

SANCTUARY HIDEOUTS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours of May 14, 2005, two Denver police officers were working security at a restaurant when Raul Garcia Gomez cowardly shot them both in the back and fled into the darkness of the night. Detective Donald Young was killed. Detective John Bishop was also shot in the back, but he survived. Gomez snuck out of Denver and the United States and sought safety in his country of Mexico to prevent being prosecuted for first degree murder and attempted murder.

Without dealing with the issue of Mexico's reluctance to extradite their citizens who have committed murder in the United States, Gomez had already been given a get-out-of-jail-free card in Denver because of absurd policies called "sanctuary laws." In Denver, Gomez had been stopped previously three times by local police for traffic offenses. Each time he presented a Mexican driver's license. Each time he had no proof of insurance, and each time he was released even though he was here illegally.

Had he been an American citizen, the fact that he had no insurance for the third time would have resulted in him being arrested and hauled off to jail. We seem to discriminate against American citizens for the benefit of illegal aliens. Anyway, the reason Gomez was released instead of deported: sanctuary laws.

They are laws that stop police from arresting and detaining illegals that are here in the United States. Therefore, law enforcement officials cannot do anything to a person they discover is illegally here in the country other than let them loose back in society.

In fact, some cities prohibit police from even inquiring into a person's legal status in the United States. So-called sanctuary laws prohibit officers from "initiating police action where the objective is to discover the alien status of the person."

It would seem to me, and common sense would dictate, that police should know who is in the United States illegally. Have these cities not heard of the war on terror?

This order was created in Los Angeles and has been adopted in the major cities in the United States. In these cities, if an illegal immigrant is caught for a minor violation, police cannot detain this individual for immigration violations despite the fact these people are committing a Federal offense by their presence in our country. This hands-off policy is absurd and these cities protect people who are illegally in the United States.

Unfortunately, because of lack of enforcement of immigration laws, these sanctuaries and safe havens in the United States are growing. Some U.S. cities have actually implemented poli-

cies that provide and require these safe havens for illegal people.

Mr. Speaker, in these selected hideouts, immigration laws are not enforced. These cities do not require and even some prohibit employers from reporting the illegal status to Federal officials. Creating these secret hideouts encourages illegal immigration, and Americans pay the price. Americans always pay.

Officials in Houston, Texas, recently have implemented policies restricting coordination with local police and Federal authorities regarding immigration laws. And even recently the Governor of Maine has announced an executive order forbids the State from enforcing Federal immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem and the cities that have adopted these sanctuary hideouts undermine the security of this Nation, encourage illegal immigration and promote lawlessness. All of this at the expense of Americans.

However, some cities faced with the cost of free social services to illegals have a different approach. The latest is Police Chief Garrett Chamberlain of New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He is charging illegals with criminal trespassing and arresting them. After all, they are trespassing on American soil. Part of the problem is there are too few Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents within the interior of the United States. There are less than 2,000 people enforcing the immigration laws of people who are illegally in the United States and in the interior.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than 800,000 law enforcement officials in the United States. They take a pledge to protect and serve every day, and they are tasked with the important job of keeping our communities safe from those outlaws who terrorize the streets. They watch out for our country, our kids, our families, and our great land. Novel idea, let these 800,000 officers help capture illegals that come across each day while they are on the police beat. They should be allies with the Federal Government and assist the Federal Government in efforts to protect our country from illegal immigrants that violate our law and disrespect the borders.

Police help is essential to homeland security. Local law enforcement, those first responders are the ones that encounter illegal aliens once they have snuck into our country. These sanctuary hideouts are not the answer. There should be no sanctuary for those who violate the law.

By the way, Detective Donald Young when he was murdered was shot three times in the back and in the head. He was married with two young daughters. He was 44 years of age. Detective John Bishop, shot in the back as well, only survived because of his bullet-proof vest. If the defendant had been deported upon his arrest and not given sanctuary, these officers would not have been shot. Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER
TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

RENEGOTIATE CAFTA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, House leadership promised to bring the Central American Free Trade Agreement to the floor this week for a vote. They have said, Congress will stay here over the weekend until it is done.

The President has said that defeat on CAFTA "is not an option." "The cookie jar is open." One senior CAFTA supporter, a Member of the House, went so far as to say that CAFTA will pass Congress because they will "twist arms until they break into a thousand pieces."

CAFTA supporters have resorted to toothless ideals and strong-arm tactics because they know this agreement simply cannot pass on its merits. CAFTA has languished in Congress for more than a year. Four other trade agreements in the last couple of years passed Congress within 60 days. This CAFTA, this trade agreement has languished in Congress for almost 14 months.

The reason is this trade agreement, this CAFTA, it was crafted by and negotiated by a select few, mostly the oil industry, the insurance industry, and the pharmaceutical industry, was crafted by a select few for a selected few, and that is why this agreement offends so many.

Today on the lawn of the Capitol, I joined 22 House Republicans and Democrats and more than 350 people representing family farmers and ranchers, environmentalists and workers, food safety advocates and small manufacturers, all kinds of human rights organizations, religious leaders, faith-based groups, and others, all of us in concert speaking out against the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

On the one hand, those supporting CAFTA, we have a very thorough group of special interests, again, the drug industry, the insurance industry, some of America's largest corporations. On the other hand, you have this wide array of people today representing dozens and dozens of organizations of both political parties across the political spectrum.