

and new technologies; that he turned around and talked about these, but the reality is, his budget and the numbers that are reflected by that budget and what we have here is documents and working documents tells a different story.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I am saying. We do not know what is in that tax bill. As I understand it, there is no Democrat in the room where the tax bill is being written, although they call it a conference committee. But we do know that when they emerge, one-third to one-half the benefits will go to income tax reductions to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. That is not in return for that group or any other group investing in clean coal or conservation; that is just a tax cut.

So while the President's plan calls for tax credits for conservation, for renewables, there is nothing in the tax bill that provides the tax credits that the President does the press conference about. That is why perhaps the real view of this administration, one that they have back-peddled from when it hit a fire storm, but their view was reflected in the comments well-known by the Vice President when he said, conservation may be a personal virtue, but it is not the sufficient basis for a comprehensive energy policy.

I think we need to respond. And that is, excessive energy company profits and environmental despoliation and destruction is not a sufficient basis for a comprehensive energy policy. What we need short-term for California are those rate regulations, and what we need in addition to some of the infrastructure improvements that the President talks about is a real dedication to conservation, to research, renewables, and "real" means you put it in the budget and you appropriate money for it. Not a real good pamphlet, but a real good law.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, being from California or going to New York or these research institutions where they are doing the research, these people are so optimistic, the researchers. They are looking at fuel cells and alternative fuels and different ways, rather than to use fossil fuel for the future. I mean, when we think of our country and this whole new technology and new economy that we are going through. I think if, in 1960, President Kennedy could say, we need to get a man to the moon and we could develop that technology that did that by July of 1969.

I am very familiar with that, of course, because it came out of the area that we represent, that certainly, with all of the new technology, with the research, if we just put money into that and let these people go at it, that in 5 or 6 years, we would completely change the type of energy that we use to run our cars and run our businesses and our homes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, if I can just add some of the statistics to back this up. Earlier we were talking about getting plants permitted. During the 8 years in which we had a Republican governor, we had zero plants permitted. Just in the last 2 years under a Democratic governor, 14 plants permitted, seven are under construction, four of them are going to be on line this summer, another four or five will be on line before we hit the problems of next summer. We will have 8,500 megawatts on line. That is moving forward.

But getting back to renewables and research, as I said, the budget put forward by the President cuts renewables and research and energy efficiency by about a third. We were talking about how successful energy conservation has been. Americans have saved 4 times more energy through efficiency, conservation and renewables over the last 20 years than has been produced from new sources, new finds, of fuel in the United States.

And Americans have saved \$180 billion, I might have thought it was \$200 billion earlier, \$180 billion over the last 20 years. That is just because we are using less energy than we would have, because we have got this technology and that is saving \$200 for every dollar that the United States has invested in developing these renewables, developing conservation systems. If we go up to a wildlife refuge and we drill for oil, we get the oil, we destroy the environment, and then the oil is gone. If we invest in the technology that allows us to use less oil, we use that technology this year and next year, the technology is never gone, the technology, if anything, is improved year after year. That is why if we are looking for a long-term solution, we cannot get it unless we have a real dedication, not just a press office dedication, to renewables, to conservation, and to research.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California for taking this hour to discuss and to dispel some of the myths that people around the country have heard about Californians and about what we are facing there. I hope that many of them will take the time to read the real information and to understand that where California goes, so does the rest of the Nation. I want to thank my colleague for the time given.

□ 1830

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Orange County for participating in this special order. I think we have covered the subject well.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE) laid before the House the fol-

lowing communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1092(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act, I hereby appoint the following individual for appointment to the Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry: R. Thomas Buffenbarger of Brookeville, Maryland.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about an issue that I care very much about and one I hope that will garner the attention of this House during the 107th Congress. It is an issue that is seldom discussed, unfortunately, although I consider it to be one of the most significant problems, one of the most significant issues facing the United States from a domestic policy standpoint, and that issue is massive immigration into this country. I hope that we can demonstrate tonight to everyone, to my colleagues and to those listening, the numerical realities of mass immigration and some of the burdens that come with it.

Mr. Speaker, since 1970 more than 40 million foreign citizens and their descendants have been added to the local communities of the United States of America. Just last month, The New York Times reported that the Nation's population grew by more in the 1990s than in any other decade in the United States history. For the first time since the 19th century, the population of all 50 States increased, with 80 percent of America's counties experiencing growth. Demographic change on such a massive scale inevitably has created winners and losers here in America. It is time that we ask ourselves, what level of immigration is best for America and what level of immigration into America is best for the rest of the world?

