



**Federation for  
American  
Immigration Reform**

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November 19, 1984

Mr. Skip Endres  
Subcommittee on Immigration  
2137 Rayburn - Staff Room D  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Skip:

As per our telephone conversation of this morning, I am enclosing a FAIR publication on the public opinion regarding immigration policy. I have highlighted the statistic used by Roger Conner during the INS panel discussion last week.

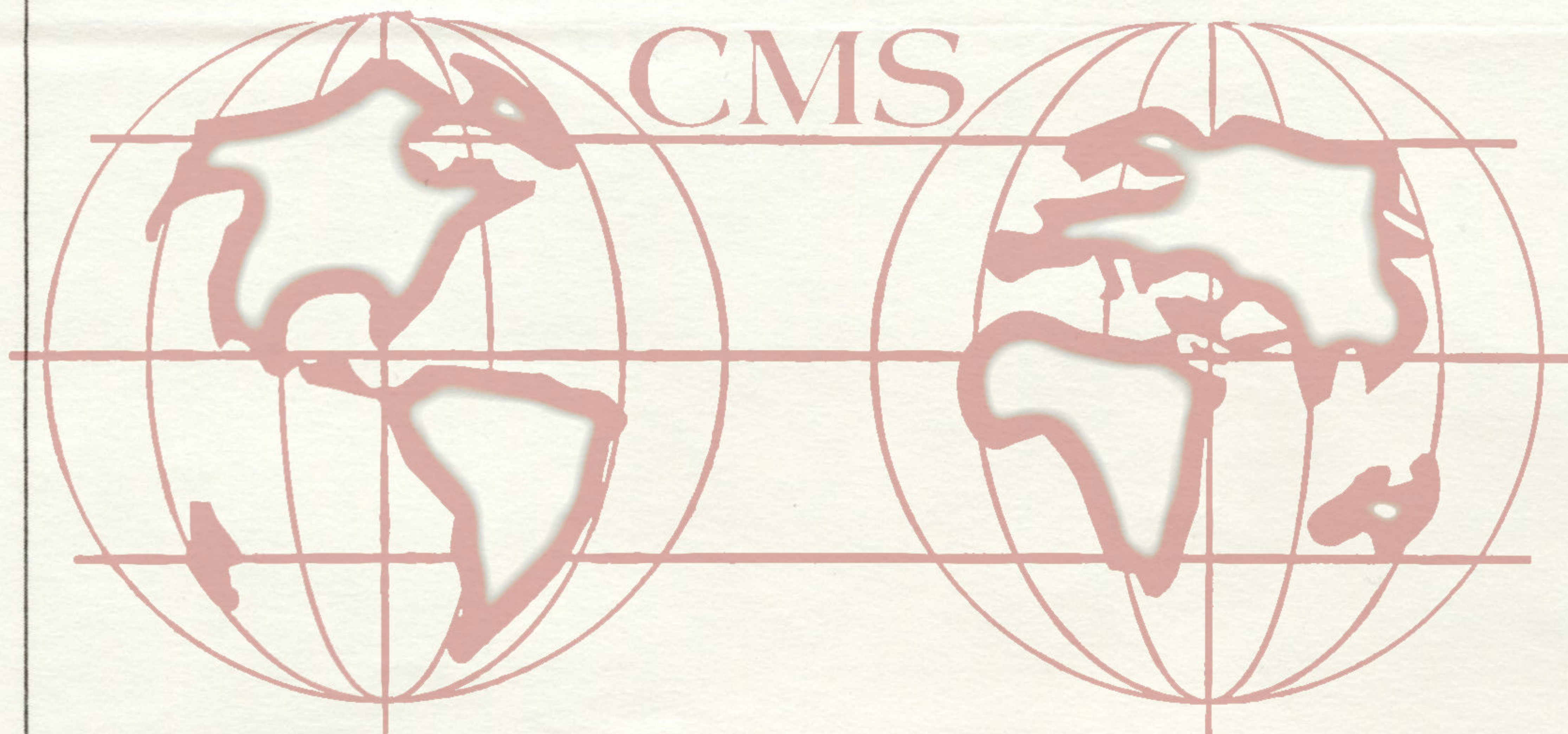
Also enclosed is the article that Roger made reference to during that discussion. He did not refer to the publication, the National Journal, by name, but rather noted it as an "insider" publication.

