

This is a crucial time in our history. Our policy of foreign interventionism has contributed to this international crisis. How we define our enemies will determine how long we fight and when the war is over. The expense will be worth it if we make the right decisions. Targeting the forces of bin Laden makes sense, but invading eight to 10 countries without a precise goal will prove to be a policy of folly, lasting indefinitely, growing in size and cost in terms of dollars and lives, and something for which most Americans will eventually grow weary.

Our prayers and hopes are with our President that he continues to use wise judgment in accomplishing this difficult task, something he has been doing remarkably well under the very difficult circumstances.

But here at home it is surely a prime responsibility of all Members to remain vigilant and not, out of fear and panic, sacrifice the rights of Americans in our effort to maximize security.

Since the President has already done a good job in locating, apprehending, and defunding those associated with the 9/11 attacks while using current existing laws we should not further sacrifice our liberties with a vague promise of providing more security. We do not need a giant new national agency in order to impose a concept of Homeland Security that challenges our civil liberties. This is an idea whose time has not yet come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FARMWORKER HOUSING CONDITIONS IN U.S.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time today to discuss an issue that is very important to me and, hopefully, to the Nation, and that is the issue of housing conditions of farm workers in this country.

The Housing Assistance Council released their report on findings from a survey of farm worker housing conditions on September 20, 2001. Structural problems, broken appliances, overcrowded living conditions were common findings among farm workers' homes. Unfortunately, families with children are suffering the worst conditions.

This survey is the first nationwide of farm worker housing in 20 years and confirms what smaller studies and anecdotal descriptions have been saying all along; that is, farm workers work incredibly hard to put food on other people's tables, but all too often live in dismal conditions.

The survey revealed that half of the homes surveyed were overcrowded, and three-quarters of those crowded units were occupied by families with children. Twenty-two percent lacked at least one functioning major appliance, such as stove, refrigerator, bathtubs or toilets; twenty-two percent had serious structural problems; and more than half lacked access to a working laundry machine.

Children lived in two-thirds, or 65 percent, of the units classified as severely substandard; and 60 percent of the homes were adjacent to fields where pesticides were applied.

I recognize that there are several needs that this country faces today, security being among the first, education, health care, nutrition and poverty. This study dramatizes many of those needs, and the main need being that hardworking Americans and their children should not be living in squalid and unhealthy conditions. These are housing conditions that none of us could stand to be in, not even for a second. Nobody should be subjected to such adversity.

This major research project was conducted over a 3-year period, from 1997 through 2000. Data on 4,625 housing units in 22 States and Puerto Rico were collected in a non-random survey by more than 100 outreach workers and 16 organizations that work with farm workers around the country, and analyzed by the Housing Assistance Council. Major funding was provided by USDA and HUD.

I continue to be impressed by the quality and the content of this study and other studies conducted by HAC. After reading the study, I was appalled to learn that in America we still have such horrendous living conditions. We have made very little progress in this area. It is disheartening and disappointing that we live in such a rich country and do not make available decent housing to invited farm workers, where the law requires that we should, to those who are tilling our fields and picking the fruits and vegetables which help feed all our families.

It is particularly worrisome to note that such a large proportion of farm worker families with children live adjacent to fields where pesticides are sprayed. This means that they are affected with long-term effects in their families and in their bodies.

I would like to focus on the fact that we do need more money to fund these programs, both the USDA as well as HUD. It is imperative that we recognize that many of these Federal programs, such as HUD, can assist our farm workers. On this floor, during the HUD administration appropriation, we voted against this. We should put monies back into HUD to make sure we assist in this program. The report clearly shows the need for a full-scale national study for farm workers, especially pertaining to housing, education, and health.

I would like to reiterate my avid support for finding ways of funding the

farm workers' housing needs, but also that there are many other programs that we need to commit ourselves to. I want to congratulate Housing Assistance Council, its executive director, for this document and the work it makes available for all of us who care about farm workers who work so hard.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, during this difficult period in our Nation's history, the Members of this Congress, like Americans all across this country and like many people around the world, have grieved the loss of many lives taken by the evil acts of enemies of our country and of freedom-loving people all across the world. In the past days and weeks, Americans have demonstrated a spirit of unity and solidarity not only to assist in every possible way the recovery efforts taking place in New York and Washington, but also to ease the pain of the thousands of people directly and indirectly affected by this tragedy, and also to show that we, as Americans, stand together as a Nation.

Together, Americans all over the country and across the world have cried, Americans have held vigils, and have searched for ways to make sense out of these senseless acts. Together, over the past few weeks, we have made an effort to resume our way of life, and slowly but surely we are getting back to work. As one Nation, and as partners with other countries around the world, we now seek those responsible for the terrible events of September 11; and we will stick together to bring those responsible to justice. Just as we have been united in our grief and efforts to help the victims of September 11, we now are united in supporting our troops as they take the necessary steps to defend our freedom and our security.

Mr. Speaker, one of many remarkable things that we have witnessed during these past weeks has been the striking and spontaneous display of unity among the people of this great Nation. Individuals from every race, ethnicity, and spiritual belief have joined as one to wear the red, white and blue and fly our flag and sing our national anthem. It has been noted in news reports and a number of interviews that it is remarkable how quickly our differences have been put aside to tackle this Nation's tragedy.