

In turn, our investment in peace would not only protect our foreign aid investment but would also strengthen and secure an environment for African democracy.

Today, Africans are getting poorer and hungrier, and conflict and HIV and AIDS really threaten the survival of entire nations that the breakdown of African communities is causing and the breakdown of state and regional governance. This breakdown really has created an opportunity for opportunistic individuals, companies and nations, including the United States, to exploit the absence of state authority and governing institutions and the natural resources vital to the economic and development and growth of a nation.

According to World Bank reports, poverty in Africa remains rampant. During the 1990s, the numbers of poor people on the continent living on less than \$1 per day, \$1 mind you per day, rose from 241 million to 315 million in 1999. The World Bank now estimates that by 2015 this number will be approximately 404 million. Why are the numbers of poor and impoverished Africans going up? We have to ask the question of our own government, is the United States really committed to ending global poverty and promoting democracy?

I am pleased again, as I said earlier, that President Bush is visiting the African continent, but I just wonder why he is not visiting a hunger-stricken country like Ethiopia or Zambia.

Development assistance continues to be underfunded in our budget. Budgets of international programs, especially for Africa, have been moved into budgets for rebuilding Iraq. I believe that the United States should rebuild countries that it bombs, but it should not rob Peter to pay Paul. For this one country, the United States will invest over half a billion dollars for a little over 24 million people in Iraq, while the entire foreign assistance budget for 54 African countries, with over 858 million Africans, will be a measly \$2 billion. That is an embarrassment and a real dismal dismissal of our history, heritage, and international significance for Africans and African Americans worldwide.

As I said earlier, I believe that the United States should help rebuild countries that we bomb and destroy, but we should find new money to do this. Otherwise, rebuilding a nation such as Iraq comes at a price.

The Bush administration has proposed decreases in several critical accounts in the 2004 Africa budget which will negatively impact Africa's long-term economic and political development efforts. So it appears that rebuilding Iraq, of course, is much more vital to the international community than the lowered nutritional status of Africans and the higher incidence of preventable illnesses like HIV and AIDS.

I urge our appropriators here to minimally step up to the plate and

fully fund the \$3 billion in HIV and AIDS money that we authorize tomorrow while the President is in Africa so that he can at least deliver on his promise to attack the HIV/AIDS pandemic in a real way.

RESTORING CIRCULARITY TO MEXICAN MIGRATION PATTERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the untenable situation facing our country as a result of our current immigration policies. I certainly do not believe that our Nation's borders should be left wide open. Especially today, in light of terrorist threats, we must keep track of who is entering and leaving the country. We can try to tighten up our border enforcements even more than we already have; but as long as the U.S. offers aliens more opportunity for work, people will risk their lives to cross the border.

From 1986 to 1998, the number of tax dollars that Congress appropriated for the INS increased eightfold and for the Border Patrol sixfold. The number of Border Patrol agents assigned to the southwest border doubled to 8,500.

The end result of this huge increase in enforcement efforts? More than 7 million illegal aliens reside within U.S. borders. How can we honestly tell the taxpayers that this strategy has been a success?

The increase in border enforcement has made it less likely that undocumented workers who have successfully entered the country will return home. Crossing the border is risky, so illegal workers are increasingly reluctant to repeat the trip more often than necessary once they are here. Also, smugglers are expensive. So workers must remain in the U.S. longer to pay for the high cost of crossing the border.

Before the Immigration Reform and Control Act, or the IRCA, became law in 1986, the average trip of illegal immigrants entering the U.S. lasted 3 years. After IRCA, the average trip length has risen to 8.9 years. It seems that increased border enforcement has been effective at keeping illegal immigrants in the United States.

The enormous rise in trip length has had a devastating effect on the cost of public service, particularly in my home State of Arizona. The longer illegal immigrants stay in the U.S., the more it costs local governments to provide services like health care, education, and criminal costs.

Another disturbing trend is the loss of life experienced by those who are attempting to enter the U.S. According to the Border Patrol, 146 aliens died in my home State of Arizona in 2002 while attempting to enter the country from Mexico. Nearly every day the desert claims another life of an illegal immigrant attempting to cross the border,

most likely those seeking work or a chance for making a better life for themselves and their families.

Is the answer to this problem to abandon any hope of enforcing our borders and swinging the door wide open to anyone who wishes to enter the country? Of course not. We can enforce our borders in a smarter way and greatly reduce the flow of illegal migration across them.

Rather than denying the reality of labor migration, we should instead work to regularize it and manage it within a legal framework so as to promote economic development abroad, minimize costs and disruptions for the United States and maximize benefits for all affected. Congress can and should consider an initiative that would alleviate many of the burdens that Arizona and the rest of the country suffer due to the problem of illegal immigration.

A temporary foreign worker program would direct the flow of workers into legal channels and promises to aid the government in getting a handle on who is here and who is crossing the border.

I support a program that would allow these workers legal entry into the U.S. so that they can perform the jobs that U.S. employers are offering. This legal framework would allow the U.S. to collect taxes and would provide the workers a safe and legal way to return to their homes and families.

I would submit that such a system would be far preferable than the status quo that we have today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight to talk about prescription drugs and Medicare. The bill the House passed just 2 weeks ago is simply the first step toward the Republicans goal to privatize Medicare.

