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Illegals On the Border... Is there an answer?

by
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The United States Senate recently passed legislation that will, ostensibly, solve the problem of what to do with immigrants who are in our country illegally. Legislation to solve this conundrum has been sought by many but a large contingent does not believe the current bill will do the job.

President Bush has been seeking a comprehensive plan to reduce illegal immigrants entering the country and to locate and identify those millions who have been here for years illegally. Those supporting this latest bill say it is the big stick needed to knock the illegals back to where they came from, but many others say the "big stick" is only made of balsa wood and will shatter at first contact.

Republicans in the House who are demanding we return all illegal Mexicans to their mother land, by any means possible, are truly shortsighted in their demands. Their "head 'em up, ship 'em out" philosophy is no where near their constituents' wishes except in rare circumstances. Polls show a majority of Americans feel that illegals currently in the USA are peace loving workers just trying to make some money to send home to their families and should be allowed some latitude toward making their stay in the States 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 help tighten the security on the border the President has ordered that 6,000 National Guard Troops be deployed to assist the Border Patrol in monitoring and apprehending illegals

attempting to enter. 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 Mexico. These malcontents think the President is doing this only to delay a more permanent solution. 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.

The Senate Immigration Bill is 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 the learning of our native language and merging with our society as a citizen rather than a covert operative. But... is that stringent enough? I don't think so.

Many last minute amendments were tacked on to get the bill passed that effectively weaken it and give in to those on the left who believe the Mexican government should have some say-so about any current or future decision to build a barrier on the border between our two countries. Can you get anymore ridiculous than that?

The decision to deploy National Guard troops should only be a temporary measure while we immediately get serious about building a state of the art, technologically superior wall/fence that will effectively deter 90+% or more of the Mexican exodus into the United States. Anything less will be a travesty to the American people and their security. Several with whom I've spoken say such a barrier would further diminish the reputation of our country in the eyes of the world and would be admitting defeat to potential terrorists and an ever increasing illegal population. Would you rather swallow your pride or swallow a bomb? Folks, nothing will stop or even slow down the flow of human flotsam and jetsam across our borders except a fence or wall, running the entire length of our border with Mexico. To think otherwise is foolishness... or just plain stupidity.

Hopefully, when this Senate Bill reaches the Conference Committee, Senators and House members will have the wisdom and guts to agree on a bill that will put teeth in where needed and soften the rhetoric on the humanity of the immigrants. This is not just an immigration concern... it is a national security challenge, potentially greater than anything we've ever faced before. It is a seemingly impossible challenge to face... but we must demand that all our legislators put their minds

and talents to the task and make our borders permanently secure... as soon as possible.

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