Now, as we have witnessed, Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker spent some time discussing the problems of energy in California specifically, or I should say the lack thereof. Of course this is a monumental problem facing the Nation. Something almost unbelievable is happening to us, a Nation, the richest Nation on the face of the Earth is now experiencing, in one of the richest States of that Nation, rolling blackouts, energy shortages. How can this be? The previous speaker had

some idea as to why it occurred. But, of course, it is only a symptom, Mr. Speaker. All of the problems experienced by California and that will most certainly be experienced by other places around this Nation, the problem with not enough resources, not enough energy to supply the needs of the population, goes back to a much deeper root. It is not just the inability of the bureaucracy to move quickly for the approval of power plants or the number of companies that are transporting the product from place to place.

It is, in fact, numbers. It is people. California has experienced, as well as the rest of the Nation, an incredible increase in population over the last couple of decades. That population increase naturally forces all kinds of other things to occur: Great demands on our natural resources.

We wonder when we look around, all of us, is it not interesting that every single day as we come to work and we recognize how difficult it is, how many more cars there are on the road and how much longer it takes to get to work and we say to ourselves, gee, where are all these people coming from? Believe me, in Colorado, my home State, we are experiencing a dramatic, almost incredible growth rate. And where are these people coming from? Is it the natural growth rate of the population, the indigenous population of this country? No, sir it is not. It is, in fact, immigration, massive immigration, the size of which, the numbers we have never experienced before in this Nation's history.

Now, we have for a long time found it difficult to wrestle with this question of immigration. People are concerned about coming forward and actually debating this point. The reason, of course, is that there is always a taint associated with it. When you start talking about the problems of massive immigration, opponents of those of us who want to limit immigration always want to use race cards in the discussion. They always want to talk about this as being a racial issue. But I assure my colleagues, from my point of view, it has nothing to do whatsoever with race. It is simply a matter of numbers.

It is difficult to talk about it when we see nostalgic images of Ellis Island and we know that our own families, all of us here, have come to the United States, probably most of us, I should say, through that particular port of entry. We all recognize that that is our heritage. We all know someone, an immigrant who is here, who is struggling and striving to achieve the American dream, and we think about them nostalgically and we think about them as admirable people, and they are.

Mr. Speaker, I have absolutely nothing against those folks who come here, and I would be doing exactly the same thing if I were living in their condition,

in their situation. I would be looking for the way to get into the country. But, in fact, we have a responsibility in the United States, and the Federal Government has a unique responsibility here. It is something the States cannot deal with on their own. We constantly fight this battle about what is the appropriate Federal role and the appropriate State role, but in this case with the issue of immigration, there is no question, it is a Federal role.

Only the Federal Government has the role and responsibility to establish immigration policy. And so it is only appropriate that we should be discussing this tonight, and I hope many more evenings and many more days on the floor of this House in the 107th Congress, because, Mr. Speaker, it is about time somebody brought this up. It is an issue that underlies so many of the things that we discuss here that are really in a way the veneer.

We just passed an education bill out of this House increasing the Department of Education's budget by some \$20 billion to \$22 billion. There was a lot of discussion about the need to build more schools. We are quite concerned about our Nation's schools, and we are forced to come here to the floor of the House of the United States Congress to deal with education which of course is not even in the Constitution as a role and function of this body. But we do it because the pressure is building out there across the land for something and somebody to do something because education is a problem.

Let me again suggest that one significant aspect of this education problem in America is massive immigration. In California alone, to meet the demands imposed upon that State by the massive number of people that are coming in there, immigrants, and, by the way, we are only so far talking about legal immigration. We are not even discussing for the moment the numbers of people who come here every single year illegally and actually stay here, become part of the population, do not return to their country of origin. I am just talking about legal immigration and the pressure that legal immigration puts on this country.

Specifically, the State of California would have to build a school a day for the next several years in order to meet the demands being placed upon it because of the population growth in that particular State. It is not unique. We are seeing this happen all over. These are tough questions but they can no longer be avoided, Mr. Speaker. As we enter the fourth decade of the highest immigration we have ever experienced in this country and we struggle with its impact, we must discuss it.

