

workforce—have not worked one day in the last 12 months; and nearly 91 million people over age 16 aren't working at all; almost 50 percent of the unemployed have stopped looking for work; and 76 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. The list could go on and on.

We can fix this through real tax reform, getting the government out of health care, energizing the energy business, and ensuring America remains the world's superpower with a strong and well-equipped military.

□ 1015

As a business owner and job creator for more than 40 years, I know that the constant threat of tax hikes, overregulation, and massive government overhauls hurts businesses, it burdens families, lowers income, and stifles the economy. Everyone is simply playing defense in America.

That is why the House continues to pass pro-jobs bills that empower Americans and strengthen the economy. These are real solutions that will improve the quality of life for generations to come.

So I urge HARRY REID and the Democrats in the Senate to take up these bills now before President Obama leaves for vacation.

In God we trust.

CHRISTIANITY IN IRAQ IS BEING WIPED OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, "Imagine if a fundamentalist Christian sect captured the French city of Lyon and began a systematic purge of Muslims. Their mosques were destroyed, their crescents defaced, the Koran burned, and then all Muslims forced to flee or face execution. Such an event would be unthinkable today, and if it did occur, Pope Francis and all other Christian leaders would denounce it and support efforts by governments to stop it."

Yet that is essentially what is happening in reverse now in Mosul, as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham drives all signs of Christianity from the ancient city. Christians have lived in Mosul for nearly 2,000 years, and today they are reliving the Muslim religious wars of the Middle Ages."

These are not my words. These are the words of the first two paragraphs of an editorial from The Wall Street Journal earlier this week.

Now, I want to read parts of an email I received yesterday from someone on the ground in Iraq:

All Mosul churches and monasteries are being seized by ISIS. There are around 30. The cross is being removed from all of them. Many of them are burned or destroyed and looted. Many of them are used as ISIS centers.

The religious Sunni, Shiite, and Christian tombs are being destroyed in Mosul. This destruction is endangering the very ancient sites, including Jonah's tomb.

It has been widely reported that the ISIS soldiers have painted "N" on the doors of Christians to signify that they are "Nasara," the word for Christians.

Shiite homes were painted with the letter "R" for "Rawafidh," meaning rejecters or protestants.

Christianity, as we now know it, is being wiped out. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities and regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country.

I believe what is happening to the Christian community in Iraq is genocide. I also believe it is a crime against humanity.

Where is the West?

Where is the Obama administration?

Where is this Congress?

The silence is deafening. The West, particularly the church, needs to speak out.

The Obama administration needs to make protecting this ancient community a priority. President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry need to have the same courage that President Bush and former Secretary of State Colin Powell had when they said genocide was taking place in Darfur.

The United Nations has a role. It should immediately initiate proceedings in the International Criminal Court against ISIS for crimes against humanity.

The Congress needs to hold the administration accountable for the failure to act.

I will close today by reading the final two paragraphs of The Wall Street Journal editorial. It said:

Today's religious extremism is almost entirely Islamic. While ISIS' purge may be the most brutal, Islamists in Egypt have driven thousands of Coptic Christians from homes they have occupied for centuries. The same is true across Muslim parts of Africa. This does not mean that all Muslims are extremists, but it does mean that all Muslims have an obligation to denounce and resist the extremists who murder or subjugate in the name of Allah. Too few imams living in the tolerant West will speak up.

The Wall Street Journal went on to say: "As for the post-Christian West, most elites may now be nonbelievers. But a culture that fails to protect believers may eventually find that it lacks the self-belief to protect itself."

William Wilberforce, the British parliamentarian and abolitionist who abolished slavery, famously told his colleagues, as I tell this House and this administration: "Having heard all of this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SERGEANT BOB REASONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, South Carolina and the United States lost a hero. Ser-

geant Bob Reasoner was a World War II United States Army Air Corps veteran and a tail gunner assigned to the 68th Squadron, with the famous 44th Bomber Group known as The Flying 8 Balls.

