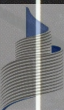


Fixing the
INSanity



America's Immigration Crisis

Neville W. Cramer
Special Agent, INS (Retired)



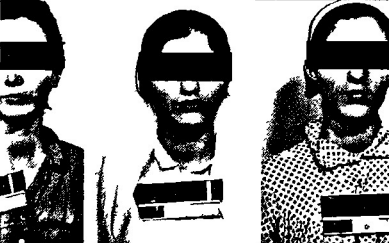
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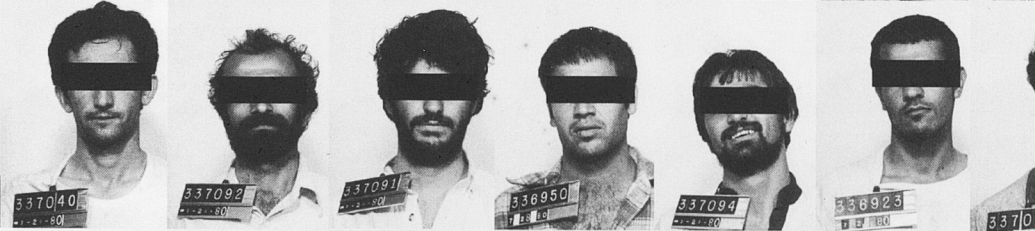
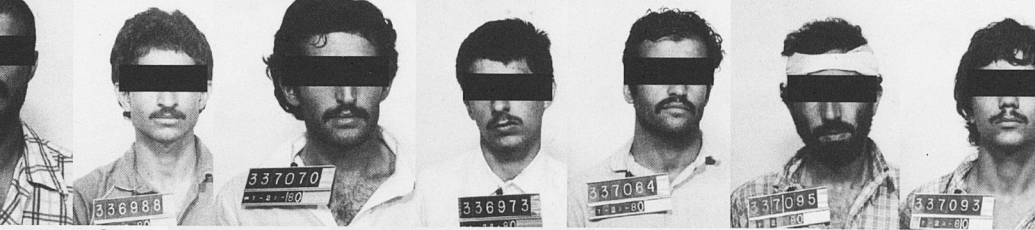
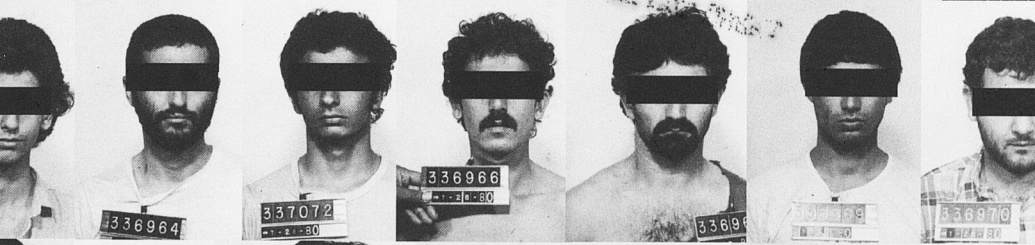
Fixing the INSanity America's Immigration Crisis

By
Neville W. Cramer

A former INS Special Agent divulges the real causes of America's seemingly uncontrollable immigration problems and suggests practical solutions. His descriptions of the happenings inside INS are mind-boggling. The anecdotes and straightforward reasoning make this book a must for anyone who is concerned about America's failing immigration policies. From the 9/11 attacks to President George W. Bush's "Guest Worker Program," he covers it all...and then some!

A great read for everyone
—citizens and aliens alike!







4/28/05

Fixing the INSanity

YABhg TUN MAHATHIR,
IN CHAPTER 6, I WRITE ABOUT
THE MALAYSIAN E-PASSPORT. THE
WORLD SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS
WONDERFUL INVENTION WOULD
NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE
WITHOUT YOUR VISION. WE
WILL SOON REALIZE YOU HAVE
MADE THE WORLD A BETTER
PLACE.

BEST WISHES ALWAYS!

Neville W. Cramer

By
Neville W. Cramer

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Fixing the INSanity
America's Immigration Crisis
By Neville W. Cramer

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my late father Sidney L. Cramer, M.D., who passed away November 18, 2004; my mother Beatrice K. Cramer; and my loving, supportive and magnificent Timea.

