



Citizens For Immigration Reform

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Our mission is to educate the public, seek reform of the immigration policies, insist that all immigration laws be enforced and our borders be secured.

Sept. 2008

Vol.6 No. 08



CFIR

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NEXT MEETING

September 11, 2008 7 p.m.

Farmers Branch Recreation Center

14050 Heartside Place

Farmers Branch

State Representative

Jodie Laubenberg, District 89

Collin/Rockwall Counties



State Representative Jodie Laubenberg is serving her third term in the Texas Legislature. She serves as Chairman of the House Public Health Committee, and as a member of both Natural Resources and Local & Consent Calendars

A graduate of the The University of Texas, she has been called an "emerging leader" by the *Dallas Morning News*, and she was named one of "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by *Inside Collin County Business*.

Representative Laubenberg lives in Parker, where she previously served as a member of the city council. She was also elected to serve on the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC). She and her husband Bob, have two children: David, a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, and Liz, a college junior.

She will be speaking from her perspective about the additional public health costs resulting from the illegal alien population

*Every dues-paying member shares in making a difference!
 Your dues and donations will keep CFIR alive and working*



Keep "The Eyes of Texas" Focused!
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In our last newsletter, we printed a portion of a speech by Edward J. Erler, professor of political science at California State University, Bernardino. That portion was about Birthright Citizenship. This month we are sharing with you the rest of that speech.

Professor Erler's remarks are indeed sobering. I don't believe anyone can read what he has to say and not be concerned about what is happening in our global world and what it means to our Republic. So stay with the reading, you need to take this in.

Jean Towell, President

Excerpt "Reprinted by permission from Imprimis, a publication of Hillsdale College."

Dual Citizenship and Decline

The same kind of confusion that has led us to accept birthright citizenship for the children of illegal aliens has led us to tolerate dual citizenship. We recall that the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment specified that those who are naturalized must owe *exclusive* allegiance to the U.S. to be included within its jurisdiction. And the citizenship oath taken today still requires a pledge of such allegiance. But in practice dual citizenship—and dual allegiance—is allowed. This is a sign of the decline of American citizenship and of America as a nation-state.

It is remarkable that 85 percent of all immigrants arriving in the U.S. come from countries that allow—and encourage—dual citizenship. Dual citizens, of course, give the sending countries a unique political presence in the U.S., and many countries use their dual citizens to promote their own interests by exerting pressure on American policy makers. Such foreign meddling in our internal political affairs has in fact become quite routine. Thus we have created a situation where a newly naturalized citizen can swear exclusive allegiance to the U.S. while retaining allegiance to a vicious despotism or a theocratic tyranny.

Elite liberal opinion has for many years considered the sovereign nation-state as an historical anachronism in an increasingly globalized world. We are assured that human dignity adheres to the

individual and does not require the mediation of the nation-state. In this new universe of international norms, demands on the part of the nation-state to exclusive allegiance or for assimilation violate "universal personhood." In such a universe, citizenship will become superfluous or even dangerous.

Those who advocate open borders tend to share this cosmopolitan view of transnational citizenship. Illegal immigrants, they say, are merely seeking to support their families and improve their lives. Borders, according to them, should not stand in the way of "family values"—those universal "values" that refuse to recognize the importance or relevance of mere political boundaries. Somehow, for those who hold these views, political exclusivity and the requirement of exclusive allegiance are opposed to these universal "values" if not to human decency itself.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon was in California recently pushing for more liberal immigration policies. He assured his fellow citizens who reside in the U.S. that he is "actively working to defend their human rights." "No matter their immigration status," Calderon said, "they are human beings with dignity and rights that should be respected. We are working, with the full effort of the [Mexican] government, to bring a halt to the campaigns that harass migrants." However much Calderon may be worried about the human rights of his fellow citizens, he is fully cognizant of the fact that Mexico's economy depends on the remittances of its citizens working abroad. These remittances have become Mexico's second largest source of revenue, trailing only its rapidly declining oil revenues. It is far easier—and politically safer—for Mexico to export its poverty than to reform its own political and economic system.

