

October 2005

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Wanted: Substantive Immigration Enforcement Bill. Apply Within

In these pages last month we asked you to fasten your seatbelts and hang on to your hats, because a major immigration debate in congress is coming this fall. Even though hurricane Katrina pushed the congressional schedule back a few weeks, the immigration debate is still on track this year. The bills currently on the table for consideration (McCain-Kennedy and Cornyn-Kyl) are not true comprehensive immigration reform, because they do not reduce overall levels of immigration and do not make enforcement of illegal immigration a precondition to any other reforms.

FAIR is not willing to sit on the sidelines at this critical juncture and allow President Bush and Sen. Ted Kennedy dictate what "true comprehensive immigration reform" means to the American people. Mr. Kennedy's 1965 Act is the single most destructive bill ever levied against American society.

FAIR is the largest and oldest immigration reform organization in this nation, so it is only proper we say what immigration reform means to our country. To this end our government relations department and legislative counsels worked long hours to develop numerous proposals to serve our nation's interests, protect our workers and defend our borders. Taken together FAIR's recommendations represent the only comprehensive legislative package with a chance of actually giving us control of our borders, ensuring effective interior enforcement, and removing the key incentives for illegal immigration. These proposals are the only honest reforms that will end mass illegal immigration and restore controls, and the only ones that would do this without either a guest worker amnesty or a "drop everything and throw them out" roundup.

We are currently working hard to generate interest in these proposals on Capitol Hill as an alternative to the leading proposals that promise all, but will deliver very little. As this column is written, FAIR's ideas are being given active consideration by key members in both chambers. Politically, the mood of the country is on our side. Burgeoning public pressure being brought to bear on House and Senate members in both parties is having a favorable effect. One indication of the changed political climate is evidenced almost daily as new immigration reform bills are introduced by members who have never publicly expressed much interest. We strongly believe if FAIR's proposals are brought to the floor of the House, they will pass with a clear majority.

The FAIR plan goes well beyond the same old tried-and-failed policies that have proven to be little more than empty, but very expensive, promises. If our strong proposals find their way into legislation, they will serve to address the obvious need for more border patrol, interior enforcement, and more detention space to hold illegal aliens. However, unlike most of the other proposals floating around Capitol Hill, the FAIR plan includes other unique reforms to make this law, fully enforceable.

A FAIR-endorsed tough immigration enforcement bill will, among many other things, provide the following:

- Mandatory work eligibility verification. The government has been testing voluntary pilot programs that allow employers to instantly verify the work eligibility status of the people they hire. The pilot program has proven effective and was expanded by Congress in 2004 to all 50 states. Needed is a requirement that all employers use the system. The Basic Pilot must become mandatory. No more free rides for greedy corporations.
- Tough penalties for failure to comply. New laws are not worth the paper on which they are printed if there is no enforcement and no consequence for violation. Increased civil and criminal penalties must be made a realistic deterrent for scofflaw employers.

- Right of private action against employers who hire illegal aliens. The government has proven beyond any reasonable doubt that they cannot be relied upon to protect American workers and businesses against the practice of hiring illegal aliens. Individual Americans, labor unions and businesses must be given the right to sue employers who skirt the law and hire illegal workers. In other words, the people who are directly harmed by the hiring of illegal aliens need to be able to take independent action rather than wait for the government to act.
- Tax penalties against employers of illegal aliens. Employers found to be hiring illegal aliens must be barred from taking business tax deductions for wages and benefits paid to illegal workers. These deductions should remain available to honest employers.
- Information sharing between government agencies. To stop the use of bogus Social Security numbers, the Social Security Administration must, for the first time, be permitted to share limited information with the IRS and the Department of Homeland Security about non-existent accounts, or social security numbers that are being used by multiple parties.
- Limits on the use of the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). The use by illegal aliens of an ITIN in lieu of a Social Security number should be prohibited except for purposes of filing a tax return, ending its growing use in providing mortgages to illegal aliens.
- Bars any quarter worked illegally from counting toward Social Security eligibility. If a Social Security "totalization" agreement with Mexico is adopted at any point in the future, this bar to eligibility will be the only thing standing between massive fraud by illegal aliens claiming eligibility and the financial integrity of the Social Security system.
- No earned income tax credit for illegal aliens. This tax credit, established to reward and encourage work by boosting the income of low-wage workers, should no longer be afforded to people who have no right to work in this country.
- End in-state tuition for illegal aliens. States and counties that provide the benefit should be compelled to provide the same benefit to all U.S. citizens regardless of residence.
- Require states to verify citizenship of Medicaid applicants. Currently only four of the 50 states require proof of citizenship. This requirement must either end or states must be required to provide the same benefit to all similarly eligible U.S. citizens regardless of residence.
- No Temporary Protected Status (TPS) extensions without congressional approval. Currently, the president unilaterally and routinely extends TPS on his own authority.
- End birthright citizenship. Granting automatic citizenship to children of illegal aliens born on U.S. soil is a powerful incentive for illegal immigration. It is estimated that there are between 285,000 and 356,000 such children born in this country each year. This must stop.
- End to chain migration. The immigration preferences for sponsored adult children and siblings of resident aliens and citizens are the engines that drive ever higher levels of legal immigration and create the massive backlog in family visas. Extended family sponsorship should be limited to spouses and unmarried minor children of legal immigrants.

