



**Don Imus**

# CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in Washington*

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## Imus Double Standard

by Donald Devine

Whatever happened to “everyone is entitled to their opinion,” the universal defense when the cultural cognoscenti insult traditional values? Is it “anything goes” except when it comes to Don Imus?

Just why was Imus fired? Was it for saying “hos”? That word was almost required in rap to reach stardom and was ubiquitous across the radio spectrum. So it was not the words. Was it because it was directed at a minority, “nappy headed”? But all rap music insults the same minority females, if not those with a popular basketball team. Was it because his words were said in a derogatory way? But that is the whole point of this misogynous “music.” Why was Imus different?

It is fun to watch the liberals explain. A feature article in Time magazine takes 2,700 words trying to decide, as the title asked, “Who Can Say What”? In one sense, it argued, everyone does it—citing Michael Richards’ “nigger”, Isaiah Washington’s “faggot”, Sen. George Allen’s “macaca” and Mel Gibson’s “f...ing Jew.” These offenders all suffered damage as Imus did. But “Borat” called Alan Keyes “a genuine chocolate face,” The Sarah Silverman Program parodied “God’s black friend” and “South Park” even used the “niggers” word. Yet, Time says these latter terms were used “legitimately” as “brilliant commentary, even art.” How explain this when the words were pretty much the same?



**Lenny Bruce**

Time says Imus “crossed a line” but admits Dick Gregory and Lenny Bruce are allowed to cross the same line because they are “socially conscious.” The motion picture academy elite can give an Oscar to hos in the “Hard Out Here for a Pimp” song and Queer Eye for the Straight Guy can say “faggot” because these are “good-natured” usages. It is all pretty confusing for the non-artist except that socially conscious and good-natured seem to translate as “liberal.” At the end, Time finally concludes: “making jokes about difference — race, gender, sexual orientation, the whole list — is ultimately about power. You need to purchase the right to do it through some form of vulnerability, especially if you happen to be a rich, famous white man.” The price is higher for being rich, famous or white because they have power.

Not really, since it is not the rich and famous part that is important to these moderators of taste. Although it escapes Time’s notice, it is obvious that the rappers are rich and famous but still get a bye. Purchasing vulnerability apparently is only necessary for whites since that is where the real power rests. In a democracy, the majority rules and whites are the majority. One must be on a minority “list” to purchase vulnerability so one can use offensive speech (and obtain the rewards of fame and money it brings). But who is more powerful, the ones with the immunity or the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant rich? When newly-elected Democratic Senator Sheldon Whitehouse from one of Rhode Island’s oldest and prestigious families walked into his first Judiciary Committee majority caucus meeting in January 2007, he was greeted by Sen. Charles Schumer (NY). “Hey, Sheldon, normally you’ve got to be a Jew or a Catholic to get on this committee. You’re the first WASP.” No joke; this really happened.

Like being white, being Christian is often expected to meet the higher standards of power as a consequence of being a majority. Yes, 80 percent of Americans call themselves Christian and 70 percent claim adherence to a particular church. But here is where this majority-bear-the-burden stuff breaks down. The largest single church is only 25 percent of the population and there are hundreds of different denominations, none of which are close to a majority. There is no majority to fear, and certainly the media elite do not. A recent Parent’s Television Council study found that

television references to religious institutions or doctrine were 18 percent positive, 22 percent mixed and 47 negative, in spite of the fact a majority of the audience in a Zogby poll wanted positive TV references to God, religion and the Bible.

The fact is there is no majority in the United States other than women who, for some reason, are considered a minority. What is white? Hispanics are routinely classified as not white but why not Poles, Hungarians, Irish, Scandinavian, German or even English since none come close to a majority? There is not even a momentary majority of the population in an election since half of the people do not vote. The Founders even created a Constitution to separate powers so that it would be even less likely if not impossible to create a ruling majority. There can be a majority in a legislative body but the Founders balanced that elite with elites in a second house of Congress, a president, a Supreme Court and 50 states. The myth of majority power in the face of no real, existing concrete majority in fact is important, however, to justify the related myth of minorities that need special protection from this majority. But the reality of this myth is that it produces favored versus unfavored minorities, favored or not by those who have the real power.

That is where Imus comes in. The cultural elite have the power in the media and they did not like his "cowboy-hatted swagger," as Time described it. The media elite simply like some minorities and not others depending on whether they support the elite's universal myth of the egalitarian majority. Western, Midwestern, Southern and other regional or ethnic or religious identification is "provincial" if not racist in this mythology. As the negative images on TV prove, this elite does not like religion or parochial values so they denigrate them publicly. The formative political myth of the left cultural elite was their—they think it was they alone--rescue of African-Americans during the civil rights struggle of the last half century. Those groups viewed on the correct side of that struggle for equality are allowed to get away with what would doom the others. In other words, who gets immunity from rebuke is an ideological decision that is partially based on race but mainly upon whether one agrees with the cultural elite or not.

The right, in theory at least, believes in minorities, or factions as the Founders called them, as the essential social facts of life. James Madison said the protection of freedom's diversity was the first object of government. Philosopher Russell Kirk set as one of only six major tenants of conservatism "affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of traditional life, as distinguished from the narrowing uniformity, egalitarianism, and utilitarian aims of most radical systems." The job of government is to keep social peace between the groups without extinguishing their freedom. To do so, officials need to be neutral between them, treating all equally before the law. The left's myth of equality requires granting special "vulnerabilities" for favored minorities to force the social equality that the natural diversity of mankind under freedom could never deliver.



**Russell Kirk**  
philosopher of tradition

Imus' comments were stupid and offensive and whether he is on radio or not is not very important. But it is important to understand the thinking of the cultural elite. They sail under the banner of diversity and freedom of expression but when the egalitarian taboos are broken by the unfavored they will forget the all-ideas-are-equal shibboleth and act fiercely to silence the deviationism. Even Silverman is uneasy about this double standard--"I can say nigger because I'm liberal"--but she knows she can say it and even get Time's approval for saying it. Cowboys and other non-politically correct groups cannot. That is what liberals call free speech.

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Editor**

## Bush's Malaise

by Craig Shirley

In his now infamous "Malaise" speech in 1979, Jimmy Carter demonstrated a fundamental misunderstanding of his country and his countrymen. It was the tipping point for his presidency.

Recently, President Bush had his own malaise moment when he attacked a large segment of the American people and insinuated they were ignorant about the immigration bill he has fashioned with Ted Kennedy.



The American people don't like to be criticized by their presidents, especially when they are at 28 percent approval, either then or now. This clash is a "Panama Canal moment" for the GOP.

The bar fight over the newest immigration "compromise" bill is the Gotterdammerung for the party and the conservative movement. The outcome will determine what direction the GOP will take and whether it will once again be consigned to minority status for a generation.

It is not the first time there has been a trial separation and eventually a divorce between conservatism and Republicanism. In 1971, conservatives gathered at Bill Buckley's home in New York. The meeting was called because Richard Nixon had supported his aide, Pat Moynihan's proposal for a federally-mandated guaranteed household income. That tore it for conservatives.

Nixon had already instituted wage and price controls, appointed liberals to his Administration, was cozying up to the Soviets and was about to betray America's longtime ally, Taiwan, to recognize instead Red China. "Tricky Dick" tricked conservatives into supporting him in 1968 and then immediately set about to break every promise he'd ever made to the Right.



The group called themselves the "Manhattan Twelve" and signed a manifesto announcing their "Declaration of Independence" from Nixon and his Republican Party. They hence decided to forget about the losers that made up what was left of the GOP and focused instead on building a political movement. At this, they were very successful and were guided only by their principles.

The conservative movement all through the late 1970's led the GOP around by the nose, on the Panama Canal treaties, on SALT II, on ERA, on tax cuts, on opposition to Jimmy Carter and support for Ronald Reagan. The GOP of the 1970's was clueless, just as their fancy counterparts are of the current Republican Party.

True conservatives are now faced with this choice once again. In order to save their ideology, should the conservative movement declare it's independence from the Bush Administration and the GOP? The arguments for doing so are compelling.

The immigration bill, most conservatives believe, is a sellout of everything they hold dear – the rule of law, justice, freedom and sovereignty. But rather than listen to the grassroots American people, the GOP elites are listening intently instead to their master's voice, corporate America.

Conservatives do not understand the difference between someone breaking and entering their home and someone breaking and entering their country.

Despite "Bushophant" Michael Gerson's derivative arguments calling conservatives bigots, the rule of law still means something to most people in this country.

The GOP's arrogance is doubly insulting because they know how the grassroots feels or at least should. All they have to do is listen to Laura Ingraham, Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity, read any of a dozen conservative columnists, websites and blogs to know what conservatives think about this bill.

The outrage over this betrayal is evident. Republicans across the board seemed astonished when the first quarter FEC reports came out and all told, the Democratic presidential candidates out-raised the Republicans by \$25 million. The party committees are lagging behind their Democratic counterparts, as reported in the Washington Times.

There is no mystery. Conservatives, who voted in droves for Democrats and against Republicans as a protest vote last November are now voting with their pocketbooks. The sleeping giant of the conservative movement has been awakened and if the immigration bill passes, one can imagine an organized effort to shut down all grassroots conservative money from going to any GOP party committee and instead, direct their hard-earned dollars to legitimate conservative groups.

Some may argue a breakup is premature citing the War on Terror, tax cuts and the appointments of Samuel Alito and John Roberts to the federal bench.

George W. Bush campaigned on supporting tax cuts and appointing conservatives to the courts and conservatives expected him to keep his promises. However, if the White House had had its way, Alberto Gonzales and Harriet Meiers would have been appointed instead. It was conservatives who demanded conservative judges and the White House unhappily went along. As my father used to say, you don't get medals for not robbing banks. You're supposed to not rob banks.

Traditional conservatives are patriots and are thus conflicted over the war in Iraq. They support and honor the American GI Joes and Janes, but deep down, they believe this is not their war or at least that it has been managed poorly. They may have sung a few hymns, they never joined the choir.

