

support a bill for \$375 billion that will ensure America being, as it is today, the leader in the world in transportation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member LIPINSKI for his leadership and for organizing this time for a special order this evening.

The need for infrastructure investment is greater than ever.

The U.S. economy desperately needs a shot in the arm.

Our economy is in dismal shape. Unemployment numbers are the highest ever in the last decade.

With this Bush Recession, family incomes are falling across the board, and falling most rapidly among lower-income workers.

The increase in unemployment of the last two and a half years has had a disproportionate effect on people of color.

The rate of unemployment for African Americans is 10.9 percent—more than twice the rate for whites.

We need to put people back to work in this country, and we need to get this economy going again.

Transportation infrastructure investment will do just that.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), every \$1 billion invested in infrastructure generates 47,500 jobs and \$6.1 billion in related economic activity.

The 375 billion dollar surface transportation bill that the bipartisan membership of the Transportation Committee supports reflects the needs expressed in the Department of Transportation's own needs assessments!

The legislation would potentially create over 1.3 million new good-paying jobs. This bill would put people back to work, and this is just what the American economy needs.

We face rising costs—in congestion, in wasted fuel, in frustration, and in air quality.

I support an increase in the gas user fee because we can not afford to allow infrastructure to continue to crumble.

We cannot afford to bare the increasing cost of congestion (which was 67.5 billion dollars in 2000).

We cannot afford the healthcare costs we will face as a result of breathing polluted air.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration and the House and Senate Republican leaderships now obstruct our efforts to pass a 6 year bill that adequately funds transportation infrastructure.

But the need to invest in public infrastructure is genuine, and moving forward requires additional funding.

Investment in infrastructure will improve mobility, productivity, and our quality of life.

President Bush's tax cuts have only further harmed our economy.

The Transportation Committee's legislation will provide REAL stimulus to our economy, and it will finally put people back to work.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. 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 my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2100

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of gratitude as an American in the wake of the courageous and determined address that the President of the United States made before the United Nations yesterday. The temptation for the President, Mr. Speaker, was clear. It was to respond to weeks and months of withering criticisms about our historic allies and to go into the chamber of the United Nations with a tone of apology, a tone of conciliation. But that is precisely not what President George W. Bush did.

Yesterday, the President of the United States strode into that chamber and with our allies and even some of our antagonists represented in the audience, even including in the war on Iraq, the leaders of nations that opposed our coalition, President Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and President Chirac of France were in the audience and listening, but the President did not mumble; he did not apologize. He came and explained the challenges that we face in Iraq. He embraced the nations, some 32 in number, who joined together in a coalition for nothing less than the advancement of freedom for the people of Iraq.

It was, in sum total, Mr. Speaker, one of the finest addresses I believe that the President has made since taking office in January of 2001.

And I was here on the floor of the Congress when the President came in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 and spoke those courageous words. But yesterday speaking to the world, the President of the United States struck the right tone. It was that we are not here in any way to gloat, but neither are we here to apologize for doing the necessary work of freedom in the world, for taking the 16 separate pronouncements of the United Nations seriously, and leading a coalition to enforce them against a tyrannical dictatorship in Baghdad.

The United States had nothing to apologize for, and the President was right, in words and in tone, not to apologize. But let me also say that the President was right to go to the United Nations and challenge that body and its membership to come alongside those of us that advance freedom and human rights in Iraq, saying that for the members of the United Nations there was, "a role to play in humanitarian assistance, in the establishment of a transition to a free and democratic government."

I also commend the President for identifying that proper role for the

United Nations to play. And so it seems to me all together, Mr. Speaker, that President George W. Bush, struck exactly the right balance. He spoke glowingly of our role in advancing freedom for the people of Iraq, in standing up for the rule of law and human rights in the world as Americans have done for other peoples throughout our history.

The President also said there is a role for allies now, to let bygones be bygones, to come alongside and to be a positive force as an international community for change for the people of Iraq that will be stable, that will be permanent, and that could literally change the landscape of that torn region of the world for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the President of the United States for being a man of principle, a man of freedom, and a true leader on the world stage.

OUR NATION'S IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that often compels me to come to this floor and express to my colleagues my concerns about, I think, one of the most pressing public policy issues that we face as this Nation, and certainly as the Congress of the United States, and that is the issue of massive immigration, legal and illegal, into the country and what that means for us as a Nation.

And I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I believe with all my heart that there are massive, to use the word again, massive, implications of massive immigration, both legal and illegal.

And some may be very good, some may have value, and some may be very, very bad. And it behooves us, it seems to me, as the body that is charged with the responsibility for being, perhaps, the foremost marketplace of ideas in the country, it behooves us to at least talk about these issues.

