

Mr. SIMPSON mentioned the Speaker. I will just tell you that there is no one who could be a better friend and someone I owe so much to. John and Debbie Boehner, Kathy and I owe them so much. They are great, great friends. We love them, and we will continue that friendship as we will with all of the colleagues here we have come to know and love.

Anyone who does this job for any period of time understands you are never going to be successful or accomplish anything without the great work of your staff. I have been blessed both in Iowa and here in Washington with tremendous people who have worked so hard for me, who have committed themselves to the people of Iowa—to the service to them and to this country. All of them are very, very special to me. One person, my chief of staff, James Carstensen, who happens to be in the Chamber tonight, has been with me since day one—actually, a year before I got elected, working on the campaign. So 21 years he has had to put up with me.

Thank you very much.

Thanks to all of the members of my staff. It has been a pleasure for me—a great, great honor to have the privilege of serving with them—because we have all done it on a cumulative basis, and we have tried to do the best job possible for the people of Iowa.

I have to say “thank you,” obviously, to the Iowans. As Mr. NUNES said, I have represented a lot of the State in having the different districts, starting with the Fifth District, then the Fourth District, and now the Third District—moving from northwest Iowa to northeast Iowa to southwest Iowa. It is the honor of my life to serve the people of Iowa and to have that opportunity to be their Representative in Washington to try to accomplish things for their good and for the good of the country. Again, I just say “thank you.”

Everybody who is in Congress knows the sacrifice of your family. My parents, who were such great role models for me, taught me so much. They are gone now. I have got four brothers and their families. I have my son, Justin; Lynnae; Emerson and Jack; my daughter Jennifer; her husband, Brian; and Keaton, Mason, and Carson; and my daughter Jill and her husband, Nick, and their son, Will. I love them, and what they have done to support me over the years is tremendous and will always be appreciated.

Obviously, there is one person. You could never be successful if you didn't have the support of your spouse. Kathy has been just exceptional in putting up with all the back-and-forth—having two residences and having had to travel here and keep everything going at home while I am away. For the first 19 years we were married, I was on the road with our family business. For the last 20 years, I have been gone, being in Congress. So, obviously, her love and her support has meant everything in the world to me.

Thank you, Dear.

Let me just say, in closing, that it has been an amazing ride for 20 years. For a kid, like Mr. SIMPSON said or Mr. KING said, who grew up in Alexander, Iowa—who grew up on a farm outside of a big town of 168 people—to come to Washington to be able to represent Iowa here is, obviously, a huge, huge honor from that background.

I will honestly say to any Member listening, if you ever get to the point when you walk across the street and don't look up at that dome and get that chill up your spine about something much bigger than you are, you probably should go home. Now, I still get that chill, but I think it is time for me and my family to go a different course.

I am extraordinarily proud to have served here. This is a great, great body. It is something that is an incredible institution. It is truly a slice of America when you come here and you meet the different folks and all you learn about this great country. Having to take into consideration a lot of different views and constituencies from all over the country is an amazing experience. I am very, very proud of that, and I will always feel that my time was well spent here. More so today I am excited about the future because we are going to have an opportunity to spend more time with the family—with Kathy, with the kids and grandchildren. We are going to be able to do some things we have never been able to do before. So I am proud of the past and am excited about the future, and I just thank God that I have had the opportunities I have had to grow up in a State like Iowa and in a community like I grew up in, with parents like I had and brothers and the support of the family.

This is the greatest country in the world. It will always be because of our system of government. As hard as it is to get something done, it is very difficult, but it is the right way to do things, and we need to get back to everyone listening to each other. There is one thing I will say: I never learn a thing when I am talking. You learn things when you are listening to other folks. I think we should all, maybe, step back and listen to each other more, and I think, maybe, we would be better off.

With that, I will just say “thank you” to everyone. It is a great country. God bless America. I am excited about the future.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman.

Again, TOM, we are going to miss you. We have become good friends. Don't become a stranger. You still have another week or two to serve before we sine die, and there are some important votes to cast.

