

THE AMERICAN IMMIGRATION
CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, America is in the midst of another crisis. It is not just the energy crisis that we face and that was so lengthily dealt with here for the last hour. It is almost ironic, I suppose, that I end up following a discussion of the energy crisis in California, because a lot of what I have to say this evening revolves around that crisis, but it takes perhaps a little bit of a different look at the reason why we have such a crisis.

I believe very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that America is in the midst of an immigration crisis, a crisis far greater in terms of its impact on the United States of America than the energy crisis that presently confronts us in several States and perhaps even around the country.

Since 1970, more than 40 million foreign descendants have been added to the local communities of the United States. Just last month, the New York Times reported that the Nation's population grew by more people in the 1990s than in any other decade in United States history.

Is it not time that we ask ourselves, what level of immigration is best for America and what level of immigration into the United States is even good for the rest of the world, to help the rest of the world?

These can be difficult questions to ask about immigration, because we recall, all of us here I am sure, our own families coming to the United States, entering probably through Ellis Island during the height of the immigration period that we sometimes refer to as the golden age of immigration, the early 1900's, the late 1800's. That was a period of time most people believe that the greatest number of immigrants entered the United States through those gates.

That is incorrect, Mr. Speaker. It is a myth. The greatest number of immigrants ever taken into the United States during the "golden age" of immigration was 200,000, approximately 200,000.

Every year, every year, for the last 8 years at least, exactly five times that many immigrants enter the United States legally. Our immigration cap now is approximately 1 million people, plus another 300,000 or 400,000 that we classify as looking for refuge. This would be refugee status. So we have about 1.3 million or 1.4 million immigrants coming into the Nation every year legally. We have probably double that many people coming into the United States illegally every year; and when I say "coming in," we probably have 10 million people coming in, but we end up with about a 2 million person net gain every year, from illegal immigration alone.

Now, what does this mean? Numbers like this are really quite extraordinary. If I could get a page to put up one of the charts over there, I will refer to it in just a moment.

I think back to my own family's background, and certainly I am a relative newcomer to the United States. My grandparents came here in the late 1890's. They settled, all of them, in Colorado, in and around the Denver metropolitan area, strange as it seems, because most people had some intervening place they stayed, New York or Chicago or someplace like that. But not mine. They came right to Colorado.

I often talked with my grandparents, my grandfather specifically, about the trip over from Italy to the United States and the kind of trials and tribulations that he faced. It is an interesting story. I certainly enjoy it. I tell my friends about it. I enjoy my heritage. I understand perfectly the desire for anybody to come to the United States, especially poor people, as my grandparents certainly were. They were looking for a better life. I completely sympathize with all of those people who are looking for that better life. I am sure that if I were in their shoes, I would be trying to do exactly the same thing they are doing, get to the United States.

But we have another responsibility here in the United States. It is to our own country and to our own countrymen, because at some point in time we have to wonder how many more people we can absorb and how many more people this Nation can afford to provide for.

I know all of the issues that have been debated about immigration and about immigration reform. Many people suggest that we have no reason to be concerned about massive immigration across our borders, that in fact it is an issue of economics; that the more people we let in, the more lower priced help we have, the lower priced labor that businesses can access, meaning in the long run lower prices for the American consumer.

Well, I will tell you, what that is is really a euphemistic way of describing what happens when immigrants come here, especially illegal immigrants. They come here, and they are, oftentimes, unfortunately, given jobs that perhaps other Americans would not take, and they are exploited. They are exploited oftentimes by the employer, who pays them less or will not give them the benefits they deserve, because he knows that this person is probably not going to go and complain about it, because they are probably here illegally anyway. Even legal immigrants have an effect of depressing the wage base for people with mid or low skills, low-level skills.

So, immigration of this nature, of this kind, massive immigration, is five times greater just in terms of the legal immigration coming into the country, five times greater than it ever was during the heyday of immigrants coming

to the United States around the turn of the century, the last century.

□ 1700

Well, these numbers have an impact on everything in the United States. It has an impact on the quality of life that we all share here.

Do you ever wonder why, when you are driving down the street and you remember that just a few months ago, maybe even a month ago, when you went past this very same point that was at that time a nice pasture land or open area, a greenbelt, do you remember thinking to yourself, gosh, is it not amazing? Now all of these houses are being built here, all these apartments are being built. Is it not incredible how many cars are on the road? I cannot get to work anymore in the same amount of time that it took me just a few short months ago to get here. What is going on? How come there is so much talk about growth? How come there is so much concern about growth in the United States? Is it because our country, the people who live here are simply having so many kids that they are placing this kind of infrastructural pressure on the system? No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case.

The chart I have on the easel down in the well is a very interesting chart. It is a population chart starting in the year 1970. The green area on the bottom is what we would identify as the population growth in this Nation from those people who are already here. These are what we would call indigenous Americans. The fact is that we have had population growth among that group. We call it the baby boomers. There has been a baby boom echo; and it has gone up, as we can see, from about 203 million people living here in 1970 to 281 million people here at the last census, the 2000 Census. But we also see there that of the 281 million of us that there are now in the United States, that 243 million of those would have been the natural growth rate of the country. Those reflect the natural growth rate of the country. The rest, those identified in red, represent what has happened to us from immigration and their descendants.

