

America's Better Self Got Lost in Aliens Law;

'Victims' Who Exploit

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Body

To the Editor:

I cannot fathom why Anthony Lewis and others have painted Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood, President Clinton's first two nominees for Attorney General, as **victims** of a male-dominated society simply because they employed illegal **aliens** as child care workers (column, Feb. 8).

Admittedly I am not a mother or a highly paid professional woman. However, I have worked with immigrant rights groups, and I can tell you the main reason people employ illegal **aliens** is that they will work for much less, and because of their tenuous status with the Immigration and Naturalization Service they are more compliant and more easily **exploited**.

With regard to the consequences of the actions of Ms. Baird, Judge Wood and any men whose wives have employed illegal **aliens**, this is not about keeping women in their place. I wish somebody would keep me in my place as a Federal district judge or a \$500,000-a-year general counsel for a Fortune 500 company.

If these women were low- or middle-income workers who would be put into a serious financial bind by paying the prevailing rate for legal nannies, I might feel different. However, this issue has nothing to do with feminism and everything to do with the wanton, callous, capitalistic **exploitation** of the reserve army of the unemployed.

We've come a long way, baby. Is this the direction we want to continue going in?

BETSY SHACKELFORD

New York, Feb. 8, 1993

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