

designed to terminate tribal nations and their culture. Mr. Speaker, we share the responsibility for the historical treatment of Native Americans since the Bureau of Indian Affairs bears the responsibility of implementing the laws and policies of Congress.

While we cannot erase the deplorable history of Indian policy in the United States, I want to acknowledge that today the Bureau of Indian Affairs and its 10,000 employees are striving to be advocates for Indian people. I believe that Assistant Secretary Gover's profound and wise remarks will become an important document in the annals of American history. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share Mr. Gover's remarks with my colleagues.

REMARKS OF KEVIN GOVER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY—INDIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AT THE CEREMONY ACKNOWLEDGING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS—SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

In March of 1824, President James Monroe established the Office of Indian Affairs in the Department of War. Its mission was to conduct the nation's business with regard to Indian affairs. We have come together today to mark the first 175 years of the institution now known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It is appropriate that we do so in the first year of a new century and a new millennium, a time when our leaders are reflecting on what lies ahead and preparing for those challenges. Before looking ahead, though, this institution must first look back and reflect on what it has wrought and, by doing so, come to know that this is no occasion for celebration; rather it is time for reflection and contemplation, a time for sorrowful truths to be spoken, a time for contrition.

We must first reconcile ourselves to the fact that the works of this agency have at various times profoundly harmed the communities it was meant to serve. From the very beginning, the Office of Indian Affairs was an instrument by which the United States enforced its ambition against the Indian nations and Indian people who stood in its path. And so, the first mission of this institution was to execute the removal of the southeastern tribal nations. By threat, deceit, and force, these great tribal nations were made to march 1,000 miles to the west, leaving thousands of their old, their young and their infirm in hasty graves along the Trail of Tears.

As the nation looked to the West for more land, this agency participated in the ethnic cleansing that befell the western tribes. War necessarily begets tragedy; the war for the West was no exception. Yet in these more enlightened times, it must be acknowledged that the deliberate spread of disease, the decimation of the mighty bison herds, the use of the poison alcohol to destroy mind and body, and the cowardly killing of women and children made for tragedy on a scale so ghastly that it cannot be dismissed as merely the inevitable consequence of the clash of competing ways of life. This agency and the good people in it failed in the mission to prevent the devastation. And so great nations of patriot warriors fell. We will never push aside the memory of unnecessary and violent death at places such as Sand Creek, the banks of the Washita River, and Wounded Knee.

Nor did the consequences of war have to include the futile and destructive efforts to annihilate Indian cultures. After the devastation of tribal economies and the deliberate creation of tribal dependence on the services

provided by this agency, this agency set out to destroy all things Indian.

This agency forbade the speaking of Indian languages, prohibited the conduct of traditional religious activities, outlawed traditional government, and made Indian people ashamed of who they were. Worst of all, the Bureau of Indian Affairs committed these acts against the children entrusted to its boarding schools, brutalizing them emotionally, psychologically, physically, and spiritually. Even in this era of self-determination, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs is at long last serving as an advocate for Indian people in an atmosphere of mutual respect, the legacy of these misdeeds haunts us. The trauma of shame, fear and anger has passed from one generation to the next, and manifests itself in the rampant alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic violence that plague Indian country. Many of our people live lives of unrelenting tragedy as Indian families suffer the ruin of lives by alcoholism, suicides made of shame and despair, and violent death at the hands of one another. So many of the maladies suffered today in Indian country result from the failures of this agency. Poverty, ignorance, and disease have been the product of this agency's work.

And so today I stand before you as the leader of an institution that in the past has committed acts so terrible that they infect, diminish, and destroy the lives of Indian people decades later, generations later. These things occurred despite the efforts of many good people with good hearts who sought to prevent them. These wrongs must be acknowledged if the healing is to begin.

I do not speak today for the United States. That is the province of the nation's elected leaders, and I would not presume to speak on their behalf. I am empowered, however, to speak on behalf of this agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I am quite certain that the words that follow reflect the hearts of its 10,000 employees.

Let us begin by expressing our profound sorrow for what this agency has done in the past. Just like you, when we think of these misdeeds and their tragic consequences, our hearts break and our grief is as pure and complete as yours. We desperately wish that we could change this history, but of course we cannot. On behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I extend this formal apology to Indian people for the historical conduct of this agency.

And while the BIA employees of today did not commit these wrongs, we acknowledge that the institution we serve did. We accept this inheritance, this legacy of racism and inhumanity. And by accepting this legacy, we accept also the moral responsibility of putting things right.