So we can see that we have had the same amount of growth among that particular group as we have among native-born Americans. So we have essentially doubled our natural growth rate in this country by immigration patterns.

Is it surprising, then, to anyone that we heard our colleagues on the floor from California spend the last 1 hour complaining about the lack of resources, about the incredible problems that the State of California faces from an absence of energy? I also recognize that my colleagues from California were complaining about the administration's proposals to increase the amount of energy available to all of us.

Well, let me suggest this, that there is another responsibility that is uniquely the responsibility of the Federal Government, that the States have

absolutely no power to control whatsoever, and that is immigration policy. That is the responsibility of all of us who serve in this body, to establish an immigration policy for the country. And when we ignore the fact that people are coming into the country at the rates they are coming into the country, then it is very difficult for me to get terribly excited about the impact that those numbers have if no one wants to address the issue, no one wants to talk about it.

Everybody wants to talk about just simply the fact that we no longer have a lot of oil, or we no longer have a lot of electricity, and is that not terrible, and how are we going to get more. What I am saying is that the reason we do not have the resources is because the demands being placed on our resource base are so great that they are depleting it faster than we can replenish it. Why are the demands so great? It is because of the numbers, the huge numbers of people coming into this country and the children that they both bring with them and have here. It places an enormous amount of strain on our resource base.

Now, it is all right, it is perfectly fine for us, I think, to go ahead with a massive immigration policy if we have it, as we have, if everybody in this body agrees with it, understands it, knows what we are doing and says, yes, we have debated it fully. We recognize that bringing a little over a million, a million and a quarter people in here legally and have at least 2 million immigrants into this country net every year is okay. We understand all of the implications of that. We recognize that it will cause California, for one thing, to have to build a school a day, a school a day in order to keep up with this population pressure. We understand that. We understand that we will have rolling blackouts. We understand that we will not be able to buy gas at a price that most of us would consider to be convenient or acceptable. It is going to get a lot more expensive. So is every other form of resource we have in the United States, natural resource. Why? Demand.

Well, where is the demand coming from? We are, in fact, making products every single day that use less and less energy. The refrigerator that is in your house today uses far less energy than the refrigerator that was in your house even a short 5 or 6 years ago. Air-conditioning. Cars getting better gas mileage. All of these things should, in fact, determine a downward energy use per capita in the United States. But it does not matter if there is a downward spiral or a downward pressure of per capita energy use if the number of people keeps going up so rapidly, so dramatically. We will have to continue to exhaust the supplies, to go elsewhere in the world, rely on both our friends and our enemies for help in providing oil resources. We will have businesses going bankrupt, having their business interrupted by these blackouts. All of

these things we see are a result of numbers, the numbers of people. And this is something that we cannot seem to get across.

I recognize fully well, Mr. Speaker, that I am one of the individuals here who has taken on the challenge of trying to make this a public debate. It has gone on plenty of times in the halls of this Congress. It goes on around the water coolers of Americans in their jobs, I understand and I believe that. I know it happens a lot. I know people sense the problem that exists in the United States with regard to massive immigration; but no one is willing, or I should say, very few people are willing to actually bring these issues forward for public debate, because, of course, there is always someone who is going to stand up and say, this is a racially tainted issue that we cannot talk about it. Any discussion of it, any attempt to reduce the numbers has some sort of racial implication. I say, for one, Mr. Speaker, that it has absolutely nothing to do with race or ethnicity from my point of view; it has to do with numbers. I do not care whether they are coming from Mexico or Guatemala or Nigeria or Canada. I do not care where they are coming from. It is the numbers that we have to deal with.

Now, there are other implications of massive immigration from countries that do not have English as their primary language and I will speak to that in a moment or to. But originally, my point is to make reference again to this chart and to show my colleagues that if we were to actually have just relied upon the population growth from the baby boomers in a short time, in just a few years, we would actually see a leveling off of population growth in the United States and an actual decline as we got to 2100. Now, that is not going to happen. Because, as I say, we have already increased the numbers dramatically, and so we are going to have to deal with the fact that the population of this country is going to go up, even if tomorrow we were to stop immigration totally.

Growth has enormous impacts, as I have suggested, on all of us, every single State. I can recall just coming back from our district work period and looking at what was happening in my own State of Colorado, the incredible number of highway projects that are being undertaken, the incredible number of schools that are trying to be built, the incredible amount of money and tax dollars that we are going to require from taxpayers in order to pay for all of those things.

Now, Colorado is a beautiful place to live. There are no two ways about it. I certainly can recommend it. But I also just recommend that you come and visit and not stay for very long. The reality is that immigration into the country has actually had an impact on Colorado. Most people think that some of the southern tier States, Texas, Arizona, southern California, are the only States that are impacted by massive

immigration. That is not true. All States are impacted by immigration. The fact is that huge numbers of people move into these southern tier of States and, in many ways, displace people who were living there. They move because they do not like the quality of life anymore. They move to other States. They move to Colorado in huge numbers, but so have immigrants directly from other countries coming to Colorado.

