

physically tried to stop him but he bounded out and in two minutes, came back with the plaque. He ended the address with these words of Teilhard that brought the delegates to their feet:

"The day will come when, after harnessing the winds, the tides and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of Love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."

No one on that day is likely to have forgotten the fire with which Shriver said that word "fire". Teilhard's watchwords became the theme of his Vice Presidential campaign and recurred again when he ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976. And Sargent Shriver practiced what Teilhard preached, as he went on to help his wife Eunice and son Tim spread Special Olympics to the far corners of the world.

Let me note that those and many other words of Teilhard played a significant part in my own little journey from the Anglican Episcopal Church of my father to the wider Catholic Church centered in Rome (as the world well-observed this week of the Pope's funeral)—the church of Teilhard and the Society of Jesus. As an advocate of civil disobedience of the Gandhian and Martin Luther King kind on fundamental matters of conscience I should confess that I find it hard to fathom the faith it took for Teilhard to accept the silencing of his most important thoughts. But we can respect his agonizing decision to choose what he may have viewed as "divine obedience."

What does Teilhard's vision say to politics today—and to the burning questions of our times? To the world-wide poverty, including the poverty of spirit? To the epidemics sweeping Africa and other places that seem to be behind God's back? To the maybe a billion children who are not learning to read and go to sleep hungry at night? To all those suffering violence in the streets or in their homes, from crime or terrorism or war?

Teilhard's vision tells us to do everything in our power to find the ways and means to harness the energies of love in order to end as soon as possible the scandal that such conditions exist anywhere in the world. This requires We the People of this earth to do in the political world what wartime America did with the physical atom; to win the war scientists, backed by all the necessary resources of our society, worked with fierce urgency to produce the quantum leap and chain reaction that put in man's mortal hands the power to end human life on earth.

Therefore, the burning question, above all other questions in the political world, is: How do we crack the atom of civic power and start a chain reaction of constructive force to do for peace what man has shown can be done for war. You may say that is the old question that vexed the 20th century in its occasional search for the moral equivalent of war. For the 21st century, let's accept Teilhard's challenge and set out to discover the moral and political equivalent of fire.

This Woodstock Forum's other question: What is Teilhard's literary legacy? is not a burning one, but it brings to mind Gertrude Stein's explanation for her famous line: "A rose is a rose is a rose." When Gertrude was asked what in the world was the reason for such repetition, she said that for thousands of years poets have been writing about roses, so often and so sentimentally that the rose had lost its redness. Her intent, she said, was to restore redness to the rose.

Teilhard was a far better poet than Gertrude Stein, but as I've been re-reading him after many years, it seems to me that his most repeated metaphor, which he delivered in a hundred different ways, is indeed Fire—the fire that will blaze forth when we do discover how to harness for God and for all

human beings the power of love, and achieve the unity of man that Teilhard foresaw.

The poet in Teilhard, I think, is seeking, in politics as in science, philosophy and religion, to restore to the ancient idea of creative fire the energy, heat and light that our divided world so sorely needs. So we can hope the sparks that Teilhard's words sent out will catch fire in the dry tinder of these times.

"The world is very different now," John Kennedy began in stating the first proposition of his Inaugural Address. "For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life." To follow that proposition where it leads, we can do no better than to lift our sights to the perspective and the passionate concern for our common human destiny that pervades the writings of Teilhard de Chardin. But we let's not leave it to hope, to time, or to Teilhard to discover this fire, "knowing," as Kennedy said in closing his summons to a New Frontier, "that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sorrow that Patti and I bid farewell to a very dear friend and an incredible leader who spent his life fighting for justice, civil justice, civil rights, and world peace.

Harris Llewellyn Wofford Jr. was born in New York City on April 9, 1926 and grew up in Scarsdale, N.Y. with his 2 younger siblings. Growing up in an upper-middle class family, at age 11 he had the opportunity to travel the world with his grandmother in 1938. During this formative trip, he experienced many of the defining events of that time including Benito Mussolini speaking about the League of Nations, the results of Japanese aggression in Shanghai and the movement of Mohandas Gandhi in India.

His passion for creating change and fighting for progress began in earnest. After his return to the United States, he quickly established the first chapter of the Student Federalists, which would later become a central pillar of what is now Citizens for Global Solutions. After serving in the Army Airforce, he graduated from the University of Chicago in 1948 and married his fellow student Clare Lindgren.

As the civil rights movement began, Mr. Wofford quickly became a fervent supporter of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He marched alongside Rev. King for civil and voting rights in Selma and, during John F. Kennedy's campaign for President, Mr. Wofford played a key role in Kennedy's efforts that freed Rev. King from prison—a move that galvanized the civil rights movement and helped to carry President Kennedy to the White House later that year.

Following the election, he served as President Kennedy's special assistant for civil rights and later served as the head of 2 colleges. During his time with the Kennedy administration, he helped to launch the Peace Corp, which helped to inspire me to enter the realm of public service as one of the first Peace Corp officers serving in Ethiopia.

In 1991, Harris became Pennsylvania's first Democratic Senator in more than 20 years, by unseating the former Republican governor and U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh. As Senator he led the effort that established the community service program, AmeriCorp and in 2008 introduce then-Senator Barack Obama before his defining "A More Perfect Union Speech" that is often credited as the origin of Obama's successful campaign for President.

