

the benefits for five illegals who are "very ill." Now the question we have to ask ourselves, how many people in our own districts, how many people who have been here all their lives, that were born here, grandparents born here, that are citizens of the United States, paid taxes all their lives, how many of them can afford kidney dialysis or have it paid for or that were able to have it paid for by the State? And yet people who can come into this country illegally, take advantage of our system, take advantage of our laws, can receive this treatment? It is not fair. I am sorry for them that they need the treatment. How much can we possibly afford, is the question? How much can we afford? And why should we be doing it for people who are not citizens?

There are a lot of people who would suggest that in reality there is nothing different from being just here physically in this country and being here as a citizen. But I suggest to you that there is an enormous amount of difference, and we should not ignore it.

Another colleague who has joined me this evening, another member of our Immigration Reform Caucus and another member who, long before I came to the Congress, has been laboring in this vineyard and bringing to the attention of the American people concerns about illegal immigration, my colleague from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO). First, I want to thank him for his tireless effort on behalf of reining in the huge problem of illegal immigration in this country. I also want to thank the Congressman from Georgia for pointing out the situation where four drunk driving convictions are insufficient for deportation. I would also like to thank the Congressman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) for pointing out the background of the killer of the three persons at Los Angeles Airport on July 4. He mentioned one cost and this gentleman has mentioned one cost, and that is the free medical treatment that illegal immigrants impose on the United States.

I was just reading a letter from another Member of Congress in a Dear Colleague about a cost of a million dollars for treating immigrants in the State of Florida. In Patrick County, an illegal immigrant ran a citizen off the road in an automobile accident. That citizen had to go to Baptist Hospital in North Carolina, was in a coma, and the young man is still not recovered. And this treatment of him has been going on and that is a tangent cost. It is not a direct cost, but it has long surpassed the resources of that family.

I also wanted to talk this evening a few minutes about the need for troops on our borders. This past week we celebrated Independence Day. And I think one of the best birthday presents this Nation could have would be secure borders. With secure borders we could

greatly reduce or stop terrorism. We could greatly reduce or stop illegal immigration. And with secure borders we could greatly reduce or stop the illegal drug traffic. And I know that several of us with the gentleman's leadership have urged the administration to deploy the military on our borders; and we stand committed towards that end, either administratively or through legislation. In particular, the southern and northern borders of the United States are porous.

Canada and Mexico are still not doing an adequate job of screening the immigrant traffic and cargo in and out of their countries. Aside from obviously being dangerous to the welfare of citizens in this country, the porousness of our borders adds an unacceptable burden on our already overworked border patrol.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is struggling to meet the demands of new threats, and it is in urgent need of the support of our military. Congress is working to give the administration greater authority to use the military on our borders. As the gentleman noted, the House adopted an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would allow the Department of Justice, if requested by the INS or the Customs Service, to utilize troops on our borders. This legislation would allow the direct involvement of the military in assisting Customs and our border patrol in preventing the coming into this country of terrorists, drug traffickers, and illegal aliens.

If we really want to make our homeland secure, we have got to do more than reorganize homeland security. That is a good positive step. And we have taken other good and positive steps, but to have our borders secure we need troops; and that will have a three-fold purpose of stopping illegal drugs, stopping illegal immigration, and stopping terrorists. And, again, I want to thank the gentleman for his tireless efforts on behalf of this.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely appreciate it.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) has been also enormously helpful as a member of our committee and a person to whom I turn often for advice and consultation. It is important I think that we should point out that it was the amendments of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) to the defense authorization bill that did, in fact, provide, if it is passed by the other body, signed into law, it will provide the President with that authorization. And I sincerely hope that it is retained by the Senate.

This would not be the first time we have passed that resolution, and every time we have done so in the past the Senate has chosen to simply ignore it. This is, I hope, a change as a result of all of the events of the last several months. The last 10 months really would help the Members of the other body understand the need for doing this and certainly would help the President also.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to just say that there has been an enormous amount of talk about the need to protect the United States from future terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, there has not been enough action, certainly far more talk than action. Since 9-11, we are absolutely not one bit safer today in this country. Our borders are not one bit more secure than they were at the time that the terrorists flew the planes into the buildings here in the United States and killed 3,000 of our citizens. That is an unacceptable position to be in for the Members of this body. For the administration to ignore the security of our borders as one aspect of this war that we are fighting, is irresponsible to say the least. And all I can hope is that they will heed the advice of the colleagues that joined me tonight, especially the President, in putting troops on the borders, that is the number one thing, and the rest of the Members of this body to tighten up our immigration policy.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family illness.

Mr. HOLT (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a typhoon in Guam.

Mr. WALSH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

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. HOYER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mrs. THURMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and July 10.