Our numbers are up dramatically in the State. My district is adjacent to the fastest growing county in the Nation, Douglas County; and I should tell my colleagues that when we look around, again, as I drive down the street and I see all of these houses popping up out of the ground where there were simply meadows before, prairies before, I do not like it any more than anyone else. I remember Colorado. I was born there, I remember a much more pristine environment. It is not benefiting us to have this kind of massive immigration. It is a cost to us.

Where is it coming from? Do we all just assume that it is from people from other States moving in to where all of us are experiencing growth, just people coming from other States? It is wrong. There are not that many States losing population. Every State gained population. It is not an issue of people leaving all of the rust-belt cities and now moving just to the south; it is an issue of massive immigration, immigration from all over the world. People have to be somewhere. We are going to see the effects of it over and over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned the impact on our roads, the impact on highway systems, the impact on our water, electricity; but there is another impact, a huge impact of massive immigration. It is on our schools. Our children are in temporary classrooms all over the place, all over the Nation. We hear about this again and again and again. How come? Where are these people coming from? Remember California? I mentioned that they would have to build a school every day of the year to keep up with the State's increase in population, every day of the year. Well, they cannot do it. So kids, of course, are housed in various facilities, temporary facilities. It will not be long before Colorado, before Arizona, before Texas and other States are indistinguishable from California in terms of immigration patterns and the things that we have to do to deal with it.

I guess the attitude of many countries, we talk about the need for other countries to take care of their own people, to develop an economy that would provide jobs and benefits for those people who live there today so that they would not be looking for the need to leave the country; they would not be looking to immigrate. And we get a lot of talk, by the way, we hear a lot of talk from other countries about their willingness to do something to help stop the flow of immigrants, specifically Mexico. President Vicente Fox

and others have suggested that they would, indeed, try to help us deal with the massive numbers of people coming across the border.

Well, Mr. Speaker, do we know what form that help has taken? Right now, on the border with Mexico, the government is providing people who are embarking upon an illegal trek into the United States, they are providing them with a care package. This care package consists of some food, it consists of a map, it consists of water, it consists of little books about how to take advantage of the system once you get here and oh, yes, condoms, of course. Why that has to be a part of the care package, I do not know, but it is in there.

□ 1715

This is how the government of Mexico is in fact helping us deal with massive immigration on its border.

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that most of these countries look to the United States as a safety valve. They do not look to do something constructive in their own country, they look to us to be able to take what they cannot handle; to take all the people in their country that are impoverished and that would become a highly, highly unstable portion of the population if they were kept there because they cannot find jobs for them.

One reason, of course, that they cannot find jobs for these people is because they refused to embark upon a free market economy. The only thing I think that will ever get them there is to say to them, it is sort of a tough love thing, to say to the President of Mexico, "We are going to shut down the border. We are going to put troops on our border."

That is the only way that we can actually curtail the number of people coming across. It is almost at the flood stage. It could be thought of as an invasion, and therefore, it is appropriate for us to actually put American troops on the border to protect our borders, and we are going to do that. We are going to cut down illegal immigration, and we are going to cut down legal immigration.

We are going to put a moratorium on all immigration. That is what I, of course, hope we would do in a very short time. That is what we need to tell Vincente Fox and others. We need to tell people like Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the President of the Nation of Bangladesh, who, when he was confronted with the kind of population explosion that is almost unbelievable, he said, and Bangladesh, by the way, has a population that is expected to reach 120 million by the year 2050.

When asked how his country could feed, educate, employ, and house a population of that size, President Hasina answered, "We will send them to America." That is a candid statement. It is not often made by these leaders, but I congratulate these people for actually saying the truth. That is exactly what they think they will do.

Our task is to try and figure out what we will do in response, what we will do in response to the enormous pressure that is going to be placed on the United States from a variety of different places in order to achieve some other country's goals.

There were a number of people on the other side condemning the administration for what they considered to be a lack of attentiveness to the energy problem, people preceding the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER). It is my contention that there is absolutely a way to deal with the energy problem in California, and the one that is going to get worse for the rest of the country, and that is to deal with immigration, because to a large extent, it is the numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for yielding to me. He is a relatively junior Member of the House.

Mr. TANCREDO. Not even that, Mr. Speaker. I am a sophomore.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The gentleman has taken on a tremendous responsibility and has done a terrific job in calling attention to some issues that are vital to our national security and vital to the interests of the American people.

Unless we address the problem of immigration, and I would put it, of illegal immigration, and we might have a little disagreement on that, but the fact is that those people who are concerned about immigration, and we have about 1 million people a year who come here legally into this country, which by the way, legally those people entering the United States, if we put the rest of the world all together, it has about the same legal immigration into their countries as we do into our one country.

But, on top of that, there still continue to be millions of people, probably 3 million or 4 million people a year, entering this country illegally. It is frightening to see the lack of attention that has been given to this very serious threat by our government, both in the Clinton administration, and we will have to wait to see what happens with President Bush.

