

are not going to worry about that, but we are going to worry about immigration today. We are going to turn our backs on a discovery that will save thousands and thousands of lives. We are going to turn our backs on science that we know to be true and on a cure that we know is there. We are at the threshold right now.

I want to read from Dr. Piot's book because there were several things that really struck me. He not only worked on the Ebola virus, he also worked on the AIDS virus.

He said: Perhaps, most important, I have seen over and over and over again how a catastrophe like AIDS brings out the very best and very worst in the human species, regardless of whether a person is well-educated or illiterate. These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—coming to a cure for AIDS.

This is what he said: These experiences largely compensated for the numerous—and just translate Washington into this—brain-killing meetings that I had to endure during my tenure at UNH, where I learned not to be guided by the modern plague, the quarterly result, the short-term view, but to focus on the ultimate goal of saving as many lives as possible.

What he is saying is forget the politics. Keep your eye on where it is you are trying to go. Let's fix this problem. Let's save as many lives as possible.

As I finished up the book, Dr. Piot finishes it this way. He says: Above all, the history of AIDS is one of refusing the inevitability of death because of a lack of treatment, defeat, prejudice, and the institutional obstacles in moving mountains beyond familiar territory. It is perhaps the strongest example of global altruism out of a rational necessity in our evermore interconnected world.

As I talk to you today, H.R. 5746 and a bicameral piece of legislation which is crafted with Senator RUBIO from the Senate, all we are asking for is to please wake up. Understand that this is truly a Paul Revere moment for the world.

As I talked to Dr. Piot, he said: Mike, this is a dress rehearsal, and I am going to send you my book so you can see why I feel the way I feel.

The title of his book is "No Time to Lose."

How many times in our lives have we looked back and we said, "If only I had known, I would have fixed it. If only I knew what was going to happen if I didn't act, I would have fixed it"?

My friends, there is truly no time to lose. The vaccine is right on the threshold of being available to us, but it is not just Ebola that I worry about, and it is not just Ebola that this country should worry about, and it is not just Ebola that the world should worry about. It is what is coming.

Believe me, we have not seen the end of infectious disease. We have not seen the end of lethal viruses that will cripple us, as a Nation, and could become

the weapon of bioterrorists that would use it at any cost without any regard for human life.

We have the ability right now, within our hands, within our grasp, to develop a vaccine in order to defeat this horrible virus. All that I would ask is that we come together in this House, the American people's House—it is not a Republican House, not a Democrat House, but the American people's House—to once again conquer a disease that could infect not only our own American citizens, but the citizens of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

EBOLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my dear friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is exactly right. We haven't heard the last of Ebola. It will continue to mutate. It will continue to be a threat.

As this President is sending around 3,000 or so of our military members to west Africa—and they have been told they are going to be given gloves and masks and are urged to wash their hands and feet several times a day—basically, what that says is the men and women who have sworn and pledged their lives to protect ours are not going to be adequately protected by this administration. The rules of engagement already put our military at risk, and now, we are going to send them to Ebola-infested countries.

The initial report said, initially, our military will not be seeing Ebola patients, but they are certainly going to come into contact with people who have had exposure to Ebola.

I recall our President George W. Bush—a good man, a smart man, a witty, clever gentleman, despite what some might say—but he asked after 9/11, in essence, who would have ever dreamed someone would fly a plane into a building like a bomb? My thought immediately was, "Well, actually, Tom Clancy wrote about that several years ago." It was not a radical Islamist as had happened on 9/11/2001.

The late Tom Clancy had quite an imagination, but he did his homework in amazing fashion. Some have said his books had too much detail in them, but one of his latter books had research going on in Africa with the strain of monkeys that is the one strain that is believed and has support for having been transferred through the air instead of through liquid body fluids.

In the fiction novel, Clancy had somebody working to develop that strain into a mutated strain, since it mutates constantly into one that people could pass through the air, and then it was used to infect our military

or expose our military and many Americans.

Basically, in his fiction novel, that allowed radical Islamists to take over much of the Middle East, while our military had been exposed to Ebola and much of it was quarantined.