□ 2015

They want to do this for a few reasons, but their most important reason for doing this is that, I think, they firmly believe, or I would even say blindly believe, that the private sector and the free market solution is always better than a government one.

The free market is an incredible tool, and it has advanced many areas of human endeavor, but for it to work, it must have one important component, and that is the bottom line, or profit.

Without that critical component, the free market system is useless.

Medicare was created in 1965 precisely to address the failure of the markets. It was not profitable to treat our seniors with a free market health insurance solution. The market solution to insuring the elderly was simply not to insure them, because, after all, they get sick too often, and insurance companies would have to pay. If you want to make money in the medical insurance game, you insure young, healthy people, not old people.

Luckily for America's seniors, the Democrats controlled Congress, and we set up Medicare. We valued our elders. And even though the markets wanted to leave them behind, we did not. We protected them, and we treated them with the compassion and the dignity they deserved in their old age.

So why do the Republicans want to privatize Medicare so badly? Do they not remember what happened before Medicare, when we left the health of our aging parents and grandparents to the free markets? Are they so swept up in their blind faith in the market that they believe somehow it will just take care of things, even though we already have tried that and we know that it does not work?

Taking care of the elderly is not profitable, nor should it be. Profit is not always the most important thing. These are the people who reared us. They are the people who took care of us when we got sick. They are the people that taught us right from wrong. The Republican proposal is a slap in the face to our parents and to our grandparents.

Every provision of the Republican bill is designed to be a handout to insurance and prescription drug companies, not to give our seniors a better health care plan. The prescription drug plan laid out is available only through private insurance companies and HMOs. There is no provision, no provision to hold down the prices drug companies can charge. It does not ensure that all seniors will be eligible for this coverage, which has been a hallmark of the Medicare program.

And if that was not bad enough, their proposal would increase seniors' costs for doctors' visits by raising the Part B premium and indexing it to inflation. This provision is included for only one reason, one reason, and that is to move people out of traditional Medicare and to force seniors into managed care plans, into HMOs.

Now, I tried to offer a substitute amendment to this bill that would have provided a real prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, but it was ruled out of order by the Committee on Rules, out of order because they did not like it, at 4:00 in the morning, in the dark of night, only hours before we voted on the bill.

My amendment would have provided one simple type of coverage, catastrophic coverage against excessively high drug costs for seniors. There were no premiums. There were no copays.

There was no coverage gap. The crux of the plan defined the out-of-pocket spending limit to 6 percent of the adjusted gross income of the beneficiary, with any additional costs being picked up by Medicare.

My plan provided annual spending targets, which would be guaranteed not to exceed the \$400 billion level that President Bush had set. It also called upon the Secretary to encourage the use of prescription drugs and contractual arrangements with pharmacy benefit managers to help control prescription drug costs.

This idea of bringing down the cost of a drug is in sharp contrast to the outrageous, noninterference clause found in the bill that passed this body 2 weeks ago, designed to ensure that drug companies can charge whatever excess price they want for the drugs they choose.

It is clear to me and to my Democratic colleagues, and it will become clear to America's seniors and their families, where the Republicans' loyalties lie. The story has been the same since the start of the 108th Congress. From homeland security to education, from veterans' benefits to the child tax credit, and now, finally, to health and to the well-being of our parents and grandparents, the Republican message is clear: If you are not a powerful corporation, if you do not give money to Republicans, they do not care about you.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address the situation in the Middle East. Our government has embarked on a journey promoting the so-called roadmap to peace, and I sincerely hope that the road we are taking is straight and wide and safe, but I am deeply worried.

I support the concept of the roadmap, and I support the idea of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but I do not believe the timing is right. Neither the Bush administration nor the Israeli Government, under pressure from the Bush administration, has required enough of the Palestinians for us to continue successfully on the road at this time.

Simply put, we need the Palestinians to crack down on terror, and they have not done it. In today's Washington Post it was reported that the administration has reversed years of American policy and decided to provide \$20 million directly to the Palestinian Authority. The amount of money is not huge, but the symbolism is.

The theory behind the policy change has some merit, as it hopefully would strengthen the hand of Prime Minister Abbas. But I believe we must demand and see a much greater commitment

toward peace and the end of terrorism from the Palestinians before we reward them with money or support that could, in fact, be used against the Israeli people.

In my opinion, before we seriously pursue the roadmap and before we send \$20 million to the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Authority should take concrete action to arrest terrorist leaders, to confiscate terrorist weapons, to dismantle terrorist organizations, to change the cultural bias that allows anti-Semitism to be taught in the schools and broadcast on radio and TV, and to stop honoring suicide terrorists with public posters and street names.

Until the Palestinian Authority cracks down on terror, the Palestinian cause should not be rewarded with a Palestinian state. We can make progress in the Middle East, we must make progress in the Middle East, but with this progress we must demand effective action from the Palestinians to stop terror. This will protect the innocent as we move down that road to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEAD START

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to discuss one of the best programs in America, a program that is 38 years old and has served the children of America extremely well. This program has been commended, lauded and talked about by Presidents Clinton and Bush, Sr., and even President Ronald Reagan commended the Head Start program.

This program has never served all of the children who need this program. As a matter of fact, we only serve about 60 percent, I believe, of the children who need the Head Start program. We find