

only refugee agency whose mandate does not include the resettlement of its wards. Fifty-four years after its founding, UNRWA is providing assistance to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who left. Soon it will be providing services to the grandchildren of the grandchildren. All other refugees are the responsibility of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; who serves 21.8 million persons in 120 countries with the aim of resettling them.

This situation, unintended at first, is perpetuated now by a combination of naivete, inertia and ill design. It is responsible in large measure for the intractable nature of Palestinian and Arab claims against the State of Israel, and makes the Palestinians tools in the continuing Arab struggle to delegitimize and ultimately eliminate Israel. The difficulties created for the Palestinian people by this are legion.

With the exception of Jordan, Arab states in which they live have refused to grant citizenship to them or to their descendants born after 1948.

In some countries, Lebanon in particular, laws strictly limit the professions these persons may enter, the schools they may attend, or the places they may live.

UNRWA schools, according to the State Department, provide children with textbooks that "contain anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish content." This is a mild statement. In fact, many of the texts contain exceptionally lurid and hateful propaganda.

UNRWA-administered camps are filled with weapons, as has been acknowledged by UNRWA personnel in statements to the media. The Government of Israel has charged that UNRWA warehouses have been and are being used to store weapons and bomb making material.

Each year UNRWA-financed projects, such as the Union of Youth Activities Centers, sponsor gigantic "right of return" rallies throughout the West Bank and Gaza, encouraging people to believe the existence of Israel is temporary and will be reversed by the U.N.

UNRWA is financed by voluntary contributions and, according to U.N. records, the United States has consistently contributed about 25 percent of UNRWA costs. In 2002, that amounted to \$110 million. UNRWA is funded annually, providing an opportunity for countries to examine the mandate, propose changes, and decide whether or not it will renew funding. It is time to initiate a thorough investigation into the finances of this agency. We must work to eliminate institutional hatred as exemplified by the anti-Semitic culture resident within UNRWA.

Some will say that America would not be targeted by terrorism if it did not support Israel to the degree that it does. If we stand by and witness this hatred without intervening or supporting our democratic ally then we would become as venal as the rest of the world. Appeasement of hatred and

murder would only come back to haunt us just as appeasement to terrorism in the 1980s and 1990s did on 9/11. Giving in to the prevailing, fashionable wind of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism would directly contradict the ideals that this country has been founded upon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. As we embark on this month-long festivity, I am pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary contributions to our country that the Hispanic community embodies.

Today it is clear to all of us that Hispanic Americans are flourishing in every State in our Nation. The diversity of the population is such a tribute to the freedom and opportunity America promises.

Hispanic Americans are starting growing businesses, contributing to the safety and security of our Nation through their service in the Armed Forces, going on to college in high rates, and making a real difference in every part of American life. So there is much to celebrate during Hispanic Heritage Month 2004.

There are also serious concerns that should involve all of us—not only those who themselves are of Hispanic heritage or those like myself who are privileged to represent a very vibrant, dynamic Latino community in New York, but for all Americans—because the issues facing Hispanic Americans are the same ones that are important to every American.

I have been concerned because I think on so many fronts the record of the current administration is one that by any objective analysis is found wanting. Time and time again, the administration has promised or told us one thing, only to proceed to do something else and to establish a record of broken promises.

For example, on health care, Hispanic Americans, as all Americans, are dependent in their older years on Medicare. Medicare provides vital services to Hispanic seniors. They were listening last year as President Bush claimed his Medicare bill would benefit them. He repeated that claim in his speech at his party's political convention. And the next day, what did we see? The largest increase in Medicare premiums in history.

While Hispanic parents, like all parents, look to our public schools to help their children acquire the tools to be successful in our very competitive global economy, again, the Bush administration has proposed over and over in its budget to cut key programs such as bilingual education, dropout prevention, migrant and seasonal Head Start, and Hispanic Serving Institutions that do so much in every commu-

nity across our Nation. Yet in the fiscal year 2005 budget, all of these programs are targeted for dramatic cuts. This is happening at the same time that we know the administration has continued to underfund the No Child Left Behind Act.

In New York City, we have the largest school district in the country, with a million students. That seems shocking to some of my colleagues who come from States that don't even have a million people. In very difficult circumstances, that school district is struggling to deal with the obligations imposed upon it by the No Child Left Behind Act. Among the obligations is to provide testing to children in their native language. Yet we know that is still not being fulfilled by the administration. We know there are all kinds of issues with overcrowding because we are letting people move from school to school under the transfer provision, but we don't have adequate space for them to move into. Because of the very highly concentrated Hispanic population in New York, that falls disproportionately on the children I represent. I worry that what was held out as a great promise under No Child Left Behind, because of a broken promise and a failure to fund what had been promised, the burdens of complying with that act are falling on those least able to bear them.