We therefore begin this important work anew, and make a new commitment to the people and communities that we serve, a commitment born of the dedication we share with you to the cause of renewed hope and prosperity for Indian country. Never again will this agency stand silent when hate and violence are committed against Indians. Never again will we allow policy to proceed from the assumption that Indians possess less human genius than the other races. Never again will we be complicit in the theft of Indian property. Never again will we appoint false leaders who serve purposes other than those of the tribes. Never again will we allow unflattering and stereotypical images of Indian people to deface the halls of government or lead the American people to shallow and ignorant beliefs about Indians. Never again will we attack your religions,

your languages, your rituals, or any of your tribal ways. Never again will we seize your children, nor teach them to be ashamed of who they are. Never again.

We cannot yet ask your forgiveness, not while the burdens of this agency's history weigh so heavily on tribal communities. What we do ask is that, together, we allow the healing to begin: As you return to your homes, and as you talk with your people, please tell them that time of dying is at its end. Tell your children that the time of shame and fear is over. Tell your young men and women to replace their anger with hope and love for their people. Together, we must wipe the tears of seven generations. Together, we must allow our broken hearts to mend. Together, we will face a challenging world with confidence and trust. Together, let us resolve that when our future leaders gather to discuss the history of this institution, it will be time to celebrate the rebirth of joy, freedom, and progress for the Indian Nations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was born in 1824 in a time of war on Indian people. May it live in the year 2000 and beyond as an instrument of their prosperity.

H-1B VISA ISSUE

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for my colleagues an article that recently appeared in the *New York Times*. With all the recent discussion about the H-1B visa issue, I thought this article was not only timely, but quite effective at unveiling the truth behind all the rhetoric I've heard. In fact, I believe this article succinctly captures the reasons why Congress should not raise the H-1B visa limit.

[From the *New York Times*, Sept. 6, 2000]

QUESTIONING THE LABOR SHORTAGE

(By Richard Rothstein)

To alleviate apparent shortages of computer programmers, President Clinton and Congress have agreed to raise a quota on H-1B's, the temporary visas for skilled foreigners. The annual limit will go to 200,000 next year, up from 65,000 only three years ago.

The imported workers, most of whom come from India, are said to be needed because American schools do not graduate enough young people with science and math skills. Microsoft's chairman, William H. Gates, and Intel's chairman, Andrew S. Grove, told Congress in June that more visas were only a stopgap until education improved.

But the crisis is a mirage. High-tech companies portray a shortage, yet it is our memories that are short: only yesterday there was a glut of science and math graduates.

The computer industry took advantage of that glut by reducing wages. This discouraged youths from entering the field, creating the temporary shortages of today. Now, taking advantage of a public preconception that school failures have created the problem, industry finds a ready audience for its demands to import workers.

This newspaper covered the earlier surplus extensively. In 1992, it reported that 1 in 5 college graduates had a job not requiring a college degree. A 1995 article headlined "Supply Exceeds Demand for Ph.D.'s in Many

Science Fields" cited nationwide unemployment of engineers, mathematicians and scientists. "Overproduction of Ph.D. degrees," it noted, "seems to be highest in computer science."

Michael S. Teitelbaum, a demographer who served as vice chairman of the Commission on Immigration Reform, said in 1996 that there was "an employer's market" for technology workers, partly because of post-cold-war downsizing in aerospace.

In fields with real labor scarcity, wages rise. Yet despite accounts of dot-com entrepreneurs' becoming millionaires, trends in computer technology pay do not confirm a need to import legions of programmers.

Salary offers to new college graduates in computer science averaged \$39,000 in 1986 and had declined by 1994 to \$33,000 (in constant dollars). The trend reversed only in the late 1990's.

The West Coast median salary for experienced software engineers was \$71,000 in 1999, up only 10 percent (in constant dollars) from 1990. This pay growth of about 1 percent a year suggests no labor shortage.

Norman Matloff, a computer science professor at the University of California, contends that high-tech companies create artificial shortages by refusing to hire experienced programmers. Many with technology degrees no longer work in the field. By age 50, fewer than half are still in the industry. Luring them back requires higher pay.

Industry spokesmen say older programmers with outdated skills would take too long to retrain. But Dr. Matloff counters by saying that when they urge more H-1B visas, lobbyists demonstrate a shortage by pointing to vacancies lasting many months. Companies could train older programmers in less time than it takes to process visas for cheaper foreign workers.

Dr. Matloff says that in addition to the pay issue, the industry rejects older workers because they will not work the long hours typical at Silicon Valley companies with youthful "singles" styles. Imported labor, he argues, is only a way to avoid offering better conditions to experienced programmers. H-1B workers, in contrast, cannot demand higher pay: visas are revoked if workers leave their sponsoring companies.

As for young computer workers, the labor market has recently tightened, with rising wages, because college students saw earlier wage declines and stopped majoring in math and science. In 1996, American colleges awarded 25,000 bachelor's degrees in computer science, down from 42,000 in 1985.