The problem with the laws already on the books and most of the bills currently under consideration in Congress is that they rely entirely on enforcement that the government has neither the will nor the resources to carry out. The proposals drafted by FAIR augment enforcement with disincentives to illegal immigration. While enforcement is still critical, the reasons why illegal aliens come and stay must also be addressed. This legislation creates powerful economic and criminal disincentives to the illegal aliens themselves and the people who employ them. Equally important, FAIR's proposals will give injured American parties a legal recourse in federal courts to protect their own interests.

We are confident many of FAIR's proposals will be introduced very soon and we will report on this debate as it takes shape in coming weeks. If you have access to the Internet, visit FAIR's website, www.fairus.org, sign up for our weekly updates and alerts, and do your part to win this long-overdue victory for common sense immigration policies and our national interest.

Controversial DOJ Memo Reveals No Bar to Enforcement of Immigration Law by State and Local Authorities

Bowing to pressure earlier this month, The U.S. Department of Justice released a 2002 legal memorandum revealing the department's official position on state and local enforcement of federal immigration law. To the chagrin of many, the memo's author, then Assistant Attorney General, Jay S. Bybee, says state and local police possess the inherent right to enforce civil violations of federal immigration law. The Assistant A.G.'s memo concludes it is "unreasonable" to assume Congress intended to deprive the federal government of "whatever assistance States may provide" in identifying and detaining individuals who have violated federal immigration laws.

In other words, the Department of Justice believes state and local police are entitled to act when they believe federal immigration laws are being violated.

Ripples from the electrically charged memorandum are being seen throughout the country, as states like New Jersey begin ordering local law enforcement to help U.S. immigration agents get a handle on that state's illegal immigration problem.

The contents of the legal memorandum are fully in-line with the views of FAIR's Legal Department—it is not only a right, but a duty of local police to arrest immigration law violators. Contact FAIR's Legal Department for more information.

Hurricane Katrina Blows Away Myth of "Jobs Americans Won't Do"

Storm's Aftermath Increases the Need for Workplace Enforcement

The destructive force of Hurricane Katrina has been well-documented and will continue to draw our attention for years to come. Along with homes, businesses and lives, Katrina has also destroyed one of the favorite arguments posed by open immigration advocates: namely that immigrants, especially illegal aliens, do the jobs Americans don't want.

As the Katrina evacuees spread out across the country, many find themselves in direct competition with millions of illegal aliens for scarce jobs. The government estimates that some 400,000 jobs were lost in the Gulf region as a result of the hurricane. These workers, who are now seeking jobs in other parts of the United States, report they are finding jobs in their new, or temporary, homes already filled by illegal aliens.

After being victimized by Mother Nature, these displaced Americans are now being victimized by government policies that continue to place the interests of illegal alien above those of law-abiding American citizens. Shortly after the storm, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced his department was suspending deportations of illegal aliens and DHS will not enforce employer sanctions laws for at least 45 days. (Note to Secretary Chertoff: DHS wasn't enforcing employer sanctions laws before Hurricane Katrina struck!)

FAIR has always argued there were few, if any jobs, American workers would not do, if they were given the opportunity to compete for them at a fair wage. Former residents of the Gulf Coast, who are seeking the very jobs they find occupied by illegal aliens indicates Americans are ready and eager to do the jobs.