We must constantly remind ourselves, however, of the historical fact that constitutional democracy has existed only in the nation-state, and that the demise of the nation-state will almost certainly mean the demise of constitutional democracy. No one believes that the European Union or similar organizations will ever produce constitutional

government. Indeed, the EU is well on its way to becoming an administrative tyranny. Nor would the homogeneous world-state—the EU on a global scale—be a constitutional democracy; it would be the administration of “universal personhood” without the inconvenience of having to rely on the consent of the governed. The doctrine of birthright citizenship and the acceptance of dual citizenship are signs that we in the U.S. are on the verge of reinstating feudalism and replacing citizenship with the master-servant relationship. The continued vitality of the nation-state and of constitutional government depends on the continued vitality of citizenship, which carries with it exclusive allegiance to what the Declaration calls a “separate and equal” nation. Unless we recover an understanding of the foundations of citizenship, we will find ourselves in a world where there are subjects but no citizens.

* * * * *

Enforcement and Economy

Homeward Bound

Recent Immigration Enforcement and the Decline in the Illegal Population

Steven Camarota, Karen Jensenius - July 2008
Center for Immigration Studies

A new analysis of monthly Census Bureau data shows a significant decline in the number of less-educated Hispanic immigrants. The report is the first to show systematic evidence that the illegal population is decreasing. There is good evidence that recent immigration enforcement efforts are a key factor causing the decline.

Among the findings:

Our best estimate is that the illegal immigrant population has declined by 11 percent through May 2008 after hitting a peak in August 2007.

The implied decline in the illegal population is 1.3 million since last summer, from 12.5 million to 11.2 million today.

The estimated decline of the illegal population is at least seven times larger than the number of illegal aliens removed by the government in the last 10 months, so most of the decline is due to illegal immigrants leaving the country on their own.

One indication that stepped-up enforcement is responsible for the decline is that only the illegal immigrant population seems to be affected; the legal immigrant population continues to grow.

Another indication enforcement is causing the decline is that the illegal immigrant population began falling before there was a significant rise in their unemployment rate.

The importance of enforcement is also suggested by the fact that the current decline is already significantly larger than the decline during the last recession, and officially the country has not yet entered a recession.

While the decline began before unemployment rose, the evidence indicates that unemployment has increased among illegal immigrants, so the economic slowdown is likely to be at least partly responsible for the decline in the number of illegal immigrants.

There is good evidence that the illegal population grew last summer while Congress was considering legalizing illegal immigrants. When that legislation failed to pass, the illegal population began to fall almost immediately.

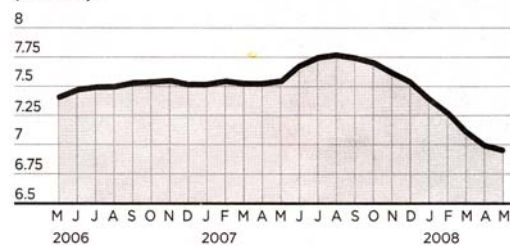
If the decline were sustained, it would reduce the illegal population by one-half in the next five years.

What's driving the exodus?

Several trends seem to point to an exodus of illegal immigrants. One Washington think tank says it's driven by tougher enforcement. But economic factors can't be overlooked.

Less-educated Hispanics ages 18-40 living in the U.S.

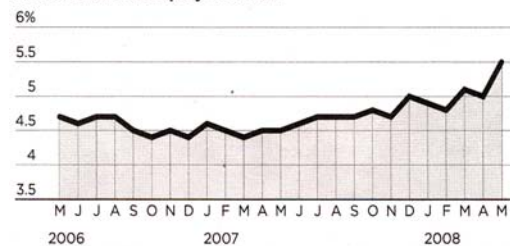
(In millions)



*Less-educated is defined as having a high school degree or less. People with any amount of college education are not included.