And I suggest that we talk about it because I know, Mr. Speaker, that America is talking about it, America around the water cooler, America around the unemployment line, America across neighborhood fences, America is talking about this, and America is worried about this issue.

They are worried about many things, and they are accepting of many things. They, I think for the most part, look at immigration as certainly I do, as being something that has been beneficial to the Nation, that has provided for us a diverse population and culture that certainly is the envy of the world in many respects and has been immensely rewarding to us as a Nation. It is a rich environment in which we all can exist and prosper.

And so it is difficult, then, if you feel that way in your heart, which I, of course, do, that it is difficult to then lead us into the discussion of another aspect of it and that is a far more disconcerting aspect of immigration, massive immigration, I should say, not just immigration, but massive immigration on a scale we have never, ever experienced before at a time, I hasten to add, at a time when we also are going through a peculiar cultural phenomenon in the United States.

I refer to this phenomenon as the culture of multiculturalism which has overtaken us. It is a philosophy peculiar in many, many ways, I think, and peculiar, I think, to many Americans, but it has nonetheless taken hold among the elite in the country, the academics, the media, certain groups within the United States political establishment, that see America, and in a broader sense Western civilization, as something that they have to be ashamed of.

The values of Western civilization, many people who I would call cultists in the pursuit of this multiculturalism agenda, they see Western civilization as nothing of value and, as a matter of fact, for the most part something to be discounted. And they will actually talk about it in the most negative terms, and continually suggest to our children in school and to the public that pays the slightest bit of attention anymore to the national media, especially the media represented by or as exemplified, I should say, by commercial television, to those who still pay attention to those particular forums, these people look at this and think to themselves, maybe there is not anything really of value.

And children will, unfortunately, grow up learning only the most negative things about the United States and about Western civilization and begin to lose any real connection to the goals and aspirations and ideals of America that were exemplified in the Constitution of the United States, that were articulated by the people who founded this country and for 200 years, the ideals to which and around which we all rallied. And I fear, in a way, that we are losing this kind of connection.

I know this is somewhat esoteric, I know that this is not the typical kind of discussion that is held here on the floor of the House, but I ask that we do, in fact, engage in this discussion because I believe it is both meaningful and important to us as a Nation to discuss and to debate. The simple question is who are we? Who are we?

Samuel Huntington, who is a well-respected historian and social scientist, has written several books, the most recent, at least that I read, was *The Clash of Civilizations*. And he is coming out with another one, I am told, relatively soon. And I am looking forward to it. It is called *Who Are We?* And it takes a very in-depth look at this particular issue and this question.

He suggests that we are being sort of Balkanized in the United States, and in

much of Western civilization for that matter. We are Balkanized into subgroups, subcategories, hyphenated categories as something American. And that this pressure to disconnect from a set of American ideals and ideas or those that we could call Judeo-Christian in nature, the precepts of Western civilization, that the disconnect from this is dangerous and that we should not be doing it.

And I certainly agree that there, again, are implications to this kind of phenomenon that are worthy of our discussion.

Beyond that, then, we have to think about what massive immigration means in this light and in this context, especially when it has changed so dramatically. Immigration and immigration policies have changed so dramatically over the last, let us say, 50 or 60 years but certainly in the last couple of decades.

In the past, certainly when my grandparents, and perhaps yours, came to this country, they were encouraged in many ways. Certainly, there were all kinds of discrimination that my grandparents faced, I am sure every wave of new immigrants confronted a new set, or maybe an old set, of discriminatory tactics. But even in the face of those obstacles, they were able to overcome them, they were able to succeed, they were able to move on. And they did so for a variety of reasons. Certainly, there was some internal desire to do so.

I remember, distinctly, my own grandparents talking about the fact that we should never ever think of ourselves as anything about Americans. We should never really connect to the old past. My grandparents all came from Italy. And although they were certainly proud of their heritage, they wanted to disconnect from the past and reconnect, or connect, I should say, to a new culture. And they wanted to be Americans in every sense of the word. So much so that, as I grew up, I never, ever, thought of myself as anything but an American.

Mr. Speaker, if someone were to have said to me, what is your home country, I would have said, well, the United States. What is your home State? I would have said, Colorado, and thought, how silly to ask such a question. But that is how I grew up. That is what I thought of as my heritage.

And my grandparents were forced to do other things. They were forced, whether they wanted to or not, of course, to work because there were no options. They would either work or they would starve. There was no welfare. There was no social service net to save them if they were to fail. They had to rely upon their own labor because they had few other skills but the labor they brought with them, the brawn, if you will.