Some people express shock that Americans could consider cutting immigration and thereby violating what they claim to be the country's tradition of openness. But they truly mis-

understand U.S. history. It is actually the high levels of immigration during the last three decades that have violated our immigration tradition. From the founding of the Nation in 1776 until 1976, immigration has varied widely but the average was around 236,000 people per year. Now, this was a phenomenal flow into any single country. It was unmatched by any country on the face of the Earth. It should be noted that during these times, the United States had vast expanses of virtually open land and was certainly much better able to handle 236,000 newcomers annually.

Then suddenly in the 1970s and 1980s at the very time the majority of Americans were coming to the conclusion that the United States population had grown large enough, due to changes in our immigration laws, immigration soared above traditional American levels, rising to an average of more than 500,000 a year. We averaged around 1 million a year during the 1990s. The cumulative effect of years of high immigration has taken a while for Americans to comprehend. But many have awakened to a rather startling realization that the unrelenting surge of immigration above traditional levels is changing their communities, changing communities throughout the United States into something oftentimes the residents do not like, do not recognize even as their own.

I am joined on the floor by my dear colleague and friend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), who has I know some great concerns about the issue because he is a member of our caucus, a caucus we started last year called the Immigration Reform Caucus. I would like to now turn to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Goode) for his comments on this issue and thank him very much for joining us this evening.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for addressing immigration and for pointing out the figures that are impacting the Fifth District of Virginia and most every House district in this country.

One piece of legislation that I would like to see addressed by this Congress would establish English as the official language of the United States. I am not advocating that all in this country should speak English only. In fact, I would encourage all students to learn other languages. I have encouraged my daughter in her efforts to learn French and Spanish and to be fluent in both of those languages. We should try to learn other languages and other cultures, and I believe that our President is a stronger President because of his fluency in Spanish. But we need to have English as the language of this country. Having one common language is a unifying force for a nation. We will be stronger as a nation with one language which all persons in this great country

share and which all could use in communicating with persons all across the United States.

We can avoid the Canadian situation. In Canada, they have held several referenda to break apart that country. The French-speaking Quebec province has sought several times to split from Canada. In the last referendum, there was a very close vote and the separatists almost prevailed. If we drift into a situation in this Nation where all persons in a region speak and use only a non-English language, then the separatist spirit may arise in the United States. I do not want to see a situation in this country develop like that in Canada.

□ 1845

By adopting English, we can avoid certain other problems. We can avoid the need to have multilingual highway signs. Can one imagine the cost on each State if we had to adopt multilingual signs. If all of our governments had to adopt forms and papers in the various languages, it would be a huge cost on the Federal Government and the individual State governments. We can prevent a separatist spirit from arising here by choosing English as our official language now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for his focus on this important issue.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) for joining us this evening and for his comments. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) brings out a number of issues specifically related to the problems that we confront in the nature of when we have pressures brought in our schools to teach children in languages other than English, in our businesses to have forms in the language other than English, in our politics to go to the polls. At a time, there were probably half of the counties in Colorado that actually, by law, had to have ballots written in two different languages. There are still counties who do that. There are still places throughout the country that require that.

Now, let us think about what that really means. If, in fact, one cannot understand English, and at the point in time that one comes to vote, one has to be given a ballot in a different language, does that not mean that one is also most likely unable to understand the debate that occurred prior to the decision one makes to vote?

All of the discussion of the issues were inevitably in English. All of the candidates speaking, let us say 90 percent of the time anyway, were speaking and telling us their particular positions, their attitudes, their ideas in English. But if one cannot understand that, and one goes to the polls to vote, on what basis does one make these de-

isions if one cannot understand English and have to be given a different ballot?

But that is just one point that we have addressed this evening that I have mentioned before as being many faceted, many, many different problems that we confront as a Nation as a result of massive immigration.

Many Americans have awakened to a startlingly realization, Mr. Speaker; that is, that the unrelenting surge of immigration above the traditional levels, as I said earlier, is changing our communities and, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) mentioned, in ways that we find distracting.

The unprecedented flow of immigration has dramatically reshaped the social and ecological landscape all over America. None of this, none of this has been inevitable. Legal immigration into this country has quadrupled over the traditional American level for one reason and one reason only. Congress and the various Presidents for the last several years have made it happen.

I do not know if anyone ever intended for such an onslaught to take place when the immigration laws were changed in 1965, but for nearly three decades during various efforts to control illegal immigration, Congress has stood by as the much larger legal immigration numbers have soared and citizen opposition has risen correspondingly.