SOURCE: Center for Immigration Studies

United States unemployment rate



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics KYLE ALCOTT and BETSY BOCK/Staff Artists

Migrating Problem

Editorial - Dallas Morning News

“...employment is dropping sectors that rely on cheap immigrant labor. The construction industry, for example, accounts for 22 percent of Mexican workers’ jobs here. The Pew Hispanic Center says that Hispanics lost nearly 250,000 construction jobs alone over the past year. Mexico’s Central bank reports a 2.9 percent drop in remittances, a clear sign of falling incomes.”

* * * * *

Washington

Nobody has a more sacred obligation to obey the law than those who make the law.

Sophocles (496 BC-406 BC)



Differing Views from Presidential Candidates

Rasmussen Poll: Voters Angry over Immigration newsmax.com | August 22, 2008 | Jim Meyers

About 70 percent of voters believe that controlling the U.S. borders is more important than legalizing illegal immigrants, a new Rasmussen Reports national phone survey reveals.

Only 21 percent think legalization is more important. Three out of four respondents said the government is not doing enough to secure the borders, while just 14 percent said the government’s efforts are sufficient.

Backers of Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain in the presidential race have differing views on immigration, Rasmussen found.

Among likely McCain voters, 86 percent believe gaining control of the borders is more important than legalizing undocumented workers; only 53 percent of likely Obama voters feel that way.

Nearly half of McCain supporters say they are angry about the current immigration situation, compared to just 19 percent for Obama backers.

* * * * *

Bill Seeks to Shield Law Enforcement from Border Agents’ Fate



Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas) wants to prevent another law enforcement agent from suffering the same fate as ex-Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean. Both men are serving decade-long prison sentences for shooting a fleeing illegal alien who will be sentenced next month on federal drug smuggling charges.

Other Bill Actions:

Rep. Fortney Stark [D-CA] introduced H.R. 6649: To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to help alien children in the child welfare system apply for all available forms of immigration relief, and for other purposes.

Rep. Peter DeFazio [D-OR] introduced H.R. 6630: To prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from granting authority to a motor carrier domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border unless expressly authorized by Congress.

Rep. Peter Roskam [R-IL] introduced H.Res. 1380: Commending Federal and local law enforcement for their efforts to crack down on illegal immigration in the Chicagoland suburbs and calling on the Governor of the State of Illinois to immediately implement employee verification technology to curb rising trends in illegal immigration in the State of Illinois.

Texas News



Texas Senate Race Comparison - Illegal Immigration Dallas Morning News Research

Border Fence

John Cornyn: Supports “where needed”

Rick Noriega: Opposes

More Agents

Cornyn: Favors

Noriega: Would double to 36,000

Redeploy National Guard

Cornyn: Says not needed

Noriega: Favors

Path to Citizenship for Illegal Immigrants

Cornyn: Opposes "special path" for those who broke the law

Noriega: Favors for those who pay a fine and pass a background check

Penalties for Those who Employ Illegal Immigrants

Cornyn: Introduced bill to double fines

Noriega: Favors higher fines

* * * * *

Hidalgo gets Wall Deadline Reprieve

Texas Digest - Statesman.com - 08-22-08



Soaring construction costs for the border fence have apparently forced the Department of Homeland Security to bend for the first time on its end-of-year completion deadline.

The agency has offered Hidalgo County until March 31, 2009, to finish

its longest segment of the combined levee and border wall, hoping that moving the date will keep costs in check, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

Congress mandated that 670 miles of vehicle and pedestrian barriers be in place along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border by the end of 2008.

* * * * *

Excerpt from the Texas Border Volunteers Newsletter

08-19-08

TBV website at www.texasbordervolunteers.org

. . . As you talk with prospective members, you may be able to increase their interest by telling them of the countries of origin (China, Eritrea, Ethiopia, most South American countries, etc.) of the illegals found in our operating area.

Also, it may be helpful to mention the tax items dropped by an illegal and found by a TBV member in July. As you may recall, this one individual had filed under three different Social Security numbers and had received several thousand dollars in refunds although he hadn't paid any income tax.