In 1995, he left the Senate and began serving as Chief Executive at AmeriCorp. Harris Wofford, a Democratic Senator from Pennsylvania, a university president and a defining colleague of President John F. Kennedy died yesterday on the Federal Holiday commemorating the work and vision of Martin Luther King, a vision that as a lifelong champion of civil rights he shared. He was 92.

In a 2005 speech commemorating the work of French philosopher Teilhard de Chardin, Mr. Wofford in considering the impact of the invention of nuclear weapons during World War II said this:

"... the burning question, above all other questions in the political world, is: how do we crack the atom of civic power and start a chain reaction of constructive force to do for peace what man has shown can be done with war. You may say that is the old question that vexed the 20th century in its occasional search for the moral equivalent of war. For the 21st century, let's accept Teilhard's challenge and set out to discover the moral political equivalent of fire."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to talk about the necessity of reopening our government, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to properly yield and reclaim time in debate.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here tonight, with so much going on, but it seems, other than some people rushing to judgment to beat up on a smiling high school kid with a sweet disposition, people are still concerned about the border.

In talking to some TSA agents, some Border Patrol, some of those who are not getting checks—we are still getting some calls—I am still hearing from people, personally, saying: Look, it is really hurting not to have gotten a check; and if we don't get a check, our next check here in the next week, it is going to hurt. But we also know how many American people are hurting because of an insecure border.

How many people have to die, how many people have to have their homes broken into, how many people have to be hit by drivers that should not be driving without insurance, without a driver's license, without fully understanding the laws?

It shouldn't have to be said, but because there are so many people who are quite dense in the liberal media, we know that everybody who comes into this country illegally is not out to hurt America. But what they don't understand and what some in this country—thank God, literally, that it is a minority—don't understand is that, if you keep the border as open as it is, then this country will continue to be more and more overwhelmed, and we will

lose that great light on the hill that has helped illuminate so much of the world through our being the most generous country in the history of the world, helping others that couldn't help themselves.

But when you do enough damage to a country, this country—the greatest, I would continue to submit, in the history of the world, and that is because of all races, creed, color, gender. I mean, we have blessed the world. God has blessed this world through us.

But as we weaken ourselves by having more and more people without regard to the law and we give more and more of our cities over to being used by the drug cartels in Mexico, and as we continue to use Homeland Security—thank goodness it is to a much, much lesser extent than during the Obama administration. But during the Obama administration, I have said here before, the Border Patrol says: The drug cartels call us at Homeland Security, and also HHS, their logistics. They get people illegally into the country who still owe more money to the drug cartels, and they provide them with a piece of paper with an address, a name sometimes, sometimes a phone number, but mainly that address.

□ 2015

And Homeland Security, sometimes HHS, they ship them where the drug cartels need them to be to help finish out their network through the United States that will continue to poison our young people with drugs, 70,000 or so a year, to their deaths. At some point it has got to stop.

I was fortunate to be on a trip to the border. Actually, we all just met there, down in southern Arizona. I have spent a tremendous amount of time, all hours of the day and night, on our Texas-Mexico border, but I had not spent time, like I should have, on the Arizona border. It was quite eye-opening.

They have areas where they do have some border fence that is making a world of difference. Like Secretary Nielsen testified, when we add a wall barrier, it cuts down illegal immigration by 90 to 95 percent. They have seen it in San Diego, El Paso, and some places in Arizona where there is a massive fence or barrier. So it was interesting.

Here is something we put up down by Douglas, Arizona, and we have got this fence here, and you can see between these big metal poles—and those go deep into the ground. These metal, hollow pipes are filled with concrete. So it is not easy to get through those. And then even if you do, you get over it—and there is some razor wire. But if you get over it, then at least to this point you still have another barrier.

When there are heavy rains, there is water in there, but then you have got that to get over, and then you have a road here that the border patrol drives. They can see—and I was there—you can see for a long way. They can come

zipping up, just like we watched them do near Nogales, Arizona, yesterday.

So it does make a difference. Talking to the border patrolmen that were patrolling this area, they said: Oh, you wouldn't believe what a help this is. It is a huge help.

Here is another area. This barrier, it is hard to tell, it looks solid, but you can see through the wall. Border patrolmen say they actually like to see through the wall or the fence so they can see what is on the other side, and, you know, see what is coming, and it is very helpful. And this is a great fence—a great barrier. You can tell a little better here that, you know, it has got razor wire.

And they were telling us that that is something that the National Guard, that President Trump had sent down—or not National Guard—our military. The military has been sent down. Just in the last 90 days, they put up a tremendous amount of concertina wire that has made it much more difficult for people to get over.

So this has been a terrific barrier until you get up here to the end, and that is the end of the barrier. They say: Well, then we have got this Normandy barrier for vehicles. Well, most of them aren't coming in vehicles into the United States, unless they have real serious drugs. But anyway, this is a major, major problem.

So I now recognize my friend, who was down there on the border with me on this trip that ANDY BIGGS and PAUL GOSAR helped put together. I yield to MORGAN GRIFFITH.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I really want to ask a question. So I guess I should ask if the gentleman would yield for a question.

Because if he would put up that slide where they had the barrier that would stop the vehicles, I wonder if he had time yet—because we just got back to—in fact, I think that might be me in the picture.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it looks like—no, it is him because that is his—nobody else had binoculars that good. I yield to Congressman GRIFFITH.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. We were able to—maybe not here, but that's fine.

