

GOP split on immigration bill COMPROMISE • Increase border security, temporary worker program. BACKLASH • Agreement is a sellout, conservative figures say.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 19, 2007 Saturday, THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2007 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A20

Length: 338 words

Byline: By Michael Abramowitz WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

President George W. Bush's embrace of **compromise immigration** legislation has **split** the Republican Party, as several **GOP** presidential candidates quickly came out against the deal and the **conservative** base reacted with fury.

Figures on the right, including **conservative** talk radio hosts, analysts at the Heritage Foundation and National Review columnists, derided the **agreement** as a **sellout** of **conservative** principles. **GOP** presidential candidates criticized the plan as a form of amnesty - a characterization rejected by the White House.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who last year **said** similar efforts for a comprehensive **immigration bill** were "reasonable," called the deal reached this week the "wrong approach" to the problem. "Any legislation that allows illegal immigrants to stay in the country indefinitely, as the new 'Z-Visa' does, is a form of amnesty," he **said**.

White House officials **said** they fully anticipated the **conservative** reaction and acknowledge they face a big challenge in educating even their strongest supporters about a **bill** that would provide **increased border security**, create a **temporary worker program** and allow many of the 12 million illegal immigrants a chance to earn a green card if they pay fines and return first to their country of origin.

The Senate will debate the measure next week, with the House expected to take up the issue sometime this summer.

Administration officials **said** they have addressed many of the concerns **conservatives** had with previous **immigration** legislation: Under the proposal, for instance, the provisions making it possible for illegal immigrants to stay in the United States would only go into effect after stringent new **border** control provisions are implemented.

Presidential aspirant Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., backs the **bill**. In the past, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has been an outspoken **immigration** advocate. But a statement from his communications director offered no endorsement of the new **bill** and stressed the **security** implications of **immigration**.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

GOP split on immigration bill COMPROMISE • Increase border security, temporary worker program.
BACKLASH • Agreement is a sellout, conservative figures say.

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (92%); CONSERVATISM (91%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (90%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); NATIONAL SECURITY (89%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (89%); AGREEMENTS (89%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (89%); BORDER CONTROL (88%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (79%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (78%); AMNESTY (76%); WRITERS (57%)

Organization: THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION (58%)

Industry: CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (78%); WRITERS (57%)

Person: RUDY GIULIANI (59%); MITT ROMNEY (59%); JOHN MCCAIN (59%)

Geographic: MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%)

Load-Date: June 26, 2007

End of Document