Even more dismaying are reports that large numbers of foreign workers will be necessary to rebuild New Orleans and other devastated communities. Desperate American workers may not even have the opportunity to find work rebuilding their own communities. If ever there was a situation that demanded the government protect American workers from competition from illegal immigrant labor, the crisis many Gulf Coast workers find themselves in must require the government to enforce laws against hiring illegal labor.

Book Review

Infiltration: How Immigration Plays a Role in the Terrorists' Plans

Author, Paul Sperry

On September 11, 2001, America discovered, to its horror, the terrible cost of failing to secure our borders and to monitor those who purport to be visitors to our country. On the morning of July 7, 2005, Britain and the world learned that the terrorist threat can be an internal, as well as an external one.

The killing of 52 innocent commuters on the London transit system (and a botched follow-up attack two weeks later) provide tragic evidence that large scale legal immigration, combined with millions of dollars spent by Saudi Arabia to indoctrinate Muslims living in the West to the most radical brand of Islam, can be a lethal mix. A new book by investigative journalist Paul Sperry, *Infiltration: How Muslim Spies and Subversives Have Penetrated Washington*, argues that what has happened in Britain and throughout Europe is also happening in the United States.

"In 1980 there were 481 officially recognized mosques in the country. Now there are 1,209 and an estimated 80 percent of them are controlled by Saudi Arabia," writes Sperry. It was Saudi money and the Saudi brand of Wahhabi Islam that gave rise to al-Qaeda. Fueled by immigration, this ideology is now finding a well-financed home on these shores.

Sperry details how the very forces against whom we are fighting are using our immigration policies and our constitutional protections to carry out their war against this country. As in Europe, the growing Muslim population of this country is being indoctrinated by anti-Western clerics who minister Islamic religious and social institutions in the United States. Moreover, our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of religion and association make it difficult for this country to defend against terrorists who operate and recruit in this country.

Infiltration is an important read for anyone who is concerned about the connection between immigration and the spread of terrorism. The book, published by Nelson Current, is available in most major bookstores, or can be ordered online at sperryfiles.com.

House Committee Hears Testimony About Dangers of Lax Visa Issuance Procedures

Two days after the release of FAIR's publication *Code Orange: Diminishing the Terrorist Threat to America*, the House Government Reform Committee heard testimony from a variety of experts who warned of ongoing lapses in the issuance of visas that threaten homeland security. The visa issuance process, and suggested reforms, is one of the key issues addressed in *Code Orange*.

The hearings were called by Chairman Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), due to concerns that terrorists can still obtain visas to enter the U.S. The General Accounting Office reported to the committee that, while some improvements have been made in the visa issuance process since 9/11, many vulnerabilities remain. Visas are still issued by inexperienced consular officers, without the supervision of mid-level managers to oversee their work. The GAO called the staffing of more experienced consular officers "seriously deficient," even in high risk countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The issuance of visas falls under the authority of the State Department; however, the Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for enforcing immigration laws, is supposed to provide foreign embassies and consulates with Visa Security Officers (VSOs) to minimize the chances that potential terrorists are granted visas. The September 14th hearings also revealed that since VSOs were established in 2003, only two have been posted overseas.

New FAIR Report Finds Gaping Holes Four Years After 9/11

America remains dangerously vulnerable to attacks by radical Islamic and other terrorist organizations because we have failed to close many of the loopholes in our immigration laws, or effectively enforce laws that are already on the books, concludes a report issued by FAIR in September. [Code Orange: Diminishing the Terrorist Threat to America](#) provides an extensive analysis of America's immigration policies and enforcement practices, and finds them lacking in light of the ongoing threat to our homeland security.

The release of Code Orange comes just two months after the deadly attacks on the London transit system demonstrated the continued determination of terrorists to strike at the heart of Western democracies, and two weeks after Hurricane Katrina demonstrated how ill-prepared we are to deal with the aftermath of a major disaster. The report finds that many of the immigration-related weaknesses identified by the report of the 9/11 Commission in 2004 have yet to be addressed by our government.

Code Orange sets forth a detailed list of policy recommendations that would better enable us to keep foreign terrorists from entering our country and make it more difficult for terrorists who are already in the country to elude detection. Earlier this year, testifying before the U.S. Senate, the directors of the FBI, CIA and a top official at the Department of Homeland Security all stated their beliefs that international terrorists are exploiting the vulnerabilities in our immigration laws and enforcement strategy.

