

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

The current issue of *The Social Contract* just arrived (May 22) and I started to read it. I couldn't put it down until I finished every article! You have selected excellent spokesmen, kept your selections timely, and covered many important aspects of the overall population problem without appearing to be rabid about anything.

There is far too much going on out there, far too few people to do all that should be done, and horrible public ignorance on most population subjects, especially on immigration, a subject about which few people are strong enough to speak up and say what they really think. The article by Judy Kunofsky was especially revealing in this regard. The Sierra Club has not had the guts to speak up forcefully on any aspect of population.

I note that Mayor Gourley of Culver City has raised his voice about the devastating effects of tax dollars laid out to support illegal aliens in Los Angeles County, dollars that should be used to support the present citizenry instead of encouraging others to arrive and feed at the public trough in the Land of Honey. Long may he wave, and may he encourage others to go forth and do likewise.

Keep up the good work!
Allen Jamieson
Sacramento CA

Editor:

Not marching in step with *Borders and Quaker Values*, which appears in your Spring 1991 issue, would be like turning your back on motherhood, duty to father and love of one's children. But like the above homilies, the article, while articulating intelligent principles, is much too abstract. Reality is something else when it comes to borders, often the embodiment of much nonsense that passes for patriotism in most countries, the United States included.

The 'principles,' if that is what they are, would be much stronger if they dealt with the specifics of American border 'questions.' I refer, for example, to those between Mexico, a poor and blighted Third World country, and rich, imperialistic United States. That border is not merely two thousand miles long, but the biggest border between extremes of dire poverty and gross affluence. The flood of Mexicans who daily cross into California testifies to the disparity between these two nations. That disparity, furthermore, is not merely a border problem, for it stems partly, if not to a great extent, from the unjust and unequal economic relationship which American capitalists and their government in Washington have

imposed on Mexico. Granted that the well-off in Mexico acquiesce (sic), even applaud that relationship, to the detriment of their own poor; that, however, does not justify it.

Nor do the Quaker 'principles' talk about race, the color of one's skin. Mexico, like much of the Third World (the southern hemisphere) is not 'white,' a phenomenon that since colonial days has terrified white Northamericans. It is no accident that border problems for the United States usually deal with people who are not 'white.' The issue, therefore, is racism, not just the border. American racism, as the world knows, has old roots, dating from the pilgrims on hills, slavery at Jamestown, Manifest Destiny and the killing of Indians and Mexicans and justifications for all of that from the likes of Jefferson, Calhoun, Fiske, TR, the Social Darwinists and the present occupant of the White House who decries what he calls 'quotas' and scares his compatriots with Willie Horton.

The border impasse with Cuba, moreover, will not end until the Cubans renounce socialism, as Washington demands, and harkens (sic) to embrace 'free market' economics, which have kept all of Latin American (sic) in a stage of underdevelopment for nearly two centuries. The world without borders, as most Northamericans envisage it, is capitalist and intolerant of those who would deign to seek other formulas.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Continued

Editor:

The Social Contract is a very impressive journal with a purpose to which I can readily relate: to do something positive about the population and immigration problems of the US and of the world. I am very pleased to subscribe to this publication...

My own belief is that people will not get really 'worked up' about the problems of immigration until they realize that it is having substantial negative effect on citizens now, but in future the impact can be destructive of our social and economic structure. Since Texas and California are now receiving more than half of the Mexican immigrants, our problems cannot be alleviated (nothing can 'solve' them) without infusions of federal money. Texans are perhaps beginning to understand that immigration is leading to tax increases, since the legislature is desperate for money to finance our public schools during the coming years...

Emmett L. Hudspeth
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