Open Borders Hurt US Workers

Should the US Close Its Borders?, 2014

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One of the goals of strict immigration laws is to protect American workers from having to compete with illegal immigrants for jobs. Nevertheless, the Obama administration refuses to arrest and deport many of those who enter the United States illegally. Moreover, the administration mocks immigration law by authorizing the employment of illegal immigrants. In addition, some policy makers audaciously claim that "privileged" high-skilled American workers contribute to income inequality in the United States. Thus, they argue that the government should increase the number of high-skilled immigrants to reduce this inequality, a policy that is clearly anti-American.

In nearly all officially sanctioned endeavors that involve competition, referees or other such officials are employed to make certain that all competitors are given a "level playing field" to create a fair environment. In baseball, umpires provide this vital component to the integrity of the sport.

Society's Referees

Where government is concerned, laws and law enforcement officers are supposed to provide that same sort of fairness. Civil Rights laws have been enacted in the United States in an effort to provide equal treatment. In fact, the terms "just" and "fair" are often used in conjunction with one another. Among the duties of law enforcement officers is the role they are supposed to play as societal referees when they enforce the laws that are intended to protect lives and rights of those who live within their jurisdiction.

Today, competition can be found in many aspects of the lives of our citizens. Competition is especially keen where the search for jobs is concerned. Today many millions of American workers are either unemployed or underemployed. This has resulted in many Americans falling below the poverty line and many American families losing their homes to foreclosure because their "breadwinners" have lost their jobs.

The impact of this can be felt as it ripples throughout the economy of the United States where a glut of foreclosed houses have depressed real estate values in nearly every city and fewer Americans have the money to spend on nonessential items, thus creating a vicious downward cycle.

Preventing the Entry of Harmful Aliens
The immigration laws of the United States are supposed to prevent the entry and continued presence in the United States of aliens whose presence is harmful. Aliens who are engaged in criminal or terrorist activities are supposed to be prevented from entering the United States and removed (deported) from the United States when they [are] found present in the United States. Aliens who are convicted of committing felonies are also supposed to be deported from the United States when they complete serving their prison sentences.

Today, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and with increasing presence of transnational gangs and drug trafficking cartel members in the United States, America's borders have never been more important.

Aliens who would seek unauthorized employment to be prevented from entering the United States ... are supposed to be arrested [and] deported from the United States if such aliens succeed in entering the United States and seek employment. This is to prevent foreign workers from creating unfair and illegal competition for jobs Americans desperately need, especially in this era of economic hardship confronting all too many American workers and their families. This component of the immigration laws is nothing new. In fact, prior to the Second World War, the enforcement and administration of the immigration laws was the responsibility of the United States Department of Labor. Prior to World War II, where immigration was concerned, was the harm that unfettered immigration would do to American workers.

During the Second World War it became clear that the government needed to be concerned about the threats posed by aliens who would enter the United States to engage in espionage and acts of sabotage. On August 6, 2011, CAPS posted my commentary about the national security components of border security and immigration law enforcement.

Within the commentary I referenced an important article that appears on the FBI website about how, during WWII, the U.S. Coast Guard and the FBI worked cooperatively to thwart a Nazi plot to enable Nazi saboteurs to enter the United States to destroy factories that were producing weapons and other key products to assist the Allies.

The Importance of Securing America's Borders

Today, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and with increasing presence of transnational gangs and drug trafficking cartel members in the United States, America's borders have never been more important and the failures to secure those borders and effectively enforce and administer the immigration laws have never been of greater importance, yet the current administration is failing at securing the borders and has done nothing to enhance the integrity to the system by which applications for immigration benefits and, in fact, has made an utter mockery of that entire system by providing employment authorization to potentially millions of illegal alien "DREAMERS...."

In addition to creating a national security nightmare by providing terrorists with an opportunity to game this program and acquire brand new "clean" identities, these failures are also creating unfair and illegal competition for American workers of every race, religion and ethnicity. Indeed, the unemployment and poverty...
rates are highest among American minorities!

American workers are not only facing unfair and illegal competition from illegal aliens who evade the inspections process but by aliens who successfully game the visa process.

On April 30, 2009, the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on Immigration conducted a hearing on the topic: "Comprehensive Immigration Reform in 2009, Can We Do It and How?" Among the witnesses called to testify before that hearing was [economist and former Federal Reserve chairman] Alan Greenspan, arguably one of the key architects of the economic crisis, who stated:

... The second bonus (in accelerating the influx of skilled immigrant workers) would address the increasing concentration of income in this country. Greatly expanding our quotas for the highly skilled would lower wage premiums of skilled over lesser skilled. Skill shortages in America exist because we are shielding our skilled labor force from world competition. Quotas have been substituted for the wage pricing mechanism. In the process, we have created a privileged elite whose incomes are being supported at non-competitively high levels by immigration quotas on skilled professionals. Eliminating such restrictions would reduce at least some of our income inequality.

Clearly Greenspan demonstrated unmitigated chutzpah, referring to skilled Americans as the "privileged elite!" His infuriating goal of reducing skill-based income inequality is nothing short of anti-American in both ways of interpreting that statement. It flies in the face of the American dream and would serve to pull the floor out from under American middle class workers and their families!

When the fans watching a baseball game disagree with the call of an umpire they are likely to yell, "Throw the bum out!"

Think of that simple, yet direct four word phrase on Election Day if you determine that the candidate for office for whom you are voting has failed to be fair to American workers and their families.

Footnotes

1. The author refers to the DREAM Act, in which illegal immigrants who arrived before they were sixteen years old are allowed to apply for permanent resident status. They must have lived in the United States for five consecutive years, have served in the US military if they are men, have graduated from high school, and be of good moral character.

Further Readings

Books


**Periodicals and Internet Sources**

• Edward Alden and Bryan Roberts "Are U.S. Borders Secure?" *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2011.

• Greg Beato "Big Brother's Border Blindness: After 15 Years and Hundreds of Billions of Dollars, the Virtual Border Fence Is Still Just a Mirage," *Reason*, December 2012.


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