There are many things Tom Clancy has written about that I hope and pray never happen. That is one of them, but since some things that Tom Clancy's mind dreamed up as a fiction writer novel actually came to fruition, we shouldn't think for a minute that if Clancy could dream it up, our enemies could as well.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. GOHMERT. I have been on the border many nights, all hours of the night, and I have seen people just as they have finished crossing. The first time I went, I expected I would see people crossing in droves, not realizing the coyotes—the paid employees of the gangs, drug cartels that bring people across—they don't want to get caught because if a drug cartel or gang employee gets caught by one of the Texas boats running up and down—I say Texas boats because our administration has not provided any Federal boats in the area most crossed down south of McAllen.

There are no Federal boats down there. It is an area where Texas has stepped up and provided a number of boats that are zipping up and down the river, and you can hear them coming.

The coyotes don't want to be caught. They know if the Texas DPS catches them, they will destroy the raft, and that will put the coyote in very deep trouble for getting caught, so they don't want you to see them crossing.

As the State of Texas has placed DPS officers, Texas Rangers, game wardens up on the high bank—even in the dark, with just the least bit of light at all, you can see their silhouettes—and coyotes won't cross, again, if they think they are about to get caught.

Once across, groups anywhere from eight to 90 will immediately look for someone to surrender to unless, of course, they are like the people I have seen fleeing down there, who apparently had drugs or something they didn't want to be caught with.

It is an open border, far too open, and now, before the border is secured, with talk of amnesty and legal status that our Border Patrolmen have assured over and over again causes a massive surge, a massive influx of people trying to get to the United States, just the President or anyone in Washington talking about amnesty or any type of legal status helps lure Central Americans and others to their demise, girls to being raped, sold into sex trafficking. Many make it across; some don't.

I would think the most compassionate thing that the government of the United States could do is, number one, secure the border so that families are not tempted to send their little children, little girls up with other people, paying gang members to bring

them up, who frequently rape them as they come to the U.S.

A good neighbor would not only secure their border, but then we would help Mexico and Central American countries, as we did Colombia, to overcome the drug cartels.

Colombia had made great strides I think, largely in part, because they had a President like President Uribe whose parents had both been assassinated. As one of our Federal agents in Colombia told me some years back, the toughest job they had back then was keeping Uribe alive because he was so courageous and so determined to defeat the drug cartels.

Well, they kept him alive. With our help, some British help and some other help, the drug cartels were placed on the run. Coca fields were eliminated. It is still an ongoing battle they face constantly.

If Mexico elects the right leader, then the United States Government should be a friend that helps them create an environment where people want to stay and work because many of the people come and they would love to remain in their country if it wasn't so dangerous and there was work.

We can't take every person who resides in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras. We can't take every person without destroying the country that is the magnet, that is the shining light on the hill.

□ 1145

As a very precious, wise, and elderly West African told me when I was over there:

We were so excited when you elected your first black President, but ever since he has been President, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. At least from what we see, it appears you are getting weaker and weaker. We need you to spread around in Washington that you have got to stop getting weaker because it doesn't just affect you. We are Christians, and we know where we are going when we die, but we have no hope of a secure life and a safe life unless America is strong and is an intimidating force to the forces of evil around the world.

Forces of evil will not go away. They will be with us until the end of time, and America makes a difference when we stand strong. We don't even have to send people, just the threat, as a former Ambassador from Israel said:

America is not a serious threat to take out Iran's nuclear capability, and, in fact, quite the opposite. Everybody realizes America now is no threat to Iran. And since America is no threat to Iran, and Iran knows it, the world knows it, then Israel is more at risk than ever before.

It is true in West Africa as Boko Haram gets more powerful, radical Islamists that want to take out Americans—and America is the Great Satan. It is true in North Africa, it is true in the Middle East, in Asia, in Russia, and in Europe: we need a strong America.

And instead, though the official unemployment numbers have been shown to come down, when you cook the books by not including the massive

millions of Americans who are adults, who could work, who are not institutionalized, and they have given up hope of finding a job. They have tried so long they are not counted in the unemployed. They are unemployed, but they are not counted as unemployed because they have given up looking. They have lost hope. That is absolutely tragic.

I mentioned an article from September previously, but this report from CNS News on September 5 says that a record 92,269,000 Americans 16 and older did not participate in the labor force in August as the labor force participation rate matched a 36-year low of 62.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Well, the article goes on to mention that that has happened six times in the past year, and, again, that matches the all-time high of non-participation, matching that set during the malaise days of the Carter administration. Back then, there was double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment officially, and double-digit interest rates. People were hurting in America.