The war has held together the unhappy shotgun marriage of the elitist GOP and the populist conservatives, but the D-word ("divorce") is now on the lips of many in the movement.

The arguments for at least a trial separation are legion; from steel tariffs to federal mandates to the states educational systems, to the biggest entitlement since the Great Society to the corruption of Republican "lawmakers" and Enron and the GOP K Street walkers, whose main job is to convince GOP lawmakers into doing un-Republican things. Arrogance, ignorance, the unseemly pursuit of power over principles and betrayal of conservatism are the hallmarks of the current GOP.

The elites in the Republican Party are in denial about this, as they are about last November. But this is not surprising. Republicans have made a cottage industry out of denial, in 1960 when JFK won, in 1992 when George H. W. Bush lost and August 9, 1974...the day Nixon resigned.

*Craig Shirley is the president of Shirley & Banister Public Affairs and the author of a history of the 1976 campaign, Reagan's Revolution: The Untold Story of the Campaign That Started it All. He is now writing a book about the 1980 campaign, Rendezvous with Destiny.*

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Editor**

## Medicare: \$3.8 Trillion Worse

by J.D. Foster

The annual Social Security and Medicare Trustees reports released on April 23 discussed changes in the programs that have occurred over the previous year and changes in their overall financial condition as measured in a number of ways. Once again, both reports share a disturbing commonality: The financial condition of both programs is terrible and got significantly worse with another year of legislative inactivity.

The key particulars in this case are that Social Security is facing a financial abyss that got \$200 billion deeper over the past year, while Medicare's abyss deepened by \$3.8 trillion.

Unfortunately, we don't have comparable statistics for Medicaid, but Medicaid's future is just as troubled. In their current forms, these programs are simply and unquestionably unsustainable.

To put these figures in some perspective, the federal government's cash flow deficit for 2008 is forecast to be below \$250 billion, or about 1/16th of the worsening in the finances of Social Security and Medicare combined. Put another way, the \$4 trillion increase in the unfunded obligations in these programs is about a third the size of our total economy.

The Trustees are not alone in sounding the warning. David Walker, Comptroller of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office, has appropriately made this issue a top priority. Congressional Budget Office directors talk about it frequently. The Administration has featured the problem for years in the annual budget release and elsewhere. And members of the think tank community from right to left have formed the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour to educate Americans across the country about the problem and discuss solutions.

### Why Does This Matter?

Tax receipts flowing into Social Security in 2007 are projected to exceed expenditures by \$88 billion, and Medicare draws on general revenues for much of its funding. With the overall budget deficit now below 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), it's fair to ask why Congress and the American people should take much notice of the 2007 Trustees reports. There are many good reasons to do so:

1. Modest congressional action now can dramatically reduce the funding shortfall in years to come. By their nature, these programs are structured to operate over, and are analyzed over, long time horizons. A good analogy is that small amounts saved early add up to big returns in retirement.
2. Congressional action now is important to future seniors who will rely in part on these programs for their financial security. Seniors generally have little ability to alter their financial circumstances once they have retired from the workforce. For this reason, changes in Social Security and Medicare need to be made well in advance, and to be fully transparent, so workers have adequate time to adjust their current behavior and retirement planning accordingly.
3. Congressional action now on Social Security and Medicare will have very real consequences for the ability of future Congresses and Administrations to meet other spending priorities such as national defense, education, and the environment. These consequences are already apparent: The Office of Management and Budget projects that Medicare and Medicaid spending, absent any reforms, will rise by \$222 billion, or over a third, over the next five years. If taxes remain approximately at current levels as a share of GDP, and if the appetite for deficit spending remains limited, the health programs will increasingly cramp discretionary spending. The arrival of the baby-boom generation into retirement and the rapid growth in



health care costs will only exacerbate these tensions. Congressional appropriators may already be awakening to the reality that their freedom to spend on pet projects has been curtailed not by stingy budget rules, but by the health care programs.

4. If Congress fails to act today, the children and grandchildren of tomorrow will face only two relevant options. One option is to slash retirement benefits for seniors. For example, in 2041, the year when the Social Security Trust Fund is projected to be exhausted, benefits will need to be cut by just over a quarter for outlays to come back into balance with tax receipts.

The alternative is to impose a vastly greater tax burden than would be tolerated today to pay future benefits. One can debate whether taxes "should be part of the solution," and part of that debate should be an honest recognition that higher taxes would mean slower future wage and job growth. It is unclear why future workers should pay higher taxes, have fewer job opportunities, and receive lower pre-tax wages because today's workers and retirees promised themselves higher benefits than they were willing to pay for, but that will sort itself out in time. In any event, given the magnitude of the problem, it is as unreasonable to suggest that Congress can tax its way out of this problem as it is to deny the problem in the first place.

### **What Is the State of Play?**

The Administration, from the President on down, has tried repeatedly to rally sufficient political forces to achieve reforms, with one noteworthy success. Congress passed and the President signed the Deficit Reduction Act in 2005, shaving almost \$51 billion over 10 years off the growth in Medicare and Medicaid spending. The changes were modest, but they were also the first of their kind since 1997.

Following the 2004 elections, the President gave scores of speeches from coast to coast about how Social Security could be made sound for future generations. He argued for personal accounts, but he also showed that a handful of minor, phased-in changes to the program could return it to solvency. Regrettably, Congress did not take up the challenge. Some in Congress argued there was no problem, or at least no urgency. Others countered that the real problem was Medicare, not Social Security, and that the Administration should therefore focus its efforts on Medicare.

In response, the President's budget released in February of 2007 offered meaningful proposals to slow the growth in Medicare spending. The President's proposals would shave \$252 billion off the growth in Medicare spending over the next 10 years according to the Trustees. Over the next 75 years, a common point of reference for these programs, the President's proposals would fill a quarter of the Medicare abyss.

These proposals are especially apt because the Medicare Trustees report, for the second year running, indicates that the general revenue share of Medicare spending will exceed 45 percent during a seven-fiscal-year period. The various parts of Medicare are funded by a combination of payroll tax receipts, beneficiary premiums, and a draw from general revenues. The 2004 Medicare reform bill included a so-called trigger. Under this "trigger," as the 45 percent threshold has now been exceeded this year and last, the law directs the President to submit a proposal for action to Congress. There is nothing particularly magical about the 45 percent figure. It was deemed an appropriate early warning threshold. We have now crossed that threshold, the warning has been sounded, and Congress should act to strengthen Medicare's finances.

### **What Should Be Done?**

The textbook answer to what should be done is that the responsible committee chairpersons and leadership should begin crafting a bill to restore Social Security and Medicare to solvency immediately. That is why academic textbooks often have limited value in public policy: The chosen actors are right, but the goal is misidentified. Recognizing the highly charged political environment, the season of the President's term, the unfamiliarity of many Members with the policy alternatives, and simply the magnitude of the problem, this Congress and the Administration should act, but they should also focus their attention on the realm of the possible. This means taking a few easy steps

with Social Security and/or Medicare to bring them under control gradually by focusing benefits more on the basis of income.

**Social Security.** Though the recent debate on Social Security reform was largely associated with the push for personal accounts, there are many good ideas for improving program solvency that could be achieved relatively easily and painlessly. Probably the foremost of these is progressive indexing. Progressive indexing simply means that the Social Security benefits of low- and middle-income retirees would be indexed to nominal wage growth, as under current law, while the benefits of upper-income retirees would be indexed to inflation. Since nominal wage growth is typically significantly faster than inflation, the net effect is an increasingly progressive benefit formula. At the same time, total growth in benefit outlays is slower because the benefits of upper-income retirees grow less rapidly than under current law as a result of being indexed to inflation rather than the faster nominal wage growth rate.

**Medicare.** Now that the Medicare trigger has been tripped, Congress should also act to reduce the Medicare shortfall, starting with the proposals the Administration advanced in this year's budget, to which Congress can and should add its own ideas. Some of these proposals include the usual shifts in provider payments that are needed to avoid having Medicare overpay for services. Medicare, after all, operates as an insurance company, and payment rates for services need to adjust from time to time according to market circumstances.

In addition, the Administration proposed to means-test, or "income relate," the Medicare Part B subsidy to parallel the premium subsidy structure in Part D. Under current law, Medicare Part B beneficiaries pay a premium for their coverage equal to 25 percent of the program's cost, with taxpayers picking up the tab for the other 75 percent. Under the Administration proposal, all Medicare beneficiaries would continue to have their Part B premiums subsidized, but the subsidy rate would decline to 65 percent for families with incomes between \$160,000 and \$200,000 and would fall in increments to 20 percent for families with incomes above \$400,000.

This proposal increases the progressivity of Part B subsidies while reducing total Medicare costs. It should be a win-win for legislators of all political stripes. The provider payment reforms and the reforms in the Part B subsidy together represent major steps toward rectifying Medicare's terrible fiscal condition.

### **Conclusion**

The latest Social Security and Medicare Trustees reports confirm again that these two large and vital programs for seniors are unsustainable in their current form. While one can always quibble with the underlying assumptions, the basic conclusions stand, and the Trustees have met their responsibility to report the facts. Many solid, incremental reforms have been identified for both programs that Congress could debate and enact. It is time now for the true trustees of these programs, the Congress and the President, to act on these reforms.

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*Article originally appeared at the Heritage Foundation website.*

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## Gumbel Apology?

Brent Bozell

While filling-in for Regis Philbin on Live with Regis and Kelly today, Bryant Gumbel actually boasted about once calling conservative culture-critic Robert Knight “a f\*\*\*ing idiot” (Gumbel used the actual word) at the end of a June 29, 2000 interview on CBS’s The Early Show about whether gays should work as scoutmasters in the Boy Scouts. (Mr. Knight, then with the Family Research Council, is now the director of the MRC’s Culture and Media Institute.)