The events of December 7, 1941, compelled Mr. Reasoner to serve in World War II, survive three life-threatening missions, a year in German POW camps, and 2½ years in a hospital undergoing multiple surgeries from his injuries.

During Sergeant Reasoner's military career, he participated in 21 successful bombing missions over Germany and France. During the return flight of one of those missions, Bob's plane was unexpectedly diverted, ran out of fuel, and crashed in Wales.

While he was at the hospital recuperating from his injuries, Bob was given the option to return to the United States but turned down that offer so he could continue to serve his country.

On October 1, 1943, Sergeant Reasoner flew his last mission, during which his B-24 Liberator, the Black Jack, as it was known, was attacked and caught fire. Parachuting to the ground with his head engulfed in flames—now remember that Sergeant Reasoner was a tail gunner. He had a long way to travel from the rear of that aircraft as it burned, falling from the sky.

But as he was parachuting down, he passed out from his injuries, and he woke up in a hospital. His head and his eyes were wrapped in bandages, and all he could hear was German.

He was now a POW, captured by the German soldiers. His captors allowed him only a weeklong hospital stay before shuffling him between different POW camps over the next year.

On his 26th birthday, September 26, 1944, he returned home to the United States of America. He told me, he said: "That was the first time I felt safe. Seeing the Statue of Liberty was an amazing feeling because I knew then that I was home."

Bob Reasoner earned three Purple Hearts for his heroic service to our country. But if Bob was still alive today, he would say that he wouldn't want his service defined by his numerous distinctions that he was awarded but, rather, he would want us to remember the 21 successful missions he was a part of to help secure freedom for this country and many other countries.

I had the opportunity to meet Bob in my hometown of Clinton, South Carolina, where he was in a retirement home, and I heard his stories firsthand. And after talking to Bob, I went on to learn more about the heroic actions of the 44th Bomb Group.

During my research, I came across a great compilation by Will Lundy, who was a ground crewman on the 67th Bomb Squadron of the 44th Bomb Group, called the Roll of Honor and Casualties.

I recommend everyone look that up and read it. The stories are amazing.

This compilation documents the heroic stories of these men who fought for our freedoms, including my friend, Bob Reasoner.

He lived his life quietly among us, bearing the scars of war and service. His ear was mangled. His eyelids had been reconstructed. He bore the scars of numerous burns.

I am especially grateful for Mr. Reasoner's bravery in protecting the United States, and I grieve with his family and friends during the loss of a great man, an American soldier and a true American hero.

May God bless the men and women who served in World War II. May God continue to bless those who serve our country and have served our country, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

THE BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, wherever I go, people express a growing anger over the illegal immigration that is overwhelming our southern border.

People ask me:

“How can we talk about securing the border in Ukraine or Iraq while our own border is wide open?”

“How can we talk about supporting the population of Central America when we are nearly \$18 trillion in debt?”

“How can we talk about giving jobs to millions of illegal immigrants when fewer Americans are working today than when this so-called recovery began?”

They ask: “If the Federal Government can’t defend our own border, what good is it?”

Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer them. The fact is, our southern border is wide open. It is practically undefended, and everybody knows it.

The many thousands streaming across it know that if they break our laws and enter our country illegally, they will be rewarded with free food, clothing, housing, medical care, transportation, legal representation, and relocation, all at the expense of struggling American families.

Ninety-five percent of them believe they will get “permiso” to stay and, at the moment, they are right.

Until we fundamentally change this reality, the mass incursion of our borders will continue, and our Nation’s sovereignty will slowly fade away.

The American people are awakening to the danger that illegal immigration poses to our country. It is crowding out millions of jobs desperately needed by American workers. It is overwhelming our schools, our hospitals, our courts, law enforcement, prisons, and our local and State budgets.