But just on the other side of that, do we have a picture of the rope?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, funny he should ask. Yes, we just happen to have the rope. So here is the end of the barrier right here. It is an impressive barrier till you get to the end, and then you have got the rope he was referring to, and then they have got this barbwire fence—pretty sad barbwire, four-strand, and it is anything but tight. The only thing that keeps somebody from crossing our border, you have got the massive barrier, the concertina wire, and then you have this little quarter-inch cord here and kind of a slipknot that you can undo, and then pull the gate open and come right through.

That is one of our brave border patrolmen right there. I won't give Art's

full name. But anyway, and the other thing we saw, there is a trail that goes right down there. That trail—and I know Mr. GRIFFITH noticed this—but that trail doesn't come down all the way to the barrier. It leads—and you can follow it all the way through this area for miles. It comes right here to where the cord is instead of where the big barrier is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, shocking. I mean, you know, it was shocking. And then the trail, if I remember correctly, and Mr. GOHMERT can correct me if I am wrong, but the trail then goes on up into the hills.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely does.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Where it makes it much harder for the border patrol agents, we heard, to track them down. So where there is a wall, even if they get over it somehow, it slows them down.

The border patrol folks can then spot them, using some of that electronic equipment we have talked about, maybe using their pony patrols, you know, where they are out on horseback, but they can then have a better chance of catching a substantial number of these folks.

But where you don't have that wall/fence barrier, and you just have a rope or a little fence—in fact, I know a picture was taken of it, too—we saw a rancher, who may not want his picture out there—but we saw a rancher who has to be in his seventies, and probably is in his eighties, who had climbed under the fence to show that even he, in his advanced age, could get under the fence. It was just remarkable.

I mean, did you have the same reaction I did that this was just outrageous, and that, clearly, we just have a line that demarks it, so that if you are law-abiding, you know that is where to stop. But the people we are dealing with are not law-abiders, are they, sir?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to hear from the landowners down there that, you know, even up to the 1990s, the people that came were, you know, mainly people looking for jobs, and they would put out food and stuff. The border patrolmen had confirmed this. We were hearing it from the landowners, and we were hearing it from the border patrol. It used to be that when they caught people, it was the first time they had been caught. They probably were just looking for a job in the U.S.

But now, most of the people coming, other than family units, most of them have records, criminal records. Not just in Mexico. Like one that we were being told about is wanted for murder in Mexico, but for all kinds of crimes, including murder in the United States. And that this has become a common event. You catch them, you do the fingerprints, and then here comes this big criminal history, and that that is what they are getting so much of. That used

to be an anomaly, and now it is regular course of business.

I yield to Mr. GRIFFITH.

Mr. GRIFFITH. I would say to the gentleman that one of the things that really struck me that I probably didn't know or hadn't heard stories of—a lot of this was just confirming what I believed might be going on and bringing it visually home.

But one of the things that I was astounded with was the residents in the area who were talking about it—we had a number of residents we met with—that the drug runners are bringing the drugs in, sometimes they are just dropping them off at a GPS site, sometimes they are handing them off and getting cash and bringing the cash back, but they also were looters. So all those properties along the border have to worry about home invasions and burglaries and thieving; because there is nothing to stop them, whatever they can carry, they are carrying out and carrying south as well.

You know, if it was folks, that would be one issue—and I understand that issue is a big part of it—but if it was just folks coming north to look for a better way of life, that would be one thing. But a huge number of these people are coming north with methamphetamine that comes into my district, and probably into Mr. GOHMERT's as well, with fentanyl, with heroin, and with marijuana, and they are coming in with that. They are taking the cash and anything they can steal back with them.

And so it is a two-way street, so to speak. We have got illegal commerce going both ways through a rope as our defense for our country, a mere rope, an inch of cotton thread.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is amazing.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Amazing.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, he brings up a matter that touched a memory of what was being said by my friend—and sometimes people say that sarcastically—JOHN GARAMENDI is a friend. He is a good man.

But there were people talking before us about the drugs and that 90 percent of the drugs are coming through our legal ports of entry.

I have been contending for some time, having spent so much time on the Texas-Mexico border, we cannot know how much drugs is coming where. They are catching more drugs coming through the legal port of entries. But there have been all hours—virtually every night down on that border south of McAllen, southwest there, where the border patrol tell us: We know. They send a group of people across in the middle of the night; they know we have to all come to start processing them, asking the questions, and we know that is when the big drug shipments come across, and they know we are tied up.

And how do we know how much drugs? Nobody can say there is a percentage.

I now yield to my good friend, RALPH NORMAN.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was there along with him, and I just wanted to emphasize the statement—I don't think I will ever forget—from an angel mom who said: Congressman NORMAN, a wall won't stop everyone. No wall will stop no one.

And put that picture up right there. What we found on the border was—particularly where the wall ended where Mr. GOHMERT showed the rope was.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is a different spot where the wall ended from the one that we are talking about a moment ago.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, right. All along were bottles of water. We walked up on a sleeping bag. We walked up on all types of—

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, he pulled that sleeping bag out, and that was in the area where the wall stopped, was it not?

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, exactly. That is where it stopped. You know, and in talking with these agents, who are drastically understaffed, they can't do—they can't chase down everybody that comes.

I will tell you, every agent we talked with had no hesitation to run after one person or run after a group of 10 or more. And my question to him was: How do you handle that type? That is how dedicated they are. That is how diligent they are. They are sacrificing their safety.

