



# EDITORIAL COMMENTS

## The War On Our Southern Border

by Alan Caruba

(May 19, 2009) - Among the latest news out of Mexico was the discovery of four U.S. citizens found in a van, strangled, beaten and stabbed in the border city of Tijuana. The victims, ages 19 to 21, were two men and two women from San Diego and Chula Vista areas.

In 2008, 6,292 Mexicans were killed in the drug wars between the drug cartels. In the first eight weeks of 2009, there were already a thousand casualties, some of them beheaded. By way of comparison, in six years of war in Iraq, this exceeds U.S. losses by more than three thousand.

In mid-March, however, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, third in the line of succession to lead the nation, told a crowd of legal and illegal Hispanics that enforcement of federal or even local laws regarding immigration is "un-American." She called the illegal aliens in the audience, "very, very patriotic."

No, Madame Speaker, the patriotic, indeed the constitutionally responsible thing to do is to enforce the laws of the nation. You even took an oath of office to do so.

It is an open secret in Washington, D.C., that Obama and his fellow Democrat travelers in Congress want to push through an amnesty in order to increase the number of voters likely to support Democrats in coming elections. Congress has a short memory and no doubt has conveniently forgotten the firestorm of protest that erupted when the Bush administration attempted the same thing.

President Obama's proposed budget cancels plans to extend the border fence along the U.S.-Mexican border beyond the 670 miles already completed or planned. That leaves 1,277 miles open. In addition, the budget would end payments to states and communities to cover the cost of jailing illegal immigrants.

Sooner or later, some innocent American bystanders in downtown Tucson or any other American city are going to get caught in a hail of bullets as Mexican narco gangs exchange fire in a territorial dispute. Then Americans will demand action. You may recall that was the feeling right after 9/11 in 2001.

When I say "territorial dispute" I am referring to the network of American cities in which these gangs are currently operating. In April 2008, the Justice Department reported that Mexican drug cartels represent "the largest threat to both citizens and law enforcement agencies in this country and now have gang members in nearly 200 U.S. cities."

Obama's response to this was a promise to reduce gun sales that end up across the border and I believe him because we are already witnessing efforts to take away everyone's guns. While calling for tougher border security, Obama so far is doing nothing beyond the management of a U.S.-Mexico agreement forged during the Bush administration.

Meanwhile, his Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, is saying stupid things to blame America for the chaos of Mexico, claiming that American "is at least as responsible as Mexico for the violent drug wars..." No, we are not responsible for Mexico's endemic corruption and its failure to crack down on the drug cartels many years ago.

Forgive me if I have little confidence in any real action being taken by Obama's new director of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano. When she was Governor of Arizona, she called out the National Guard to back up the Border Patrol, but essentially had them man desks. It was a serious waste of man power by all accounts. Currently she is calling for more motion sensors and aerial surveillance to spot those entering the nation illegally. That's just a bad joke.

If the U.S. wants to avoid an all-out border war with the narco cartels, it needs to put up one very high fence along the 1,947 miles we share.

I have even less confidence in the Mexican government to deal with the narco gangs. It isn't like they're not trying. Meeting with George Bush in 2007, the president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, asked for help to fight the gangs and to his credit, he has been making a serious effort, deploying thousands of police and military, but at a terrific cost to their lives. It is, in the very truest sense of the word, a war.

Mexico's drug war is closing in on becoming Obama's "Iraq"; a war not so much of choice as one that is integral to our national security.

This is not an exaggeration. In December, Four-Star general (ret.) Barry McCaffrey and former national drug czar said that Mexico is on the verge of becoming a narco-state. An Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at West Point, McCaffrey released a report that predicted Mexico will be in control of the narco gangs within a decade. "Chronic drug consumption in Mexico has doubled since 2002 as has cocaine use, while U.S. cocaine consumption has dropped by 70% in the past two decades. An estimated 5% of the Mexican population now consumes illegal drugs."

Fully 90% of all U.S. cocaine use transits through Mexico and it is also a dominant source of methamphetamine production for the U.S. market.

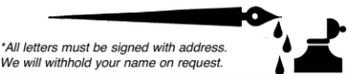
All this is occurring while Speaker Pelosi is encouraging illegal immigration and denouncing enforcement of our laws to prevent it.

All this is occurring as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have an opinion... Drop us a line.



