

The real economic question about immigration, however, is: Is it necessary? Does it do anything for the native-born that they could not do for themselves? Here there is a consensus: no. Indeed, the best estimate of the post-1965 influx's benefit to the native-born, by University of California, San Diego economist George J. Borjas, is that it is nugatory: perhaps one-tenth of 1% of gross domestic product in total. America is being transformed for—nothing.

Current legislation usefully reduces numbers. But irresponsible politicians and pundits will prevent a full Canadian-style reorientation to favoring immigrants with skills and cultural compatibility such as English proficiency, or giving consideration to guest workers, before the inevitable backlash compels a total cut-off.

Gregory Fossedal is founder and CEO of the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Arlington, VA.

Immigrants pay \$25 billion more in federal taxes than they use in services, according to an Urban Institute estimate. Preliminary data on patents, small business startups, and city and state unemployment all indicate immigrants generate net output and jobs. For a smaller budget deficit we should run a people surplus.

Some want to "skim the cream"—letting in lots of engineers and millionaires, but fewer family members, refugees and "low-skilled" immigrants. Tempting, but the brilliant Indian and Chinese programmers working for Microsoft often have wives or husbands or parents. Many American executives need an affordable au pair: And the George Soros or Any Groves of tomorrow often have nothing when they come. They bus tables or clean hotel rooms before they build Fortune 500 companies. It's a mistake for Vice President Al Gore to try to out-think capital markets. Why should Sen. Alan Simpson be smarter than the labor market?

We should sharpen the programmatic distinction between being in the U.S. and being a U.S. citizen. Make it easy to work or travel—but confer government benefits on citizens, not on people who merely happen to be here (a change included in the House welfare reform). This would end the shibboleth that immigrants are costly, and ease legitimate concern that America is losing its English-speaking core. Then there would be support for the reform we really need—to let in more immigrants.

Barbara Jordan chairs the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform.

It is because we benefit from lawful immigration that reform is necessary. The bipartisan USCIR recommends a comprehensive strategy to deter illegal immigration: better border management; more effective enforcement of labor and immigration laws; benefits policies consistent with immigration goals: prompt removal of criminal aliens. Most illegal aliens come for jobs, so reducing that magnet is key. Employers need tools to verify work authorization that fight fraud and discrimination, reduce paperwork and protect privacy. The most promising option: electronic validation of the Social Security number all workers already provide after they are hired.

A well-regulated legal immigration system sets priorities. Current policy does not. More than one million nuclear families are separated, awaiting visas that will not be available for years. We recommend using extended family visas to clear this backlog. Unskilled foreign workers are admitted while many of our own unskilled can't find jobs. We recommend eliminating this category. A failed regulatory system prevents timely hiring of skilled foreign professionals

even when employers demonstrate an immediate need. We recommend a simpler, less costly system based on market forces. We still have a Cold War refugee policy. To maintain our commitment to refugees, we should rethink our admissions criteria.

These reforms will further the national interest.

Scott McNealy is chairman and CEO, Sun Microsystems Inc., Palo Alto, Calif.

Sun Microsystems is an American success story, a company that has benefited profoundly from the employment of highly skilled legal immigrants. Founded in 1982 by individuals from three countries—Vinod Khosla (India), Any Bechtolsheim (Germany), and Bill Joy and myself (U.S.)—today Sun has more than \$6 billion in annual revenues and more than 15,500 employees worldwide. Our latest technology effort was headed by an Indian national and worked on by about 2,000 employees from around the world.

While illegal immigration is a problem that needs to be addressed, there are very real benefits to the U.S. economy from the employment of highly skilled legal immigrants.

The legislation that is moving through Congress today, if approved, will hurt Sun, and the industry. With at least half of our revenue earned outside the U.S., and the bulk of our R&D conducted inside the U.S., we need to hire the best and brightest engineers and scientists, regardless of their place of birth, to stay globally competitive. And even though Sun is devoting considerable resources both to training our employees and to educating students from kindergarten through university, we are still confronted with a shortage of U.S. workers with state-of-art, leading-edge engineering knowledge. We must be able to hire highly skilled legal immigrants now or we may miss a product cycle in this fast-paced industry. Miss one product cycle, you're seriously hurt; miss two, you're history.