Now that you qualify for Medicare, I wish you and Kathy the best in the next part of this journey of life, and I am sure you will do fantastic. Make sure you get out to Idaho when you get an opportunity, and we will take some

famous Idaho potatoes and some famous Iowa corn, and we will put them together with some steak and have a little barbecue.

I thank you for your service to this institution, to the State of Iowa, and to the country. We will miss you.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, let me offer my congratulations to those who have served our country in the Congress who now will be retiring and moving on. All of us will get there sometime.

This is a noble job if we make it such, and many people who have served here have done great things for the United States of America. Why? Because they, number one, believe in the principles of the United States, what were set down by our Founding Fathers. Even more than that, what we have had here and what we need more of in America are leaders who care specifically about the American people and what impact they are having on the American people and what impact those policies that they advocate will have on the American people.

□ 1730

All too often, people come to Washington, and pretty soon, what they care about is this or that specific special interest. Or they have a special idea, special interest or special ideas. They have a philosophy. They have a vision that goes beyond what the benefit to the American people is, what they are going to establish because of this philosophical commitment to some ideal.

Well, both of those are enemies of the well-being of the people of the United States. If people who are elected by the population come here and are loyal to special interests that have to make a profit in a specific area, even though it might be detrimental to the American people as a whole, or people come here and they don't care about the American people—they want to see their dream come true, their intellectual and philosophical ideal put into place—well, the American people get left out with that type of leadership.

And what we are doing today, one of the most important issues that we have been facing for almost a decade now, with constant pressure to do something about—what? About immigration policy in the United States. And what we do, what we finally do on this issue will tell us whom we care about and what are our ideals and who we care about more. Do we care about special interests? Do we care about some ideal notion that is not so tangible? Or do we care about what policy

will do specifically to the American people?

For years—and especially on this election year—we have heard repeatedly about the plight of the people who are here in this country illegally, over and over again about how these poor souls, how we need to give them legal status. We need to reach out and do something for them because they are in a bad situation. And, yes, they came here because there was a desperate situation in that land from which they came.

Unfortunately, when you hear people constantly talking about how we are going to help these illegal immigrants who are here in our midst, you don't hear about how what is being recommended to help the illegal immigrants will impact the American people. This is what we should be talking about. This is what needs to be discussed. The people elected by the American people should talk about what is going to happen to the American people if this policy that is being recommended is put into place.

Yes. We would like to help people who have come here illegally, and we would like to help people all over the world. There is no reason not to, if we care about the people who have come here illegally, thumbing their nose at our law, but they are human beings, and we care about them.

By the way, they are also people whom we can identify with because if we were in their spot, we would do the same. We care about them.

But you know what? We have to care more about the American people. We have to care about them if they care about the things that we are doing here. Or maybe they will just write off their government because their government is more concerned about a foreigner who has come here illegally than about the well-being of the American family and the American working people.

We hear this word “comprehensive.” Over and over again, we have heard, We have to have comprehensive immigration reform. “Comprehensive immigration reform,” what does that mean? Why do we hear that over and over again?

Because they can't use the word “amnesty.” And they know that, really, comprehensive immigration reform means one thing and one thing only because there is really not any type of a real argument about making our system better. But to them, when they say “comprehensive immigration reform,” they mean changing the status, legalizing the status of those millions of people who are here illegally.

They claim that there are 11 million. That is an old number, and that number has not been updated. And almost everyone I talk to believes that it is more like 20 million illegals who are here, not 11 million.

So there is not any real problem on our part with the idea of “comprehensive reform,” if we were to say, let's

make the system more effective. Yes, we need border control, for example, and we need to restructure the visa system because there are a lot of people who are not only coming across the border illegally but who come here and overstay their visas. In fact, the largest number of illegals now—people keep thinking that we are talking about just people from Latin America. No. We have got people coming in from all over the world—many of them on visas, many of them sneaking across the border—who have come here illegally and are currently residing here. That number of people have an impact on the well-being of the American people.

So, yes, let's make the system better. But let's realize that we are not talking about things that we disagree on. It has all been about whether you legalize the status of people who are here illegally.

But let's just note this: We have no apologies to make about the generosity of the American people with our current system of immigration. Yes, it needs to be reformed and made more efficient. But we provide for over a million immigrants to come into our country legally every year.