It is common when discussing negative trends from high mass immigration to focus on individual immigrant skills, education morals, their country of origin, culture and race. If one side points out that some immigrants are prone to crime and destructive behavior, the others note that most immigrants arrive with high motives, good character, and laudable behavior.

Some observers fear that the volume of non-European immigration threatens to swamp America's cultural heritage. Others welcome an evermore multicultural society. Nonetheless, the chief difficulties that America faces because of current immigration are not triggered by who the immigrants are but how many they are. That is the point we have to focus on. It is the numbers.

The task before the Nation is setting a fair level of immigration, and it is not about race. It is not about some vision of a homogenous America. It is about protecting and enhancing the United States' unique experiment in democracy for all Americans, including recent immigrants regardless of their particular ethnicity.

It is time for us to confront the true costs and benefits of immigration numbers. They have skyrocketed beyond our society's ability to handle them successfully. These huge nontraditional numbers have led to many unwanted consequences.

Every single committee I sit on, the three committees I sit on, deal with

some aspects of this. I am on the Committee on Resources, and almost every single hearing, we are confronted by the problems that the citizens of this country face when trying to actually even access on a recreational basis the beautiful places in this Nation that are available to them.

The other day, we were talking about Yellowstone National Park, and there is a great concern because of the numbers of people presently trying to visit that park every single year. We are talking about making reservations, having people make reservations to visit any of the national parks, sometimes years in advance because we cannot accommodate the numbers.

We are talking about what happens to the deserts of this country by the many people who are trying to exercise, again, their rights to recreate. We understand that. It is a constant balance, a constant tug of war between the desire to get out there and experience this great and wonderful land on the one hand and the recognition that the numbers of people that we have trying to do that will eventually lead to the complete elimination of those valuable resources. It certainly will lead to their almost immediate degradation.

Why? It is because of the numbers. Everything we face, it seems like every time we turn around in this Congress, we are faced with numbers. We keep looking at the symptoms. We try to figure out a way to allow people to get into the national parks and, like I say, making reservations for them years and years in advance and saying one can only use snowmobiles on certain trails, one can only walk on certain trails, one cannot drive one's car off the road here. We keep trying to figure out ways to contain the numbers of people.

What happens, of course, is that the quality of life declines for all of us, not just those who want to seek the pleasures of a pristine America, but those who live in cities where all of the services in that city, the demands for services grow astronomically, almost exponentially. The demands for schooling, the demands for sewage treatment facilities, the demands for streets and highways all grow beyond our ability to actually deal with them successfully because of the numbers.

The huge number of people that are coming into this country as immigrants have created for us a significant problem. There is another aspect of this. Mass immigration has depressed the wages of many an average American worker. Despite two decades of economic boom, the wages of our most vulnerable working Americans have remained relatively flat or even declined. This sorry recent record contrasts markedly with the rapidly rising wages of all Americans during the two decades after World War II.

Before 1965, the Congress wisely pursue a supplied-side labor policy of managed immigration that limited the number of immigrants to the traditional and historic level of around 200,000 a year.

During that age of managed immigration, tens of millions of Americans rose from poverty into the middle class. A supply-side labor policy demonstrably works. Mass immigration does not. To protect America's middle class and help more people at the bottom move up to the middle class, it is time to end America's experiment with mass immigration.

Immigration, massive immigration and the numbers that we are watching here has endangered American education. Children native-born and foreign-born are not achieving the educational standards that are certainly possible and necessary for them to eventually go on and get a slice of the American dream.

So these children are not only threatened by the depressed wages of many of their parents, but they are menaced by the decline of America's public schools. It is a decline not made because of immigration, but it is exacerbated by mass immigration.

The poverty level for America's children is growing, a phenomenon none of like to imagine. How can this be happening in the United States, in the richest country in the world?

Let us look specifically, if we look closer at the problem, as is so often the case with this issue, we see that it is in fact growing but growing among only a particular group of people. These are the children of immigrants, both legal and illegal.

Now, these problems that confront this country again, we will try to deal with here. We will pass massive budget increases. We have been doing it every single year for Health and Human Services. We will actually in 5 years, of course, double the appropriations for the National Institutes of Health, and I have voted for that.

I understand the concerns that we have and that we have to address it. But the reality is, where is this coming from? Why are we facing these problems in a way that has never before confronted the United States? I tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I believe with all my heart it is the numbers.

