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MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE[©]

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Welcome to the second issue of *Matters of Conscience* and the continuation of our discussion of the Immigration/Population issue. But first, we have two important announcements:

DELIVERIES

In April we sent you our first issue on a complimentary basis. To keep our distribution cost as low as possible we employed the US Postal Service's bulk mail system, which turned out to be most unsatisfactory. We found that delivery could take from one to four weeks and, even more disappointing, that a precisely unknown, but statistically significant, number of copies were never delivered. Consequently, we are now using first class mail.

CHARGES

Because of the above, this issue is, like the first one, being sent to you without charge. If you did not receive the first issue, we will be happy to send you another. Just place a check mark at the line on the subscription form (see last page) instructing us to do this.

For those who have become subscribers we offer appreciation of your support. For those who have not subscribed, we urge you to do so in order to continue to receive *Matters of Conscience*, as it is our policy to offer no more than two free issues to prospective subscribers.

IMMIGRATION/POPULATION — PART 2

In our prior comments on Immigration/Population we explored its background and history, its political status today, world and national trends that have exacerbated the problem and the forces both within and without our government that seek to control the issue.

In this letter we will deal with some of the more specific effects, including the direct and indirect costs of our government's high immigration policies over the past four decades upon various aspects of our national and individual lives.

And we will identify and explore extensive betrayals of the public's trust on the part of both government and private institutions in their approach to and treatment of the Immigration/Population issue. One reason that we selected the

Immigration/Population topic for our first two issues is that it so clearly reflects the failure of institutional responsibility that has spread throughout our society.

Again, our editorial direction is independent of either major political party and has no ties to any corporate or political sponsors. In our comments we hope to inform our readers of certain issues and circumstances that we view as in need of objective evaluation and participation by a growing segment of our population.

We reiterate that our only revenues come from subscriptions and/or voluntary contributions that are at this time not tax-deductible. We have included brief biographical notes concerning the principals of C.P.C. at the end of this issue.

FROM COLONY TO COLOSSUS

As America enters the 21st Century it faces an array of changed circumstances and values throughout the world that very seriously challenge the beliefs and ethics that have guided us through our last two centuries of astonishing growth in power and importance. From separate, struggling colonies, to joined independence, to the world's only superpower in a brief four hundred years, is the equivalent of politically and economically moving at the speed of light.

Given such a breath-taking ascent, it is easy to lose sight of our origins without which we are quite likely to share the fate of other previous dominant world powers, no matter how much our technology now favors us. It will be one of M.O.C.'s continuing themes that in threshold twenty-first century America threat and risk can be as easily found at home as abroad.

* * *

Our first letter introduced some of the history of the Immigration/Population issue in America and identified attitudes and forces that come together to make it such an emotionally and politically divisive issue. One might think that, where emotions and politics are so clearly and

strongly joined, a vigorous public debate would take place, especially given the fact that, over the past two decades, various groups have conducted consumer polls to measure public opinion on immigration policy and its implementation, or lack thereof. As a general summary, it appears that these polls indicate that approximately 70% of those questioned have favored reducing immigration to a replacement level at which arrivals and deaths/departures are brought into balance. In recent years, as security and cost considerations have increased, more people have expressed their preference for terminating the nation's acceptance and encouragement of mass immigration so that today slightly more than 75% of Americans are seen to favor reduced immigration and 58% support the admission of less than 300,000 immigrants annually.¹

We have stated our concern that America is increasingly witnessing a broad failure by many of its institutions to protect the public, and the Immigration/Population issue provides a clear example of this pattern on the part of:

- 1) The Two Major Political Parties – Both Republicans and Democrats spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually in print, broadcast, direct mail and personal appearances to identify issues and to present policies to voters at the federal, state and local levels that they think will command the voters' support/approval. With the exception of Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO), we are unaware of any candidate who has embraced the immigration issue and sought voter response, even though polls show it has high resonance with voters throughout the country.
- 2) The Media – one of the key factors in the success of the American democratic experience has been the growth and presence of a free, investigative press. While at times given to excess, it has generally succeeded in times of both war and peace in throwing light into dark corners and protecting the public interest. Today, in the matter of immigration that tradition is subject to challenge, if not outright denial. Since our first televised presidential debate between President Nixon and Senator John F. Kennedy, this campaign technique has been extended to vice-presidential candidates, governors, the Congress and even local offices. To provide an impression of both competence and fairness most of those chosen to moderate the debates have been professional broadcast or print journalists. And yet we have no recollection of any attempt by participants or their questioners to introduce the subject in a meaningful way.

This refusal by candidates to present the issue and by the media to seek to report it suggests a conspiracy of silence and clear evidence of institutional failure in both government and the

private sector – a failure even more pronounced when one recalls that opinion polls reveal a strong preference in immigration matters for a policy that runs counter to the actions of both political parties.

* * *

While national policies and legislation are conceived and established in the comfort of the White House, Congressional offices, lobbyist firms and departmental offices, their effects are largely felt in local areas, a long way from Washington, by individuals and/or groups whose motive power provides both the country's internal strength and the image by which we view ourselves and, in turn, are viewed by others around the world.

Government policy plays out locally in two ways – in benefits and in costs. There is no exception, as there are always those who feel the impact of government action differently, as, for example, the rise or decline in an interest rate or the price of a commodity.

However, in a country with an economy as large and varied as ours, the full effects of government policy/legislation are neither always known, nor intended to be known, in advance, with the result that, as policy plays out and increasingly reveals its impact, many of its less than desirable (or anticipated) effects have become locked in, and beyond the reach of individuals and localities to seek relief or to take corrective action.

In this issue we will identify some of the unlooked for and unfortunate costs of current immigration policy to various segments of our society. One of the problems posed by our political process today is that, as America has grown and prospered, the amounts of money required to support and fuel our economy have reached levels that have no reality to the general public. Figures in the hundreds of millions, billions and trillions of dollars are ones which the average citizen cannot readily comprehend, as he/she has never had the experience of spending, earning, saving or managing these amounts.

The tendency to view abstractly a figure with nine zeros following it is commonplace. Read/listen and pass on; a billion is a billion. But the key step is to realize that a billion is 1,000 times one million, and our ability to make this connection becomes more remote as time passes. And government itself is more remote, as it is isolated by its sole occupancy of the District of Columbia and by the enormous proliferation of government services and structure.

Quickly now, a billion is 1,000 times a million; a trillion is 1,000 times a billion, or a million times a million. And remember, we're talking dollars.

In presenting cost figures, we are largely limited to the total, multi-zero, million-billion-trillion numbers preferred by government sources, but have also provided, where possible, the more personally relevant per capita or household bases.