After the first incident, the Media Research Center called on Mr. Gumbel to apologize. He remained silent. His employer, CBS, incredulously claimed that they did not know what Mr. Gumbel had said, although the incident was captured on videotape on live television. In his comment today, Mr. Gumbel expanded on the insult, saying,

Gumbel: “One time I was doing an interview with – I’m going to kindly describe him as a gentleman – and he was arguing about how gays should be kept out of the Boy Scouts, etcetera, and he was infuriating me. And I finished the interview and I thought we had gone to commercial and we hadn’t, and I said ‘what a blank-ing idiot.’ I was correct, but it was wrong to do.”

Bryant Gumbel is a crude, left-wing reporter who has now confirmed what we documented and CBS denied for seven years—CBS claimed ‘it is unclear what the comment was’—and for which Mr. Gumbel refused to apologize. Mr. Gumbel’s words and lack of decency and decorum, then and now and as confirmed on the broadcast today, show that he is grossly biased and sees absolutely nothing wrong in smearing people he disagrees with politically as blankety-blank idiots.

Robert Knight, and the audience, deserved an apology back in 2000 from Mr. Gumbel and CBS, and they certainly deserve one today from Mr. Gumbel. In this age of Don Imus and belittling of people for political reasons, the lewdness on the left needs to be challenged and rejected by all Americans, most notably by those in the media.

We once again call upon Bryant Gumbel to apologize publicly for his crass comments and we also call upon CBS to correct the record, which it has stonewalled for so long.

*Brent Bozell is president of the Media Research Center.*

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## Media Muddles

by Lisa Fabrizio

Folks in the media and America in general seem confused lately. Many polls are showing a rise in the fortunes of Mitt Romney and Hillary Clinton, while their main opponents, Rudy Giuliani and Barack Obama seem to be fading a bit. How could this happen?

The liberal media are particularly perplexed at reports of Romney [gaining ground](#). After all, he is a Mormon and so to them he is even more freakish than the run-of-the-mill religious fanatics who inhabit Middle America. And, as they never tire of pointing out, he's a notorious flip-flopper, a trait that has been historically repulsive to liberals since at least, yesterday.

Even more confounding to the left is the loss of support Giuliani has experienced among conservatives. You can almost hear them: What's not to like about Rudy? He's pro-abortion, anti-guns and generally in approval of special rights for alternative life-styles. What *are* these people thinking?

In the Bizarro world of the liberal media, where they believe they can select the opposition candidate (see John McCain in 2000), the growing conservative repudiation of Rudy is bewildering. They can't comprehend that, at least until Fred Thompson or Newt Gingrich joins in the fun, Romney is arguably the most conservative of the top tier candidates.

And a big reason for Romney's elevation in conservative eyes is that he's beginning to show an inclination to reach across the campaign trail with gusto to take on the leading Democrats. Critiquing them for voting against funding our troops in Iraq, he [singled out](#) Clinton and Obama:

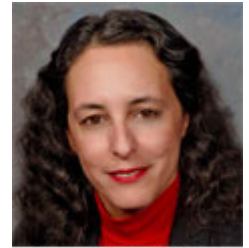
At a time when the men and women of our military fighting terrorism around the globe needed them most, Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama cast a vote that singularly defines their lack of leadership...Voting against our troops during a time of war shows the American people that the leaders of the Democrat Party will abandon principle in favor of political positioning. Their votes render them undependable in the eyes of the men and women of the United States military and the American people.

This is the sort of red meat that has many on the right drooling. But don't expect Romney's name to appear in many news pieces that don't have the words 'Mormon' or 'religion' in them. The liberal media, as always, have little interest in stories such as the above, that don't have their best interests at heart; especially those involving Mrs. Clinton.

Speaking of which, it's been reported ad nauseam that both leading Democratic contenders voted against the Iraq War Funding bill. But in denying support for the troops they both claim to 'support', the media has ignored that in doing so, they also voted down a minimum-wage increase and further funding for Hurricane Katrina recovery that were piggy-backed onto the bill. One wonders what the reportage would have been had Obama alone taken this stand.

In a related tale of the media ignoring stories that do not advance their agenda, Cindy Sheehan, the mother of the anti-war movement, has announced that she is leaving the Democratic Party and resigning as the "face" of the movement itself. It seems she feels used and abused by her former enablers.

As pointed out by our friends at [Newsbusters.org](#), all of this is of no interest to the media since Ms. Sheehan's antics failed to help them gain the ouster of President Bush, and worse, she is now focusing her strident criticism on them. Proving that even a broken clock is right twice a day, the Peace Mom concluded that:



Lisa Fabrizio

[I] was the darling of the so-called left as long as I limited my protests to George Bush and the Republican Party...However, when I started to hold the Democratic Party to the same standards that I held the Republican Party, support for my cause started to erode and the "left" started labeling me with the same slurs that the right used.

Of course the most under-reported stories continue to be those which remotely suggest that the surge in Iraq may be showing positive results; a notable exception being Joe Klein's piece in [Time](#), "Is al-Qaeda on the Run in Iraq?" It is a minor miracle indeed that a major news outlet even admits that al Qaeda is even in Iraq, let alone that they may be "on the run."

Should the impossible happen and the rest of the media decide to lift the veil from their own eyes and thus from the hapless Americans still bound by their power, military matters might become more clear to them. And, a few months down the road, they will discover that the Republican primary will come down to a contest between Romney and Thompson. And although that will gladden the hearts of true conservatives, it will be an unhappy awakening for the media.

*[Lisa Fabrizio](#) is a columnist who hails from Connecticut.*

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## A Tale of Two Presidents

by Spencer Warren

A number of decades ago, a president commemorated an anniversary of the Statue of Liberty with two speeches. In the first, he spoke of those “who had the supreme courage to strike out for themselves, to abandon language and relatives, to start. . . in a very young civilization. We can say for all America what the Californians say of the Forty-Niners: ‘The cowards never started and the weak died by the way.’” At the time, the President noted, “that stream from abroad has largely stopped. We have within our shores today the materials out of which we shall continue to build an even better home for liberty.”



The President continued that day: “We take satisfaction in the thought that those who have left their native land to join us may still retain here their affection for some things left behind – old customs, old language, old friends. Looking to the future, they wisely choose that their children shall live in the *new language* and in the *new customs* of this *new people* (emphases added).” For all Americans, he said, “there is a *unity in language and speech*, in law and in . . . general purpose, which nowhere finds its match.” (emphasis added.) The President added: “[I] still hold to the faith that a better civilization . . . is in store for America and by our example, perhaps, for the world.” He then invoked our “melting pot.”

In his second speech that day decades ago, the President spoke of “the steady stream of human resources which the Old World poured on our shores and out of which *our American civilization* has been built.” Our immigrants “wove into the pattern of American life some of the color, some of the richness of the cultures from which they came. Here they joined in that great process out of which we have *welded* our American citizenship.” “They have never been . . . half-hearted Americans. In *Americanization classes* and at night schools they have burned the midnight oil in order to be worthy of their *new allegiance*. They were not satisfied merely to find here the realization of the material hopes which had guided them from their native land. . . . [T]hey were intent also upon building a place for themselves in the ideals of America. They sought an assurance of permanency in the new land for themselves and their children based upon active participation in *its civilization and culture*” (emphases added).

Compare these words with a speech in Miami on August 25, 2000 by one of the major party presidential candidates. Little noticed at the time, in hindsight it gives a remarkably clear view of his thinking on the subject as president. “We are now one of the largest Spanish-speaking nations in the world,” he declared. “We’re a major source of Latin music, journalism, and culture. Just go to Miami, or San Antonio, Los Angeles, or West New York . . . and close your eyes and listen. You could just as easily be in Santo Domingo or Santiago, or San Miguel de Allende.” “For years our nation has debated this change,” he continued. “Some have praised it and others have resented it. By nominating me, my party has made a choice to welcome the new America.”



**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Who is the liberal, or, to be more precise, the radical? Who is the conservative? The President who spoke of American civilization and welding one people was Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the fiftieth anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, in October 1936. The President who spoke of the new multicultural America of distinct, unassimilating groups who are making a “new America” was George W. Bush.

*Spencer Warren is ConservativeBattleline’s movie critic.*

*The text of Roosevelt's speeches can be read at:*

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15210&st=&st1=> and  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=15211&st=&st1=>)

*The text of Bush's speech is at:*

<http://www.newsmax.com/articles/?a=2000/8/26/195405>

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## U.S. Citizens Must Prove It?

by Wes Dyck, William Beach and James Sherk

Mostly overlooked in the controversy over the Senate's immigration legislation is the massive expansion in the reach of the federal government's power over labor markets that is embedded in its worksite enforcement provisions. The legislation's third title calls for unleashing the IRS and immigration police on businesses and workers. These provisions would insert the federal government into the workplace in ways that would touch each and every U.S. worker. Rather than place great and unnecessary burdens on all workers and employers, Congress should focus workplace enforcement efforts where they are likely to do the most good.



### New Government Powers

Among other expansions of regulatory control, Title III of S. 1348:

- Makes employers liable for the illegal workers that their contractors or subcontractors might have on their payrolls (Sec. 302(a)(3));
- Saddles employers with vastly increased record-keeping requirements (Sec. 302(c));
- Expands the pilot Employment Eligibility Verification System to nearly all businesses, large and small, even though the likely expense of implementing the system would be beyond the financial means of many businesses (Sec. 302(d));
- Permits the IRS to share detailed taxpayer data with non-governmental contractors of the Department of Homeland Security, thus breaching a long-standing barrier against such data sharing (Sec. 304(a)(1)(A));
- Permits the Department of Homeland Security to institute a fingerprinting program in private businesses in order to prevent the employment of undocumented workers; and
- Creates a new unit within the Criminal Investigation office of the IRS to investigate violations of federal tax laws by employers who hire undocumented workers.

