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Illegals On the Border

by
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Well, it looks like those concerned about United States border Security will be sleeping a little easier now that President Bush has announced his plan to send a contingent of National Guard troops southward. Those activated will be deployed alongside regular border patrolmen until additional border patrol personnel can be hired and trained. This move is only part of the President's comprehensive plan to reduce illegal immigrants entering the country and to locate and identify those millions who have been here for years illegally.

As expected, both sides of the political aisle are complaining about the order for one reason or another. A large faction of Republican lawmakers think their constituents want a hard line stand on those illegals who are currently in the country... demanding that no amnesty be offered and that they be rounded up and shipped back to where they came. The Democrats, who have previously been equally tepid on any action to close the border are calling the Republican stand against illegals a racist insensitive act and calling the President's plan a political ploy to energize Republican voters this fall in midterm elections. In Democrat's eyes the President is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

Those Republicans who are demanding a return of all illegal Mexicans to their mother land by any means possible are truly shortsighted in their approach. Their "head 'em up, ship 'em out" philosophy is no where near their constituents' wishes except in rare circumstances. The majority of Americans feel that those illegals who are currently in the USA and are peace loving workers just trying to make some money to send home to their families should be allowed some latitude in making their stay here legal.

Of course the recent demonstrations by Mexican sympathizers waving Mexican flags and claiming America's southern Border States were stolen from, and should be returned to Mexico, have resulted in some lost supporters of their cause. There are even rumors, substantiated some say, that the Mexican government is giving fuel to such rhetoric and encouraging their citizens to come across the border illegally to stir up as much trouble as possible. Given past comments by Mexican President Vicente Fox toward America I wouldn't totally discount the rumors but as yet they have not been proven.

President Bush, in contrast to what has been reported, has been asking for Border security legislation since he came into office almost six years ago but unwilling Congressional members have been too complacent or not politically motivated to get serious about the issue. I believe the President is correct in his assessment that it would be totally impractical and capricious to even

suggest that 10 Million + illegal workers be found, rounded up, and somehow find transportation to send them all back across the border. Would they force all of them to march to railroad sidings to await herding into boxcars for shipment south, or just have a modern day “trail of tears” south to the border? Hopefully even the least intelligent of our lawmakers can see the ridiculousness of such a suggestion. To call the President’s plan an “amnesty” plan is just as erroneous. He has outlined a plan that would demand that any illegal prove his or her worth by giving a history of how long they’ve worked here... assess them an amount of back taxes and fines for their past income and trespassing... issue a certified, traceable temporary worker’s permit and establish a path toward achieving United States citizenship for those wishing it which would include learning of our native language and merging with our society as a citizen rather than a covert operative.

We must remember that the deployment of National Guard troops can and should only be a temporary measure to keep additional illegals from entering the country while some permanent plan to secure the border be implemented... such as a high tech, state of the art wall or fence impervious to even the most sophisticated attempts of illegal border crossing.

Let’s contact our Senators and Congressmen encouraging them to get behind the President’s plan and take charge of our borders for the first time in our existence as a nation. Our very lives could depend on it.

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