Now people are still hurting. They are hurting across the country. That is why people are so desperate for sales. No telling what Thursday, Thanksgiving, the day after will look like. People are so desperate for sales because the data indicates on average people are taking home less than they did when compared with the rate of inflation.

So we have a President whose administration has tied the Carter administration for the highest number of American adults who have given up hope of finding a job.

Just as we get this news that the Obama administration continues this year to tie the Carter administration for the all-time high of Americans who have given up hope of finding a job, we get the story today, an article from The Daily Caller, that Obama's amnesty will add as many foreign workers as jobs since 2009. Because, Mr. Speaker, think about it: over 92 million Americans have given up hope of finding a job. That has tied the Carter administration. When this President in this economy says to people who have come illegally into this country, I am going to grant you 5 million or so permits to work, then it will put this President in a category all by himself. He will no longer be tied with the Carter administration as presiding over the highest number of Americans giving up hope of finding work. It will propel him into a league all of his own because it only makes sense that if you are giving 5 million legal work permits to people who are here illegally, they will then be able to offer their services cheaper than union workers and other workers who are here getting a proper wage, and it will displace millions more Americans from the jobs they currently hold.

You can anticipate that, not immediately, but in the months ahead if the President does this unconstitutional

act because he is tired of waiting on Congress to change the law the way he has dictated, and he has decided to dictate new law to America. Well, that is unconstitutional, and it is illegal. But the good news for the President is it will propel him out of the tie with the Carter administration for the most Americans giving up hope of finding employment and get him to the all-time high that will likely remain for as long as there is an America.

Well, this article from The Daily Caller today points out that:

President Barack Obama's unilateral amnesty will quickly add as many foreign workers to the Nation's legal labor force as the total number of new jobs created by his economy since 2009.

The plan, expected to be announced late November 20, will distribute 5 million work permits to illegal immigrants and also create a new inflow of foreign college graduates for prestigious salaried jobs, according to press reports.

Obama has already provided or promised almost 1 million extra work permits to foreigners, while his economy has only added 6 million jobs since 2009.

Under the President's new amnesty plan, "up to 4 million undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least 5 years can apply. An additional 1 million people will get protection from deportation through other parts of the President's plan," according to a November 19 report in The New York Times.

The 5 million total was attributed to "people briefed on his plans," the Times reports.

The 5 million work permits will add to Obama's prior giveaways, which have provided work permits to almost 1 million foreigners.

Since 2009, the U.S. economy has added only 6 million jobs, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Further, it says:

Not all the 5 million illegal immigrants who get permits will work, and many are already working under fake names or for cash. However, their new work permits will allow them to compete for jobs now held or sought by blue-collar Americans, including the many African American and Latinos who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012.

It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that if the President wants to do something about the massively unfair high unemployment rate for African Americans who are legal citizens that the thing to do would not be to give 5 million work permits to people that are illegally here so that they can knock more African Americans and more Hispanics out of the jobs they legally currently hold because they will work cheaper, probably without requirement for health benefits.

My dear friend, STEVE KING, had invited me to Iowa, and I was visiting with a businessman there about their meatpacking plant where they had felt like, gee, they had to have illegal aliens doing the work because they were just jobs that Americans wouldn't do. And after a raid on their plant and illegal aliens were arrested, he reported that it turned out those were jobs that Americans just would not do at that price. But by raising the wages a couple of dollars and providing health care benefits, amazingly, they could

find Americans who would do that job. So it seems that as this story is replicated around the country, there are not so many jobs that Americans won't do; it is that there are jobs that Americans won't do at the market rate. So that is why you see so many millionaires and billionaires, many of them massive Democratic donors, who are—and some Republican donors, including the National Chamber of Commerce; my local chambers aren't pushing like this—but they say we want and we need this massive influx of unskilled laborers to do these jobs Americans won't do. They don't finish the sentence and say “these jobs Americans won't do at what we would like to pay them.” They require more in order to be hired, which skews the living wage that workers in America are getting paid and skews it downward.

So that under the Obama administration, Americans have really been hurt, and that was reflected in the results of the election. I know there are many Democratic friends who said they don't understand why Americans that came out and voted didn't feel better about the economy. Well, try talking to them because they make it very clear, they haven't had a raise in years. They have lost health care benefits because of ObamaCare. They have had deductibles. Some have told me: Mine went from a \$500 deductible, which was really tough, to \$5,000, which I just can't ever meet because I can't spend \$5,000 extra to cover the deductible of my new ObamaCare policy.

