

How Really to Cut Down Illegal Immigration;

Protect the Innocent

The New York Times

November 6, 1989, Monday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1989 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Page 22, Column 5; Editorial Desk; Letter

Length: 400 words

Body

To the Editor:

"Jobs Being Filled by **illegal** Aliens Despite Sanctions" (front page, Oct. 9) was foreseen by opponents of **immigration** reform legislation. That law was a mismatch of "reforms" sought by two minorities in Congress, the Hispanophobes, who wanted to keep out Mexican migrants, and the Hispanophiles, who wanted legalization for **illegal** aliens already here.

The ebb and flow of Mexican migrants across our Southern border is likely to continue as long as there are jobs here that are shunned, for whatever reasons, by legal residents. Bogus documents were the inevitable consequence of the law's requirement that employers demand proof from each new employee of his right to work in the United States.

We could control our border more effectively if we allowed short-term legal entry for screened Mexicans who can produce police clearances and family data from their home communities. Such migrants would enter through normal channels and could be monitored while here to assure timely departure. This would be far more orderly than a situation in which otherwise harmless job seekers must sneak across the border or be smuggled in by "coyotes."

The opponents of short-term legal entry argue that such a program would make it easier for migrants to find jobs, thus depriving legal residents of employment opportunities. That is a myth refuted by credible studies and by the experience of employers whose premises have been raided by **Immigration** and Naturalization Service agents to arrest and deport undocumented Mexicans. Most of the vacated jobs went begging until "**illegal** aliens" came back to take them. A President's Council of Economic Advisers report found that the Mexican migrants who come here temporarily for hard-to-fill jobs benefit the economies of both countries.

The flood of harmless migrants who must sneak or be smuggled across the border because there is no legal alternative are used as cover by the drug traffickers and other criminals, who are a serious threat to our country. By establishing a legal, short-term entry procedure for the innocuous migrants, we would divert the Mexicans who benefit our economy to normal entry channels and thus make it far easier for our border officials to apprehend and prohibit entry by the malefactors, who must of necessity find **illegal** ways to enter our country.

E. M. GILES

San Antonio, Oct. 9, 1989

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

How Really to Cut Down Illegal Immigration;Protect the Innocent

Subject: **ILLEGAL** IMMIGRANTS (90%); SMUGGLING (90%); **IMMIGRATION** (89%); **IMMIGRATION** LAW (89%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); EMPLOYMENT SEARCH (78%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (78%); BORDER CONTROL (78%); ARRESTS (78%); ALIEN SMUGGLING (78%); LEGISLATION (77%); COUNTERFEITING & FORGERY (75%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (73%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (73%); MINORITY GROUPS (72%); ECONOMICS (69%); DRUG TRAFFICKING (66%); ECONOMIC NEWS (63%)

Company: **IMMIGRATION** & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (54%); **IMMIGRATION** & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (54%)

Organization: **IMMIGRATION** & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (54%); **IMMIGRATION** & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (54%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (79%)

End of Document