The other thing I would point out that you and I saw to show you how deceptive these drug runners are, they use carpet; they have stitched together a carpet-type that wraps their feet so that you can't tell where they go. You can't track them. And that is all along. You can see where they are going, but you can't see the actual footprint that they are leaving.

The other thing that stuck out to me that I thought was just amazing were to talk to the ranchers. That one rancher had had four home invasions. Now, think about it. How would you like to wake up, as he did, in the middle of the night, with a person dressed in black staring at his wife? How would you like, what the sheriff told us—I am not going to name his name—when his home—a bounty was put on his head. He woke up, because he had surveillance, to see four people coming in to kill him.

□ 2030

How would you like to see the rape trees that you and I saw? Children's underwear, clothing, it really is a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis, as Congressman GRIFFITH mentioned, the drugs in this country, the photo you showed where the ropes were, 60 percent of the heroin comes in there, 40 to 60 percent.

So anybody, once you go down there—and what was sad is when they said we were some of the few who had. Our nine were some of the few who have ever visited the border.

When you put a face with a situation like we saw with the ranchers, like we

saw with the Border Patrol agents, like we saw with the Angel Moms—and the Angel Mom is the one who made the comment about the wall:

A wall's not going to stop everyone. No wall stops no one.

Her husband or her son was killed.

The other Angel Mom we talked to, an illegal alien came in a store. The illegal asked for cigarettes. He gave it. While he was counting change, he shot him in the face. These are the type of real-life stories.

Anybody who says that this thing isn't real, go down to the border. You look at what we saw and I think you will change your mind. And I think that now, if we don't do it now, it will never happen.

Mr. GOHMERT. If my friend will yield for a question.

Did you go in the Sasabe little store there where we stopped?

Mr. NORMAN. I did, Congressman GOHMERT. And to see what they sell, bullets for the drug-runners to carry out.

Mr. GOHMERT. How were those bullets packaged? I had not seen them in a store like that.

Mr. NORMAN. The bullets were packaged in a small plastic bag.

Mr. GOHMERT. Have you ever seen bullets for sale in a plastic bag like that before?

Mr. NORMAN. I have never seen bullets sold like that, and this is what we are dealing with. This is what we are dealing with.

Mr. GOHMERT. What was the other big thing you don't normally see, but it took up a whole row there?

Mr. NORMAN. The rations, the Army MREs.

Mr. GOHMERT. MREs, Meals, Ready-to-Eat.

Mr. NORMAN. MREs, which was food that would last for weeks.

And I guess the other thing is these are professionals. They are armed. The rations that they carry out, they are planning to stay there for a long time, until they get the drugs over, and then they come back.

It is our duty—we are not doing our duty to not stop this or make the effort to stop it.

So, Congressman, I want to thank you for showing the pictures. What makes it real is to go down there and see it. And there is no way you can make the case that this is not a crisis, this is not a safety issue, this is not a—we are in it for the sovereignty of the country.

Mr. GOHMERT. I hope the gentleman can stick around and we can talk some more.

But we have been joined by our friend from northern California, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA. I know his friends and families have endured quite a tragedy this past year with the fire, but I yield to the gentleman for such comments as he might have about our border.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thank you, Mr. GOHMERT, for leading this tonight and for allowing me and some of my colleagues some time on this.

Yes, coming from California, you know, we feel the brunt, as any border State does, especially. But we know it is pervasive through all 50 States of this Nation.

What are the ideals of this country, its founding? We welcome legal immigration. What is so hard about that concept?

Instead, we get into these euphemisms of just immigration or immigrants or migrants. And that is the disservice that is being done by people out there who are listening and watching what we are arguing about here, that we are somehow all against immigration or against migrants or evacuees or refugees, and that couldn't be further off from the truth.

You don't have a sovereign nation if you don't have defined borders that we as a nation set the policy, set what is going to happen with who is going to enter, and so it is chaos.

So, Mr. GOHMERT, we could do DACA after DACA, amnesty after amnesty. Ronald Reagan, in good faith, back in 1986, sat down and hammered something out, and the other side did not adhere to it.

Mr. GOHMERT. What was that something? He signed off on the amnesty. What was it that the other side didn't provide that they had promised in that law?

Mr. LAMALFA. A continued effort at establishing a solid border, a barrier. Mr. NORMAN talked about this as well.

We are not talking about a solid fence for all 2,000 miles. We are talking about a system. We are talking about a system where the fence makes sense, where there would be patrols where you have the type of terrain where you don't need to do a whole lot.

So it is a combination, like any other aspect of—whether it is a sports team, you know, a football offense, you have got linemen, quarterback, running backs, split ends, or even in the military situation.

An Army tank by itself is a good piece of equipment, but you have got to have people in it. You have to have people surrounding it. You have to have air support. It is not that much different an analogy that you have to have an overall system that is tailored to each piece of region there.

So when we have seen our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in previous years, Bill Clinton, right on this floor, talking about the scourge of illegal immigration in this country—Barack Obama, Senator SCHUMER down the hall here, Senator Hillary Clinton, they have all talked about this, and others that I am not naming, they have all talked about the need to do this.

So the question is: What has changed? What has changed in the last 2 years, 4 years, 5 years, when we, just as recently as 2013, had funding put in place in a bipartisan fashion to put stronger and more border barrier up? What has changed?