The report makes 21 specific recommendations that, if followed, would substantially reduce the chances of terrorists strikes in our country. Eleven of the recommendations involve improvement of security at our land, sea and air borders, while ten focus on changes that need to be made in interior enforcement.

Some of the key border security recommendations of Code Orange are:

- Expansion of the Border Patrol.
- Expansion of detention facilities to hold illegal border crossers.
- Improvements in the visa issuing process and requirement that all people entering the U.S. be in possession of a passport.
- Expedite implementation of a new system that tracks the entry and exit of all foreign visitors.
- Elimination of the Visa Waiver Programs.

Among the recommendations for improving interior immigration enforcement are:

- Greater cooperation between local police and federal immigration authorities.
- Mandatory registration for foreigners residing in the U.S. for longer than six months.
- Implementation of national standards for issuing driver's licenses.
- Bar acceptance of foreign consular ID cards in this country.

In its coverage of the release of the report, The Washington Times listed many of its key recommendations. Citing Code Orange, reporter Jerry Seper noted that, "Efforts to end sanctuaries abroad for international terrorists must be accompanied by efforts to end sanctuary policies in this country."

House Subcommittee Votes to Repeal Visa Lottery Program

To paraphrase Neil Armstrong, it was one small step for the House Immigration Subcommittee in what might be one giant leap forward toward a rational immigration policy. On September 8, the subcommittee voted to repeal the 15-year-old visa lottery program that allots 50,000 visas each year by luck of the draw. The legislation, H.R. 1219, sponsored by Rep. Robert Goodlatte (R-Virginia), now heads to the full Judiciary Committee for consideration.

The visa lottery was established as part of the Immigration Act of 1990. The brainchild of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), the lottery was intended to open the door to more immigration from Ireland. The lottery was justified as a way to open immigration opportunities to nationalities that had been “disadvantaged” by the system of family chain migration created in 1965 — ironically, by Kennedy himself.

Rather than institute true immigration reform by ending family chain migration and establishing a policy that judges each applicant on his or her merits, Congress opted to add the lottery. Like family chain migration, the visa lottery pays virtually no consideration to an applicant’s skills, education, or other attributes that might make the individual valuable to America.

The visa lottery has also opened the doors to new flows of Middle Eastern immigration. At least one known terrorist, Hesham Mohammed Hadayet, who opened fire at the El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport on July 4, 2002, gained admission to the U.S. as a result of the lottery. Many lottery winners have included illegal aliens, who have used the program to gain instant amnesty.

The subcommittee approved H.R. 1219 by a voice vote, including the strong support of the chairman, Rep. John Hostettler (R-Indiana). The bill has 40 co-sponsors, including seven Democratic members of the House.

From the Hill

by Rep. Bob Goodlatte

Each year there is a national immigration 'lottery' by which approximately 50,000 aliens become legal permanent residents of the United States. Each successful applicant is chosen at random and given permanent resident status based on pure luck. Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have an existing connection with a family member lawfully residing in the United States or with a U.S. employer. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without regard to such criteria.

Recently, I reintroduced legislation to eliminate the visa lottery program, to help ensure our nation's security, while making the administration of our immigration laws more consistent and fair. Recently, the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims held an eye-opening hearing on the problems with the visa lottery program, which revealed that many specific terrorism-related offenses in the U.S. have occurred at the hands of those who have benefited from the visa lottery.

One such case was that of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at L.A. International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner, despite his own admission to the INS that he had been accused by the Egyptian government of being a member of a known terrorist organization.

In a September 2003 report, the State Department's Inspector General stated that the visa lottery program contains "significant threats to national security from entry of hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists into the United States as permanent residents."

The visa lottery program is also wrought with fraud. The report also confirms that the lottery is "subject to widespread abuse," specifically finding that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in 2003 alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are often willing to pay top dollar for the 'guarantee' of lawful permanent resident status.

Furthermore, the lottery is unfair to immigrants who comply with our laws in that it does not prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive a visa through the program, thereby treating foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate them.

The visa lottery is flawed policy and is foolish in the age in which we live. Those in the world who wish us harm can easily engage in this statistical gamble with nothing to lose. Our immigration policy should be based primarily on our national security and economic needs, and not on arbitrary systems lacking basic safeguards.