So, yeah, the old joke was always, Well, I am from the government, and I am here to help you. It is one of the most frightening lines in America. It is no longer a joke. It is quite scary when you look at what the government has done to people. And then as this article points out, for the Obama administration to, using their terminology, create 6 million jobs—because as we know the President and also Hillary Clinton have said, you businesses, you didn't create those jobs. Oh, no, you weren't the one that put your capital at risk, that took out a loan, that is paying more in taxes for the police and for the roads than anybody else. No, you didn't build that company that you risked your sacred honor and everything you hold dear on. You didn't create that; the government did that. We did that for you.

Well, that is the way socialists generally start talking.

□ 1200

Having been an exchange student to the Soviet Union back when it was the Soviet Union, I saw what happens to a country that has to live under that for decades. So even in the 1970s, I could see, wow, I don't want their health care. Thank goodness we have free market health care. Of course, that was back before insurance companies and the government skewed the cost of health care.

So when I was being told this week by a parent that the bill they got for

their child having stitches in a medical facility was \$4,500, well, I did enough work with and for health insurance companies and people who had claims with health insurance companies that I know good and well that the top health insurance companies, they wouldn't pay \$4,500. You get a bill for \$4,500, they probably don't pay \$500 for that bill.

So why shouldn't an American who can't afford an insurance policy under ObamaCare, why shouldn't that American be able to pay \$500 cash instead of being hit with a \$4,500 bill, and then the health institution says hey, since you are going to pay cash, we will cut you a real deal, we will knock off 20 percent. So yes, we will save you a bunch of money. And you will still pay several times more than what the insurance company would pay.

The bill I proposed, even though there are those in ignorance who say Republicans didn't have any solutions, one of the parts of my health care bill would require every health care facility and provider to post the costs. And if you are giving a different rate to the insurance company than you do to an American paying cash, you have to post it and let everybody see, because only then would you ever get back to having some competition.

The doctors that we used to go to in my hometown have passed away now, but my late mother, a very, very smart lady, was always looking for a bargain. I remember one time I asked: Why are we going to this doctor instead of the one we went to last time?

Well, he raised his rates, and you know good and well this doctor is as good as the other one.

When is the last time somebody said that? I'm going to a different doctor because the other one raised his rates. People don't even know what doctors charge because it has been so skewed.

You want to fix the health care system, one thing that should be required is that there actually be truth in the charges of health care. We don't have that now. You don't know what the insurance company pays specifically. Government rates are posted, but that is also why many physicians and health care providers, like hospitals, they have gotten out of the business. Doctors have told me that they have, and I have seen that they have. We lost our second hospital in my district this past week, they announced at least.

If we want to help Americans, it is not by more government takeover. The question keeps coming to me: I don't understand why my insurance is so much more. My deductible went way up. I am covering things like maternity care I will never use, and my premiums went up. I don't get it. I don't understand why it is more expensive.

Well, one thing that is very basic as part of that answer is, if you are going to hire with health care dollars 1,800 new IRS agents, if you are going to hire millions more people for the government that will never so much as put a bandaid or Bactine or anything on a

cut or help anybody with a real problem, then your health care costs will go up because you have added huge amounts of government that have nothing to do with getting you treatment. They are government. They may make you sick to your stomach, they may cause you to get ill, they may scare you, but they are not going to fix your problem. They are government workers.

And thank you very much, I was in the Army for 4 years, and I know there were some good doctors there. I was friends with some. But, wow, we did have some quacks. The last thing I want is to be forced back into a hospital where the government has total control. But that is part of the price you pay by being in the military.

Well, thank goodness, Congress has stepped up enough to provide our military with really the best health care when it comes to traumatic injuries. But as some have found around here, if you have a problem with your gall bladder, you better go to a private hospital. If you have a traumatic injury, sure, our military doctors and facilities are awesome, but I will take my private facilities for anything else.

Well, this article from The Daily Caller points out:

Each year, the Nation accepts 1 million new immigrants, or roughly 5 million new immigrants since 2009. That total includes roughly 3.5 million working-age immigrants, which is slightly less than the number of Americans—4.3 million—who turn 18 each year.

Also, companies annually hire roughly 450,000 blue-collar guest workers and roughly 200,000 white-collar guest workers. Most of these guest workers stay for less than a year, but many stay for 6 years.

