

Illegal Aliens and the Mount Pleasant Riots

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I must take issue with the May 8 editorial about **illegal aliens**. I run the Mount Pleasant Soccer League and use Lincoln Junior High School Hispanic youths to officiate at games. Last fall I paid stipends out of player fees. This spring it was suggested I use a D.C. Neighborhood Planning Council program to hire these youths, but four out of five had no Immigration and Naturalization Service status and, hence, were unemployable. Community youth workers tell me that fully three-quarters of the students at Lincoln Junior High have no INS status.

With no status, Hispanics must shun authority, accept menial jobs, live in substandard, overcrowded housing and be excluded from essentially all city services except schooling (at a cost at Lincoln alone of \$ 1.5 million per year).

These people are here to stay, and they are our neighbors. Let us recognize that and provide them with INS status.

JAMES P. FARRELL

Commissioner

Mount Pleasant Soccer League

Washington

Membership in mobs is not determined by one's immigration status. The recent riots in Mount Pleasant and Adams-Morgan are not fundamentally immigration problems so much as they are urban economic and social problems.

People are more likely to riot when they lack economic opportunity, political representation or access to authority. Not speaking English limits opportunity and hinders communication with authority figures like the police. New ethnic communities take time to establish grass-roots political organizations that help them gain a voice in our political process.

However, the costs of immigration are real and are not spread out around the country. Immigrants tend to settle in urban areas where family and ethnic ties are already established. For Washington, that means a lack of housing in Hispanic neighborhoods because of the quick and sizable increase in the number of Central American immigrants.

Policy makers must realize that we have a choice: Be willing to spend the money and resources necessary to help immigrants who come to this country, or adopt an immigration policy that sets stricter limits on the number of people we accept as new residents.

The Post editorial is correct in that Hispanics should not be stereotyped, and nobody should consider kicking entire segments of our community out of the country. Perhaps unintentionally, however, it also implied that we should not deport **illegal aliens**. **Illegal aliens** should be deported, not because of the riots in Mount Pleasant, but because they have broken our laws and are in the country illegally.

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