

Brian Lamb, Chairman & CEO
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street, N.W. Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

September 21, 1994

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Being a politics junkie I watch C-SPAN (17 on our cable) almost exclusively, but my wife claims that when there are difficulties with channel 17 nobody but me in our rather provincial small town complains. However, other people must be watching because once when I succeeded in reaching you on a call-in, I became quite respected for a few months. I have admired your cool intellect and acuity for many years and ask you to consider the following.

During the past two years both legal and illegal immigration have generated an emotionally charged and divisive issue on the public policy agenda. Seldom has there been so much interest in it and controversy about it. Our pride in being "a nation of immigrants" sharply clashes with an increasing awareness that multi-faceted internal nationalisms--even irredentism in the case of Mexico--raise questions about the desirability of our large scale population intake, and have motivated a reexamination of the circumstances under which our multi-ethnic society can continue to function. Up to about thirty years ago immigration, which has certainly played a culturally positive and economically essential role in our history, came in waves which were well regulated and not decided through pressures from narrow ethnic interest groups, doctrinaire libertarian think tanks and legal action groups, cheap labor lobbies and immigration lawyers.

As expected, economists disagree about the effects of immigration. The open-border advocates see immigrants as a net benefit to the nation, paying taxes and spurring business development. The more nationalistic economists argue that new immigrant employees displace citizens, depress wages and undermine working conditions, already disadvantaged minorities probably being hurt the most.

Most significant are the connections between immigration and demographics. The 1965 and 1990 immigration expansion bills and the failure of the 1986 Immigration Reform Control Act have altered our complete demographic future. Instead of stabilizing as it would without immigration, our population will continue to expand. While our population expands, tolerance, patience, land, water and clean air do not. We are awakening from the dream of a potentially great, egalitarian society with unlimited resources to live in a pathologically violent society with immense class distinctions. The ruination of the world's best and most beautiful country through overpopulation, about half of it generated by uncontrolled illegal immigration and by overly generous, excessive legal immigration, is deplorable. California's population alone will be close to 50 million by the year 2020 if nothing is done. And picture yourself in Jersey City, a subset of greater New York City, where 11,850 persons per square mile are rubbing elbows. The projected massive shifts in the ethnic composition of the U.S. population, which should be immaterial in an ideal world, for all practical purposes may engender an American Bosnia, and we must consider the consequences of balkanization. As the nation moves relentlessly towards half-a-billion people, everyone must ask: "How many more people can we accommodate?" One can believe in reasonable population limitations without being a racist.

Mr. Lamb, please do not misunderstand me; to reduce immigration, or provide some time out, is not to suggest that many immigrants do not become hard working, good moral citizens. It simply means that the country requires a break to absorb and handle its critical social problems, to clean up its affairs in order to face the 21st century without trepidations. I can assure you that I am not a primitive immigrant basher or know-nothing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I fully understand sympathy for immigrants and have mentally struggled with the dilemma for a decade, since [REDACTED] I still remember my ship sliding into New York harbor close by the Statue of Liberty. The five boroughs of New York City were surrounded by green, then. One could leave an unlocked car overnight on a Manhattan street with no property missing in the morning. Our population size was most comfortable, about 150 million, pollution was not yet noticeable. Our large cities contained slums, but these were intermingled with solid middle class neighborhoods, small businesses and industrial areas offering jobs. Upward mobility was possible for new immigrants who lived in tenement houses that were in a state of repair and offered a degree of comfort; home ownership in the inner city was common. With all its faults, America appeared to be the richest, most energetic, healthiest, and--difficult as it is to believe now--the best educated society. What was often referred to as "the American way of life" was universally extolled.

Much has happened since then, such as exploding population growth in the Third World which is creating vast refugee problems on an international scale. Permitting everyone who is dissatisfied with his or her country to move to the U.S.--Chinese objectors to a one-child policy, people with a homosexual orientation (5% of world population?), women who live in countries which do not offer equal rights, people in Islamic countries who want to drink alcoholic beverages, etc.--is inviting a great portion of the world's population to move to the U.S., but our own problems render the poetry associated with the Statue of Liberty antiquated. Under the present circumstances I do not feel that the fear of an exploding multi-nationalistic population containing a permanent under-privileged, uneducable, drug-addicted underclass is unreasonable, racist or xenophobic. For the first time in decades Congress would consider legislation that would stabilize our immigration. There is now some bipartisan support for a bill that would place a firm but still unselfish cap on legal immigration (300,000 per year, including refugees, asylees, special workers, etc.), deal with asylum abuse, call for the adoption of a secure work verification document, and call for border fees to raise money for greater border security. If passed, funded and enforced, such legislation would greatly alleviate our sociological pressures. But powerful business lobbies that keep politicians in office with much money want a never ending supply of cheap labor; ethnic leaders with enormous political ambitions cry "racism" at any mention of reasonable immigration control and offer politicians large voting blocks.

I personally have become so troubled over the loss of control over our sovereignty and over the damage to our quality of life that I would highly appreciate a program, or a series of programs, about immigration on C-SPAN. The fairest, most restrained and intellectual immigration control advocacy organization is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Washington DC 20009, [REDACTED]

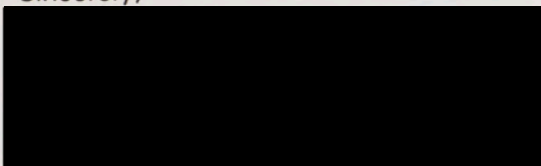
[REDACTED] Another very respected group is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Washington DC 20005, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Please, contact [REDACTED] or myself if you wish to receive more information on this issue or if you would like to discuss it further.

I have also prepared a slightly more detailed but fairly brief summary of the arguments for humane immigration control on the next four pages. This compendium has been compiled from a reading of recent literature on our carrying capacity and our immigration policies. Credits to the various sources are implied and can be supplied. It was not intended by me to present both sides of the issue.

I am furthermore forwarding a copy of *The Immigration Invasion* by Wayne C. Lutton, Ph.D., a historian who has published widely on population concerns, and John H. Tanton, M.D., an eye surgeon who has been an ardent conservationist since his farm boy youth. Lutton and Tanton bring a clear, non-emotional voice to the immigration debate. They carefully and calmly review every aspect of the predicament.

Sincerely,

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Morehead, KY 40351

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