream. I think it was probably best put forth by President Clinton, although down through the ages and for generations and generations, the dream has been pretty much the same. But since he has the most recent quote that I could find on this, I think I'll just use it. He said:

If you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the freedom and opportunity to pursue your own dreams and leave your kids a country where they can chase theirs.

I like that. In fact, I like President Clinton and the way in which he was able to articulate some of our most fundamental values. In this case, he so very well laid out the essence of the American Dream: if you work hard and you play by the rules, then you ought to be able to have a good life in America. You ought to be able to see progress for yourself and for your families.

This issue was brought to my attention at a recent town hall that I had in my district. A gentleman in the town hall, not a Tea Party, not a liberal or whatever, he just said:

I've got a question for you, Congressman. I've got two kids. My wife and I both work, and we've worked all our lives. I'm in my mid- to late forties now, and I have to tell you, we're not getting ahead. We still have those student debts from our children. We still have our home, but it's a modest home, we don't own a big boat, or any boat for that matter. We just can't seem to get ahead. What's happened? What's happened to the American Dream?

I went on to cite a few things that I thought were the essential elements of that. I want to cover some of those tonight. This is not going to be an exhaustive description of the issue. I want to save that or come to that in subsequent Special Order hours that my colleagues and I will take up in the coming weeks. But just a couple of things that came across over the last weekend that I think really exemplify

some of this. The ideal: education is open to everyone. In America, everyone can get a great public education. The reality is different. In 2007, one-half of the children from the wealthiest households completed their college education. Only 9 percent of the children from low-income families completed their college education. That's a gap that has never been wider since 1989. So with regard to that ladder of success, education, if you happen to be poor or in the lower income, chances of your completing your college education is one out of ten.

How about being able to have freedom from want, one of the four freedoms that Franklin Delano Roosevelt so beautifully articulated during the Great Depression? But as a result of the Great Recession in 2010, a total of 46.2 million Americans were below the poverty line. That was the highest number in 52 years. And as best I could find more recently—the last 2 years—that number has not really changed very much. So we're looking at 46 million Americans that are living below the poverty line. So freedom from want may not be readily available to a very, very large percentage of Americans.

How about the land of opportunity? We all believe America is the land of opportunity. Well, not really. On average, it takes five to six generations, five to six generations, that's 125 to 150 years, for a child from a poor background to rise to the middle class—not to the upper class; to the middle class. I looked at that, and I said, clearly, that has to be an inaccurate analysis. But it's not. So for a child from a poor background—that's those 46 million Americans in poverty—they could wait five to six generations on average—that's not everybody, obviously some will do it faster, and others won't do it at all—to get to the middle class.

That is interesting, sad and challenging for us.

Income inequality, this is what some people like to call—well, I won't use that right now. But income inequality, you work hard and you do okay. I think that's what President Clinton said, if you work hard and play by the rules. Hmm. Really? The United States ranks 93rd in the world on income equality, behind Great Britain, Australia—and here's one that caught my attention, Nigeria, Argentina, and Japan.

□ 1940

What income inequality means is the distribution of wealth within the economy. When you have income inequality, the share of the pie that is available to the wealthy is significantly greater than the share of the pie to the great mass of the population. That's income inequality.

Fascinating statistics. Statistics are kind of the basis for many of our arguments. There are many more statistics along this line that we ought to be paying attention to. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to be speaking