## 'Comprehensive Enforcement' — the Only Form of 'Immigration Reform' Left

## BY DAVE GIBSON

e are constantly being told by President Obama and Republican appeasers such as Sen. Marco Rubio, that we simply "cannot deport millions of people." However, history proves this to be a lie.

In 1954, President Eisenhower appointed his West Point classmate and 101st Airborne Division veteran Gen. Joseph "Jumpin' Joe" Swing as head of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

On June 17, 1954, under the direction of President Eisenhower, Gen. Swing began a roundup of illegal aliens for deportation in what became known as "Operation Wetback."

The operation initially began in California and Arizona but eventually spread to several other states. By the end of July, more than 50,000 illegal aliens had been arrested between the two states.

On July 15, 1954, *the first day of operations in Texas, 4,800 illegal aliens were apprehended across the Lone Star state*, with a daily average thereafter of about 1,100.

According to the INS, 80,000 illegal aliens had been taken into custody in Texas by September, with an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 leaving the state voluntarily or "self-deporting."

Border Patrol agents also made apprehensions in Utah, Nevada, and Idaho during this time.

The illegal aliens were sent back to Mexico on World War II-era army trucks, buses, and trains into the interior of Mexico, rather than simply releasing them, just on the other side of the border, as would be done in later years.

Illegal aliens were even sent back to Mexico by ship. The *Emancipation*, for instance, ferried the Mexican nationals from Port Isabel, Texas, to Veracruz, Mexico.

**Dave Gibson**, a former legislative aide to a Virginia state senator, has been working as a freelance writer for many years. His work has been published in many newspapers and magazines, including the Washington Times. The operation was over by the fall of 1954, with the *INS claiming to have removed 1,300,000 illegal aliens (including self-deportations) from the American Southwest in only a few months.* 

The reasons for Operation Wetback were much the same as those which exist today...the threat which large numbers of illegal aliens pose to the security of the United States (crime, higher financial burden for taxpayers, public health risk due to disease, etc.).



**President Dwight David Eisenhower** 

However, *unlike today, there was a man in the White House who took his oath to protect this country seriously* and placed the safety of American citizens over profits from cheap labor.

By the way, the entire operation was conducted with no more than 750 federal agents, only a fraction of the reported 20,000 + agents we have today.

Of course, there are a few, painfully simple measures we could take to stop the current invasion and expel those who have no respect for our borders, nor for our citizens. Truthfully, if any combination or even one of the following actions were taken by our federal government, most illegal aliens in this country would leave, effectively deporting themselves.

First, place the military on the border.

Rather than sending a few hundred National Guardsmen to the 2,000 mile-long border under orders to never stop anyone entering this country illegally, the way Presidents Bush and Obama did, if, say, 20,000 troops along with their tanks, helicopters, and U.S. Air Force over-flights were utilized along the border (the same way we do for other countries), illegal entries would come to a screeching halt.

During a July 2010 news conference at the Pentagon, Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters that National Guard troops would begin a yearlong deployment on August 1, along the 2,000 mile-long U.S./Mexican border.

While the 1,200 troops were armed, they could only use their weapons for self-defense. The troops were distributed along the border as follows:

• Arizona...524

- Texas...250
- California...224
- New Mexico...72

With another 130 troops assigned to something called a "national liaison office."

One item which Gen. Craig let slip during the press conference was the fact that the states of Arizona, Texas, California, and New Mexico combined, were currently contributing 54,000 National Guard troops to the then-U.S. war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, the federal government could only supply 1,200 troops back to that region, though that corner of our nation is being invaded by drug dealers and human smugglers.

The number of troops sent to the expansive and incredibly dangerous border amounted to 0.6 soldiers for every mile of the border. This combined with the questionable rules of engagement under which they were deployed, made the mission nothing more than a pitiable, political gesture from the White House.

In 2005, the Bush administration began to use U.S. combat troops to patrol the borders which define Iraq. In fact, at the time, he announced that there would be a complete lockdown on Iraq's borders during that nation's elections. Obama also used our troops in that same capacity, as well as in providing border security for Afghanistan. While protecting the borders of foreign lands has been a priority for both Presidents Bush and Obama, neither has ever shown a portion of that commitment to their own country.

The Mexican border could and should be made a permanent duty station for U.S. troops. This would allow the Border Patrol to fully staff the official entry points, which would dramatically reduce the amount of drugs as well as the number of criminals coming into this country through the official crossing checkpoints on a daily basis.

It would seem that the taxpayers of Arizona, Texas, California, and New Mexico are working for the security of foreign lands, rather than for that of their own states.