□ 2115

They had to rely upon family and friends, and they had to do something else that was incredibly important

when you think back on it. It was important for many reasons, but some did not become, some of those reasons were not clear, as they are today, when you think back, and that is that they had to learn English. They were sort of forced into it. I do not know how willingly my grandfather learned the English language, how devoted he was to the study of it, but I do know this, that it consumed him in terms of the time he would try. Certainly my grandmother would tell him, you have to try harder and you have to speak English. Actually she would always say, speak American, and in that process what was happening is they were becoming part of a greater society, a greater culture, bigger culture, and they were integrated into that culture, again, overcoming the obstacles that they faced with discrimination, which they certainly did, and, as I say, every newly arriving group in this country faces, but they were forced to learn English. They were forced to work. They were forced to actually integrate into the American mainstream.

Today, because of this cult of multiculturalism that permeates our society, we set up obstacles. We not only set up obstacles to people coming into this country and feeling at home. I mean, there are certainly a lot of discriminatory tactics employed, and I am not suggesting for a moment that discrimination has been eliminated from the culture. It has not, but we have done something else in a very peculiar way, maybe in a response to what we consider this, the discrimination, as we have set up this other sort of agenda or culture, if you will, or phenomenon.

I guess that is the best way to describe it because what we tell people today is they should not, in fact, reconnect, or they should not connect with America and with our culture and with American and Western civilization; that they should remain separate and distinct, in separate enclaves and retain their own language and retain their political affiliation and cultural affiliation with the country of their origin. And we tell them not to come into American mainstream, that there is nothing of value, and, therefore, they should essentially stay separate, all in this quest to make people feel at home or certainly make people feel that Western civilization offers them nothing of any consequence, and therefore, this separate and distinct set of societies that we are developing in the U.S. has greater value.

Not too long ago, in fact just a couple of weeks ago, there was an article in the Los Angeles Times that I remember reading here on the floor, at least excerpting parts of, and it talked about an event in Los Angeles. I believe it was not Cinco de Mayo because it was just a few weeks ago. It may have been the celebration of Mexican Independence Day, and it talked about the fact that there were thousands and thousands of people on the streets of

Los Angeles, all with Mexican flags, and all, as they said, experiencing the joy of their homeland in talking about and cheering the flags that went by of their States. And I remember thinking to myself, their homeland? Their homeland. What is their homeland? Is it not the United States of America? What is their State? Is it not California?

We all have pride, as I say, in our heritage, but there was something peculiar about this article, I thought, because it does, once again, sort of focus in on what I am trying to describe here as a problem, at least I believe is a problem in this country, and that is our desire to ignore everything that would pull us together as a Nation and to, in fact, accentuate all the things that split us apart.

As I say, from my point of view, Mr. Speaker, it is disconcerting to say the least, and I worry about what this means for America, and I wonder. And although I certainly will be the first to tell you I do not have all the answers, I know, and I can certainly ask a lot of questions, but I am well aware of the fact that this is a cultural phenomenon that deserves a great deal of attention. A lot of very important scholars should study it and think about it, but is it not something that we should think about even superficially a little bit? Should we not give some thought to what this means to our Nation? Should we not then, therefore, think about what kind of immigration policy we should establish in this country?

Even if you sweep all of this aside and say it is all too highbrow, it is all too, again, esoteric, who wants to think about all that stuff; it does not matter, and it is just grist for social study textbooks. Okay. Forget about it. Let us talk about other more mundane but certainly dramatic aspects of massive immigration into this country, both legal and illegal. Let us talk about money. Let us talk about costs. Let us talk about the fact that today in the United States we expend far more money as taxpayers in the infrastructural support necessary for those people who have come here both legally and illegally than we ever obtain from those same folks in terms of the taxes, quote, they pay. And I say "quote" because many, of course, pay no taxes whatsoever because of our peculiar system, the system we have developed over a series of years. It is a big difference, I explained, to what my grandparents faced.

You come to the United States and really do not have to work. Not only that, but you work and earn a little amount of money, we will pay you in the form of something called the earned income tax credit, and many, many immigrants, both legal and illegal, thousands in fact, hundreds of thousands by the latest count, actually file income tax forms for one purpose, to obtain the earned income tax credit. It is not to pay taxes, because they do not pay taxes for the most part. They

do not make enough money, but they will claim a certain number of people. Even when they work here illegally, they still file income tax forms.