Thanks also to the many wonderful INS employees such as S. Stephanadis, M. Riordan, J. Olech, A. Palm, P. Lancaster, K. Roberts, L. Berkholz, E. Jackson, L. Klinefelter, J. Gibson, J. Sweeney, C. Barlow and F. Sanchez. Without them I could never have endured the INSanity!

Endpaper: *Who are these people? See the full story in the Preface.*



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Preface

Immigration enforcement activities over the past 30 years have been a failure. Our government and political leaders have let us down. Whether it was the Cuban Mariel Boatlift or the 10 million illegal aliens currently here, politicians do not have the will to deal effectively with U.S. immigration issues.

The photographs on the endpapers of this book illustrate a stunning example of how our leaders quiver and fold when serious immigration issues arise. In July, 1980, 172 male and 22 female radical Muslim demonstrators were arrested for rioting on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House. It was suspected that most were from Saudi Arabia and Iran. They all refused to give their names or their passports to U.S. law enforcement officials. It was later determined through intelligence sources that most of them were foreign students and visitors who had come to Washington, D.C. to riot and test the resolve of the U.S. government.

Hours after the riot, the Carter White House became fearful that these arrests would somehow lead to the harming of the American hostages held in Iran. President Carter ordered their release, despite the fact that all had violated U.S. laws. Immigration officials were only able to obtain these photographs, and to this day we do not know who these people were, where they lived or what they were doing in the U.S.

Considering the fact that the two World Trade Center bombings in 1993 and 2001 were carried out by Muslim fundamentalists, many of whom were from Saudi Arabia, I must conjecture that at least some of the individuals in these photographs may have been involved in one way or another.

Most Americans, including the media and the politicians, have no idea how to solve our immigration problems. I have written this book to simplify the discussion, and allow many more people to understand what is wrong and what needs to be corrected. I will also discuss new and innovative initiatives that I believe will help America curtail illegal immigration, help us secure our physical borders and allow us to once again become a nation of immigrants – not a nation flooded with illegal aliens.

First, Americans must understand that immigration has been and still is the lifeblood of the U.S. Any attempt to close our borders is un-American, unrealistic and virtually impossible.

What we need are common-sense programs that correct deficiencies in the way we handle foreign nationals. If employment is the magnet that draws most illegal aliens here, we must implement compliance programs that allow employers to cooperate with the government to eliminate the employment “magnet.” At the same time, we must realize and understand the needs of certain employers who have become dependent on cheap, physical labor.

While I am a strong proponent of diplomacy to reduce the worldwide “push factors” associated with illegal immigration, only a limited amount of success will be gained through these initiatives. In most poor countries there is massive overpopulation, and the U.S. offers the largest and most lucrative relief valve in the world. It is highly unlikely that Third World leaders will truly implement programs that will reduce emigration to the U.S. Politicians and diplomats love to meet with representatives from other nations in an effort to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. From my experience, these meetings seemed to be nothing more than an opportunity for State Department officials to travel around the world and sign useless agreements. Considering the number of illegal aliens in the U.S., the facts seem to favor my conclusions.

The Department of Homeland Security also needs to take a hard look at the way the Border Patrol operates on both the Canadian and Mexican borders. Time and time again we have learned that effective control of our land and sea borders requires increased usage of technology, satellites, fences, sensors, canines, and most importantly more border guards and less border patrols. It is far more effective to watch for an incursion on the border and then respond to it, than it is to patrol the border hoping to stumble across a violation.

There has also been a complete breakdown in our legal immigration process. It is time we fix the way we issue visas, the way we maintain alien records and the way we record the movement of both citizens and aliens flowing in and out of the U.S. In 2004, Accenture won a huge Homeland Security contract to develop a system that will monitor entry and departure

records of aliens coming to the U.S. It is interesting to note that the government's program will monitor alien entries and departures, but does not include any provisions to monitor aliens while they are in the country. I just hope Americans realize that there is a lot more to fixing our problems with legal and illegal immigration than giving a Beltway bandit billions of dollars to develop a sophisticated computer system.

With regard to driver's licenses and other related documents, the 9/11 Commission called for the federal government to set standards. We must do much more. Among other things, we need to change the way we record births in America, and correct many deficiencies that allow for the counterfeiting of immigration documents, Social Security cards and other government-issued identification. While I do not suggest a national identity card, I am in favor of using automation and Social Security numbers to eliminate identity fraud and a host of other related problems.

We do not need politicians and television personalities to tell us how to solve our immigration woes in sound bites. This does nothing more than polarize viewers.

