

Leaders lacking on immigration -- again

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Body

Notwithstanding the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, the preferences of the American people and common sense, members of Congress opted to go home for a two-week vacation rather than deal with the difficult, immediate threat of illegal immigration to the USA. The president and congressional leaders could have stepped in and stopped them, but they didn't ("Historic rallies voice a 'dream'," News, Tuesday).

This country's immigration debate is not exactly a problem that sneaked up on us. It has been building for decades -- in both Democratic and Republican administrations -- so there is more than enough egg to cover all faces, including those of ordinary Americans like us, who wink at the all-too-obvious signs of this dilemma. Shame on us!

We must:

*Make it more difficult -- a lot more difficult -- for people, regardless of their origin or intention, to unlawfully invade the USA.

*Reduce the economic incentive for those who would risk the journey in search of better work, and increase the danger for those with more nefarious motives.

*Provide a more realistic and secure means of lawfully "on-shoring" immigrant workers, in numbers that correspond both with our needs and our ability to absorb such persons.

Bill Catlette

Collierville, Tenn.

Show more forgiveness

All of this hard talk about not rewarding immigrants who came here illegally but who have stayed and worked for many years, paid taxes, obeyed the law, maybe even married and invested in a home or business should be tempered with a generous dose of forgiveness and even appreciation ("Public divided over how to treat illegals," Cover story, News, Tuesday).

Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers acted illegally when they violated laws they considered unjust. Thank goodness. For too long, we have fallen behind and remained behind in our immigration laws. They have not kept up with reality.

Let's accept responsibility and provide an abbreviated path to citizenship for these good, long-term, law-abiding residents whom we'd be honored to have as fellow citizens and neighbors. They're the ancestors of our future leaders.

Ronald Williams

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Charlotte

Send lawbreakers home

It is hard to believe the so-called debate on illegal immigrants in this country. There is no debate. They have broken the law and entered our country as criminals.

The solution is really simple: Give all illegal immigrants three months to leave. Anyone who remains should be forced to return to his or her own country.

James Jones

Johnson City, Tenn.

Go after employers

It appears that rhetoric and emotion, mixed with the usual scummy positions from politicians, have clouded much of the debate on our immigration and illegal alien situation.

The first logical question should be: What is the reason most of these people enter our nation? Naturally, the answer is that they are mostly decent, hard-working people who simply want a better life for their families.

So, who is hiring and taking advantage of these poor souls? That seems to be the elephant sitting in the living room that Congress and our inept president refuse to admit or address.

Let's research exactly how many of the eager employers of the millions of illegal immigrants have ever been arrested, imprisoned or even slapped on the wrist.

And therein lies both the problem and the solution:

It should not be the job of the U.S. government to provide cheap and illegal labor for any business or industry.

Ed Creamean

Danville, Va.

Nation of laws?

Many of the advocates for illegal immigration say it is acceptable to break the immigration laws to illegally enter our country; yet, these same advocates consistently espouse the mantra on social issues that "we are a nation of laws."

I'd like these advocates to tell me which federal laws the rest of us may choose to ignore because we don't agree with them.

Equal opportunity? Civil rights laws?

Larry Zini

Huntsville, Utah

Graphic

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