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MERGER in the MAKING

THE ART OF SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE



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Dear reader,

As the artistic rendering of the flag on this magazine's cover suggests, a new North American Union would come about as a result of the merger of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Americans who love our country, our Constitution, the freedoms our Constitution guarantees, and the prosperity made possible by freedom often cannot imagine our nation ever losing its national independence to a North American Union. Merging our beloved America with Mexico and Canada would include not only opening the borders within the newly created political entity of North America, but would also require blending our laws and system of government with two other remarkably different countries.

To see what political, academic, and business elitists in North America have in mind, we need only look at Europe — where the far-advanced merger of nations under the European Union (EU) is much more obvious.

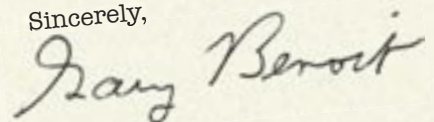
The steps that led to the EU included a Common Market that unsuspecting Europeans were told would create jobs and prosperity through "free trade." The process has imposed a myriad of regional institutions and regulations on the member EU countries, including a European central bank, a European parliament, a court system, the euro, and tightly regulated trade. The EU bureaucracy, by design, has incrementally usurped more and more political and economic control until it has become the dominant central power that it is today.

This special issue of our magazine shows that the same process is being followed on this side of the Atlantic with the same type of deception Europeans have experienced. In our case, the process began in earnest with the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which, we were told, would create jobs and prosperity through free trade. We now know that the trade arrangement installed by NAFTA has destroyed well-paying jobs and damaged our economy, exactly the opposite of what was promised. But NAFTA is much more than a trade arrangement, and if the merger process launched through NAFTA is allowed to continue, not only our robust and vibrant economy but also our national independence and even our freedoms in this unique country will be lost.

The North American merger process that began with NAFTA is now being advanced through the so-called Security and Prosperity Partnership, launched in 2005 by President Bush and his Mexican and Canadian counterparts. Put simply, the architects and engineers behind this North American merger hope to build NAFTA through a series of steps into a supra-national North American Union. As has been the case with the Common Market-EU process in Europe, they hope to complete the NAFTA-NAU process they have set in motion without drawing much attention to their envisioned goal.

We ask that you read the following pages and carefully consider the evidence we've compiled. Assuming you agree with us, and we think you will, then we encourage you to help us to inform others and to put a stop to the planned merger.

Sincerely,



Gary Benoit



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Publisher

John F. McManus

Editor

Gary Benoit

Senior Editor

William F. Jasper

Associate Editor

Kurt Williamsen

Contributors

*Dennis J. Behreandt
Christopher S. Bentley
Steven J. DuBord
Jodie Gilmore
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt
William P. Hoar
R. Cort Kirkwood
Warren Mass
Michael E. Telzrow
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.*

Editorial Assistant

Ann Shibley

Art Director

Joseph W. Kelly

Desktop Publishing Specialist

Steven J. DuBord

Research

*Mary Benoit
Brian T. Farmer
Bonnie M. Gillis*

Marketing

Larry Greenley

Public Relations

Bill Hahn

Web Manager

Brian Witt

Advertising/Circulation

Julie DuFrane

The New American

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Understanding America Today

Immigrants have long come to America to live “the American dream.” Now, that dream is becoming more difficult to attain. To reinvigorate America, we must understand the problem.

by John F. McManus

America has long been known as a land of opportunity — not just for a powerful few but for all citizens. Here in America, an impoverished individual willing to work hard could pursue what became known as the American dream. And that dream, enjoyed by a large and growing middle class, included home ownership and a standard of living enjoyed only by a privileged few in other countries. It also included upward mobility, with each new generation enjoying a higher standard of living than their parents.

But in America today, that dream is being eroded. For the first time in our nation’s history, many young Americans realize that they will not be able to match or exceed the economic levels achieved by their parents. According to a report released by the Pew Charitable Trust, “Men in their 30s today earn less than men in their fathers’ generation, and family income growth has slowed.”

Weighing in on this same development, CNN anchor Lou Dobbs lamented: “For the first time in our history, Americans aren’t dreaming of a better life for their children; they are desperately hoping

that their children won’t be forced into a *lower* standard of living and a *lower* quality of life.”

