

Denying basic safety net services to non-citizens who, in many cases, have resided in the United States for much of their lives, discriminates among residents who have paid their taxes, contributed to the growth of the U.S. economy, served in the Armed Forces, and, like millions of their native-born counterparts, have played by the rules in the hope of realizing their own American dream.

This legislation would erode basic American values by denying equal treatment under law to law-abiding taxpayers who have done nothing but choose to make the United States their home. This bill punishes legal immigrants for making that decision.

This legislation also robs communities all over the country of the taxes paid by legal immigrant residents—taxes that would be taken by the Federal Government, but not returned to those same communities in the form of health care and other needed benefits. Recent studies show that immigrants pay \$25 to \$30 billion more in taxes each year than they use in services. Such funds will no longer flow back to our local communities under this bill.

This bill would also deny basic survival assistance to children who are legal permanent residents. Most of these children will go to school, and some day work, and pay taxes, and contribute to American society together with our own children. Denying them benefits is a failure to invest in our own future.

Mr. Chairman, the anti-immigrant provisions contained in this extreme Republican measure are ill-conceived and mean-spirited. They will result in increased costs to our cities and States and will worsen the discrimination already felt by many in our Nation's immigrant communities.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 4 and vote for the Mink substitute.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DENNIS BERGE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow educator from San Diego State University who passed away this month—Dr. Dennis Berge.

Dr. Berge dedicated his life to our community and our country. He taught at Crawford and Hoover High Schools in San Diego and, in 1963, joined the faculty at San Diego State, where he taught until his retirement in 1992.

I was privileged to be a History Department colleague of Dr. Berge's for more than two decades. Dr. Berge authored many articles and reviews on western U.S. history and the city of San Diego, but was best known as an expert on the history of the Mexican-American War, U.S. continental expansionism and the American West. He was an active member of the Western Historical Society and the Organization of American Historians. As a professor, he was known to his students for his thoughtful lectures, rigorous intellectual standards, and careful attention to the academic needs of his students.

Dr. Berge served in the Army during the Korean war and commanded an armored platoon. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action near Soubyok, Korea, on July 11, 1953.

After being discharged from the Army as a first lieutenant in November 1953, he resumed his studies at San Diego State University, where he received his Bachelor and Master of Arts Degrees in History. He subsequently received a Ph.D. in History at the University of California, Berkeley.

As a faculty member at San Diego State University, he assumed numerous administrative duties such as Chair of the Department of History for 6 years and member of the Faculty Senate.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Priscilla Ann, and his family.

STEP-UP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of this body a program in my district of Florida which has shown great promise in moving people from welfare to work.

The program, created by the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority, is called Step-Up. It is designed to provide people living in poverty with the skills they need to remove themselves from public assistance by allowing the housing authority to hire people who live in its units to do renovation work on its property.

Program participants are paid \$4.30–4.50 an hour, work an average of 32 hours per week, and must join a high school equivalency program. Those who finish will have two options: A scholarship at the local Broward Community College, or continuing with work and training. Participants, young adults between the ages of 18 to 25, learn trades from outside contractors who are asked to donate training and materials to the project.

Mr. Speaker, everybody will benefit from this program. Unskilled young adults will be trained and educated, and sorely needed renovations will be made to public housing stock. The Step-Up Program provides meaningful options through opportunities for employment, job training, and educational achievement. It will enable people who have traditionally been socially and economically disenfranchised to move from government dependency to self-sufficiency and employability.

I salute the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority and all of the people who have made this program possible. And I encourage housing authorities all over America to look to this program as a model for teaching our children viable and valuable skills, giving them hope, and helping them secure an education and a future.

LEGISLATION TO CHANGE BUDGET SCOREKEEPING RULES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, Jr.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced legislation, H.R. 1325, to change the current budget scorekeeping rules as they relate to Federal real estate transactions. As

chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds in the last Congress, I held several hearings on the way in which the Office of Management and Budget scores Federal real estate transactions. The hearings underscored previous findings by the General Accounting Office that the Federal Government is wasting hundreds of millions dollars a year in unnecessary long-term leases. This waste is due primarily to the fact that current budget scorekeeping rules prevent the General Services Administration from pursuing a full range of financing options to meet the Federal Government's office space needs.

In response to these findings, I moved in a bipartisan fashion and introduced legislation to solve the problem. The bill I introduced in the last Congress, H.R. 2680, was co-sponsored by leaders from both parties on the Committee, including NORMAN MINETA, BUD SHUSTER, JOHN DUNCAN and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

In the summer of 1994, H.R. 2680 was approved by the Public Works and Transportation Committee and referred to the Government Operations Committee. Last August, the Government Operations Committee heard testimony from NORM MINETA and myself on behalf of the legislation as part of a series of hearings the committee held on the budget process. Unfortunately, the bill was never acted on by the House prior to adjournment. The bill I introduced last week, H.R. 1325, is identical to the bill I introduced in the last Congress.

H.R. 1325 would change Federal budget accounting rules to allow GSA to utilize a full range of financing mechanisms in meeting Federal office space needs. Under current Federal budget scorekeeping rules, which were established in the 1990 Budget Act, the entire cost of a Federal construction project or building purchase, must be scored in the first year of the project, rather than amortized over the actual construction period, or over the expected life of a purchased building. For leases, the rules require that only the annual rent costs be scored. The end result is that operating leases have become the most attractive vehicle for GSA, the Federal Government's real estate arm, to meet the housing needs of Federal agencies—even through in the long-term it is the most costly.

The bill amends the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to treat Federal real estate transactions in the same manner they were treated prior to the implementation of the 1990 Budget Act. The bill would allow GSA to utilize alternative financing mechanisms, such as lease-purchases or time financing.

In 1975 GSA's leasing budget was \$388 million. In 1994 GSA is slated to spend more than \$2.5 billion on Federal leases. A December 1989 report issued by GAO analyzed 43 projects that GSA might have undertaken if capital financing were available to replace space that GSA would otherwise lease. GAO estimated that, over a 30-year period, constructing the 43 projects instead of leasing, would have saved taxpayers \$12 billion.

Financing by lease purchase is inappropriately being compared by OMB to direct Federal construction, when the correct comparison should be with the cost long-term leasing. My goal is to ensure that GSA has all the financing tools available to the private sector. Currently GSA does not have the ability to get the