

are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. All these reforms would promote traditional American values such as diligence, hard work, family unity and putting down roots.

These reforms would allow Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians to apply for document status just as already has been done for Cubans and Nicaraguans; allow undocumented workers of good character who have resided in the U.S. many years to apply for documented status; allow those who have lost their status as legal residents, but remain eligible to become permanent residents, to remain in the U.S. while seeking to regain their status; and help reduce family backlogs by providing more visas for close family members of citizens and

permanent residents.

Immigration laws establish the legal framework that allows Congress and the courts to control the flow of immigrants and legal aliens into the United States. But the indomitable human spirit doesn't first hire a lawyer before fleeing a situation it finds intolerable and getting on a raft or swimming a river to freedom and opportunity in America.

As Ronald Reagan reminded us in speaking of the Statue of Liberty's torch, "The glistening hope of that lamp is still ours. Every promise, every opportunity is still golden in this land. And through that golden door our children can walk into tomorrow with the knowledge that no one can be denied the promise that is America."

The fact is, in a land as free

and open as ours, there always will be more people who want to enter than we can accommodate under our laws. That is a profound vote of confidence in the American dream. And just as surely, there will always be a certain percentage who succeed in forging a life in the U.S. and assimilate in our society sufficiently to become, after many years here, "citizens" in all but name — what one might think of as "common law citizens" — as much citizens of this land as were many of our immigrant forefathers. These true stakeholders in America deserve a chance to gain full citizenship status, and that obliges us to review and adjust our laws on occasion to make that possible. To do anything less is to dim Liberty's lamp. ■

On Foreigners, Kemp Borders on Foolish

by Don Feder

Former congressman and vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp — who has to be the most clueless Republican in creation — is leading a drive to undermine America with more

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immigration.

As Bob Dole's running mate, Kemp rendered an embarrassing performance of pandering for minority votes that ultimately proved futile.

Undaunted, the GOP pander-bear is back. Allied with Henry Cisneros, President Clinton's first secretary of housing and urban development, Kemp is calling for an increase in legal immigration and an amnesty for 400,000 illegal aliens.

America is already awash with

the foreign-born. They aren't anything like Emma Lazarus' "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." They aren't appropriately grateful to be here. In fact, in all too many cases, they have either their hands out or their fists raised.

In 1998, we had 26.3 million legal immigrants, who represented 9.8 percent of the total population. That's more than double the percentage of 1970. Between 1990 and 1998, immigrants and their children

accounted for 70 percent of total population growth.

Another amnesty for those who wiped their feet on our laws as they entered this country? Why not? The last one worked so well.

In 1986, we offered amnesty to those who'd been here illegally since 1982. More than 3 million took advantage of the program.

Amnesties send a message to

“Amnesties send a message to border-jumpers: If you can elude the authorities long enough, eventually you’ll get a green card. That was the effect of the 1986 amnesty.”

border-jumpers: If you can elude the authorities long enough, eventually you’ll get a green card. That was the effect of the 1986 amnesty. According to the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group, between 1980 and 1990, the number of illegals grew by over 60 percent.

According to the Census Bureau, post-1980 immigrants are poorer and less educated than the population as a whole. Among 1990-1998 immigrants, 35 percent lack a high school diploma (compared to 9 percent of the native-born). The poverty rate for all immigrants is 50 percent higher than for natives.

The National Center for Policy

Analysis notes that in 1980, fewer than 9,000 criminal aliens were incarcerated in state and federal prisons. 9,000 criminal aliens were incarcerated in state and federal prisons. By 1994, more than 450,000 aliens were guests of our penal system.

Thanks to immigration, English as our common language is rapidly disappearing.

Minnesota Legal Assistance is suing to have welfare applications printed in other languages. Why should an inability to speak English be a bar to a parasitic existence?

According to the March 30 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, immigrant store-

owners in the city are complaining about the lack of health inspectors who can communicate with them in their native tongue.

The head of the Korean-American Grocers Association told the newspaper that most of his group's 970 members speak little or no English. God forbid that someone should come here, open a business and bother to learn our language.