LABOR UNIONS AND NON-AGRICULTURAL HOURLY WAGE WORKERS

As America's population and territory expanded in the nineteenth century, it experienced a gradual and then more pronounced transformation, fueled by an increasing demand for goods and services, from a basically agrarian economy and society to a more industrial and urban base. With the acceleration of the resultant economic and social change in the latter part of the century, the American labor movement emerged from the working conditions that existed in the mines and the industrial manufacturing and processing plants that were becoming the industrial backbone of the nation.

And when Samuel Gompers formed the American Federation of Labor just prior to the turn of the century, the American labor union was created in a form that is still recognizable today. In the first 50 years of growth, progress was uneven at best, as some managements were far more resistant to the concept of workers rights than others. Strikes became labor's weapon of choice by which union contracts, and goals, could be achieved and these contracts were often written in the language of violence and inked in blood.

As labor was a key element and cost factor in the industrial process, its control and the exercise of its power set the stage for an extended struggle between labor and capital which continues today in more moderate and mature terms and times. However, regardless of the excesses on both sides, over the first century of its existence the labor union movement in America provided its members with growing compensation in both dollars and dignity that they would have been unlikely to obtain without determined, and sometimes militant, organization.

The birth and early years of the labor movement came at a time of high immigration for the U.S. This, of course, translated into additional competition for the unions over the jobs and wages that were available and, as a result, labor consistently opposed anything other than modest, necessary levels of immigration throughout its first century of existence.

In the latter part of the twentieth century labor unions began to show signs of decline due to a combination of circumstances. Basic technology advances throughout our economy led to widespread automation and, consequently, the need for fewer workers. In addition, the mix of the labor force underwent a significant change as it began to include more women and part time workers in significant numbers.

Management's search for profits could not fail to focus on the many areas of economic underdevelopment around the world where wages were only a fraction of those established by our years

of prosperity and our resultant high standard of living. U.S. plants with high labor costs were closed and manufacturing contracts established in developing countries with the finished products then being shipped either back to the U.S. for the home market or to other international markets. As the change in manufacturing patterns called for an accompanying change in capital flows, the process of globalization was, like the genie from the bottle, let loose.

When brief or mild periods of recession struck the nation's economy in the last quarter of the twentieth century, many businesses saw further need to cut their costs and embarked upon a course of downsizing by employing outside contract services or part time help rather than in-house, fixed-hour workers.

The unions' position, then, at the end of the last century was challenged in every direction – technology, change in labor force, shift to overseas manufacturing, downsizing, part time workers and independent contractors, globalization, government supervision of union practices – all of which combined to produce a persistent decline in membership and revenues. In view of the latter, some observers began to openly raise the question of their relevance.

The stage was set for one of the great institutional

“one of the great institutional betrayals of our time”

betrayals of our time, and with the passage of NAFTA in the early '90s with union support, the first shoe dropped. The second shoe followed, again with vigorous union backing, when Congress approved our joining the World Trade Organization. And, finally, three years later the AFL-CIO passed a resolution that both opposed sanctions against employers of undocumented immigrants and supported amnesty for all resident illegals. It did so because it saw the admission of low or unskilled immigrant laborers as the only continuing source from which it could obtain the new members upon which organized labor depends.

Recap: The American union movement was able to survive both the appalling violence of its organizational strikes and the near-fatal agony of the Great Depression and then perform the incredible production miracle of WWII. Throughout these years it had to fight on two fronts – against reluctant management and against non-union labor. It had to endure more than its share of criminally corrupt managers at both the local and national levels, including outright mafia members, but managed over the half century since WWII to make steady progress in polishing both its management skills and public image.

However, faced with the structural and

economic changes in American industry and the domestic labor market, union management dropped its third shoe. In an effort to avoid any further loss of its dwindling revenues and political powers it exercised its considerable political muscle, especially in the Democratic party, in favor of high immigration in the belief that the influx of largely third-world, low cost labor would provide a new and steady source for membership recruitment. From this moment on, union workers would fight on three fronts – against corporate management, against non-union workers and against their own managers who are supported by, and have control of, their dues. In all fairness, it can be argued that they deserve better.

Here is a classic case of institutional betrayal for money and power with the resulting economic costs clearly identified with mass immigration policies.

Today these policies are believed to cost American labor \$152 billion² annually in wage depression and lost jobs with an estimated 1.8 million workers³ suffering displacement. Like many numbers that deal with economics or other social sciences, whether derived from government or academic sources, they can vary considerably. Generally, however, they reach agreement in calling attention to the existence of an issue that has grown to a size that warrants public attention and action. Given the social and economic costs of the figures cited here, it is most unfortunate that they have not been acknowledged or engaged in public political debate.

And we should constantly keep in mind that, no matter what kind or amount of immigration costs we cite, they derive from this underlying fact:

Well over one million legal immigrants (approximately 1.5 million in 2001) and over 500,000 illegals settle in the US annually⁴; that these high rates are the result of policy decisions by our elected representatives; and that these numbers are by no means anomalous, but have been allowed and encouraged over a period of almost 40 years.

With the country's population now estimated at 291 million and with an annual increase of 1.1%, it is expected to exceed 500 million by 2050 and one billion by 2100⁵.

The addition of two million immigrants, or more, to the US population base on a continuing basis sets in motion a process that is as predictable to those willing to see it as it is harmful to low wage native workers. In considering immigrant labor's impact we must recognize that, although there are exceptions, as a group most of its members are severely limited in education and developed skills, including the ability to read or write, and their use of the English language does not extend very far beyond questions and answers regarding basic needs. Accordingly, they are usually assigned statistically to the "unskilled labor" category where

they compete with native unskilled citizens for what jobs are available.

As immigration and population have increased, and as the nation's economy has grown and shifted to high-tech and service related functions, the unskilled labor market has become a bitter battlefield for jobs that are shrinking in number. This reduction in the supply of jobs would be a matter of concern even if the demand for them remained static, but with the demand expanding by the addition of mass immigration, the pool of workers increasingly outnumbers the jobs available, and the immutable law of supply and demand exercises its power of adjustment by lowering the wage at which labor will work.

From both a sociological and an economic perspective, this is a most worrisome development because the wage level is effectively reduced for both native and immigrant workers alike. In the next decade, if present immigration levels persist, we will add at least twenty million more unskilled job seekers to our labor force whose presence can only be accommodated by lowered wages or increased government support, or a combination of the two.