I mentioned earlier that the massive overcrowding that is plaguing America's public schools can be blamed specifically, it goes directly back to immigration. Mass immigration also harms recent immigrants. It is the recent immigrants themselves who are most at risk on America's default on its commitment to a middle-class society. It is the children of recent immigrants, many of whom cannot speak English, whose future has been put at risk by the damage mass immigration has done to America's schools.

We hear more and more about a disturbing trend involving immigrants who cannot speak English holding society liable for their inability. The other day, I was reading an article in the Denver Post relating to a story that the ambulance drivers were being forced to hire a Spanish speaker to ride along to communicate with non-English speakers being treated by them, primarily, of course, illegal immigrants.

These teams felt obligated to retain these foreign speakers for one reason, to protect themselves from the rash of lawsuits being filed by non-English speakers against emergency medical teams who could not understand them when the ambulance arrived.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) alluded to another aspect of this where products being made, manufacturers of various products are being threatened with suits because their products were misused by the people who could not read the instructions in English that accompanied them.

According to the New York Times, the product liability consultants have begun to advise companies to provide warnings in foreign languages or that at least include Spanish on warning labels because "it may be thought to be necessary by some judges and juries in certain jurisdictions".

Mr. Speaker, with over 140 languages being spoken in America, the issue of warning labels leads down a very slippery path. How many are necessary? If one opens a box and cannot read the instructions or the warning label, how many languages should that be printed in, in order for one not to have the possibility of being sued?

How many street signs do we need to change into how many languages so that the people driving down the street will not sue the city if someone runs into them because they are going down the wrong way on a one-way street? But they say, hey, that sign was in English. I could not read it.

As bizarre as this sounds, as incredible as this sounds, this is happening. Police now are having to hire, not just medical teams, but police are having to hire these people to go with them also on their rounds.

Well, okay, maybe one can handle this. Maybe the cost of this can be borne by one's local community if one is just one language other than English that one has to be concerned about. But what happens when there is, in my own school district, when there are literally hundreds of languages that are being spoken?

How many people need to go with the cop to the door to answer the domestic dispute call? It could be in a variety of languages. Will they be held liable, will the police be held liable if they cannot understand the language of the person at the door?

There are other recent newspaper articles demonstrating the problems with

and attendant to a massive immigration. Monday in the Denver Post was a printed story about just how overtaxed Americans enforcement mechanisms have become. In Durango, Colorado recently a group of illegal immigrants were detained in a motel because the Immigration and Naturalization service had no other place to hold them.

□ 1900

The illegal immigrants, of course, escaped out the window of their motel room, perhaps never to be seen again. But of course the numbers, again, these are the numbers we are talking about, massive, 1 million a year, legally. Then we add to that about another 300,000 or 400,000 who come here under a different category all together but still legally. Refugee status that is called. Some people estimate even double that number all together, 2- or 3 million that we gain every single year, net gain, of illegal immigrants.

And what does that do to all of the mechanisms that I have described here? Enforcement mechanisms that are at our Nation's border have become a farce. Another news outlet recently reported the Mexican government has begun providing "survival kits" to 200,000 people planning to head north illegally. The kits contain medicine, condoms, cans of tuna, granola, and information about crossing the desert. This is at a time when the Mexican government is telling the United States Government that they want to act to discourage illegal immigration.

But, Mr. Speaker, I put it to you that there is no desire whatsoever on the part of the government of Mexico or several other countries to discourage immigration because we are their safety valve. That border, an open border, is their safety valve. And, Mr. Speaker, it would be one thing if we only had to be concerned about the quality of life in Mexico, but it is also our responsibility to be concerned about the quality of life in the United States.

Now let us take a closer look at the demographic effects of these decades of mass immigration. From 1924 to 1965, approximately 178,000 immigrants annually are brought into the United States. At no other time in history was the country so positive about immigration or did immigrants assimilate so quickly or were they so welcomed.

In 1965, Congress changed the law. Democrats promised that our immigration numbers would not rise by more than 40,000 a year, but that quickly rose by hundreds of thousands a year, and Democrats have fought all efforts to correct the mistake. So during the 1990s, we averaged not 178,000 a year, but 1 million legal immigrants each year. That is why there is so much concern about immigration out there. It is not that everyone has turned mean-spirited and not that we have suddenly changed our minds about immigrants

or the foreign born. It is just that the numbers have gotten so high at the very time most Americans had decided they wanted to stabilize the population like the rest of the world.

