

Illegal Immigration – Some Comments This July 20, 2014

Yesterday about 50 American citizens stood on the Route 612 overpass of I81 in Augusta County Virginia to voice their frustrations and concerns with the Illegal Immigration taking place at the U.S. – Mexican Border and the housing of Unaccompanied Alien Minors (UAMs) at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center (SVJC) in Verona Virginia. The demonstration was one of more than 400 across the U. S. Local police came by to check that no one was standing on the lanes of 612, a State Trooper waved as he drove by, and 100's of truckers on I81 blasted their horns.

Let me share with you some of the thoughts I had as I stood with my fellow demonstrators.

1 – Were there the thousands of others in Augusta County who feel the same frustrations and concerns? Yes, many cars passed by on 612 whose drivers honked their horns in agreement with us. But until they take time to get out of their cars and join their voices with ours government, Local and Federal, will continue to do the very things we were protesting.

2 – It is one thing to have compassion for the Unaccompanied Alien Minors (UAMs.) They are victims of the practices of countries of origins. But does that mean the United States must also be a victim? Must we abandon our laws because of lawlessness in those other countries? What of the lack of compassion of the leaders of the countries-of-origin? Those governments have allowed gangs, drug cartels, and heinous social conditions to persist. Those circumstances have persisted for decades, if not more than a century. When will the government of those countries have the same compassion they are demanding of us? When will they solve their own problems?

3 – The Augusta County Administrator, also the Chair of the SVJC, has made several statements that need reply:

- 'The Federal Government, not the County, is paying for housing the UAMs in the SVJC.'
The reply: Mr. Administrator, the Federal Government uses the tax dollars from Augusta County Citizens to make those payments.

- "The SVJC does not suffer financially as a result of taking in the children." The reply: Perhaps, but every UAMs settled in August County will attend County Schools, at a yearly cost of more than \$10,000 per UAM, every UAM will be recipient of social services, hospital emergency services, free clinics, etc. In the end the citizens of Augusta County pay the cost. As Milton Friedman stated, "There is no free lunch."

- The contract with the Federal Government was written 5 years ago and has nothing to do with the present situation. The reply: That contract has everything to do with the present situation. Without it there would not be a housing of UAMs at this time.

4 – The United States of America cannot continue to be what attracts people of other nations unless it maintains what it is. If it permits forces, within or without, to change what it is then it is no longer what it was. It is no longer that which was sought. In the end it has no wealth, morally or financially.

5 – Three quotes from Ronald Reagan which you will not like if you are a distribute-the-wealth-advocate:

- "The American dream is not that every man must be level with every other man. The American dream is that every man must be free to become whatever God intends he should become."

- "We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

- "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."