If I can provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kateri A. Callahan  
Director, Legislative Affairs

KAC/moh  
Enclosures



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*FAIR is a non-profit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and set reasonable levels of legal immigration.*



undertaken. Answers were tabulated from Black and Hispanic respondents randomly selected from across the country.

**82 PERCENT** of Blacks and **66 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents thought "illegal immigrants and undocumented workers hurt the job situation for American workers by taking away jobs Americans might take."

**71 PERCENT** of Black and **54 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents thought "illegal immigrants and undocumented workers cause general pay rates and wages in America to be lower than they would be otherwise."

**66 PERCENT** of Black and **66 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents favored "having penalties and fines for employers who hire illegal aliens."

**69 PERCENT** of Black and **63 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents favored "making major increases in the amount of money the U.S. government spends on patrolling the U.S. borders in order to stop illegal immigrants from entering the country."

**60 PERCENT** of Black and **62 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents favored an amnesty for illegal aliens who had resided in the U.S. for 5 years or more.

**65 PERCENT** of Black and **51 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents favored reducing legal immigration to less than 450,000 a year.

**71 PERCENT** of Black and **64 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizen respondents said they thought "tough restrictions on illegal immigration are the right approach because illegal immigrants take jobs away from American workers and give employers a way to avoid paying decent wages."

**27 PERCENT** of Hispanic citizens and **19 PERCENT** of Black respondents said they thought "tough restrictions are the wrong approach because it goes against our tradition," and "there is a danger that these programs will involve discrimination against minority group citizens."

## Jasso

A 1979 poll of 800 Spanish-surname households in Texas was conducted by Guillermina Jasso for the INS.

**60 PERCENT** of respondents said they thought "a law should be passed to stop people from hiring undocumented workers."

**45 PERCENT** of respondents said they thought more money should be spent on "enforcement at the border, to prevent the flow of illegal aliens into the United States."

## SUMMARY

With each passing year, there is a growing consensus that our immigration policies have failed.

Scores of national organizations continue to push for comprehensive reform. Among these: the AFL-CIO, the National Manufacturer's Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the NAACP, the National Audubon Society, the American Legion, the National Governors' Association, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, the National Association of Counties, the California Roundtable, The Environmental Fund, Zero Population Growth, and the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

If you are one of the 91 PERCENT of the American people who believe the U.S. should "make an all-out effort to stop illegal immigration," then you should join FAIR. We are a national nonprofit membership organization working to stop illegal immigration and to reform U.S. immigration policy to conform with the realities of the 1980's. Membership of \$20 a year includes a one-year subscription to our monthly newsletter, the *FAIR Immigration Report*.

Information about FAIR and additional copies of this brochure may be obtained by writing: FAIR, 1424 16th Street, N.W., Room 701, Washington, D.C. 20036. Single copies are free; multiple copies cost 10¢ each.

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# FAIR

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# Public Opinion On Immigration

GALLUP • ROPER • THE NEW YORK  
TIMES • NBC NEWS • CBS NEWS •  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THE LOS  
ANGELES TIMES • ABC NEWS  
SHEINKMAN • JASSO • V. LANCE  
TARRANCE AND ASSOCIATES •  
NEWSWEEK • PETER D. HART  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES • THE FIELD  
INSTITUTE • THE WASHINGTON  
POST • THE NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS



## Introduction

Since the mid-1970's, every major polling organization in the United States has surveyed the American public on one of the fastest growing areas of public concern: immigration reform.

Poll results show a remarkable consistency of opinion—the American people clearly want changes in U.S. immigration policy.

## How Important is the Issue?

**87 PERCENT** of respondents to an August, 1981, *NBC-Associated Press Poll* said they thought the "problem of illegal immigration of aliens to the United States" was "important."

In an October, 1980, *Roper Poll*, immigration placed sixth on a list of eighteen topics (above cutting income taxes, the Middle East, foreign policy and the Russian invasion of Afghanistan) as one of the "three or four subjects" respondents most wanted the Presidential candidates to debate.

## General Opinions On Legal Immigration

**62 PERCENT** of respondents to a 1982 *Field Poll* of California opinion said they believed "the number of immigrants now permitted to enter this country should be decreased."

