

Jenn Oolon
Editorial Page Editor
303-684-5295

OPINION

To Build A Better World, Start In Your Own Community

EDITORIAL

Cut back
on foreign
oil need

Americans talk a good game about supporting free markets, but when "adversity" creeps up, both Democrats and Republicans are ready at the switch to manipulate the fundamentals of supply and demand.

So it went last week, when it became obvious that gasoline prices in the United States were going to reach \$3 per gallon and stay there for months, perhaps even years.

If the government really wants to look out for the interests of its population, it will be looking for ways to develop the nation's resources.

What the proposals won't do, however, is address the burgeoning demand for petroleum products worldwide. The day has come when China and India — and their 2 billion inhabitants — have flexed their muscles. They've seen the promised land and want to re-create some of it at home: cars for the middle class. The convenience of plastics. Energy to run the products that they once exclusively shipped to points in the industrialized world.

Certainly the government already has its hands in the gasoline market. At the national, state and local levels, rules about everything from refineries to the specific cocktail of additives has been fair game for regulators. The oversight has resulted in improvements to air quality and increased efficiency in many cases.

If the government really wants to look out for the interests of its population, it will look for ways to develop the nation's resources so that Americans are not held hostage to the vagaries of the foreign oil market. Americans also must tap our intellectual reserves to develop sources of alternative energy.

However, taking a knee-jerk approach when the marketplace delivers an unpalatable outcome will only keep Americans in denial about the future of energy consumption worldwide.

Politicians then scrambled to outdo each other in their proposals to remedy a problem they simply cannot fix. The release of crude oil that otherwise would have been earmarked for the country's strategic reserve and the loosening of environmental laws regarding special gasoline blends will add a negligible amount of supply to the market. Adding a "windfall profits" tax won't affect either supply or demand. And giving every American \$100 to buy more gas? That just redistributes more of the nation's wealth into the hands of our foreign oil suppliers.



THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Bennett

Open Forum

Unfair advantage
hikes profit margin

Re: "Drug companies post big gains in 1Q profits," April 21, Page B2

Today's Daily Times-Call headlines its business section with news that "Drug companies post big gains in 1Q profits."

Medicare is prohibited from price bargaining with the drug companies by the enacting legislation. Is anyone surprised that the drug companies are posting "double-digit increases in first quarter profit"?

JOHN R. BOOSE
Longmont

Use same illegal
immigration rules

Whether it's a childhood game, adults playing cards, or college and professional sports of any kind, everyone is expected to play by the rules. Play fair. That's why there are referees and judges: to call the infractions and assess penalties. To play fair, both sides must play by the same set of rules.

In the context of the current debate about immigration, some people are really upset and critical of the U.S. policy. Let's all play by the same rules. I propose that we adopt the Mexican rules, per the 1917 Constitution of Mexico.

Article 33: Foreigners may not in any way participate in the political affairs of the country.

Article 32: Equal employment rights are denied to immigrants, even legal ones, and are banned from service in the military, on Mexican ships and airlines.

Article 27: Only citizens by birth or naturalization ... have the right to acquire ownership of lands.

Article 55 denies immigrants the right to become federal lawmakers.

Article 91 denies immigrants the right to become cabinet members.

Article 95 denies immigrants the right to become Supreme Court judges.

Article 130 denies immigrants the right to become members of the

clergy.

Article 11 guarantees federal protection against "undesirable aliens resident in the country" and are subject to citizen's arrest.

According to Article 33, "the Federal Executive shall have the exclusive power to compel any foreigner ... to abandon the national territory immediately."

These rules work for Mexico. Perhaps we should adopt them for the United States.

Let's all play by the same rules.
W. GERALD LAUN
Longmont

Health coverage
must remain

Anyone who is out of work or can't play a simple game of catch with their child because of debilitating back pain will tell you how important proper treatment can be to their family's quality of life.

A bill scheduled for consideration by Congress in early May would take critical health benefits, including chiropractic care, away from many hard-working Americans and their families.

The Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act, or Senate Bill 1955, would enable health insurers to bypass existing state regulations, resulting in the loss of crucial health coverage on which millions of Americans depend.

