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Hemphill: Make it hard to be here illegally

Let me admit that the current generally uncoordinated policy on illegal immigration is the correct and humane one.

I describe that policy – federal, state and local – as “Drip, drip, drip.”

The first thing we are doing is arresting violent gang members. No rational person disagrees with that ... of course the ACLU disagrees but they are not rational. No one wants violent gang members, so arresting as many illegal alien gang members as possible makes sense. Our next step appears to be to deport them, but deportation alone does not work. Returning after federal deportation is a federal felony, but the usual answer is just another deportation. Until we actually control the border, deportation is just a three-day “time out” and unlikely to hurt violent gang members.

But other actions are also taking place. Workplace hiring practices are under actual scrutiny after years of Bush administration benign neglect. Local cities are rousting canyon dwellers and stoplight job centers. Local police are doing absolutely legal drinking-driver stops, and in the process they are finding many drivers who are sans licenses and insurance, whose cars are impounded. Unfortunately, cars are only impounded for 30 days.

Other cities are trying to restrict rentals by illegals, just as the federal government limits illegal immigrants from renting in federal housing. Other communities are enforcing on-street parking rules and housing occupancy rules that have been overlooked for decades.

Slowly, and very humanely, pressure is mounting on the estimated 11 million illegal aliens, and without the onerous effort of mass deportation.

I read in the paper that in some communities, illegal aliens are afraid to send their children to school, or to go shopping themselves. That is the purpose. We must slowly increase the price that those who break our laws of national boundaries have to pay. For too long, the benefit of lawbreaking has been great, and not just the relatively high paycheck for working, but free schooling, free medical care, and, for 90,000 parents in California, a \$491-per-month cash payment for each child.

Meanwhile, the cost has been meager. The border has been, let's be charitable and say, “porous.” In truth, it has been non-existent. Enforcement within the borders has been a policy of, “if you can get 20 miles inside the border, you get a free ride.”

With low cost and high benefit, 10 percent of the entire population of Mexico is enjoying a usually tax-free life within the United States, and other Central and South American countries are looking to deport their uneducated unemployed as a policy, just as the narco-terrorist nation of Mexico has done so successfully. Mexico has arranged for the United States to educate

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and medicate their least-educated population, while the United States pays those unskilled so handsomely that Mexican families collect from their illegal family members some \$20 billion a year. That's more than any Mexican national income except oil.

Would that they could use that \$20 billion to repay American taxpayers for the free schooling and medical care.

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