

and in some States people illegally in the state that go to colleges get admitted into colleges, receive State grants. Maybe those grants ought to go to American citizens.

And now with the competition of higher education so stiff, in some cases Americans are denied entry into a university to the benefit of someone who is admitted because they are illegally in the United States. Once again, this defies common sense. So the two examples, health care costs, education costs. Part of the reason is because there are people here who have benefited from it and not contributed to it.

And the third example that I would like to use is the cost of the criminal justice system. I was a judge for 22 years in Houston, Texas. Heard about 25,000 felony cases, that is serious crime, everything from stealing to killing.

About 20 percent of the people that I saw were in the United States illegally now. Think about that. First of all, they are here illegally. They commit another crime. When convicted, they are sent off to one of our State penitentiaries. Of course, Americans pay for that system. Americans pay for the criminal justice system. We pay for their incarceration. Then when the person serves their time for whatever, robbery or murder, you would think that the law in this country would say that person illegally in the United States that commits a felony and goes to the penitentiary, we would deport them back where they came from.

But that is not what we do. We bring them right back to the county in which they were convicted, and we release them. Why do we do that? Because there is no cooperation by law with the State authorities and Federal authorities on people illegally in the United States and whether they should be deported after they have served their criminal sentence.

So that costs us as well. And some likewise estimate is 18 to 19 percent of our criminal justice costs are because we have people in the United States illegally here committing crimes and having to serve their time. And we pay for that. So these are some examples of issues that the American public has to deal with and deal with immediately.

It is necessary that we as a people come to grips with the issue of illegal immigration and decide what position we are going to take, whether we are going to take a stand for the rule of law or whether we are going to ignore the law.

It would seem to me that the first duty of government is to protect the sovereignty of the Nation, protect the identity of the borders of our Nation. It just seems to me that is what most countries do.

But we have chosen not to do that, for whatever reason. I do not know the reason. But now the time has come for us to enforce the rule of law, enforce border security. It is the right thing to do. It is not the right thing to do to

tell people who come here illegally, that is okay. That is the wrong thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is a national security issue. We know that there are terrorists among us. We know they wish to do us harm. Why do we encourage that conduct by having no national policy that enforces the rule of law on our borders? Everybody wants to come to the United States. I do not blame them for that.

I mean, everybody wants to come here, but everybody cannot come to the United States. Everybody cannot live in the United States. So what are we going to do about that? Well, let us have a policy. Let us have a plan. Let us have a plan that works. Let us have a plan that encourages people to come here legally so it does not take 15 years to come into the United States legally as in the example I mentioned to you.

And let us have also a plan that enforces the rule of law and does not encourage illegal conduct, but tells people if you want to come to the United States, do it the right way, do it the legal way or stay home.

You know, we all took oaths as public officials to uphold the Constitution, to protect this country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. And I think part of our obligation is to enforce the rule of law and the sovereignty of the United States.

We call this place the land of the free and the home of the brave, and rightfully so. This very day, we have some of our bravest Americans halfway across the world protecting another country called Iraq. It is important that we in this country care more about Americans than we do about people who are illegally from foreign countries who come into the United States.

So the line is drawn in the sand, Mr. Speaker. And as I mentioned, the battle for Laredo has begun. The battle for our sovereignty is upon us. We will either protect our country or we will not. We will either surrender or we will refuse to surrender. And we cannot surrender our borders to those people who invade our country illegally. It is an invasion. It is a colonization of the United States, and it is illegally being done right under our eyes.

That is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.
(The following Member (at the request of Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)
Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1736. An act to provide for the participation of employees in the judicial branch in the Federal leave transfer program for disasters and emergencies; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 1894. An act to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for the making of foster care maintenance payments to private for-profit agencies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 20, 2005, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 3765. A bill to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities and to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 3971. Medicare Cost Sharing and Welfare Extension Act of 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, October 24, 2005, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4624. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Collection of State Commodity Assessments (RIN: 0560-AH35) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4625. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Imported Fire Ant; Additions to Quarantined Areas in Arkansas and Tennessee [Docket No. 05-030-1] received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.