If Sun loses its ability to compete and recruit globally, our employees and shareholders lose and ultimately the U.S. loses.

George E. Pataki is the governor of New York.

In my hometown of Peekskill, N.Y., where my immigrant grandparents lived, the homes and flats that were rented by immigrants from Hungary, Italy and Ireland in the early 20th century are now rented by new immigrants from Peru, Mexico and East Asia. In the early morning you can see many of these new immigrants waiting for rides and for work as they begin their long days as gardeners and laborers. Their work ethic and their dreams for a better future parallel the work ethic of America's earlier immigrants.

While the federal government must improve the policing of our borders and assure that immigration is in fact legal, Congress must avoid the temptation to pass restrictive measures like California's Proposition 187. This is America, not Fortress America.

Let those who share our values as Americans—hard work, individual responsibility and a love for this country—continue to strengthen our unique nation.

Ben Nighthorse Campbell is a Republican senator from Colorado.

One weakness of our immigration policy is that we continually give amnesty to the illegal immigrants, undermining the legal process and the intent of the law. But, generally, immigrants still contribute more than they take out. Many of them do jobs no American will do for any wage. Immigrants from Southeast Asia go into inner cities and help rejuvenate them by operating small res-

taurants and motels. And most of them, to my knowledge, have no problems with the law. The first thing they do when they get here is to find a job and get to work.

If my ancestors on the Indian side had the same anti-immigrant attitude that many Americans do now, those very same people who now criticize immigrants wouldn't be here themselves.

But, having said all that, I recognize you must have control of your borders. You cannot have an open-door policy for anybody and everybody. It becomes a national security and national health problem when we give up having some control.

Dr. Ruth Westheimer is the author of, "Sex for Dummies" (IDG Books, paperback).

When I was 10 years old, I was permitted to immigrate to Switzerland while my parents and grandmother were not. The net effect was that I survived the Holocaust and they didn't. If we in the U.S. are going to call ourselves followers of the Judeo-Christian ethic, then we have a moral obligation not to shut the doors to those who are being persecuted.

Now while I am not an economist, I also think that we benefit a lot more than we admit from a constant flow of new laborers. When I first came here, I was able to find a job as a housemaid for a dollar an hour, which saved my life. Now I employ a housekeeper who comes from the Philippines, and to me she is a lifesaver. We all benefit from the Mexican workers who pick our fruits and vegetables, and from the Korean grocers who stay open all night selling them. If we try to keep new immigrants from joining us, we will only be cutting off our collective nose to spite our selfish face. ●

PRESIDENTS OF ARMENIA AND TURKEY MEET IN NEW YORK

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I receive the Armenian Mirror-Spectator regularly, a weekly publication circulated primarily in the United States.

There are two items of interest in the October 28 issue. And the headings on the two items tell much of the story. One is "Presidents of Armenia and Turkey Meet in New York," and the other is "Armenia Suggests Normalization of Ties With Turkey."

The animosities of decades and, sometimes, centuries have to be diminished in our world. One of those that hurts both Armenia and Turkey is the historic difficulties between these two peoples.

I urge both countries to continue to move along this path toward reconciliation.

And I ask that the two articles be printed in the RECORD.

The articles follow:

[From the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Oct. 28, 1995]

PRESIDENTS OF ARMENIA AND TURKEY MEET IN NEW YORK

(By Florence Avakian)

UNITED NATIONS, NY.—On Monday, October 23, a private meeting took place between Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Armenian President Levon Der Petrossian and their aides at the Turkish Mission to the United Nations in New York. The meeting at the Turkish UN headquarters, which is across the street from the United Nations, underscored the importance that Armenia puts on improved relations with Turkey.

