

NAFTA, GATT, and other weak trade policies.

We had a trade deficit of \$153 billion last year, Mr. Speaker. Most economists say that we lose at least 20,000 jobs for each \$1 billion. That means we lost over 3 million jobs last year due to imports, 3 million jobs lost to other countries. We simply cannot keep letting this happen every year. We do not want a trade war, Mr. Speaker, but we seem to be in one now and we seem to be losing.

We have thousands and thousands of college graduates who cannot find jobs in the fields for which they trained, so they are taking jobs as waiters and waitresses. And certainly this is honorable employment but not what they had hoped and dreamed and worked for. Or they are going to law school or medical school, fields in which there are already huge surpluses.

Our unemployment rate is relatively low. We wish it was lower. But while unemployment is fairly low, our underemployment rate is terrible.

□ 2245

If we are ever going to do anything about this horrendous under employment, we have to turn this Nation around. We have to show more concern for our own people. We should not be against anybody, but at the same time we need to put our own people and our own Nation first, even if we get called names by the liberal elitists and others who worry about being politically correct more than they worry about anything else.

Over riding all of these other problems, Mr. Speaker, is our national debt over \$5 trillion. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the reason we are not more concerned about this national debt is that many people do not fully realize how harmful it is to them. Almost every economist tells us that this national debt is really holding this country back economically and that it puts our economy on a very shaky footing.

Times are good now for some people, Mr. Speaker, but they could and should be good for everyone. People making \$5 or \$6 an hour could be making \$15 or \$20 an hour, or more, if our Federal Government was under control from a spending, taxing, and particularly from a regulatory standpoint.

President Clinton, when he was campaigning in 1992, said he could balance the budget in 5 years. Now, in 1996, he reluctantly says 7 years from now is the best we can do. And the truth is that almost no one believes we will really do it even then.

The American people should be upset by this. They should be angry. But far too many think everything is all right because the stock market is booming. But could this be the lull before the storm? It will be unless we start doing what is right.

The right thing to do, Mr. Speaker, is to balance our budget this year, not 7 years from now. The right thing to do is to lower taxes on working families.

The average person pays half of his or her income in taxes now, counting taxes of all types: Federal, State and local, sales, property, income, gas, excise, Social Security, and on and on.

The right thing to do is to drastically downsize our Government and decrease its costs. Right now only Government bureaucrats and fat cat Government contractors are benefiting. The few are benefiting at the expense of the many.

The right thing to do is to let our own people keep more of their own money so more families could stay together. The kindest, most compassionate thing we could do for our children is to create another high-sounding Government program, but the kindest, most compassionate thing to do would be to let parents keep more of their own money so they can do more good things for their own children. The question is, do we want to spend the money on the bureaucrats and their unbelievable administrative costs, or do we want to spend the money on our children? Even our crime rate, Mr. Speaker, would go down if we could downsize our Government and decrease its cost.

I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge before coming to Congress. Every study, every single one, shows that almost all felony crimes are committed by men who come from father-absent households. Most marriages; one recent study said 59 percent of all marriages break up over finances.

In 1950 the Federal Government took 2 percent in taxes from the average family. State and local governments took a similar amount. Today the Federal Government takes almost 25 percent, and State and local governments a similar amount. Is it any wonder then, Mr. Speaker, that families do not have what they need to stay together and that our crime rate and many other problems grow worse?

We can do much better, Mr. Speaker, much better, and almost all our problems would be much less serious if we get our Government under control and let the people take control of this Nation once again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE MYTH OF THE MAGIC BUREAUCRAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Tonight I want to talk a little bit about actually building off the comments of my colleague about the need to downsize Government. I think we, as a Nation, have kind of become afflicted with what I

call the myth of the magic bureaucrat. What is the magic bureaucrat, or what is the myth of the magic bureaucrat? The myth of the magic bureaucrat is the widely accepted belief that Government bureaucrats spending taxpayer money can solve all of our Nation's problems. More importantly, the description says that a magic bureaucrat is more able to spend our money more effectively than what the taxpayer can.

Why is this a myth? The magic bureaucrat is a myth because it is popular and it is a widely held belief, but it is fundamentally untrue and unsustainable by objective reality.

Who believes this myth? Mr. Speaker, I believe that the President and many other policy-makers in Washington believe this myth. What does a magic bureaucrat do? A magic bureaucrat creates illusions like David Copperfield and the great Houdini.

Tonight we want to just talk about two of these great illusions that have been created by the magic bureaucrat.

Mr. Speaker, we had hearings on one of these today at the oversight subcommittee. Bureaucrats at the corporation for national service, they are trying to convince the committee, they are trying to convince the American people, that a Federal corporation can do a better job of volunteerism and community service than actual volunteers in the community and actual nonprofit organizations that have been a heritage of this Nation for as long as we have been in existence.

That is the myth, that they can do it better. The reality is they cannot do volunteerism, they cannot do community service. As a matter of fact, what we pointed out in the hearing today is they cannot even keep the books straight.

A second myth is one that has been perpetuated or is being developed by the bureaucrats at the Department of Education, and that is that the Department of Education can do Federal loans or student loans more effectively than the private sector. We have a colleague here who would like to just describe that illusion for us.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. The facts are as follows:

There are 900,000 financial aid applications that are backlogged, and the article, Chronicle of Higher Education, the article entitled "Sorting Out a Foul Up In Student Aid" says the following. Student aid experts say their backlog of 900,000 financial aid applications was caused by mismanagement of the Department of Education and that it calls into question the department's ability to manage the student aid system.