The reduction in unskilled labor's wage rate is a cruel deception for both native and immigrant workers at the lowest level of our economy, and the increase in government support places an additional burden upon all taxpayers. In any event, this process cannot help but create a growing subclass at the poverty level (below the minimum wage) within our society.

* * *

We should not allow ourselves the comfort of thinking that major worker/wage disparities are confined to the lowest economic level of our society. Far from it; as a close look reveals that there are parallel actions taking place in other sectors that provide ample reason for concern.

In the medical community, for instance, hospitals conduct regular recruitment programs to bring doctors for training and employment from Pakistan, India, Egypt, Bangladesh, the Caribbean and other third world areas because they can be hired at a substantial savings in wages. Sometimes the economic motive is so pronounced that doctors serve in the US who have only a limited capability to speak English.

The corporate world, too, has joined the race to shave costs by replacing American workers with foreign ones. This process is referred to as "off-shoring" and takes two forms, the first of which is importing cheap foreign technical and scientific personnel under government programs such as L-1 and H1-B which permit specific numbers under certain circumstances. Often it turns out that the claims made to qualify under these programs are false, but there is no rigorous and effective means

of enforcement, nor penalties likely to assure compliance.

Today in the US there are thousands of unemployed middle-management and middle-aged workers who, after years of service, have been terminated to make way for younger and cheaper replacements. In many cases, instead of receiving a gold watch, the departing worker is instructed to train his replacement!

The other side of the cost-cutting coin is, of course, to transfer complete departments, divisions or corporate functions from US to foreign soil. Customer service, technical assistance and computer operations are just a few of the areas, in addition to production, that are being moved off-shore by some of our largest and most consumer-oriented employers.

India has taken the lead in establishing a service industry within its borders to satisfy the employment requirements of large US companies. A computer industry job in the US with a \$66,000 salary has been filled in India for \$6,000.⁶ Other examples are not quite as pronounced, but it appears that workers in this home-grown Indian industry can be expected to be paid a rate roughly 20-30% of US compensation with an equal, if not greater, decrease in health and retirement benefits.

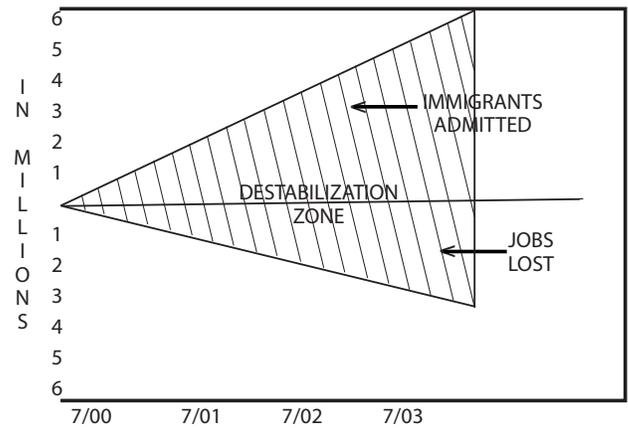
“A computer industry job in the US with a \$66,000 salary has been filled in India for \$6,000 ”

It is not surprising that both India and US corporations have developed a sensitivity to criticism of the “off-shoring” practice. In Indian schools and training programs, prospective workers in these positions are taught to speak colloquial English with an American accent to disguise their native speech. Could it be that the clipped, colonial English, with its musical inflections, that is found throughout the area of the Victorian British empire from the Caribbean to South China Sea has taken its first tiny, but perhaps fatal, step towards Americanization?

And there is evidence that corporate America may also sense a public stigma for its part in “off-shoring”, as some customer service operators located in India have been instructed not to reveal their location if queried. A twinge of conscience, perhaps, but most probably a brief one.

* * *

We have digressed a bit, but not without purpose. We must return to the effect of mass immigration at the low wage, unskilled labor levels. Then we must factor into our national expectancy the loss of jobs in the service sector of the economy with the addition of more immigrant workers for white and blue collar jobs. A graph showing the relation between immigration and jobs available for the past three years follows:



Immigration/Population figures are projectable as we can see in the Balance chart(see pg. 8). The projection of jobs available becomes far less certain, being based to a large degree on government expectations, but we do know that in the three year period from July 2000-2003, 2.7 million industrial jobs, mostly higher paying, were lost.⁷ We have added an additional 300,000, or 10%, to reflect jobs lost in service and other areas.

Note that the Immigration/Population growth rate is expressed in the millions while periodic government press releases cite job creation in the thousands, but the real truth of our graph is in its underlying circumstances and the relative direction of the two forces. The growing separation between the two forces, which appears as the shaded area marked “destabilization zone”, is cause for real concern.

\$PEAKING IN MANY TONGUES\$ — THE COST OF MULTILINGUALISM IN THE USA

Shortly before leaving office in late 2000, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13166 mandating that all government agencies and/or federally funded groups print all documents in multiple foreign languages and provide translators for persons unable to speak English. The prime target group to benefit by this order was, of course, the growing number of legal and illegal immigrants continuously entering the country. To grasp the breadth of application of this order one must recognize that it included the activities of the IRS, DOT, Social Security Administration, the INS, Department of Justice and others.

To further understand the scope of EO 13166, and its cost to the government (i.e., the American taxpayer), there are over 329 languages spoken in the US⁸. A recent government Notice of Interpretation Services announces the availability of interpreters at no charge for those who can't speak English or suffer from impaired hearing or sight. This notice appears in English and nine other languages – Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong,

Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese – employing 7 different alphabets. It concludes with “other languages are available on request”.⁹

The true and extensive cost imposed by this venture into multilingual service on demand now begins to become apparent. Consider, as a start, these:

- 1) The Congressional Budget Office estimates the annual implementation cost of EO 13166 for INS matters as \$114 - \$150 million.¹⁰
- 2) For health care costs:
 - a. Out-patient services \$180.8 million
 - b. In-patient services \$ 78.2 million
 - c. Emergency Room services \$ 8.6 millionTotal¹¹ \$267.6 million
- 3) Welfare/Food Stamp Offices¹¹ — \$22.9 million
- 4) No figures are available for the cost to states of multilingual services, but 44 states and the D.C. area offer driver’s license exams in languages other than English – MA in 25, KY in 23, NY in 22 and CA in 21, as examples.¹²
- 5) Electoral Ballots – Again, no national figures are available as many voting center costs are assumed by state/county organizations, but federal law requires that foreign language ballots be provided in over 1,000 polling places in the U.S.¹³ Los Angeles, for instance, offers translation in seven languages.¹⁴

From the above, it is not unreasonable to assume that the total annual cost for multilingual government (local, state and federal) services could approach, and perhaps exceed, a billion dollars. EO 13166 could easily be cancelled, modified or replaced by the same means by which it came into being – namely, an executive order – but the Bush administration has shown no inclination to do so.

