

Republican Perspective
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IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT

*“How can you tell when a political ideology has become the equivalent of a religion?”
Andrew Sullivan, American journalist*

The ideological conflict between the President and Democrats is ever present. The Democrat rebuttal to the President's national address laid bare the division over border security.

To the average citizen, border security is a no-brainer. If the U.S. is to remain a sovereign nation it must control entry. So, what's the big fuss? In the past, Democrat leaders Bill and Hillary Clinton, President Obama and Schumer have all called for border barriers. But that was then, and now its resist/obstruct Trump. Now it's the hard left Progressives and Social Democrats that believe in open borders. Woe be it to any Democrat that shows any moderation.

As the ideology hardens, the country bears the costs of illegal immigration both in money and sacrifice. Kevin K. McAleenan, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, testified before the Senate this past December. He said that border officials apprehended more than 3,000 immigrants who were illegally attempting to cross into the U.S. in just one December day. He told the Senators that the situation qualifies as a full-blown “crisis.”

Brandon Judd is president of the National Border Patrol Council (NBPC). The Council is the union that represents approximately 18,000 Border Patrol Agents and support personnel. He recently gave an interview to Conservative Review:

“Unlike previous years, what we're seeing now is that a large number of illegal aliens that aren't even trying to get away from us.” Instead, they're running straight to us. Due to the asylum loopholes, they understand that apprehension is as good as, if not better, than getting away. This is why they're once again crossing in metropolitan areas like El Paso and San Diego, areas that haven't been very busy since the late 1990s. There is no need to cross through harsh rural terrain and risk dehydration and other dangers when you can illegally cross the border in major metropolitan areas, give yourself up, claim asylum, and get released just to disappear into the ‘shadows’ of society. Cartels coach illegal border crossers on exactly what they need to say when they claim asylum, allowing them to game the system.”

Judd believes that the flow of illegal aliens seeking entry is orchestrated by the Mexican drug cartels. “They're using ‘asylum seekers’ as pawns to create gaps in the border by

tying up Border Patrol resources. The cartels flood the metropolitan areas with more family units than we have resources to deal with, causing us to move resources from rural areas, thereby creating the gaps that allow them to move more valuable products like illicit narcotics and criminal aliens.”

The NBPC president offered a stinging comment: “The American public needs to understand that it is Pelosi and Schumer policies that are allowing the cartels to exploit our vulnerabilities and cross deadly drugs into the country that are killing thousands of our citizens.”

In its 2017 National Drug Assessment Threat, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), said the Mexican cartels “remain the greatest criminal drug threat to the United States; no other group is currently positioned to challenge them.” The size of the Mexican poppy fields has more than tripled in 2013-2016. This coincides with the surge of Central American migration to our southern border. Over the same time, U.S. deaths from heroin and meth tripled, and fatalities from fentanyl skyrocketed ninefold according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Trump's efforts to strengthen our southern border requires funding. Here is his January 6th proposal to Congress:

- a physical steel barrier for 234 miles
- 75 additional immigration judges and support staff to reduce the immigration backlog
- 750 additional Border Patrol agents
- 2,000 additional law enforcement personnel and support staff to address gang violence, smuggling, trafficking, and the spread of drugs
- 52,000 for detention beds
- \$800 million to address urgent humanitarian needs
- \$675 million for “Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology at inbound lanes at U.S. Southwest Border Land Ports of Entry” to “allow CBP to deter and detect more contraband, including narcotics, weapons, and other materials that pose nuclear and radiological threats”
- statutory changes to permit in-country processing capacities for asylum processing

It appears that the ideological stalemate is over 234 miles of a physical steel barrier (wall). In 2006, Democrats were saying build that fence. “The bill (Secure Fence Act of 2006), before us will certainly do some good,” then Senator Obama said on the Senate floor in October 2006. He praised the legislation, saying it would provide “better fences and better security along our borders” and would “help stem some of the tide of illegal immigration in this country.”

That was then, this is now...Obama didn't know the law he approved was immoral. Now, Democrats believe that drones and technology will stop mass Central American migration and cartel drug smugglers.