But even among the Republican leadership, we have not been able to move forward with a program designed to stem this flow. I think it is basically because there is a fear among people who are politically active of being called racist. It is just this basic element, we do not want to be called names, and we are afraid that someone will impugn not only our integrity but our good hearts, so we have shied away from this issue.

This issue will destroy this country. This issue will destroy the standard of living of our people, and it is currently doing so. In California we feel this acutely, but again, no one wants to face it.

Proposition 187, which tried to hit at some of the real problems caused by illegal immigration, passed overwhelmingly. In fact, it was a landslide, and even right before the vote they were saying it was going to be close. Since that time, those same people who said it was going to be close and might lose have perpetuated the myth that in California we have in some way lost the Hispanic vote by being against illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado is offering the leadership that is so vital to our country and to our well-being, because the people throughout the country understand what a threat this poses.

When we talk about education and class size in California, we are talking about illegal immigration. There is plenty of money in California to educate our children and to have a class size that is appropriate so that our children can learn. Instead, because we have permitted illegal immigration to go unabated, our children, the children of U.S. citizens and the children of legal immigrants who are here in this country and who are going to our schools, are being shortchanged.

Why are we doing that? Why are we permitting the education standards to drop like a rock, and our kids to not be taught or be given training they need to sustain a good life? Why is that? Because we are afraid to be called racists.

Give me a break. What is our responsibility? We have got to step forward and say that we care about those young people who come from another country illegally. We care about their families and fathers and mothers, because they are mostly, and I am sure the gentleman from Colorado agrees with me, 95 percent of all the people who come to this country, even the illegal ones, are good people. But the fact is that we cannot take care of everyone in this country from everywhere in the world who wants to come here.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned before that it sometimes gets lonely on this floor talking about this issue, and I should have remembered that there is always one person that I can rely on, because he has both the integrity and the guts to come up and also address the issue with me. That is my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

The gentleman is absolutely right when he talks about the fact that this is a dagger pointed at the heart of America.

I do not for a moment want to be misunderstood. My desire is not to see a reduction in a certain group of people, a certain ethnic group of people. It is simply the numbers game we play, from my point of view. It is overwhelming us.

I will tell the Members that I do have a concern about the way we deal with immigrants from countries where the language is not English, and the kinds of problems that poses to us from a cultural sense.

I happen to believe that there is one thing we need, and this is a country of many different colored people, many different kinds of ethnic backgrounds. We do not all worship at the same churches, we do not all eat the same kinds of foods, we do not all dress and think alike. We have a great disparity among Americans. That is, in a way, an aspect of our greatness.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes.

Mr. TANCREDO. But there is one thing that is absolutely imperative, it seems to me, in a situation like that. That is to have a common language, so that we can in fact communicate with each other about the things that are important.

When we see that, along with massive immigration from countries that do not speak English, English is not the primary language, when we see the pressure that places on us here to expand the number of languages that we teach in schools, let me tell the gentleman an interesting and almost I think incredible fact.

Not too long ago, I read that a gentleman who could not speak English was operating a nail gun and, because of whatever reason, he ended up shooting himself in the leg with this nail gun. The gentleman could not speak English. He therefore determined, or I am sure it was some lawyer who determined this for him, that his best thing to do was to sue the manufacturer of the nail gun because the directions and the warnings were not printed in more languages than English, in his particular language.

There are places around the country where police have to go on calls and have to take with them linguists, people who will speak a variety of languages, when they get to the door. The reason is because if they get to the door and they cannot speak the language of the person who has made the call, they, the police, could be sued for not appropriately addressing the situation.

We have had a 911, and this actually happened, a 911 call that comes in from someone who was not speaking English. The person on the other side of the phone could not speak the language. A lawsuit is developing as a result of this. Manufacturers are being told that they have to start providing all these warning labels in a whole bunch of languages.

I ask the gentleman, where will this stop? How many signs do we put up on street corners? How many one-way signs? How many languages do we print them in?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado brings up a serious, serious issue.

First and foremost, the reason we would like immigration to be in a very controlled and rational process, rather than what we have today, which is totally out of control, a chaotic situation, is because people who come here should come here and be able to, num-

ber one, speak the English language, because they should be able to take care of themselves, that is number one; they should be healthy; and they should be honest; just those three things. If they cannot speak the English language, obviously, in a country like ours, they are not going to be able to earn a good living and take care of themselves.

I have no complaints, as I say, about the level of 1 million people coming in here, especially when we consider we have 2 million or 3 million that are coming illegally, and many of the people that the gentleman is describing right now are people who have come here illegally and expect to have the services provided to them in their own language. This is adding insult to injury.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, there are 375 voting districts in this country where ballots are provided in more than one language. This is a fascinating phenomenon. I ask my colleagues to think about this, and people who may be observing us here.

If we have to print a ballot in a language other than English so that a potential voter can understand it, what does that tell us about that voter's ability to have understood the debate leading up to that election? How do they know what the issues are? How do they know how any one of those candidates they are voting for feels about an issue if they cannot understand English?