We could simply take the troops from Germany, where 30,000 U.S. troops are stationed, or any number of other locations around the world and use our military to protect our own border.

Second, prison sentences for CEOs who hire illegal aliens.

Whether it is a landscaping company run out of someone's kitchen in Cicero, Illinois; a 30-unit independent hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia; or a corporate giant such as Tyson Foods Inc., once caught with illegal aliens in their employ, the head of that company should spend the next ten years of his or her life in prison.

Additionally, a percentage of that company's profits commensurate with the percentage of their employees who are illegal aliens should be seized.

Third, cut off all federal funds to cities which continue or adopt "sanctuary policies" for illegal aliens.

If a city such as Chicago, Illinois, which has such a policy in place, refuses to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement by not allowing police officers either to inquire into or report the immigration status of arrestees, shielding criminal aliens from notification and eventual deportation, their funds will be immediately suspended. No more federal money for roads, schools, no special grants, no construction projects funded with federal money...nothing!

Only once all municipal agencies in that city are found to be in compliance, will federal funds be restored.

Fourth, require anyone registering a child in a public school to provide proof of U.S. citizenship.

Illegal aliens have been getting a free education for their children on the backs of American taxpayers for far too long. The practice has led to overcrowded classrooms, and "English as a second language" courses in all of the border states.

The amount of money spent per child in public school annually varies from state to state, as well as district to district. However, it averages several thousands of dollars per child. Why should American taxpayers be subsidizing the families of illegal aliens?

If parents were required to provide proof of citizenship to register the child, many illegal aliens would simply leave the country. You take away the things that draw them here and most will deport themselves.

The state of California is now bankrupt largely due to years of allowing Mexicans to illegally move their families to the state. Overwhelmed with children who speak only Spanish, they can no longer provide a decent education for American children.

Fifth, begin mass deportations.

Again, if you take away the goodies (jobs, free education, in-state college tuition, food stamps, Medicaid, etc.), most will return to Mexico on their own. However, there will remain a number of Mexican nationals who will refuse to leave, a great many of whom will be hardcore criminals (gangbangers, drug dealers, etc.). These human predators will only return home, if forcibly removed.

We have heard so many times that it is "impossible to deport 12 million people."

First, the number of illegal aliens in this country is closer to 40 million; second, nothing is impossible.

As proven six decades ago, most will leave after they are denied the services they now steal with ease. The rest would be deported upon arrest for other crimes.

This is the same nation which defeated both Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. This is the same nation which invented the airplane and the telephone. And, this is the same nation that can do anything which we choose to do.

We have the infrastructure, the resources, and the right to deport as many illegal aliens from this nation as we want. The only thing we are lacking is a federal government with the courage to do it. We must change that and take back this great country.

If we do not, future generations of Americans will reside in a Third World nation, and it will be a mirror image of Mexico.

## **Operation Wetback**

On May 17, 1954, President Eisenhower officially launched "Operation Wetback" — a federal initiative to combat illegal border crossings and deport Mexicans residing illegally in the U.S. The operation apprehended 50,000 aliens in less than six weeks. Nearly 500,000 aliens fled the U.S. fearing arrest. Over one million apprehensions were made in the first year of Operation Wetback.

According to The Christian Science Monitor in 2006, "Fifty-three years ago, when newly elected Dwight Eisenhower moved into the White House, America's southern frontier was as porous as a spaghetti sieve. As many as 3 million illegal migrants had walked and waded northward over a period of several years for jobs in California, Arizona, Texas, and points beyond.

"President Eisenhower cut off this illegal traffic. He did it quickly and decisively with only 1,075 United States Border Patrol agents — less than one-tenth of today's force. The operation is still highly praised among veterans of the Border Patrol....

"Some 750 agents swept northward through agricultural areas with a goal of 1,000 apprehensions a day. By the end of July, over 50,000 aliens were caught in the two states. Another 488,000, fearing arrest, had fled the country.

"By mid-July, the crackdown extended northward into Utah, Nevada, and Idaho, and eastward to Texas.

"By September, 80,000 had been taken into custody in Texas, and an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 illegals had left the Lone Star State voluntarily.

"Unlike today, Mexicans caught in the roundup were not simply released at the border, where they could easily reenter the US. To discourage their return, Swing arranged for buses and trains to take many aliens deep within Mexico before being set free.

"Tens of thousands more were put aboard two hired ships, the *Emancipation* and the *Mercurio*. The ships ferried the aliens from Port Isabel, Texas, to Vera Cruz, Mexico, more than 500 miles south."