
Subject: Re: The Immigration Issue

Posted by [Hydra](#) on Tue, 02 May 2006 05:02:28 GMT

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Various posts I've made in other forums about this issue:

Hydra in the CNCDEN Forum
LionThe thing is, a lot of the jobs they do, the 'legal' locals won't do like shoveling manure and picking fruit, digging ditches, cleaning motel rooms, etc.

Hmm, based on my limited experiences in the world and basically on what other people have told me in the past (in other words, this is probably a skewed and somewhat fallacious observation), this is a grand misconception.

It's not that native Americans don't want to do the work; it's that the businesses don't want to employ them and instead choose illegal aliens to make up their workforce thanks to minimum wage laws.

(This part is rather lengthy, so just skip to the last paragraph if you don't want to read all of it.)

Here's the situation: you have Average Joe American, who was born and raised in America and has never broken a law in his life, and Boarder-Crossin' Carlos Castro, who hopped the Mexican-American border to find a better life in America, both competing for a job. Both people have great work ethics who will do whatever job is given to them, no matter how dirty it may be. Joe is in a bind, though, because Carlos has an advantage to himself that makes him more appealing to an employer.

It's not Carlos's work ethic; it's his status as a criminal.

Thanks to minimum wage laws imposed upon the employer by the ever-so-wise government, Joe cannot legally work for less than whatever the wage the government has decreed everyone has a "right" to earn. Joe has never broken a law in his life and doesn't want to start by accepting illegal payments from his employer. Likewise, his employer doesn't want to break the minimum wage law by paying Joe less than what the law will allow. The government knows who Joe is since Joe always pays his income taxes on time. If there's a discrepancy any place, then Joe's employer could be in some real trouble.

There's Carlos, though, who's in the country illegally and wouldn't mind being paid in cash under the counter. No one saw him cross the border, so the U.S. government doesn't even know he exists. Why would the government go after Carlos's employer when there's no wage discrepancy to report?

And the employer can pay Carlos the actual market value of his work rather than an inflated price imposed on the market by law.

What's the incentive for the employer? To hire Joe at an artificially inflated price imposed upon the employer by law (despite Joe's willingness to work for the actual market value of his work) and therefore lose money upon his employment? Or pay Carlos in cash under the government's radar and save money on the work he does versus his cost?

The answer is obvious. The employer is going to hire Carlos to save money. It's not Joe's fault he can't work for less (even though he wants to), but it's the government's fault for creating a black market in labor with a price floor in the form of minimum wage laws that prevent the legitimate

labor market from reaching equilibrium.

EDIT:

berlin88So Derek, how do we deal with the problem in an effective manner while still trying to discourage further illegal immigration?

You didn't ask me, but I'll answer anyway--eliminate minimum wage laws.

I don't want to set a record for repeating myself, so simply refer to the first part of this post.

Link: <http://forums.cncden.com/showthread.php?t=14847&page=2>

Hydra in RA:APB ForumSteppolt's about time that companies become personally responsible for advocating "jumping the border" and hiring illegal immigrants at a fraction of normal living wages. It really is their fault for the illegal immigration problem to begin with.

Not so sure about that; I'd say it's the ridiculous minimum wage and regulation laws the government has passed on so many industries that have created a black market for illegal labor. It has become too expensive for businesses to hire legitimate employees thanks to the price floors on wages the government has imposed on businesses in the form of minimum wage laws. You can't really blame the businesses for trying to make money when the government isn't allowing the labor market reach equilibrium.

Link: <http://www.apathbeyond.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=8410>

Notice a common theme?