That current population of roughly 600,000 foreign graduates is expected to increase, if, as reported, Obama's plan allows American universities to offer green cards to foreign tuition-paying students.

Each year, roughly 4.3 million Americans join the workforce in search of good jobs. That total includes roughly 800,000 Americans with expensive degrees in business, engineering, medicine, technology, and architecture.

At least 9 million Americans are unemployed, and at least 7 million have given up looking for work. Employment rates among African Americans and Latinos are lower than rates for Whites and Asians.

Since 2000, the number of native-born Americans with jobs has stalled, despite a growing population of working-age native-born Americans.

The surplus of domestic and foreign job seekers also helps ensure that U.S. median wages have flatlined since 2000. Economists—including Obama's top economic adviser—say that wages stall when the labor supply is larger than the supply of new jobs.

Down further:

Obama has already provided or promised about 1 million work permits to foreigners since 2011.

Since June 2012, Obama used the legally questionable Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals program to give work permits to almost 600,000 illegal immigrants. That DACA number may go above 1.5 million.

In May 2014, Obama's deputies announced they would provide work permits to 100,000 spouses of university-trained guest workers used by brand name companies.

In October 2014, his deputies announced they would accelerate the paperwork for 110,000 would-be Haitian immigrants, allowing them to begin working in the United States long before they were due to get green cards.

This is bad news for American workers. It is really bad news for American workers, and you would think it would come at a tremendous cost to the Democratic Party, which gets the huge majority of African Americans and a lesser majority of Hispanic and Latino voters. So this action to provide legal work permits to as many as 5 million people who are illegally here is a slap in the face, as hard a slap as you could give to Hispanics and to African Americans, whose unemployment rate is dramatically higher than it should be because this action that the President is about to take unconstitutionally and illegally for political purposes is basically saying to the masses, the millions of African Americans and Hispanic voters who are out of work: Look, we know you are going to always vote for us no matter how much damage we do to your lives, your employment, your ability to pay your bills. We know you are still going to vote for us no matter what because you haven't figured out that Republicans, they want you to have a job. They want you to be able to provide for yourself. They want you to learn English so you can be president of the company and not just a manual laborer for the company. We want you to live and achieve the American dream while the President is pushing a program that is going to push millions more, many of them African Americans and Hispanics, out of the jobs they have and bring in cheaper labor and make it even tougher.

Why? We keep hearing it is a political move. Of course it is a political move. Well, the only way it is a political move is if the Democrats take the African American and Latino votes for granted. You are going to vote for us no matter how bad we mess up your lives, so this will allow us to eventually pick up the votes of people who have come in illegally because they will want to reward those of us who helped them.

Well, I tell you, my office helps so many Hispanic families try to go through the legal route of getting family members here, or people who are trying to get a loved one here, a fiancée here. We help with those things. And, of course, there is no charge. And I have had a lot of people say: I don't know why we are working so hard and for all of these years to bring this person in legally when I would have been better off just saying, come on across, you will get amnesty some day and we will have saved all of this frustration—because we were trying to do what we thought was the American way, the legal way, when the President is about to reward lawbreakers by being a lawbreaker himself.

The New York Times reports today:

Officials of the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee have concluded that the government agency most responsible for implementing any new executive order, Citizenship and Immigration Services, would not be hindered if government funds are cut off. It operates entirely on revenue it generates through immigration applications. In short, lawmakers have no fiscal leverage over the agency, which could keep operating even if the rest of the government were shut down.

We understand that. CIS, Citizenship and Immigration Services, they operate with fees they generate. Who allows them to do that? Congress does. Who created CIS? Congress did. Who has the authority to prevent CIS from implementing any illegal dictate that comes from the White House? Congress does.

So even though CIS is funded by fees, we have the ability to do what Democratic Congresses have done post-Watergate. You want people out of Vietnam immediately who are Americans? Then no matter where the Federal money comes from, you make it a crime to spend any Federal revenue, no matter where it comes from, to have people in Vietnam.

You want to prevent Americans from helping the contras keep communism off our southern border and out of Central America? They pass a law. It is easy to do. You pass a law saying it is a crime to use any Federal funds no matter where they come from for this purpose.

□ 1215

That is one thing we can and should do. I deeply regret that our Members were told we are done until after Thanksgiving when the President is about to announce this lawlessness, and then we are hearing secondhand from leadership of the Republican Party, "There is not much we can do. Gee, they get their own funds." Yeah, there is plenty we can do.