While immigration is not the hottest topic at most dinner tables, you should take a look around your city or town. If you do not notice a significant change in the demographics, you have probably moved to Iceland. It seems that the legal and illegal immigrant populations are larger and more prevalent than ever before. Immigrants are not just in New York and Los Angeles. They are in our small towns, large cities, rural areas and suburbs. We now have large populations of Mexicans, El Salvadorans, Colombians, Cubans, Nigerians, Ethiopians, Lebanese, Israelis, Russians, Bosnians, Indians, Pakistanis, Vietnamese and Chinese, to name just a few. To use the word "diverse" is a huge understatement.

As we begin the 21st century there are many significant problems confronting the U.S., and immigration control is near the top of the list. According to a December, 2004, Homeland Security Inspector General report, entitled "Major Management Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security," there is an estimated 8-12 million illegal aliens in the U.S. For the sake of argument, I will use the estimate of 10 million for this book.

However, this book is not about statistics. I am going to do my best to

stay away from polls and studies about illegal immigration. Despite everything that has been said and done thus far, the immigration problem in America is getting worse every day. Studies and polls have done nothing more than muddy the waters.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, also showed us that we do not have a clue as to what foreign nationals are in this country. Worse yet, we have no idea what they are planning to do to us. In the wake of the attacks, the Federal government came up with fixes like the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, the “Terrorism Threat Level Color Charts,” and the Patriot Act. If anyone in America truly believes that these initiatives will thwart international terrorism, they are living in a dream. The U.S. government must fund and implement effective immigration control programs overseas, at our borders and throughout the interior of the U.S.

I spent more than 26 long years in INS. And, while I considered it to be one of the most dysfunctional federal agencies in the history of our nation, I did learn a great deal about legal and illegal immigration. Americans can take control of the problem if we carefully, and immediately, begin to implement a series of well-coordinated initiatives like those I suggest in the coming chapters. Or we can allow the situation to deteriorate even further. Eventually it will reach a point when we as a nation will not be able to control it. If this happens, both our sovereignty and our security are at risk.

Whether it is terrorism by foreign nationals, gangs of criminal aliens, or human traffickers, immigration problems must not be treated as if one day they will just disappear. The American immigrant dream is slowly turning into a domestic policy nightmare. I think it is time that we wake up!



It is not just a border issue. An INS special agent arrests one of fifteen illegal aliens resurfacing Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the U.S. Capitol.



Chapter 1

Immigration Out of Control

Is it any wonder that the first three letters of insanity are INS? We have an estimated 10 million illegal aliens in the U.S., and the federal government does not know who they are, where they are, or what they are doing. That is INSanity!

INS and the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

In the early part of the 20th century, the idea of having an agency to control immigration appealed to most Americans, especially since waves of immigrants were hitting our shores. Congress created what subsequently became the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) under the U.S. Department of Justice. The former INS was tasked with enforcing America's immigration laws⁽¹⁾.

When I worked at the INS we joked that it stood for "I'm Not Sure," because the agency could never give a straight answer about anything.

After the 9/11 attacks, Congress established the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and it swallowed INS whole. *For the sake of simplicity, throughout this book INS and DHS will be used interchangeably.*

If Americans are getting all warm and fuzzy about how the new DHS will handle the problems associated with illegal immigration, my sources tell me it will be three years before all of the DHS managers find where to sit, let alone do anything about the 10 million illegal aliens.

Furthermore, the former INS has now been "customized." When INS and the U.S. Customs Service were merged into Customs and Border Protection

(CBP) at Homeland Security, the vast majority of high-level law enforcement positions were given to former Customs officers. Most of these officials have spent a career enforcing Customs violations, and could care less about illegal immigration.

INS and the 9/11 Attacks

The 9/11 Commission blamed the attacks on intelligence failures of the FBI, CIA, NSA, DIA and all of the other alphabet soup agencies in and around Washington, D.C. The fact is, no other agency in the federal government had a better chance to prevent the terrorist attacks than the INS. I believe that ineptitude within INS was a key factor that allowed the hijackers to enter the U.S., remain, and carry out their maniacal plan.