### All Workers Burdened

These provisions would force a bureaucratic nightmare upon every American worker and their employers. The bill provides amnesty to 12 million individuals who have broken the law while at the same time requiring all law-abiding U.S.-born workers, permanent residents, and non-immigrant workers to prove again that they are eligible for employment.

Under the proposal, each worker would be required to prove work authorization even if he or she has already done so under current law. A passport or birth certificate would not be sufficient; a new "confirmation" from DHS is required. American workers would actually need approval from DHS to continue working in their current jobs.

In addition, before contracting with other businesses, such as cleaning and construction companies, employers may be required to check with DHS to "obtain confirmation from the Secretary that the contractor or subcontractor has registered with the Employment Eligibility Verification System (EEVS) and is utilizing [it] to verify its employees" (Sec. 302(a)(3)(B)).

The pilot EEVS is used voluntarily by more than 10,000 employers, according to DHS, to verify employment eligibility for about one million new hires per year. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the proposal would require expanding this to more than 6 million employers conducting 65 million verifications each year and checking the records of 130 million existing employees. The pilot EEVS returns automatic "confirmations" in only 85 percent of cases. The remaining 15 percent require a secondary verification conducted by DHS staff members, which can take up to two weeks. In 2004, when about 2,300 employers used the system, 38 staff were assigned to this responsibility. Mandating this program for all employers could put 15 percent of the

workforce in limbo--neither authorized nor unauthorized, but "non-confirmed."

Few of these workers are actually illegal, but if the government bureaucracy cannot confirm their legal status, companies would be forced to fire workers who fail EEVS verification. This would put millions of U.S. citizens and legal immigrants out of work because of bureaucratic mistakes.

A worker whose records at DHS are not in order may be required to "appear in person at the appropriate...agency for purposes of verifying the individual's identity and employment authorization" within 10 business days (Sec. 302(d)(5)(C) (iii)(II)). If the worker fails "to take the steps required by the Secretary...a final nonconfirmation may be issued" and "the employer shall terminate employment of the individual" (Sec. 302(d)(5)(C) (iii)(III) and Sec. 302(d)(5)(D) (i)). In other words, the worker would lose his or her livelihood.

### **Bureaucratic Delays Unavoidable**

This proposal would likely be impossible to implement in the real world. To meet the law's 18-month deadline, DHS would have to enroll 20,000 to 40,000 new employers a day in the EEVS system. Within another 18 months, the government would have to verify the legal status of every employee at each of those firms. This is a massive new responsibility for an already overloaded bureaucracy that would also soon be swamped by 12 million new "Z" visa applications. It would also be an enormous, unproductive, and unnecessary burden on employers. In addition, it would shift DHS resources from tracking down illegal immigrants to processing the employment requests of tens of millions of U.S. citizens trying to switch jobs.

### **Better Alternatives**

At first glance, the requirement to verify all current workers, not just new hires, seems so unworkable that it appears designed only to placate advocates of tighter enforcement of the laws. In practice, it would surely fail and ultimately be cancelled. That would be the good news. The real danger is that these provisions might actually be enforced.

It makes no sense to require every American to verify his or her employment eligibility when most illegal immigrants work in a handful of sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and construction. Very few software engineers work in America illegally. It makes far more sense to focus enforcement measures on employers likely to hire illegal immigrants. Requiring businesses to post surety bonds stating they are not hiring illegal immigrants would prove a far more effective and efficient workforce verification measure than giving the federal bureaucracy control over every American worker's employment.

### **Conclusion**

This legislation turns common sense on its head by giving immediate legal status to illegal aliens while putting in jeopardy the jobs of citizens. It would violate the privacy of millions of taxpayers while redirecting DHS resources away from dealing with the problems of illegal immigration to a massive new effort of re-verifying the legal status of citizens and permanent residents. Congress should reject this irreparably flawed approach to workplace enforcement.

*[Wes Dyck](#) is Director of Personnel at The Heritage Foundation. [William W. Beach](#) is Director of, and [James Sherk](#) is Bradley Fellow in Labor Policy in, the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation.*

*Article originally appeared at the Heritage Foundation website.*

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## Against Health For Kids?

by John Goodman

Who could be against health insurance for children? People who want government to run the whole health care system are counting on there not being very many.

That's why you see a big push to expand SCHIP, the state-run, federally subsidized program to provide health insurance to children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. Since children are the healthiest population age group and child health insurance is the cheapest insurance found anywhere, the theory must be that SCHIP is a lot less expensive than tackling a really serious problem.



One disadvantage of living in a democracy is that people actually get to vote on these things.

Fearing something much worse, I joined with Gene Steurle (Urban Institute) a few years back with a simple proposal. Parents should show proof they have insured their children (by employer plan, Medicaid, direct purchases, etc) before claiming the \$500 child tax credit (the tax code's reward to the middle class for having children).

Now that the credit has climbed to \$1,000 per child, the case is stronger than ever. Republican members of Congress who passed on our tit-for-tat idea will now have to explain why only they and Ebenezer Scrooge want to deny families both a tax credit and free health insurance.

In the unlikely event that voters are inclined to listen, the arguments against SCHIP are quite strong. Harvard economist David Cutler and MIT economist John Gruber find that for every additional \$1 spent on Medicaid, private insurance spending contracts by 50¢ to 75¢. For SCHIP expansion, Gruber estimates the contraction is 60¢.

If people can get free insurance from the state, they drop their private coverage. Or employers stop offering private coverage as a fringe benefit. The result: a massive shift of the burden from the private sector to taxpayers - while making only minor dent in the percent of people uninsured.

Also of the 8 million uninsured children in this country, fully 70 percent already qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP - their parents have just not bothered to enroll them!

Sorry if I ruined your day.

*John C. Goodman is President of the National Center for Policy Analysis*

*For more insights, see Devon Herrick in the Washington Times at:  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/commentary/20070523-092313-2781r.htm>*

*For some common sense policy proposals from the Consensus Group, see:*

*Principles for Health Insurance Coverage for Children and Families at:  
<http://www.galen.org/statehealth.asp?DocID=1029>*

*For the Gruber/Cutler studies, see:*

*Does Public Insurance Crowd Out Private Insurance <http://www.nber.org/papers/w5082>*

*Crowd-Out Ten Years Later: Have Recent Public Insurance Expansions Crowded Out Private Health Insurance? <http://www.nber.org/papers/w12858>*



## End Malaria Now

by Fiona Kobusingye

The 2007 World Health Assembly is still fresh in peoples' minds and people are commemorating the birthday of Silent Spring author Rachel Carson. Meanwhile, millions of Africans are commemorating still more deaths from a disease that the chemical she vilified could help control.

I just got out of the hospital, after another nasty case of malaria. I've had it dozens of times. I lost my son, two sisters and three nephews to it. Fifty out of 500 children in our local school for orphans died from malaria in 2005.



Fiona  
Kobusingye

Virtually every Ugandan family has buried babies, children, mothers and fathers because of this disease, which kills 100,000 of us every year. Even today, 50 years after it was eradicated in the United States, malaria is the biggest killer of African children, sending 3,000 to their graves every day.

In between convulsions and fever, I thought about the progress we're making – and about those who would stop that progress. I ask myself, why do some people care more about minor, hypothetical risks to people or animals than about human life?

Last year, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reversed 30 years of bad policy and reauthorized DDT to help combat malaria in Africa, by spraying it on the walls of houses to keep mosquitoes out. The World Health Organization (WHO) also came out strongly in support of DDT.

Both reviewed decades of scientific studies and concluded that using DDT this way is perfectly safe for people and the environment. So did Uganda's Ministry of Health and National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). European Commission President Barroso said Europe supports the right of countries to use DDT, in accord with Stockholm Convention and WHO guidelines.

DDT has worked in South Africa and Swaziland. USAID is now using it in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Zambia. Uganda and other African countries are preparing to add DDT to indoor-spraying programs.

We don't see DDT as a "magic bullet" that can eradicate malaria by itself. We don't advocate outdoor spraying with it. But we strongly support spraying tiny amounts on houses – as part of comprehensive strategies that also include other insecticides, larvacides and better sanitation to control mosquito populations, Artemisinin-based combination drugs to treat patients, and bednets, education, better hospitals and sound management practices.

No other chemical, at any price, does what DDT does. It keeps mosquitoes from entering homes, irritates the few that do enter, so they don't bite, kills those that land, and reduces malaria rates by 75% – all with a single inexpensive spraying once or twice a year.

DDT was dusted on American soldiers during World War II, to prevent malaria; and on millions of Europeans after the war, to prevent typhus. It was sprayed all over the US to protect crops and eradicate malaria. Contrary to what Ms. Carson claimed, DDT didn't cause cancer, or decimate eagle and other bird populations.

DDT was also used 46 years ago to slash malaria rates in western Uganda's Kanungu District. It can and must be used again – according to storage, handling and indoor spraying guidelines – to stop disease and save lives.

Why do some people want to prevent its use? Pesticide Action Network exists solely to battle life-saving insecticides. The environmental movement became a powerful political force, by embracing Rachel Carson's erroneous claims. But what about other opponents? What is wrong with them?

WHO Public Health and Environment Director Maria Neira wants to stop all use of DDT. The Uganda Network on Toxic-Free Control plans to sue NEMA, if it doesn't stop the DDT spraying program. Both worry about its hypothetical health effects.

We wish they would worry more about malaria, and focus on DDT's health benefits – on the diseases it can prevent, the lives it can save.

Instead, they claim every imaginable health problem and deformity is due to DDT. To support their exaggerations and fables, they list articles that say there is a "link" between these problems and DDT. But as Professor Donald Roberts emphasizes, there are many more studies that show no such connection.

"After decades of research, costing hundreds of millions of dollars, there is no proof at all that DDT directly harms human health," say Dr. Roberts. "There is extensive evidence, though, that DDT reduces disease and saves lives."

DDT opponents want to return to strategies that were a devastating failure for 30 years. Hundreds of millions of Africans got malaria. Tens of millions died. Entire countries were kept impoverished.