I congratulate the gentleman for having oversight hearings in this whole area of the Government trying to do for the private sector what we know the private sector can do best, volunteering and run a program of lending money. If the administration has its way, the student loan portfolio will be

turned over to the Federal Government through the Department of Education, and they will not only process the applications, they will become bankers collecting the money for the taxpayer, lending the money as a bank would do. I suggest to you, Mr. HOEKSTRA, that would be a disastrous event, that they have a 900,000 backlog in just processing applications.

Can you imagine if they also lent the money and had to collect the money?

And their excuse for a 900,000 backlog is it snowed and the Government shut down 21 days. Both are false. The private sector gets up and goes to work when it snows because they are in it as a way of making their living. The Government shutdown did not effect the ability to process these loans because contractors are the main source of doing the processing. It just shows how inefficient the magic bureaucrats are, and, when analyzed against the facts, they do not do very well.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. These are just 2 examples: The Corporation for National Service, the direct lending program. There are many more. Bureaucrats at the Commerce Department know another myth is that the bureaucrats at the Commerce Department know how to create high-skilled, high-paying jobs better than American entrepreneurs, that bureaucrats at the Department of Education know better than parents, and teachers, and local schools how to run a tutoring or mentoring program in their local community.

The bottom line is who pays for these magic shows? It is the American people. It is you and I. How much have we spent? Trillions.

The real question that the American people have to ask is can we afford any more of these shows. You be the judge.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GRAHAM. While you are conducting hearings, there is another area that I would like you to look into that I have asked the GAO to investigate, and that is that there are millions of dollars of unreconciled money responsible by the Department of Education. We need to find out where the money is at.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I thank the gentleman for his suggestion. We will pursue that.

#### DETERMINING WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO WORK LEGALLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, few current events affect our Nation so dramatically as does the record-breaking number of illegal aliens entering our country year after year. Illegal immigration is a national crisis. Although my State of California bears the brunt of this problem, illegal immigration is a national dilemma. It affects every hard-working, taxpaying citizen of our country.

Tomorrow, with several of my colleagues, I am going to be offering an amendment to the immigration bill, H.R. 2202. Our amendment would call for a mandatory pilot program in five of the seven States most impacted by illegal immigration. It would require that employers call a 1-800 number to check the eligibility to work of a newly hired employee. This amendment simply puts back into the bill the original language that was passed by the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The requirement that illegal aliens be verified for work eligibility is crucial to true immigration reform. Contrary to much misinformation, this amendment does not, and I repeat, does not, establish a national ID card or even a system by which a worker can be tracked throughout their career. In fact, this amendment does none of the following:

It does not require any new data to be supplied by the employee.

It does not require any new personal information of the employee.

It does not create a new Government data base.

It cannot be expanded into a national program without a specific vote by Congress.

Now those of you that know me and have followed my voting record are well aware that I am very much opposed to any more Government intrusion into our lives. I have stated time and time again that I am opposed to any sort of tracking system or national ID card, and I firmly hold these beliefs.

This amendment would simply use information that is already required by the Social Security Administration. The opportunity to work in the United States has acted like a magnet, drawing hundreds and thousands to this country. Unfortunately, many of those who have come to this country seeking employment have skirted our legal immigration system and have made a mockery of our current laws.

This amendment is about jobs, American jobs. Those that come to this country illegally should not be granted the opportunity to take the jobs of American workers, and recent studies demonstrate that illegal aliens often take jobs that could otherwise be filled by American workers. Our amendment allows an easy, reliable enforcement mechanism for verifying worker eligibility.

Now for the past decade employers have been prohibited from knowingly hiring illegal aliens. To verify new hires, current law requires employers to check the identity and work eligibility documents of all new employees. The system, the current one for verifying worker eligibility, has been a complete failure. Not only has the current system failed to discourage legal aliens from seeking jobs in America, but it also has turned employers into de facto INS agents, and without the means to effectively determine a worker's eligibility, employers have had to face a double-edged sword. If they hire an ille-

gal alien to work for them, well, employers are faced with civil penalties imposed by the Federal Government. If they question a prospective employee about their eligibility, employers face the possibility of a lawsuit charging discrimination.

Further adding to this dilemma, the easy availability of counterfeit documents has made verification of authentic documents a joke. In southern California alone, Federal agencies, 2.5 million fraudulent documents from 1989 to 1992.

Now the amendment we are offering will correct this problem. Employers would simply make a toll free inquiry through telephones or electronic means to match new employee's names, Social Security and alien identification numbers against existing Social Security Administration and INS data. This type of verification would be easy, effective since employers would already have to check for every new employee that they hire. Employers would not be tempted to hire only those who look for sound American. In addition, this type of verification would take the onus off the employer to determine who is eligible to work legally.

Now I have talked to business men and women and constituents of my district, and there is overwhelming support for this amendment. It is an effective tool. In fact, in southern California there has been a program that has been tested over the past year by 220 employers with more than 88,000 workers.

□ 2300

In more than 25 separate verifications, 99.9 percent were satisfactorily resolved within a 5- to 10-day period. So, because of this, I just would urge my colleagues to look at this amendment, and I hope that they will support this amendment tomorrow.

#### THE NEED TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF FDA REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues some very important issues that will be facing the 104th Congress in this second session. Mr. Speaker, I speak of FDA reform, Food and Drug Administration reform.

We know that many Americans are waiting for the approval of drugs or medical devices, because FDA has been so far mired down in overregulation and delay. I believe that it is a bipartisan effort that we are undertaking here in the House to make sure we speed up the approval of medical devices and pharmaceuticals. The legislation which I have introduced, H.R. 1995 and H.R. 2290, will in fact address for the biotech and the pharmaceutical fields speeding