

Regime Crisis

At this writing, France has capitulated to mass demonstrations and canceled a labor law that would have let employers dismiss workers under 26.

For the French, the cave-in is truly bad news. It means the political system is not strong enough to take even modest measures to liberate France from a socialist system that is a freshwater fish in the salt waters of the Global Economy.

If despair and gloom are widespread in France, they are justified. With a birthrate below what is needed to continue as a French nation, its 5-8 million Arab and Islamic immigrants alienated, a limping economy, and no way to cast off socialist shackles, France's future appears grim.

In America, too, a regime crisis appears at hand.

Millions have massed in cities from Los Angeles to Phoenix to Dallas to Washington to demand that 12 million illegal aliens be granted full rights of U.S. citizens and all talk of defending U.S. borders be halted at once. Republican and Democratic politicians have been rendered speechless by the size of the demonstrations.

But the demonstrations reveal something more unsettling. That hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens, all subject to deportation, would defiantly march under foreign flags in U.S. cities suggests the government of the United States has lost its moral authority.

For two decades, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush have failed—or rather refused—to do their constitutional duty to defend the states from this invasion. Now the message had gone out to the world. Americans can't or won't defend their country. We

can walk in and take over. And they are coming in the millions, every year.

And where is our commander in chief? He backs McCain-Kennedy, the bill to grant amnesty to the 12 million and blanket pardons to the corporate chiselers who hired them and passed on to taxpayers the costs of their health, education, and welfare.

This would put the illegals on the road to lifetime benefits from our welfare state and allow U.S. companies to go overseas and hire hundreds of thousands of workers yearly to bring back to replace Americans who balk at working for Third World wages.

This is the opposite of what Americans have told pollsters for 20 years they want. It is the opposite of what Arizonans and Californians have voted for every time they have held a referendum.

According to a new *Washington Post*-ABC poll, 60 percent of the people now disapprove of Bush's performance, the strongest repudiation of his leadership since January 2001. And the Republicans who control Congress are running 15 points behind the Democrats. If the elections of 2006 were held today, the GOP would be annihilated.

But what do the Democrats offer us? Censure, taxes—and Cynthia McKinney.

If you think this Congress is an agonizing disappointment, wait for the new House, where chairmanships will be assumed by Barney Frank, John Conyers, and Henry Waxman, with Ways and Means and tax-writing power going to Charlie Rangel. That should be good for a 1000-point plunge in the Dow.

What is the probability of tough legislation to halt the invasion and put the U.S. government back in control of its frontiers? Given the makeup of this Senate—with Democrats virtually united in their resolve to make those 12 million illegal aliens new Democratic voters, and half the GOP terrified of being called "racist" or "xenophobic"—zero.

Indeed, if such a law were passed, it is questionable Bush would enforce it. For he has refused to enforce existing law or defend our southern border and has stated flatly he cannot secure the border unless given an amnesty/guest-worker program to go with it.

And who is the likely replacement for Bush in 2009? Hillary or McCain, both now competing with each other in the generosity of the amnesties they would bestow.

America is facing something of a regime crisis. The president's poll number are falling not simply because of perceived incompetence—Katrina, Harriet Miers, the Dubai ports deal—but because his policies are failing. His trade policy has created the greatest trade deficits in history and accelerated the death of U.S. manufacturing. His immigration policy has left our borders undefended and millions of illegals marching for their "rights" under foreign flags. His democracy crusade is being ridden to power by anti-Americans from the Middle East to Latin America. His Iraq expedition has given us endless bleedings of blood and money.

What does McCain offer? On trade, immigration, and Iraq, he is 100 percent Bush. If Mexican radical Obrador wins in July and appears headed for the presidency, Americans may be looking around for a General Pershing. At least "Black Jack" understood border control. ■

[12 million can be wrong]

The Politics of Amnesty

When the Senate speaks of immigration reform, it doesn't mean enforcement.

By W. James Antle III

AS SENATORS LEFT Washington for their Easter recess, an estimated 100,000 protestors arrived for a rally on the National Mall. The Senate adjourned without completing work on an immigration bill that was weak on enforcement and offered amnesty to millions in the country illegally. The demonstrators, many of them illegal aliens, were there to demand that they finish the job.

Capitol Hill has been preparing for this fight since President Bush came out for an expansive amnesty program over two years ago. On this issue, the White House has many Senate allies in both parties, but the majority of House Republicans are on the other side. As we go to press, it is unclear whether amnesty proponents have been rebuffed through the midterm elections or have suffered merely a temporary setback.

Public opinion certainly isn't on their side. An AP-Ipsos poll shows Americans list immigration alongside the war and the economy among their top concerns, with a percentage that has quadrupled since January. A Quinnipiac survey showed that 62 percent oppose making it easier for illegals to become citizens. The only polls that show significant support for guest workers or amnesty tend to be vaguely worded. "Under some of them, I'd almost be classified as a Bush amnesty supporter," quips Craig Nelsen of Project USA.

But the look and feel of the immigration debate is changing in ways that make it likely that amnesty will be dis-

cussed again. Last year, it was news stories about the Minutemen—private citizens, concerned about the system's lawlessness and buffeted by economic competition from cheap migrant labor, who organized effective civilian border watches—that predominated. Over the last few months, the focus has shifted to the illegal immigrants themselves.

First came the usual sympathetic human-interest stories in obliging newspapers and magazines about high-school valedictorians and longtime undocumented residents who climbed out of grinding poverty through hard work and entrepreneurial skill. More recently, however, the vast illegal population has shown a more menacing side as huge crowds have taken to the streets waving Mexican, Dominican, and other foreign flags (interspersed with the American flags recommended by more cautious demonstration organizers) while insisting that U.S. immigration law be reshaped to accommodate them. Recent protests brought out 50,000 people in Denver, 350,000 in Dallas, and a staggering 500,000 in Los Angeles.

The catalyst was the proposed crack-down on illegal aliens that passed the House of Representatives in December. Instead of anything that could be construed as amnesty, the House voted to build a security fence along the southwestern border, establish a mandatory verification system for the legal status of workers, and stiffen penalties against alien smugglers and the illegals them-

selves. Immigrant communities joined business, labor, and civic leaders in strenuous opposition.

If the House bill was designed to address the concerns that gave rise to the Minutemen, the Senate has mostly worked with measures that appease illegals and their employers. As the upper chamber took up immigration in January, guest-worker bills proliferated, differing mainly in the details of how many illegals they would legalize and under what conditions. The complexity had its reasons: the more hoops illegals needed to jump through to obtain green cards, the harder senators thought it would be to argue they had passed another amnesty. Even one of the tougher proposals, offered by Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), contained a large temporary-worker component.

At first it looked like senators would be hopelessly bogged down in these details, preventing any single guest-worker bill from winning majority support. But on March 27, the Senate Judiciary Committee gave preliminary approval to a generous amnesty program sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). Employed illegals would be set on a path to citizenship after spending six years as legal guest workers and paying all fines and back taxes. On top of that, 400,000 new guest workers would be admitted annually to fill low-skilled positions.

McCain-Kennedy received the unanimous backing of the committee's