We say, Enough! No more malaria. No more brain damage. No more workers who can't work, students who can't study. No more families that can't afford food, because they must pay for drugs and hospitals. No more death.

We support bednets. But we also need insecticides to kill mosquitoes. And we want a DDT shield or "net" over entire houses in malaria-infested areas – 24 hours a day, every day of the year, to protect everyone inside, whether they are sleeping or working.

Uganda's Vice President Bukenya, Health Minister Mallinga, NEMA Director Arymanya and Members of Parliament support DDT spraying and comprehensive programs to eradicate Killer Malaria. May people of conscience everywhere stand with us. Praise Rachel Carson, if you wish – but support DDT spraying, to reduce disease and save lives.

*Fiona Kobusingye is coordinator of Congress of Racial Equality Uganda and the Kill Malarial Mosquitoes Now Brigade*

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## A Kind Word For Big Oil

by Alan Caruba

Is there a politician breathing this summer who has anything good to say about "Big Oil"? If there is one topic that is safe to demagogue, it is the price of gasoline at the pump.

As a writer who closely follows the energy industry, I recently received ExxonMobil's "2006 Corporate Citizenship Report". It arrived the same day I read about Rep. Bart Stupak's (D-MI) "Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act." The contrast is educational.



Alan Caruba

ExxonMobil reported that, in 2006, it had achieved a record low number of oil spills to the environment. On the average, this represents a 21% reduction from the previous year and 10% per year since 2000. Bear in mind, ExxonMobil extracts oil internationally, so this does not apply just to the U.S. I doubt that most people know that ExxonMobil is that candid about the problem.

Something else people probably don't know about is the company's interest in about a hundred cogeneration facilities in more than thirty locations worldwide, generating some 4,300 megawatts of power. This capacity also reduces global CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by more than 10.5 million metric tons annually. That's equivalent to taking two million cars off the road in America.

Little known to the public is the extraordinary generosity of the company. In 2006, it made \$9 million in grants through its Africa Health Initiative and more than \$2.5 million through its Educating Women and Girls Initiative. Outside of the pharmaceutical industry, ExxonMobil is the largest private sector donor to malaria research activities. In 2007, the company became a founding sponsor of the National Math and Science Initiative, committing \$125 million to encouraging this area of education.

In 2006, ExxonMobil, its divisions and affiliates, along with the ExxonMobil Foundation, provided a combined \$138.6 million in charitable contributions and community investment worldwide.

But Rep. Bart Stupak, along with his cosponsors—86 Democrats and 3 Republicans—want to make it a crime to "sell crude oil, gasoline, natural gas, or petroleum distillates at a price that is unconscionably excessive or indicates the seller is take unfair advantage (of) unusual market conditions or the circumstances of an emergency to increase prices unreasonably." This, my friends, is grandstanding.

The bill would impose imprisonment and corporate penalties of up to \$150 million a day. And do you think for a minute that this will actually have any impact on the cost of gasoline?

In case you're wondering what does impact the cost, it is called market conditions. As Marlo Lewis, a senior fellow of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, points out, "Constraining the ability of gas companies to set prices according to supply and demand is a recipe for rationing. In the end, there will be less gas available and the people who will get it will be those most prepared to wait in line." Welcome to the 1970s!

Columnist George F. Will recently noted that, "Gasoline consumption has increased 2.14 percent during the past year." In inflation-adjusted dollars, \$3.07 is less than gasoline cost in 1981.

Will provided the reality of who is really making a ton of money off of every gallon of gas you purchase. "While oil companies make about 13 cents on a gallon of gasoline, the federal government makes 18.4 cents (the federal tax)..." When you add in the tax imposed by States, you discover that California, for example, makes 40.2 cents on that same gallon of gas, and San Francisco collects a

local sales tax of 8.5 cents. In Wisconsin, the State law requires retailers to sell gasoline for 9.18 percent above the wholesale price.

Federal, state and local communities extract more from your wallet than Big Oil every time you top off your car's gas tank.

It's not that Big Oil isn't making billions, but they are also spending billions to insure that you can have gasoline for your car and oil to heat your home, plus all the other products that are derived from oil. And Big Oil is faced with a world of problems in the process. As Business Week recently noted, "Much of the global oil patch is now off-limits."

In case you haven't noticed, Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's dictator, intends to take over the assets of the oil companies that have invested billions in that nation. In Nigeria, the oil industry is under attack from various factions. Iraq, now free of Saddam Hussein's butchery, has yet to have met a reasonable standard of productivity. Iran has announced a rise in the price of gasoline because it too lacks refinery capacity. Other areas of the world, such as deepwater wells, require enormous sums of money to explore, drill, extract and transport oil.

So, you may be a bit more inclined to cut Big Oil a bit of slack. I think about that every time I fill up my car's tank.

*Alan Caruba writes a weekly column, "Warning Signs", posted on the Internet site of The National Anxiety Center, [www.anxietycenter.com](http://www.anxietycenter.com). His book, "Right Answers: Separating Fact from Fantasy", is published by Merril Press.*

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## Islamists in Court

by Daniel Pipes

The decision by the [Islamic Society of Boston](#) to [drop its lawsuit](#) against 17 defendants, including counterterrorism specialist Steven Emerson, gives reason to step back to consider radical Islam's legal ambitions. The lawsuit came about because, soon after ground was broken in November 2002 for the ISB's \$22 million Islamic center, the media and several non-profits began asking questions about three main topics: why the ISB paid the city of Boston less than half the appraised value of the land it acquired; why a city of Boston employee, who is also an ISB board member, fund raised on the Boston taxpayer's tab for the center while traveling in the Middle East; and the ISB's connections to radical Islam.



Under this barrage of criticism, the ISB in May 2005 turned tables on its critics with a lawsuit accusing them of defamation and conspiring to violate its civil rights through "a concerted, well-coordinated effort to deprive the Plaintiffs ... of their basic rights of free association and the free exercise of religion."

The lawsuit roiled Bostonians for two long years, and Jewish-Muslim relations in particular. The discovery process, while revealing that the defendants had engaged in routine newsgathering and political disputation, and had nothing to hide, uncovered the *plaintiff's* record of extremism and deception. Newly aware of its own vulnerabilities, the ISB on May 29 withdrew its lawsuit with its many complaints about "[false statements](#)," and it did so without getting a dime.

Why should this dispute matter to anyone beyond the litigants?

The Islamist movement has two wings, one violent and one lawful, which operate apart but often reinforce each other. Their effective coordination was on display in Britain last August, when the Islamist establishment seized on the [Heathrow airport plot](#) to destroy planes over the Atlantic Ocean as an opening for it to press the Blair government for changes in policy.

A similar one-two punch stifles the open discussion of Muhammad, the Koran, Islam, and Muslims. [Violence](#) causing hundreds of deaths erupted against *The Satanic Verses*, the Danish cartoons, and Pope Benedict, creating a climate of fear that adds muscle to lawsuits such as the ISB's. As Mr. Emerson noted when the [Muslim Public Affairs Council](#) recently threatened to sue him for supposed false statements, "Legal action has become a mainstay of radical Islamist organizations seeking to intimidate and silence their critics."

Such lawsuits, including the ISB's, are often predatory, filed without serious expectations of winning, but initiated to bankrupt, distract, intimidate, and demoralize defendants. Such plaintiffs seek less to win than to wear down the researchers and analysts who, even when they win, pay heavily in time and money. Two examples:

- [Khalid bin Mahfouz](#) v Rachel Ehrenfeld: Ehrenfeld wrote that Bin Mahfouz had financial links to Al-Qaeda and Hamas. He sued her in January 2004 in a plaintiff-friendly British court. He won by default and was awarded £30,000 and an apology.
- Iqbal Unus v Rita Katz: His [house searched](#) in the course of a American government operation, code-named [Green Quest](#), Unus sued Ms Katz, a non-governmental counterterrorist expert, charging in March 2004 that she was responsible for the raid. Mr. Unus lost and had to pay Ms Katz's court costs.

The [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) began a burst of litigiousness in 2003 and announced [ambitious fundraising](#) goals for this effort. But the collapse of three lawsuits, in particular the one against [Andrew Whitehead](#) of Anti-CAIR, seems by April 2006 to have prompted a reconsideration. Frustrated in the courtroom, [one CAIR staffer](#) consoled himself that "education is superior to litigation."

This retreat notwithstanding, Islamists clearly hope, as [Douglas Farah](#) notes, that lawsuits will cause researchers and analysts to "get tired of the cost and the hassle and simply shut up." Just last month, KinderUSA sued [Matthew Levitt](#), a specialist on terrorist funding, and two organizations, for his assertion that KinderUSA funds Hamas. One must assume that Islamists are planning future legal ordeals for their critics.

Which brings me to an announcement: The Middle East Forum is establishing a "Legal Project" to protect counterterror and anti-Islamist researchers and analysts. Their vital work must not be preempted by legal intimidation. In the event of litigation, they need to be armed with sufficient funding and the finest legal representation.

The prospectus at [www.MEForum.org/legal-project.php](http://www.MEForum.org/legal-project.php) provides further details on this project. To join our efforts, please contact the Forum at [LegalProject@MEForum.org](mailto:LegalProject@MEForum.org).

*Mr. Pipes ([www.DanielPipes.org](http://www.DanielPipes.org)) is director of the Middle East Forum*

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## New Warming Math

by Dennis Avery

The UN climate change panel told us in 2001 that human-emitted CO<sup>2</sup> might drive the planet's average temperature upward by 5.8 degrees C—a bigger average warming than the world has had in the past 100,000 years. The UN's 2007 report scales the possible overheating back a bit, to a maximum of 4.5 degrees—still a very large warming.

But wait! The environmental movement is now conceding that the earth has a natural, moderate climate cycle. Jon Coifman of the Natural Resources Defense Council said recently on the Hannity and Colmes TV show, "The earth has natural temperature and climate cycles. Nobody has disputed that."