Consider two points about INS and the 9/11 attacks:

1. INS intelligence officers overseas should have compiled and transmitted information about the suspected terrorists to the INS Intelligence Division at Headquarters. Had this been done, there was a good chance that some or all of the terrorists would never have passed through their initial immigration inspection.
2. INS domestic special agents should have worked more closely with the FBI, and used their unique authority to question, search and detain suspected Al-Queda members who were residing in the U.S. Had this been done on a wide scale, information about the attacks would likely have been uncovered.

Footnote:

(1) Most of the agency's basic authority was created in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952. Several other pieces of immigration legislation have been enacted in the last 15 years, such as the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA.)

While the 9/11 Commission investigators might not agree with me, my conclusions are the result of “street” experience. In the early 1980s I worked closely with FBI’s counter-terrorism squads of the Washington D.C. Field Office. Every time the Bureau developed intelligence that a suspected foreign terrorist was getting ready to “breathe the wrong way,” we were there to question and if necessary arrest the individual for violating his immigration status. We were extremely effective.

After one such arrest in July, 1982, the following wire was sent to then Secretary of State George Shultz:

“I would like to draw your attention to the fact that two of your employees Mr. Cramer and Mr. Olech have twice now intimidated and harassed our employees. On Tuesday March 2, they illegally entered our office carrying guns and questioned some of our workers. Today they again arrested and handcuffed one of our part-time, student workers and took him in for questioning. Our office gives information about Palestinian people and has respected all American laws and regulations. We did not know this morning whether our worker was being kidnapped by Israeli agents or other fanatic Jewish groups. We urge you to take measures to protect the rights of our office and to stop this campaign of harassment and intimidation of our workers. Best wishes and regards Dr. Hatem Hussaini, Director Palestine Information Office.”

Obviously the Palestinian office within the U.S. was not happy that we had arrested one of its “students.” (Most of the 9/11 hijackers were also “students” of one kind or another.) The intelligence gathered after this arrest was significant to say the least. Although the information obtained is probably still classified, I can freely say the “student” was doing a bit more than studying English 101.

During the years I worked with the FBI counter-terrorism squads, there was not a single foreign terrorist act committed within the U.S. Our success did not go unnoticed at FBI Headquarters. FBI management realized that

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ZC2C083771 07-23 1132A EST
TLX 692461 SECSTATE WSH
BT

*Steve Spattison
Jim Kleck
729 7810*

4-6147355204 07/23/02
ICS IPHMTZZ CCF
2024663346 TDMT WASHINGTON DC 1337 22 ST NORTHWEST
PMS SECRETARY OF STATE CHARLES SCHULTZ
STATE DEPT
WASHINGTON DC

07/23/02 10:12:14

I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT TWO OF YOUR EMPLOYEES MR CRAMER AND MR OLECH HAVE TWICE NOW INTIMIDATED AND HARASSED OUR EMPLOYEES. ON TUESDAY MARCH 2 THEY ILLEGALLY ENTERED OUR OFFICE CARRYING GUNS AND QUESTIONED SOME OF OUR WORKERS. TODAY THEY AGAIN ARRESTED AND HARASSED ONE OF OUR PART TIME STUDENT WORKERS AND TOOK HIM FOR QUESTIONING. OUR OFFICE GIVES INFORMATION ABOUT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND HAS RESPECTED ALL AMERICAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS. WE DID NOT KNOW THIS MORNING WHETHER OUR WORKER WAS BEING KIDNAPPED BY ISRAELI AGENTS OR OTHER FANATIC JEWISH GROUPS. WE URGE YOU TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR OFFICE AND TO STOP THIS CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION OF OUR WORKERS.
BEST WISHES AND REGARDS

CC DEAN OF ARAB AMBASSADOR
DR HATEM HUSSAINI, DIRECTOR PALESTINE INFORMATION OFFICE
1337 22 ST NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20037
1031 EST

NNNN
1242 EST
SECSTATE JSH

*Advance copy
7/23*

*to S/S
12 (5 PM) 26173*

Spattison x20674

Fig. 1 Wire sent by PLO to Secretary of State Schultz complaining about INS intimidation and harassment of one of their "students."

INS agents had far-reaching authority that could be used to aggressively collect intelligence and combat foreign terrorism within the U.S. The FBI requested that INS agents be assigned to its multi-agency Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF). Jack Shaw, Chief of INS Headquarters Investigations (who hated the FBI), saw it as a waste of manpower, and did everything possible to stonewall the initiative. It is an understatement to say that the number of special agents assigned to the JTTF was insufficient. And in many cases, the INS agents assigned to assist the JTTF came from the "bottom of the barrel." Whether this directly or indirectly led to the 1993 and 2001 World Trade Center terrorist attacks will never be known. However, there is now no question that ineffective immigration control can facilitate the ability

of terrorists to operate within the U.S.