The reason is not that students suddenly lacked preparation. On the contrary, high school course-taking in math and science, including advanced placement, had climbed. Further, math scores have risen; last year 24 percent of seniors who took the SAT scored over 600 in math. But only 6 percent planned to major in computer science, and many of these cannot get into college programs.

The reason: colleges themselves have not yet adjusted to new demand. In some places, computer science courses are so oversubscribed that students must get on waiting lists as high school juniors.

With a time lag between student choice of majors and later job quests, high schools and colleges cannot address short-term supply and demand shifts for particular professions. Such shortages can be erased only by raising wages to attract those with needed skills who are now working in other fields—or by importing low-paid workers.

For the longer term, rising wages can guide counselors to encourage well-prepared

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

students to major in computer science and engineering, and colleges will adjust to rising demand. But more H-1B immigrants can have a perverse effect, as their lower pay signals young people to avoid this field in future, keeping the domestic supply artificially low.

IN HONOR OF THE CRUSIN' HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES AT THE ROUTE 66 RENDEZVOUS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the City of San Bernardino will be hosting its 11th Annual Route 66 Rendezvous event downtown this month. The event is expected to draw over 500,000 classic car fans to the downtown, with 2,448 prime classic cars at the event (the number of miles of the Route 66 highway). I would like to salute the event's inductees into the Crusin' Hall of Fame, an impressive and truly remarkable collection of honorees this year:

- Mattel, in honor of the significant impact the company has made in the American Automotive culture with the development of the miniature vehicles "Hot Wheels."

Mattel is known as a leader in the world of toy design, manufacturing, and marketing. Mattel introduced "Hot Wheels" miniature vehicles in 1968. The three-inch long cars and trucks reached out and captured children's imaginations. Mattel celebrated the 30th anniversary of "Hot Wheels" in 1998, and reached a milestone when they produced the two billionth Hot Wheel car, making Mattel the producer of more vehicles than Detroit's big three auto makers combined.

- The Beach Boys, a popular sixties and seventies band that popularized surfing and cruising music, in honor of the significant part their music plays in the American automotive culture.

From Hawthorne, California, the three Beach Boy brothers—Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson, plus cousin Mike Love and friend Al Jardine had some of the most intricate, beautiful harmonies heard from a pop band. Their music is still popular and can be heard on countless radio stations and car cruises around the nation.

- The J.C. Agajanian Family, a family with over fifty years in motorsports racing, in honor of their many significant contributions in the promotion, participation, and involvement in the American automotive culture.

J.C. Agajanian, one of the most influential men in American motorsports history, is known for his involvement and many achievements in the motorsports world. In 1998, the Agajanians marked their 50th Golden Anniversary of promoting, participating, and involvement with the famed Indianapolis 500.

- The Woody, the hand-built "sport utility vehicle" of its day, in honor of the significant role this unique automobile played in the American Automotive culture.

Since the sixties, these wagons have been popular collector's items. They are in such demand that old cars with splinters instead of

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wood are being lovingly restored and shown off at car shows and cruises throughout the United States.

DOGS IN SERVICE TO MANKIND

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Kennel Club's celebration of "Dogs in Service to Mankind." The American Kennel Club, established in 1884, is the world's largest purebred dog registry and the nation's leading not-for-profit organization devoted to the support of purebred dogs, responsible pet ownership and canine health.

As well as providing invaluable and beneficial companionship to millions of Americans, purebred dogs have provided service to mankind for generations and in a myriad of ways. Only a few examples are the dogs who accompanied our servicemen in every war; who rescue Americans every year from fire, entrapment and drowning; and whose powers of scent enable them to locate lost children, dangerous chemicals and illegal materials.

Dogs give vital assistance to the handicapped, ill and elderly, and these amazing creatures can even warn a person that a heart attack or epileptic seizure is about to occur. Many Americans have benefitted from the companionship and unconditional love that service dogs provide.

So today, I join the American Kennel Club in its recognition of dogs' extraordinary capabilities. I am delighted to join in honoring these wonderful animals whose service to humankind deserves our utmost appreciation.

HONORING HO'OIPO DECAMBRA, 2000 ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Ho'oipo DeCambra, Executive Director of Ho'omau Ke Ola, for her work to improve the health and well-being of her rural community in Wai'anae, Hawaii. Ho'oipo's inspired leadership and innovative programs led to her being named a 2000 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader.

Only ten people nationwide receive this prestigious award each year. The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader award, the nation's highest honor for community health leadership, includes an \$100,000 cash award—\$95,000 goes to enhance the awardee's community health program and \$5,000 is a personal award.

Ho'oipo DeCambra has developed and implemented successful substance abuse treatment programs and a women's cancer project utilizing traditional Hawaiian values and healing practices to reach out to the Native Hawaiian community, which suffers from a high incidence of substance abuse and cancer. A long-