

Americans, Latinos, immigrants and children.

The City of Chicago's undercount was about 2.4 percent and the African American undercount was about 5.6 percent. We can ill afford to have a count in the year 2000 that does not include every American citizen. Too much is at stake.

The census count determines who receives billions of dollars in Federal aid. Every year census information directs an estimated \$170 billion in Federal spending. Census data helps to determine where the money goes for better roads, highways and transit systems, schools, senior citizen centers, health care facilities and programs for Head Start and school lunches. In addition to money, representation is at stake. Congress, State legislatures, city councils, county boards and other political subdivisions are redrawn as a result of the census count.

There are some in this body who would deny representation and resources to millions of citizens in the name of maintaining the status quo. Under the Census Bureau's plan, everybody counts. All Americans will be included in the census. But if we keep taking the census the old way, we will continue to miss millions of people, and one might wonder if we have learned anything since 1790.

I was always taught that those who failed to remember the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. I have learned from the past, and the past dictates that the old way of trying to count every citizen will not work. Therefore, business as usual is unacceptable, and we must begin to do things a new way.

In addition to making sure that every American counts, the Census Bureau's plan of sampling will save the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Let us put politics aside and use a method that the experts agree will yield the most accurate count. The experts have stated that if statistical sampling is not used to conduct the 2000 census, then the question we will ask is not whether the census was accurate, but how many people did we miss.

I urge grassroots organizations all over America, as well as the more traditional ones like the NAACP, Urban League, fraternities, sororities, churches and other groups to become actively involved in trying to make sure that all of our citizens are counted. Let us remember, if you are not counted, then in reality you do not count. Census-taking must be a high priority and sampling is the most professional way to make sure that there is no significant undercount.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SAXTON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PLIGHT OF SMALL FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to urge my colleagues to be a part of legislation that will help many farmers and ranchers who are struggling to survive. There are two initiatives that I and others will introduce to respond to serious problems confronting this Nation's farmers and ranchers, particularly small farmers and ranchers.

First, the onerous provisions of the 1996 farm bill that ban family farmers and ranchers from receiving a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture if a previous loan had been written down are causing many farmers and ranchers to go out of business. We must correct the credit barriers created by the 1996 farm bill.

Farmers who have had credit problems under that bill are treated worse than persons who are declared in bankruptcy. Work is in progress for the legislation to fix this problem.

Another damaging problem is the continuing and very real threat by the Department of Justice to issue an opinion stating that the complainants in discrimination cases that did not file a lawsuit within 2 years cannot get money damages even if they show discrimination. The Department has taken that position because of its interpretation of the law regarding the statute of limitations.

When that decision is issued, and if it holds, complainants in many of the pending cases are at risk of getting nothing for a lifetime of suffering. Again, without relief in cases where relief is merited, small farmers and ranchers who have been discriminated against will be driven out of business. We cannot tolerate that result.

Farmers have been important to this Nation's past and farmers are vital to this Nation's future, especially the small family farmers and ranchers.

American producers, who represent less than 3 percent of the population, provide more than enough food and fiber to meet the needs of our Nation as well as many nations overseas. Our Nation's farms have changed greatly since the late 1950s. In 1959, there were more than 2.4 million small farms, those less than 180 acres in the United States, and over 172,000 farms in North Carolina, representing 6.9 percent. By 1978, the Nation's number of small farms had declined to a little over 1.3, a loss of 1.1 million small farms. In that same period, North Carolina lost 106,262 small farms, bringing its total to 66,091 small farms.

It is important to note that by 1990, almost a quarter of all small farmers had income below the poverty line, more than twice the Nation's average. And by 1992, there were only 1.1 million small farms left in the United States, a 45 percent decline from 1959. North Carolina had only a little over 39,000

farms left in 1992, a decline of 23 percent.

Several factors have accelerated the demise of small producers: globalization of commerce, economies of scale, limited access to capital and technological advances. The existence of worldwide markets for all commodities, not just agriculture commodities, have created unique market forces and pressures that producers of the past did not have to compete with. But now American producers have to cope with the substantially larger and less accommodating world markets in which to vend their merchandise with competitors who play by sometimes significantly different rules.

With regard to technology, inventions have paved the way for substantial high-level mechanization and modern agriculture, but the technological advances usually come at a very high price and one that most often small farmers are unable to afford. Often small producers are also limited-resource producers. These disadvantaged farmers many times have severe constraints in access to capital for various reasons, including the sheer lack of collateral, the inability to demonstrate the wherewithal to repay a loan and the paucity of funds made available by such lending institutions.

However, all these have had an even sharper influence on minority farmers and ranchers. Indeed, we know that we must correct this issue, Mr. Speaker.

I urge my colleagues, as they will consider this legislation as it comes before them, that we cannot allow small farmers and small ranchers not to have this legislation.

Economies of scale are factors as many small producers do not have the tools necessary to achieve the most efficient methods of production as they frequently are priced out of the market for implements, land and other inputs. Also one must be cognizant of the impact of vertical integration, concentration and contract farming on the role of the twentieth-century producer.

However, the aforementioned factors have had an even sharper influence on minority farmers and ranchers. In 1920, there were over 6 million farms in the United States and close to six—926,000 were operated by African-Americans. In 1992, the landscape was very, very different. Only 1% of the 1.9 million farms in the United States are operated by African-Americans.

One-percent—18,816, is a paltry sum when African-Americans comprise 13% of the total American population. In my home state of North Carolina, there has been a 64% decline in minority farmers, just over the last 15 years, from 6,996 farms in 1978 to 2,498 farms in 1992.