The bill would eliminate key health benefits, including cancer screenings, prenatal care and diabetes supplies. Insurance companies would have significant leeway to charge people unaffordable amounts based on age, gender and health status.

Many health-care provider and consumer groups, including the American Chiropractic Association, oppose this bill because it is bad for patients. I strongly urge Sens. Ken Salazar and Wayne Allard to stand up for the people of Colorado and vote against this legislation.

DR. ROBIN WATERBURY
Longmont

Big-oil price-gouging
claims unfounded

With gas prices approaching \$3 per gallon, a lot of people are looking to express their displeasure by stringing up the oil executives for raking in huge profits.

With all of this festering anger, you would think someone just raised our ATM fees again or something.

Let's examine this price-gouging allegation for a moment:

The average profit on a gallon of gas is 7 to 8 cents for Exxon Mobil and its competition. With tens of millions of gallons being intravenously fed into our tanks every day, their profits obviously add up rather quickly.

This means the oil companies realize a net profit margin of less than 3 percent on each sale.

Compare that to commercial bottled water, which enjoys profit margins upwards of 150 to 200 percent.

This then forces our nannyish U.S. Congress, Senate and Justice Department to gear up and spend even more millions in election-year tax dollars investigating whether "big oil" should be making all of this money at a time when Joe Six-pack Americans are reportedly hurting so deeply.

Nevertheless, I believe I have the perfect solution: Exxon Mobil should ignore market pressures by immediately decreasing the price of its gasoline by \$.08 per gallon and begin operating as a nonprofit company. This will bring the gas prices down to \$2.92 a gallon, and we can all go back to hugging our gas pumps.

If the St. Vrain Valley School District included this rather elementary math concept as part of its standard curriculum, we might not need to constantly cough up more property tax dollars to finance the training of future generations of business-hating socialists.

DAVID GOUGE
Lyons

T-C Line

state, who should be governing and helping unite us, has been remarkably silent on the issue of immigration. We need to get together united as a state and as a country and not let people be divided so viciously.

A VETERAN'S VIEWPOINT

I just want to give one veteran's viewpoint on the boycott today. I'm a former Marine. I was wounded in combat fighting for the U.S., and I wasn't able to get to my medical appointments to have my physical therapy for those injuries because of the protests today. My opinion is that I am pretty upset when I saw people carrying signs written in Spanish and some of them espousing Islam — I don't know what that has to do with this boycott — but also carrying Guatemalan and Mexican flags. That upset me. But what really broke my heart was seeing somebody carrying an American flag hung upside down. About all I have to say is: These people want to be citizens of this country? I don't think so.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Regarding immigrants, this is the United States. We are not a part of Mexico. They are welcome here when they enter legally, not by sneaking across our borders and by breaking our laws. We should build a chain-link fence, 10 feet high, on the border and put an electric hot wire on top. Put a sign on it so they know what will happen if they do try to go over the fence. I like the Hispanics and even employ them, the ones that are here legally. We are not splitting families. They did that when they crossed as an illegal. They do not have rights. Let them march and reform Mexico. Enough is

enough.

I LOVE IT!

It's Monday morning, the day of the big protest. I just returned from shopping, and it was wonderful. Traffic was light, parking was a breeze, check-out lines were small. I love it! It's just the way Longmont was a few years ago. I hope they protest again and often.

51st STATE

Instead of having all these demonstrations and walkouts and building fences between the United States and Mexico, why don't the United States just purchase Mexico, make it the 51st state? Then all the people could pay taxes and be citizens entitled to what the legals have. Of course, I guess we would have to quit sending our corporate jobs to India; just send them to the new state of Mexico.

720-494-5485

T-C Line policy: The T-C Line is intended as a readers' forum for brief comments on current issues. Calls that are highly critical of local individuals or organizations or that disagree with opinions stated in signed letters to the editor will not be used. Calls that cite statistics, facts or figures that are not generally known or easily verified will not be used. Calls regarding local candidates for office will not be used. Short calls will receive preference. If you wish to address issues in more depth, you are invited to fax, e-mail or send written comments to the newspaper's Open Forum along with your name, address and daytime telephone number. Due to the number of calls received on a given day, not all T-C Line calls can be printed.