Now, there is actually quite a bit of ambiguity on the part of Americans on the topic of the population. Polls show that most Americans, when asked, like the immigrants they know. In general, they say they are hard-working and add some things to America individually. I would certainly say that if asked. But a majority also say there are simply too many.

I am now going to show something that I believe is most important in the context of understanding the immigrant issue that is before us. In fact, I do not believe any immigration decision should be made in this country without referring to this or how they relate to the charts I am going to show you. The chart in the well there is U.S. population growth since 1970 in millions.

In 1970, we had 203 million people in the country. A small number down there in the circle, left-hand side of the chart: 203 million. The green part of that chart represents the growth in U.S. population that lived here in 1970. You can see now that there was a baby boom. It is called on the chart the baby boom echo. So there was an increase in the number of people who lived here. Now, we are not talking about immigration, just indigenous population at that time, from 203 to 243 million people recently.

Around 1970, American people, through personal choices, decided to start having small families. As a result, we ended up with a fertility rate that was just below replacement level. We still had growth, because even though the baby boomers had small families, there were so many baby boomers that we kept on growing in population, but by less and less. Demographers have taken a look to see what the growth will be in the rest of the century from 1970-based American population.

As you can see from the green, the baby boom echo will add for a while and then actually, about 2030, it stops. That baby boom growth stops, and then it begins to recede back to the 1970 levels.

Now, does the green assume a zero immigration level? The answer is no. This is actually replacement level immigration. Because it assumes the same number of immigrants coming into the country as Americans are leaving it, at about, by the way, 200,000 a year. But look at the red on the left-hand side. It represents every immigrant above the replacement level who came here since 1970, plus their descendants, minus the death from both groups. Now, that means that there has been more population growth from immigration as there has been from nat-

ural growth from 1970 stock population.

So where it says 281 million, that is where we are now. And what it shows is the growth in the immigrant, the legal immigrant remember, legal immigrant population into the United States which matched the growth of this country naturally. That means that in this period of time since 1970 to today we have had to double all of the additional infrastructure expenditures we have had for the country. We have had to build twice as many schools, twice as many sewage treatment plants, twice as many roads and streets. All of this additional needs of this country have doubled because the Federal Government has quadrupled immigration.

Now, let us look at where we are headed according to the U.S. Census Bureau numbers. The Census Bureau tells us that this will be the future if immigration continues at today's rates. This is what we will bequeath to our children and our grandchildren this century. This is not conjecture, this is not speculation, it is not subjective, this is not what might happen, this is what will happen if Congress keeps immigration four times higher than traditional levels.

If Americans are feeling overwhelmed by congestion, the traffic, the overcrowded schools and the sprawl at this level, down there at the 2000 level, when you go to school, when you go to work every single day and everything around you, you see all the land being consumed, of what was yesterday a beautiful farm is today beginning to sprout houses, and what was a pasture not too long ago is now an industrial park, and you keep saying where is this coming from? I do not understand it. It is surprising because I just did not think the natural population of this growth of this country was creating this, well, you are right, it is not the natural population growth of the country that is creating it. It is the massive numbers of immigration of immigrants into this country, both legal and illegal, that is causing the problem.

Remember, this chart, the red you see on that chart, does not reflect illegal immigrants. It is just what would happen if we keep our immigration policy today at the same legal number. So if you think we are crowded today, if you think that it is harder and harder to find a place to go and recreate, harder and harder to get out to the mountains and get away from it all, to find a place where there is nobody around, and how many times have we wished we could be in that situation, just be alone for a while, when it is harder and harder to be alone for a while today, what do you think it is going to be like in 2050 or at the end of the century at these levels?

We have some of our coastal areas even today showing signs of societal breakdown, at this present level of im-

migration. As I started out with my whole discussion this evening, I was reflecting upon the previous speaker's concerns about California. Well, California is just a microcosm of where this Nation will be in the not-too-distant future. And not just in terms of its energy problems, but in terms of the population growth and all of the other problems that are attendant to massive population growth.

There are people who suggest that it is our responsibility to bring these people in because, of course, they are poor, they are impoverished, and we need to help them out. Please understand this. Even if we continued to take a million a year legally, we cannot even put a dent, not even the slightest dent into the world population of poor. Every single week, every single year, millions upon millions are added to the number of poor people in the world. And that is a terrible shame. Every year, 80 million. We take one. We are adding 80 million a year impoverished all over the world to the already 3 billion people who fit that category.

