

Dueling protesters face off in D.C. over immigration Group calling for tougher border security finishes a cross-country caravan.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 13, 2006 Saturday, THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A25

Length: 331 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Reflecting the American divide **over immigration, protesters** on both sides stood a few feet from one another near the Capitol shouting chants and exchanging accusations.

The **protesters** were kept apart Friday by helmeted police officers who stood inside a ring of yellow police tape.

A Minuteman Project rally marked the end of a **cross-country caravan** by the anti-**immigration group**, whose members patrol the U.S.-Mexican **border** in search of illegal **border** crossers. The **caravan** began in Los Angeles.

Minuteman demonstrators, who numbered less than 100, castigated an **immigration** bill before the Senate next week that would give millions of illegal immigrants a chance at American citizenship.

"They are literally going to shove an amnesty down our throats," said Minuteman founder Jim Gilchrist.

As the **group** held its hourlong rally, about 20 pro-immigrant demonstrators shouted, "No Minutemen. No KKK. No Fascist USA!" Gilchrist responded by telling the counterprotesters to "Get out of my **face**."

The Minuteman rally was tiny compared with the pro-immigrant marches and protests held across the **country** in the past month.

Bud Peters, 40, of Kingman, Ariz., said it was the size of those protests that motivated him to ride his motorcycle from Kingman for Friday's rally.

"I knew (illegal **immigration**) was big in my state, but I didn't realize it was that bad here. It woke a lot of people up," said Peters, a general contractor who says he does not hire illegal immigrants.

On the other side, David Benzaquen, 22, who **immigrated** from Morocco with his parents and is now a U.S. citizen, said, "It's absolutely imperative to get amnesty for immigrants who come here. Without it, we wouldn't have the industries and economy the way we have."

A contentious debate is expected next week in the Senate, and President George W. Bush plans to address the nation Monday night on the issue. Bush has **called** for a comprehensive bill that would allow some illegal immigrants to remain in the U.S. as guest workers.

Graphic

Dueling protesters face off in D.C. over immigration Group calling for tougher border security finishes a cross-country caravan.

PHOTO

PHOTO - A supporter of the Minuteman Project, whose members patrol the U.S.-Mexican **border** in search of illegal **border** crossers, joins a demonstration Friday in Washington. The rally drew fewer than 100 people. AFP / Getty Images

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: **IMMIGRATION** (94%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL **BORDERS** (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); FOREIGN LABOR (78%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (77%); **BORDER** CONTROL (76%); AMNESTY (74%); NATIONAL **SECURITY** (71%)

Industry: MOTOR VEHICLES (51%)

Geographic: ARIZONA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (95%); MOROCCO (79%); MEXICO (79%)

Load-Date: May 13, 2006

End of Document