

Obama prefers power politics to following the Constitution

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

"I taught constitutional law for 10 years. I take the Constitution very seriously. The biggest problems that we're facing right now have to do with George Bush trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all. And that's what I intend to reverse when I'm president of the United States of America." - Barack Hussein Obama.

If any lesson is to be gained from the last few elections, it is Obama and his party have lost middle class America. And so he has decided to stake the Democrats' future on granting amnesty to millions of illegal aliens, people whom he called bed makers and fruitpickers in his primetime speech Nov. 20.

I try to imagine what would have become of a Republican politician who described Mexicans in such demeaning terms.

Once upon a time, Obama opposed illegal immigration. In 2006, then-Sen. Obama in his book, "The Audacity of Hope," argued illegal immigration harmed blue collar workers and strained the social safety net: "[T]here's no denying that many blacks share the same anxieties as many whites about the wave of illegal immigration flooding our Southern border - a sense that what's happening now is fundamentally different from what has gone on before"

"Not all these fears are irrational," he wrote.

"The number of immigrants added to the labor force every year is of a magnitude not seen in this country for over a century. If this huge influx of mostly low-skilled workers provides some benefit to the economy as a whole - especially by keeping our workforce young, in contrast to an increasingly geriatric Europe and Japan - it also threatens to depress further the wages of blue-collar Americans and put strains on an already overburdened safety net."

But, in the end, the self-anointed party of the workingman has decided it prefers power over principles and demographics over persuasion. If Democrats can't convince the workingman to vote for their extremist agenda, then they'll flood the voter rolls with torrents of low-skilled, low-income immigrants who will turn to Democrats for a share of other people's earnings.

In March 2011, Obama told a group of illegal immigration activists that his office did not have the power to simply cease deportations. He said the same thing a month later in a White House interview, and several times afterward. Just last year, he said he was the president, not the "emperor" of the United States, and therefore did not have the power to grant executive amnesty.

With this latest illegal immigration diktat, Obama will have granted more than 6 million work permits to illegal aliens during his reign. According to the International Monetary Fund, fewer than 6 million jobs have been created in the U.S. since his inauguration.

Both Democrats and big business Republicans argue our economy requires a steady flow of low-pay, unskilled labor to do work Americans just won't do. But the truth is Americans will do the work if the pay is adequate. Illegal immigration has allowed employers to keep wages low. Without illegal aliens, labor markets would tighten and employers would have to pay what those jobs are worth.

I travel frequently to Obama's hometown of Chicago. Thanks to public housing projects and one of America's worst public education systems, that city has an enormous low-skilled, low-paid labor pool. But even so, I can't remember the last time I stayed at a hotel where the housekeeping staff spoke English fluently. Chicago's employers prefer to hire from south of the border than from their own south side.

One only needs to consult history to learn the real reason for the Democrats' push for amnesty. Prior to Ronald Reagan's amnesty in the 1980s, the Hispanic population was largely conservative and prosperous. Adding millions of illegals created a great underclass of the sort that traditionally turns to Democrats. Republicans who think amnesty will win the loyalty of this demographic should review Santayana's quip regarding those who are condemned to repeat history.

Which brings us to the real reason why Democrats want amnesty for illegal aliens. There is one task Americans really are reluctant to perform anymore and it was highlighted in the last election. Americans don't care to vote Democrat. Were our illegal alien population granted citizenship, they would vote overwhelmingly Democrat.

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