



IMMIGRATIONWORKS IN THE MEDIA

April – May 2009

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The immigration debate, again

By Tamar Jacoby

May 7, 2009

Immigration reform – you may think you've seen this movie before, too many times already. You know the arguments. You dread the polarization. And you doubt that Congress can do any better at making the compromises needed to fix the system.

But things have changed since 2006 and 2007, when the nation last wrangled so bitterly over immigration. And although the new landscape hardly guarantees success ... it's going to be a different debate this year ... [Read more](#)

FORBES.COM

Good first move, Obama

By Tamar Jacoby

April 16, 2009

Just when it seemed that President Barack Obama had taken on every controversial issue he could possibly take on, thrilling or alienating as many Americans as he could possibly thrill or alienate, he moved last week to widen the circle further. He added immigration policy to his to-do list ...

The sharpest and most important difference dividing left and right reformers isn't about rhetoric. It's about whether the overhaul should enlarge the pipeline through which foreigners can enter the country legally to work in the U.S. ... [Read more](#)

FORBES.COM

Legal immigrants

By Tamar Jacoby

April 13, 2009

What does an AIG executive have in common with the farmhand who picked the lettuce you ate at lunch? If, as is likely, the farmhand is foreign-born, he too is the target of growing populist rage ...

The rage is directed at all kinds of foreigners: Mexican farmhands, Indian Ph.D.s, exchange students, seasonal help at summer resorts. And in a striking shift from pre-recession sentiment, people are expressing resentment not just of illegal immigrants, but also those here legally ... [Read more](#)

NYTIMES.COM

Room for Debate Blog

Immigrant children in legal limbo

By Tamar Jacoby

April 22, 2009 and April 27, 2009

The Dream Act would probably benefit no more than a few hundred thousand young immigrants – a small fraction of the foreigners living in the U.S. without legal status. These youth are special, and they deserve special consideration ...

But the legislation and its beneficiaries also teach two larger lessons – lessons that apply beyond this small group ... [Read more](#)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Immigration accord by labor boosts Obama effort

April 13, 2009

The nation's two major labor federations have agreed for the first time to join forces to support an overhaul of the immigration system, leaders of both organizations said on Monday. The accord could give President Obama significant support among unions as he revisits the stormy issue in the midst of the recession ...

"The question is, Will the commission work?" Ms. Jacoby said. "Will it be adequately attuned to and triggered by the labor market? A system that may – or may not – supply the workers that business will need in the future after the recession will be a cause of great concern to employers." ... [Read more](#)

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Employers of illegal workers to be targeted by U.S.

May 1, 2009

In a major departure from the Bush administration, the Department of Homeland Security on Thursday issued new work site enforcement guidelines that shift the focus to employers rather than illegal workers and could be a harbinger of more immigration reforms ...

"Employers have been worried about the tightening enforcement noose for a long time ... No employer looks forward to getting raided ... they really want a system that works," said Tamar Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

NPR MARKETPLACE

Immigration policy to target employers

May 1, 2009

Immigration enforcement in recent years has largely meant SWAT-style raids. The raids broke up families and crippled businesses. They've become increasingly unpopular. So the Department of Homeland Security will now focus on the root cause of illegal immigration: jobs ...

"Businesses are realizing more and more that restoring the rule of law in the workplace will be good for them. That it doesn't make sense to be investing either your family fortune or your brand name in a business that's standing on shaky ground legally," said Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

ABCNEWS.COM

Illegal immigration: Can online databases help?

May 7, 2009

There is a stereotype of illegal immigrants, stealing across the border into the United States, hoping for jobs – and getting hired by unscrupulous employers looking for cheap labor. How much does that really happen? In the emotionally charged debate over immigration, it's hard to say ...

"Companies want a way to be legal ... we're not giving them the tools to do it," said Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

BLOOMBERG.COM

Economy may force Obama to abandon plan to overhaul immigration

April 24, 2009

The long campaign to overhaul U.S. immigration laws may be derailed for yet another year – this time by the deteriorating economy. Lawmakers, lobbyists and advocates on both sides of the issue said the highest unemployment rate in more than 25 years would make it difficult for President Barack Obama to push legislation that would legalize millions of immigrants in the country illegally and create a new guest-worker program ...

"The president is talking about it and he's going to do it," said Tamar Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

REUTERS

Flu sharpens tone of U.S. immigration debate

May 1, 2009

A new strain of flu has stirred a heated debate in the United States about immigration, an emotional topic that is never far from the surface in this country of migrants ...

"Politically, I don't think that next week or next month is going to be a good time to be trying to pass an immigration reform bill ... But as people think this through and get over that first rush of panic, they are going to realize that this is an argument for more effective control and regulation that only comprehensive reform can provide," said Tamar Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

NEWSDAY

Observers: In weakened economy, immigrants' wages plunge

April 20, 2009

Wages paid to Long Island's immigrant workers have plunged as the economy has weakened, according to economists, local business leaders and immigrants themselves ...

"We have no official numbers telling us anything about [undocumented] workers, but we know that when demand falls for jobs, wages also fall," said Tamar Jacoby ... [Read more](#)

DAILYHERD.COM

Why are we so silent?

April 22, 2009

Many dairies rely on immigrant labor, yet seem hesitant to enter the political arena and speak up for immigration reform. Certainly, those who are against immigration reform seem more vocal at this point than the ones who are in favor of it, says Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA.

Speaking last week at the National Dairy Leaders Conference in the Denver area ... Jacoby encouraged dairy producers to get involved and let their elected representatives know how important immigrant workers are to their businesses ... [Read more](#)