The 9/11 Commission made several other recommendations regarding immigration control. As usual, there was nothing specific about how to implement its suggested changes. As we all know, “the devil is in the details.”

For example, the Commission wrote:

“Secure identification should begin in the U.S. The federal government should set standards {emphasis added} for the issuance of birth certificates and sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses. Fraud in identification is no longer just a problem of theft. At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.”

While I applaud the work of the 9/11 Commission, the lack of specificity in the report indicates that the Commission had little understanding of the complexity of the identification fraud problem. As I have delineated in the following chapters, very specific, and in some cases, expensive initiatives must be undertaken if America is going to close some of its massive security loopholes – like curtailing the production and use of fraudulent immigration and identification documents. Setting standards sounds great, but it will accomplish very little if anything at all.

Working at INS — No One Could Dream This Up

Dear Abigail,

I recently got engaged and I have to tell my fiancé about my family.

My father is in prison for murder and my mother is a drug addict. I also have a sister who is a prostitute and a brother who works for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

My future husband is quite status conscious, and I am afraid to tell him I have a brother who works for INS.

Yours truly,

Concerned

It is very difficult to truly convey what it was like working at the former INS. Every year the regular employees would wonder if INS could get any worse, and every year the agency went further downhill. During even the best of times we wondered if people would believe us if we ever tried to explain how bad it was.

Even Hollywood put us down. While all of my friends in the FBI and U.S. Secret Service were beating their chests about heroes such as Clint Eastwood and Robert Stack, I was enduring such classics as “The Green Card” and “Men in Black.”

Many in the government called INS the “stepchild” of the Justice Department. When I first entered the Service, the agency had “insurmountable problems” and a meager budget. Twenty-five years later INS had a multi-billion dollar budget and the same “insurmountable problems.” For those who believed that every problem in Washington, D.C., could be solved with money, INS was the exception to the rule.

One amazing phenomenon was the propensity of the INS Budget Office to get money from Congress and the Justice Department for completely useless projects, while at the same time illegal immigration was out of control and the backlog of immigration applications was growing by the millions. As an example, INS had enough money to hire Ph.D. psychologists and support staff to study the effectiveness of the Border Patrol’s “artificial language test.” At the same time our Deportation officers were told to release convicted and dangerous criminal aliens because INS did not have sufficient funds to pay for their detention. This is just one small example of the INSanity we were forced to live with everyday.

Another problem was one of identity. Half of America, including most of the U.S. government, thought we were part of the U.S. Customs Service. As a Senior Special Agent in Headquarters I went to numerous meetings with high-level Justice Department and White House officials. Without fail some

political appointee would question me about why INS dogs were sniffing his luggage at the airport. When I tried to explain that INS did not use dogs at the airport, my comments were dismissed as bureaucratic gobbledeygook. Most of the time I walked out asking myself if it was all a sick joke.

The Customs thing was small potatoes. Everyday, INS employees had to deal with the fallout from at least one of these truisms:

- The INS Personnel Manual was nothing more than a copy of the Peter Principle.
- INS was also notorious as a dumping ground for inept employees from other agencies, and these transferees were all placed in important managerial positions.
- Congress and the White House hated us — no matter who was in power.
- The Office of Management and Budget and the Justice Department never gave us enough money or authorized sufficient positions to handle the number of applications for legal immigration benefits such as green cards and naturalization. There was always a huge backlog.
- Our Central Index database was only correct 75% of the time, and at least 20% of all alien files were “lost.”
- The members of American Immigration Lawyers’ Association (AILA) constantly defeated our *best* lawyers in court, and emasculated most INS enforcement initiatives.
- The media had difficulty supporting any immigration enforcement actions, unless, of course, some T.V. personality had been scammed by an immigrant.

Not a day went by that I did not reflect upon the sign over my desk:

INS – America’s “Thoop” Bird.

INS will fly at ever increasing speeds and at ever decreasing circles until it eventually flies up its own rear end and goes “thoop.”

Needless to say, for most of us, working at INS was a struggle.

