

we have got about 7 minutes, but I did want to point this out, at least this point of the oath of citizenship.

If this Nation is going to continue to be stronger, I would only submit to you the Hispanics that have settled in my district from Central America, from Mexico and assimilated, have made East Texas a better place in which to live.

I have some dear friends. As a judge I presided over the wedding of some dear Hispanic friends that had come in and assimilated. I am telling you, they have made Tyler, Texas, and East Texas a better place. They have assimilated. They are wonderful people. They bring family values, and they are strong in their faith and love and joy and mirth. It has just been wonderful. But they assimilated.

That would be the one thing I just wanted to add. Melting pot is the strength, and that is what we need to get back to.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate the gentleman coming to the floor at this hour of the evening to add to the dialogue here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pick up with that. Certainly assimilation, we are the nation that has been successful in assimilation. The Israelis established their country in 1948, and in 1954 they established Hebrew as their official language. They did that because they needed a common language to tie them together.

I asked them, why did you do that? Where did you get that inspiration? They said, well, we saw the success the United States had with assimilation, so we wanted to adopt a similar policy.

They resurrected a language that wasn't used functionally other than in prayer for 2,000 years and put it in the workplace, and everyone that comes to Israel learns Hebrew, and that is how they tie themselves together as a nation.

But I would like to point out another statement that gets repeated that is not challenged often, and that is we can't replace all these workers, the ones that are here illegally. If we shut off the jobs magnet and they go home, we can't replace them.

Here are some numbers that one might work with to give us an idea on whether we can replace them or not. The Pew Foundation put out some numbers, this is a year ago, so they have raised them a little bit, but at that time they were working with 11 million illegals in America. 6.3 million of them were working. About the same proportion if you want to go to 12 million, but I don't have that factor figured in.

If you are going to replace the 6.3 million working illegals in the United States, the first place we would go would be the unemployment rolls. That is 17.5 million on unemployment. We are paying them not to work. One would think we could just simply pay them to work and replace the 6.3 million. Maybe they continue to have the

skills necessary and you can develop some skills in them, but there would be 7.5 million there in that category.

Then of those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, that is another 5.2 million that are looking for work but they are not on the unemployment rolls. So we are at 12.7 million.

Another 9.3 million teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 are not in the workforce, even on a part-time basis. We would go to them to help work in our fields, for example, and flip some burgers. Add to that 4.5 million who are the young seniors, ages 65 to 69. Some of those people would go to work if they didn't have a disincentive, Mr. Speaker.

Then of those between the ages of 20 and 64, the really prime work age, there is another 51 million in America that are simply not in the workforce. They could be retired, they could be working on the black market, they maybe are doing some kind of dishonest enterprise, but they are not in the workforce in any meaningful way. They would also become part of that force that we could hire from.

Added up altogether, 77.5 million non-working Americans between the ages of 16 and 69. We could surely tap one out of every 12.3 of those to fill the gap for the 6.3 million illegals that are working in this country. That is before we bring technology to bear. That is before we find other solutions for any kind of gaps we might have in our hiring practices. So there are solutions out here, Mr. Speaker.

And it is not true that there are jobs that Americans won't do. Americans are doing all of these jobs right now today. For example, in the construction business, 12 percent in the construction industry are illegal workers. Thirteen percent is the unemployment rate in the construction industry.

There are the other comparable rates. In those kind of sectors where there is a high concentration of illegals, there is also a high unemployment that corresponds with that. The reason is because those American workers have been displaced by cheaper labor and they can't afford to go do that work for that kind of money.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is piece after piece of this immigration issue that needs to be discussed. It is a very, very complicated issue. It is a very emotional issue. I stand on enforcement first. Let's establish that we can defend and protect our borders. Let's build a fence. Let's eliminate birthright for citizenship. Let's shut off the jobs magnet. Let's pass my New Idea bill, which removes the Federal deductibility for wages and benefits paid to illegals.

If we can do those things and establish that we can enforce the law in this country and respect for the law, then we can have a legitimate debate on what kind of workforce we need and where they need to come from.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MCGOVERN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Ms. WATSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mrs. EMERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of inspecting tornado damage in her district.

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 Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPFUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and April 5 and 6.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and April 5, 6, and 7.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and April 5, 6, and 7.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, and April 5, 6, and 7.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, April 7.

Mr. KELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LATHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution designating the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's