We found them in what are called pick-up sites. These are places throughout the desert in the Southeast where illegal immigrants gather. As they come across on foot, they gather at certain areas to be picked up by some sort of vehicle, trucks or cars, and taken into the interior, and these sites sometimes are places where literally thousands of people will have gathered over a period of time, and they are strewn with trash; unfortunately, I mean, it is an indelicate thing to talk about, but tons of human waste and very, very unpleasant from many respects.

But we were going through one of these sites, and I happened to look down, and I saw all these IRS forms laying on the ground, and I picked them up. We still have them in my office, and I will never forget. I mean, one guy had filed his income tax, used a fake Social Security number, but had received, we found out later because we checked this out, and he filed an income tax claim that he had made \$7,800, something like that, in the course of the year. He listed four or five dependents, all of whom lived in Mexico, but were given taxpayer identification numbers by the IRS. All you have to do is request a number for a dependent, whether they exist or not, who knows, because they are in a different country, but he filed this claiming four or five dependents in another country, using their ITIN numbers and said that he paid something like \$94 in taxes on those \$7,000 that he earned, but he claimed \$3,800 in earned income tax credit.

We do this for people. This is part of who we are, but it changes the whole idea, the whole philosophy, the whole phenomenon of immigration into this country, changes it dramatically from what it used to be because we provide this.

So, as I say, forget about all of the cultural implications, whether you think they exist or not, as I have described them. Think about the actual costs to the United States, to the taxpayer of the United States. We are encouraged to keep open borders and allow illegal immigration into this country because we know, on our side of the aisle anyway, and many people on the other side of the aisle, by the way, believe in the concept of cheap labor, that businesses should be able to hire the cheapest labor possible, and if you get that across the border illegally, so be it. The other side of the aisle is much more interested in the votes that may accrue to them by the increase in the number of people who are here in this country as immigrants, either legal or illegal, but together this causes a very big problem because it is hard to actually then do something about it.

It is hard to stop it. It is hard to actually address it or reform it when you

have got these two pressures and pressure groups, the political pressure group on that side of the aisle, the cheap labor group on our side. And I say all the time cheap labor is only cheap to the employer. It is not cheap to the American public. It costs us greatly. It costs us an enormous amount of money to provide the infrastructure for those people who are here working for very little and for very low wages.

Not only do we find that there are tax implications for us in terms of just the money that we will pay somebody for being here and having a low income, but, of course, there are the costs for schools. There are the costs for hospitals and health care in a broader sense. All of these things, of course, are charged to the American taxpayer.

So I would suggest that if for no other reason we have a legitimate cause here, a legitimate concern based around the fiscal issues presented by massive immigration. And our opponents will say, well, these people come, they work, they provide value. Again, they do work, they provide value, mostly for employers who oftentimes exploit them, who oftentimes use that labor, pay them less than even minimum wage, refuse to give them benefits, and, in many ways, make their lives something close to those of indentured servants.

So it seems to me, as I say, that we have a legitimate interest, a legitimate concern, but sweep that aside, forget it for a moment. Say, okay, there is no cultural issue I care about listening to, and there is no fiscal issue that concerns me. Think about national security. Does that matter to anyone in this body? Should it matter to anyone in this body? Should it matter that our borders are porous? Does it matter that we have absolutely no control over who comes into this country? We do not know who they are. We do not know for how long they are here. We do not know for what purpose.

To the credit of people like Asa Hutchinson, whom I admire, he is trying his best, I think, to gain some degree of control over the immigration process, and we are working to devise better mechanisms to actually identify people who are coming across the border at our ports of entry. We are giving them cards, and unfortunately there is no hardware, there is no machinery there to actually scan these cards and to get the information. But a lot of people have cards now that carry some information we call biometric identifiers, and that is good, and I am happy. But, of course, those ports of entry are tiny, tiny pebbles that we have placed in the huge river of immigration. At those ports of entry we may have a better sense of who is coming across, and we may be doing a better job, but every place between those ports of entry, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately it is still "olly oxen free."

I flew over the port of entry in Nogales not too long ago, and it was a

great metaphor for what I am saying. We looked down. Here was the port of entry with a line of cars maybe a mile deep into Mexico waiting to come into the United States, everybody being checked, but, of course, Nogales is in a desert area, very flat area, and we were flying in a helicopter, and so we looked at that, and it was ironic to say the least that not more than a mile on either side of that port of entry where everybody was being stopped, you could watch people walking across, sometimes simply driving off of a road in Mexico and into the United States through our national park down there, Organ Pipe Cactus National Park.