We ought to be here right now passing a resolution that authorizes a lawsuit, an injunction. I have signed plenty of injunctions. There is a standard you have to meet, but it can be done.

If you have a President acting lawlessly, just like if you have a mayor that is acting lawlessly or a county judge or a commissioner or a Governor, somebody that is adversely affected—ought to have standing, bring a lawsuit, bring an injunction—to keep them from violating the law when they are supposed to be enforcing the law.

It makes sense that as an administration acts more and more lawlessly, you have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was created, we were told, by the Democrats—by an all-Democrat House—and Senate majority, signed by President Obama, created this entity that was supposed to protect Americans from unscrupulous banking practices. It turns out now that is being used to gather debit card and credit card activity on Americans.

The government shouldn't be able to get that information without a warrant or without permission from that

American. We don't need a Federal agency that goes snooping, getting material that should require a warrant, and only after the government has shown probable cause that that American has committed a crime. Officers would come to me—I have signed orders ordering the disclosure of bank records like that, but the government had to establish probable cause, or I wasn't going to sign the warrant.

Yet we create this monstrosity that, in the name of helping us poor stupid ignorant Americans, they will just monitor every bit of our financial activity while the NSA is watching over our emails and we are having our phone calls, all the logs from them go into the government.

I mean, for heaven's sake, is it any wonder that we get a report this week. There is an article from the Washington Examiner that reports: "Under Obama, U.S. Personal Freedom Ranking Slips Below France."

For heaven's sake, we ought to be the freest country in the history of the world, and we have been previously. As Peter Sellers used to say, as the Pink Panther, "Not anymore."

How sad is this? The United States in the personal freedom rankings for 2014 is number 21. Well, is that any surprise that our freedom is under such attack and our freedoms are diminishing and going away when the government is looking at every private aspect?

You look at the control that was taken by ObamaCare over all aspects of our life. It allowed the Federal Government to have all of your most personal secrets that should be only between you and your doctor. How many times have we heard that from liberals?

Yet they passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote that puts the government, not only in their bedroom, as they have previously objected to—the government is in your bedroom, your bathroom, your garage; they are in your dining room, your refrigerator, they are on machines you buy food from. They are everywhere now.

As I have said before, the ObamaCare bill was not so much about health care, it was about GRE. ObamaCare was about the "government running everything." Holy cow, are they actually doing that.

Anyway, quite interesting, as our government is going to put another 4 or 5 million hardworking Americans out of work and turn those jobs over to people who came in illegally displacing—I guarantee you, when the smoke clears, there will be a disproportionate number of African Americans and Hispanics who have lost their jobs because of this action the President is going to take.

New Zealand, Norway, Australia, Iceland, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Uruguay, Denmark, United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Austria, Malta, Portugal, those are all ahead of us in the personal freedom rankings for 2014, and there we are down below Portugal.

Well, tonight, it is also reported in *The Washington Post*, that the President's announcement coincides with the Latin Grammy Awards. The article points out that the 15th annual Latin Grammys, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday on Spanish TV network Univision, they are going to take a break for the President's announcement.

Clearly, it is political. Clearly, it will make points with those who are rewarded by legal work permits for coming in illegally. It is going to be a disaster for many Latinos, for many African Americans, to keep their job. They are going to have to start making less than a living wage than they had before.

We need to be about the business of stopping this. We can, we have the will, but it is kind of tough, as we approach Thanksgiving, for many Americans to be thankful. This is still the greatest country in the world, but we are losing what we have had, losing freedoms, losing revenue, losing control of our lives to the government.

It was George Washington, along with every single President since, who have said, "This time of year for all we have, for all we have been given, those that do believe the Bible know all good gifts come from God and to God be the glory."

I yield back the balance of my time.

MONTE'S MARCH

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

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, for the second time, I participated in Monte's March, which is a 26-mile walk from Northampton, Massachusetts, to Greenfield, Massachusetts, to raise awareness about the problem of hunger, not only in our community but throughout America, and to raise funds for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The march is led by Monte Belmonte, 93.9 FM, The River radio host, who dressed up as Evel Knievel to attract some attention, a very unique personality, but somebody with a heart of gold, who has been doing this now for several years.

