

our liberties. This approach may well, in the long run, make many Americans feel less secure.

The principle of private property ownership did not work to prevent the tragedies of September 11, and there is a reason for that. The cries have gone out that due to the failure of the airlines to protect us, we must nationalize every aspect of aviation security. This reflects a serious error in judgment and will lead us further away from the principle of private property ownership and toward increasing government dependency and control with further sacrifice of our freedoms.

□ 1945

More dollars and more Federal control over the airline industries are not likely to give us the security we all seek.

All industrial plants in the United States enjoy reasonably good security. They are protected not by the local police but by owners putting up barbed wire fences, hiring guards with guns, and requiring identification cards to enter. All this, without any violation of anyone's civil liberties. And in a free society private owners have a right, if not an obligation, to profile if it enhances security. This technique of providing security through private property ownership is about to be rejected in its entirety for the airline industry.

The problem was that the principle of private property was already undermined for the airlines by partial federalization of security by FAA regulations. Airports are owned by various government entities. The system that failed us prior to 9-11 not only was strictly controlled by government regulations, it specifically denied the right of owners to defend their property with a gun. At one time, guns were permitted on airlines to protect the U.S. mail. But for more than 40 years, airlines have not been allowed to protect human life with firearms.

Some argue that pilots have enough to worry about flying the airplane and have no time to be concerned about a gun. How come drivers of armored vehicles can handle both? Why do we permit more protection for money being hauled around the country in a truck than we do for passengers on an airline? If government management of airline security has already failed us, why should we expect expanding the role of government in this area to be successful? One thing for sure, we can expect it to get very expensive and the lines to get a lot longer. The Government's idea of security is asking "who packed your bag"; "has the bag been with you since you packed it"; and requiring plastic knives to be used on all flights while taking fingernail clippers away from pilots.

Pilots overwhelmingly support their right to be armed, some even threatening not to fly if they are not per-

mitted to do so. This could be done quickly and cheaply by merely removing the prohibition against it, as my bill, H.R. 2896, would do. We must not forget four well-placed guns could have prevented the entire tragedy of 9-11.

This is a crucial time in our history. Our policy of foreign interventionism has contributed to this international crisis. How we define our enemies will determine how long we fight and when the war is over. The expense will be worth it if we make the right decisions. Targeting the forces of bin Laden makes sense, but invading eight to 10 countries without a precise goal will prove to be a policy of folly, lasting indefinitely, growing in size and cost in terms of dollars and lives, and something for which most Americans will eventually grow weary.

Our prayers and hopes are with our President that he continues to use wise judgment in accomplishing this difficult task, something he has been doing remarkably well under the very difficult circumstances.

But here at home it is surely a prime responsibility of all Members to remain vigilant and not, out of fear and panic, sacrifice the rights of Americans in our effort to maximize security.

Since the President has already done a good job in locating, apprehending, and defunding those associated with the 9/11 attacks while using current existing laws we should not further sacrifice our liberties with a vague promise of providing more security. We do not need a giant new national agency in order to impose a concept of Homeland Security that challenges our civil liberties. This is an idea whose time has not yet come.

#### FARMWORKER HOUSING CONDITIONS IN U.S.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time today to discuss an issue that is very important to me and, hopefully, to the Nation, and that is the issue of housing conditions of farm workers in this country.

The Housing Assistance Council released their report on findings from a survey of farm worker housing conditions on September 20, 2001. Structural problems, broken appliances, overcrowded living conditions were common findings among farm workers' homes. Unfortunately, families with children are suffering the worst conditions.

This survey is the first nationwide of farm worker housing in 20 years and confirms what smaller studies and anecdotal descriptions have been saying all along; that is, farm workers work incredibly hard to put food on other people's tables, but all too often live in dismal conditions.

The survey revealed that half of the homes surveyed were overcrowded, and

three-quarters of those crowded units were occupied by families with children. Twenty-two percent lacked at least one functioning major appliance, such as stove, refrigerator, bathtubs or toilets; twenty-two percent had serious structural problems; and more than half lacked access to a working laundry machine.

Children lived in two-thirds, or 65 percent, of the units classified as severely substandard; and 60 percent of the homes were adjacent to fields where pesticides were applied.

I recognize that there are several needs that this country faces today, security being among the first, education, health care, nutrition and poverty. This study dramatizes many of those needs, and the main need being that hardworking Americans and their children should not be living in squalid and unhealthy conditions. These are housing conditions that none of us could stand to be in, not even for a second. Nobody should be subjected to such adversity.

This major research project was conducted over a 3-year period, from 1997 through 2000. Data on 4,625 housing units in 22 States and Puerto Rico were collected in a non-random survey by more than 100 outreach workers and 16 organizations that work with farm workers around the country, and analyzed by the Housing Assistance Council. Major funding was provided by USDA and HUD.

I continue to be impressed by the quality and the content of this study and other studies conducted by HAC. After reading the study, I was appalled to learn that in America we still have such horrendous living conditions. We have made very little progress in this area. It is disheartening and disappointing that we live in such a rich country and do not make available decent housing to invited farm workers, where the law requires that we should, to those who are tilling our fields and picking the fruits and vegetables which help feed all our families.

It is particularly worrisome to note that such a large proportion of farm worker families with children live adjacent to fields where pesticides are sprayed. This means that they are affected with long-term effects in their families and in their bodies.