**Dennis T. Avery**

We're glad that the NRDC finally accepts the natural warming cycle as fact. Until Coifman's admission, I don't think the words "natural climate cycle" had ever escaped the lips of a climate alarmist.

The historic evidence of a moderate, natural 1,500-year climate cycle includes Roman writings, Egypt's early Nile flood records, and ancient Chinese court documents. The scientific evidence confirming the cycle has been literally "dug up" in the past 25 years, primarily from the oxygen isotopes in long, layered ice cores, and the one-celled fossils in the bottom sediments of lakes and oceans.

My favorite temperature proxy is North America's fossil pollen, which shows our continent has had nine complete shifts in its trees and plants over the past 14,000 years—or one every 1650 years. In my native Michigan, the pollen says the forests during the warmings have been dominated by warmth-loving beech trees, with more oak trees intruding as the climate cools, followed by more pine trees. Today, 150 years into a warming, the pine trees are giving way again to the oaks, and the beech trees are waiting their turn.

Coifman is still talking about the planet passing a "crisis tipping point." He doesn't seem to realize that the existence of this natural cycle profoundly changes the math on global warming. The environmental movement and Al Gore have been repeating the mantra that "the earth has warmed 0.6 degree C in the last century." They claim this has been due to more human-emitted CO<sup>2</sup>, and project Big Warming on that basis. When we plug in the 1,500-year cycle, however, we have to take away from the scary computer models the 0.5 degrees of warming that occurred before 1940—and thus before much human-emitted CO<sup>2</sup>.

The earth has warmed only a net 0.2 degrees C of net warming since 1940. Human-emitted CO<sup>2</sup> gets the blame for only half of that—or 0.1 degree C of warming over 65 years! We've had no warming at all since 1998.

Remember, too, that each added unit of CO<sup>2</sup> has less impact on the climate. The first 40 parts per million of human-emitted CO<sup>2</sup> added to the atmosphere in the 1940s had as much climate impact as the next 360 ppm.

Why does NRDC say that the earth has reached a "crisis tipping point" when we've had only 0.2 degrees C of warming over the last 65 years—and no warming at all over the past eight years? How do the Greens project a mind-numbing surge of global warming from this New Math on Global Warming?

Is the emerging evidence of the natural cycle the real crisis for Al Gore and the warming alarmists?

*Dennis T. Avery was a senior policy analyst for the U.S. State Department, where he won the national intelligence medal of achievement. He is the co-author, with atmospheric physicist Fred Singer, of the book, Unstoppable Global Warming-Every 1500 Years, available from Rowman & Littlefield. Readers may write him at the Center for Global Food Issues ([www.cgfi.org](http://www.cgfi.org))*

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## Democrats Replay Vietnam?

by David Keene

It's like "déjà vu all over again," as Yogi would have said. The Democratic presidential candidates are headed down the very same slippery slope their predecessors slid down in the '70s, with little or no regard for the consequences.

The debate over whether the United States should have chosen Iraq to make a stand against international terrorism is perfectly legitimate, as is the argument about the Bush administration's conduct of the war and its aftermath, but Democrats today find themselves making the very same mistakes that destroyed their party's national security credentials decades ago.



David Keene

They have allowed partisanship and the need to placate the demands of ideological extremists within their coalition to lead them to question not whether Iraq is the place to confront our enemies or the competence of the way we have waged the war, but the need to even be concerned about an enemy that many of them are gradually concluding doesn't even exist.

Presidential hopeful John Edwards's conclusion that the "war on terror" is but a "bumper strip" figment of the Bushian imagination is a leading indicator of where the Democrats are headed and is remarkably similar to the process they went through in the debate over Vietnam in the '60s and '70s.

Early critics of that war—like the late Eugene McCarthy, who became the symbol of the anti-war movement in 1968 and helped drive Lyndon Johnson from office—were under no illusions about whether we were engaged in a life-or-death struggle with Soviet communism. They felt, however, that Vietnam wasn't strategically all that important or that the Johnson and then the Nixon administrations mucked things up because they just didn't understand what was going on over there.

As the debate began, they questioned the wisdom of where and how to stand up to the Soviets, but as time passed, their arguments changed. First, they began to wonder about the legitimacy of what was then known as the "domino theory," which held that if Vietnam fell to communism, other nations would follow. Then they began to question whether we were in fact fighting a communist enemy at all or whether we were really simply taking sides in a civil war that had little to do with our strategic interests.

In the end, many of them concluded that since the war was "wrong," we must be the bad guys. This led to the lionization of North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, a rejection of the need to stand against the Soviet Union and her puppets generally and the demonization of American leaders and the nation's fighting men as heirs of Hitler.

Finally, they took the position that our allies there simply weren't worth saving anyway, arguing that the "whole damned place wasn't worth one drop of American blood." The South Vietnamese were, after all, corrupt and disorganized—not real democrats anyway.

All of this should sound familiar to anyone following the Democratic candidates on Iraq.

Those who oppose a war should but don't always realize that it is all too easy for their opposition to their own nation's policies to morph into something far different and much, much uglier. It is all too easy to slide down that slope and conclude, as the Democratic left did in the '70s, and as Democrats like John Edwards are doing today, that if we just refuse to fight and bring our troops home all will be well because the enemy really isn't them ... it's us.

If they are right, our withdrawal will lead to peace and we can join John Edwards in tearing those bumper stickers off our cars as we simply forget those mythical terrorists, who will vanish into the mists of history.

The problem for the Democrats will come if they're wrong. What political future will they confront if they work their will in Iraq, declare victory and wake up with one of their own in the White House confronting a revitalized terrorist threat with nuclear weapons?

The Reagan campaign once ran a commercial that subtly reminded voters that Democrats of the era didn't appreciate the dangers of the world in which they lived. It suggested that Reagan's opponents were convinced the woods were safe because they harbored no bears, but asked a simple question of those watching it: What if they're wrong, and there are bears in the woods?

The left won on Vietnam in the '70s, but the American people developed real misgivings about a party whose leaders couldn't conceive that there might be bears in the woods. That legacy has been with them since and may be reinforced by today's Democratic leaders, who seem to have forgotten that they've been down this road before.

*[David Keene](#) is the chairman of the American Conservative Union and a managing associate with the Carmen Group, a Washington, D.C.-based governmental-affairs firm.*

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Thompson Time?

by Paul M. Weyrich

Ever since Ronald Reagan passed away, when even liberals seemed to appreciate him and his role in history, there has been a demand among rank-and-file conservatives that we find another Ronald Reagan. It goes back to the time when George H. W. Bush broke his pledge, "Read my lips: No new taxes." It was more of a wish than a demand and confined more toward the politically conscious. What was a wish had become a demand since even liberal commentators found it in their hearts to say kind things about Reagan upon his death, leaving it to the far-left ideologues to trash him.



Paul M. Weyrich

Ordinarily decent second-tier candidates such as former Governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin or Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas might have been able to surpass a weak first-tier, which has a lot of problems.

But that second-tier is not given a second look because these candidates aren't Saint Ron. I was very much active politically during the entire Reagan Presidency. The effort to bring evangelical Christians and conservative Catholics worked, not only giving Reagan a landslide win but also producing the first Republican-controlled Senate in almost thirty years. While I recall the Reagan Presidency with great fondness I never got hooked on the notion that we must have a Reagan clone to save the nation. Reagan was perhaps guided by the Good Lord because he certainly was the right man for that era. With William J. Casey as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John Paul II as Pope and Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of Great Britain, Reagan and his allies helped the Soviet Union to implode. It has been a mere thirty years since the evil empire began to unravel. Yet adults born in or after 1987 have no clue how dangerous the Soviet Union was not just to this country but to the entire world.

We now face a different enemy. Whereas the Soviet Union was a conservative power in that it never invaded unless it were sure it could prevail, today we face a radical power that is more than willing to take chances even if anticipating temporary failure.

All of which brings me to Fred D. Thompson. The former Tennessee Senator appears soon to be about to declare for the Presidency. I have not seen such excitement since Ronald Reagan ran and won the Governorship of California in 1966. I was a reporter then and I covered the first National Governors Conference which Reagan attended as Governor. Hundreds, if not thousands, turned out merely to get a glance at Reagan because they were convinced that they were looking at a future President. They were correct. It is just that they had to wait twenty-four years.

A similar attitude now abounds about Thompson. Over and over again we hear the similarities. Both Reagan and Thompson were actors. Both men connect with the voters. Both men excite conservatives and even Republicans. Both men are seen as saviors, Reagan from the inept President Jimmy Carter; Thompson from the mistakes of fellow Republican George W. Bush, although that is not said out loud very much. Both potential candidates have something to say to the American people. Reagan certainly did. We are not wholly sure about Thompson.

Thompson is right upon the issues. He has a new wife and two babies. That fact seems to have focused his mind upon social issues. While in the Senate he generally voted right but we never were sure he knew why. I can say with certainty that he does now.

Critics of Thompson cite how Senator John H. Glenn, Jr. ran circles around Thompson during the hearing about money laundering to the Chinese during the Clinton Administration. True enough. But, like Reagan, I kept a daily journal. Whereas I only deserved mention twice in Reagan's Journal, Reagan was mentioned many, many times in my journal. Among those references were disappointments when Reagan failed to take advantage of domestic-issue opportunities. So in that

sense Saint Ron and Saint Fred were alike. Those who treat Reagan's legacy as a myth, as if Nancy were writing the script, forget that he was a human being. For all the good he did for the country, he dropped the ball now and then. I know I must speak such things in a whisper, but it is certainly true that Thompson, like Reagan, didn't always do what might have been done. Yes, in dealing with the Soviets he made few mistakes, in dealing with Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill he made a number.

So what about Thompson? Is he the right man at the right moment? Can he rescue the Republican Party from the likes of the first- and second-tier candidates? Quite possibly. Can he defeat Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton or whoever the Democrats nominate? I have no idea.