California Legislature Approves Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens...Again

Schwarzenegger Promises Veto . . . Again

It was déjà vu all over again in Sacramento, as the California legislature finished its business for the year by, once again, approving a bill to grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens on September 8. As he did last year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, once again, promised to veto the measure.

The illegal alien driver's license bill, S.B. 60, is the pet project of State Senator Gil Cedillo, who has pushed this measure through the legislature for the fifth time. It was twice vetoed by former-Gov. Gray Davis, before he finally signed it shortly before he was removed from office in a recall vote. (Polls indicate that his decision to sign the driver's license legislation contributed to Davis' removal from office.) At the urging of newly-elected Gov. Schwarzenegger, the legislature repealed the law before it went into effect.

In August, FAIR led a delegation of concerned Californians to Sacramento to meet with members of the state legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger's staff to express their opposition to granting these state-issued identity documents to illegal aliens. Led by FAIR's Western Field Director Rick Oltman, the group met with a top Schwarzenegger aide Richard Costigan. It was Costigan who issued the immediate announcement of the governor's intention to veto the bill.

In addition to the group that went to Sacramento to press their opposition to S.B. 60, FAIR members all across the state responded to actions alerts by calling and emailing the governor's office, urging Schwarzenegger to veto the bill. In addition to the overwhelming costs of mass illegal immigration — estimated by FAIR to be in excess of \$10 billion annually — implementation of S.B. 60 could have rendered the California driver's license invalid for purposes of federal identification, including boarding a commercial airliner.

How FAIR is Expanding the Immigration Reform Coalition and How You Can Help

The Los Angeles conference, *Illegal Immigration: Its Impact on America*, put on jointly by FAIR and the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, is a textbook example of how FAIR is working to create a broad-based coalition for immigration reform. The involvement of new people and groups is essential to achieving true reform.

In May, Dan Stein, president of FAIR, was invited to speak about immigration reform at one of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture's regular breakfast forums. The immigration crisis has been a growing concern for that group's members for some time, and Stein's address helped crystallize the key issues for them, and helped generate the idea for the daylong conference that took place on August 26. The event combined FAIR's knowledge of the full range of immigration issues, with the Center's membership base.

While not every outreach effort conducted by FAIR results in a major conference, FAIR regularly reaches out to like-minded political, civic and religious organizations. Public speaking is a key component of our organization's educational mission. FAIR staff in our Washington headquarters and field staff across the country regularly speak about immigration before meetings of other organizations. Almost always, these face-to-face meetings result in expansion of our own membership base and a new organizational ally in the effort to promote immigration reform.

FAIR members can help in this effort. If you are a member of another organization concerned about key issues that affect our nation, please suggest to them they contact FAIR about having someone from our organization come and speak to their members. FAIR will make every effort to accommodate such requests, or find a local activist in the area who has gone through one of our training seminars and who can speak about this issue.

Making News

Global Delusions: Open Borders Will Destroy Society (part 1)

There is growing pressure to sacrifice national sovereignty for unrestricted free trade. In an article published in the online magazine, The World & I, FAIR media director Ira Mehlman responds to the globalists who would open our borders. The first part of the article appears in this month's issue, while the second part will be reprinted in the next issue of the FAIR Immigration Report.

On the morning after Christmas in 1991, a failed experiment in society building came to a deserved end. Not with a long-feared nuclear confrontation, or even with a bloody revolution, but with a mere whimper the Soviet Union expired in its sleep of natural causes.

Communism failed because it was in its essence tyrannical. It was tyrannical because it stood the whole structure of human society on its head. Under communism, the people were subservient to the state, rather than the other way around. The state commanded and the people obeyed, and if they didn't they were likely to find themselves in the gulag, or worse. Under the 70-year failed experiment known as communism there were no "people," only workers and servants of the state. And, though it never came to full fruition, communism promised ultimately a world without borders and without other distinctions.

At the dawn of the new century, there is a new utopianism that is raging across the planet, and within certain intellectual circles in this country including some with close ties to the current White House. Globalism is the latest ideology that promises to be the cure for every ill of humanity. The basic tenet of globalism is that for every problem there is a market-based solution, if only it were free to operate without constraints.

As in the failed communist experiment, in the utopian world envisioned by the globalist Bolsheviks there are no people, only workers and consumers who serve the almighty economy. Like the world promised by Marx and Lenin the utopia promised by radical globalists will have no borders or other distinctions.