A bill (H.R.300) to repeal EO 13166 has been introduced by Representative King (NY-3) and has attracted over 60 co-sponsors. Also, there has been discussion, both within and without the government, of a movement to strike down the Clinton order by a constitutional amendment that, admittedly, appears unlikely. In either event, only time will tell, although in this case there may be no fast track – only slow and slower.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Not all areas of immigration impact are as well documented as EO 13166’s mandated multilingualism. As a matter of fact, very few are, but even without specific dollar figures, their costs to our country and nation are clear and substantial.

One of these areas is our national security, which

is subject to being continuously compromised by both insufficient legislation to prevent effective immigration controls and lax enforcement of those laws that exist.

From an immigration perspective, America is in a difficult position. It has a long coastline that invites illegal penetration. On the north, it shares with Canada the longest unmanned national land border in the world. Because of its peaceful relations with Canada, this boundary has not posed a security threat to the U.S., but Canada’s own immigration law and policies, in order to encourage settlement, have become so generous that they challenge the concept of prompt and efficient security administration.

This, of course, has created an ideal opportunity for groups or individuals wishing to gain illegal access to the USA to first come to Canada, establish residence there and then attempt to enter the US at some point between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Good fortune and alert guard actions have enabled us to track and apprehend some terrorists with the intent and capability of causing major public damage, but there are probably many more who have escaped detection and are now here to observe, plot and await their moment of action.

To the south our land boundary is shared with Mexico, which has the exact reverse of Canada’s population problem. Lacking sufficient jobs or income to support its high fertility population, it must export to the US as many of its citizens as possible, thereby reducing its social support expenses and creating a revenue flow into Mexico from those who obtain employment in the US and remit funds to their families in Mexico.

The fertility factor in Mexico has been complicated by the Catholic Church’s practice of limiting its education to one child per family.

America’s immigrant population was reported in 2002 as being 33.1 million, of which 9.7 million (or about 30%) were of Mexican origin.¹⁵ This percentage is over 6 times that of second place China/Hong Kong/Taiwan’s 4.5% and clearly illustrates, by its uncontested dominance, that no meaningful resolution of our immigration problem can be achieved without a significant reduction in the inflow across our southern border. Actually, this flow is larger than the numbers for Mexico indicate, as Mexico acts as a conduit for immigrants from Central and Latin America and, recognizing the futility of trying to seal its southern border, passes them through to ours as expeditiously as possible.

Given the lack of funding and adequate enforcement personnel that have dominated our government’s treatment of the Mexican border problem, it is not surprising that foreign groups and/or individuals with sinister intent should recognize its appeal as an efficient avenue of access. Recently, apprehensions of several Al-Qaeda members and another Arab group carrying false ID documents occurred, and it was determined that

one of the Al-Qaeda targets was the presidential ranch in Texas.

However, it is not only our political and physical security that is at risk at our Mexican border, as much of the drug production from South America and other growing areas is funneled through Mexico and actually distributed by the extremely powerful, violent and well-protected Mexican drug smugglers.

Occasionally, we are treated to political announcements about winning the “drug war”, but that is a misnomer of scale that implies a far broader battle and commitment than actually exists. What we do have is an immense demand for drugs now throughout the country that is being met by mostly offshore producers willing to take the risk of dealing in prohibited substances.

From executives in LA or NYC to inner-city teenagers, drugs are the substance of choice for contemplating and confessing our sad and hollowed culture. But it is no longer just the cities that make the market for the drug pushers. Nothing succeeds like success and in America at the turn of this century there is no bigger success story than drug use.

“for contemplating and confessing our sad and hollowed culture”

* * *

Until recently there was a law in effect that motor vehicles registered in Mexico were not allowed, after entering the US, to penetrate more than 200 miles from the border. This meant that Mexican vehicles carrying drugs had to stop and transfer their cargo to vehicles of American registration. As each transfer carried with it the threat of detection, and border enforcement was casual, larger Mexican vehicles were used for entry and the cargo then divided among smaller trucks/cars to carry it to the interior.

The law limiting the use of Mexican vehicles to 200 miles from the border was cancelled by President Bush, probably at the request of President Fox of Mexico, who has visions of a North America without borders. The effect on the drug trade could be dramatic. By eliminating the US transfer, drugs can now be packed once in Mexico and directed to their ultimate destination. And more smaller vehicles carrying smaller loads means less chance of detection at the border and, if caught, a smaller loss.

Get ready, Smalltown USA; it’s party time and your turn! The soldiers who fight the drug war in the streets and bars do brave and dangerous work, but are greatly outnumbered by the growers/dealers enticed by the high profits they can earn. No matter how many politicians or press releases report that we are “winning the drug war”, it will not and cannot be won until we significantly reduce

the demand. Unfortunately, immigrants on foot, or in cars or airplanes, are often used as carriers, sometimes with their knowledge and sometimes without. It is another incalculable, but real security cost of mass immigration policies.

An additional risk-bearing aspect of President Bush’s suspension of the restriction of the operation of Mexican vehicles to 200 miles from the border is that these cars and trucks and their operators, insurers and repair facilities are not subject to the same licensing and safety regulations as American-owned vehicles. It is thought by many engaged in highway safety programs and administration to be only a matter of time before this discrepancy causes an increase in roadway accidents and fatalities, as well as the somewhat problematical litigation that would follow. And it is certain that, once such accidents achieve a level of statistical recognition, premium rates will be raised to reflect the new risk element.

National security is a broad term that includes many aspects and problems of our national life. Its simplest definition might be that it is concerned with the forces and activities, both domestic and foreign, that can cause our country serious damage and/or expense. With or without a dollar price tag, terrorism, drugs and the persistent addition of unregulated, undocumented and unmonitored populations now regularly test and threaten the sense of security that we had developed over many years and that, until recently, we had come to take for granted.

September 11 and its aftermath have proven once again that the immigration process cannot be successful if conducted episodically. As it is a continuum, which requires regulation, documentation and monitoring at every stage, its integrity must be maintained throughout the process. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) many of the separate government agencies involved in immigration administration and enforcement have been gathered into one entity. In order for the DHS to fulfill its mandate to provide the country with an effective and acceptable level of security, it will have to vigorously enforce the present laws and, perhaps, request new ones from the Congress. Congress has an oversight (not overlook) function regarding national security and it is quite likely that increased attention will be directed at how it performs this role in coming years – especially if it is subject to continuing pressure by an informed and aroused electorate.