Is it merely because of the election of Donald J. Trump, and we are all in for

resistance from here till whenever that Presidency ends, that we have to hold hostage the entire country to this concept of merely resistance instead of doing what is right for the border?

This shouldn't be a partisan issue at all, and, in the past, it has proven not to be partisan. It has proven to be what makes sense for our sovereign border. And it is so sad and maddening, I think, for a lot of American people because here we are right now. The line has been drawn on this, and we need to get this done.

Nobody wants to get the government operations open once again that are closed, that are being hampered right now, but there is a combination of things that need to happen here.

What is so appalling is that this President has put a lot of different ideas on the table: a year ago, the four pillars, and recently, with different ideas, different combinations. He has invited every Member of this body to come down to the White House at one time or another and sit and talk about this.

And when the other side roundly rejects the opportunity to have a conversation, that is what we are supposed to always try and do, have a conversation in this body, in this place, where we are duly elected, to hammer out our differences.

We come from such diverse backgrounds and diverse States and diverse districts. Just California alone, 53 different Members of the House, very diverse viewpoints and ideas and geography. It is our job to hammer this stuff out.

Why are Members of this House and over in the Senate getting away with roundly rejecting a conversation about our sovereign borders here, about the need to have a good steel barrier and the other combination, the other system, parts of the system that make the whole thing work? It is appalling, and we need to do better.

Mr. GOHMERT, you were speaking with Mr. NORMAN and others about your recent visit. I have also spent time on the California border, San Ysidro, and a little bit of time in Arizona as well.

Mr. GOHMERT. Has the gentleman been there where the fence is or where the barrier is, like San Diego?

Mr. LAMALFA. The San Diego portion, yes, but not currently, as additional pieces have been done. I need to go back again and see how the newest design is working and such.

But we have had experience at this, and we see that the stations where people are coming through, we have got an incredible amount of volume being done, an incredible job by our personnel there to vet people and vet their vehicles and make sure that stuff is not getting through that should not get through, whether it is drugs or guns or what have you, and they are doing an incredible job.

But we are also doing them a disservice by making it so overwhelming

for them by not giving them the whole system and the whole amount of funding as the President laid out. He wants to put extra border security personnel, I think 2,750, as well as the facilities for those who are coming to meet that border for medical attention and for speeding up the process for those who are seeking asylum.

What is wrong with this package? Or what is wrong with at least the conversation that could be had about well, if it is a little short in some area, then talk to the President, talk to all of us about what needs to be boosted up in it.

Instead, it is a nonconversation, and that is what is so appalling for the American public who are watching this, who are depending on us to uphold our oath for the security of this Nation and of its people.

Mr. GOHMERT. All three of you, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. GRIFFIN, you guys are caring guys, and the Republicans are often castigated as being hard-hearted and not caring. But the stories we have heard from Angel Families and Angel Moms, I know it has affected you guys. We have talked about it.

How anybody can work so hard to get elected to come to this body and not be deeply moved by these stories of families that are ripped apart because someone came in illegally and killed a family member—and I know it is a serious issue.

We don't normally abide separating children from families, even though it is temporary, but there is a point to make sure that children are not handed over to sex traffickers.

But it broke my heart as a felony judge, and it happens in this country over and over every single day of the year, that someone commits a crime and they are taken away; their children are separated from the parent—the parent goes to jail—because we don't believe in incarcerating the children for the father's sins or illegal activity or the mom's. It happens every day.

So it rings kind of hollow to me when people start screaming about that and yet have no compassion whatsoever. We heard from a lot of Angel Moms, so many of those who are so derogatory about Republicans wanting to secure our borders, but they will not even give these moms who have lost precious children a minute of their time to hear these tragic stories.

One of the stories we heard this weekend was there was a group of people who were being smuggled into the country, and as we have talked about before, nowadays, the drug cartels control every inch of our border from the south side—and, some might argue, from our side as well.

There was a wife who was the only female with the group, and they got to the border and they spent, I believe it was, 7 days where the wife was raped by all the other men; and they would hold the husband hostage while the men, for

several nights in a row, raped his wife, and there was nothing he could do about it.

I mean, how hard-hearted do you have to be to not want to stop the invitations of the drug cartels to contribute to that kind of activity?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for his comments.

I hope my friend from California won't have to go far because we have got enough microphones for everybody here.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, that was a horrible story. And what was so interesting was that the people who we were talking to in that group, some of them had helped these folks out when they were found and helped them recover as best they could in that situation. It was just a horrible situation, and it was just one of many stories.

My colleague referenced the rape trees. We heard one of the ranchers tell us that he was out on his property and he saw all this women's underwear, and he picked up three trash bags full of women's underwear. That represents somebody, each one of those, somebody who had been raped.

This is a crisis, as you know. It is a crisis, and it is a crisis of so many dimensions that we are not going to be able to talk about all the different aspects.

One of the ranchers said to me: Why isn't anybody talking about the environment?

It was really interesting. He pointed up to the mountains, and he said: Those mountains used to be filled with Douglas firs.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally, whether it was somebody building a campfire and was negligent or whether it was a diversion by the cartels to pull all the first responders to one end of the county while they ran drugs into the other end of the county, he didn't know, but they burned down that mountain, all the trees on the whole range of mountains.

Mr. GOHMERT. It was over 200,000 acres in one of the fires.

