

FOES OF 'ILLEGALS' MOVE TO END ALL IMMIGRATION

Daily News (New York)

September 28, 2011 Wednesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2011 Daily News, L.P.



Section: SUBURBAN; Pg. 34

Length: 581 words

Byline: BY ALBOR RUIZ

Body

We have heard it time and time again: "We are not against immigration, we are against illegal immigrations."

Yeah, sure . . .

Of course, that statement expresses the feelings of some people, but many others - too many - use it to mask their true anti-immigrant - legal or not - sentiments.

That has become even clearer now that some nativists have taken off their masks and showed their true faces. They are not pretty.

No longer are they saying their problem is only with the undocumented. They have shifted targets to legal immigrants, as the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights has noted.

"Some national nativist groups appear to be changing course," the institute said, "and are preparing to launch a campaign to restrict documented immigration."

NumbersUSA, the largest anti-immigration group in the country, is one of them. The group has ties to the Tea Party and white nationalists. It was founded with help from John Tanton, a rabid anti-immigrant activist who says his goal is to preserve a "European-American majority."

During the Sept. 22 Republican presidential debate broadcast, NumbersUSA aired an ad urging candidates to reduce legal immigration, if they are elected, "so that more jobs are opened up for unemployed American workers."

"Despite some of the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression," the group said in a release announcing the ads, "Congress and President Obama continue to issue permanent work permits to more than 1 million new legal immigrants a year to enter the U.S. and take American jobs."

This, of course, is pure demagoguery. Immigrants bring talents and skills that enrich the nation's cultural fabric and economy.

"Immigrants and their children have been responsible for creating millions more jobs in all 50 states," Mayor Bloomberg told a symposium at the Council on Foreign Relations in June. "The reason is simple: Immigrants are dreamers and risk-takers who are driven to succeed because they know that in America, hard work and talent are rewarded like nowhere else."

FOES OF 'ILLEGALS' MOVE TO END ALL IMMIGRATION

The Council of Economic Advisors, an agency within the executive office of the President charged with offering Obama objective economic advice, points out that immigrant entrepreneurs started 25% of engineering and technology companies between 1995 and 2005, including some of the economy's biggest names. These companies created thousands of jobs.

"And immigrants are inventors," the council said. "According to a Duke University study, the share of U.S. patent applications filed by immigrants rose from 7.3% to 24.2% from 1998 to 2006. Nearly a quarter of our scientists and almost half of our engineers are immigrants."

But NumbersUSA and other groups like it don't give a damn about the truth. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, they keep spreading the false notion that immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are a drain on the economy and are taking jobs away from "real Americans."

The NumbersUSA ad wasn't the first of its kind. Californians for Population Stabilization, had launched a similar ad during the Sept. 7 GOP presidential debate.

Both spots called for further restricting documented immigration using high unemployment as an excuse.

Extreme anti-immigration groups like NumbersUSA seem to be about to turn up the volume on their campaign of distortions and half-truths.

But as Bloomberg has said: "Every day that we fail to fix our broken immigration laws is a day that we inflict a wound on our economy."

aruiz@nydailynews.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Document-Type: COLUMN

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (95%); IMMIGRATION LAW (89%); JOB CREATION (87%); ECONOMIC NEWS (86%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (78%); UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (77%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (75%); ENGINEERING (75%); ECONOMIC POLICY (75%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (74%); ENTREPRENEURSHIP (74%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (74%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (73%); CAUCASIAN AMERICANS (72%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (71%); US PRESIDENTS (71%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (70%); TECHNICIANS & TECHNOLOGICAL WORKERS (70%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (70%); ECONOMIC DEPRESSION (70%); EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (70%); UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (70%); POLITICAL DEBATES (69%); TEA PARTY MOVEMENT (68%); WHITE NATIONALISTS (67%); GREAT DEPRESSION (65%); LICENSES & PERMITS (64%); PATENTS (60%)

Industry: ENGINEERING (75%)

Person: BARACK OBAMA (53%); MICHAEL BLOOMBERG (50%)

FOES OF 'ILLEGALS' MOVE TO END ALL IMMIGRATION

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (94%)

Load-Date: September 28, 2011

End of Document