### If Attacked, The U.S. Is Not Bound By Treaty To Come To Their Aid

Letters to Editor:

Mr. David E. Sanger, a reporter who works for *The New York Times* and covers Washington, DC, used the word "ally" six times during a two minute broadcast on WQXR radio's 8 am news, on 18 May, to describe America's relationship with Israel. Curious listeners may wonder if America is bound by treaty to come to Israel's aid with armed force in the event Israel is attacked by some country, like Iran for example. The answer to this question is an unambiguous NO. Israel's relationship with America is regulated by numerous United States Congressional Resolutions -- none of which call on America to consider an attack on Tel Aviv an attack on Washington DC.

JOHN D. CZOP  
May 19, 2009

### Finds Polish Club In Florida After Reading Post Eagle

Post Eagle,

Sorry for the delay but I now spend the winter in Florida.

Thanks to your article, I was happy to find the Polish American Club on US1 in Vero Beach - only 50 minutes from the house.

STO LAT!

JOHN WITKOWSKI

### PBS Gets It Right With "World War II: Behind Closed Doors"

Dear Editor-in-Chief:

PBS sometimes gets it right. In their series "World War II: Behind Closed Doors", they revealed that while the valiant Polish army thought they were fighting for Poland's freedom at Monte Cassino, at the very same time Churchill and Roosevelt were busy selling out their relatives in Poland to Soviet rape, murder, and slavery in Siberia.

While the sovereignty of Poland was used as an excuse for England to enter the war, their fraud was exposed by the fact that England and the United States surrendered Poland to the brutal dictatorship of the Soviets at the end of the war. In truth, they didn't give a damn about Poland, their motives were economic, all they wanted to do was destroy the industrial might of Germany.

As a matter of fact, the United States entered WW2 on the side of the Communists, the Communists

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*The opinions in the letters to the editor, and op-eds do not represent the views of the Post Eagle.*

## OP-ED by Ewa Bronowicz

### The ESL Deficit, Big and Getting Bigger

To have a possible job opportunity as a Special Education teacher after being promised an ESL position could only seem like wonderful news to the NYC Teaching Fellows Program, and even their enthusiasm seems slightly far-fetched, if not completely off-key.

Devoting one's life to helping children with physical and/or mental disabilities does, of course, sound inspiring, but don't do it unless you have a calling. When I applied to the government-funded NYC Fellows Program, which offers a subsidized master's degree in Education in exchange for a minimum 2-year commitment of teaching in understaffed inner-city schools, the program listed the following subjects as high-need: bilingual education, English, ESL, math, science, Spanish and special education. Having worked as an ESL instructor in private language schools for over two years, I was hoping to combine my skills, experience and passion for working with immigrants with the security that landing a full-time job in the public school system provides. I was accepted into the program in June 2008, as an ESL teacher, and scheduled, after some delays, to start training this June.

Last month I was notified in an email that, due to the present economic downturn, English and ESL would no longer be among the high-need subjects. Then, a few weeks later, I received an overly cheerful note congratulating me on being accepted to train as a Special Education teacher instead.

The total expenditure to educate a student with disabilities is almost twice as high as to educate a student with no special needs. That the \$787 billion Fiscal Stimulus Package includes \$12 billion for Special Education and another \$13 billion for Education for the Disadvantaged is not a bad thing in itself. That children who are at a physical and/or mental disadvantage should receive half of the total \$49 billion given to meet our collective educational needs does seem somewhat disturbing though, especially considering that no other subject area received any funding (the rest of the \$49 billion went to Student Financial Services and Employment and Training). While it is noble of America to not discriminate against students with special needs, it is myopic and self-destructive to do so at the price of replacing English and ESL teachers with Special Education ones.

There are currently over 5 million English language learners enrolled in the public school system in America. According to Quality Counts 2009 report, in Education Week, the English-learners population has grown by almost 60% over the last ten years. In NYC, more than half of the nearly 1 million public school students have at least one foreign-born parent. It then comes as no surprise that ESL teachers, and English teachers for that matter, should be among the most urgently needed ones today. Given this, what is surprising is that the government would cut spending for them.

It is hard to imagine that just 50 years ago America was the leader in K-12 education in the world. Yet, today we are lagging far behind countries like China and Korea. The average grade in the USA in K-12 is a C, and a 2007 report shows that only 30.4% of American public school students were deemed proficient in reading; shockingly among them only 5.6% of English-learners passed the test. For the Fellows Program to turn down ESL teachers at a time like this, and choose to invest instead in Spanish teachers, in addition to those in Special Education, would only make sense if we were living in Spain or South America.

A few days ago, I took another look at the program's official web site, and, to my surprise, ESL and English are still among the high-need subjects, written in ink no less bold than Spanish and Special Education. Soon a new batch of idealistic recruits ready to prepare English language learners to compete with native speakers will apply

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