□ 2130

It looks like a racetrack. It is not a national park any more; it is a combination of a dump and a racetrack, where everywhere you look tracks have come through. People have simply driven over into the deserts, driven into the United States. You can fly over and see all these tracks looking like spiderwebs every place.

They have ruined the environment. They have destroyed much of the environment to the point that I cannot believe the Sierra Club does not go down there and really go ballistic. But of course they will not, because this is a politically incorrect thing for them to do, to complain about the degradation of the environment being done by illegal immigration.

And so we watched as people came into the country, of course completely undetected, except for the fact we happened to be flying over and watching it. But certainly we do not know who they are and, for the most part, of course, they are coming for the benign reason of a job. Absolutely true. But how do I know all of them come for that purpose?

And I guaranty you all of them do not come for that purpose, because of course we could also see the remnants of the drug trafficking, which is enormous. We picked up sacks all over the landscape where people had carried them in because they were coming in illegally and they were being used as what they call mules to bring the stuff in on their backs. And by the way, this is observable certainly on the southern border, but it is absolutely as rampant on the northern border, especially the drug traffic. So it is not just a southern border problem. It is a huge problem for America.

We do not know who is coming. We know that there are cartels in South and Central America that have now specialized in the importation of people, not drugs any more. They have changed their marketing tactics, their sales or whatever, because they are now importing people because it is more lucrative. It is \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a poor Mexican peasant to come into the United States paying a coyote; it is up to \$55,000 for someone coming from the Middle East or Asia. It is a very lucrative endeavor.

And what do they have invested in it? Hardly anything. It is not like they need to pay the grower to take care of the plants and all that kind of investment there is in drugs. You do not have that in people. And if they lose a load, there is plenty more where they came from, so it is no big deal.

So now there is a cartel in what is called the tri-border area. This is in southwestern Brazil, the corner of Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina. The tri-border area is a very lawless area, and it is the site of an enormous amount of smuggling activities and that sort of thing, but it is also the site of this Mexican mafia cartel that no longer deals in drugs specifically, it deals now primarily in people, and it wants to concentrate on Middle Easterners coming in because they pay the most, \$55,000.

So Middle Easterners will come into South and Central America, coming into what is called the tri-border region, be acclimated there in Brazil for a little bit, and then they are moved into Mexico and then into the United States. Some of them may be for jobs. Maybe they are all coming to do jobs Americans just will not do. I hear that all the time, of course. That is the only reason why we have illegal immigration; it is because we have so many jobs Americans will not do.

So therefore we have to bring in Saudis and Pakistanis and Iranians and Chinese? Well, no, Mr. Speaker, there are other reasons people are coming here, and some of them are nefarious. Some of the reasons are very, very scary. But our borders are porous, and they can come across at their will. And we are shirking the most basic responsibility we have in this body.

It may be bizarre to say such a thing here, but our primary responsibility in this House is not to educate America's children, it is not to provide welfare benefits to America's disenfranchised and poor, it is not to provide highways, and it is not to provide recreational services. Those things are not any of the identified responsibilities of this body in the Constitution of this country, which is supposed to be our guiding light.

Every Member takes an oath. We stand here at the beginning of the session, and we do not take an oath to the President. And we do not take an oath to our party. We take an oath to the Constitution. And when you look at the Constitution, what does it say about educating children or any of the other things? At least you are going to have to sort of interpret. But what does it say about our responsibility to defend America? What is the Federal Government's role here? Clear, unambiguous, it is our primary role. It is the one thing we are supposed to do: defend the Nation.

And, therefore, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, we shirk our primary responsibility here when we refuse to defend our own borders because of the politics of cheap labor. And that is the reason

we do not defend our borders. That is it. As ugly and as uncomfortable as that is to deal with, here, 2 years after the most devastating attack on our shores we have ever experienced, we still do not defend our own borders and enforce them because of that fear, the fear that we would stop cheap labor. It is politics. It is unacceptable. It is disgusting, in many ways.

So, yes, I am here tonight, as I am on the floor many nights, and I am speaking on this, which I have spoken on hundreds of occasions. And I will continue to do so because I believe with all my heart that this issue warrants our attention, our concern, and at least, Mr. Speaker, a debate.

MAKING IN ORDER ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003, CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 69, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on September 25, 2003, without intervention of any point of order, to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 69) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes; that the joint resolution be considered as read for amendment; that the joint resolution be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado? There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3161, RATIFYING AUTHORITY OF FTC TO ESTABLISH A DO-NOT-CALL REGISTRY

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House H.R. 3161; that the bill shall be considered as read for amendment; that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion, except: number one, 1 hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and, number two, one motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

IRAQ/MILITARY/RESERVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from