

Re: Continuation of May Day thread

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- *From:* seemysig@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (JulieW8)
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What's with all the extra symbols? Ick!

First I think it's important to have an understanding of the world we live in, and global politics. It's been a long time since it was written, but Nixon's "Beyond Peace" was a brilliant look (and insight) into world politics. Whatever else you can say about Tricky Dick (and there is a lot to say!), he had a great grasp of foreign politics and he and Kissinger were an unparalleled team. "Beyond Peace" is a fascinating dissection of his last-published view of world politics.

I had a couple relatives who worked for the Organization of American States (OAS) and my uncle said one of the most difficult aspects of working with Central and South American countries was investing in them in a way that benefits them and us. However humanitarian we want to be, we want our efforts to be beneficial to all parties – you can't throw good money after bad indefinitely. One problem in these countries is the corrupt governments. We have all these warm, fuzzy feelings for our fellow human beings, but throwing money at them or letting them come here in droves doesn't solve the underlying problem – it's like giving someone aspirin for a 104 fever without addressing why they have a fever. You can't want to keep giving aid to people who either don't get it because someone is stealing it or don't know what to do with it.

But – we also don't want to police the world, which would be the only way of getting past the corrupt governments. The same people who think we shouldn't be the world police seem to be the same ones who think we ought to be the world charity bank. Neither by itself is productive.

IMO, the solution to illegal immigration has to be concentrated, enforced and consistent – and I'm not sure our government is capable of doing that. The liberals want to throw money at it instead of solving it – Barbara Boxer got millions of dollars for California hospitals to offset some of the costs of treating illegal immigrants, but she didn't do anything to enforce current laws to stem the flow. The Republicans just want to build a fence because a lot of their corporate buddies are using illegal labor. And nobody – especially in an election year – wants to piss off a growing population in the US, illegal or legal. However, the majority of Hispanics in this country

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aren't citizens and the ones who are aren't registered to vote or don't vote. Whether or not they can change that in time for the next election remains to be seen.

And as much as I'd like to cut off public benefits for illegals, it has the potential to create not only health problems, but make the subclass burrow further into the shadows. However, it's something that ought to be considered if the other solutions don't work, or don't work fast enough.

It's also touchy to pressure other countries to change their politics and improve their economy. If you withhold aide, you hurt the people who need it the most. Continuing to give aide doesn't resolve the problem; and in fact, allows the government to continue business as usual without any incentive to address its problems. I believe that helping others help themselves is always the best solution, but it's difficult or impossible to do in some of these countries.

So you see, there are no simple solutions. <G> Sometimes, the solution creates unintentional consequences that are worse than the original problem.

I think the first thing we need to do, however, is go after the people who employ illegal immigrants in large numbers. I'm not talking about the nannies and housekeepers – that's small potatoes. I'm talking construction, farming, restaurants, trucking, etc. In conjunction with that, use this great internet we have to make it easier for employers to identify fake IDs and to find the people using them before they disappear again. IOW, don't leave an excuse for the employers to say they didn't know, they couldn't check, etc. And make the punishment hurt enough that they have a real incentive NOT to just hire someone whose papers are questionable, knowing they will probably never get caught.

I would also like to see an amendment to the Constitution so that only children born to citizens (not even guest workers) are citizens. Children born to legal immigrants who are not citizens should be granted expedited citizenship when their parents obtain citizenship.

You asked for it, Judity. That's my objective analysis and solution suggestion. <G>

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To send me e-mail, use juliew8@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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