THE ENVIRONMENT

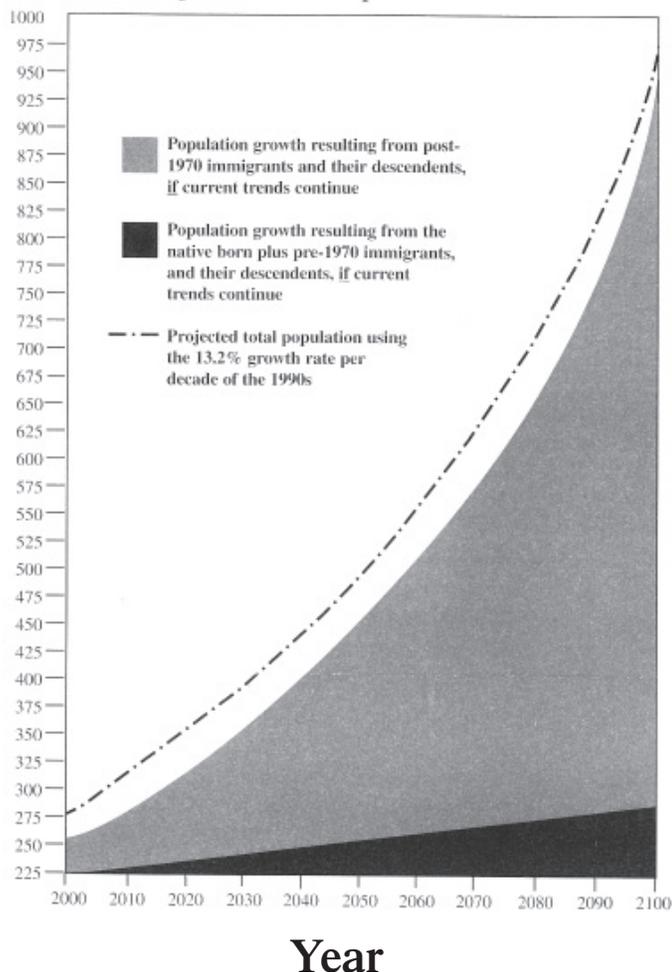
Another area of our life that is severely impacted by the Immigration/Population issue is our physical environment. Because of the many layers of interaction (chemical, economic, agricultural, public health, etc.) there is no single cost figure or formula that can state this impact in capsule form,

but it is certain that Immigration/Population, as it has developed over the past fifty years, has reached a point in time and consequence at which both the safety and integrity of our natural environment is challenged.

In using the word “environment” we have come to mean all forces, actions, substances and resources with which we individually and collectively are in contact. It is a massively inclusive word referring to things as disparate as the ubiquitous air we breathe; the great Brazilian rainforest; tiny forms of plant or marine life found in coastal wetlands; and the vast stretches of the seas that surround us and that determine our weather patterns, food supply and, therefore, the very existence of life as we understand it.

Perhaps the two most important natural resources upon which Immigration/Population has a crucial impact are water and land, and it is important to remember that immigration has become the dominant component of our recent past and projected future population growth. To illustrate this we have included the chart from Balance that appeared in our first issue.

U.S.A. - One Billion in 2100?
Projected U.S. Population Growth



Population - Environment Balance
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Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (202) 955-5700 Fax: (202) 955-6161
Email: uspop@us.net Website: www.balance.org

It is unrealistic to think that the kind of population growth shown in this chart will not bear directly upon the availability of land and water. Arable land in the next sixty years has been projected, if present trends continue, to be reduced from our present supply of 470 million acres by 120 million acres, or about 25%, to 350 million acres. This reduced acreage will, of course, have to feed a substantially larger population estimated at 600 million.¹⁶

On a per capita basis our current 1.6 acres of arable land are estimated to shrink to 0.6 in the next half century. This is about half of the 1.2 acres now considered necessary to provide a balanced diet.¹⁷

The figures for water are even more alarming, as subsurface aquifers are being drained at a national average rate of 25% faster than they are filled.¹⁸ In some of our larger and more important aquifers in great plains states between the Rockies and the Mississippi River, this depletion rate is at 30% or more. And in Arizona, groundwater resources are being depleted on average 10 times faster than their recharge rates.¹⁹

Drought conditions have become an accepted part of life in America in recent years in the plains states, but we must note that there are two very different ways of defining “drought”. The more specific way is to cite a specific level of precipitation – i.e. less than X inches of rainfall per year for a period long enough to damage or destroy plant life. A less specific, but perhaps becoming more common, use of “drought” refers to circumstances in which the water supply is unable to meet the demand upon it. Accordingly, in areas that have long enjoyed a stable water supply sufficient to the needs of the population, a rapid and/or large expansion of the population by itself can bring about drought conditions through steeply increased depletion of the supply.

Evidence of other threats to our environment can be found in flora and fauna that arrive without detection to compete with, and sometimes destroy, our native species. Annual expenditures to combat these aggressors are estimated at \$137 billion.²⁰

Vanishing rainforest species, shifting jet streams, stratospheric weather patterns and stress on tidal organisms flushing through wetlands are not easily observable and do not consistently command our attention. But each day the most noticeable form of environmental assault takes place in our full view. It is the population-driven expansion of highways, housing, schools, malls and commercial construction with its accompanying need for ever more parking space. It is relentless and will continue to be so as long as we are embarked upon a course of rapidly increasing population.

Look around you in or near any town or city (and even in rural areas) in the US and you will see construction projects where highly specialized

machines are engaged in tearing, cutting, pounding, pushing and penetrating the planet's surface. In an act that resonates with hubris and Freudian overtones these machines bear names such as "Cat", "Deere" and "Bobcat" and are marketed as supposedly having some of the characteristics of their victims whose habitats are being appropriated. Perhaps, when all is done, these mechanical Caterpillars, Deeres and Bobcats will be the sole surviving species.

BEWARE THE GRECIAN IDYLL

In Greece's golden age about 2500 years ago, the Greek isles were described as a verdant paradise. Today they are largely a rocky, barren and baked landscape with little to suggest its former, pleasantly habitable state. What happened?

Greece's location at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean between Asia and Europe provided it with great trade advantages which were successfully exploited by its intelligent and energetic society. The primary means of transportation available to engage in trade and to provide travel along Greece's extensive coastline and among its numerous islands was the boat. To build boats (and to a lesser degree, houses) the Grecians, over an extended period, denuded their country of its natural tree cover which, by removing shade areas, raised the ground temperature sufficiently to discourage rainfall and, as moisture moved elsewhere, and heat and sun exposure persisted, plant life, with the exception of those varieties able to exist in an arid environment, declined in both size and number.

