



IMMIGRATIONWORKS IN THE MEDIA

Spring – Summer 2009

WASHINGTON POST

Immigration pitfall

By Jorge G. Castaneda and Tamar Jacoby

July 21, 2009

President Obama looks to be gearing up to make good on his campaign promise of comprehensive immigration reform. But ... unlike in 2006, organized labor and many Latino advocates are thinking about slicing up the reform package and moving forward with a piecemeal approach ...

This is short-sighted. Just as it would have been a mistake in a Republican era to pass an expanded temporary worker program but leave out legalization and a path to citizenship, so, too, would it be a mistake now to legalize immigrants who are here without creating a way for future workers to enter the United States legally ... [Read more](#)

FORBES.COM

The organic market

By Tamar Jacoby

July 13, 2009

Few words are less fashionable these days, few concepts more discredited. But when it comes to immigration, recent data prove beyond a doubt: markets work. As the economic downturn has cut demand for labor ... far fewer foreigners are seeking to enter the U.S. in search of work, either legally or illegally ...

And yet, even as market mechanisms prove their worth – and as President Obama launches a new congressional debate about immigration reform – a consensus is forming among some experts that a government commission, rather than the market, should set immigration levels. Lawmakers crafting an overhaul should be skeptical ... [Read more](#)

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 ...

But the legislation and its beneficiaries also teach two larger lessons ... First, immigrants – the vast majority of immigrants — bring drive and skills to America. Second, immigrants are assimilating, and we ought to reward them for it ... [Read more](#)

USA TODAY

Feds shift gears on illegal immigration

July 20, 2009

The Department of Homeland Security is changing the way it tackles illegal immigration ... putting heavier emphasis on employers, including more investigations of hiring records ...

Tamar Jacoby supports the enforcement changes ... "If we as a nation can prove to the public that we're able and willing and serious about enforcing the law, the public will be potentially more open to immigration reform," she says ... [Read more](#)

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

White House turns its focus to immigration

July 1, 2009

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has begun notifying businesses of plans to audit their I-9 forms - employment eligibility documents that employers fill out for every worker - the agency told members of Congress in an e-mail Wednesday ...

"Employers want the rule of law. They want a level playing field, but it has to be combined with being able to get the workers they need in a legal, reliable way. That's what we are looking for in immigration reform," said Tamar 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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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