



Republican Priorities

The Big Picture - A discussion on politics, social structures and social consciousness

BY MATSOFATSO

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The New (racist) Anti-Immigration Law in Fremont NE

The referendum that recently passed in Fremont Nebraska to banish illegal immigrants is a disgrace. The influx of immigrant labor is tied directly to the meatpacking industry there, but upon closer inspection of the law, the meatpacking plants are except because they fall outside the city limits. So the law will not be able to accomplish what the underlying racist motivations behind it seek. To keep their predominantly white town white, no matter what the cost. And according to their plans to reduce city services and increase taxes, they plan on the costs, mostly legal, to be pretty high.

It's not that white Americans don't think that Mexican immigrants work hard; it's that they're afraid they work too hard. "Dey terk 'er jerbs" as the writers of South Park pointedly portrayed the racist rednecks in Colorado responding to the influx of immigrant labor. If Americans say that our country is the best country in the world and that our greatness is born of the sweat, toil and ingenuity of our work force, and the melting pot diversity of our makeup, then what exactly are we afraid of?

Those that are so violently against any sort of immigration are those that know deep down that they are not willing to work as hard as they say they would. They feel so entitled to the blessings of living in a society that has risen to the high standard of living we experience here, that they would do anything and support any law to keep the status quo. One in which they are able to stifle competition to not have to work as hard yet experience all the benefits of a first rate society. As our global economy becomes more integrated, the high level of economic disparity we enjoy in the US becomes challenged, and we are quick to call foul.

People who support this kind of overt racism claim that they fear they will lose their jobs, but that is not statistically likely to happen. US born workers and illegal immigrants are not typically competing for the same jobs. Most illegals do not have high school diplomas and most US born workers do, so there is a distinct inherent advantage in the job market for US born workers for 'regular' types of jobs. The types of work that illegals do are typically unfavorable for US born workers, and if somebody is unwilling to do a job, then it's hard to take their complaints about someone else doing it seriously.

Another argument is that the cost to the social safety net and other social services outweighs the benefits that immigrants bring to society. This argument is based mostly around 'new' immigrants, but ignores the long term life long contributions they will provide, and their legally born children will provide. When taking into account the long term picture, immigration has a clear economic advantage nationally. Illegals are unable to garner welfare and nearly 75% of illegals pay into social security but are unable to collect it which is a major contributor to the surpluses that social security experiences. This flies in the face of the argument that illegals pose a damaging affect on the social safety net.

People who are against immigration typically do it for racist reasons, and will seek out studies to back up their motivations. Most of the studies they cite are badly biased and ignore the long term benefits of immigration. Groups like the Center for Immigration Studies and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) are fronts for the racist anti-immigration ideology of John Tanton and his like minded right wing ideologues. If they got their way, we'd have mass deportations of millions of people, while ignoring the economic disruptions that would occur. It's just not worth it.

The thing I can't fathom is why people think that more Americans mean a lesser America. The only thing I can come up with is deep rooted racism and bigotry. The citizens of Fremont Nebraska, with their 90% white population and their fear that they'll lose the 'look and feel' of their town, have offered nothing to the contrary.

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