Perhaps worst of all, it is undermining the process of legal immigra-

tion upon which our country is founded. Why should anyone go to the expense and trouble of obeying our immigration laws when they can reap rich rewards simply by defying them?

This administration has actively encouraged this crisis with its promises of amnesty, and it now needs another \$4 billion to feed, clothe, and house this new surge. Conspicuously lacking from the President’s proposal is any serious effort at enforcement or deportation.

The advocates of illegal immigration tell us we need comprehensive immigration reform, but what they really mean is extending some form of amnesty to those now illegally in this country. Yet, it is precisely these promises of amnesty that are causing and encouraging the mass migration we are now seeing.

Any short-term measure this House approves must include provisions:

First, to rescind the President’s unlawful Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals order that has clearly encouraged the current surge;

Second, to detain all of these new arrivals while expedited deportation hearings proceed;

Third, to provide unrestricted access for law enforcement to all Federal lands at the border;

And fourth, to activate the National Guard in whatever numbers are necessary to secure our southern border now.

Once the immediate tide has been turned back, it is imperative that existing laws are enforced before any new laws are considered, including:

Rigorous enforcement of sanctions against any employer who hires an illegal immigrant;

Completion of the border fence that was authorized in 2006;

Deportation of any illegal immigrant who comes into contact with law enforcement or who illegally applies for government assistance; and

Resumption of Federal cooperation with local and State law enforcement agencies to ensure enforcement of our immigration law.

If we are not willing to enforce our current laws, there is no reason to believe that any future laws will be enforced. And until we enforce them, we really can’t accurately assess what changes might be needed.

The people with whom I talk are tired of excuses. They are tired of promises of future reforms. They want to see our current laws enforced and our border secured, and every act of this House should be focused on pressuring the President to do so.

History is shouting this warning at us: that nations that either cannot or will not defend their borders aren’t around very long.

Let that not be the legacy of this administration, and let it not be the epitaph of the American Republic.

SENATE INACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House now for 6 months, and I regrettably rise today to express my frustration, and I know the frustration of thousands of people in my district in southwest Alabama and, I believe, people all over the United States of America.

People are tired of the stagnation coming from Washington. Just look at the disapproval rating of this Congress and the disapproval rating of our President.

The people of this country want to see action, action on growing our economy, action on cutting spending, action on health care, action on immigration, action on the crisis at the VA, action on foreign policy and all the problems we see around the world that involve our interests. They want to see action.

□ 1030

Just earlier this week, I was at the White House for a bill-signing ceremony of the Workforce Investment Act, or the SKILLS Act, as we called it here in the House.

The SKILLS Act was a great example of Democrats and Republicans in this House and the Senate coming together behind a common goal of improving our Nation’s workforce training programs, which is so important at this time in our recovering economy.

During the bill-signing ceremony, the President implored us to send more bipartisan job-creating bills his way. The problem is the President doesn’t need to lecture this House on that. The President needs to look no further than the majority leader in the Senate, the gentleman from Nevada.

In the House, we have passed nearly 300 bills that are sitting in the Senate, waiting for action—at least 40 of those bills are job-creating bills. We have continued in this House to do the people’s work, making our way through seven of the appropriations bills that we are required by the Constitution to pass to fund the government. The Senate has not completed a single one.

Now, some may say the issue is that Republican Senators have demanded to have amendments considered. I don’t think that is too much to ask. Here in the House, we have considered at least 180 minority amendments to appropriations bills alone, 180.

One of my colleagues in the House from the other side of the aisle was quoted in an article as saying that she wanted “to thank the Republicans for their generosity. I am just grateful for the bipartisanship here.”

That is not the same message coming out of the do-nothing Senate. One Democratic Senator was quoted as saying that he has “a hard time getting on the train in the morning.” Former Senate leaders Tom Daschle and Trent Lott have said the Senate “has degenerated into a polarized mess.”

Now, this probably shouldn’t come as much of a surprise because, yet again this year, the Senate failed to even pass a budget.