

new immigrants is limited, and that our inability, or unwillingness, to control illegal immigration effectively is threatening our ability to continue to welcome legal immigrants.

Illegal immigration has already had an enormous effect on public services and labor markets in certain areas of the country, and the problems will only get worse. The overwhelming passage of proposition 187 in California, which seeks to deny education and non-emergency health care to illegal immigrants, is an indication of how serious this issue has become. But while that initiative was based on many legitimate concerns, even its most ardent proponents concede that proposition 187 will have little real effect on slowing illegal immigration. We need, most of all, to concentrate on controlling our borders, strengthening and enforcing our work eligibility law, and reducing or removing incentives that too often have the inadvertent effect of encouraging illegal immigration.

The bills I am submitting today—all of which I introduced in the last Congress—are, I believe, all necessary parts of any successful effort to solve the illegal immigration problem.

The first bill would require the Federal Government to develop a tamper-proof Social Security card that every American would use to prove work eligibility. Under the employer sanctions law established under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 [IRCA], 29 different documents may be presented by job applicants to prove work eligibility. This system has not only given rise to a vast multimillion dollar underground industry in forged documents, but has also created considerable confusion among employers and, as documented by the General Accounting Office, has resulted in widespread discrimination against American citizens and legal residents who may appear foreign. Until we simplify the law and establish a single acceptable tamper-proof work authorization document, existing provisions of law prohibiting illegals from working in the United States will remain unenforceable, and discrimination will continue.

The second bill would establish the Border Patrol as an independent agency within the Department of Justice. By the end of this fiscal year, we will have increased the size of the Border Patrol by over 33 percent in just 2 years; we have already added more agents, approximately 1,350, to the Border Patrol in 2 years than the Reagan and Bush administrations added in 12 years; and we have authorized a doubling of the size of the Border Patrol over the next 4 years. While additional funding and personnel are still necessary, we also need to focus on the administrative restructuring that will enable the Border Patrol to fulfill its mission. The Immigration and Naturalization Service's [INS] dual missions of providing necessary services to legal immigrants, and policing the border, are inherently contradictory. As the law enforcement agency charged with closing the border to drug traffickers and smugglers as well as illegal aliens, the Border Patrol requires independence from the INS, as well as a substantial increase in manpower, in order to meet its responsibilities without having to compete with the INS for the resources to do so.

The third bill I am introducing proposes an amendment to the Constitution to restrict automatic citizenship at birth to U.S.-born children of legal residents and citizens. The 14th

amendment to the Constitution, in order to confer citizenship on newly freed slaves after the Civil War, guaranteed citizenship to all people born in the United States. Since the United States did not limit immigration in 1868 when the amendment was approved, and the question of citizenship for children of illegal immigrants was therefore never addressed, the language has had the inadvertent effect of conferring citizenship on U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants. This policy is blatantly unfair to the millions of people who have petitioned for legal entry into the United States, and it provides an incentive for entering the country illegally.

Mr. Speaker, we took major steps last Congress to address the illegal immigration problem. We dramatically increased the size and funding of the Border Patrol; we required the Federal Government for the first time to reimburse States and local governments for the costs of incarcerating illegal immigrants who have committed felonies; we provided nearly full funding for expedited deportation and asylum proceedings, including overseas enforcement activities; and we increased penalties for human trafficking, document fraud, and for reentering or failing to depart the United States after a final deportation order.

There is more, however, that we can and must do. The measures I am introducing today are three very powerful steps we can take to help solve the illegal immigration problem, and yet do so in a way that is decent and humane, and that fits our traditional national values about openness and ethnic diversity.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting these bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CLAUDE HARRIS, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, many of us are still mourning the loss of the Honorable Claude Harris, a former distinguished Member of this body, who until his untimely death on October 3, 1994, was serving as the U.S. Attorney for the northern district of Alabama.

A moving editorial tribute to Congressman Harris, written by one of Mr. Harris' longtime friends and associates, Mr. Robert Betz, was recently published in Mr. Betz' Federal Legislative Report. In short, it states that Claude Harris was a real public servant, patriot, statesman, and friend to all people.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of time, I ask that the aforementioned article be printed in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and that a copy be sent to his family in Tuscaloosa, AL.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE HARRIS

Sometimes in the space of the Federal Health Policy Report, I pause to comment to the readers about personal issues related to the work of the Alabama Hospital Association in Washington, DC.

It is in this spirit that I want to say a word about the late Claude Harris, former prosecutor and circuit court judge, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Attorney, and my friend. People often ask me

who I think in Congress is a real public servant, patriot, statesman, or just someone who has not lost touch with "folks back home." Claude Harris was such a man. He was also a friend of the hospitals of Alabama. He was a man of honor, courage and humility and although I cannot say for sure, I believe Claude Harris walked in the light of God.

I met Claude in 1987 when he first came to Washington as a brand new member of the Alabama congressional delegation. He drove himself to Washington pulling a U-Haul van of which he was splitting the cost with his Administrative Assistant, Walter Braswell. I took him to dinner the first week he was here and we stayed up late talking about issues. He impressed on me then, as now, how he had a firm grip on himself and his ego. Recognizing that there were things he needed to learn, he carefully developed a reputation for listening to many voices and opinions. After six years he still viewed his role in Congress not as a life-long entitlement but as a steward with a great responsibility to his country, his state and his district.

His staff loved him. Unlike many congressional offices, Claude had a very small staff that he worked hard and paid well. I remember the day I walked into his office to drop off a paper and there was his entire staff sitting in his office eating fried chicken out of a big tin bucket with Claude. It wasn't the private members' dining room, it was a commander eating with his troops.

Speaking militarily, Claude continued to serve as a colonel in the Alabama Army National Guard the whole time he was in Congress, making the long trip back to his unit after a grilling week in Washington. When Desert Storm came along I saw him at his most worried. He agonized about the safety of the men and women from his state that were serving their country in a dangerous situation.

When the future husband of one of his staff members finally got up the nerve to propose to her, Claude escorted the two of them to the top of the U.S. Capitol so the young man could pop the question. This is a members-access-only privilege and one of the toughest stair climbs in the world. Claude took the time to do this to make it special for one of his staff people. No wonder his staff adored him.

There are many good people who work in Washington and in government in general. Sometimes I think the bad apples get all the press. That's why the untimely passing of Claude Harris is such a loss. When he was in Washington, the hospitals of the state of Alabama had no greater friend. When he voluntarily stepped down so that a colleague could have a better shot at a newly drawn district, he was sad but not about losing the seat so much as there was so much more he wanted to do.

I realize that I only got to be a part of Claude Harris' life. I am sure that his other friends will have other viewpoints on a multifaceted man. However, what I saw impressed me greatly. Specifically, it boiled down to this—he was someone who understood the importance of viewing Washington's follies from a seat of sanity on the front porch of an honest perspective. I can't say that about many. Claude Harris may, in fact, have been what Thomas Jefferson had in mind when he talked about a citizen government.

In my years of working in Washington, AlaHA has had many friends. None of them has been greater than Claude Harris. My deepest condolences to his wife Barbara and to his family, and to the many friends that will mourn the passing of this good man and public servant.