To put that into perspective, that is more than all of the legal immigration into other countries, into every country of the world, combined. So we permit more legal immigration than every other country of the world combined. But yet over and over again, we are made to feel guilty, that we in some way should feel guilty about our immigration system and about the fact that you have people who are here illegally and we won't legalize their status.

Well, what would legalizing their status do? What would it do? We know what it would do for them. These people who are here illegally, if they have illegal status, they would then be able to perhaps be eligible for government programs, maybe as part of that. Certainly their relatives would be or their children would be.

Right now, even the people who are here illegally are the recipients of government benefits. Of the people who are here receiving—for example, their children have health care, emergency health care. And then, of course, an emergency becomes anything that someone is sick with. And they also, of course, are here, and their children are educated here. And we have government benefits that people have managed, if they end up coming here illegally and have one child—one child then justifies a wide variety of Federal assistance and other welfare assistance programs to these individuals who are basically here illegally.

Well, what does that mean? At a time when we are \$500 billion more in debt every year, we are borrowing money from overseas in order to take care of these people who have come here illegally? That doesn't make any sense at all. And it especially doesn't make any sense when we know that our own gov-

ernment programs, our own government programs today, we are struggling to make ends meet, to make sure these programs stay vital, to make sure that they have money to function and do their jobs efficiently.

The Veterans Administration, we have heard so many problems about how the Veterans Administration had not been doing its job. Well, the money that we spend on people who come here illegally comes right out of the pool of money that should be going to Americans or should at least be going to reduce our debt so that in the future, our American children aren't going to have to pay it off.

Now, we have nothing to be ashamed of in terms of the overall number of people coming here legally. But even now, when the people who are here illegally, their impact is incredibly detrimental, as I just said, in terms of how much money is being spent by the government on services to them rather than services to the American people.

And we also know that illegals, of course, do take jobs. They are working at jobs, most of them. And they are hardworking, good people. But what impact are they having on the jobs that American people want?

They have actually taken jobs that should be—well, let's say Americans wouldn't want to work at that pay level. But the pay level that we are talking about is the pay level that happens when you have tens of millions of illegals in the country willing to work for a pittance. They have come to our country and bent down the wages of America's lower-income people. They have bent them down and taken jobs that should have gone to Americans.

For example, I know that the hotel and restaurant industry is very upset with the idea of not legalizing the status of these people. And let me just note that once you legalize the status of these 20 million illegals that are in our country, well, what will happen, of course, is that they aren't going to work for the pittance wages anymore. And they will start making more wages. And then there will be another wave of illegals that will come in and underbid them. So these particular people will earn more money, but the American people will earn less and less.

And right now, there are many women in the United States who are single mothers, many urban women who have families and live around big hotels, but the hotels hire people who have come here illegally to clean the rooms when there are many thousands of single mothers who would love to drop their child off at school, clean that room in the middle of the day—which are the hours that they need them at the hotel—and come back by the end of the day to pick up their child. But they are not willing to do it now because those people who work in those hotels, if they are illegals, are paid a pittance. And the American people—no, they won't work for a pittance. And they shouldn't.

And it will be a good thing if it increases the price of a hotel room by \$10 a night in order to make sure that we have American citizens who are paid well and are able to take care of their families. Yes, that is the policy we should have.

We shouldn't have a policy that, instead, brings down the cost of that hotel room by a certain amount, increases the profit of the hotel by a certain amount, and is paid for by the fact that American women no longer can take those jobs because there isn't enough being paid for them to take care of their family.

Now, of course, if you live as many illegals live—three or four families to a home—they might be able to succeed or at least survive. That is not the kind of society we need to build here. That is not what America was all about. And what our policy should be is aimed at people who are American citizens who would like those jobs. And if we don't permit this illegal flood into our country, wages will go up, as compared to if we don't. And, yes, we should be happy that American people are making more money.

Over the last 20 years, we have actually seen the wages of the American people in real terms go down as we have had illegals pouring into our country. Well, whose side are we on? Who do we care for? And that is what this is all about. We are being told that we are heartless because we don't care enough about the people who are illegally in our country to legalize their status when, in fact, we need to make sure that we are not doing anything that will hurt the American people who are struggling right now.

