

that Federal control and Federal money is the answer.

But I am not going to discuss that right now. I want to remind people of what has happened all day today here in the Senate. Our Democrat colleagues say they are for the H-1B program. They say they want to allow high-tech workers to come into the country to help us continue to dominate the world in high-tech jobs so that we can continue to have economic growth. They go out to Silicon Valley and say: We are with you. We are for the H-1B program. Yet they have spent all day filibustering it.

I don't understand it. You are either for it or you are against it. Now they say: Well, we are for it, but you have to pass a whole bunch of bills doing other things before we are going to let you adopt it.

I think it is time for those who need this bill to say to our Democrat colleagues: If you are for the bill, let us vote on it.

We have all heard the cliché, "if you have friends like that, you don't need enemies." The point I want to remind people about is that all day long, the Democrats have been filibustering the H-1B program. So if anybody thinks they are for it, the next time they stand up and say they are for the program, I think the obvious thing to ask is, if you are for it, why are you holding it up?

We need this bill because we want to keep America growing. I believe our Democrat colleagues are putting politics in front of people. This bill is important to maintain economic growth. It is important to maintain our technical superiority.

I want people to know, with all the thousands of issues that have found their way to the floor of the Senate this afternoon, that what this debate is about is that our Democrat colleagues say they are for the H-1B program, but they are preventing us from voting on it. If you are for it, let us vote on it then. If you are for it, end all these extraneous debates. If you want to debate giving amnesty to people who violated America's law, then offer that somewhere else. Propose a bill, but let us vote on the H-1B program.

Why do we need it? We need it because we want to maintain the economic expansion that is pulling people out of poverty. We want to maintain our technological edge. But we can't do those things if the Democrats don't let us pass this bill.

If you are following this debate, don't be confused. They say they are for H-1B, the passage of this bill, but they are working every day to throw up roadblocks, to stop it, and to demand some payment for letting us pass it.

Let me make it clear, no tribute is going to be paid on this bill. There is not going to be a deal where they get paid off to pass this bill. They go to

California and to Texas and other places and say: We are for the high-tech industry. We are for the H-1B program. But the cold reality is that on the floor of the Senate today, we did not get to vote on it. We did not get to pass it. We did not make it law. We did not do what we need to do to maintain this economic prosperity and to maintain our edge in the high-tech area because the Democrats are filibustering H-1B. They say they are for it, but when it gets right down to it, actions speak louder than words.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### H-1B AND H-2A VISA LEGISLATION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I have listened to the debating back and forth on the issue of whether we do H-2A or H-1B.

I would like the American people to know that I think there is a lot going on behind the scenes. I think there is a lot that needs to happen behind the scenes, and quickly because both of these issues are legitimate issues. I believe America needs to make up its mind whether we want the high-tech industry to remain an American industry. It is vital to our economic good, and we are all proud of it. We all want to encourage it. We need to help the high-tech industry by raising the H-1B visas temporarily. Otherwise, this is an industry that is prepared to move to other shores. I would rather they remain on our shores because I think it does us an enormous amount of good.

In my State, and in the State of the Senator from Nevada, and so many States, we are seeing small businesses thrive with the development of this new technology.

But I also want to speak to the need that we not abandon the cause of the Hispanic and Latino workers. There are many proposals right now addressing their needs.

I happen to be a cosponsor of a bill, being argued by many on the other side of the aisle, which help these workers.

I think it is a crying shame that we have people living in the shadows of our society right now. These are people who are here; yes, many of them illegally, probably well over a million, and maybe as many as 2 million people who are working primarily in agricultural industries. These illegal workers have infiltrated many other industries as well. They have been here for a decade and more. Many people worry that if

Congress addresses the worker shortage in agriculture, more illegal workers will come. I have news for them. They have already come. They are here. They live among us and contribute to our economy. They are contributing to our tax rolls, frankly, without the benefit of law.

I believe Republicans and Democrats ought to find a way as human beings to reach out to the illegal farm worker community. If it isn't with amnesty, there are ways we can allow them to be here legally.

A lot of people say we have no worker shortage in agriculture. I tell you that we don't if you include all the illegals. But we owe something better to these workers and something better to their employers than an illegal system.

It is a crying shame, and we ought to be ashamed of it in the Senate, and do something about.

I know Speaker HASTERT is working on this issue in the House. I believe our Senate leadership is working on it here.

But I am in a dilemma. I will admit it right here on the floor of the Senate. I want to help the high-tech industry by providing them with highly skilled temporary workers, but I also want to help the workers in the agricultural industry who contribute to our economy and deserve our attention as well.

I hope that our leadership will respond quickly to the needs of the agricultural industry, as well as the dignity its workers deserve.

I see our leader is on the floor. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his time in the Chair, for his commitments, and for the leadership that he provides in the Senate.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 109

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that Senator REID is here. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 28, the Senate proceed to the continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 109; that the joint resolution be immediately advanced to third reading and no amendments or motions be in order; that there be up to 7 hours for final debate to be divided as follows: 6 hours under the control of Senator BYRD, and 1 hour under the control of Senator STEVENS.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be placed on the calendar when received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.