



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With Congress setting its sights on debating immigration reform, the volatile and divisive issue of amnesty/citizenship for the millions of illegal immigrants now in our country is once again sure to be center stage in the national headlines.

In recent months, NPG members have been very active in sending petitions to their Capitol Hill lawmakers and registering their firm opposition to amnesty/citizenship. Their continued support, along with the help of countless other concerned Americans we reach through our media, grassroots and educational efforts, will enable us to use the full clout of our organization to once again derail any and all amnesty provisions.

However, it is important to remember that the amnesty issue is only a part of immigration reform. Other facets that we support include enhanced border security, enforcement of existing laws, deportation, setting new legal immigration quotas, deciding the future of "anchor babies" – the list goes on.

If done right, no-nonsense reform of our immigration laws could prove to be very beneficial to reining in America's population growth. That's because immigration is the main driver of our nation's ever-increasing numbers.

As the immigration debate

(Continued on page 2)

WHO WILL PAY FOR 450 MILLION PEOPLE?

It is a well-established fact that too many people will bring forth major economic, social and environmental crises in America in the coming decades. However, as the U.S. has responded to today's economic downturn with massive federal spending, concerns are mounting that the economic crises which will be aggravated by overpopulation may hit us much sooner than anyone thought.

The financial security of our nation is already in danger: the U.S. government is paying a large portion of its daily bills with the help of foreign loans; the AAA bond rating on U.S. bonds is threatened; and the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that our federal debt is headed to \$20.3 trillion, an amount equal to 90 percent of the nation's estimated gross domestic product in 2020.

The question must be asked: How will our country meet the needs of an additional 140 million people in the next 40 years and remain economically stable?

The answer is not hard to grasp: It won't and we have everything to lose by ignoring this fact!

There is a vital need to start now to slow, halt, and eventually reverse population growth to avoid economic disaster and get us back to a self-sustaining economy.

Our political leaders and the national media are definitely failing the American people by not telling the truth about the severity of the long-term economic problems that will harm America as a result of our present and future debts



and deficits. Congress has already made a mockery of fiscal responsibility in its dealings with Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Yet these very programs, which already claim 41 percent of spending, will increase that number to 62 percent in 20 years as we reach a point where retired baby boomers overwhelm the system.

The reality is that we can not continue to operate on a federal budget that carries deficits to infinity. There are already projections that in ten years the federal government might be spending nearly a trillion dollars annually just on interest! Such huge carrying costs for money already spent will severely hamper the government's ability to fund its key functions. In addition, it will put onerous financial burdens on our children and grandchildren. It will also fuel inflation as the government runs the printing presses 24/7 to print the dollars it needs.

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(Continued from page 1)*

unfolds, NPG will once again reaffirm to those on Capitol Hill that an 80 percent reduction in legal immigration is what our nation truly needs to get back on a path to sustainable population levels. Slashing legal immigration from today's estimated 1.1 million annual admissions to only 200,000 would require us to be much more selective in deciding who enters our country under the categories of humanitarian admissions, work admissions (skilled professionals, artists, technicians, entrepreneurs, etc.), special needs admissions, "temporary" visas, and family reunification. If our nation is ever going to succeed in resolving our immigration crisis, it is crucial that our leaders make tough choices now, before it is too late.

Rewriting the rules as to how many people can legally enter our country in the coming years – and especially setting new numbers for work visas – is definitely going to ignite passionate arguments in today's economic climate. Creating jobs for Americans – not making it easier for illegal labor to remain in our country and thrive – ranks at the very top of voters' concerns.

There is much at stake in this battle, especially in this already highly-charged election year. And the old saying that "the devil is in the details" will very much apply to immigration reform. As the health care battle proved, if the Obama Administration and Congressional leaders decide to put their full weight behind a radical immigration bill that will give the open borders lobby and Hispanic groups everything they want, politics can still triumph over the will of the majority of Americans who have voiced their discontent on amnesty/citizenship.

Remember, even if we succeed in removing amnesty/citizenship provisions from any new immigration bill there is a strong possibility that we could still end up with disastrous new immigration policies. We must all continue to be extremely diligent in the coming months to keep the pressure on our lawmakers to make sure that the immigration legislation that emerges from Congress helps, rather than hurts, our nation.