It is an idiotic thing to present someone with a ballot in another language when that means they could not have understood the debate leading up to that election.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. The gentleman makes a good point. If he would yield, I would also point out that in order to vote in this country, one is supposed to be a citizen of the United States. In order to become a citizen of the United States, one has to be proficient in the English language. That is part of the requirement of citizenship.

By the way, in Orange County, just like most of California and the rest of this country, our people were conned into, for many years, this bilingual education concept. It was not until 3 or 4 years ago that we finally got rid of bilingual education.

Mr. TANCREDO. I would like to know how the gentleman did that.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. We had an initiative on the ballot, and the people overwhelmingly voted to get rid of bilingual education. I might add, even in the Hispanic community they voted to get rid of bilingual education. In our county, in Orange County, we pushed hard to make sure that that law was complied with and bilingual education was eliminated.

Does the gentleman know what the results have been in? In the last 15 years, we have had bilingual education in Orange County and the Hispanic kids have been, in the test scores, always at the bottom of the deck, always

down there at the bottom of the ladder. The Hispanic kids always came in last in all the tests.

Since we have eliminated bilingual education, the Hispanic kids now are getting higher grades, and they have averaged out like every other child in the school district.

□ 1730

Bilingual education was a cruel hoax perpetrated on the Hispanic community by liberals who were trying to tell people that they were giving them something for nothing by appealing to some sort of anti-American nationalism when, instead, they should have been appealing to the better instincts of these people and trying to help them learn English, which was a prerequisite to success.

We have done a monstrous crime. The liberals have done a monstrous crime against the young people in our Hispanic communities throughout this country in making sure that they did not learn English proficiently by having them taught at a young age in a bilingual setting, which just inhibited them from learning English as we now find they are doing in southern California.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the point the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) brings up about bilingual education is an extremely important point. I hope people understood and heard what he said, about not only the willingness of people of the State of California to eliminate it, but a large, a significant number of a part of that population that voted to eliminate it were Hispanics themselves.

Because most of the people that come here from Mexico or anywhere else, they come here as poor people looking for a better life. They understand one thing very clearly; that is, in order to get that good life for themselves and for their children, they need to speak English. They do not want their children in these bilingual classes.

It is this educational elite that wants to force these children in. Well, there are a lot of interesting reasons. Some are political, some are cultural. But we passed in the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in the education bill that we passed out of this House just a short time ago, we included a provision for bilingual education that, for the first time, will require parental approval, not just notification, but a parent has to give their approval, an affirmative statement that they want their children in a bilingual classroom.

One cannot imagine how that was looked upon by the other members of the committee, by members on the other side of the aisle especially. It was fought tooth and nail.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman from Colorado trying to say that the people on the other side of the aisle opposed giving Hispanic parents even the choice of having their kids in bilingual education?

Mr. TANCREDO. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. This was an anathema to them that they would ask an Hispanic parent or any parent, it does not have to be Hispanic, someone who could not speak English, permission to put their kid in a nonEnglish speaking classroom.

Colorado, it used to be until a short time ago, that one could spend one's entire career in school K through 12 in the Denver public school system without ever being in an English speaking classroom. Now that has changed: It is down to 3 years.

But I will tell my colleagues this, that all of the attempts on the part of the education establishment are to keep these kids in longer and longer and longer even though they learn nothing. I tell my colleagues that thank God for those parents, smart enough to know, smart enough to know they may not have terribly marketable skills in some of the high-tech areas or whatever. But those parents are smart enough to know that their children have to learn English and should, just like their grandparents and mine came over here, mine would not speak Italian, they would only speak what, my grandmother used to say, speak American, speak American.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TANCREDO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that, in California, there were actual demonstrations by Mexican Americans at the Board of Education against bilingual education. The Board of Education, of course, would not listen to them. It was not until people were forced through a ballot initiative to eliminate bilingual education or at least give these parents a chance to have their kids taught in a nonbilingual setting, which then gave them the ability to compete and have better lives.

What a crime against these young people we have seen. I hope the Hispanic community notes this, notes the effect and who caused this, who caused the lowering of the potential of their child by forcing them through this antieducational environment that is called bilingual education.

I would like to note something while we are talking now about illegal immigration. A lot of times people will suggest that this massive flow of illegal immigrants really has not hurt anybody in this country. We have already pointed out that in California, at least I think this is true in other parts of the country, that the class size alone shows us that young people in our country have been damaged severely by having an extra, in California I will bet about a third of the class members in most classes in southern California are illegal immigrant children whose parents have come here recently, never having paid taxes, and now their children are immediately enrolled in a school system they have never contributed to. Is

that hurting somebody? You bet it is. It is hurting the kids of the legal immigrants and the kids of the citizens.

But illegal immigration by being out of control as it has had a tremendous impact on the standard of living of our people. We have just gone through 10 years of a major upsurge in our economy. This is one of the great times since Ronald Reagan turned the economy around in 1983, we have had one of the longest periods of economic growth in our history.

Yet, what is confounding the economists and the others who are analyzing all of the figures from the last Census is, how is it possible that wages have not gone up even though we have had this major increase in the economy and the GNP? All of the models would have had a big increases in wages. In other words, the standard of living of the American people should have gone up of average working people, but it did not.

