

considered seriously by that rogues gallery known as the Human Rights Council. Is this how the United States supports Israel and counters the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bias that is present every day at the U.N.?

We must recognize what is at stake here. If the democratic political and military leaders of Israel can be hauled before an unaccountable court for defending their nation against violent extremists in Gaza, then how long before U.S. officials and those of other NATO countries will face the same for defending our Nation against al Qaeda and other such threats? Ultimately, this report is an effort by the enemies of freedom to deprive democracies of the right of self-defense, making it open season for global jihadists to come after Israel or the U.S. and other free nations.

As the leadership of the Simon Wiesenthal Center stated in a recent letter to our ambassador, Susan Rice, consideration of this report is a prescription for disaster not only for Israel, but for the United States and every country that fights violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, we must oppose any effort to grant consideration or legitimacy in any forum to this irredeemably biased U.N. report. We must support the right of Israel, the right of the U.S., the right of all democracies to defend ourselves and our citizens.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the U.S. to lead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Next month, the government is going to go to the expense of sending out a letter to well over 40 million Social Security recipients telling them they are not going to get a cost-of-living adjustment, but they didn't experience inflation this year. Now, the only problem with that is the way we measure inflation is heavily oriented toward nonessential consumer goods of which seniors do not buy a lot.

Seniors have to buy certain essentials; pharmaceuticals, up double digits in the last year. Seniors buy health insurance, Medigap policies up high single digits in the last year. Seniors have rent, utilities, probably also up depending upon where they live. But they are not entitled to a COLA because of a defect in the way we calculate COLAs.

I have tried to fix this for years by having a special calculation for seniors

and not one for younger consumers, which is essentially what the CPI is oriented towards. It isn't even very reflective of the cost of average American families. It is very skewed. It was skewed beginning in the Reagan years, and it has never been fixed to try and understate real inflation to real Americans.

In this case, we have an opportunity. We could fix this injustice to our seniors and help those most in need, many of whom are either principally or totally dependent upon a Social Security income. We could give them a one-time \$250 payment, which would equate to almost a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment. That would cover the increase in their Medicare part B premium, maybe some of their Medigap insurance, maybe a little bit of what they're having to pay in higher pharmaceutical costs. For many seniors it could avert a disaster in terms of their personal budgets.

So I have introduced legislation, along with 14 of my colleagues—today, I reintroduced it—which would give a one-time \$250 payment to 48.9 million people who are on OASDI, that is Social Security and disability, 5.1 on SSI, 1.4 million veterans, and 200,000 railroad retirees.

Now, I want to be fiscally responsible; I don't want to take it out of the Social Security trust fund which is looking toward problems some 37 years down the road or so, or starting in 2037. So I would pay for this, and it's quite simple: in order to give this benefit to over 50 million people, something for them to make ends meet and scratch by, all we have to do is ask that that select group of Americans—many of whom work on Wall Street—who will earn over \$1.4 million this year, that for their earnings over \$1.4 million they pay the same Social Security tax as every working American who earns less than \$106,000. The tax now is only applied to income up to \$106,000. After that, you don't pay it. That means if you earn \$1.4 million, your tax rate is about 7 percent of someone who earns \$40,000 a year.

Let's make it fair. I hear a lot about flat taxes and fairness. Let's make it fair; let's make it flat. Let's ask those people who are earning over \$1.4 million to pay the same percentage of that income in Social Security tax as people who earn less than \$106,000. And if they did that just for 1 year, we could give those 50 million seniors and disabled and veterans and railroad retirees a small, \$250 one-time cost-of-living adjustment. I think it's only fair in this tough economy that those at the absolute tiptop just do a little bit more to help those most in need.

I recommend this legislation to my colleagues.

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

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

THE RULE OF LAW IS BEING IGNORED

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the open borders crowd is at it again, pushing for amnesty for people that are illegally in the United States.

It is bad public policy to give a wink and a nod to people who continue to advocate the exploitation of American border laws for their own personal agenda. A nation cannot survive in freedom without just following the law. The very future of any civilization rests upon the rule of law.

Now, we are a self-governing people. That means we are a Nation of laws. We don't get to choose what laws we follow and what ones we don't. That would mean complete chaos. If people want to come to the United States legally, by all means let them come legally. Sign the guest book at the port of entry so we know who you are, so we know the purpose of your visit and whether or not you mean harm to American citizens. That means everybody who comes here, not just a select few.

The push to reward illegal behavior today by granting amnesty only encourages more of the same illegal behavior. A new Zogby-Washington Times poll in Mexico found that 56 percent of Mexican nationals surveyed said that if we pardon illegal immigrants here, it will encourage more of them to come across the border illegally.

The poll also showed that most folks in Mexico think their countrymen who come here still owe their loyalty to Mexico, not America. Now, these are things the open borders crowd won't tell you. Many people come here and don't want to become Americans; they just want the personal benefits of being in the United States without any obligation to the country. And amnesty will only encourage more illegal entry.

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Anyone who comes to this country permanently owes this Nation the respect of learning what it means to be an American—embracing the melting pot concept. They should honor the sacrifices of the men and women who have made our history great in these 200-plus years. This mighty Nation is the beacon of liberty, and it did not happen by chance. It came through hard work and sacrifice in the name of freedom. It came from following a set of principles and ideals, and it came from following the rule of law—laws passed by our representative form of government with the consent of the governed.

The American dream is not about money; it's about liberty, and those