45,000 NPG STUDENT FACT SHEETS REACH AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS

In early February NPG contacted a few thousand civics and social studies teachers across the nation offering free educational materials to complement their lesson plans related to the U.S. Census and Earth Day.

Our goal was to expand our educational efforts to reach more of today's students and we were very pleased with the response. Hundreds of teachers put in requests for **Student Fact Sheets**, **NPG Forum Papers** and our **Population Posters**.

In addition to updated population numbers and projections, the fact sheets contain important statistics and other information stressing both the present and future consequences of population growth on topics such as environment and habitat, farmland, energy, and water. It also reminds them that their generation must play a critical



role in demanding responsible and sound population policies.

Commenting on the success of this project, Craig Lewis, NPG's Executive Vice President, noted, "This was a costly project but well worth the investment to get today's students focused on the population issues that will impact their lives for decades to come."

60-PAGES AND STILL NO PLAN

The Metropolitan Council of Governments, a regional group that oversees policy initiatives for the Washington, D.C. area, issued a report a few months ago titled "Greater Washington 2050."

The report talked about how to address such issues as jobs, schools, safe streets, and health care in future years.

However, in an area where tens of thousands of people presently spend 90 minutes or more commuting to and from work, there was not a single suggestion in the 60-page report on how to improve the Washington region's overcrowded roads.

A local planning board estimates that as early as 2030, the area will have to cope with 5.1 million more daily vehicle trips.

WHO WILL PAY FOR 450 MILLION PEOPLE?

(Continued from page 1)

The American public already has a deep-seated angst about the nation's economic future. They know that bigger government will be extremely expensive – and the bigger it gets the more it will fuel the demand for new taxes. The new health care bill only adds to the soaring costs of growing federal entitlements which spend-happy politicians from both political parties have created in recent years.

The federal government is not alone in amassing huge debt. An analysis of many state budgets show they are already ill-equipped to meet future demands. California is currently running a \$20 billion deficit and New York's stands at about \$9 billion. Many other states are deep in the red and their ever-increasing population-related problems will deliver a devastating blow.

Both the federal and state governments also face a major plight in trying to find the money necessary to repair, rebuild and expand the nation's infrastructure. The 309 million people who presently populate our nation already confront gridlocked roads and bridges in desperate need of attention. What's less visible are the fast-deteriorating drinking water and wastewater systems that are in dire need of repair, especially in older cities. Accommodating an additional 140 million people means making a huge investment in these infrastructure initiatives that will also include fixing

such needs as schools, ports, airports, and levees. Such massive spending dedicated to the nation's infrastructure will most likely lead to less funding for crucial environmental programs which will continue the destruction of our air, rivers, lakes, wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Higher federal and state taxes will also combine to slow economic growth and the ability of large and small companies to create new jobs and compete globally. And the huge federal debt will strangle America's ability to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Through the years, Americans have been lulled into a false sense of security because our nation's strong economic growth has rescued it from the very problems that our fast-growing population created. But the boom times are over – and few economists expect them to come back anytime soon. Now, reality is finally going to strike that someone must pay for massive population growth and that even productive taxpayers will be unable to carry the ever-increasing burden.

At some point America's leaders must face the fact that the costs of an additional 140 million people will overwhelm our nation. The looming economic peril underscores the critical need for a national population policy now, before they run out of time.



ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF “ANCHOR BABIES”

NPG has long advocated ending the present policy of automatic citizenship for “anchor babies” born in the U.S. to illegal and temporary visa aliens. It is a long-standing policy mistake that must be corrected and the need to do so is finding its way more and more into the national debate on immigration reform.

An estimated 400,000 “anchor babies” are born each year and immigration officials often choose not to take action against deporting the parents, thus driving up our nation's population. Once an anchor baby turns 21 they can petition for legal status of their extended family, further compounding the problem.

Changing the rules on “anchor babies” is an issue that has widespread support among the American public. However, debate rages as to how to address the issue. There are those who contend that “birthright citizenship” is a constitutional right as stated in the 14th Amendment and that the U.S. Constitution would have to be amended to fix it. Others hold that Congress could end automatic citizenship with a clarifying statute. There are presently bills pending in the 111th Congress to meet that goal.