. . . Over 50 deaths of illegal aliens in Brooks County as of the end of July 2008

July Statistics from the Falfurrias Border Patrol Sector

1201 apprehensions by Border Patrol.

111 suspected Coyote apprehensions by Border Patrol.

Moving forward in Texas Federal Court

U.S. Oil, Imported Workers

Business Week by Moira Herbst- 08-04-08

http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/aug2008/db2008084_341769.htm

Oil staffing and service companies are accused of illegally employing non-U.S. workers on rigs in the Gulf of Mexico—and displacing American workers

To Daryl Johnson of Orange, Tex., work as a rigger on pipe-laying barges seemed like a pretty sure bet. The pay was good—\$18.50 an hour—and with oil exploration booming, Johnson felt secure with Houston-based Horizon Offshore Contractors, which had hired him in 1999. But Johnson, speaking through his attorney, says he got concerned when managers told him there were no openings for friends whom he referred for jobs, even while Horizon continued to hire Mexican and Malaysian nationals. Then, in 2007, Johnson lost his job. "They gave me no explanation," says Johnson.

However, in Johnson's mind and in those of other oil workers in the Gulf, the connection to the cheaper foreign workers is clear. His allegations are part of a lawsuit moving forward in federal court in Texas, which claims that a group of U.S. energy services companies operating in U.S. waters on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico are using workers recruited from Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, and other countries to displace U.S. workers, at less than half of the pay. According to the lawsuit, the staffing is illegal because non-U.S. workers are working without proper visas aboard foreign-flagged vessels that are in fact controlled by American companies.

For years, immigration has been a tense topic, mostly centered around the estimated 12 million low-wage, undocumented workers and the ability of Silicon Valley companies to secure extra visas (*BusinessWeek*, 3/6/08) to import thousands of skilled technology workers. But now, as a recession looms and the Presidential election heats up (*BusinessWeek.com*, 7/28/08), attention is turning to another booming industry: oil services.

It's not widely known, but both onshore and offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, non-U.S. workers can be found doing shipbuilding, pipe-fitting, welding, rigging, and related jobs. Some of them are here on temporary visas and some may be undocumented.

Johnson's suit, *Cunningham, et al v. Offshore Specialty Fabricators, Inc. et al*, was filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana Div. in

December 2004. On July 21 the judge issued a scheduling order that calls for both sides to begin discovery and depositions on Aug. 10.

The case is about working conditions for both U.S. and non-U.S. workers, says plaintiff's attorney Tony Buzbee of Buzbee Law Firm in Galveston, Tex. The foreign workers "were paid pennies on the dollar, worked grueling hours for days on end, and were essentially captives on the rigs because they were paid when repatriated," says Buzbee. "This suit seeks remedy for the American workers who were paid less due to wage market suppression or who lost their jobs due to being replaced."

* * * * *

"At the end of the day, we should be recruiting people from Mexico to come."

Eddie Aldrete, bank executive in San Antonio and a member of Texas Employers for Immigration Reform. "Bottom Line of Immigration - Mercedes Olivera, Dallas Morning News, Saturday, August 9, 2008

* * * * *

Health Issues

Brownsville TX

National Guard Providing Free Healthcare, even to Non-Citizens August 7, 2008

BROWNSVILLE, Texas—The Air National Guard at Ellington Field stands ready to protect our borders both on land and at sea.

Part of that duty includes providing free medical care to everyone.

That is evident at a school in Brownsville where soldiers along with our state's health and human services department help those in need.

"We're protecting our people and that's our job," said Master Sgt. Marcus Falleaf who is with the Air National Guard.

But does that job include protecting foreigners at the expense of American taxpayers?

Some claim that more than 5,000 people have received medical care at the Brownsville facility in three days.

The military doesn't know how many people are getting served because they don't require documentation and don't ask questions.

One woman who spoke to 11 News said she lives in

Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. It's a city across the border from Brownsville.

She said that she received a health screening, including blood work and a physical exam. It was all free.

