



STOP THE PHONY "ANTI-ALIEN" BILL IN ALBANY

A N.Y. State bill (Field-Knorr), near passage, would make any employer a criminal – even a housewife – who knowingly employs someone lacking Immigration Service authorization to work.

Proponents of bill claim:

New York is flooded with nonresidents who overstay their time.

Most overstayed nonresidents are "illegals."

"Illegals" are taking jobs from citizens and residents.

Ousting "illegals" will open up jobs for citizens and residents.

"Illegals" are not paying taxes and are burdening governmental social services.

The criminal penalty on employers will not cause discrimination against Latin-looking persons.

No money is needed to enforce the penalty, and the State Legislature has not appropriated any.

The facts are:

An Immigration & Naturalization Service research report (Lesko, 10/15/75) states: "Actual data regarding the number of illegal aliens do not exist within the Immigration Service...."

Most nonresidents in the N.Y. area have entered legally, with consular visas -- the only way to come from Latin America and the Caribbean -- and overstayed. This is a civil violation, not a crime.

A U.S. Labor Dept. research report (Linton, 11/17/75) notes: Their "impact is least likely in the American labor market...they are primarily employed in low-level jobs...at wages at the lowest range of the low-wage scale" --jobs others don't want.

A Wall Street Journal editorial (6/18/76), entitled "The Illegal Alien Non-Problem," said: "In a city like N.Y., which has been driving away businesses through high costs, the illegals may well be providing the margin of survival for entire sectors of the economy, like the restaurants."

The Linton Report found that social security taxes were withheld for 77% of "illegals," and Federal income taxes for 73%. But only 4% collected unemployment insurance, 1.3% obtained food stamps, and .05% secured welfare. "Illegals" are augmenting social funds rather than benefiting from them.

The penalty "could lead employers to refuse jobs to any Hispanic-looking person, regardless of his status" (Wall St. Journal, 6/18/76) and especially to "the large number of Puerto Ricans who have difficulty establishing documentary proof of their birthplace" (Puerto Rican Bar Association of N.Y., Immigration Law Committee, 6/8/76).

Former State Deputy Labor Commissioner Louis Sitkin testified that money would be needed to enforce the bill, since the Dept. lacked funds to deal with violations of existing labor laws. Furthermore, the penalty provisions would divert millions of scarce tax dollars and clog the courts, already unable to cope with serious crimes.

(over)

WE BELIEVE

The people need real job opportunities, not "alien" scapegoats.

The problem is national, and should be solved by Congress granting amnesty to "illegals," like Canada and Argentina have done. Why? Because "overstayed aliens" are essentially a past problem. Since September 1973, entrants who are not authorized to work cannot obtain Social Security cards. Therefore, they are unable to work except on domestic or farm jobs.

The historic gateway, Ellis Island, and the nearby Statue of Liberty are national symbols of welcome to the stranger and hope for a better life. On the eve of the Bicentennial, we in New York State should reaffirm these cherished values and not disgrace the occasion with a law proclaiming fear of the stranger.

Write: Governor Hugh L. Carey, State Capitol, Albany, New York

Urge him to veto (as former Gov. Malcolm Wilson did in 1974) the Field-Knorr Bill (A.30043; S.4202-C) as being alien to America.

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