I would like to focus on the fact that we do need more money to fund these programs, both the USDA as well as HUD. It is imperative that we recognize that many of these Federal programs, such as HUD, can assist our farm workers. On this floor, during the HUD administration appropriation, we voted against this. We should put monies back into HUD to make sure we assist in this program. The report clearly shows the need for a full-scale national study for farm workers, especially pertaining to housing, education, and health.

I would like to reiterate my avid support for finding ways of funding the farm workers' housing needs, but also that there are many other programs that we need to commit ourselves to. I want to congratulate Housing Assistance Council, its executive director, for this document and the work it makes available for all of us who care about farm workers who work so hard.

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, during this difficult period in our Nation's history, the Members of this Congress, like Americans all across this country and like many people around the world, have grieved the loss of many lives taken by the evil acts of enemies of our country and of freedom-loving people all across the world. In the past days and weeks, Americans have demonstrated a spirit of unity and solidarity not only to assist in every possible way the recovery efforts taking place in New York and Washington, but also to ease the pain of the thousands of people directly and indirectly affected by this tragedy, and also to show that we, as Americans, stand together as a Nation.

Together, Americans all over the country and across the world have cried, Americans have held vigils, and have searched for ways to make sense out of these senseless acts. Together, over the past few weeks, we have made an effort to resume our way of life, and slowly but surely we are getting back to work. As one Nation, and as partners with other countries around the world, we now seek those responsible for the terrible events of September 11; and we will stick together to bring those responsible to justice. Just as we have been united in our grief and efforts to help the victims of September 11, we now are united in supporting our troops as they take the necessary steps to defend our freedom and our security.

Mr. Speaker, one of many remarkable things that we have witnessed during these past weeks has been the striking and spontaneous display of unity among the people of this great Nation. Individuals from every race, ethnicity, and spiritual belief have joined as one to wear the red, white

and blue and fly our flag and sing our national anthem. It has been noted in news reports and a number of interviews that it is remarkable how quickly our differences have been put aside to tackle this Nation's tragedy.

And as remarkable and moving as these displays have been, as a Nation we must remain steadfast in respecting and upholding the American principles that make our Nation unique in the world. Just as most of us have stood together to remember those who have fallen, to remember their families and their friends, we have sadly witnessed some terrible attempts from individuals resulting from misguided prejudice and anger. I am referring, of course, to the increased acts of violence that have been perpetrated against Arab Americans, Muslims, and Sikhs living in our own country.

Like all Members of Congress, and particularly the Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we condemn these actions and call on every American to celebrate, and not undermine, the principles that have made this country great. To celebrate the richness of our country, it is with honor that Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus take the floor of the people's House tonight to pay tribute to every single American and to highlight the contributions in particular of Hispanic Americans during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

During the next hour, my fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will speak about Hispanic Americans and highlight their many contributions to our great country. We will do this not to create division among Americans, but to celebrate the very strength and richness which makes our country great.

Every year America celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. During this time, we highlight the growth and the spirit of the vibrant Latino community of the United States. As leaders of a community that today numbers 40 million-plus, the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus continue to work for America and for Americans so that everyone in this country has access to the best education, the best health care, and the best jobs that will result in an even stronger and vibrant country.

Mr. Speaker, tonight the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will raise issues such as education, law enforcement, business, economic development, health care, and many other issues. But before I yield to my colleagues, I want to conclude my opening remarks by saying that by taking the floor of the House tonight and honoring the diversity of America, the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus send a loud, clear, strong signal to those in our country and abroad who wrongfully believe that freedom and diversity are a weakness.

From this building, which one month ago was a target of hatred and evil, tonight stands proud as a symbol of this great Nation and of her great people, we, the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, want to say that as a Nation we have the will, we have the strength, and we have the resolve to continue to live by the guiding light and civil liberties set forth by our Founding Fathers.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, tonight let me start by recognizing a good friend and critical member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, my colleague from the 15th District of Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. Indeed, our Hispanic language, culture and history is recognized and appreciated worldwide by millions of people. I am pleased that the President has again designated September 15 through October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Today, Hispanics make up the largest and fastest growing minority group in the country. We have produced scholars, entrepreneurs, scientists, musicians, philosophers, and Nobel Prize laureates.

Approximately 500 years ago, our ancestors led the way in the great rediscovery of the Americas, including the ground we now know as the United States of America.

Today, however, my remarks will focus on the education of Hispanic Americans. Our education history parallels the development of the public schools and the treatment of other minority groups in our educational system.

Because time does not permit, I will only go back a few years to make my point regarding the treatment of Hispanics in our society. Twenty-four years before the renowned *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, the League of United Latin American Citizens filed class action suits on behalf of Hispanic children who were the victims of discrimination of public schools.

I, myself, would have been forced to walk to a segregated school far from my home if not for the resolve of my brother, a Korean war hero, who demanded that the nearby white elementary school accept me and my brothers. In the rest of the country, all through the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, the education of Hispanic children was dependent on decisions made by our judicial system.

Finally, in 1965 Congress began to respond to decades of inaction with the creation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The ESEA has helped to galvanize local and national civil rights and educational organizations to rally and support Hispanic students in public schools. Throughout the years we have enjoyed the support