I think Thompson would take the right position (from the standpoint of conservatives) on nearly every issue to confront us. Is he a tough campaigner who will do whatever is necessary to win? That I can't say. I do recall in 1994 when he first ran for Senator. Thompson got in his pick-up truck and, dressed in jeans, crossed Tennessee to the point that before Election Day we were sure he would be the one certain victory. He defeated Representative James (Jim) Cooper, 61%-39%. He did then, and again in 1996 when he ran for a full term, what he had to do to win. Will he do the same when we are looking at the entire USA? I have no idea but if Tennessee is any example perhaps he should not be underestimated. Now if the Democratic nominee is Hillary (and I still believe that is likely) will he campaign below the belt as the Clintons have been known to do? Absolutely not. I believe Thompson believes that if you have to run a dirty campaign to win he would not want any part of it.

Can he save us from the war in Iraq? How about the war on terror? He is not likely to want to pull out of Iraq, giving the enemy due warning. Does that help or hurt? That probably depends on how things have gone with the war almost a year and a half from now. If we are losing then I can't tell you what Thompson would do.

As to the war on terror, clearly Thompson understands the nature of the enemy. I don't believe Thompson would cut the enemy any slack. Does that help or hurt? I believe it helps but we'll see what kind of mood the voting public is in at that time.

Is Fred Thompson the second coming of Ronald Reagan? Not exactly. Is he, like Reagan, the right man for this desperate hour? That depends upon God's Providence. If we pray hard God will answer that last question. Right now without announcing formally, Thompson is doing well in the polls. Will his standing go up or down when he becomes a real candidate? I can only guess. I think his standing will go up. In that case we could have a very lively two-man race in November of '08. On the other hand if New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg runs and spends \$ one billion of his own money, what then? All I can suggest is to pray hard.

*Paul M. Weyrich is Chairman and CEO of the Free Congress Foundation.*

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Democratic War on Tax Cuts

by Nathan Tabor

With summer coming, your thoughts may be turning to whether you'll need a second mortgage to afford a drive to the beach-or even to the grocery store.

But, of course, to the spendaholics in Washington, gasoline costs must really like chump change-compared to the federal budget.

When surfing the 'Net the other day, this headline from the Associated Press screamed out for attention: "Democrats Agree on \$2.9 Trillion Budget." Yes, "trillion" with a "t"-and nearly three trillion at that.



Nathan Tabor

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It should be said that the Democrats give the old term "new math" new meaning. For, along with their huge budget blueprint, they also announced that there would be a \$41 billion budget surplus in five years. Five years is a long time, especially in "Democratic years." It means that your child could graduate from high school and from college before you'd ever see a dime of the surplus.

But wait-I am getting ahead of myself here. For the Democrats don't really intend for you, the average taxpayer, to benefit from that surplus. Because, you see, according to Dem calculations, that surplus five years hence can only occur if some of President Bush's tax cuts are allowed to expire.

That's right-the Democrats in power on Capitol Hill are once again declaring war on tax cuts. Doesn't it make you yearn for the days when Republicans were in control of Congress? Oh, that's right-even some Republicans tend to catch spendaholic fever when they reach Washington.

Under the Democratic blueprint, taxes on income, dividends, and stock sales will rise in 2011-what I would call a blueprint for economic stagnation. There's strong evidence that the tax cuts approved in 2001 and 2003 helped to jumpstart a stalled economy-but Democrats are apparently closing their eyes on the evidence. Why? Because it conflicts with their vision of government being the primary engine of economic growth, rather than business.

Democrats are holding out a ray of hope for the middle class in the form of the possibility of renewing some tax cuts totaling about \$180 billion. The pay-as-you-go rule would also be applied-meaning that spending increases in Medicare, children's health care, or farm subsidies would have to be paid for up front so that the deficit won't grow larger. The problem is that the plan does not limit the financing to spending cuts, but also permits tax increases in other parts of the budget to make up for the shortfall. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, a Democrat from North Dakota, was quoted by the AP as saying, "We've been placed in a deep hole. This plan will begin to dig us out." But a Republican on the same committee, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, burst the Democratic bubble by noting that the budget blueprint would yield "the largest tax increase in U.S. history" along with "billions in new spending."

It's clear that, with their latest federal financial plan, the Democrats are gearing up their public relations machine for the 2008 election. The problem is that, quite simply, their numbers do not add up. And I think the typical taxpayer is finally catching on.

*Nathan Tabor is a conservative political activist based in Kernersville, North Carolina. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public policy. He is a contributing editor at [www.theconservativevoice.com](http://www.theconservativevoice.com) and his 60-second commentaries are heard on over 250 stations daily.*

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## Anti Immigrant?

by Dan Calabria

All sensible Americans welcome legal immigrants, so let's not fall politicians who have a highly suspect and completely different

Why would any of us be opposed to legal immigrants? After all, how all of us got here in the first place. With the exception of American Indians, all of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants.

So who among us would be opposed to legal immigrants the U.S. to take advantage of all our country has to offer, including the chance to achieve financial independence, plus a litany of rights and privileges that are unique to the U.S.? The fact is that rational Americans welcome legal immigrants as new neighbors who roll up their sleeves and work together with us to keep America the real beacon of freedom in the world.

There must be countless numbers of people like me who are first generation Americans. My father was an immigrant – a legal immigrant – no short cuts, no food stamps, no welfare and no “amnesty”, just an opportunity to work in a free country. It's an excellent bet that the overwhelming majority of legal immigrants also fit that description.

So the nonsense currently making the rounds that we are anti-immigrant is just that, nonsense, and big time. It's a shameless lie deliberately designed by political opportunists, including a bunch of Washington pols, who are pulling out all the stops to disguise their political objective by trying to mislead and misinform. But they won't succeed because the facts prove they are liars. All of them.

The recently publicized immigration “reform” bill is the brainchild of none other than Teddy Kennedy. Let's recognize that anything with Teddy's name on it should be questioned. That's his track record, including the bogus no child left behind scam and the misnamed Medicare “reform” bill, the combination of which will at least overwhelm our children with enormous taxes, or simply bankrupt the country. But what does Teddy know about that? He still has the trust fund his father established to support him. If you're interested in Teddy's track record just read “Death at Chappaquiddick”, the book by the father and son team of Richard and Thomas Tedrow. It takes you step by step through this horrible chapter in American history, including Teddy's court testimony. After you read the book, ask yourself if you would trust this guy to help you cross a street, much less a bridge.

This new immigration “reform” scheme is just another classic Kennedy con job. But this time he's joined by a clueless president, desperate to raise his poll ratings and John McCain, who has once again blown any chance of getting the presidential nomination. McCain is at least consistent in his death wish. The unannounced presidential candidate, Fred Thomson, described this scam best - “There's an old saying in Washington that, in dealing with any tough issue, half the politicians hope that citizens don't understand it, while the other half fear that people actually do.” He also wrote - “No matter how much lipstick Washington tries to slap on this legislative pig, it's not going to win any beauty contest”, i.e., it's still a pig.

Here are some facts. In 2006 Congress passed and funded a bill that required building a 700 mile fence across our southern border. To date a total of 2 miles of that fence has been built. It's estimated that there are somewhere between 12 and 20 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. The Senate's “reform” bill creates a series of hurdles and loopholes that are virtually impossible to monitor, much less enforce. As a result, this bill, despite all the lipstick, is an amnesty scheme, i.e., another pig that effectively rewards illegal immigrants for breaking our laws.



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From day one Reality Checks has been an advocate and supporter of our military action in Iraq/Afghanistan. But in light of the Kennedy/Bush/McCain betrayal maybe we need to revisit that policy and make ourselves heard, loud and clear. If this bill is passed in the Senate we should demand a full and immediate withdrawal of all American military personnel and equipment from those countries. If we're not willing to secure our own borders then we have absolutely no business trying to help people who may not be willing to help themselves. If they're more interested in killing each other, let them. But we should not sacrifice a single additional American life over there while our own Senate refuses to protect us and our sovereignty here at home.

If we did this, we would have more than enough personnel to properly guard and secure our borders, which should be our first priority. And while we're at it maybe it's time to think of a new political party, The Independence Party, with Fred Thomson and Duncan Hunter as its presidential candidates in 2008. Now that's a ticket Democrats, Republicans and independents could support.

After all, if we're going to leave our borders open to terrorists we won't have to worry about abortion – the terrorists will take care of that issue, permanently.

And that's a Reality Check.

*Dan Calabria is at [www.realitychecktimes.com](http://www.realitychecktimes.com)*

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Ethanol Bonanza

by Joseph Morris

I happened to speak this morning with a client who is a farmer in the Danville, Illinois, area. In the course of our conversation I learned the following about the corn business these days:

His crops are now in for the season. He is growing mostly corn, and virtually all of his corn is destined for processing into ethanol, mainly for motor car fuels.

He sells only the ears. (The stalks and other parts of the plant are not in the ethanol production process.)

One bushel of corn yields about three gallons of ethanol.

Last year he was paid \$1.80 to \$2.00 per bushel.

This year he will be paid \$3.72 per bushel. (The price is already locked in by contract.)

He sells to a middle man (a poultry producer) who, in turn, re-sells to the ethanol processors.

These humble facts (coming straight from the grassroots, so to speak) strike me as really quite fascinating.

*Joseph A. Morris is a lawyer at Morris & De La Rosa in Chicago and a director of the American Conservative Union*



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Joe: The \$1.72/bushel price increase, from last year's \$2 to this year's \$3.72, represents an 86% increase. When you next fill up at the pump, notice if the fuel you're buying contains the government mandated 10% ethanol. Don't like the high price of gasoline? Call a corn farmer.



And what additional investment did the corn farmer make to justify this 86% sales price increase per bushel? Zero. Is that not the classic definition of a windfall profit? Where are the screams from the Democrats for a windfall profits tax on these greedy corn farmers?

