

Mexico's back door is the front door to Central America and beyond into South America, and that many of our immigration challenges come from south of the Texas border, which is, of course, an international border between the United States and our neighbor Mexico. It is well documented that we have approximately 10 million people who are illegally in this country who have come from south of the border and other places around the world.

Here again, I don't know how we can say with a straight face that we are a nation of laws while at the same time ignoring this fact. I know it won't be easy. Indeed, like so many other challenges that face our Nation, few of these issues are easy.

I know next year we will be dealing with things such as Social Security reform, tax simplification, and winning the war on terrorism. None of those issues are easy, but we don't give that as an excuse for failing to do our duty as Senators. I hope we will not make weak and empty excuses for failing to do our duty when it comes to immigration reform.

The need for immigration reform is apparent when we look at the challenges we confront in a post-9/11 world. There are some who say: We can solve our immigration problems by building a wall between the United States and Mexico or we could do it by deploying troops along our border.

That is a vain hope and expectation, if indeed people are truly serious about that. The fact is, when you have one of the poorer nations of the world right next door to the richest nation, people who have no hope and no opportunity where they live will do whatever it takes to provide hope and opportunity to their families. You cannot build a wall high enough or wide enough to keep people out of this country who know only despair and who have no opportunity where they live.

I believe we need to deal comprehensively with this issue in a pragmatic way, a way that allows us to call ourselves a nation of laws, and create a legal framework that allows us to deal with the present reality of our reliance on immigrant labor, some 6 million in the workforce in America doing jobs in many instances that American citizens would not want to do.

All you have to do is travel to construction sites all across the country. Go to the hotels, the restaurants, to the lawn service companies, whatever the nature of the business may be, you will find—and we know they are there—immigrants who have come from other countries who ask for nothing more than the opportunity to work. We need and rely on that labor.

At the same time the demands of homeland security cry out for an accounting of who is in our country and why they are here. While I suspect—indeed I believe—the vast majority of these people who have come here illegally are here because they want nothing more than to work and the oppor-

tunity to provide for their families, what we need to do is account for everyone who is here, why they are here, what their intentions are, and to make sure that those who are a threat to our country are deported or not allowed to come into our country in the first place.

In order to deal with this issue—both our homeland security, our border security, and our economic reliance on the contributions that immigrant labor provides and that are important to our economy—we need to approach this entire question with a dose of common sense and pragmatism that unfortunately has been missing for so long.

Most of the people who talk about immigration today, I am afraid to say, are special interest groups that try to scare the American people or, frankly, misrepresent the facts about this important issue. Comprehensive immigration reform will allow our law enforcement officials to concentrate on those who are indeed a threat while acknowledging the contributions that immigrants make to our economy, but under a lawful framework which allows us to regain our status as a nation of laws.

To that end, last summer, I introduced the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act that would create a temporary worker program, allowing immigrants to work in the United States for a limited time, then return to their home country with the skills and the savings that they have earned. The most important aspect of that bill is that it is a work and return program. It is not a pathway to legal permanent residency in the United States, nor is it a pathway to citizenship.

It is not amnesty. I would not support a bill that provides amnesty for those who are not lawfully present in the United States. I believe what this does is address both the reality on the ground in places such as my State and even the great State of Montana, represented by the current occupant of the chair. Immigrants make a tremendous contribution to the workforce and the economy of all of our States.

I also believe that the work and return component is important because the fact is, if we are ever going to do anything about the root causes of immigration, we are going to have to support the efforts of the nations that supply these immigrants to help build their own economy and to create opportunity and jobs. If we don't do that, then the drain of the risk takers, the young and able-bodied, the people every economy depends upon in order to do the work and to help boost the economy and create opportunity, will continue, and we will never be successful.

I believe both for our purposes and for the purposes of those countries that supply immigrant labor to the United States, it is important that we have a work and return requirement. I plan on reintroducing this measure when we return in January. I believe this proposal

will enhance America's border security and homeland security by allowing law enforcement to focus on the true threats to America and those who intend to do us real harm.

There are as many as 10 million individuals already present in this country illegally. Our homeland security demands an accounting of the identity of these individuals and their reason for being here and a judgment as to whether they pose a danger to our citizens.

