

again so that this legislation which I have proposed not be misunderstood. There is a minimum threshold which is internationally recognized, how nations are supposed to deal with people who make political asylum claims. The United States in its wisdom has a more generous threshold on that. And so when INS officers are confronted with this claim, they have limited movement, limited freedom of action in order to deal with it. In our case, because these illegal immigrants are basically part of a network of criminal activities, they are all men in their 20s, they are carefully selected because these men will work for many, many years and will continue to pump money back into the crime syndicate which brought them over, it is important that we remove that incentive for the time being in order to deal with this and to end this problem. I would add that this is a growing problem not only in Guam although Guam is the first part but even as far away as the Virgin Islands, there are incidents once in a while in which there are people being smuggled in from China by criminal organizations. This is a widespread problem. In our case I think it makes sense to try to deal with it in the way that I have just outlined.

Lastly, I would like to address a problem very briefly which affects everyone, and, that is, the Y2K problem. I think our contemporary world is ever more dependent on computers to assist with and manage our daily lives. From the ATM machine to the desktop PC, to the pacemaker, to air traffic control systems, computers and their myriad of programs all work in concert to make our lives better and more productive. On my home island of Guam, computers have improved mass communication with the U.S. mainland and overseas areas in all facets of life, law, business, government, commerce, military, trade, transportation and perhaps most important for us, staying in touch with our families wherever they may be throughout the world. Because our lives on Guam are so intertwined with computers, the year 2000 or the Y2K problem may pose quite a crippling problem to many communities. I want to point out that the year 2000 will first be experienced on Guam, 15 hours before it will be experienced here. So if we are going to get some computer glitches, we are going to feel them in Guam right away.

The Y2K problem was created by a programming oversight. As a result of an archaic, two-digit dating system in computer software and hardware, vital systems may be knocked off-line on January 1, 2000, creating cyber-havoc for many. This concern has led the General Accounting Office to elect the Y2K problem to the top of the "high risk" list for every Federal agency.

There exists a Congressional Research Service report, requested at the

behest of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN over 3 years ago, dealing with the implications of the Y2K problem. The report states, among other things, that the year 2000 problem is a serious problem and the cost of rectifying it will indeed be rather high.

Now, the Federal Government, and we have heard about this and read about it almost on a daily basis, has become rather proficient in getting its agencies and its departments to comply with the inevitable reprogramming that is required to fix this bug. But not without some effort. Both the Senate and the House have truly taken the lead on this pressing issue. Under the gentle prodding of Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT and DODD as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), the President appointed a Y2K Council to get the government, the U.S. Government, the Federal Government, focused on this issue. They have done well enough that many citizens do not fear the end of the year despite the rhetoric of many doomsayers. That said, to paraphrase Robert Frost, we have many miles yet to go before we sleep.

Up until today, States, territories and local authorities have been left to their own devices in terms of fixing the year 2000 problem. While most of the Federal Government's critical services may be Y2K compliant by January 1, 2000, many of the States and local jurisdictions will not be. This includes Guam and other territories. In Guam, for example, the local Office of the Public Auditor recently released a study outlining the territorial Y2K problem. While some of the government of Guam's departments are Y2K compliant ahead of schedule, many are not. Guam's Department of Public Works and Department of Public Health and Social Services, both lifeblood agencies for both Guam's public infrastructure and poor and handicapped, do not have enough money or are behind in scheduling and performing Y2K conversions. The story is the same throughout the country in many cities, counties, towns and territories: time is running out or the money has already run out.

The bill which I have introduced today will establish a program that will allow States and territories to apply for funding to initiate Y2K conversions of State computer systems which distribute Federal money for vital welfare programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, better known as WIC; child support enforcement, child care and child welfare, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, better known as TANF. Through the application of Y2K technical assistance funds for these programs, we can ensure that the lifeblood of many of the poorest Americans will not be disrupted by the turn of the calendar.

This vital legislation, which I have introduced today, is the House companion bill to the Moynihan-Bennett-Dodd bill, S. 174 as introduced in the Senate. We have modified the original Senate vehicle to ensure that the territories and the District of Columbia will not be excluded from this important program, an apparent and accidental oversight of the Senate version. I will not tell my colleagues how many oversights we have experienced similar to those, but certainly those of us from the territories are always cognizant of the fact that many legislative items do not address our needs until we take specific action to take care of that. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan and fiscally responsible and necessary legislation. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN), the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALOMAVAEGA) for lending their support as the representatives from non-State areas of the United States. Finally, I want to especially thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT and DODD for taking the lead on educating all Americans on the Y2K problem as well as legislating wise solutions to ameliorate its potentially harmful effects. This is good legislation. I think it deserves careful scrutiny in order to assist local governments that deal primarily with Federal programs to make sure that there are no glitches in the system as we celebrate the end of 1999.

Again I want to reiterate, I want to express my personal gratitude to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and all the Members of Congress who went on the congressional delegation to the Pacific areas to try to deal with some of the problems, to understand some of the problems experienced by Guam, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the Republic of the Marshalls, which was kind of a State visit. These islands represent a marvelous part of the world, a part of the world that is frequently romanticized and sometimes misunderstood. These are real people with real-life stories and compelling stories to tell. All of them have made an enormous contribution to the United States in one way or another and are deserving of the respect and dignity of human beings and U.S. citizens everywhere.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, March 4, 1999.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 5(a) of Public Law 105-255, I hereby appoint the following individual to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development:

Dr. Jill Shapiro, Ph.D. of Tiburon, CA.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

**RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REFORM**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 3, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As you may know, I have been appointed to serve on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence by Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri.

I respectfully request a leave of absence from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight for the duration of my service on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. In accordance with the rules of the Democratic Caucus, I will retain my seniority on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight during this period.

Sincerely,

GARY A. CONDIT,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CHENOWETH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of illness.

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. PASTOR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ENGLISH, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GILMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 8, 1999, at 2 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.**

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

885. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request to make available previously appropriated contingent emergency funds for the Department of Energy; (H. Doc. No. 106-35); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

886. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Uniform Criteria for State Observational Surveys of Seat Belt Use [Docket No. NHTSA-98-4280] (RIN: 2127-AH46) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

887. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council, pursuant to Public Law 102-1, section 3 (105 Stat. 4); (H. Doc. No. 106-34); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

888. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1 to November 30, 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

889. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a copy of his report for FY 1998 on each instance a federal agency did not fully implement recommendations made by the GAO in connection with a bid protest decided during the fiscal year, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3554(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

890. A letter from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting a report on General Accounting Office employees detailed to congressional committees as of January 22, 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

891. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Stafford Act, as amended, will exceed \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared on September 28, 1998 as a result of Hurricane Georges, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

892. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Transport Category Airplanes

Equipped with Day-Ray Products, Inc., Fluorescent Light Ballasts [Docket No. 96-NM-163-AD; Amendment 39-11034; AD 99-04-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

893. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG (IAE) V2500-A5-D5 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 98-ANE-08-AD; Amendment 39-11027; AD 99-04-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

894. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 98-ANE-28-AD; Amendment 39-11029 AD 99-04-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

895. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Griffin, GA [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASO-26] received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

896. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Burlington, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-45] received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

897. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D and Class E Airspace; St. Joseph, MO [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-49] received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

898. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-373-AD; Amendment 39-11031; AD 99-04-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

899. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29463; Amdt. No. 1914] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

900. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29464; Amdt. No. 1915] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

901. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29465; Amdt. No. 1916] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received February