The early Greeks were one of the most advanced civilizations of their time, but, in spite of their notable achievements in mathematics, architecture, poetry, drama, sculpture, painting, trade and politics, they probably had no real knowledge of the causal relationship between ground temperature and precipitation and were, therefore, unable to recognize their ship building program as an environmental cautionary tale which, of course, looking back, it was.

Times were good then for the Greeks and there may well have been a greed factor at work, but in view of their other accomplishments and political sophistication, we are entitled to believe that, had they possessed this key climatic connection, they would have intervened and averted this particular tragedy.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In public health the recent SARS epidemic imported from China and the appearance of West Nile virus and other exotic diseases have provided clear evidence of how quickly and widely disease can spread in the jet age. SARS, of course, involved

a new infectious agent which required time to identify in order to develop treatment procedures. But not all our health threats are new, as the Center for Disease Control has reported a resurgence of measles and tuberculosis with the latter appearing in new, antibiotic resistant forms. Both of these illnesses had been targets of highly concentrated and successful eradication programs in the US, and their reappearance is viewed by the CDC as the result of exposure to foreign sources. Greatly increased global travel without health testing of any kind is just one unfortunate by-product of the globalization and mass immigration processes.

BORDER AREA PRIVATE SECURITY

Along the southern borders of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona a silent war is being waged between illegal immigrants from Mexico and the landowners over whose property they must cross to reach the interior of the nation. We use the word "silent" because there is very little coverage of this conflict by the national media even though property and lives are being decimated on a daily, or rather nightly, basis.

For each night, as darkness falls, the movement of illegals commences. Evidence of their presence is found in abandoned camps, polluted wells, human waste, severed fences and pipelines, injured livestock and trails of discarded plastic utensils and containers.

This physical menace is bad enough, but the mood is even meaner. Groups of illegals constantly threaten land owners with personal violence and, in sparse and arid ranch land where population is thinly spread and the nearest neighbor can be miles away, such threats are not seen to be idle. Today most border ranchers exist on an armed alert basis and have formed patrol groups to respond to calls for help and/or to contain potentially dangerous confrontations. These patrols have been able to apprehend illegals found to be trespassing or threatening property owners and have turned the offenders over to local law enforcement officers such as sheriffs or police. Unfortunately, that's where the matter usually ends, as the dominant culture and population in the border areas are hispanic, and detainees are most often released. The INS escapes its responsibility by claiming it has insufficient funds and facilities to accept custody.

This is a tinderbox situation marked by anger and resentment on both sides and quite capable of exploding into violence at any moment. Last summer that capability became reality when Kris Eggle, a US Park Service Ranger at Organ Pipe National Monument in southern Arizona, was killed by fire from an AK-47 wielded by Mexican drug dealers who operate in Organ Pipe with more freedom and regularity than one might think appropriate. Interceptions at Organ Pipe last year

amounted to approximately 200,000 border crossers and 700,000 pounds of drugs.²¹

Kris Eggle's murder is not the only violent incident that has occurred on our southern border. There have been others, frequently involving Mexican armed forces who claim to be in pursuit of drug dealers but actually serve as their protectors. Their incursions are brazen and, although reported by American citizens, have yet to bring about any effort at curtailment from Washington.

It is quite probable that you, like most Americans, are unaware of the murder of Kris Eggle or of the use of Mexican armed forces within our borders to support illegal immigration and drug trading. These constitute serious violations of both domestic and international laws and, if known, could have an inflammatory effect upon the American public with consequent diplomatic and political fall-out.

These are important events that have the capability of completely altering the public perception of immigration and security, and they make big stories. But the national media continue their policy of selective coverage in defense of open borders and mass immigration. Imagine if you will, or can, what their coverage might have been if the roles were reversed, if our armed forces frequently invaded Mexican sovereign territory and, in the process, had killed a Mexican public agency employee!

To those who live on our southern border the benefits of our open borders policy have been few and the costs many. Originally they benefited from a stable and low cost labor supply, but today the stability is gone and costs have increased greatly due to the need for growing investment in security for both livestock and people. On the other side, the psychological border, the costs are not measurable in dollars, but erode the self and soul. The need to illuminate the house at night, to keep all gates locked, to build walls, to have armed weapons on hand, to feel an alien in your own land, to know that you are being invaded each night and that it will continue tomorrow and the next day and the next without relief, and to see and feel the anger and resentment of those who have come to believe that your land is their land and that it will be returned to them – all these are very real, painful and life-changing costs which are being born by ranchers and farmers along our border with Mexico some of whose families have worked their land for several generations.

One cannot help but question how such a small number of southern border citizens can absorb so much of the pain of our national open borders policy without the rest of the country being informed of the circumstances there, but it is consistent with many government agencies, both here and elsewhere, to protect the policy at the expense of its results.

PEELING ONIONS.

Not all the costs of our immigration problem derive from readily visible or equally shared sources. Our legislation and its application have endured a complex and sometimes bitter political passage with the result that they contain many hiding places for special interests. Lift one layer and you are likely to find beneath it another provision or exclusion inserted for the benefit of specific constituencies. Our immigration law has grown into a warren of political tunnels and caverns increasingly distancing itself from the firm ground of logic and the open air of rational discussion. Left to its present course, the scope of the problem, and our involvement in it, are bound to increase, to elevate political pressures to the level where no effective solution will be found and to cause a wide and deep fragmentation of our society. The line of division, already begun, will be drawn between those who view our immigration law as designed to protect the country's borders and citizens and those who interpret it as an accommodation to those from other countries wishing to change their residence and citizenship.

This philosophical fault line has so far been kept below the surface of political discourse and campaigning, but it is highly unlikely that it can remain there much longer.

For example – the report from a former INS official²² (identity withheld for privacy concerns) who stated that Cuban refugees receive a package of benefits far more generous than those provided to other groups. These include a lump sum cash payment shortly after arrival, Medicaid benefits, food stamps, job training, housing assistance, seven-year tax-exempt status and “a bunch of other free stuff”. He points out that smugglers charge Cuban aliens between \$6,000 and \$8,000 to bring them to the US and that, as most Cubans do not have access to that amount or type of money, their fees are paid after the US government makes the lump sum cash payment so that, in effect, our government is providing taxpayer funds to support the alien smuggling operation. It would seem obvious that elimination of the cash payment for Cuban aliens would probably shut down most of this illegal human traffic.

It is little wonder that Haitians and other Caribbean immigrants, both legal and illegal, clamor to obtain the same status and treatment afforded Cubans. Finally, this source estimates that 60% of the smuggled Cuban aliens are criminals who are arrested within a year of their arrival.