Mr. GRIFFITH. It was.

And he said, you know: That wasn't just old growth. That was virgin forest. Where are the folks who normally care about the environment? Why aren't they saying anything?

And what I found really interesting, he talked about some of the other environmental problems with all the trash and so forth.

Well, the next day, we were talking to border security, and the fellow who was in our car started talking about how once they put the wall up and made it more secure, it was amazing. It just took a few years for the wildlife to come back.

□ 2045

Apparently, where they cross on a regular basis and are having lay-bys—that is where they hang out until they move on to the next camp, and they

leave all their trash and stuff there—a lot of the wildlife had just disappeared. But once they started having a fence like this or the ability to have a road into certain areas and they cut that off, all of a sudden, the wildlife started coming back.

He showed me a picture on his phone that he had taken of a bear. He said: That wasn't here 5, 6, 10 years ago. Now they are back. We have big cats. We have bear. It really is amazing.

He didn't know that, the day before, I had been talking to a rancher about similar issues, that it is a real detriment to the environment.

Then the other thing that probably won't get a lot of attention is that, even if we are not able to build the wall everywhere we want, it channels the folks. Just like we saw on the end of each wall, we saw several segments and you could see the paths. What happens is that you are then channeling the illegal immigrants into a particular area, which makes it easier for the electronic devices and the agents to get in there.

If you have the electronic surveillance, you have the walls, or the wall fence, and you have the border agents with the supplies and the equipment, including dogs and horses, et cetera, that they need, then they know where there are pinch points where they can cut off a lot of this. But it will be an ongoing problem that we will have to deal with as a Nation.

This year is just a part of it. As we close in and close off some areas, we will see other areas where they start going in, in greater numbers. But we will start concentrating on where we can catch more of the drugs coming in.

As my colleague said, the lady had said you won't catch them all, but without a wall, you will not catch any of them. I think that those are two important points.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how the gentleman felt about that, but I would love to hear his opinion on that as well.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask Congressman NORMAN if he would reflect. We heard from a lot of landowners. Individually, we talked to a number of folks on a separate basis.

But, yes, we see here the end of that barrier, all you have to do is just go to the end.

Mr. Speaker, after all the folks we talked to in the last few days, I would like to ask Mr. NORMAN his thoughts about what needs to be done. We have some of our friends across the aisle who say we don't need any kind of barrier. We just need the technical equipment, the cameras, the drones. We don't need a wall.

After what he has seen and heard, I would like to hear his thoughts regarding that.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, specifically about the drones, we were talking to one of the agents, and he said: Tell me one drone that has ever run down an illegal alien and put him in handcuffs? Drones don't do that.

Electronic devices alert you. Like the illegals that we saw at the end of the day who were near us, the cameras picked it up. But you have to have a body, somebody like these brave agents, to go catch them. That is what they do.

But it is just words, as far as I can tell, to anybody who ever witnesses this.

To hear the ranchers, we asked about vacations, with all of the crime. When you see their truck chained in the carport, as we saw, because somebody tried to steal it, we asked how they take a vacation. He said: Well, we have to stagger it.

These are older people. They were 70 and up. At this stage of their life, for them to have to worry about their life, worry about their property being destroyed? How many waterlines did we see that were cut? How many fires did he point to on the mountaintops that were set fire?

So these people are trying to make an honest living. Ranchers are some of the most honest, hardworking people I know. It is in their DNA. For them to have to worry about their safety, about their life, as was described when one of the ranchers went up to the person who was hobbling and he got shot and killed, you know, to hear—

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, that was a family member of some of the folks we were with.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, that was his sister, who could talk about him.

So that is why there is urgency to this thing. And, you know, go down there. Like Congressman GRIFFITH mentioned, this is just a start. The \$5.7 billion, it is a start to really get the job done and add enough fence to help these agents. If you do it for nothing else, help these agents so that at least it is quarantined where they come in.

I compare it to a football game. I think I mentioned I had a friend of mine who is deathly opposed to the wall. I knew he went to the Clemson-Alabama game, and I knew he had tickets. I said: Did you have a problem?

He said: With what?

I said: Getting into the game.

He said: Oh, no. I had a ticket.

I said: Did you go in at one place?

He said: Yeah, I went in at one place. We were in line, not for long.

I said: You couldn't just walk in?

Then he got it. He said: That is different.

I said: Well, wait a minute. If you go to a football game and have it walled off where you had to go to a point of entry, you tell me how that is different than what we are talking about on this wall.

He said, and this astounded me: Well, it wasn't a concrete wall.

I said: Okay. It was a combination of metal. It was a combination of posts, concrete. It was a barrier. How would you feel if people had just walked in there and taken your seat and hadn't paid for it? What is the difference?

He couldn't tell me. He could not tell me, because he couldn't.

That is what we are talking about here, but we are talking about human lives.

Back on that story about the husband who watched the rape, what they did to him is stabbed him. They stabbed him in the side as to make a point that he was to bring the drug money back and watch his wife get raped over a 3-day period.

So if anybody can watch that and see these people, I mean, really.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, that is right. It was seven people raping his wife 3 days in a row.

Mr. NORMAN. Three days in a row.

Mr. GOHMERT. Right. That is it.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do. Now is the time. I applauded the gentleman for having these pictures. This brings it to life.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we were all taking pictures down there.