The model of human-society-stood-on-its-head espoused by the fathers of communism ultimately gave way to the brutal tyranny of Stalinism, because the Russian people saw themselves as something more than just workers and servants of the state. The promised utopia of a world completely controlled by market forces will inevitably result in a form of tyranny of its own, because it fails to grasp the essential reality that human beings are driven by more than their desire for consumer goods. We are a much more complex species, driven by many powerful and often contradictory impulses.

We cannot turn back the clock. The world has shrunk radically and it will inevitably have an impact on every aspect of life everywhere on earth. The challenge before us is how to maximize the benefits of global trade without destroying the fabric of societies and the social stability that make economic growth and prosperity possible.

Cracks in the European Model

Supporters of open borders and free trade as the cure-all for illegal immigration (and almost every other problem) invariably cite the European Union as their model. The creation of the European Union — from germination in 1957 to fruition in 1992 — was a gradual process that included most of the continent's industrial nations on the free side of the Iron Curtain. This 35-year process took into account that integrating the economies of nations with significant cultural, political and linguistic differences, not to mention disparities between incomes and wealth, would be a difficult and sensitive one. The potential impact of workers from relatively poorer nations like Greece and Spain, on wealthier ones like Germany and France was one of the chief reasons for the go-slow approach to full integration.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain, the process of integrating the newly liberated societies and economies of Eastern Europe was compressed into just a few years, as new nations rushed to become part of the unified European market. In addition, Europe is now giving serious consideration to the inclusion of Turkey which not only isn't geographically part of Europe, but is culturally and religiously not part of Europe.

As workers from the former Soviet bloc nations have moved into the higher wage countries of the original EU, and those transitioning countries have become a conduit for economic migrants from much of Africa and Asia, public support in "old Europe" for a fully integrated continent has cooled considerably. In countries already uneasy with the growing influence of Islam in their midst, the prospect of Muslim Turkey joining the club is exacerbating public skepticism about the blessings of open borders. The resounding rejection by voters in France and The Netherlands of the European constitution is indicative of the chasm that exists between the elite and ordinary working folks about the wisdom of a Europe without internal borders.

To millions of ordinary working people in Europe's immigrant receiving countries, the promise that, in the long run, a borderless continent will generate sufficient economic prosperity to raise all boats, rings hollow. Far from benefiting Europe's middle class, the free flow of labor has caused economic displacement and social upheaval. In France and The Netherlands, the two countries to reject the European constitution (the British likely would do the same if it is ever brought before the voters), the social and cultural impact of recent immigration appears to have had a profound effect on the decision of voters. Mass immigration hasn't made them more prosperous; it has just made their countries less French and Dutch. To the bureaucrats in Brussels, the loss of cultural and national identity may not mean much. But to real live citizens of France and Holland it is meaningful in way that the bean counters and the globalists cannot understand.

Making News

Global Delusions: Open Borders Will Destroy Society (part 2)

The following is the second part of an article written by FAIR Media Director, Ira Mehlman, for the online publication, The World & I, responding to the globalists' enthusiasm for open borders. The first part of the article, reprinted in the October issue of the FAIR Immigration Report, examined the flaws in the European Union model. The second part of the article looks at the impact of NAFTA and the potential consequences of a unified Western Hemisphere labor market.

Failed Promises of NAFTA

If elimination of borders in Europe has been less than an unqualified success, the elimination of borders in the Western Hemisphere is a disaster waiting to happen. Though not on the scale of the integration of the EU, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) foreshadows the destruction of the middle class and the social upheaval that will inevitably result from a hemisphere, or perhaps even a world, without borders.

NAFTA has worked remarkably well for the elite in the U.S. and Mexico, but has been a resounding dud for the vast majority of workers in both countries. (The relationship between the U.S. and Canada has been less problematic, owing to the fact that the two nations enjoy roughly equivalent standards of living and have similar labor and environmental laws.) While productivity in Mexico surged by 50 percent between 1994 and 2001, manufacturing wages in that country fell by 11 percent (and, in real terms, earnings were lower than they were in 1981). According to the World Bank, 51 percent of Mexicans lived in poverty in 1994 when NAFTA went into effect. Four years later 58 percent of Mexicans lived below the poverty line, while 82 percent of those in rural areas could be classified as poor.