Most Americans have at least an intuitive grasp of the problem. In an October 1999 Pew Research Center poll, 72 percent mostly or completely agreed with the statement, “We need more restrictions and controls on immigration.”

Besides throwing away a legitimate issue with overwhelming public support, by embracing liberal immigration policy Republicans are committing slow suicide.

Due almost exclusively to new immigrant voters, Democrats now dominate California politics, controlling all but two statewide offices, along with huge majorities in the Legislature.

Statewide, Mexican-Americans are voting Democratic by a 3-1 ratio. In March, Vice President Al Gore led Gov. George Bush by a whopping 41 points among Hispanics, despite the latter's Spanish speeches and immigration positions virtually identical to Gore's.

Kemp would say Republicans are paying for their support of Proposition 187, the 1994 ballot measure to cut off government services for illegal aliens.

But even if Republicans embraced open borders, many of the new immigrants are the low-income benefit-seekers who are the Democratic Party's natural constituency. Unless it decides to get into a bidding war with the opposition on government goodies, the GOP can't overcome the Democrats' advantage here.

Like Sen. John McCain, Kemp is a Republican who craves the media's acclaim. “Isn't he progressive. Isn't he humane,” commentators will croon over this latest instance of Kempian compassion. That it's bad for his party, and awful for America, doesn't figure into Kemp's calculations. ■

Amnesty Ad Infinitum

How much are beaver skins worth?

by **Diana Hull**

Amnesty for illegal aliens in the United States is the ultimate immigrant benefit. It is now a joint goal of the Clinton Administration and the Latino Caucus in Sacramento which is pushing a legislative package that contains new, as well as decades old, Hispanic interest group entitlement proposals.

The Caucus also wants more “human rights” and “justice” bills to “protect minority and immigrant communities from hate crimes and violence.” This kind of legislation has been useful in muzzling opponents and will increase the power of statewide “Human Relations Commissions” to challenge what can be said about immigration and immigrants.

These bills, plus the recommendation for another amnesty, comprise a cluster of related legislation introduced by California’s newest Latino lawmakers in the past year and a half.

Hispanics are now 14.5 percent of registered voters in California, compared to 10 percent in 1990, and gave Democrat Gray Davis a 78-18 percent majority of the Latino vote in the 1998 Governor’s race. Al Gore had a 58-17 edge over George Bush with California’s Hispanic voters in the recent presidential primary.¹

A third of the approximately 6 million illegal aliens in the United States live in California, so the best way to further increase the Democrat majority, especially in our state, is by forgiving illegal entry

over and over again.² Right now, the Clinton administration and the California legislature are working in tandem on this issue, apparently unconcerned about how amnesties further encourage defiance of the law. Few lessons were learned in the wake of the 1986 amnesty — a fiasco that Robert Suro of the *New York Times* called “one of the most extensive immigration frauds ever perpetuated against the U.S. government.”

But California’s Latino Caucus can be optimistic that they will prevail eventually in their legislative battles because the force of demography is a readily-realized probability, and the numbers are on their side.³ The immediate future looks promising too. California’s Governor Gray Davis believes that U.S. strength is in its diversity⁴ and his Lieutenant Governor agrees. Cruz Bustamonte, is the first Latino to hold that office in over 100 years.

The Assembly Majority Leader is Antonio Villaraigosa, ex- MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) activist and former president of the Southern California ACLU. Assemblyman Villaraigosa was the only Latino elected official to speak at the “Latino March” in Washington, D.C. where he touted the legislation promoted by the Latino leadership in Sacramento and spoke fervently about the right of “undocumented people” to free medical care and education through college. He demanded another amnesty for those living in the U.S. illegally.

Last May, Speaker Villaraigosa joined Mexican President Zedillo in addressing the California Legislature. Although both men are thoroughly fluent in English, they both made their speeches in Spanish. Then Mr. Villaraigosa stood and began the Chicano “handclap.” Without knowing what they were doing, (as calls to their offices confirmed) the rest of the legislators joined this spirited display of ethnic nationalism and started clapping too. Of course any high school or college student in Southern California has heard this sound, “clap-clap, clap-clap-clap” and

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