Just before the Demirel-Der Petrossian meeting, the Turkish President had met privately with Azerbaijani President Geidar

Aliyev, also at the Turkish Mission to the United Nations. Following the Demirel-Aliyev meeting, the two leaders came out for a photo opportunity with the more than 60 Turkish and Azeri media representatives. This correspondent, who was the only Armenian journalist present, asked the Turkish President:

FA: Mr. Demirel, do you have plans to have a trilateral meeting with Presidents Der Petrossian and Aliyev?

SD: No, that will not happen. We are having bilateral meetings with each other. At this time, there is no need to have a summit. Armenia and Azerbaijan don't have a common ground or agreement in order to have a three-way summit.

When the President of Armenia arrived for his meeting with the Turkish leader, the Demirel-Aliyev meeting was still in progress. He waited on another floor of the Turkish Mission until the Azeri President left. Following the more than half hour meeting between the Armenian and Turkish heads of state, the two also came out for a photo op with the press.

Speaking in Armenian with an English interpreter, President Der Petrossian commented, "We are using all the opportunities to achieve peace. During our meeting today, the issue of settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict was discussed as well as the issues connected with bilateral relations between Armenia and Turkey. I think that the common understanding is to allow the resumption of military activities in Nagorno Karabagh.

"At the same time it is necessary for all parties to express good will and to find constructive compromise and solutions to the conflict. There are details that are to be settled and discussed during the negotiating process. And it's not only Lachin, but there are tens of issues in which the parties' opinions differ from each other. Tomorrow, the same issues will be discussed with Mr. Aliyev."

This last statement was in reference to a private meeting between the Armenian and Azeri Presidents which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday morning, October 24, at 9:30 am, at the United Nations headquarters.

Following the two bilateral meetings, the Turkish President held a press conference with only the Turkish press, intended for public consumption in Turkey. The Turkish press representative summarized the information for this correspondent after the briefing.

Demirel had reportedly said, without elaborating, that after the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, the importance of Turkey had increased. Concerning the Caucasus, he said that it was Turkey's second foreign policy priority, after the war in the former Yugoslavia, and that the Karabagh conflict hurts not only Armenia and Azerbaijan, but also Turkey and Georgia. His statement reportedly was that when one neighbor is hurt, all are hurt. The Caucasus conflict cannot be resolved by force, he said, and that peace will open new opportunities.

The Turkish press representative continued the Turkish President's comments which included the statement that Turkey does not have designs against its neighbors, and that Armenia and Azerbaijan will reach peace through the Minsk Group. Demirel reportedly stated that he wants "1.4 million Azeris to return to their homes."

In answer to a question by this correspondent three weeks ago, Former Turkish Foreign Minister, Erdal Inonu, at a press conference at the United Nations, used the figure of one million Azeri refugees. (It is interesting to note, as I reported at that time, that the International Red Cross puts the

figure of refugees resulting from the Caucasus conflict at 1.1 million, 350,000 of which are Armenian refugees from Baku, Sumgait and Karabagh.)

The Turkish President also mentioned that he had cancelled his meeting with President Clinton in Washington because of the government crisis in Turkey. However, he said that President Clinton, at the Presidents' dinner at the United Nations, told him that he is supporting Turkey. To this, Demirel thanked Clinton for his support on the oil and terror issues. The United States has supported Turkey on the Kurdish question. One of the most vocal protest groups outside the United Nations were the Kurds asking for freedom and self-determination.

The Turkish crisis which brought down the Ciller government resulted in the Turkish President returning to Turkey on the evening of Monday, October 23. It was widely expected that on Tuesday, October 24, Demirel would appoint a new government, and set a new date for elections. Reportedly, he has asked Tansu Ciller to remain as Prime Minister. Reliable sources also say that Hikmet Cetin, who held the post before, will replace Erdal Inonu as the next foreign minister.