I want to go to a point about the caravans. We all heard about the caravans. We knew that this was a serious invasion coming. The mainstream, or lame stream, media was trying to say it was a manufactured crisis. These were thousands and thousands of people coming to try to invade this country.

From news reports, it sounded like they were originally heading to Texas, but our Governor made it clear he was going to work with the Federal Government and anybody the President would send, and we were going to do all within Texas' power with Federal help and the military that was there, to keep them from coming in. Then we hear they are heading toward California, Congressman LAMALFA's State.

It sounds like this new caravan that is ginned up may be heading to California, too. I would appreciate the Congressman's comments and thoughts about people heading toward California. People elected him. Surely, they can't be thrilled about an invasion coming like that.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that even Mexico is catching on to this, because, yes, it is about twice as many miles to come from those Central American countries just to gain entrance to the U.S. If you are doing it legally at a point of entry, why wouldn't you go to Texas and go through the process?

It is almost double the mileage to come over toward the California border from Central America, because California has a sanctuary-state and a defy-the-Federal-Government-on-this-work attitude, and so it is a magnet for that.

We are seeing, in Tijuana on the Mexican side of the border there, those folks are fed up with what is going on there.

We are doing a disservice. The other side wants to talk about compassion. Where is the compassion when you are basically fooling people into saying: Oh, I guess we have an open door up there. Let's all go do it. Let's all head that way and get an opportunity.

You are teasing people, basically.

When we talk about compassion, as my colleagues mentioned, as a family, we were talking about this over the weekend. Rape trees? Articles of women's clothing there that are basically trophies for these people, showing who is in charge. It is the gangs at the border? Who are we helping?

Then we talk about the individual names. I can name some Californians here. I will go back to Kate Steinle; Jamiel Shaw; and, more recently, a police officer from central California, Ronil Singh, serving honorably, cut down unnecessarily by people who shouldn't be having access to be able to commit crime in our country.

So where are we? There are a lot of things we need to do.

California, being very heavily involved in agriculture, high-value crops that really don't grow anywhere else in this country, we need a labor force. We need a legal labor force. All this goes hand-in-hand here.

You do the workers a much better service by having them come here with legal documentation, with numbers that we decide as a country, and allow them to take part in what we see fit. They have documents; they are safer.

We have so much more we can do by having a comprehensive approach to legally enforcing our borders and who comes across. It is better for the people and better for those who we ask to come in, and not have them break in.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great point, just a great point.

We have heard from angel moms, angel families here, and they complain that they have tried to talk to our Speaker and others on the other side of the aisle, and they are not given time.

But we heard from additional angel moms and families down in southern Arizona in the last few days. They didn't seem to me to be bitter. They were just heartbroken, seemed like, not only for losing their loved one, but there will continue to be people who were separated from their children forever, not just for the pendency of a hearing, but forever, because we weren't doing our job that we took an oath to do.

Congressman GRIFFITH, what about those meetings struck you?

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I mean, we heard from so many people, and the ones who had lost loved ones really just wanted to try to make a difference. They just wanted to make a difference to make their communities safer, to make it safer for everybody. They are not going to bring back their family member, but they want to make the whole area safer.

They believe that it is a crisis. Every one of them believed it was a crisis.

One night, we were having dinner, and a lady who didn't know we were from the United States Congress walked over because she recognized one of the local officials and said we have to do something on the border—spontaneously. We are just in town having dinner.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, she didn't know who we were.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, she had no idea who we were until she walked over and said that and then was invited to address us: Well, you have some Members of the United States Congress here. Why don't you tell them what you think we need to do?

There wasn't any question. These folks who live right down there on the border, they believe that the wall, fence, whatever you want to call that structure there in your picture, they believe that that helps, that it is not the whole equation, but that it is a big help and that we have to do it.

They were very encouraging to us, to a person, to continue to work hard to try to secure that border, to stop this humanitarian crisis, to stop our security crisis, to stop the environmental crisis.

That one person was adamant that this is devastating. He was an environmentalist person who really was very, very concerned about what had happened to the ecology in his area and to the environment. He attributes that directly to the flood of not a handful of people, but tens of thousands coming across.

One of the ranchers that we talked to, their ranch is looking at 10,000 or more people coming across there every year.

We are not talking about a trickle. We are talking about a flood. We are talking about a crisis.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I know some on the left try to say, oh, this is because you are a xenophobe or afraid of Hispanics. I know this is a generalization, but personally, in my opinion, I think the three things that helped make America the greatest country in history were a love of God, a love of family, and a hard-work ethic.

Generally speaking, when I look at the Hispanic culture, all my friends, they have a love of God, tremendous devotion to family, kind of like a lot of people in my hometown used to have, but don't have.

□ 2100

I think the Hispanic culture can help reinvigorate what made America the greatest country in the world. I want those folks coming. But like Congressman LAMALFA was saying: Legally. I know Congressman LAMALFA has got a lot of agriculture, and it takes a lot of workers who are willing to get out there and sweat. I hear it is harder and harder to find those folks. We know it. Hispanic folks are some of the hardest working folks I have ever been around. But, as Congressman LAMALFA said, it has got to be legal.

Some people are saying: Well, so what is it going to take? Why don't you throw out there on the table so many more visas? And my contention is: We have been through this in '86, again when Clinton was President; how many times do we have to be fooled?