**65 PERCENT** of respondents to an August, 1981, *NBC-Associated Press Poll* said they thought "the U.S. should allow less immigration to this country."

**80 PERCENT** of respondents to a June, 1980, *Roper Poll* said they thought the U.S. should "reduce the quotas of the number of legal immigrants who can enter the U.S. each year."

**59 PERCENT** of respondents to a March, 1981, *Washington Post/ABC News Poll* agreed that "immigrants are taking jobs that could go to Americans."

## General Opinions on Immigration Law Enforcement

**75 PERCENT** of respondents to a 1982 *Field Poll* of California opinion said they favored "deportation of all immigrants found to have entered this country illegally or without proper documentation."

**91 PERCENT** of respondents to 1977 and 1980 *Roper Polls* said they wanted the U.S. "to make an all-out effort to stop the illegal entry into the United States of the one and a half million foreigners who don't have visas."

## A Business View of Illegal Immigration

### The NFIB Polls

The National Federation for Independent Business is a national business organization that regularly polls its membership on policy issues.

**62 PERCENT** of respondents to a 1982 NFIB membership poll said they favored a law prohibiting employers from knowingly hiring an illegal alien.

**50 PERCENT** of respondents to a 1982 NFIB membership poll said they favored a law requiring applicants to prove U.S. citizenship by presenting a counterfeit-proof Social Security card at the time of employment.

**72 PERCENT** of respondents to an April, 1983, NFIB membership poll said they favored "vigorously restricting the flow of illegal aliens into the U.S."

## A Labor View of Illegal Immigration

### The Sheinkman Poll

In November, 1982, Jack Sheinkman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union polled labor union leaders in 31 states across the country regarding immigration.

**72 PERCENT** of respondents said they thought illegal immigrants "were taking jobs away from American workers in their area."

**94 PERCENT** of respondents believed "illegal immigrant workers restrict improvements in wages and working conditions for American workers."

**97 PERCENT** of respondents agreed that "the most effective action the government could take to control illegal immigration would be to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants."

## Public Opinion on Specific Immigration Reform Proposals

### Employer Sanctions

**79 PERCENT** of respondents to an October, 1983, *Gallup Poll* said they thought it "should be against the law to employ a person who has come into the United States without proper papers." (This is an increase from previous Gallup surveys which, in 1980, found 76 percent of respondents in favor of employer sanctions, and in 1977 found 72 percent in favor of employer sanctions.)

**76 PERCENT** of respondents to a 1982 *Field Poll* of California opinion agreed that "severe penalties should be imposed on employers who hire illegal or undocumented immigrants."

**62 PERCENT** of respondents to a March, 1981, *Los Angeles Times Poll* said "employers should be punished when they hire people who come into the United States without papers."

### Amnesty

**41 PERCENT** of respondents to an October, 1983, *Gallup Poll* said they favored allowing illegal aliens who had been in the U.S. for seven or more years to adjust their status. **52 PERCENT** of respondents opposed such a plan.

**50 PERCENT** of respondents to a March, 1981, *Los Angeles Times Poll* said they opposed a proposal "that illegal aliens who are presently in the United States be permitted to remain here and to work if they wish." **39 PERCENT** favored such a proposal.

## A Secure System of Employee Identification

**66 PERCENT** of respondents to an October, 1983, *Gallup Poll* said they thought "everyone in the United States should be required to carry an identification card such as a Social Security card." In 1980, **62 PERCENT** of *Gallup Poll* respondents favored such a law.

## The Attitudes of Blacks and Hispanics Toward Immigration

### Gallup Poll

This poll was conducted by the Gallup Organization in October, 1983.

**75 PERCENT** of Hispanic respondents said they favored a law making it "against the law to employ a person who has come into the United States without proper papers."

**75 PERCENT** of Hispanic respondents said they thought "everyone in the United States should be required to carry an identification card such as a Social Security card."

**62 PERCENT** of Hispanic respondents said they favored a proposal "that illegal aliens who have been in the United States for seven years be allowed to remain in the United States."

## V. Lance Tarrance and Associates and Peter D. Hart Research Associates

This poll was conducted jointly by Peter D. Hart Research Associates and V. Lance Tarrance and Associates, two of the premier political polling firms in the country. This was the first and most comprehensive poll of Hispanic and Black opinion on immigration ever