[From the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Oct. 28, 1995]

ARMENIA SUGGESTS NORMALIZATION OF TIES WITH TURKEY

ANKARA, TURKEY.—The Armenian Parliament speaker this week called for an end to decades of mistrust and hostilities with Turkey and proposed to establish bilateral diplomatic and commercial ties.

Babken Ararktsian, who is currently in Istanbul as term president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), told local reporters that Armenia was ready to tear down the wall between Turkey and Armenia which has been there for the past 70 years.

"Relations should be bilateral. They should not be influenced by third countries," he said.

Turkey has never established diplomatic ties with Armenia because of Armenia's repeated charges that Turks massacred 1.5 million Armenians during the First World War as well as its seven-year war with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno Karabagh enclave.

Turkey had supported Azerbaijan and cut off all air and overland border crossings to Armenia at the height of the war in 1993.

An air corridor between eastern Turkey and Yerevan, capital of Armenia, was reopened only this year.

Ararktsian said Armenia was ready to open its borders to allow Turkish trucks carrying goods to transit to the Caucasus and to the Turkic republics in Central Asia.

"Big perspectives exist for the future of economic ties between the two countries," he added.●

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION SUNSET ACT

The text of the bill (H.R. 2539) as passed by the Senate on November 28, 1995, is as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2539) entitled "An Act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Interstate Commerce Commission Sunset Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF TITLE 49.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 3. TABLE OF SECTIONS.

The table of sections for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Amendment of title 49.

Sec. 3. Table of sections.

TITLE I—TERMINATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AND FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION; REPEAL OF OBSOLETE AND UNNECESSARY PROVISIONS OF LAW

SUBTITLE A—TERMINATIONS

Sec. 101. Agency terminations.

Sec. 102. Savings provisions.

Sec. 103. References to the ICC in other laws.

Sec. 104. Transfer of functions.

Sec. 105. References to the FMC in other laws.

SUBTITLE B—REPEAL OF OBSOLETE, ETC., PROVISIONS

Sec. 121. Repeal of provisions.

Sec. 122. Coverage of certain entities under other, unrelated Acts not affected.

TITLE II—INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

SUBTITLE A—ORGANIZATION

Sec. 201. Amendment to subchapter I.

Sec. 202. Administrative support.

Sec. 203. Reorganization.

Sec. 204. Transition plan for Federal Maritime Commission functions.

SUBTITLE B—ADMINISTRATIVE

Sec. 211. Powers.

Sec. 212. Commission action.

Sec. 213. Service of notice in Commission proceedings.

Sec. 214. Service of process in court proceedings.

Sec. 215. Study on the authority to collect charges.

Sec. 216. Federal Highway Administration rule-making.

Sec. 217. Transport vehicles for off-road, competition vehicles.

Sec. 218. Destruction of motor vehicles or motor vehicle facilities; wrecking trains.

TITLE III—RAIL AND PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 301. General changes in references to Commission, etc.

Sec. 302. Rail transportation policy.

Sec. 303. Definitions.

Sec. 304. General jurisdiction.

Sec. 305. Railroad and water transportation connections and rates.

Sec. 306. Authority to exempt rail carrier and motor carrier transportation.

Sec. 307. Standards for rates, classifications, etc.

Sec. 308. Standards for rates for rail carriers.

Sec. 309. Authority for carriers to establish rates, classifications, etc.

Sec. 310. Authority for carriers to establish through routes.

Sec. 311. Authority and criteria for prescribed rates, classifications, etc.

Sec. 312. Authority for prescribed through routes, joint classifications, etc.

Sec. 313. Antitrust exemption for rate agreements.

Sec. 314. Investigation and suspension of new rail rates, etc.

Sec. 315. Zone of rail carrier rate flexibility.

Sec. 316. Investigation and suspension of new pipeline carrier rates, etc.

Sec. 317. Determination of market dominance.

Sec. 318. Contracts.

Sec. 319. Government traffic.

Sec. 320. Rates and liability based on value.