And what will happen if we legalize the status of those people who have come here illegally? What will happen? Let's say there are 20 million here. I know officially it is only 11 million. But every one of those people that we legalize the status for are then going to be eligible for family reunification. There are tens of millions of others who are going to pour in.

It is estimated, from just the legal people coming in after the amnesty, that we are talking about 40 million new people, mainly poor foreigners coming to our country. Does anyone think that it is not going to have a huge impact on the economy of our country, on our economic system, on our neighborhoods, on our schools and the well-being of working people? Does anyone think that 40 million foreigners—

And that is what is going to happen.

When you hear "comprehensive immigration reform," think legalizing the status, which will then eventually bring into our country 40 million new foreigners, mainly poor people. Well, that is what this debate is all about.

I would submit that it is not wrong for people, and it is not hateful, it is not being too concerned about money and material things to think in our hearts about our own people before we

think about the well-being of foreigners.

What keeps America together? Look, we don't have one race. We don't have one religion. We don't have one ethnic group here. What we have got are people who have come here and are a part of the American family.

□ 1745

We have to care about what happens within the American family because we don't have that sharing of one race or one religion or one ethnic group. What is it going to do if we bring in 40 million foreigners now to those people who are now part of our American family?

Well, someone says that we should expand the American family. Well, yes, we could just say: Hey, anybody in the world who wants to get here, we are going to make them an American and just forget about what that does to the 300 million Americans who are out there depending on their government to watch out for their interests.

What would happen if we have that situation? We will have a very harmful decline in the well-being in their communities, in their jobs, and in the government services that they are able to collect of the American family.

Again, that doesn't mean that illegals who are here are bad people—they aren't—nor are the poor people around the world who will flood into our country—because, if we legalize the status of those who are here, you will see a flood into the country.

Just think about this, just the discussion of what they call this act that was being aimed at legalizing the status of people who were brought here when they were younger, just that discussion of that issue brought 50,000 to 60,000 people swarming in. They sent their children to the border.

Whatever happened to those kids, by the way? What happened to those 60,000 kids who were down on the border? Well, they are all over the United States now. And do you know what? In schools in California, we have children coming in illegally from other countries, and some of them are carrying diseases. This is a horror story.

Who is watching out for our children? We do care about those 60,000 kids that were there and the millions more kids that will come in if we legalize the status of our own illegal immigrants here. We care about our own kids first, and there is nothing wrong with that. We don't have to apologize about it, and we don't have to apologize also that we have the most generous legal system in the world.

By the way, for those people who always talk about, Well, immigration really helps our country and helps our economy, if you look at the statistics that are being presented, often what you are being told about are the effect of legal immigrants, which is true. They do add, and I personally would like to go on the record in saying that I believe in legal immigration.

I believe that our million people, we can absorb that, 300 million people, we

certainly can absorb 1 million more legal immigrants, we should refine our system, so that those legal immigrants that are coming in are people that have a means and a skill or an education level, so they will be contributing to the wealth of the country rather than consuming it.

There are a lot of businesses that say they need some specialists. Yes, let's try to structure the legal immigrants in that way so it meets the needs of America, as well as brings in very highly-educated people into our country.

When we bring in people who are not that, when we bring in people who are not producing wealth, but instead are consumers, that means there is less wealth in our society, and that means that especially America's lower-income people are worse off.

Now, when I was a kid, I mowed the lawns in my neighborhood. It was a good thing. You get a work ethic when you are mowing the lawns. I actually painted houses and dug fence posts. I was an ice-cream scooper at Marineland snack bar, and those are the jobs kids did, but today, one of the factors of illegal immigration—and especially if we legalize the status and draw even more illegals in because now, all over the world, they know, Hey, all we have to do is get here, and we can outweigh them—all these entry-level positions, these positions that are actually giving young people a chance to get some work experience, many of these jobs are being taken by people who are here illegally.

They are willing to work at a very low level, and they don't just become entry-level jobs. That is the job they stick with. That means that job is no longer available to an American kid who wants to get some experience in the workplace, a box boy or someone who works at a fast-food restaurant or something like that.