I keep contending: We secure the border and we can work this out. We are

already the most generous country in the history of the world when it comes to legally allowing people to come into this country. Nobody gives a million visas like we do—over a million. But, even then, we can still get the workers we need, we can do what we need.

But as long as that border is porous—it is silly to keep luring more people in with the hope that they will be given amnesty before we secure the border, because then we will see more and more of the human tragedy that both gentlemen have been talking about.

California has had its share of human tragedy at the hands of illegal aliens, but so has the whole country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from California (Mr. LAMALFA) one more time, and then I would like to hear from my friend, Congressman GRIFFITH, before we wrap this up.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line, for our personnel on the border, our Border Patrol folks: this infrastructure helps them to do their job much easier, with much less risk. We are talking about the stadium analogy. Having a focused effort where they don't have to run every mile. They can put one every 10 miles, one officer every 10 miles.

Mr. GOHMERT. By the way, we saw, last week, a big photograph of a massive metal barrier around the perimeter of the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Somebody there knows that walls or fences work when they are combined with security.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Of course they do. They have worked for millennia. The argument these days is really very specious on this.

I throw it right back: How is it compassionate to put people at risk with the magnet this country is, the opportunity it is, when we are making people take horrendous risk, whether it is the men in the family, their wives, their children, the separation, and all the things that happen. That is not compassion at all. It, indeed, is a horrendous crime against them, by giving them these mixed signals.

We need to have a legal process for people who want to come here to work, who want to come here for education, whatever it is. I do not see the downside of anything they have argued about here tonight; Mr. GRIFFITH on the environmental side of it, the wildlife and all that. There is no downside to what we are talking about. Once we put this barrier in place and that infrastructure is paid for, it will pay for itself many, many, many times over, not just in tax dollars, but in people's lives, in people's quality of life, in this country and those that would approach it.

There is no negative argument to this, other than the rhetoric out there in this resistance movement that is seeming trying to cash out, I guess, in terms of elections.

When we are talking about the census that is coming up here, the number

of illegal immigrants that are in California is probably untold.

But here is a distortion that happens in California: We may have up to three or more Members of Congress in the State who are representing a population that is not legal here, which is unfair to the other 49 States and their representation because they should be counting citizens and not illegal aliens in this country in that State.

Mr. GOHMERT. So you are going on the record as saying, you believe the question of citizen or noncitizen should be on the census?

Mr. LAMALFA. Absolutely. I think anybody with common sense would look at it that way.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, that would exclude some of our Federal judges, apparently.

Mr. LAMALFA. I can't speak for everything.

Yeah, the common sense seems to be lost because of this obfuscation, the resistance, and what have you that is a political end.

Normal people sitting around their kitchen table would say: Yeah, that is right, we should count citizens.

We treat people, otherwise, humanely in this country, we help them. We need to help people where they come from. Whether we are talking about the refugee situation, whether it is in the Middle East, or in Central America, help them to thrive where they are, help them to beat back the things that are causing the problems there, whether it is the drug cartel. We shouldn't have the magnet of drug use in this country, but that is a whole other discussion and battle. But let's help them where they are. We are that compassionate country that will do so. We can't be a magnet for, basically, an erased border and think that is going to provide a solution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time tonight, and my colleagues for bringing this argument forward. I hope the American people can hear that we care about all human life. We do. But address it in a way that works as a sovereign nation and for other nations as well.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAMALFA, and I thank my friend, Congressman NORMAN, who was here earlier, for their comments.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to extend that barrier just a little further. It is too easy to walk around the end. Where it is there, it does a lot of good.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for his comments.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS and Congressman GOSAR for inviting us out there to see this, making the arrangements for us to meet with people who live on the border, people who work on the border, people who are trying to secure America's border and are putting their lives on the line, and they know that. They have had friends and family members

who have died. I appreciate them inviting us down. And I appreciate Congressman GOHMERT for having this time this evening and giving me an opportunity to talk about some of the things I saw. This discussion will continue because there is a crisis on the American border.

I yield back.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GRIFFITH. I appreciate his wisdom. I always have and always will.

I, again, echo the comments he made about thanking Congressman ANDY BIGGS, for arranging this, and PAUL GOSAR for his help. They are both fantastic Members of Congress from Arizona.

I thank Arizona for sending ANDY BIGGS and PAUL GOSAR here. They are invaluable.

I hope we are going to be able to help Arizona finish—look, the President has already backed off of the \$25 billion requested. I thought that was an exceedingly reasonable request when you look at the damage occurring to families all over America, and especially to the families of people who are being lured in here to their death or detriment.

Let's move that fence a little further along. Let's get an agreement done so that we can help out these landowners and the people who are suffering, so no more people will be stabbed, even though they were not American citizens, stabbed and forced to watch your wife be repeatedly raped. I mean, how callous do you have to be to say: No, we don't want to deal with that problem; we are going to allow that to keep going? How callous do you have to be?

As we understand it, the family member—we have talked to his sister—he went out there and always provided water and food to people who were illegally crossing into the United States and were illegally on their property, and yet he ends up being shot dead in the head.

It is time to start doing more to protect Americans. It is time to start doing more out of compassion for the people of Mexico to dry up the tens of billions of dollars every year going to the drug cartels. Let's extend the barriers where we need it. Let's do the humane thing for our friends south of the border, and especially those people to whom we have taken an oath to protect their constitution, including them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to properly yield and reclaim time in debate.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of weather affecting travel.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical appointment.