Perhaps most alarmingly, the President continues to tell us, against the evidence we see with our own eyes, that the economy is strong and that the budget deficit, estimated to be at least \$422 billion—and more likely \$445 billion—is not to be worried about. In fact, recently, on a national news program, the President was asked whether he thought the budget deficit—the highest in our history—was pretty good. The President answered, "Yes, I do, I do." Well, I could not disagree more. There is nothing pretty good about a record budget surplus in 2001 being transformed into a record budget deficit. All the while, the number of Americans without health care goes up, the number of Americans in the middle class falling into poverty goes up.

Since the President took office, the number of Americans living in poverty has increased by more than 4.3 million men, women, and children. Median household income for families is down 3.4 percent. However, the picture for Hispanic Americans is even bleaker because so many of them start at the bottom of the economic ladder, where they work and strive and accomplish so much to lift themselves and their children out of poverty. So while 11.7 percent of all Americans live in poverty, 21.4 percent of Hispanics live in poverty. Last year, median income fell, on average, \$63 nationally, but it dropped \$864 for Hispanic families.

The list goes on and on because so many of the pillars of the American middle-class dream—a dream that sustained my family, that motivated me,

that has brought many of us to this Chamber—are beginning to erode. What does it mean if the income you get from a job is not enough to sustain yourself and your family? What does it mean for a minimum wage when you work 40 hours a week and you remain mired in poverty? What does it mean if you can get a job but it doesn't have health care benefits? What does it mean if your pension is at risk and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the Federal Government's promise to try to guarantee those pensions, is tottering as well?

Mark my words, we are on a path that will undermine the economic viability not only of American businesses in this competitive global economy but of Americans, American families, and traditionally disadvantaged communities will suffer disproportionately.

When people sort of dismiss the importance of the Federal budget deficit, I don't know what economic text they have been studying. We know that it is inevitable that interest rates will rise, capital will be squeezed as the Government takes more and more. But what is even worse is we become increasingly dependent on foreign lenders. I for one am not enthusiastic about the fact that we borrow tens of billions of dollars from the Governments of Japan, China, and South Korea. How can we look ourselves in the mirror and know we are now the world's biggest debtor nation, and among our creditors are nations we built, we saved, we economically propped up or are our competitors strategically and economically for the future? We are setting up a house of cards. When it will begin to totter adequately for all to see, I cannot predict, but I know we are living on both borrowed money and borrowed time.

I do not wish to dampen the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, but none of this sounds pretty good to me. The Latino community has made so many contributions to our history, our culture, our economy, and our society. I wish every one of my colleagues could march with me in the many parades we hold in New York, celebrating the various diverse heritages that make New York the most dynamic, extraordinary place on this wonderful planet of ours. Just to see and hear the excitement, the music, the color, and the vivacity would lift your spirit.

I am so proud and honored to represent the most diverse Hispanic community in our Nation. Yet I worry that if we don't focus on what is happening in our health care system, our education system, and our economy, all Americans will wake up to find that the future is not as bright as it should be, that the promise we all feel is part of our birthright—those of us born here and those of us who came here—has somehow been undermined.

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month but to ask that we do more, to ask that we pass legislation such as AgJobs, ask

that we pass the DREAM Act and continue to do everything we can to ensure the promise of the American dream for Hispanic Americans and every American.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate an occasion that is becoming more important with every passing year.

In 1968, Congress designated the week of September 15 Hispanic Heritage Week. The celebration was subsequently extended to include the entire month from September 15 to October 15.

September 15 was chosen as the opening of Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the independence day of several Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The nations of Mexico and Chile also gained their independence on September 16 and 18, respectively.

Today, Hispanic Heritage Month not only recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that Latinos make to our Nation's cultural, economic, and political life, it also reminds us of the strength we draw from diversity.

People all over the world have flocked to America in search of freedom and opportunity. This has made us one of the most diverse countries on earth, and Latinos are an important part of that diversity.

Hispanics in the United States are not one monolithic, homogeneous group. In fact, they come from many different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Latinos in the United States can trace their ancestry to more than 20 countries and territories, spanning an area of thousands of miles, from as far north as Puerto Rico to as far south as Argentina, and encompassing a wide array of cultures and histories.