While I believe we have done a good thing here today and that we have met the request of the 9/11 families and the 9/11 Commission to deal with their concerns in this bill, we have not yet finished the job. Indeed, I don't believe we can claim we have finished the job until we deal comprehensively with immigration reform. I know it is going to take a lot of discussion. This is a controversial area, but I know the American people will benefit from a discussion in Congress and from our understanding of what their concerns are so we can try to achieve a national consensus to deal with this issue which we have neglected for far too long. It is because we have neglected it that we are not as safe as we should be; nor can we justly claim to be a nation of laws while we ignore this present violation, and ignoring those laws when it has to do with the immigrants in our country.

Mr. President, I will talk more about this in January when we return but I did not want the occasion to pass without making these few comments.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Texas, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Texas, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:36 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:05 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, so our colleagues will know the plans for the next few minutes or next hour or so, we will be going sine die later this evening. There is still some business we are conducting and wrapping up. For the next few minutes, we will have some unanimous consent requests. We

will deal with that, after which I will make a statement or two while that pending business is being wrapped up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the calendar: Calendar Nos. 588 and 865.

I further ask that the following nominations be discharged from the respective committees and they be considered en bloc: From the Foreign Relations Committee, PN-2052 and PN-2053, which are two lists of Foreign Service officers, for a total of 309 nominations; from the HELP Committee, PN-1675, Veronica Stidvent, Assistant Secretary of Labor; from the Energy Committee, PN-1839, Karen Harbert, Assistant Secretary of Energy; PN-1851, John Shaw, Assistant Secretary of Energy.

I further ask consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Susan Johnson Grant, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

William Sanchez, of Florida, to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices for a term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Donna Lurline Woolf, of the District of Columbia

For appointment as Foreign Service Officers of Class Four, Consular Officer and Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Nancy E. Abella, of Connecticut
John Aloia, of New Jersey
Alexander Neville Ave Lallemand, of Texas
Kay Gilbrech Barton, of Texas
Dena D. Brownlow, of the District of Columbia

Cathleen Elizabeth Carothers, of Kansas
Charles Gardner Chandler IV, of Texas
Peter Thompson Chisholm, of Florida
Derek Shane Christensen, of California
Amanda Beth Cronkhite, of New York
Monica Lyn Cummings, of California
Evan Tait Felsing, of California
Li Gong, of Virginia
Glenn James Guimond, of California
Kent C. Healy, of Connecticut
Nicholas J. Hilgert III, of Virginia
John J. Hillmeyer, of Missouri
Charles David Hillon, of Virginia
Darren William Hultman, of California
Debra Irene Johnson, of Virginia
Dana Michele Linnet, of California
Stella C. Lutter, of Florida
Darren A. Martin, of Virginia
Katherine Marie McGowen, of Alaska

Randall Todd Merideth, of Minnesota
Susan Michelle Meyer, of Nebraska
Sara Lilli Michael, of California
Matthew Christian Miller, of Virginia
Kimberly A. Murphy, of Florida
Hector Nava, of Texas
Heather Lynn Noss, of California
Matthew E. O'Connor, of Texas
Christopher James Panico, of Connecticut
John Benton Parker, of Florida
Scott R. Riedmann, of Ohio
Hugo F. Rodriguez Jr., of Virginia
Stephen I. Ruken, of Texas
Edwin S. Saeger, of Maryland
Nomi E. Seltzer, of New York
Matthew David Smith, of New Hampshire
Julie A. Stinehart, of Wyoming
Michael D. Sweeney, of California
Catherine Elizabeth Sweet, of Washington
Michael David Toyryla, of California
Nikolas Michael Trendowski, of Michigan
Seth H. Vaughn, of New York
Lucia Clelia Verrier, of New Hampshire

The following-named Members of the Foreign Service to be Consular Officers and/or Secretaries in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, as indicated:

Consular Officers and Secretaries in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Brent E. Omdahl, of Texas

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ralph C. Ahlers, of the District of Columbia
Jacob F. Appleton, of the District of Columbia

Daniel Vartan Arakelian, of Michigan
Tammy McQuilkin Baker, of Florida
Regina Anne Bateson, of California
Jeffrey A. Beals, of New York
Keith B. Bean, of New Jersey
Philip M. Beekman, of Michigan
Mieczyslaw P. Boduszynski, of California
James Michael Bonikowski, of Virginia
Katherine Anne Branding, of Virginia
Jamar Phillip Broussard, of California
Maria Del Rosario Rodriguez-Diaz Butcher, of West Virginia