Joining us on the march was David Sullivan, the northwestern district attorney; Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Erika Connell Cooper of Williamsburg, Massachusetts; Georgiann and Rick Kristek of Northampton; Sean Barry, who runs 4 Seasons Liquor store, who was with us last year when we marched, a great guy; Dan Finn of Pioneer Valley Local First; a group called Mutton and Mead, which is a medieval performance troop,

that walked with us for a big portion of the walk; Brian Lapis, Channel 22 weather team; "Steve the Hippie" Fendell, a local activist, who is well-known in the community; and also joining us was Natalie Blais and Keith Barnicle of my staff in Northampton.

It was a cold and rainy day when we began our march at 6 a.m. in the morning in Northampton. We were greeted by the mayor of Northampton, David Narkewicz, who walked with us to the border and wished us well.

We had many stops along the way. We stopped at the Amherst Survival Center and met with Executive Director Mindy Domb and her incredible crew. The Amherst Survival Center is a place where people go to get food, sometimes to get clothing, to get support and advice, and even sometimes medical attention. It is an incredible place, but when you visit there, you realize the fact that there are so many in our community who are struggling.

We had a brief stop at Chandler's Restaurant in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, and met with Chef Greg Monette, who prepared this wonderful meal for us.

We then continued our walk and met with Gordie and Barbara Woodward of Richardson's Candy. That is also in Deerfield—probably the best chocolate you are ever going to taste—and we were given some to keep our sustenance up.

We also were greeted by Emily and Oliver Rich from Tea Guys, which is this remarkable business in Whately, Massachusetts, where they blend teas from all around the world and blend teas to your personal liking, but they met us on this cold and rainy day with their crew and gave us hot tea to keep us going. It was very much welcome.

We ended in Greenfield at 6 p.m. at night and kind of celebrated our achievement at Seymour, the pub, which is a new pub in Greenfield, and we had incredible pizza—the best pizza in the world—from Magpie Pizza, also in Greenfield.

We did this, again, to raise awareness and to raise funds. I want my colleagues to understand that for me, even though the march was physically grueling, it was unbelievably inspirational because, along the way, people would stop their cars and hand us donations for the food bank. They would tell us their stories in which many people struggled to put food on their table and how they got through it.

This was all broadcast live on 93.9 FM. People called in constantly, making pledges and telling stories and offering their support. It made me realize what a generous community that I have the privilege of representing, and it was really uplifting on a whole number of levels.

Mr. Speaker, what happened on November 6 with Monte's March is not unique in the fact that there are people all over this country that are trying to raise funds and that are trying to help people put food on their table.

We live in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, and close to 50 million of our fellow citizens are hungry. It is unconscionable. We should be ashamed of that fact.

There are people like Monte Belmonte and others who are doing their part, but what I worry about is that those of us in this Chamber are not doing our part. As we bring this Congress to a close, I think it is important that we reflect on the fact that, when it comes to the issue of hunger, this Congress has done nothing, absolutely nothing; in fact, we have made it worse.

Time and time again, we have had Members of Congress come onto this floor and attack the programs that provide people food—whether it is SNAP or WIC or summer feeding programs or school feeding programs—that have come under attack by Member after Member, on the Republican side in particular, and we have seen an attack on poor people that is really disconcerting. The war on the poor, Mr. Speaker, has to come to an end.

We have had debates on SNAP, which used to be known as Food Stamps, where Members of Congress have come on the floor and said, "Well, we can cut that program because it is wasteful; it is inefficient," when the reality is it is one of the most efficiently run programs in the Federal Government, with a record low error rate and a record low fraud rate.

I wish the Department of Defense had that kind of record when it comes to procuring weapon systems and other things that they utilize. We ought to hold them to the same standard that we hold the agency that oversees our SNAP program.

We have had Members of Congress come on this floor and demean poor people and insult them and belittle their struggle. Maybe it makes it easier for those Members to vote against programs like SNAP when they demonize and belittle poor people, but it is wrong.

The fact of the matter is that more and more people are utilizing food banks and food pantries. They are going to their churches and their synagogues and their mosques trying to get the resources and the food to put on their table for their families.

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Here in Washington, the response of Congress is to cut it. More cuts. And then I read in a publication this morning that next year the Republican majority plans to go after these programs even more.

Let me just say to my colleagues that those who benefit from places like the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts are not just the homeless and the unemployed. Increasingly, their clientele include people who have jobs, but the jobs pay so little that they can't afford to pay their bills and put food on the table.