Under NAFTA, wages for workers in the maquiladoras have fallen, and jobs that left the U.S. to take advantage of lower wage Mexican labor are now leaving Mexico in pursuit of still lower wage labor in China and other countries. Meanwhile American agricultural exports to Mexico (often harvested by illegal Mexican migrants in the U.S.) have wrought havoc on small subsistence farmers in Mexico. Many of these displaced farmers have migrated to the cities, or have found their way across the border to the U.S.

On our side of the border the results have not been any better. NAFTA was sold to American workers as a treaty that would allow millions of U.S. workers who were willing to retrain themselves to move into higher value added jobs, while the migration of labor intensive jobs to Mexico would provide economic sustenance and reduce the flow of Mexican workers headed north. Neither promise has been fulfilled.

The headline in the July 3, 2005, edition of The New York Times, "Profits, Not Jobs, In Silicon Valley," is all too familiar to middle class workers in the U.S. High tech, which was supposed to be the bright future of middle class workers in the U.S., is on the rebound after some rough years. That ought to be good news, "Unless, that is, you happen to want to work...in Silicon Valley," observes the Times. Profits for the seven largest high tech firms in Silicon Valley have increased by an eye-popping 500 percent in the last three years, notes the article. Over the same period, employment in Santa Clara County (where these companies are headquartered) declined from 787,200 to 767,600.

If NAFTA's promise of better 21st century jobs to replace the lost 20th century industrial jobs in the U.S. has produced disappointing results, the promise that it would stem the tide of illegal immigration to the U.S. has been utterly unfulfilled. Illegal immigration to the United States from Mexico has exploded since NAFTA went into effect. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that since the implementation of NAFTA, more than 7 million illegal aliens have settled in the U.S. Mexico accounts for 57 percent of those in the U.S. illegally, while all of Latin America combined accounts for 81 percent of the illegal immigrant population of the U.S. Moreover, the numbers of illegal aliens from Mexico are increasing, not decreasing, after more than a decade of free trade.

In time, of course, if we continue on the path we're headed, migration from Mexico will abate, but for all the wrong reasons. Rather than being dissuaded from migrating because of growing prosperity in Mexico, as promised under NAFTA, people will eventually stop moving when the same poverty that grips the majority of workers in Mexico is replicated in the U.S. As such, those open border enthusiasts like Robert Reid, who promote open borders as the "final solution" to illegal immigration from Mexico, will have their predictions realized in all the sinister connotations of that term.

We Are a Nation, Not an Economy

A just and moral society must be predicated on the realization that the economy and all other social institutions exist to serve the interests of the people, and not the other way around. Nations, as Thomas Jefferson wrote 229 years ago, derive "their powers from the consent of the governed." In creating this nation, the founders of the United States affixed their signatures to a historic document that stated that "we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

That closing sentence of the Declaration of Independence remains the best definition of what it means to be a nation. We, the people, agree to work for the common good and, if necessary, to die for one another. In return, we have every reason to believe and expect that we will benefit from that arrangement. The social contract that has propelled this nation to greatness has never included a clause that suggests we are all interchangeable and replaceable with the rest of humanity. When every person on earth (or even in our hemisphere) has an equal claim on residence and employment in America, our existence as a nation will cease.

As a nation, we should actively promote economic and political reform in Mexico and other nations in our hemisphere and beyond. At the same time, we must promote prosperity for those who form the backbone of this nation. However we choose to define ourselves as a nation, it must be something more than an amalgamation of workers, consumers, or even taxpayers, who happen to occupy a defined geographic area.

If the social bonds that hold the nation together are shattered, we will become slaves to destiny instead of masters of it. When people no longer believe that their nation and their society is loyal to them, social order will inevitably break down (and with it, ironically, the world's economy itself).

Far from promoting liberty and prosperity, a world without borders will inevitably lead to a conflict, misery and chaos. In other words: tyranny.

Reformer Corner

Carlos Rodriguez

This month's entry comes to us courtesy of Carlos Rodriguez, an immigration reformer in Overland Park, Kansas. We invite FAIR members and other reformers to include short accounts of how they got involved and share their successes with others working for this cause.

I currently live in Overland Park, Kansas. I'm that oft rumored, but highly suppressed social creature; I'm a Hispanic who favors strict and fair enforcement of our immigration laws without any regard to color, creed, gender, origin or any other demographic or economic markers. I was born a citizen in a Hispanic culture and Spanish is my native language, but I'm quite at home with English. I support the use of English for legal, business and government matters.