INS Commissioners

The INS Commissioner was a Presidential appointment. However, it was well known among politicians in Washington, D.C., that the person who took the job as INS Commissioner was looking for something other than a future. The following is a list of those “special” people selected to be INS Commissioner during the time I served.

- Leonard F. Chapman was a retired Marine General (Nixon/Ford).
November 29, 1973-May 12, 1977
- Leonel J. Castillo was a Houston politician (Carter).
May 13, 1977-October 1, 1979
- Alan C. Nelson (deceased) was a government lawyer from Alameda County, California, and a friend of Attorney General Ed Meese (Reagan).
February 22, 1982-June 16, 1989
- Gene McNary was a Missouri politician (Bush).
October 26, 1989-January 20, 1993
- Doris Meissner was working in a Washington think tank when her husband, Chuck Meissner, got her the job. Chuck Meissner was a political appointee in the Commerce Department who was killed in a plane crash with Clinton confidant Ron Brown (Clinton).
October 18, 1993-November 18, 2000
- James W. Ziglar was Sergeant at Arms for the U.S. Senate (G.W. Bush).
August 6, 2001-November 30, 2002

Without question, one of the most significant reasons for America’s failed immigration policies during the last three decades lies in the fact that our Commissioners knew virtually zero about enforcing our immigration laws. If anyone thinks this was not a problem, think again. Gene McNary, who became our Commissioner during the first Bush Administration, told us that one of his first priorities was to fix the Puerto Rican immigration problem. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, but what difference should that little detail make?

Even the Commissioners’ pictures were scary. At INS Headquarters, located at 425 “I” Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., all of the former INS Commissioners

had their portraits or photographs on the wall in one of the meeting rooms. I was embarrassed to bring guests into the room. It looked more like a criminal line-up than a group of distinguished government leaders.

Riddled with Political

I am fully aware that the President of the U.S. has the right to choose his own ideologues to fill Schedule “C” political appointments in the federal service. For the most part, these jobs are at a very senior level, and their decisions deal mostly with policy.

It was a little different at INS. We not only had political appointees, we had their children, their friends, their cousins, their neighbors, and anyone else who wanted a job in Washington, D.C. Once again it was INSanity.

There is no better example of this problem than Commissioner McNary’s selection for the INS Associate Commissioner for Enforcement in the late 1980s. I competed for this Senior Executive Service position at Headquarters, along with many other highly qualified special agents and immigration officers.

I felt as though I had a pretty good chance for the career Civil Service Senior Executive position. I had a Bachelor and Masters degrees in the field of law enforcement. My successes as a Special Agent in the field were well documented, and I had served the last three years as a decorated Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Enforcement Division.

A few days after I submitted my application, and one day after the job announcement closed, I was notified by telephone that Gilbert H. Kleinecht had been selected. Who the hell was Gilbert H. Kleinecht?

I soon found out that he was some kind of police official in the St. Louis area and a close friend of Commissioner McNary. Prior to his arrival at INS, I do not believe he had served a single day in federal law enforcement. Gil was a nice guy. He just had trouble finding the Mexican Border on the map. Furthermore, his knowledge of immigration law could have been positioned on the head of a pin. Kleinecht was one of many high-level Immigration law enforcement officials who were competitively “selected” despite the fact they knew absolutely nothing about their job.

Since I am a great fan of examples and comparisons, I want to make one here.

One of the finest and most respected law enforcement agencies in the world is the U.S. Secret Service (USSS.) Its special agents are highly trained and highly motivated men and women.

To move through the ranks of the Secret Service one must have started as a probationary agent and completed both basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, and “specialized” training in Beltsville, Maryland.

The Secret Service has several missions, and the one with which most of us are familiar is the protection of the President, Vice President and their families. These divisions within the Secret Service are known as the Presidential and Vice Presidential Protection Details, or PPD and VPPD respectively.

These protection details are supervised and managed by higher-level special agents and it will be a cold day in hell when anyone but a Secret Service agent runs those details. Secret Service agents believe that outside intervention by unskilled and untrained personnel is the fastest way to get one of their subjects killed.

In comparison to the Secret Service, look at INS. We took Gil Kleinecht from a police agency in St. Louis, Missouri, made him a Senior Executive career civil servant, and handed him the keys to “U.S. immigration law enforcement”— all because he was a friend of the Commissioner. And Gil was not the only one.

The following men ran INS enforcement for nearly 20 years. Not one of them ever graduated from either the Border Patrol Academy or the 18-week Immigration Officer Basic Training Course. Not one was a career Immigration Officer.