What can America do about that? How many can we take to make a difference? I suggest that if we truly wanted to be concerned about and show concern about the people in other countries, do not allow those governments off the hook, do not allow Mexico, for instance, to use the United States as their escape valve. Force them to deal with their problems internally. Force them to improve the quality of life for their own residents. That is the only way that we even can remotely hope to improve the quality of life for people around the world. We cannot do it by taking them in here. We will bring both ships down.

A lot of people wonder if immigration will be brought down to something in the more traditional level. Well, I do not have a crystal ball, but I can say that I believe the pressure for us to do something will grow, and I believe that this Congress will act. I do not know if it will be today. I hope it is today. But my gut tells me that it will not be. That it will be some time before we will ever have the courage to actually address this problem of immigration.

Let us be realistic about it, there are people in this body who look at this problem and look at this issue from political vantage points and suggest that massive numbers of people coming into the country will benefit one particular party over another. And it is, I suggest, their own very shortsighted, very political point of view that has prevented us in this body from doing anything about limiting going immigration now for some time. There is a political advantage to be gained by one party over another by having high levels of immigration. But look at what it is going to do to the rest of the Nation and to the immigrants themselves. It is not the best thing.

Massive immigration is not the best thing for immigrants, it is not the best thing for America. Do we act now, while we have the strength to help the rest of the world, or do we wait until years from now when we are in such a situation of disintegration and turmoil that we can only look inward? Do we cut the numbers now, while most Americans still have favorable feelings about the foreign-born Americans living with us? Those are the options we face as Americans. It is why it is urgent and important that every American make sure that their own Member of Congress is working towards something like this rather than what the majority is now doing, giving us something like that on the chart.

There are really two immigrant debates taking place in America today: the numbers debate and the characteristics debate. There are those who argue that we should either increase or decrease the total level of immigration and others who argue we should increase immigration based on the characteristics of the immigrants themselves. I believe that the second debate cannot take place independently of the first. After all, every immigrant that we admit to the United States has specific skills or good characteristics, and that contributes to a huge overall number of immigrants that I spoke of earlier.

I want my colleagues to understand I am not anti-immigrant. I am anti-mass immigration. I firmly believe that we must take overall numbers into account in any immigration debate and look at the impact of those numbers and how they affect our communities.

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Mr. Speaker, I hope that we have begun the process even tonight of establishing a dialogue and a debate on this issue. It has for too long been held in secret even around the halls of Congress. For too long there has been a fear to address the issue of immigration for fear that people will attack those of us who are attempting to deal with it and use all kinds of spurious arguments against it.

I encourage us all to think about the need to once again gain control of our own borders, reduce the number to a level that is the more traditional level of 175,000 to 200,000 a year legally coming into this country and then try our best to deal with the illegals who are coming at a rate of 1 or 2 million into the country, a net gain to the country. We have to address it. The States cannot do it.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility and ours alone. It is time to take that responsibility. Stand up, take the heat. There will be plenty of it. Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee that tomorrow, and probably tonight, the phones are ringing off the hook. The racial epithets; we have been through this before.

I am willing to take the heat and be called the names because I believe that this problem is a significant, perhaps the most significant, serious domestic problem we face as a Nation. Whether it is resource allocation, schools, buildings, hospitals, or just the quality of life, it is the numbers, Mr. Speaker. It is the numbers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) after 12:00 p.m. today on account of personal business in the district.

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

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 Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHOWS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HONDA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REYNOLDS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 801. Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 25, 2001, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2102. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Changes in Reporting Levels for Large Trader Reports (RIN: 3038-ZA10) received May 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2103. A letter from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants (RIN: 0570-AA32) received May 11, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2104. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mandatory Inspection of Ratites and Squabs [Docket No. 01-045IF] (RIN: 0583-AC84) received May 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2105. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-301132; FRL-6784-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2106. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [OPP-301124; FRL-6782-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2107. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Aspergillus flavus AF36; Extension of Temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-301124; FRL-6781-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 17, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2108. A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Eligibility and Scope of Financing (RIN: 3052-AB90) received May 21, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2109. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Air Force, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(a)(2); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2110. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act which occurred in the Department of the Navy, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1341(a); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2111. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act which occurred in the Department of the Army, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1341(a); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2112. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Commander of Elmendorf Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska, has conducted a cost comparison to reduce the cost of the Base Supply function, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.