I had the honor of serving in the U.S. armed forces and have the perspective afforded from having traveled extensively to four continents. After living in Mexico for four years during their economic debacle, I returned to the U.S. in late 1998 to find a country in the throes of an invasion.

I started writing letters to the editor, because our country is being harmed by mass immigration. We have become a safety valve for the kleptocracies to our south who will continue oppressing their citizens in knowledge that those who get fed up will take the easy way out of emigrating to the U.S. and helping themselves to our misplaced hospitality.

Due to my letter writing, I made the acquaintance of many persons who support rational immigration reform. One of these people invited me to attend a local public debate, which she had helped organize, on the Mexican matricula consular card. Since then, I've become even more involved in the cause of immigration reform in my community and nationally.

In my opinion, one of the most important matters Congress needs to address our government's policy of bestowing presumptive American citizenship on the children of those who are here unlawfully, as non-resident immigrants or as guest workers. This policy is a remnant of a bygone era, and needs to be reformed to reflect the realities of the 21st century.

Each one of us can do something. Vote for immigration reform measures and candidates, write letters to the editor and your elected officials, boycott employers of illegal aliens. We cannot afford to remain passive. This is a struggle to keep our country law-abiding and to rescue our standard of living away from elites with Dickensian designs on our future. Until then, I, like many Hispanics and other American citizens, who object to the horde of illegal aliens coming into our communities, will refuse to be part of a silent majority that quietly accepts our government's dereliction of its most basic duties.

Our elected leaders who continue to ignore mass illegal immigration should pay heed to the words ascribed to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto when commenting on the bombing of Pearl Harbor: "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." I feel that resolve emerging as I work with a growing number of people in my community and around the country for true immigration reform that serves the interests of this nation and its citizens. We, as Americans, must be prepared to act, for as Blaise Pascal said: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." What will you do today?

Monthly Outrage

Los Angeles Businesses May Be Required to Set Up Day Labor Sites

The City of Los Angeles, where day laborers loitering on street corners and parking lots has reached epidemic proportions, may soon require large home improvement retail centers to set up hiring sites for the day laborers who congregate outside those businesses. The draft ordinance is authored by Councilman Bernard Parks, who argues that “This multi-million dollar business ignores the fact these problems are created by the stores.” Apparently, in Parks’ estimation, the numerous city policies that provide benefits and protections to illegal aliens have nothing to do with the problem. The most notable of such policies is Special Order 40, a city ordinance that bars police from questioning or detaining suspected illegal aliens — a policy that Parks, the city’s former chief of police, should be aware of.

The city itself operates seven day labor hiring sites, where employment of illegal aliens is deliberately overlooked. Nevertheless, Jane Blumenfield, of the City Planning office calls day laborers, “a complicated issue.” Residents of communities where day laborers congregate find the matter less complicated, indicating that they’d rather see the police enforce anti-loitering laws than have home improvement centers build hiring sites that will be a magnet for still more day laborers.

Oregon DMV Worker Fired for Preventing Illegal Aliens from Getting Licenses

When LeVay Jeffries, the manager of the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Dallas, Oregon, suspected that illegal aliens were attempting to fraudulently obtain driver’s licenses and state ID cards, he called the police. For his troubles, Mr. Jeffries was fired—accused of engaging in racial profiling by his superiors. DMV administrator Lorna Youngs stated that Jeffries was “acting outside the scope of his position.”

This was not the first time Jeffries has acted “outside the scope of his position.” In 1999, his suspicions were aroused when Fereja Seifu tried to obtain state ID cards for three Saudi men. Jeffries reported the suspicious activities to the police who arrested Seifu, who was convicted of document fraud. (The three Saudi men fled the country.)

No Habla Espanol? Do Not Go to the Denver Public Library

Denver, Colorado — The Denver Public Library system announced plans to turn seven branches into Spanish-language-dominant facilities. As part of its “Languages and Learning” program, the Denver Public Library system is attempting to accommodate its burgeoning immigrant population by honoring its “responsibilities and traditions to serve as a resource for immigrants,” explains head librarian Rick Ashton. Apparently, the library administrators do not include assimilating newcomers into the English-speaking mainstream to be one of its responsibilities and traditions.