We urge NPG members to contact their U.S. Senators and Representative and tell them to enact legislation that puts an end to “anchor baby” citizenship.

IMMIGRANTS AND THE U.S. BUDGET

A recent Rasmussen Reports telephone survey finds that “As the country wrestles with a future of historic-level deficits, 67% of U.S. voters say that illegal immigrants are a significant strain on the U.S. budget...Two-out-of-three (66%) voters say the availability of government money and services draw illegal immigrants to the United States...These findings help to explain why 68% say gaining control of the border is more important than legalizing the status of undocumented workers already living in the United States.”

NPG FORUM PAPERS

In early-April NPG mailed Lindsey Grant's newest paper *The Great Silence: U.S. Population Policy* to its members and we have received positive feedback on the value of this 12-page discourse in highlighting the struggle to get our nation's leaders focused on a national population policy. If you have not yet done so, we urge you to read it.



Walter Youngquist's NPG Forum Paper, *Haiti's Problems, And Their Lessons*, that accompanies this newsletter puts the spotlight on the earthquake-ravaged nation of Haiti and tells the compelling story about how overpopulation will doom it (and others) to a continued impoverished existence for decades to come. This presentation of Haiti's present plight serves as a preview of worldwide coming events related to population growth and is a must-read for all NPG members!

Please note that you can request copies of our latest Forum Papers by returning the form accompanying this newsletter. They are also available online at www.npg.org.

HELP US CREATE A BETTER NEWSLETTER!

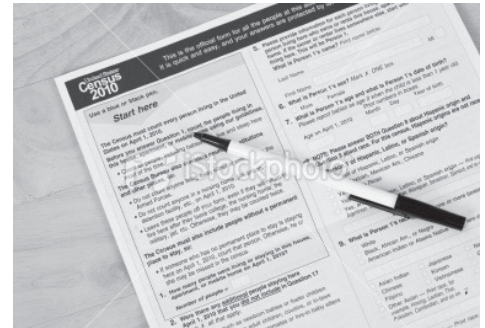
In putting together our quarterly *Population Perspectives* newsletters we attempt to provide up-to-date information on NPG activities and programs and include stories which we believe will be of interest to all of our members.

Our goal is to make this publication one that you enjoy receiving and reading and we ask you to help guide the content of future newsletters by filling out and returning the short survey on the enclosed response.

Thank you.

THE COSTS OF A CENSUS UNDER-COUNT

The federal government is spending billions of dollars in advertising, direct mail, and community outreach programs to get Americans to cooperate in the 2010 Census.



They are backing it all up by putting hundreds of thousands of census takers in neighborhoods all across America to ring doorbells of those who didn't mail back their forms. Yet still, they know they won't reach everyone and they will once again be faced with an under-count which can only be estimated.

The under-count really is a big deal – both politically and financially. Census numbers are used to draw new federal and state legislative districts and determine how approximately \$500 billion in federal funds is disseminated to state and local governments.

The Census Monitoring Board estimated that in 2000 the national under-count was about 3.3 million people – or about 1.8% of the population. The Institute for Southern Studies recently highlighted the fact that the Board also found that 39% of U.S. residents not counted were in Southern states. It is estimated that some states, especially Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Georgia, took a disproportionate hit in the loss of federal funding. The Institute notes that the high under-count in the South can be attributed to such factors as a prevalence of low income communities, African-American communities, new immigrant communities, rural communities and military families.

Pre-Census estimates hold that when all the numbers are in, Texas, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and perhaps North Carolina will gain a new Congressional seat, with Louisiana probably losing one.



SIGN UP TODAY FOR OUR NPG JOURNAL AT WWW.NPG.ORG!

Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

Negative Population Growth, Inc.
2861 Duke Street, Suite 36
Alexandria, VA 22314
voice: 703-370-9510
fax: 703-370-9514
email: npg@npg.org
www.npg.org



Board of Directors
Donald Mann, *President*
Frances Dornier, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Josephine Lobretto
Sharon Marks
Diane Saco