The families of some Hispanics have been in this land since the 16th Century. Others are newcomers to our Nation, drawn by the same sense of hope that has always made America a beacon for immigrants.

Some Latinos speak Spanish. Others speak only English, and many are conversant in both languages.

But taken as a whole, Latinos in the United States reflect the diversity and breadth of Hispanic culture and history.

Today, Latinos are not simply a small isolated minority group in our country; rather they take part in every aspect of American life.

Many prominent American citizens are Latinos.

People like Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers Association; Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico; Julia Alvarez, internationally recognized author of "In the Time of the Butterflies;" and John Leguizamo, actor and 2004 recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Award in the Arts have made great social, political and artistic contributions to this Nation.

Latinos are also active in every facet of business.

They are the entrepreneurs of family companies and the CEOs of large corporations. They are bankers and builders, manufacturers and marketers.

So there is no way to stereotype Hispanics, they are simply too diverse.

But beneath that diversity, I believe there are some strong values that are shared not only by Americans with Hispanic heritage, but by Americans of all backgrounds.

We all believe in opportunity.

Every person should have a chance to realize his or her dreams.

The power of that idea has propelled the United States from an upstart nation to the most powerful country on earth. And it is just as powerful today as it was 228 years ago.

We all believe in hard work. Every individual deserves an opportunity, but then it is up to the individual to make the most of that opportunity.

And we all know that our families are a source of strength and inspiration. The love of our families sustains us, and drives us to make the world better for our children and grandchildren.

Nevada has a particularly strong historical connection to Hispanic culture. Latinos have been in my State since long before the United States gained independence.

In fact, there were Mexicans working in some of the oldest mining claims in the State and they contributed greatly to Nevada's mining industry.

One of the richest silver mines in the world, the Comstock Mine near Virginia City, was first discovered by Ignacio Paredes from the State of Sonora in Mexico.

It was Sonoran miners who introduced the use of a pan for creek bed mining, and the process known as "dry digging" that facilitates mining in areas where water is scarce.

Hispanics also played a role in the early days of the hospitality industry in Nevada. A man of Mexican descent by the name of Bony Aguilar is considered one of the pioneers of the tourism and entertainment industry in my State.

Originally a miner, Bony Aguilar settled in Silver Peak Marsh in 1870, where he built a resort and saloon along with a bathhouse that utilized the natural hot springs at the site.

The resort prospered and people came from across the State to enjoy the hot springs, hear Mr. Aguilar's stories, and stay at the resort.

Mexican workers played an integral role in the construction of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad that gave the city of Las Vegas its beginnings.

And Mexicans were among some of the first residents of Las Vegas.

Hispanics were also involved in early ranching in Nevada. The Altube brothers, although of Spanish descent, came to Nevada via South America.

They established the Spanish Ranch in northeastern Nevada and employed

many Mexican cowboys, who were known to be some of the best in the State.

The Spanish Ranch became one of the largest ranches in the history of Nevada, encompassing 60,000 acres.

The important role of Latinos in Nevada has continued right up to this day. In 1976 a small group of Cuban Americans established the Latin Chamber of Commerce in Las Vegas with the goal of promoting the economic advancement of the Latino community and the State of Nevada.

Since then the Latin Chamber of Commerce has played an important role in Nevada's Hispanic community. Its members have successfully advocated for educational equality and equal government hiring practices.

In the Reno area, the Northern Nevada Hispanic Chamber is also a strong force for progress.

These are just a few of the contributions that Hispanics have made to Nevada.

As you can see, Hispanics have been in Nevada since before it became a State, and they continue to play an important role today both in my State and throughout the country.

I would like to commend Dr. M. L. Miranda for his pioneering scholarship of Hispanics in Nevada. Without his original research, there would be little acknowledgement of the influence of Hispanics throughout Nevada's history.

I would also like to acknowledge the many Hispanics serving in our armed forces.

This is a critical time in our Nation's history, and our troops are deployed all around the world. Many Latinos have followed the call to service, and they risk their lives every day in defense of our freedom at home.

I am sincerely grateful to all those who leave their families behind to serve their country.

On this, the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month, I am honored to have been able to share with you the stories of some of the Hispanics that helped establish the "Battle-Born state," and to pay tribute to the diversity of this great Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor on another topic at this moment, but I want to reflect briefly on what my colleague from New York said about the Hispanic community of New York. I would like to speak about the ones of Idaho. They are some of the most upwardly mobile, achieving communities in my State today, with great successes. They are out to become Americans, or are becoming Americans, by their ingenuity, creativity, and their energy. While I don't think they are looking for a handout, they are certainly looking for a hand up, and they are getting that. I am proud of them, and they have every reason to be proud of themselves during this month as we celebrate their heritage.