Choose
simple
solutionNation should
enforce existing
immigration laws

By Tom Fitton

Judicial Watch

Despite poll after poll indicating that the American people want our government to get tough on illegal immigration, public officials at every level continue to provide incentives for illegal alien lawbreakers.

Such policies virtually guarantee that our nation's illegal immigration problems will continue to get worse. That's what happens when you reward people for breaking the law. You get more lawbreakers.

Consider the various "guest worker" and amnesty proposals currently working their way through Congress.

While the details may vary, the result is the same: The 12 million immigrants who are already here illegally will be granted pseudo-citizenship or even citizenship despite violating our laws.

Does the consideration of amnesty and guest-worker programs provide an incentive for illegal aliens to cross our borders?

Last year, Judicial Watch uncovered a Border Patrol survey of apprehended illegal immigrants who were asked whether or not they considered a "guest worker" program to be "amnesty," and whether or not the proposal drew them across the border.

The answer to both questions was unequivocally "yes!" So you can bet, if we pass a guest-worker law, illegals from Mexico will flood across the border to try to take advantage of it.

Unfortunately, members of Congress are not alone in their shameless disregard for our immigration laws. Illegal immigrants currently have a full menu of state and local government-sponsored incentive programs from which to choose.

For example, in cities across America, police officers are forbidden by so-called "sanctuary policies" from inquiring about an individual's immigration status and cooperating with federal immigration officials.

This is, of course, a flagrant violation of federal immigration laws, which require police officers to fully cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Moreover, while the theoretical justification for these policies is to improve police relations with the immigrant community, the real-world results have been devastating.

Criminal illegal aliens released onto the streets by these policies are committing heinous crimes against law-abiding citizens.

Local communities struggling with an influx of unemployed illegal aliens have resorted to taxpayer-financed "day laborer sites," much like Denver's El Centro Humanitario.

In addition to helping illegal aliens find jobs, these "employment centers" offer job training, language skills and legal assistance.

It is, of course, unlawful to hire the services of an illegal alien, but that hasn't stopped government officials from using public funds to subsidize the illegal hiring of illegal workers.

Last year, Boulder County jumped into the business of providing perks to illegal aliens when it created the new position of "immigration integration coordinator," which is designed in part to ease the transition of illegals into the local community.

All of these programs and policies — along with free health care and education and low-interest home loans — are billed as "solutions" to the local problems caused by rampant illegal immigration.

However, they only serve to make the problem worse by rewarding the lawbreaker.

As you might have guessed, I have a different solution: Stop providing benefits to lawbreakers and start enforcing our nation's immigration laws.

Tom Fitton is president of the Washington, D.C.-based Judicial Watch, a 501(c)(3) educational foundation dedicated to fighting government corruption and judicial abuse. For more information, visit www.judicialwatch.org.

DAILY TIMES-CALL

LONGMONT AND THE ST. VRAIN VALLEY, COLORADO

Edward Lehman, Publisher
Dean G. Lehman, Editor & President
Lauren R. Lehman, Chief Financial Officer
Ken Amundson, General Manager
John Vahlenkamp, Managing Editor
Dale L. Carr, Vice President/Production
Maurice Elhart, Circulation Director
Penny Dille, Advertising Director
Connie Coffield, Director of Promotion.
Community Service and Newspapers in Education

350 Terry St.,
Longmont
Colo. 80501
Telephone
303-776-2244
Classified
303-776-7440
Fax
303-678-8615

Office hours:
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Weekdays
Circulation
Monday – Friday
5 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday
5 a.m. – noon

Letters welcome

The Daily Times-Call encourages its readers to share their views. Short letters, about one typewritten, double-spaced page, on timely topics get preference. We will print as many letters as space allows.

Letters must be signed. We don't publish anonymous letters, poetry, letters signed with a pseudonym or letters addressed to a third party.

For verification, please include your address and daytime phone number. (We do not publish them.) Letters must be 300 words or shorter. Do not send e-mail letters as an attachment.

Send to:

Open Forum, P.O. Box 299,
Longmont, CO 80502;
e-mail: opinion@times-call.com.