Why did it not? They have figured it out that, instead, our liberal colleagues have been downplaying how many illegal immigrants are in our country. They have been telling us maybe there is 4 or 5 million illegal immigrants in our country. No, the Clinton administration lied to us. There are between 10 and 20 million illegal immigrants in our country.

Do my colleagues know what that has done for the average person? All of that money that should be going into the pockets of our own citizens because wages would have increased, that did not happen at all. That did not happen because there were more people there offering themselves at a lower price to undercut our own citizens, our own legal residents.

In other words, janitors in our country should be making more money. Guess what? Janitors in the United States of America, if it was not for illegal immigration, would be making a lot higher salary. What about people who work in hamburger stands? What about people who work in parking lots? What about people who work in all those many millions of jobs throughout our country that, yes, they are at the lower skill level, but they deserve to have some of the benefits of an expanding economy?

Our poor people deserve to have their standard of living go up when things are good in the United States of America. But what has happened is we permitted ten to 20 million illegal immigrants into our country, and thus the standard of living of the lowest part, the lowest rung of our society, people who are just struggling to get by, their capability of raising their standard of living was undercut by, of course, the liberals who care so much about the poor people.

I hope that people in this country realize that this has gone so far that even their labor unions now have turned a corner and are saying that we should permit illegal immigrants to come in and take labor union jobs.

When we are doing that, we are undercutting our own people. Our own people will not even get into those unions.

This is a terrible crime against the people of our country. I will have to say, the Republican leadership has not stood up to this. I am hoping that President Bush will. But President Clinton and his liberal gang just betrayed the interests of the American working people over and over again, and illegal immigration is one of the best examples.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the point the gentleman from California makes, especially about the impact, the negative impact of immigration on immigrants themselves, is something that we must not overlook here. It is not simply for a selfish benefit that we propose to reduce the number of immigrants into this country, both legal and illegal, it is because it is also the best for immigrants themselves.

We can, in fact, accommodate a certain amount of immigration into this country, and we will all benefit by it, the Native American, if you will, or the indigenous American, if you will, and the immigrant. But we cannot do it at these numbers, not in a million a year legally and 2, 3, 4 million a year illegally.

Here is what happens. There was a report not too long ago that was kind of perplexing. It was confounding in a certain way because it talked about the growth of poverty among children in America. Once again, one says to oneself now this is anti-intellectual. It does not seem right. It does not seem logical. How can we have a growth in poverty in the United States of America when in the last 10 years, 12 years, 20 years, 15 years probably we have had this enormous economic boom.

Well, if one studies the numbers, what one finds out is that there is a growing number of children that are "in poverty". But who are these children? They are the children of immigrants themselves, because they cannot achieve the American dream for the same reason that my colleague explains. There is a depressing effect of the numbers on the wage rates. This has been documented over and over and over again.

Yes, maybe it is a little better than they could have made in their country of origin, but they still cannot accumulate the necessary trackings of the good life over here because they have to take the lowest wage jobs. Because in the numbers they come in here, it depresses that whole wage.

You bet I hear from others. It is not just "liberals" who oppose any sort of lessening, reducing immigration, reducing the numbers and trying to do something about shoring up the border, it is many, many of my more conservative business people who come to me and say, I have to have these people. I have to have them. I would say, what do you mean you have to have them? They say, well, I cannot get people to

work. I say, you cannot get Americans to work for that wage. Put that in there, and I cannot absolutely understand that. Yes, it is true.

So believe me, I am not just here condemning this sort of, what I call the noblest oblige attitude of the left. It is also these very selfish interests of many people on the right who are impoverishing both the people coming in who are taking advantage of them, who are manipulating them, and at the same time they are actually reducing this quality and sound of life for the rest of America.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, we may have a disagreement on the decline on bringing down the legal number of immigrants. I think a million people coming in in a very rational approach and trying to bring in people who can take care of themselves are honest and healthy and is a positive thing.

I think we can absorb a million. But what is skewed to me, what has skewed this whole situation and, as the gentleman was saying, even those people who are being seriously affected now is the fact that we have let illegal immigration go totally out of control. While we let a million people in legally, there are 3 and 4 million illegal immigrants into our country coming in through other means.

The gentleman from Colorado is precisely correct when he says it impacts those legal immigrants as well as the poor people in our society. For example, and he also pointed out, that it is not just liberal elected officials who are involved with not caring about this issue that is hurting our people, but he pointed out that there are many businessmen who are taking advantage of it.

When I said the standard of living of our working people is not increased because of the legal immigration, we have to remember that many of the businessmen will not offer health care and other benefits to their workers because they do not have to. They do not have to.

Go down and check the health care departments throughout the United States of America, and one is going to find they are swarming with illegal immigrants who have come here, either people who are sick and wanted to come here and get free operations, or people who came here are healthy people, went to work, and worked at virtual slave labor prices for big businessmen.