From the variety of forms of assistance cited, it is probable that their funding sources are either federal or state (or a combination of both) programs. Certainly where there are federal funds there are also federal fingerprints. The existence

of these special programs for Cubans in Florida results from intense political pressure applied at state and national levels on behalf of Cubans who left Cuba and made their residence in Florida. They comprise a very active, vocal and visible group who tend to view issues ranging from local policing to national foreign policy primarily through the lens of their struggle with Castro and communism.

However, Cubans arrive and settle in relatively few states. As immigration is a federal responsibility under our constitution, it would appear both logical and fair that immigration law be written and funding distributed without special preferences so that it could apply equally and consistently to all immigrants. In our opinion this should be a priority consideration in any reform of our immigration and naturalization structure.

IMMIGRATION'S REAL NUMBERS

To arrive at the true impact of current immigration policy we must not only have available the total numbers that relate to the nation as a whole, but also the smaller, more detailed figures that apply to the individual's experience of mass immigration. We will, in effect, lop off some zeros from the trillions/billions/millions of government statistics to present numbers more manageable and meaningful to the nation's citizens.

The proponents of mass immigration invariably, at some point in defense of their position, offer the argument that "immigrants are hard workers who pay taxes" as if the fact of any payment overrode all other objections. Well, as far as paying taxes are concerned – some do, and some don't. Many work on a cash basis "off the books" and do not make any tax contributions by payroll deductions.

This is an area that has drawn the attention of Dr. Donald Huddle, noted economist from Rice University in Houston, TX. Dr. Huddle states that the net annual cost of mass immigration to American taxpayers (after including immigrant taxes paid) is \$93.2 billion.²³

Now let's indulge in some political fantasy. First we must translate that number into the cost to

"a taxpaying family of four would pay \$1,280 per year for the net cost of services to legal and illegal immigrants."

an individual citizen which, as our national population is about 291 million, comes to just a little over \$320 for every person in the country. This means that a taxpaying family of four would pay \$1,280 per year for the net cost of services to legal and illegal immigrants. Fantasy: If taxpayers were to receive a separate, itemized bill for this amount, what percent would voluntarily opt to make such a payment?

There is, of course, no "right answer" but knowledge of human nature, especially as it plays out in tax matters, suggests that the response would not be enthusiastic, or even generally positive (over 51%), given the fact that more than three out of four Americans favor reduced immigration levels.

Another glimpse into the translation of immigration's cost into individual tax payments is available from a study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences in 1997.²⁴ Not surprisingly, it stated that "immigrant-headed households use more in government services than they contribute in state and local taxes" and that "on average, immigrants earn lower incomes than natives, but have larger families, pay less in taxes and receive more public assistance".

This report also notes that California taxpayers were then paying a net annual cost for immigration related services of around \$1,200 per year which comes close to the national figure we cited above. If you can imagine another flight of fantasy for California taxpayers in which they receive a separate bill for their per capita or household share of legal and illegal immigrant services with payment on a voluntary basis, could a rush to payment be expected?

Another point made in the NAS study with a clear warning for our society is that the current high level of immigration is increasing the gap between rich and poor while at the same time reducing wages for low-income level workers. Like any other society, "the poor are always with us" and, although we are as unlikely to ever eradicate poverty as we are to completely level the economic playing field, it would appear to be in both our national social and economic interests not to introduce and foster a continuing source of low-wage competition to threaten our lower income citizens' ability to find and retain employment and to raise families without requiring government assistance.

Drs. George F. Borjas and Richard B. Freeman, both economists at Harvard University, in commenting on the NAS study, wrote:

"Low-income workers and taxpayers in immigrant states lose; those who employ immigrants or use immigrant services win, as do the immigrants themselves. The critical issue is how much we care about the well-being of immigrants compared with that of the Americans who win and the Americans who lose."²⁵

* * *

Now, still attempting to shed the load of all those zeros in national aggregate figures, we will rotate our angle of inquiry 180° from the taxpayer's to the immigrant's perspective.

In 1986, the government granted amnesty to all illegal aliens who came forth and registered. This act at the time was described as a "final" amnesty, but, of course, it has proved to be something entirely

different in both its intent and application, as its passage only served to encourage more illegal immigration in the belief that in time further amnesties would follow. And, indeed, this has proved to be true, as there have been four more since the 1986 passage.²⁶

As usual the emotions and political maneuvering over this legislation were intense with claims from both sides being made that were based more on opinion than fact. The Center for Immigration Studies chose to conduct continuing research on the effects of this amnesty and reported later that “in the first 10 years after the 1986 amnesty, the direct and indirect costs of services and benefits including schooling was more than \$78 billion – or about \$26,000 per alien.”²⁷

The \$78 billion, by the way, translates into a per capita cost of about \$268 for every man, woman and child in the US, or a little under \$1,100 per family of four.

Question: Would this legislation have passed if the public had been advised of these costs? Or, in another of our flights of political fantasy, if Congress had informed the taxpayers that they would receive individual bills for their proportional amounts?

Switching to a more local focus at the state level, recent California figures reveal that an estimated 1.1 million illegal immigrants reside in Los Angeles County where the current deficit is anticipated to be more than \$400 million. Health care provided to 2.5 million people, of which 800,000 (32%) are illegal aliens, amounts to \$350 million.²⁸ Therefore the total illegal alien cost is \$112 million, or \$140 each.

Another way of shedding zeros and achieving a different perspective is to consider the cost imposed by immigrants upon the communities where they settle for increased infrastructure such as schools, police/fire protection, highway construction, transportation services, parking facilities, water supply, sewage treatment, etc. Although these are not payments made directly to the arriving immigrants, they are ultimately billed to the US taxpayer via local taxes. It is currently estimated that the national average for “each additional person added to a community burdens local taxpayers with a public infrastructure cost of \$15,378.”²⁹

Or, “for each person added to the U.S. population, about one acre of farm or wild land is lost”³⁰, remembering that we have only a limited supply. Given, that we are experiencing an immigrant inflow of approximately two million persons annually, these land and infrastructure costs come with a high dollar price. In any event, whether measured in dollars or acres it is clear that they point to a time, not too far distant, when they will not be able to be imposed upon the public base without some form of electoral, social or economic resistance.

It is not our purpose to undertake political conversions, but rather to present issues in a way that may move the reader to new thought, action or understanding.

The Immigration/Population issue is a particularly complex one with deep social, political and economic ramifications. It is able to challenge us at multiple levels of our being and it is not unusual for people to be divided by the questions its current circumstances pose, some of which we may accept and others reject.

