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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable TERRY EVERETT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority and minority leaders, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

COMPACT-IMPACT AID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again call attention to an issue which combines all of the worst elements of a failed Federal policy in immigration which has resulted in huge unfunded mandates and stands as an example of how to make and break a promise. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the Federal Government's failure to compensate the people of Guam for expenses incurred as a result of a treaty we on Guam had no part in shaping.

Mr. Speaker, do Members of this body or the citizens of this country know that there are countries in this world, independent nations which have free and unrestricted access to the United States?

Mr. Speaker, do Members of this body or the citizens of this country know that there are nationals of other countries who can walk through immigration checkpoints with only an identification card; with no visa requirement, with no passport, with no restriction on their movement or time of stay?

Mr. Speaker, do Members of this body or the citizens of this country know that there are citizens of other countries who can come into the United States and work, receive public assistance and other benefits available to citizens and permanent residents apparently without restrictions?

It is true that citizens of the newly independent countries of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, under a treaty relationship between their countries and the United States, can come and have come to the United States, primarily to the State of Hawaii and the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. And many have come to work and be productive participants in the economy.

But there is the matter of the Federal Government making a commitment to unrestricted access for foreign nationals via a treaty which falls disproportionately on local governments like that of Guam. This is not new to many areas of the country where a similar situation has resulted in "unfunded mandates." Bear in mind that this is legal immigration with no restrictions—no paperwork and no documentation, and all that is required for entry is an identification card from their own country—not even Canada, which has open borders with the United

States, has such favorable immigration treatment.

This is a serious enough situation, but in the case of Guam—it is far more egregious in its negative impact because of our small size and limited population. And in terms of the issue of the unfunded mandates, the commitment was not made verbally or through exchanges of letters by the Federal Government—it was authorized in statute passed by this body in Public Law 99-239.

Public Law 99-239, section 104(e)(6) states:

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1985, such sums as may be necessary to cover the costs, if any, incurred by the State of Hawaii, the territories of Guam and American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands resulting from any increased demands placed on educational and social services by immigrants from the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

We call this reimbursement compact-impact-aid—the assistance due local governments for the financial impact of the Compact of Free Association. Guam, due to its proximity, has received the greatest share of this immigration. Since the treaties went into effect, we now estimate that 6 percent of the total population of Guam is from these freely associated states. If the same percentage of immigrants were applied to the United States, there would be 15 million immigrants. And what is more startling is that this unrestricted immigration is entirely legal.

The total cost to the Government of Guam since the inception of this immigration is in excess of \$70 million. The Guam Memorial Hospital estimates an impact of \$750,000 in costs in fiscal year 1994, and \$2.55 million since 1986 to the Medically Indigent Program due to compact immigrants. Public housing assistance cost Guam \$2 million in fiscal year 1994 and \$7.5 million since 1986.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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