ENERGY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about energy once again. Here we are now, with record gas and oil prices, and several of the opponents of the energy bill produced by Senator DOMENICI, myself, and others—my Democrat colleagues on the other side of the aisle—are now claiming that the bill does little, if it were passed and if it were law, to reduce our dependence upon oil or other fossil fuels. Less dependence is something we all share.

First of all, I challenge my Democratic opponents to pass the law. First pass the law, get it into production, see where it takes us, instead of simply carp and carp very loudly about energy prices and dependency on oil, and then do nothing about it except talk in political terms in a very political year.

What I am going to suggest and show you in the next few moments about one aspect of the bill—one relatively small aspect of the bill—I think argues that if the bill were law today and if it were allowed to be implemented, it would give us the opportunity to rapidly begin to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and other fossil fuels.

The one provision I am talking about in the bill by itself could reduce our dependence on gas and other foreign oils by as much as 12 billion gallons. To understand how wrong my Democratic colleagues are on this issue, let's look at the provisions of the bill that would enable loan guarantees to help kick-start the cellulose ethanol industry. Cellulose ethanol could develop very quickly as an industry and have a major impact on rural incomes and the environment as well as our energy security.

What is cellulose ethanol? Cellulose ethanol looks, smells, and acts like regular ethanol, but instead of being made from corn, it is made from what we call agricultural residues. Agricultural residues are a part of the plants for which we have no commercial productive use today. When a crop is grown—grain, for example—we use the grain for food, both animal food and human food. Some of the plant is often left on the ground to keep the soil fertile and from eroding. We call it straw. And the rest must be disposed of as a form of residue. Sometimes it is burned, sometimes it is bailed and used for livestock bedding, and a variety of other purposes. But residue is straw from which wheat and barley grow in my State and nearly every other State in the Nation. It is the corn stover, the stalks, the husks, the cobs from the Corn Belt. It is the sugar bagasse or cotton stalks from Florida or Texas. It is that residue that American agriculture produces.

Farmers often pay to dispose of this material. We have known for a long time that cellulose in this material can be transformed into hydrocarbons. Now it seems that the technology to do so is closer than ever before.

The Wall Street Journal reported on April 21 of this year that Iogen, a Cana-

dian company, had begun to produce cellulose ethanol commercially. That ethanol produced from wheat straw is now being sold and used in small quantities in Ottawa and surrounding areas.

The cover of the August 30 issue of Fortune magazine, a magazine I hold in my hand, says "How to Kick the Oil Habit." The article mentions alternative fuels as one of the four ways to kick the habit. It also focuses on Iogen and cellulose ethanol in this article. So cellulose ethanol seems to be on its way.

But why should any of us care about this? What does it have to do with our Energy bill? The Energy bill contains a provision that would allow commercial cellulose ethanol production to begin in the United States within a matter of a couple of years.

Iogen has partnered with Shell Oil, and together they want to build the world's first full-scale cellulose ethanol production facility right here in the United States. But as long as the Energy bill is stalled, so is this project. A lot of lipservice can be given, but until this Congress acts and until my colleagues on the other side of the aisle line up with us to allow this technology to come on line, there can be a lot of talk, but the dependence on foreign oil will continue.

Also stalled today would be an opportunity to begin to fill the gas tanks of Americans with a fuel that would be grown in the heartland of America. Certainly, we have and will continue to use corn-based ethanol, and the Energy bill I talk about would go a long way toward bringing more of that into production. But there is a limit as to how much corn we can dedicate to energy production.

On the other hand, with cellulose ethanol, we are not talking about small quantities. This summer, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman announced the results of a study that showed there is enough agricultural residue produced on our farms to support 200 of these types of ethanol plants and that those plants could displace 7 to 10 percent of the gasoline we consume today. That is a reasonable guesstimate.

You have heard me right: If we get this industry going by simply using waste materials from America's farms, we could knock almost 10 percent off our gas imports. What does that say as to our ability to negotiate in a world market? It says a great deal because now we have leverage, and the leverage is a product being produced right here at home.

This will not happen unless we are able to implement this bill and bring it on board. Just one cellulose ethanol plant would enhance energy security by replacing a gasoline component of the crude oil imports from 2.4 to 2.9 million barrels per year; increase farm income by \$25 million per year by creating economic value for residues that currently, as I said, have little to no value or are simply viewed as waste;