

Don't Come to America Looking for a Handout

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Body

To the Editor:

Re "Immigrants' Burden" (Op-Ed, Oct. 2): George Soros may have had his broken leg set for free in England after World War II, but had he been treated in the United States -- where he eventually made his millions -- he would have had to borrow money from a friend or perhaps a local Hungarian-**American** group to pay the bill, or work it off.

The point that seems to elude him and other liberals is that we cannot have it both ways in this country. We cannot be an entrepreneurial, dynamic nation of risk-takers and at the same time expect our government to pick up the pieces every time we stumble or fail. There was a time when immigrants **came** to this country with expectations of freedom and opportunity, and that was all. Now too many **come** with the promise of a government **handout**.

No one denies that immigrants occasionally need a helping hand, but let it **come** first from friends, family and religious and civic organizations and then, only as a last resort, from the government.

The first thing an immigrant should read after arriving on these shores is the help-wanted section of the newspaper, not an application for food stamps.

WILSON GRABILL

Princeton, N.J., Oct. 2, 1996

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