In 2006, according to the USDA, domestic corn production totaled 10.9 billion bushels, at an average yield of 153.5 bushels per acre.

Assuming the 2007 bushel yield per acre comes in 153 bushels, the same 71 million acres planted in corn last year will produce total corn sales this year of \$40.5 Billion compared to \$21.8 Billion last year. All else being equal, corn producers are enjoying an \$18.7 Billion windfall profit. Remember also, that ethanol produced in the US enjoys a \$0.51/gallon federal subsidy thanks to the very effective lobbying of ADM.

Think any of the Presidential candidates are talking about this in Iowa?

*J. William Lauderback, Executive Vice President of [The American Conservative Union](http://www.americanconservativeunion.org)*

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Bill: You correctly say " ethanol produced in the US enjoys a \$0.51/gallon federal subsidy thanks to the very effective lobbying of ADM." But in addition there is a 50 cents per gallon tariff on cane-derived ethanol imported from Caribbean/Latin American nations, thus protecting the U.S. corn monopoly. Without it, there would be no need for the 51¢ subsidy which comes out of taxpayer pockets unseen.

Moreover, it takes something like three times the cost of energy in a gallon of ethanol to produce that same gallon, which in turn gives you half the miles per gallon of a gallon of gasoline. Stupidity--rent-seeking gone to insane extremes.

*Jameson Campaigne, Secretary, The American Conservative Union*

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Reader Comments

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Editor: No, I don't approve of the "food police" as outlined in your editorial "Tell Us What To Eat." But there's another side to this argument. Once upon a time, I was having "spells" of depression and even occasionally, was suicidal. I went to the psychiatrist, and he couldn't help. Then a friend came over one evening, and immediately diagnosed the problem - she had been a victim herself. Victim of what? Something that mainstream medicine didn't recognize at the time, called "hypoglycemia." What's that? It's the pancreas suddenly producing too much insulin, and burning out all the glucose in the body and brain, and that's what caused all the trouble. My friend sent me to her D.O., (Osteopath), and he sent me to his Osteopathic hospital and did some testing, and when it was over, he came in and told me I was "putting myself into insulin shock"!! His prescription? Cut out ALL the refined white sugar and refined white flour, and get on a dietary program of high protein, low carbohydrate, moderate fat. There was no other treatment. There still isn't. It was diet and nutrition, or continued disease. I did as told, and now I'm 77 years old, and I'm as healthy as a much younger person. The doctors tell me I've probably avoided cancer and heart disease and the decline in brainpower that usually comes with my advanced age, due to the very advice I got years ago. If only we could find a way to educate people, early in life, there could be a very sharp reduction in the incidence of chronic disease in our population. But until people make the connection between their diet and their nutrition, and their avoidance of serious health consequences, maybe we have to do a little policing, at least in the schools, though the incident recounted in your article was 'over the line", in my opinion. Jean L. Martin (M.A., M.S.S.W., retired), Richardson, Texas

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Editor: Fred Thompson's "Scrap Migrant Bill" is an excellent idea. I support him we need to seal all borders. FB

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Editor: If Congress followed Fred Thompson's "Scrap Migrant Bill" idea of solving the border problem first, by the time Congress fixed the problem we would have among us another million illegal aliens. Then we would have to decide what to do with 12 or 13 million illegal aliens. So, let us try to believe Congress can think and chew gum at the same time and solve both problems at the same time. We could use these 11 million new citizens to pay into social security and pay for the baby boomers now retiring. Conservatives and Republicans should support the current bill and try to win the Hispanic vote. This would be the first time Republicans ever tried to woo immigrants in our country. Normally, Republicans and Conservatives see immigrants as a threat to "American Values" and let the Democrats get the immigrant vote by default. It was Republicans like Margaret Sanger who introduced eugenics to America and saw the Italian and Eastern European immigrant as genetically inferior. And remember, it is the children of unskilled immigrants who have constantly revitalized America. Tim Sullivan East Hampton, New York

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Editor: Fred Thompson's assertion that our borders must be the first priority before trying to sell the American public on a guest worker program and all the other crap. If we can't recall the 1986 immigration reform law, we will be doomed to repeating our mistakes. Let's get real, politicians! Gordon Lee, Minneapolis

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Editor: In regard to Fred Thompson's "Scrap Migrant Bill"--at last someone has common sense. Howard Pettengill, Jr.

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Editor: Fred Thompson has written an excellent article on the immigration bill. I agree that the bill is a "pig in a poke" piece of legislation. Our Senate and House of Representatives have no respect for the country and its citizens. They have lost all perspective as to where this country has come from and where it should be going. I have lost most all my trust in our representatives and regard them as a group of near criminals seeking only their own good. Where did our true leaders go? Our country is ripe for a fall. William Spear, Northport, AL

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Editor: Fred Thompson's article on illegal immigration "Scrap Migrant Bill" is right on target! Terry Grogan

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Editor: Fred Thompson has it right...except a few additional acknowledgements should be made: First, we are at war, and we are at grave, I do mean Grave Risk, of our enemies filtering through our borders on a daily basis. Lets refrain at this time from referring to this as an immigration problem. THIS IS NOT AN IMMIGRATION PROBLEM! It is no different than an enemy coming across our "lines" during a combative environment, attempting to overrun our forces...in this case our country...and do us harm. Thus, it is a job for the Military to protect and take control of our lines"...at least at this point it is. We may also gain Mexico's cooperation (and attention) by telling them we must close immigration requests, as well as the borders, until things are in order, and their help will speed it up. Americans have not been told properly that we are at war! Politicians have allowed that we are doing business back here at home as per-usual, and our business world has not been told they must cooperate. We are at war! George Maurer

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Editor: I want to applaud Fred Thompson for telling the truth in "Scrap Migrant Bill" about our government in Washington trying to pull another one over on the American people. I am so disappointed in them all, including George Bush, that I won't give any of them another nickel unless they start thinking like Fred Thompson. Jane Hill, Advance, NC

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Editor: Bravo and thank you for having the courage to print Fred Thompson's outlook on the entire immigration bill to scam the American people. He could not have put it more clearly and/or sincerely and my husband and I thank him for being on the side of most American people. To keep the American people in the state of fear over terrorist and the aftermath of the 911 murders and THEN NOT to close our vulnerable borders on both sides - Canada and Mexico - is absolutely INSANE on the part of our leaders and President Bush. It is difficult to understand President Bush's lack of support to completely secure our borders after all the warnings and potential threats of terrorist acts on our country. Well, guess what? He convinced us that there is a real threat! Now, we will not tolerate anything less than our borders being closed to the invasion of illegals. Thank you for letting me express myself. Sincerely, J & D Emmons

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Editor: Fred Thompson's "Scrap Migrant Bill" is a good first step! STOP EVERYTHING and show us the REAL BORDER SECURITY we need! Don't make more EMPTY promises! I am sick of the way Congress and the president is trying to pull one over on the American people! It isn't right! Linda Fulwider

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Editor: To Fred Thompson's "Scrap Migrant Bill" all I can say is "amen." J. Magby

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Editor: Renny Hartmann's "Decline of 'Feel Good'" does an excellent job of hitting the nail on the head!! Thank you for bringing some common sense to the issue. Maybe if these suggestions are implemented, McDonalds can take their pictures off the cash registers and teach their employees to make change too. George Green

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Editor: Regarding Renny Hartmann's "Decline of 'Feel Good'" as a former teacher and Elementary Principal, I am truly grateful to read that there may be some reasonable thinking among people, especially teachers, regarding the low state of public education in America in recent years. The prevalence of far left thinking among College and University Professors in the past twenty-five years has led to the loss of basic education in most areas of learning. The theory of being culturally correct has led to the watering down of education in favor of self-esteem. I witnessed that trend before the 1990's. It started in the 1960's and has gathered steam as society began to decline and with the appearance of the increased far left's desire for cultural changes. That goal has increased at the expense of education. I am appreciative of the slow movement back to common sense. William Spear, Northport, AL

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Editor: Renny Hartmann's "Decline of 'Feel Good'" is enough to make one cheer with joy, even as apprehension of teacher graduates' shortcomings (i.e., ignorance?) remains stagnant. Thanks for your drop of optimism in the midst of all this anarchic chaos we're having to deal with. Sincerely, Alex Pinsdorf

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Editor: I agree with Renny Hartmann's "Decline of 'Feel Good'" in going back to the "old math". Bill Neukum

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Editor: Regarding Alex and Dennis Avery's "Roaches in the Schools" first let me qualify that I am a conservative and am becoming more upset with the Republican administrations each day. I am very active currently studying the Immigration (Amnesty) Bill and forwarding info to my e-mail Alert list. I became very ill some twenty years ago and thanks to alternative medical help, I am very healthy and active and turning 65 in August. BUT, I must advise you that chemical exposure can be harmful to children and adults. I worked with some of the best Environmental Medicine doctors in Denver to find the chemicals my body had become most sensitive to. Shots for a few years and permanent elimination of chemicals in my household (cleaning products, toiletries, gardening sprays, etc) have given me a very healthy life. A family member was recently feeling ill at work; but seemed better at night each day. The cleaning crew had put PLUG INS in the office. After removal, this person and other office personnel that were having respiratory problems have been one hundred percent better.

Every cleaning person that has worked for me (using my products) has had health problems (respiratory as well as depression). Chemicals are lethal and rob a person of good health and they do not know why. There are solutions: My pest control service uses a very natural product and sprays in cracks and does not leave residue. The school could look for as natural a product as possible and could also set days aside to spray the building and DO NOT OPEN it for several days so most of the vapors would have evaporated. Bottom Line from someone that has been there--Chemicals are causing health issues and my taxes are being spent to take care of sick people that will not take care of themselves. We can deny that there are chemical hazards (air, water, food) and keep paying for sick people. Use your conservative voice to reduce illness and keep health costs down. Barbara Mabray, Georgetown, TX

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