Andrea Michelle Cameron, of Virginia
Ryan T. Campbell, of California
Vincent M. Campos, of California
John L. Canady, of Florida
Laura Anne Cansicio, of California
Jared S. Caplan, of Florida
Kenneth Patrick Chavez, of Texas
Matt Butler Chessen, of California
Grace H. Choi, of California
John Choi, of California
Ryan P. Cooper, of Virginia
Robert J. Dahlke, of Maryland
Daniel A. Davila, of Texas
Daniel Kenneth Delk Jr., of Georgia
David S. Feldmann, of Maryland
Kara Van de Carr French, of Louisiana
Brian Michael Frere, of Florida
Daniel C. Gedacht, of Massachusetts
Leon W. Gendin, of Florida
Tonya Woytowich Gendin, of Florida
Kevin Edward Gonzales, of Maryland
Nathan S. Halat, of New York
Stephanie Lynne Hallett, of Florida
Thomas Edward Hammang Jr., of Texas
Michelle F. Hams, of Puerto Rico
Brian B. Himmelsteib, of New Jersey
Ariel N. Howard, of Louisiana
Douglas M. Hoyt, of the District of Columbia
Margaret E. Hsiang, of New Jersey
Bonnie Lee Hunter, of Virginia
Antoinette Christine Hurtado, of California
Anna Sunshine Ison, of North Carolina
Mary Beth Keane, of Virginia
Teri L. Keas, of Kansas
Rebecca N. Kinyon, of New York
Holly Ann Kirking, of Wisconsin
Payton Lucas Knopf, of the District of Columbia

Tomika Konditi, of Maryland
Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey
Molly Rutledge Koscina, of Washington
Jon A. Larsen, of Oregon
Elizabeth M. Lawrence, of Illinois
Annie S. Lee, of California
Theresa Loong, of New York
Anita Lyssikatos, of New Hampshire
Patrick M. Mackin, of Virginia
Michael A. Mazzocco, of Virginia
Timothy Ray McGowan, of Virginia
Sean J. McIntosh, of New York
Daniel L. McManus, of Florida
Lioudmila Millman, of Virginia
Molly C. Montgomery, of Oregon
Jessica Nicole Munson, of Minnesota
Chad R. Norberg, of Florida
Mary Jane O'Brien, of Virginia
Sadie Marie Okoko, of Maryland
Angela P. Pan, of California
Seth L.P. Patch, of Massachusetts
Charlotte Audrey Poloncsik, of Virginia
Shannon D. Quinn, of Florida
T. Clifford Reed, of Texas
Kyle Richardson, of Iowa
Susan Jean Riggs, of Virginia
John Thomas Rivera-Dirks, of New Mexico
Gregg Allen Roberts, of Virginia
Brenda C. Ruth, of Colorado
Stetson A. Sanders, of the District of Columbia

Shigh Luke Sapp, of California
Caroline Savage, of Wisconsin
Addie B. Schroeder, of Kansas
Jeffrey A. Shelstad, of Virginia
Daniel E. Slusher, of Kansas
Brian T. Smith, of Indiana
Deborah Buddington Smith, of Connecticut
Tashawna S. Smith, of New Jersey
Alys Louise Spensley, of Minnesota
Anne Marie Staszecki, of Virginia
Michael Anthony Stevens, of Florida
Terrence Clare Stevens, of Virginia
Michael Stewart, of Oregon
Nancy Elizabeth Talbot, of New York
Mark Hamilton Thornburg, of the District of Columbia

Elaine H. Tiangco, of Nevada
Dennis Dean Tidwell, of Tennessee
Kevin J. Tierney, of Virginia
Michael J. Tran, of Kansas
Tina Tran, of Oklahoma
Ian Adam Turner, of Maryland
Linnisa Joya Wahid, of Maryland
Susan F. Walke, of Virginia
Mark Allen Weed, of Virginia
Tonia N. Weik, of Texas
April S. Wells, of Alabama
Russell J. Westergard, of Utah
David L. Wyche, of Pennsylvania

The following-named Career Member of the Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion in the Senior Foreign Service to the Class indicated:

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

Lisa Bobbie Schreiber-Hughes, of Pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cynthia A. Haley, of Maryland
For appointment as Foreign Service Officers of Class Four, Consular Officer and Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Diana J. Haberlack, of Washington
Micah L. Watson, of Maryland
The following-named Members of the Foreign Service to be Consular Officers and/or Secretaries in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, as indicated:

Consular Officers and Secretaries in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

John F. Coronado, of California