a nonunion shop, has to deal with you, what he will say is, hey, I do not have to pay you $15 an hour, I can pay you $12, I can pay you $8 an hour. If we have Mexican workers prepared to work for 50 cents an hour, I will start you off at $5 an hour.

Mr. Speaker, one of the scariest aspects about the new economy is the decline in real wages of high school graduates. These are the young people who have never gone to college. What we are talking about is entry level jobs for young Americans graduating high school, for young men it is 30 percent less than what it was 15 years ago. For young women it is 17 percent less.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, that is a phenomenal figure. If the gentleman will repeat that again, because some of us are aware of it, but a lot of folks in this country do not understand that as the gentleman points out, the people at the very top, in fact, it goes down. People in the top 5 percent in America are doing very well today, but beyond that, it slips dramatically.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for young people graduating high school, their entry level jobs are now paying 30 percent less than was the case 15 years ago. For young women, it is about 17 or 18 percent less.

Furthermore, Americans at the lower end of the wage scale are now the lowest-paid workers in the industrialized world. Eighteen percent of American workers with full-time jobs are paid so little that their wages do not enable them to live above the poverty level. Welcome to the global economy.

The point that the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] made earlier, in many ways, what this economy is looking like is what Mexico is: a few people at the top, and millions of people struggling just to exist.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, if I could just make a brief point, last night I was in Lima, OH, giving a speech to a large number of people. And afterwards three different citizens came up to me, two who were high school graduates, and one a mother of a gentleman who is 30 years old but is working in a temporary position. And that is the fastest work category in our country, fastest growing category, temporary work. She said: ''Marcy, my son is worried because in two weeks he loses his temporary job.''

It is not just low wages of these workers, it is the insecurity of not knowing whether there will be a job for them. The other two young men that were there were just seeking work, seeking to better themselves, having to work at jobs like Payless Shoes, which imports all of its shoes. And when you are a manager for a lot of those jobs, you qualify for food stamps.

Is this the kind of America that we want to produce, one where when you work, and in Mexico, as we were told by the people down there, they work for hunger wages. These people in Lima, OH last night had several problems in trying to locate steady, well-paying jobs where they could secure a future for themselves and their family.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman knows, the largest employer in the country today is not General Motors, it is Manpower temporary services. The company pays no health benefits, no pensions. It is temporary work, the largest employer, and it is moving more and more in that direction.

I wanted to expand on what both of my colleagues have just said about the workers. Because it is not just happening here in America, in the United States, it is occurring, as the gentleman pointed out, in Mexico as well.

When we began the NAFTA debate, the worker in Mexico was making $1 an hour. Now that worker, and I have seen it with my own eyes in a trip that I took down there two months ago, is making 70 cents an hour. The people at the top in Mexico, they have created an incredible burst of billionaires, a class of billionaires down there.

I have a friend who told me, and I do not know if this is true, but I am reluctant to repeat it tonight, but I have a sense that it is, because he is very conservative in his estimates and he understands these issues very well. And he is a very learned person, who told me that in Del Mar, a little town north of San Diego in California, there are 600, 600 millionaires with Mexican citizenship, 600. So the wealthy make their money, they live often across the border here, and the workers are being paid 70 cents an hour. Their value of their wages have, since NAFTA, declined 30, 40 percent. So it is workers on both sides of the border.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield on one point?

As the gentleman is talking, I am thinking about when NAFTA was discussed here, and we were told President Salinas had the greatest democratic heart, with a small D, beating in this century. Can you imagine a President of the United States being so disgraced that he then is a man without a country?

That gentleman who headed Mexico now may be living in Ireland, for all we know, and his brother is in jail, and will be standing trial for drug-related charges, and we act, I mean the proponents act as if nothing happened.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, all the editorial writers in the country, they thought Mr. Salinas was a great guy. He went to Harvard and he is going to take Mexico into the next millennium and they were just as proud as punch to be affiliated and associated with him. The fact of the matter is he has not turned out very well, nor has his brother, nor has his policies. You would expect somebody to recognize this and say well, we made a mistake, but no, they cannot admit they made a mistake. My goodness, gracious, they are infallible, because they are, as the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] says, part of this whole corporate machine, this multinational transnational machine which spews this stuff out in the press on a daily basis about the upstanding, wonderful nature of these leaders and tries to pull the wool over everyone's eyes.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield for a moment, I remember during the NAFTA debate, one of the frustrations that we had is that virtually every major newspaper, without exception, every major newspaper in America told us how great the NAFTA agreement would be.

Now I am wondering if anybody here tonight knows if there has been one of those newspapers yet that has apologized to their readers and has said, whoops, we were wrong. Are my colleagues aware of any newspapers that have made that statement?

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of a single one, I would say to my colleague.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am not either, but just in 30 seconds here, I read the New York Times very carefully, because it is a good newspaper and I generally agree with them, not all of the time, with their editorials, and they are starting to express themselves in ways that they understand that there was something very wrong with NAFTA.

They are not going to admit that they were wrong, but they have been writing editorials recently with respect to the environment and Chile and labor standards, and so there is starting to be a slight sign, but that is about it. The rest of the business has been very silent, as the gentleman has indicated.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we just want to thank all of the membership for listening and for those who are tuned in on public broadcasting or C–SPAN, we want to thank the public for their interest in NAFTA, and more to come.

□ 2045

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1469, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, 1997

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105–96) on the resolution (H. Res. 146) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1469) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HEFNER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of funeral for a family member.