"Establishing a computerized system to track entries and exits from the United States should not even be a subject of debate. There are no technological or financial obstacles, merely a lack of will and funding. What is more, the practice of requiring permanent residents who are not yet citizens to annually register their whereabouts with government, which was discontinued in the 1970s, should be revived.

The State Department’s visa officers overseas need to be recognized as ‘America’s other Border Patrol.’ Visa officers often have only 2 or 3 minutes to consider an application, and are pressured to approve a high proportion of applicants to avoid offending the host country. The granting of visas should become a freestanding, well-funded function that people sign up for from the start, rather than today’s dreaded right of passage for rookie Foreign Service officers.

The very morning of the September 11 attack, the House was about to resurrect a provision called 245(i), which allows foreign nationals to receive green cards in the United States rather than in their home countries.

Because personnel abroad are best equipped to screen applicants, 245(i) negates any efforts to keep out those judged to be ineligible.

Finally, whatever one thinks about the level of immigration, a temporary reduction in legal immigration and the admission of temporary workers and students is essential to allow the overhaul of our immigration infrastructure."

Did we hear that, Mr. Speaker? "A temporary reduction in legal immigration," and I will say a pause in all immigration; I want a pause. I will soon introduce a bill to that effect. A pause, at least a 6-month pause, in all immigration into the United States, except for special circumstances, maybe national defense-related issues. But other than that, let us stop it. Because we have an overhaul to do with our entire system. Let us let the Department, let us let our new Secretary for the Department of Homeland Defense determine how best to go back into the field and try to defend our borders. But let us call a pause or a halt to immigration for at least 6 months.

"Only by lightening the INS’ load can the agency both process its huge backlog and strengthen border controls.

"Improved border and visa controls may not catch all malefactors, but it will help alert us to conspiracies such as last Tuesday’s attacks. If only a dozen of the conspirators had been identified by our officers during visa processing or border inspectors, it is very possible the entire conspiracy would have been unravelled. We have, of course, seen some home-grown terrorists as well, but there is no reason to neglect border control.

"We should not overreact by eviscerating constitutional rights, includ-

ing those of Muslim Americans, but an overhaul of our lax border controls is precisely the kind of reasonable reform that would make future attacks less likely and does not represent any threat to the civil liberties of American citizens. Americans are going to have to wait in longer lines at airports, and it is not too much to ask people entering into the country to do the same.

"Moreover, more foreign citizens may be denied visas."

"The measure of a successful immigration system is not how many people are allowed to enter and how fast, but rather whether the broad national interests of the United States are being served, including the safety of Americans."

Mr. Krikorian is the executive director, as I say, for the Center for Immigration Studies here in Washington, D.C.; I commend him and his efforts, by the way, which I am sure one can go online and get. In fact, it is on here: http://www.cis.org. One can go on the Net and look into the Center for Immigration Studies and Work. They do great stuff.

And the other thing, of course, everyone must do, Mr. Speaker, is to let their representatives in this body and in the other body know how they feel. Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, there are still people in this body who are opposed to immigration reform, even after September 11; and there is only one way they are ever going to change their mind. There is only one way they are ever going to see the light and that, of course, is when they feel the heat.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Ms. Watson of California (at the request of Mr. Gephardt) 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 Mrs. Maloney of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:
Mr. DeFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Sherman, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Moran of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. Maloney of New York, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Edwards, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. Langevin, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. Nethercutt) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:
Mr. Nethercutt, for 5 minutes, today.
H.R. 2951. A bill to ensure the orderly development of coal, natural gas, and oil resources in a designated Dispute Resolution Area in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HORN:

H.R. 2953. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make the social health insurance program a permanent option under the MedicareChoice program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MckINNEY:

H.R. 2954. A bill to prohibit the importation into the United States of colombo tanalite from countries involved in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEPHARDT (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BONOR, Mr. LAENSEN of Washington, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. GONZALEZ of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RACA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. BARSTLE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. COYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAUYO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FASSE of California, Mr. COVEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DUGGER, Mr. HINDLEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOFER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISRAEL of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNETH of Rhode Island, Mr. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKET, Ms. McCARTHY of New York, Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. McCULLOCH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MILLER-MCDONALD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NAPOLESANO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OBERST, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RAHAL, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. WOOLSEY:

H.R. 2955. A bill to provide assistance for employees who as a result of reductions in service by air carriers, and closures of airports, caused by terrorist actions or security measures; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPITOL:

H.R. 2956. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept contributions for the Pentagon Reservation Maintenance Revolving Fund to be used to repair the damage caused by the terrorist attack on the Pentagon that occurred on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASTLE:

H.R. 2957. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to implement a criminal background check program on all airline safety and security applicants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CUNNINGAM:

H.R. 2958. A bill to improve passenger airline safety and security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HOOLEY:

H.R. 2959. A bill to authorize former Federal employees who receive voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept subsequent employment with Federal Government, without loss of their payments, when such employment is directly related to fighting forest fires, to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. JO Ann Davis of Virginia, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DE MINT, Mr. RAY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. WOLF, Mr. OTTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. RHODES of Georgia, Mr. RHODES of Texas, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BASS, Mrs. CURIN, Mr. POMBO, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. EMMERSON, Mrs. PALOS, Mr. BALanky, Mr. CHENSHAW, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HAYES, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. PENCE, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 2960. A bill to require inspection of all cargo on commercial trucks and vessels entering the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LA FalCE (for himself, Mr. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Ms. LEE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BONOR, Mrs. ZEK of Florida, Mr. MERRILES, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mrs. MORELLA):

H.R. 2961. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make loans under section 7(b)(2) of the Small Business Act to small business concerns and certain other business concerns that suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MCRERRY:

H.R. 2962. A bill to reduce employer taxes and simplify tax filing, to reform the administration of the Federal workers' compensation and employment service programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MC INNIS:

H.R. 2963. A bill to establish the Deep Creek Wilderness Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PICOZZI:

H.R. 2964. A bill to provide clarification regarding the market name for the fish.