Big businessmen, if they are going to expect that the market is going to protect them, that we believe in the market, thus we believe they can charge what they want for their goods and services and what they offer for people, the market has got to work when it comes to labor as well. If labor is going to cost more money, business is going to have to pay more money for labor. We expect that because we expect the standard of living of poorer Americans to rise right along with the rest of our society.

But if we have a situation where the poor people of this country have joined a liberal coalition that turns its back and permits millions of illegals to come into this country, our poor people will never be offered the jobs that have health care. They will never be offered a raise.

The poorer people of this country have been betrayed by the liberal coalition who have made themselves an ally with illegal immigration in our society. Whether it is health care or whether it is good jobs, it is all being undercut by the liberal coalition and big businessmen who are, yes, many of them are Republicans.

One last note on that point. The gentleman and I faced an issue here recently just last year. How many times did we hear about H-1B Visas? Right? H-1B Visas. Does the public know what an H-1B Visa is?

We were being asked to give hundreds of thousands of jobs to people, basically people from Pakistan and India, in order to come in and get these great high paying or mid level and high paying jobs in the computer industry. At that time, the high-tech industry said, oh, we cannot find Americans to do these jobs. I talked to these businessmen. Oh, you have got to give us these.

Yes, they could not find Americans to do it because they were paying \$50,000, and now the market value for people that could work in those high-tech jobs was more like \$75,000 or \$80,000.

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But how did American business want to deal with that? I will tell you how: by beating American citizens into the ground, by bringing in a hoard of people from overseas to undercut their ability to get a higher wage. Give them H-1B visas. Let us bring in 600,000 people from India and Pakistan to get those jobs.

I would say to the businessmen, have you tried to go down to the local high schools and pick out the young kids who do not have the means to go to college but have the skills, the academic skills, and offer them scholarships if they will come and work for you? Oh no, they did not do that.

Well, did you go to the disabled community where we have people in wheelchairs who can do work, but maybe they do not have the use of their legs or something? Did you go to try to recruit those people to set your shop up, so they could do the job and pay them a good and decent wage for a change? Oh no, we have not done that.

No, what we want to do is bring in these young Indians and Pakistanis who will work for one-third the wage of what our people will work for and let those other Americans go to hell, as far as they are concerned.

This is not what this government is supposed to be about. This is not what Republicans are about, at least not these Republicans, because we care about the citizens and, yes, we care

about the legal immigrants in our country. And we should not be supporting policies that undermine the ability of our people to have their incomes increase or undermining the ability of our poorer people because of an economic boom to have a better life.

Mr. TANCREDO. The gentleman brings up so many good points and addresses them so articulately that I am always inspired listening to him. I enjoy it tremendously because I believe the gentleman is a patriotic American who understands the real challenges to this country.

We have said this before, but they do not want to look at this issue of immigration. They are afraid of it for a variety of reasons, but as my colleague says, one reason is they will be confronted by name calling and epithets. And I guaranty you when we get back to our respective offices our phones will have been lit up, and for a long time, with people saying a lot of relatively nasty things. I have gone through this before. I understand it. I am willing to go through it time and time and time again, because I believe this is one of the most serious pressing problems we face as a Nation.

I believe with all my heart that we will not exist as we are, a Nation with the kind of quality of life that we have, unless we address this head on and take our lumps. And people can call us all the names they want to call us and whatever, but somebody has to bring this to the attention of the American people.

And I will say one more thing about what my colleague mentioned before on the part of many businesses to ignore the alternative, the alternative being to force the school systems. If we are having a problem, if the problem is that our school system just simply cannot produce, does not produce the kind of quality skills and level of skills that business needs, there is a way to address that. They can demand more from the schools. Or they could avoid all that. They can avoid putting money into the school system, they can avoid challenging the schools with school choice and a variety of other things, and they can take the easy way out. Business can say, I do not have to get them here because I can go to someplace else, I can go to India and Pakistan to get them.

I suggest it is just like when we talked earlier about the fact that we are giving Mexico and other countries, for instance, the President of Bangladesh, when he was confronted with the growth in his population and what he was going to do about it, he said, "I'm not going to do anything about it. I will let America take care of it. I will send them to America." This is the problem; that we give these nations an out. We become their safety net.

It is the same thing here by letting these employers off the hook and not forcing them to go to the school systems, not forcing them to improve the quality of education and then they can

get the kind of help they need. We give them a safety net. We say go get illegals.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. If the gentleman will yield once again, the irony of this is that so many of these countries that are sending their people here, many of the people coming here are their educated people and they need them in their own country. Many of the people who come here from other countries are indeed people who believe in our democratic system and are the cream of the crop. And, as such, what we have done is take away the ability of that other country to have progress in their country while at the same time undermining the United States, the people of the United States of America and their standard of living.

We are going to keep having shortages in energy, as the gentleman said, in transportation, health care, and especially education. We are going to continue to see the standard of living of ordinary Americans just stagnate unless we get control of this illegal immigration. And if we do not stand true to our principles of keeping English the official language, it will create total chaos and division in our population.

I congratulate the gentleman for his leadership he is providing and let us work together on this.

