

Eckford. On September 23, they tried again to enter the school, succeeded but had to leave because of the threatening mob outside. Bates demanded that President Eisenhower intervene and violence spread throughout the city.

The President dispatched 10,000 members of the National Guard and the 101st Airborne division and Central High was integrated.

Although Daisy Bates "won," it was not without a great price. She and other local NAACP leaders were arrested and she and her husband lost their newspaper business when they refused to cave-in to the demands of advertisers that she dissuade blacks from applying for admission to Central High School.

Diane Nash grew up on Chicago's South Side and in 1959 went off to Nashville to attend Fisk University, one of our nation's leading historically black colleges. "There were no restaurants in downtown Nashville where black people could sit and eat in an unsegregated manner, and only one movie theater, where we were relegated to the balcony," Nash told a Chicago Tribune reporter in 1994.

She began attending workshops on non-violence and soon found herself involved in lunchcounter sit-ins that eventually spread across the South. Beginning on New Year's Day 1960 in Greensboro, N.C., and Nashville, the civil rights activists targeted the lunch counters of Woolworth's Walgreen's and Kresge's and other local restaurants. By that summer, Nashville became the first city in the South to desegregate its lunch counters. Another victory for nonviolence—and good organization.

Nash went on to help form the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and in 1961 helped to organize the first Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Ala., to Jackson, Miss., in which blacks and whites rode the bus together in violation of state laws.

"Riders were beaten repeatedly at the various stops, and buses were set ablaze," Nash later recounted. "The riders were considered so dangerous that many gave sealed letters to be mailed in the event of their deaths."

Nash went to jail for her efforts to integrate interstate bus travel and went on to serve on a Presidential committee that made recommendations for what was to become the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

History teaches us many things, but the most important lesson we can learn from Johnny Carr, Daisy Bates and Diane Nash and their struggle for civil rights is that through courage, commitment, and a willingness to work together, each and every one of us can overcome our most difficult and sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Let me close with an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last sermon, the one he gave in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the night before he was murdered:

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. . . .

In this House of Representatives I am pleased to serve with 13 women of color who are also helping to shape our great America.

Working together, we can envision and realize that America.

REMARKS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week a man was forced to mourn the loss of his wife, not once, but twice in one week.

After believing that he had buried his wife Michaelle—who was one of the victims of the ill-fated boat of Haitian refugees that sunk off the coast of Florida March 5—Mr. Edner Doirin was informed that the morgue originally gave him the wrong body. So he had to endure a second burial to lay his wife to rest.

This is tragic in itself. But what makes it intolerable is that Mr. Doirin's wife should never have had to be buried at all.

She should be alive and well. Instead, she is one of the many victims of an illegal smuggling operation that treats human beings like cargo.

The March 5 disaster that left as many as 40 people dead is one of the most historically deadly smuggling incidents ever off of our South Florida shores.

And it came on the heels of a similar tragedy in mid-December, when as many as 13 people drowned in another illegal smuggling attempt.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is clearly on the brink—again—of an illegal immigration crisis. In the short period between January 1 and March 10, there have been a total of 45 illegal landings, 31 interdictions and 34 identified smuggling activities, resulting in over 400 illegal alien entrants by sea.

These are part of an effort by smugglers to take advantage of desperate, innocent people living in rapidly deteriorating conditions in Haiti, Cuba, and other impoverished or politically repressive countries.

We have heard the Clinton Administration say that it is "doing everything it can" to address this situation and that—even after this recent tragedy—there is no need to change its policies or to target additional resources.

I strongly, strongly disagree.

I do not believe that this Administration has truly committed itself and the resources that Congress has given it to adequately addressing the problem of illegal immigration and alien smuggling.

President Clinton has reportedly ignored his own immigration officials. He also has ignored the 1996 law that we passed in Congress that both provided funding and required that 1,000 new Border Patrol agents be hired each year from 1997 to 2001.

They call this decision to intentionally ignore the law a decision to—quote—"take a breather."

Recently, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner testified before a Senate subcommittee that the Administration decided to "take a breath-

er"—and say no—when she and Attorney General Reno both requested funding for the 1,000 new agents.

And while the Administration is "taking a breather," people are drowning off the coast of Florida.

What angers me even more is to see my own state of Florida becoming the weak link and the focal point of current illegal smuggling efforts.

While the number of immigration control agents has more than doubled during the past five years—to over 8,000—Florida hasn't seen an increase of agents in 10 years.

In Florida, 52 Border Patrol agents are trying to stop an estimated 12,000 illegals who come into Florida by sea each year. Because of their few numbers, the Border Patrol and Coast Guard together are only able to catch a mere 10% of them.

Not only are there huge gaps in our Border Patrol, but the mechanisms designed to nab the illegal aliens that slip in are also failing.

The INS has now decided to change their enforcement tactics and has suspended most surprise workplace inspections that would identify illegal workers and the employers who hire them.

These once-successful tactics are not only being eliminated in Florida, but across the country. And the switch sends a clear message to illegal aliens and smugglers that they're OK unless they get caught committing a crime.

I think it's unbelievable that our enforcement standards are going down just when illegal immigration is on the rise.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush wrote to Attorney General Reno following our most recent tragedy requesting additional efforts. I would like to call upon the Clinton administration to honor his requests:

He is asking—and I am asking—for:

More effective intelligence operations to detect immigrant smuggling—The recent tragedy was detected by commercial ship, not U.S. intelligence.

Greater interdiction efforts along the U.S. coast. More deaths could be prevented if boats of illegal immigrants were stopped at sea.

Increased federal resources to make the prevention of immigrant smuggling a top priority, with an increased focus on South Florida.

Expanded holding capacity for the Krome detention facility located in Miami-Dade county so that officials will be able to detain larger numbers of illegal aliens after raids.

The creation of a federal task force to focus on smuggling.

An aggressive public information campaign directed at smugglers.

Mr. Speaker, people are dying—dying just short of Florida's shores, of America's shores. The responsibility for preventing these tragedies lies solely with the Administration, who has been given the way by Congress to act—but apparently not the will.

I strongly urge President Clinton to mount an aggressive, relentless effort to put a stop to the insidious problem of illegal immigrant smuggling once and for all . . . before more lives are lost.