1. Ray Kisor (Reagan Administration) — Associate Commissioner, Enforcement (retired New York State Police).
2. Clarence “Bud” Coster (Reagan/Bush) — Associate Commissioner, Enforcement (Office of Inspector General, Health and Human Services).
3. Gil Kleinecht (Bush Administration) — Associate Commissioner, Enforcement (St. Louis, Missouri area police official).

4. Mike Pearson (Clinton Administration) — Executive Associate Commissioner, Operations (retired U.S. Army).

All of these men had one thing in common: When they were selected for their positions at INS, they knew less about enforcing America's immigration laws than a recruit fresh out of the Border Patrol Academy.

Some of them were more honest than others about their lack of immigration experience. I remember Ray Kisor came in to speak with a group of agents during his first week at work. He was a nice gentleman who seemed better suited for work in a mortuary than in INS.

Ray told us, "I don't know anything about immigration, but I plan to have a lot of fun." Here was a guy who had been handed the responsibility for managing one of the most important law enforcement agencies in the federal government, and his greatest aspiration was to have a lot of fun. Unfortunately for Ray, his "fun" did not last long — and neither did Ray Kisor. After a while he was gently pushed out of INS Headquarters. He did get his last laugh, though. Ray's political friends made certain he was rewarded for his great service, and he was given the job as INS liaison officer at Interpol Headquarters in Lyon, France. The last thing I heard was Ray Kisor was learning how to say "fun" in French.

Whether it was by design or by accident, the Justice Department and our Commissioners continuously selected untrained and unqualified people to lead the Enforcement Division of INS. Doing so eventually crippled almost every aspect of America's immigration law enforcement capabilities.

Now the bigger issue – aliens.

"Undocumented" workers are not undocumented

Once and for all America must get over the "undocumented" worker nonsense. There is no such thing as an "undocumented" worker.

During the reign of Commissioner Leonel Castillo (President Carter's Commissioner of INS), he decided that the term "illegal alien" was demeaning to his fellow Mexicans who had crossed the Rio Grande illegally. In its place,

Mr. Castillo and his friends came up with “undocumented worker.”

The term “illegal alien” seems quite appropriate to me. Consider for a moment that people in America are either citizens or aliens; aliens who are not here legally are here illegally. It’s not rocket science! And besides, I arrested thousands of illegal aliens and they all had documents; they just weren’t the right ones.

Legal Aliens vs. Illegal aliens

Before we continue any further, I believe my readers would appreciate a little lesson in immigration law.

Lesson #1: Legal Aliens. Legal aliens fall into two very broad categories:

- Non-immigrants are citizens of other countries who come to the U.S. legally and temporarily (to visit, to study, to compete in athletics, etc.).
- Immigrants are citizens of other countries who come to settle permanently in the U.S. They must get a “permanent residence visa” commonly known as a “green card.”

Lesson #2: Illegal Aliens. There are three types of illegal aliens:

- Aliens who sneak into the country without being inspected.
- Aliens who come to the U.S. as non-immigrants, and then violate the conditions of their entry or overstay their allotted time.
- Aliens who enter using counterfeit documents, a fake identity, or some other fraudulent method.

Illegal Aliens – Who Needs Them?

America needs thousands if not millions of workers who are willing to do physical labor at moderate wages. Illegal immigrants seem to be the only ones willing to provide these services and, without them, America might be in trouble economically. While there is strong evidence to suggest that illegal

immigrants provide valuable hard labor to keep our economy moving, other evidence suggests that the costs associated with this cheap physical labor are simply shifted to other places.

One misconception is that illegal immigrants are slaves. They are far from it. In fact the vast majority of illegal aliens I arrested during my career were earning better than the U.S. minimum wage.

Illegal immigrants usually have no roots in the U.S. If the data was available, I believe it would indicate that illegal aliens, compared to U.S. citizens and legal aliens, send a disproportionate part of their wages home to foreign countries.

On Tuesday, June 8, 2004, Cox News Service reported that President Vicente Fox said, "poverty has been eased by a doubling in the money that Mexican immigrants in the U.S. send their families in Mexico. Remittances from migrants rose from \$7 billion in 2000 to an estimated \$14 billion in 2004."