Yet, as with most major issues that our nation has had, and continues, to face, it is one of such urgent time and presence that it must be clearly and thoroughly put before the public without whose approval further legislation would be incomplete at best and, perhaps, even meaningless. This vital process of public exposure and debate has to date, sadly, been thwarted by the actions, or lack thereof, of the media and the two major political parties.

The judgment, if not the competence, of the Congress is called into question when it easily provides time and funding for the Baseball Hall of Fame (\$750,000), the Staten Island (NY) Soccer League (\$405,000) and a long list of similar local projects while a major issue such as Immigration/Population cries out for clearer legislation and increased funding.

Still, there is an even more dangerous and insidious effort taking place at many governmental levels to deflect public scrutiny of the Immigration/Population issue, and this is the selective enforcement, or even non-enforcement, of laws already in existence. Quite simply, there is nothing more foreign or threatening to our concept of democratic government than the practice of failing to enforce existing legislation in order to secure political advantage for our elected representatives from special interests. In the matter of Immigration/Population, selective enforcement has become accepted to a large degree by members of Congress, many federal bureaucrats and local services. It strikes equally at the heart of what we proclaim ourselves to be and at the origins of our form of government.

* * *

One can be assured that any reform of current immigration law and practice would attract concessions to local/special interests as it worked its way through Congress. The briefest exclusionary phrase can humble a whole preceding paragraph or page, and details have a way of being inserted at the end of the process that never appeared during committee discussions.

The need and potential for immigration reform is so broad that we cannot treat it comprehensively in this report, but there are a few basis changes that we think deserve recognition and support:

- 1) Declare a moratorium on mass immigration which would limit annual admission of legal immigrants to 100,000 people and would include all humanitarian admissions to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- 2) Rigorously enforce immigration restrictions and increase funding and personnel necessary to accomplish this to Border Patrol, Customs, Coast Guard, INS and other enforcement agencies. Permit use of National Guard and other military units in support of border defense.
- 3) Do not grant Social Security benefits to illegal aliens.
- 4) Prohibit government (federal, state and local) acceptance of Matricula Consular cards as valid means of identification. These cards are issued by foreign governments and only benefit illegal aliens.
- 5) Adopt strengthened, uniform security and identification standards for state-issued drivers' licenses.
- 6) Improve document security for social security and other federal documents by use of current technology to reduce fraud and do away with the extensive black market in illegal identity documents.
- 7) Increase funding and training for the cooperation between federal and local forces engaged in immigration law enforcement.
- 8) Improve the visa application system by eliminating issuance of visas by mail or by third parties and abolish the visa waiver program.
- 9) Install and maintain a functional entry/exit data collection system employing sophisticated technology and biometric elements to track visitors and record arrivals and departures.
- 10) Suspend the diversity lottery program and all family sponsored immigration except for the spouses and children of US citizens.
- 11) Prohibit the granting of in-state tuition fees to illegal immigrants, as now practiced in CA, NY, TX and UT.²⁹
- 12) Terminate special Cuban "wet foot, dry foot" policy.

This list is by no means all-inclusive, but, were all its proposals to be implemented, the nation would have a far more effective, economic and secure system to deal with the facts of immigration life as it exists in the US today.

* * *

Figures reporting large scale economic or social movements can be challenged with the reasonable assurance that there is a sufficient lack of certainty to support more than one conclusion. Often specifics of variables such as cause and effect, time, costs, etc. are simply not available on demand, and yet recognizable patterns can emerge from the

statistical mass of which they are part.

So it is with the various problems and costs we have cited in this report. You may argue a million, or a billion, here or there when referring to these numbers, but that is not the point. What cannot be contested with any degree of credibility is that mass immigration has caused a variety of economic, social, environmental and health problems which impose real costs on the nation, its citizens and our way of life.

We have attempted to quantify these costs/problems in a way that gives them personal immediacy, but their existence is far more important than their amount. And, once we acknowledge their continuing presence, it becomes increasingly less likely that they can be resolved by the call for "more of the same" from those who favor mass immigration, as it is evident that the Immigration/Population issue has the capability to overwhelm parts, if not all, of our system.

Still, this issue faces us with curious contradictions. We are the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the world, but have not been able to apply our resources to the solution of this continuing problem. We reach into outer space without being able to control our terrestrial borders. And we are a nation of almost 300 million people of whom over 200 million favor reduced immigration; yet the matter has not been open to public political debate.

The solution lies in the application of our national will, not wealth, to be recognized and honored by a majority of the 536 elected members of our national government. More specifically, action is required by our President, 51 Senators and 218 Representatives – a total of 270 people. In the coming year, approaching the 2004 election, we will have to watch closely where voices and votes will be raised in attempting to reach this threshold and, while it is too early to indicate that substantive change and progress from prior campaigns can be made, there are some small and early signs of encouragement. As is generally true in matters political, destiny will pass by before we recognize it. Exceptions are few, and all the more to be hoped for.

* * *

Our next issue will appear during December. In keeping with holiday festivities at this time of the year, we will present human foibles, follies and failures in capsule form as found in a variety of areas of our national life. Some will run from humor to outrage; others from the ironic to the incredible. Whichever, they are infrequently seen glimpses of ourselves.

And looking ahead to our first issue of 2004 (hopefully in March) we will offer our analysis of the reasons and circumstances which brought about the tragic sexual abuse scandal within the Roman Catholic Church.

A successful subscription letter requires only two things – an informed and well presented treatment of topics of interest or importance, and a growing body of subscribers willing to read, to ponder and, perhaps, even to be motivated. It is our intention to provide the former and we look to you for the latter.

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EDITOR'S BIO

Mr. Ault has a background in marketing of consumer products and financial services. For the past twenty years he has participated in early stage venture investing in products with the potential for environmental and social benefits. He a graduate of Yale University, a special limited partner of the Venture Capital Fund of America, NYC, NY of which he was co-founder, and the author of A Retail Food Study (La Roche & Co. NYC, NY 1957).

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END NOTES

1. FAIR: Immigration Report – June 2003
A recent national poll conducted by Roper ASW shows that:
 - A. 76% favor reducing present immigration levels
 - B. Over 50% support annual admission of fewer than 300,000 immigrants
 - C. 79% believe the government should enforce current statutes that impose heavy fines on employers who knowingly hire illegals.
2. Carrying Capacity Network Alert – May, 2003.
Source: Dr. George Borjas, Harvard University. A somewhat lower estimate of \$133 billion is offered by Americans for Immigration Control Inc. but in either case the cost is substantial.

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5. Ibid.
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