

the morning of September 11, 245(i), and the extension of it, was scheduled to be voted on right here in this body. How ironic that on the day that we suffered this horrendous attack, this monstrous atrocity that was committed against our people, that we had an attempt to open up 245(i)'s wedge into the door, open up a little more.

We were going to vote on that "reform" that day, and of course, because of the attacks, we were not able to hold a session that day. Conveniently, that proposal has been shelved recently and has not even been brought up since then. But just the insanity of the fact that people are still considering that type of thing, again making the wedge into the door a little bit bigger so people can squeeze through that opening. It is just insanity.

Now we are paying the price for this, and we are paying it in a big way. Number one, on these people who died. The people who are victims of criminal attacks. Also, our working people who are now working at less wages because illegal immigrants in particular are willing to come in and work for anything. Yes, we have a huge class of people who have benefited, and even the upper middle-class people benefited from having this great expansion in the last 10 years. But guess what, a lot of working people did not because they were competing against people who came here illegally from another country.

Now, do we really care about those people? Yes, we should care about our citizens at that income level who now have a lower standard of living. And we can be proud that, yes, the upper middle income in our country, those people benefited greatly and now they have three cars and now they have houses that are so expensive. Yes, let us feel proud that so many of our citizens, 10 percent of our citizens, can live like that.

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What about the other 25 percent of our citizens that are working class people and have found their wages stagnated for a whole decade because people come in from all over the world and undercut them in their attempts to seek higher wages.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, there is a program called the H-1B program, and I am sure the gentleman is well aware what it is about. You can obtain a visa to come into the United States because your skill is so great and there is such a need that we cannot find American workers. Therefore, Congress has increased the ceiling on H-1Bs to 195,000. They usually go into the area of high tech. Most of these people are working in the computer industry, computer programmers and the like. That industry has suffered the largest decline in this recession.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been laid off, but we in Congress continue to allow H-1B workers to come into the country and take the jobs that

would be there for American citizens. Get this, we found the other day another thing for the list of incredible but true. Remember I said these are high tech, skilled workers. When we talk to people in the industry, they say we cannot find these people here. They have Ph.D.s in esoteric areas. We have to get special permission to bring them in.

Mr. Speaker, get this. Five hundred visas are specially set aside for models. Super models. You know, ladies that walk around; models. This is high tech? I mean, I think we have enough beautiful people in the United States, do we really need a special visa category. There are 500 H-1Bs for super models coming into the United States. Believe me, there are a lot of people who I think could take those jobs. But it is just a tiny example of how idiotic this whole thing is.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. If the gentleman would yield, "idiotic" is a mild word to describe this insanity. It is bizarre. It is surrealistic to see the type of immigration policy we have and the people who, with a straight face, will come and advocate these insane policies as if they are, in some way, respectable.

Frankly, I do not see how, if I was hiring myself out, like a lot of people who are advocating these things, such as former congressmen who take PR contracts, I do not see how you can advocate for this. The 24-I example and the H-1B visas, this is insanity.

I remember that debate so well because they kept saying we cannot find people to take these high tech jobs in the computer industry. I said we should try to, for example, go into the schools in the inner city and offer to pay entire college tuition for any kids who will agree to work for this high tech corporation when they get out of school. I am sure there are a couple hundred thousand kids that would love to have some type of scholarship program.

I said, what about disabled people? We are talking about computer work, after all. How much work has been done by the computer industry to recruit disabled people who can still work with their hands and be able to do that job? Well, nobody had taken that really into consideration, either. But the easy answer is, of course, to hire somebody from the south part of Asia who will come in who is 25 years old, and come in and work for \$30,000 less a year than our own people will work or than will cost us to train our own people to come in and do these jobs. In other words, it is no consideration for the Americans at all. None.

Mr. TANCREDO. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman is absolutely correct. Study after study, even from those kinds of institutions that are pro immigration, study after study shows that the people hurt most by illegal immigration into the country are people at the bottom rung of the ladder, people who are working for minimum

wage. The millions of people coming in without skills end up competing for those jobs.

Today I heard the report of the unemployment rate, and it is going up. High tech got hit first. Now we are seeing a major increase in the unemployment rate for people with low job skills, people who are often brought to our attention by the other side of the aisle, the homeless rate is going up, the number of people seeking welfare and food stamps is going up. All of that discussion about all those people, but never once have I heard those Members stand up and say we have at least 11 million people in this country illegally who are competing for those jobs. Nobody cares about that because that is part of their voter base.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. If the gentleman would yield, during this time when we do need some working people in these jobs, it is a fact, that is, when wages rise because employers are competing for better workers. During that time period, we might have created a situation where employers needed employees, and that they would have bid to get their services. We might have ended the problem of our own citizens not having health care coverage, for example, because the employers in order to get people to wash their dishes and wait on the tables, maybe they would have had to then offer those workers a health care plan. Maybe they would have had to talk to the people washing the cars and handling the parking lots, maybe they would have had to offer those people a health care plan.

Instead, we let that opportunity to raise the standard of living and help our people get those benefits from the private sector get away, and it ends up a burden on the taxpayer, not only of those other people but of the illegal immigrants as well.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, as we bring this discussion to a close, I want to let individuals know there is a way to contact us about this issue, especially people who want to know more about the impact of illegal immigration and what they can do about it. This is the e-mail address and fax number. It is a way in which people can get connected to this subject and perhaps help convince their congressman of the need for reform. We desperately need a change. I thank the gentleman for joining me.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I salute the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO). This issue would not be discussed without the effort put out by the gentleman.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GONZALEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. LUTHER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family matters.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 2:30 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WU) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WU, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHIMKUS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 494. An act to provide for a transition to democracy and to promote economic recovery in Zimbabwe.

S. 1196. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on December 13, 2001 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 10. To modernize the financing of the railroad retirement system and to provide

enhanced benefits to employees and beneficiaries.

H.R. 2540. To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

H.R. 2716. To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, improve, and consolidate provisions of law providing benefits and services for homeless veterans.

H.R. 2944. Making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 17, 2001, at 2 p.m.