Mr. TANCREDO. I thank the gentleman very much for coming down here. I hope we will do this again and that I will be able to convince the gentleman that even a million a year illegally is too much.

U.S. SUGAR SUBSIDY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I noted with tremendous interest the discussion which just took place, and, of course, I think there is always the likelihood and the possibility that countries get larger and larger and opportunities become greater and that those opportunities should be shared by and used by as many people as we can possibly make them available to.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I participated in a press conference called by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER). They called this press conference to announce their introduction of legislation to change our sugar policy and to phase out some of those huge subsidies that we are providing for the control of the sugar industry to small groups of people and small business concerns; that is small in numbers but certainly large in terms of influence and large in terms of their control of the industry.

Also at that press conference was the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT). The whole question of

our sugar policy is rocking the country in many places because of the fact it is having a tremendously negative impact upon the ability of people to continue to grow and develop in their local communities. Every country and every government that is of a sugar-producing nation has intervened to protect their domestic industry from fluctuating world market prices. Such intervention has been necessary, it is argued, because both sugar cane and sugar beats must be processed soon after harvest using costly processing machinery. When farmers significantly reduce production because of low prices, a cane or beat processing plant typically shuts down, usually never to reopen. This close link between production and capital-intensive processing makes price stability important to industry survival.

The United States has a long history of protection and support for its sugar industry. The Sugar Acts of 1934, 1937, and 1948 required the United States Department of Agriculture to eliminate domestic consumption and to divide this market for sugar by assigning quotas to U.S. growers and foreign countries, authorized payments to growers when needed as an incentive to limit production, and levied excise taxes on sugar processed and refined in the United States.

This type of sugar program expired in 1974, following a 7-year period of markets relatively open to foreign sugar imports, mandatory price support only in 1977 and 1978, and discretionary support in 1979. Congress included mandatory price support for sugar in the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 and the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsequently, the 1990 Farm Program, the 1993 Budget Reconciliation, and the 1996 Farm Program laws extended sugar program authority through the 2002 crop year.

Even with price protection available to producers, the United States historically has not produced enough sugar to satisfy domestic demand and, thus, continues to be a net sugar importer. Historically, domestic sugar growers and foreign suppliers share the United States market in a roughly 55 to 45 split. This, though, has not been the case in recent years. In fiscal year 2000, domestic production filled 88 percent of U.S. sugar demand for food and beverage use. Imports covered 12 percent. A high fructose corn syrup displaced sugar in the United States during the early 1980s and as domestic sugar production increased in the late 1980s.

The USDA restricts the amount of foreign sugar allowed to enter the United States to ensure that market prices do not fall below the effective support levels. The intent in maintaining prices at or above these levels is to make sure that the USDA does not acquire sugar due to a loan forfeiture. A loan forfeiture, turning over sugar pledged as loan collateral, occurs if a processor concludes that market prices at the same time of a desired sale are

lower than the effective sugar price support level implied by the loan rate.

Now, I mention all of this background to mention the fact that there has been reason for the development of our policy. But then as times change, so is there a need for policy change, and so, Mr. Speaker, I approach the subject of sugar subsidies from a little different angle, something slightly different than just looking at what it is that we do for the producers.

In my district today, tonight, more than 600 jobs are at risk, in part because of the sugar subsidy. So my view this evening is the view of the community, the point of view of the working man or woman. We live in a society of plenty and, still, 20 percent of our children live in poverty. In areas where we measure near poverty, such as California, the rate rises to 45 percent. Similar numbers characterize my district in the State of Illinois. Over the past 35 years, our national production of goods and services has more than doubled, yet the inflation-adjusted income of most poor Americans is lower today than it was in 1968.

A recent CBO report revealed that after-tax income of the poorest 20 percent of U.S. households fell between 1979 and 1997, while the income of the wealthiest 1 percent of U.S. households grew a staggering 157 percent.

□ 1800

More egregious, wage and equality, that is, the relative drop in pay for the lowest-paid workers is again on the rise. This is accompanied by an actual loss of jobs in our economy last month of 19,000; and an increase in the number of laid off workers as a share of the workforce. Manufacturing continues to bear the brunt with employment down 124,000 in May and job loss this year averaging 94,000 per month.

Most folks know that some of these recent setbacks are at least in part due to the current economic downturn we are experiencing. But especially in manufacturing, we have been experiencing a long-term so-called structured downturn for two generations. Jobs With Justice counted three-quarters of a million jobs lost as a result of NAFTA sucking jobs out of the United States; 37,000 of those jobs were lost in Illinois. Total job loss in Illinois was much worse. Between 1970 and 1984, the city of Chicago lost a total of 233,873 jobs in the manufacturing sector and another 39,660 in wholesaling as a result of plant closings and layoffs. These job losses hit especially hard at women, African Americans, Latinos, members of other minority groups.

In addition to jobs lost, occupations which dislocated workers had high concentrations of women. This pattern of job loss and dislocation can be traced all the way back to the end of the Second World War; and of course although I mention Chicago, it is not limited to Chicago and Illinois. Between 1947 and 1963, Detroit, for example, lost 14,000 manufacturing jobs. No wonder the