

Those who knowingly hire and house illegal immigrants, all in the name of making a little money, should go to jail. Rodney Johnson's blood is on the hands of the employer who brought the illegal outlaw back to the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS RECOGNIZE THAT ECONOMY IS IN TROUBLE AND VOW TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT TO STIMULATE IT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, as Congress resumes this week, our priority must be to work in a bipartisan fashion to address our struggling economy.

There is no way to sugarcoat this economy. Over the past 12 months, wages have fallen, forcing hardworking middle-class families to work harder for less. As a result, family debt is at an all-time high and household debt averages an average 133 percent of disposable income. Last year, families were spending 14.5 percent of their disposable income to service their own debt, and middle-class families are having a harder and harder time just making ends meet.

Democrats want to work with President Bush to create a bipartisan economic plan that is timely, targeted, and temporary. Economic experts say this is the best way to stimulate the economy. Last Friday, congressional leaders sent a letter to President Bush asking him to come to the table so that a bipartisan plan can be reached.

Madam Speaker, the American people need our help during this uncertain economic time. We cannot wait any longer to help this economy, and the only way it can be done is if we work together.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MORE FAVORABLE THAN COVERAGE OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a study by Harvard University and the Project for Excellence in Journalism has reaffirmed what many of us have long observed: Media coverage of Democratic Presidential candidates has been far more abundant and favorable than coverage of Republican Presidential candidates.

The study found that 49 percent of all stories involved Democratic candidates, while just 31 percent involved Republican candidates. In addition, Democratic Presidential candidates received twice as much favorable coverage as Republicans, and Hillary Clinton drew nearly twice as much media coverage as any Republican nominee.

Until we hold journalists to the highest standards of their profession, unfair reporting will continue to influence elections and undermine our democracy.

BETTER LEADERSHIP NEEDED DURING TRYING ECONOMIC TIMES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, America is sliding into a full-fledged recession. Meanwhile, the President continues to pour hundreds of billions of dollars more into the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the first wars in America's history in which most Americans have never been asked to sacrifice anything.

The President has offered no means to pay for this war spending. It is being financed solely through increased borrowing. Apparently, the idea is to borrow money, particularly from China, while driving up oil prices that benefit Iran in order to fight the war on terrorism. I am not sure that is such a wise strategy.

We send an astounding \$60 million a day to China. We now owe China \$1.4 trillion. America has never been so deeply in debt to another country in our Nation's history. It is the equivalent of every American borrowing \$4,000 from China.

Today, the Bush administration will announce that our trade deficit with China is \$250 billion, a quarter of a trillion dollars, just this year. We have gotten ourselves into a financial vise, too dependent upon a totalitarian state. It can't continue and should not. We need better leadership, Madam Speaker.

COMMENDING PETER GROFF ON BECOMING FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN STATE SENATE PRESIDENT IN COLORADO HISTORY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend my friend Peter Groff on his historic achievement of becoming the first African American State Senate President in Colorado's history. Senator Groff becomes only the third African American Senate President in U.S. history. This momentous accomplishment is well-deserved.

Senator Groff is one of the most honorable, bright, and deliberate individuals I have ever had the pleasure to serve with. He embodies statesmanship and has earned the trust and esteem of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Senator Groff's courageous and visionary approach to governing can be summed up in his own words: "To be bigger than the politics of the moment." I find it fitting that the man nicknamed "the conscience of the Col-

orado Senate" would be the first in our State's history to shatter this once seemingly impenetrable glass ceiling.

In closing, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm once said, "I don't measure America by its achievement, but by its potential." I can think of no better person to help Colorado achieve its potential than Peter Groff. He will serve Colorado with honor and distinction.

BRINGING ECONOMIC SECURITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to express my strong concern about the fiscal crisis that we are facing here in our country.

The subprime mortgage crisis has directly impacted millions of American homeowners, particularly in my own district in the San Gabriel Valley. As the chart shows, nearly 650 families in my district somewhere lost their homes to foreclosure. In Los Angeles alone, a family loses their home every hour.

Nationally, unemployment rates have risen above 5 percent. Half of my district has a rate above 5 percent. In East Los Angeles, it is upwards of 7.2 percent. Other economic indicators are showing signs of an economic slowdown, including a sharp decline in consumer spending and the largest annual increase in wholesale prices in 26 years.

While I am proud that this House has passed billions to provide relief for middle-income Americans and small businesses and increased the minimum wage, we still have to do more. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to bring economic security back to the working families, not only in my district, but across this country.

RESPONSE NEEDED REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN MILITARY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks that my colleagues have made on the existence of an economic crisis and to ask this administration to wake up. I hope that we will do something to deal with the catastrophic subprime mortgage collapse, and that is to call for a moratorium on all foreclosures across America, those individuals who are behind in their payments and those who are in fact keeping up with their payments. Some response has to come.

But I do want to step aside from the economic engine and the need for that to cite a situation that I think is drastic and, of course, a disaster, and that is the tragedy of the young marine, the young woman, who has now lost her