There are several reasons why the number of minority and limited resource farmers are declining so rapidly, but the one that has been documented time and time again is the discrimination in the credit extended from the Department of Agriculture, the very agency established by the U.S. government to accommodate and assist the special needs of all farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of each day, those of us in government must be honest and answer the question, by our policies, who have we helped and who have we hurt?

The priorities of the United States, make a statement about who we are and where we stand. It signals to our citizens and to the world the principles by which our lives are governed.

I urge each of my colleagues to be continually dedicated to the small farmers and ranchers of our great nation by becoming an original co-sponsor of legislation that will soon be introduced to fix the credit and statute of limitations problems.

ENACT H.R. 3411, THE COMMISSION ON AMERICAN MATHEMATICS LEADERSHIP ACT, TO REFORM MATH EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Yesterday I introduced a bill, H.R. 3411, establishing the Commission on American Mathematics Leadership to improve the way mathematics is taught in our Nation's schools.

The need for this bill is clear. Just 2 weeks ago the most comprehensive and rigorous international comparison of mathematics education ever undertaken revealed American high school seniors, even our Nation's best students in advanced classes, to be among the world's least prepared. The results of this study, the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, called TIMS, cry out for comprehensive reexamination of our current approach to mathematics education in the United States.

As part of the study, in the spring of 1995, fourth, eighth and twelfth graders from more than 40 countries, including the United States, were tested. Asian countries did not participate. The twelfth grade examination was comprised of four separate parts, testing general mathematics, including fractions and percentages, graphics and algebra, as well as advanced mathematics including calculus, geometry and equations.

In the general knowledge of mathematics, American twelfth graders did better than students in only Cyprus and South Africa. Students in four countries, Italy, Russia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic, performed at the same level as those in the United States. Meanwhile, 14 countries, led by the Netherlands and Sweden, outperformed the United States.

In the category of advanced mathematics, tests given to students who had taken or were taking precalculus, calculus or advanced placement calculus, 11 countries outperformed the United States and no country performed worse.

The study indicates that our Nation's mathematics deficiency lies with the systematic instruction of mathematics and not in the abilities of our students.

This is made clear by the fact that fourth graders do well, while eighth and twelfth graders struggle. In fact, the work of American fourth graders is quite strong in math when compared to similar students in other countries.

Equally upsetting is the fact that American students fared poorly in math even though they expressed more enthusiasm for learning the subjects than their peers in other nations. The results of this review are disappointing and unacceptable.

As the chair of the Subcommittee on Technology of the House Committee on Science with jurisdiction over our Nation's technology and competitiveness policy, I find that there is a direct correlation between the ability of the United States to compete internationally and mathematics skills. The requisite expertise needed for technology jobs, in this ever more technologically advanced world marketplace, runs the spectrum from programming, designing systems, trouble shooting and serving clients, among others. All of these talents are reliant upon the concepts of basic and advanced math.

Without these skills, our Nation's technology work force will soon fall far behind our global competitors, further behind, I should say. Exacerbating the international competitiveness concerns is the technology work force shortage facing our Nation. The Department of Labor projects the doubling of the demands for computer scientists, engineers and systems analysts over the next 10 years, an increase of more than 1 million high-skilled high-wage jobs. Yet today many employers report difficulty in recruiting enough workers with these skills despite aggressive retraining and hiring programs.

There is no time to lose, especially for many young Americans. Students must simply become better educated about basic math and their own economic future. Since 1976, workers with wages in the 50th percentile have lost about 15 percent of their earning power while the lowest tenth have lost 25 percent in real wages.

So as we approach the new millennium students underprepared for the workplace are likely to see their wages decline further.

Mr. Speaker, at the start of this decade our Nation's governors set the goal of making American students first in the world in mathematics. The results of the TIMS study demonstrate how far we have to go to reach that goal. So today I urge my colleagues to join with me to renew that lofty goal. We must use the TIMS study as a wake-up call to revamp the culture of math instruction from top to bottom.

I believe the first step necessary to reverse our Nation's declining math proficiency is enactment of the bill that I introduced, the Commission on American Mathematics Leadership Act.

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The duties of the blue-ribbon commission will be to review the existing

research base on mathematics education leadership, including the status of math education in the United States relative to international competitors, proposed professional development priorities to assure that the teaching of math at all educational levels in the United States is strengthened, and to propose a new direction and new ideas to assure our students are world class achievers in mathematics.

The bill I have introduced is also introduced in the Senate, a companion bill, by my distinguished colleague, Senator FRIST of Tennessee. It has been referred to both the Committee on Science and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. I look forward to working closely with my good friends, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), to enact this important bill.

CONGRESS MUST PASS LEGISLATION REFORMING THE IRS

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today we are 35 days away from April the 15th, a dreaded day for every American taxpayer. As we all struggle through this burdensome time of year, please allow me to share with my colleagues some facts.

The average American family today pays more in taxes than it spends on food, clothing and shelter combined. Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that. The average working family in America today pays more in taxes than it spends on food, clothing and shelter combined.

The Gettysburg address is only 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is only 1,337 words, and the Holy Bible is only 773,000 words. However, the tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913, to 7 million words today. I want to repeat that. The tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913 to 7 million words today.

There are at least 480 different tax forms. The easiest form, the 1040 EZ, has 33 pages of instructions, all in fine print. As a result, Americans devote 5.4 billion hours, 5.4 billion hours, to complying with the Tax Code each year, which is more time than it takes to produce every car, truck and van made in the United States. I think that is worthy to be repeated also, Mr. Speaker. Americans devote 5.4 billion hours to complying with the Tax Code each year, which is more time than it takes to produce every car, truck and van made in the United States.

Americans also spend \$200 billion each year on tax lawyers, accountants and other costs associated with tax law compliance. The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year, which, if laid end to end, would stretch 28 times around the earth. I want to repeat that. The Internal Revenue Service sends out 8 billion pages