

12/15/07

**“No hablo English”**

by  
Tom Holbrook

Talk about a pandering Congressional leadership... word has it that “her Queen-ship” Nancy Pelosi is doing favors for the House Hispanic Caucus chairman Rep. Joe Baca, D-California, and a side result of those favors could weaken our nation’s security. An appropriations bill that provides money for the FBI, Justice Department and the NASA should have been on President Bush’s desk months ago is being used as a hammer over the Republicans’ head to get them to defeat an amendment on the bill, already approved by the Senate 75-19, that would protect business owners from lawsuits because they have an English-language only hiring policy.

The EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) has acknowledged that English-only rules are relevant to job performance, safety and efficiency, yet they have sued the Salvation Army for firing two Hispanic workers who failed to learn English within the one year period they were given to learn it. The problem is that the EEOC does not have the jurisdiction to file a law-suit to begin with because courts have ruled the English-only requirement is beyond the authority of the EEOC.

A Massachusetts daily newspaper included in its paper a letter from of its readers stating “It’s not about forcing someone to learn a new language or protecting cultural diversity; it’s about forcing a private business to employ someone against it prescribed policy. Language is not the same as race or gender. Using heavy-handed tactics to bring lingual ability under the same umbrella of federal protection is wrong.”

The Salvation Army had actually given the women 4 years beyond their original learning period allowing them to work for five years before they were fired for outright refusing to learn English. The EEOC’s suit states the women worked in a position of sorting clothing and, therefore, did not need to learn our language. My question, who is the EEOC to tell an employer who in their employ needs to speak our native language and who doesn’t? There are all kinds of safety reasons that automatically should require the ability to understand and relay warnings of danger to other employees, as well as the costly necessity of having to pay an interpreter to relay information at employee meetings or just normal conversation while in the business location. What makes this so simple for me is I imagine myself working in a company somewhere where I don’t speak nor understand anything that the other employees say. What a miserable existence that would be.

**Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-TN had proposed the amendment to protect businesses of all types from having to cave in to socially correct dictums issued by the government or the ACLU. As stated above, the amendment passed the Senate by a large majority so what's going on in the House?**

**Appearances could suggest the suits by the EEOC are nothing but money grabbing nuisance claims because they brag about the fact most of their claims against English-only businesses are settled out of court, with money being paid to the workers and the EEOC in fines. A lot of the businesses being sued are non-profits and/or small businesses who don't have the funds to pay the cost of defending a lawsuit. The EEOC could then, as pointed out by a ProEnglish group, use the settlements as legal precedents that would contradict earlier federal court rulings.**

**Sen. Alexander said he can, "think of nothing that would be more in our national interest than helping anyone in our country learn our common language. Without our common language we would be a giant tower of Babel. It would be difficult for Americans to talk with one another, to debate political issues, and to vote. It would be harder to function as a democracy and to unite as one country." He then said what I define as a brilliant insight to the problem... a truth that should be grasped by any logical thinking American out there... "We are now celebrating diversity at the expense of unity. One way to create that unity is to value, not devalue, our common language, English. Without English, we would risk becoming just another United Nations instead of the United States of America."**

**Folks, I have no idea why so many people... purportedly intelligent people, should have any valid reason to object to English being mandated to be learned by any person who chooses to become a citizen of this country. And if any person is here just to take what monies he or she can from American businesses to send back home across the border... they should be made to recognize that they could earn a heck of a lot more money, and they would be looked upon much less suspiciously, if they took the time to learn our language. If I were to move to a foreign country for the purpose of working and earning a living, learning the language of the country would be my first goal.**

**The attitude that comes across, which rankles me more than anything, are those that think we Americans are in the wrong and should be willing to accept everyone as a worker in this country, regardless of their willingness to assimilate into our society. It seems we Americans are the ones who are expected to change to fit the lifestyle and culture of those coming into our country. Sorry, that dog ain't goin' to hunt.**

**Have a great week and spend the time calling your Congressman and tell him to tell Pelosi to stop sitting on that Appropriations Bill. Our country needs it.**

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