

ANTI-IMMIGRATION GROUPS START AD CAMPAIGN IN IOWA

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Body

Anti-immigration groups have latched onto **Iowa**'s first-in-the-nation caucuses as a national stage, pouring thousands of dollars into **campaign** advertising that blames immigration for many of the country's woes.

In one newspaper **ad**, words printed over a garbage dump read: "When those candidates tell you how unspoiled and beautiful **Iowa** is, ask them what they're going to do to keep it that way.

"Most likely you'll have to give them the answer: reduce immigration."

Another **ad** describes the town of Storm Lake, where the IBP Inc. meatpacking plant employs hundreds of Hispanics, as a place "where quality of life is but a memory."

Gov. Tom Vilsack, a Democrat, railed against the **ads** last week, calling them a deplorable propaganda **campaign** by "hate-mongers" who "go after Hispanics and Asians."

Several television stations and newspapers, including The Des Moines Register, have refused to run them, saying the **ads** are misleading and inflammatory.

"It was insinuating that immigrants were garbage," said Register Publisher Barbara Henry.

While few Iowans have publicly agreed with the **ads**, Dan Stein, executive director of the Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, said his **group** has had overwhelmingly positive feedback from the **ad campaign**.

"Iowans have been browbeaten to think of this level of immigration as inevitable, that they should like it and everybody should get along," Stein said.

Another **group** that has run **anti-immigration ads** in **Iowa** and across the country since 1997 is the Virginia-based American Immigration Control Foundation.

The **Iowa ads**, which began running three weeks before the state's caucuses on Jan. 24, say the U.S. population will grow to 400 million from 275 million people in 50 years without immigration reforms. They say the country doesn't have room for that many people and show images of unemployed workers and a decaying neighborhood.

In Storm Lake, Mayor Jon Kruse has demanded a public apology from what he called "the inconsiderate, uninformed, out-of-state, political, special interest **group**."

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The **ad** saying Storm Lake's quality of life has been diminished by immigration says the city's schools, jails and hospitals have been overburdened by foreigners. It portrays a business forced to close its doors, a neighborhood in disarray and people being arrested. But none of the images was filmed in Storm Lake.

"I call it very demeaning," said Dale Carver, who heads an area diversity task force. "They didn't portray Storm Lake at all in a true manner."

Federation spokesman Rick Oltman of San Rafael, Calif., said the **group** is sticking by the **ad**.

"I don't think we have anything to apologize for," Oltman said. "The mayor did not correct any of the things that were said in the **ad**."

Classification

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Company: TYSON FRESH MEATS INC (71%); TYSON FRESH MEATS INC (71%); FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (55%)

Organization: FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM (55%)

Ticker: IBP (NYSE) (60%)

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Person: TOM VILSACK (50%)

Geographic: **IOWA**, USA (94%); UNITED STATES (92%)

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