In fact, anyone who comes to the facility can get vision checks, dental and hearing work, even free medications.

The military calls this a medical training exercise, practice for when an emergency like Hurricane Katrina hits.

Critics argue that the service is costing U.S. taxpayers nearly \$2 million dollars a year.

Master Sergeant Falleaf helps run the program and says it has served seven border cities from Brownsville to Laredo for the past decade.

"The critics say we're spending millions of dollars on Operation Lone Star in the course of the last several years. We do spend an awful lot of money, but keep in mind the money we're spending is not only helping people but it's preparing us from things that may happen in the future," said Master Sergeant Falleaf.

He says sickness knows no borders.

Medical experts say it isn't important where you're from because our military is meeting a medical need.

While the insurance industry struggles to find answers to our health care crisis, without asking questions the military's providing care to the uninsured.

* * * * *

Mexicans in U.S. Illegally at More Risk of AIDS

By Mica Rosenberg - Reuters, August 8, 2008
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080806/hl_nm/aids_usa_im_migrants_dc_2

Mexico City (Reuters) -- Mexican men living and working illegally in the United States are more likely to sell their bodies for sex, take drugs or frequent prostitutes than they would have been in their homeland, increasing their risk of AIDS infection, U.S. researchers reported on Wednesday.

And if they are deported, they can take the virus back home with them, the researchers told an international conference on AIDS in Mexico City.

"They are in a new environment, they are discriminated against, they are living in harsh conditions, sometimes just in boxes covered in plastic near the farms where they work," said George Lemp of the California HIV/AIDS Research Program at the University of

California, who studied 458 Mexicans before and after they left their homeland.

'When people live that way, they engage in high-risk behavior,' Lemp said .

* * * * *

Quotable Quotes

"The ongoing migration of persons to the United States in violation of our laws is a serious national problem detrimental to the interests of the United States."

Ronald Reagan 1982

* * * * *

10% of Foreign-Born Immigrants* have Drug Resistant TB

Wall Street Journal, 7-23-08

The number of cases of tuberculosis is falling in the general U.S. population, but the rate of TB cases among foreign-born immigrants is higher than U.S. born residents. Only 4% of U.S. born residents have TB. Wall Street Journal, 7-23-08

It is understood that this item refers to immigrants without designating whether they are legal or illegal. We also know that the media does not want to make the distinctions. The fact remains that America is at risk. (editor)

* * * * *

National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers

El Imparcial (Hermosillo, Sonora) 8/15/08 (Relevant portions of an op/column by Valdemar Jimenez titled "Pears from the Elm tree" (read: asking for the impossible, follow):

We have years now insisting that principally among the

great many ills which afflict Mexico, there is corruption and impunity, rooted for years in the country. Up to now no one among those who must combat (those ills) has had the will and aim to try to eradicate them despite promises and commitments to do so.

In the difficult times we are living in because of the scourge of social insecurity generated by organized crime, mainly due to its kidnapping enterprise, the voices of society point out that it is precisely that overwhelming corruption and impunity which are the main causes of criminality that has proliferated so much in our country and has overtaken officialdom which has been infiltrated by the "narco" and organized crime.

El Herald (Tegucigalpa, Honduras) 8/15/08

According to a consular assistance report, Mexican police officials kidnap Honduran, Guatemalan and Salvadoran migrants and then ask their relatives in the United States for ransom. State and city police, mainly in Veracruz, carry out those detentions of Central Americans en route to the U.S.; an extortion by telephone then follows for amounts ranging from 5 thousand to 50 thousand Mexican pesos. The detainees are held in houses and are not fed.

The National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers (NAFBPO) extracts and condenses the material that follows from Mexican and Central and South American on-line media sources on a daily basis.

* * * * *

The greatest glory of a free born people is to transmit that freedom to their children.

-- William Havard

"When even one "American" who has done nothing wrong, is forced by fear to shut his mind and close his mouth, all Americans are in peril."

Harry S. Truman

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