I am not an economist, but I do understand one or two things about the American economy. Every dollar that a person spends is spent again several times over and over again. In other words, when I pay for groceries, the grocer uses my dollars to pay his employee. That employee in turn pays her car loan at the bank, and the bank in turn pays the teller. In very simple terms this is how economists determine our gross domestic product or GDP.

Dollars that are sent directly out of the U.S. are simply taken out of the system and never have the chance to be spent again and again. So, while Mexican President Vicente Fox is proud that his immigrants are sending \$14 billion home, our politicians sit by and gleefully watch about \$80 billion get sucked directly off the top of our economy. Admittedly not all of the money is being sent south by illegal immigrants, but I am certain they account for a large part of it.

Mexico is also a huge trading partner with the U.S. Once again it is difficult to determine what effect it would have on our economy if Mexicans did not have the dollars sent home by illegal aliens to purchase U.S. goods and services. Reliable economic data in this area is scarce because it is impossible to know how much money is sent to Mexico by illegal aliens. However, I believe that in this cross-border economic duel, the U.S. is getting the short end of the stick.

An Arizona politician recently warned me not to advocate an end to illegal immigration. He stated that the cost of a car wash could go from \$10 to \$25. As you will read later in the book, there are so many factors in play when it comes to illegal immigrants and the U.S. economy, no one really knows what will happen if we bring illegal immigration under control.

One thing is certain. The U.S. Government must be more realistic and truthful about America's labor needs and our insatiable appetite for physical labor at moderate prices. Despite the fact that our labor unions have fought against this concept for decades, it is as real today as it was at the beginning of the last century. And speaking of labor unions, illegal aliens are now pouring into the rank and file, and union leaders love it. They are docile, they don't ask questions and they pay their dues on time. With no immigration enforcement to worry about, the unions and the illegal immigrants have recently become close allies.

At the current time, several major industries in U.S. would struggle to exist without the physical labor of illegal aliens. Aside from the work they do in agriculture, illegal aliens are commonly found in construction, landscaping, restaurants, hospitals, domestic service, gas stations, hotels, road work, cable wiring, car washes and taxi cabs just to name a few.

Illegal Aliens and Taxes

I do not think anyone really knows if illegal aliens pay their fair share of taxes. Immigration advocates love to point out that illegal immigrants pay their taxes. This is partially true, but the whole story about illegal aliens and income taxes is seldom told. While many of them pay Social Security, federal and state income taxes through payroll deduction, the amount paid is usually less than it should be. Illegal aliens learn very quickly to claim as many exemptions as allowed on their federal and state taxes. As a result, very little withholding taxes are withdrawn from their paychecks.

If anyone doubts my claims, do an audit of any major company that uses illegal immigrant labor. I will bet that the vast majority of illegal alien workers claim far more exemptions than the legal workers, and the corresponding

number of tax returns filed by the illegal aliens will be miniscule.

In other words, I do not deny that illegal aliens pay withholding taxes – they just don't pay enough.

Overstays — The Other Illegal Aliens

Some immigration experts believe that 60% of all the illegal aliens in the U.S. came as non-immigrants and just decided to stay. It is not hard to understand why some young guy from halfway around the world would do this. After a hundred trips to Wendy's, multiple six packs of cold beer, and six months of sleeping with Jennifer (because she thinks his accent is cool), it is no wonder he wants to stay. After all, getting a visa, coming to the U.S., working illegally and eventually beating the system is as American as apple pie.

And this raises another interesting issue in the world of immigration. Who gave out all of those visas? The State Department, that's who!

Non-immigrants must obtain a visa from an American Embassy. (There are some countries whose citizens are not even required to get visas.) Embassies are run by the State Department, and its Bureau of Consular Affairs is responsible for issuing visas overseas. Once the alien receives his visa, he can head for the U.S.

When aliens arrive, it is not the State Department that allows them to enter, but the Department of Homeland Security! Do I sense a “disconnect” here? It's not just a communication problem, it's a disaster!

But there is more to it than just two different agencies handling similar functions.

Consular Officers have about as much in common with INS Inspectors as Harvard physicists have in common with Marine Corps sergeants. Yet, because of this quirk in our system, they are very closely aligned. Notice I said “aligned,” not “allied”!

Immigration officers generally view Consular officials as a bunch of liberal intellectuals who give out visas like candy. For those Americans who do not know much about our State Department, it is commonly known throughout the bureaucracy that it takes a virtual rocket scientist to pass the Foreign

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