

multinational state put together by the British for administrative convenience. Their claims ignore India's history, its independence movement, and the principles on which India was founded.

India was founded as a secular state based on an equality of religions. Secularism is the thread that holds together the fabric of diversity that characterizes India. Muslims and Sikhs do not need to secede from such a nation. Secession based on religion or any other ideological principle goes against the secularism that India stands for, and it is the secularism that India cannot afford to compromise in its fight for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, a divided India is a recipe for chaos. A peaceful and smooth transition to a split India is not feasible. With the diverse array of regions, 18 official languages and 17 freedom movements in India, the breakdown of India would be disruptive for its people and the international community. A divided India is more susceptible to outside influence and the possible resurgence of colonialism. For a country such as India, unity is its strength.

While a joint agreement may not have come out of the India-Pakistan summit in July, we must realize that India has a sincere desire to improve relations with its neighbors. A united and strong India is a necessary prerequisite for cultivating a positive relationship with not only Pakistan, but all of South Asia.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSBORNE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, we are once again approaching a national discussion with the regard to the issue of immigration, and I am glad we are doing so because it is, of course, an important one.

I am concerned because many times this particular issue is one that we are reluctant to deal with. We are reluctant on the floor of the House; we are reluctant oftentimes in the court of public opinion to discuss the issue of immigration or immigration reform for fear that somehow or other our concerns on this particular topic would be interpreted as being either anti-immigrant or racist in nature.

But it is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is one of the most significant and perplexing problems we face as a Nation. It is, I think, one of the most serious of the domestic policy issues that we face as a Nation, because it affects us in a variety of ways. Massive immigration into the United States, especially massive numbers of illegal immigrants into the United States, cause a number of problems. They cause problems not just for people in the United States, but they cause problems even for those coming in.

We have heard, of course, many times of the situations that have occurred as people have come across the border, have been taken advantage of either by people on this side or on the other side of the border, people who charge large sums of money for taking people into the United States illegally; and then when these folks get here, they are oftentimes taken advantage of by employers who know that they can pay them lower than the going rate for wages, they can withhold benefits, they can do all of this because the employee being illegally here cannot do, or refuses, or is fearful of, doing anything about it. So it is bad for the person coming across the border, and it is bad for people here for a variety of reasons.

Massive numbers of people coming across the border, legally and illegally, low-skilled and, therefore, low-wage earners, have a depressing effect on the income of low-income people in the United States. It is difficult for people here to get jobs sometimes; it is certainly difficult for them to compete with people who are working for even lower than minimum wage levels.

But there are even more important and pressing problems that we face in this country as a result of massive immigration, and those problems deal specifically with the cost of infrastructure that has to be developed and created in response to the growing numbers of people in the country.

We have time and time and time again talked about the problems that the Nation faces as a result of an energy crisis. Yesterday, this House, to its credit, passed the President's bill, an energy reform proposal that hopefully will bring us a long way towards solving the energy crisis that we face in this Nation. But why do we face the crisis, is the concern that we should all have.

Why is it that there is not enough energy to go around? Well, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the problem is a direct result of the numbers of people that we have coming across the borders in the United States.

The massive numbers of illegal immigrants and legal immigrants have increased the population of the United States dramatically over the last 10 years. According to the United States Census, immigration accounts for over 55 percent of the population increase in the country. As a result, there are, of course, lots of pressures that are brought about in terms of infrastructural costs.

Recently, we have witnessed something else happen. We have witnessed a proposal on the part of a Working Group in the White House, a proposal to provide amnesty to at least 3.5 million Mexicans who are here illegally. Now, that is peculiar in many ways.

First of all, we tried this once before. In 1986, we proposed and, in fact, adopted an amnesty plan. It was designed at that time to reduce the number of illegal aliens coming into the country, to help us get a grip on our immigration

problem. It, of course, did not work. It did exactly what we would assume it would do, Mr. Speaker. It encouraged many millions of others to come into the country illegally in the hopes that they too, in time, would be given the opportunity to be legalized because of their illegal activity, I mean as bizarre as that sounds, as incongruous as that sounds, as illogical as that sounds. But, nonetheless, we have done that.

I am concerned about this proposal, and I do hope that we will eventually strike it down.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the well tonight to talk a little bit about an issue that has gotten a lot of attention here on the floor, lots of talk and lots of rhetoric, and that is the whole question of embryonic stem cell research. I am a physician and I know firsthand about taking care of these people; I know about health and the issues of morality, and I have devoted my life to trying to improve the health and well-being of individuals, both in the Congress and in the legislature, as well as in my office.

As a physician, I was trained almost 40 years ago, and I am amazed by the medical progress which has occurred over the last few decades. It is hard to believe that in 1924, the President of the United States' son died because he was playing tennis, he developed a blister on his heel, got an infection, and died. That certainly was before antibiotics; it could not happen today. The last 50 years have seen an absolute explosion of medical technology and knowledge in this whole arena.

In the new millennium, the issue that is of the most importance and the most promise is the whole area of stem cells. These are the most primary, primitive cells in the human body that start out as one cell and they become human beings. When we think about the things that can be done with stem cells, the possibilities are unlimited, although our knowledge is limited at this point.

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We have to be able to imagine a day when somebody like Lou Gehrig would have a stem cell treatment that would allow him to live. People like that are hopeless at this point, and stem cell research gives them some hope. I have taken care of people like this, with Parkinson's disease, with Lou Gehrig's disease, Huntington's Chorea, paralysis, blindness, diabetes, and spinal cord injuries.

I put this picture up of Christopher Reeve, Superman, who was riding a horse, broke his neck, and is now paralyzed. This young girl next to him is