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A Note from the Editor

We Let Too Many In

The September 11 terrorist attacks confirmed what we have long contended, namely, that America's borders and points of entry (sea and air ports) are wide open and offer little or no impediment to criminals and terrorists. Said Bill King, a retired senior Border Patrol officer and former head of the Border Patrol Academy, "It should be universally recognized that our borders are out of control...Both our borders (with Mexico and Canada) are sieves. Anyone can cross either border today."

An estimated 530 million people, one-third of them returning Americans, cross U. S. borders every year. Some 350 million are non-U.S. resident foreigners. Most arrive through the 150 ports of entry along the Canadian and Mexican borders. The INS has only 4,775 inspectors to process persons who enter the U.S. Inspections are cursory at best. Job seekers, criminals, disease carriers, and foreign agents and terrorists come at will.

Approximately thirty-one million foreigners legally enter the U.S. annually sporting one of more than fifty categories of visas. "Tourists" account for seventy-seven percent of visas issued by our overseas consulates, with business travelers making up fourteen percent and students and their families 1.8 percent. Screening of visa applicants is superficial. Of the nine million or more illegal aliens living in the U.S., at least forty percent of them walked right in through a port of entry carrying legally-issued visas and have simply remained here after their visas expired. They didn't have to wade the Rio Grande River or sneak across the Canadian border.

The foreign student visa program has

come under renewed scrutiny since September 11. Hani Hanjour, who piloted the jet that was crashed into the Pentagon, legally entered on a student visa. He claimed he was going to study English at Holy Names College, a Catholic school in Oakland, California. Like many other "students," he never enrolled. Others show up for registration and later disappear as the semester wears on. In 1999 (the most recent year for which figures are available), there were 567,146 foreign students, who brought along 36,641 family members. Additionally, 275,519 "exchange visitors" with 43,841 relatives, entered to participate in educational programs, raising the total to 923,147.

In the first two weeks after the September 11 attacks, the U.S. State Department issued over 8967 new visas to Middle Easterners. Dual citizens make up more entrants.

Many more millions legally enter the U.S. without any visa at all. Nationals of twenty-nine countries can come in for up to ninety days for business or tourism without visas. During 1999, approximately seventeen million foreigners arrived under this program. Canadians do not need visas to enter the U.S., nor do Mexicans living in border areas who state they plan to visit or shop along the border. This program clearly invites abuse.

The sheer volume of people coming into the U.S. overwhelms security efforts. Not only do we need a massive reduction in legal immigration and an end to illegal immigration but the number of visa carriers must be severely restricted. To enforce our immigration laws, many more Interior Enforcement officers (INS Investigators, of which there are only around 2000) are required.

In this issue of *The Social Contract* we offer a lengthy section of essays and testimony given in response to the terrorist attacks. In addition, on October 21, 2001, the Twenty-Fifth Social Contract Writers Workshop was held in Arlington, Virginia. Many of the salient reports given at the meeting are reprinted here.

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If you haven't seen it, we recommend the video report, *Jihad in America: The Terrorists Among Us* by Steven Emerson whose testimony before a Congressional committee is reprinted in this issue. This hour-long program explores the Islamic terrorist network that was involved in the recent attacks, including segments from meetings held in various locations in the United States. The video retails for \$14.98, but can be purchased at a

discount through the on-line retailer, www.Amazon.com.

WAYNE LUTTON, Ph.D.

Letters to the Editor

EDITOR:

I write to state that the recent issue of *The Social Contract* (Vol. XII, No. 1, Fall 2001) was truly inspired. It is a wonderful and important blend of statements as to why Garrett Hardin's views should be known and listened to, along with important excerpts from his works. Then there are the additional comments relative to the very dramatic events of this fall. Altogether this is a premier issue of *The Social Contract*. I was particularly taken by Lindsey Grant's item. I have known Lindsey over the years by correspondence — his background from work in the State Department gives him an important perspective on world affairs.

WALTER YOUNGQUIST

Eugene, Oregon

EDITOR:

I read David Simcox's excellent article about filling the gaps in our immigration laws. Among other things, Simcox explains how we should tighten up our student, tourist, and work visas. We do have big problems with that. The U.S. does not need any more people of any kind. If we would train and educate our own and produce our own harvest, we could end almost all immigration. See studies by Professor Norman Matloff of California State and the U.S. Department of Labor. This is especially urgent in a time of record unemployment.

WARREN L. BROWN

Portland, Maine

EDITOR:

I have lived all over the world and I am a native-born American. It is about time somebody spoke up about our importing millions of people who have backward ideas about women and society in general and who are basically anti-American under the skin. I have long asked myself where NOW was on this issue. NOW struggles for women's rights, and at the same time Washington imports millions of people who are basically against NOW's aims. I believe that the government wants to keep up this supply of forced labor that works cheap out of fear of being discovered as illegal and also supplies a liberal voting base.

HAROLD SCHULLER

Looking at Letters to Other Editors...

Under the headline, "Meatpacking: We Are Marching Backward," a police officer in Anaheim, California, and a member of the Anaheim Unified School District Board of Trustees, placed this letter to the editors of the *Dallas Morning News*:

In 1906 Upton Sinclair wrote about the horrors of the meatpacking industry in his novel, *The Jungle*. Well, the jungle has returned. The meatpacking industry has replaced hard-working Americans in a relatively safe job with, in many cases, illegal aliens in an unsafe job. They took middle-class work and turned it into a low-paying job. They made a profit... but I sure as heck didn't see a drop in prices.

I believe that every business should be able to make a reasonable profit, but when they get so greedy as to march backward in time I think they need greater scrutiny. I will no longer buy any Tyson product, no matter what it is, ever. It's time for another Upton Sinclair to scrutinize the entire meat industry again.

Harald G. Martin
Anaheim, California

Hallendale, Florida