We are actually hurting our young people, we are hurting our poor people, the people at the lowest end of the scale, and of course, we are hurting the people who are dependent on government programs.

Before I go on to that, there are a group of people in our country that would like to be self-sufficient. They have skills, but they have some sort of physical disability. Those people are struggling to come out and have some self-dignity in earning their own living.

Those people are being replaced by people because, Oh, well, we will just hire this illegal, even if we can hire a disabled person, we can get an able-bodied illegal in here for the same amount, so why have someone who has a physical disability?

The people at the very lowest level—where is unemployment the highest? In our black community and in the Hispanic American community. These are the people who will be the worst hit if we legalize the status of those who are here illegally.

If there are tens of millions more who pour into our country—and as I

say, it will be at least 40 million—and then when the word goes out all over the world that we have this surrender of our borders, you can bet there will be even more than that. It will be a massive betrayal of the regular people and lower-income people in the United States, of American citizens—again, the disabled people, lower-income people.

What about those people who have worked all of their lives for government, who made sure that they pay their taxes, knowing that the government is going to have certain things to back them up as they got older or whether there are things that they would need in cases of emergency, or how about the education of their family and things such as that?

No, these programs will have so many tens of millions of more illegals come in because we have legalized the status of those who are already here, those programs now which are suffering, some of them will break down.

So how can, with a straight face, people in this body say they are backing the President's efforts to provide 5 million—this is his first step now—5 million work permits to people who are here illegally?

This is at a time of high unemployment. We are defining who we care for. We have already defined who we are as a Nation on how we have set down a rule of law and whether we try to be fair. We are an imperfect society. We know that. We know we have got some real problems we have to solve and work together on.

We are a multiracial, multiethnic society, but our society as it is will disintegrate if we have tens of millions of illegals pouring into our country. That is just the way it is.

Again, the poorest of the poor will be hurt, and when we give 5 million work permits at a time when we have such high unemployment, when we give 5 million work permits to people who are here illegally, we are actually betraying the American people who are struggling at the lower end of the economic scale. We are betraying them. It is something we all need to think about.

We need to say to the American people: we are on your side, and we want to do things that are right for you. I have been dismayed by that element of just sort of, not disdain, but a frivolous overlooking of the well-being of the American people when those people are advocating comprehensive immigration reform.

Let us also just note that immigration is something that is on our agenda. We keep hearing about it, but there are special interests at stake here. The reason why it is being pushed is not just this humanitarian special ideal, this humanitarian philosophical thing which I say we have to make sure that those special ideas that they think they become more human, to give our money away to various peoples of the world, that it doesn't hurt Americans, but there are also special interests who are profiting from this.

It is not only a bad idea and a bad ideal that is driving this toward these decisions, but we have special interests that want cheap labor. We have people in the business community that want cheap labor. Now, don't tell me that Americans can no longer work as carpenters or as plumbers or as roofers. The construction industry slowly, but surely, now is evolving into where they are hiring illegals. That is wrong. There are people who can do these jobs, but they will take the lower pay alternative—of course they will.

There are people that claim that they have to hire illegals because they can't hire Americans at that. No. If people were being paid more money, they could hire Americans at those jobs, but we have special interests that want lower pay, and we have special interests on that side of the aisle who want political pawns to come into this country to serve them when election day comes in the future and you have got 40 million new people here over a 20-year period that they will be voting for their political party.

That is just how cynical it is. Low wages and political pawns are being pushed. That is the factor that is pushing this comprehensive program that will be dramatically harmful to the well-being of the American people.

I would hope that we postpone any decision on that until next year when we Republicans can debate this issue, go to the American people, and get their guidance on what policy that they want our country to have when it comes to immigration into our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1447. An act to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4812. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5108. An act to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the

United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 4, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2203. To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8163. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051; Sequence No. 6] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8164. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CFR Update [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0747; FRL-9919-83-Region 5] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8165. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Four Industry Categories for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0475; FRL-9919-66-Region 3] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8166. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia's Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan of the West Virginia Portion of the Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV-MD Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0690; FRL-9919-65-Region 3] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8167. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation