

PANDERING FOR VOTES ON IMMIGRATION

Daily News (New York)

July 10, 2006 Monday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2006 Daily News, L.P.



Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 26

Length: 755 words

Body

Shamelessly trolling for anti-immigrant votes in the fall election, House Republicans are galloping around the Southwest to raise alarms about foreign hordes lurking on the other side of the border. They're holding hearings on "border vulnerabilities and international terrorism," with the real purpose being to portray immigration as a pure menace to the American way of life. That's the result you get by focusing only on the toll illegal immigration inflicts on border states without considering either the practicalities of immigration reform or the benefits of controlled immigration.

The cynical nature of the road trip is obvious. The GOP is taking testimony after - not before - passing one-sided reform legislation that did plenty to seal the border but nothing to relieve the overwhelming pressure for more legal immigration.

House leaders think this exercise plays well with their base. But their calculations will prove dead wrong. Most of the country recognizes that the pull of American opportunity is too strong for the U.S. to completely stem the tide across the borders and sees it is plain fantasy to make felons out of the 11 million illegal immigrants already here. Latinos - the fastest-growing segment of the legal population - will remember this sad display of GOP demagoguery when they go to the polls in the future.

The Senate, which passed a far superior reform bill after much hard work and compromise, countered with a hearing of its own in Philadelphia. It properly focused on the good that immigrants, both legal and illegal, bring to this country. Mayor Bloomberg testified that the city's economy would "collapse" without the labor of a half-million residents who lack legal documentation.

The mayor overstated matters, but the effects of losing those New Yorkers would be severe. Without immigrants, legal and illegal, the city's population would be shrinking rather than growing and whole segments of the economy would have difficulty finding workers. Think restaurants. Hospitals. Small construction.

President Bush says he's still committed to getting real immigration reform through Congress - and by that he means not just tightening security at the border, which must be done, but also providing a path to citizenship for the millions on this side and creating a guest worker program for the millions more yearning to get in.

In hopes of bringing the House to the table, Bush appears willing to consider a two-stage process: border security first, followed by expanded legal immigration when certain goals or "triggers" are met. If that's to be the deal, the President must insist that Congress set reasonably achievable goals and that the end result is a comprehensive package. The compromise must make it possible for more immigrants to cross the border legally, or they will

PANDERING FOR VOTES ON IMMIGRATION

continue coming illegally, no matter what walls we may build. And it must give those already living in this country the assurances they need to step out of the shadows and become full members of a free society.

Fair payment for good work

Two smart guys, Brooklyn Federal Judge Ed Korman and NYU law professor Burt Neuborne, have tangled themselves in an unseemly ruckus in the landmark distribution of \$1.25 billion in compensation from Swiss banks to Jewish Holocaust survivors who were defrauded by the banks during and after the Nazi era.

Korman, from the bench, and Neuborne, from the bar, have done outstanding public service, first in securing the money from the banks and then working out how it would be paid to survivors. The effort has taken a decade. During the settlement phase, Neuborne worked gratis, but both men say they agreed in 1999 that Neuborne would begin to take a fee. Stupidly, neither put the arrangement on the record, including the size of Neuborne's hourly rate.

Now, he has put in for \$4 million-plus at \$700 an hour. A group of survivors has challenged the payment, and Neuborne faces suggestions that billing at the upper reaches of corporate law is unseemly in a matter involving Holocaust restitution. What would be proper then? \$600-an-hour? \$400? \$50? Nothing?

Federal Judge Frederic Block (Korman recused himself) will soon decide. But it's clear that, through long service, Neuborne was critical to the success of the settlement with the banks and to the distribution so far of more than \$900 million to more than 400,000 people worldwide. He deserves fair compensation, just as other lawyers in the case have reaped \$7 million without anyone suggesting they were wrong to receive payment.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Document-Type: EDITORIAL

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: **IMMIGRATION** (95%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (89%); BORDER CONTROL (89%); **IMMIGRATION** LAW (89%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); LEGISLATION (78%); VOTERS & **VOTING** (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); CITIZENSHIP LAW (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); FOREIGN LABOR (78%); POPULATION SIZE (78%); NATIONAL SECURITY (77%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (73%); US PRESIDENTS (72%); CITIES (68%); CITY LIFE (63%); TERRORISM (57%)

Industry: RESTAURANTS (61%)

Person: MICHAEL BLOOMBERG (54%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); PENNSYLVANIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%)

Load-Date: July 10, 2006

PANDERING FOR VOTES ON IMMIGRATION

End of Document