Serious problems can be seen in several areas: jobs are disappearing; the value of money is shrinking; families need two incomes just to keep pace; government power continues to grow; and the nation’s praiseworthy cultural base has been eroded. There is a need for Americans to reverse the course our nation is on. Can it be done? Yes. But only after recognizing what made the American dream possible and taking corrective action to reclaim it.

America's Basics

Our nation's hard-fought independence was not firmly secured with the defeat of the British in 1783. According to some competent historians, the War of 1812 was actually an attempt by the British to undo America's remarkable breakaway. That unusual war resulted in another victory for "our side," and, because it did, the path for U.S. citizens to reap the enormous benefits inherent in the remarkable new government system stayed open and even became more easily traversed.

That system, the political portion of which can be found in the Constitution of the United States, established restraints on government rarely seen in history. Here, government was bound to the limited function of the protection of the life, liberty, and property of the people. And the people, free from the stifling presence of excessive government, were expected to limit their own actions with firm adherence to moral codes such as the Ten Commandments. It is this combination — limited government and personal morality — that has always characterized America.

Even before our nation celebrated its centennial, America had become the refuge of the world's tired, hungry, and poor who left everything in the Old World to walk upon U.S. soil. Mostly penniless, they came here legally, found employment, happily worked toward assimilation, and pitched in to convert our mostly backward wilderness into a marvel of productivity. Starting out as laborers and bottom-rung employees, they prospered sufficiently to see their sons benefit from America's upward mobility, where the next generation moved into the middle class, the backbone of every productive society. Then, more sons and grandsons became the professionals — doctors, lawyers, educators, entrepreneurs, and white-collar executives — who carved out their own careers in the unique atmosphere of freedom found within our shores. While building for themselves, they helped to build the nation that became the envy of the world.

Ask a foreign observer to de-

CNN anchor Lou Dobbs lamented: "For the first time in our history, Americans aren't dreaming of a better life for their children; they are desperately hoping that their children won't be forced into a *lower* standard of living and a *lower* quality of life."

scribe America today, and you will still be told that it is the wealthiest and the freest nation in the world. After all, isn't America a cornucopia overflowing with material goods unimaginable elsewhere? But ask many Americans this same question and you will be told that the American dream is dying. This is particularly the case with young Americans who have not yet accumulated the assets their parents did and who wonder if they can become financially comfortable in our deteriorating economy. And it is the case with anyone who understands that a nation, even a nation as powerful as the United States, will see its wealth shrink if it loses its ability to produce.

What Is Wealth?

Very simply, wealth *is* productivity. It is not a folder full of stock certificates and bank deposits which are only a reflection of wealth. A nation is a wealthy nation when its people successfully take the raw materials of the Earth and fashion them

into goods. As Henry Hazlitt wrote in his 1946 classic *Economics in One Lesson*: "Real wealth, of course, consists in what is produced and consumed: the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the house we live in. It is railway and roads and motor cars; ships and planes and factories; schools and churches and theaters; pianos, paintings and books."

A certain way of measuring a nation's wealth, therefore, is to assess its ability to make things, in other words its manufacturing capability. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, our nation suffered the loss of 4.6 million manufacturing jobs during the past 20 years. During the same period, a mere 200,000 manufacturing jobs were gained. Factories have closed; once thriving communities have become virtual ghost towns; and laid-off workers have been forced to take lower-skilled and lower-paying positions in hopes of keeping the wolf from the door.

Textile companies in the Southeast have ceased operations as the flood of imports



Blue times: In 2004, Levi Strauss closed its last two major U.S. plants, offshoring all production. Just over two decades ago, the company had 63 U.S. plants. Now the company only produces high-end, eco-friendly jeans in the United States.



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Former Federal Reserve board member Alan Blinder recently predicted the potential loss of as many as 40 million American jobs to outsourcing. How can this be? One need look no further than government action, especially the drag of taxation and regulation that is not borne by America's foreign competitors.

from the Far East fills our stores. The auto industry is reeling as some of its plants have closed and others, where certain jobs always could be found, have been transferred to Mexico and elsewhere. A Utah steel mill that formerly employed 8,000 workers closed its doors because of foreign competition. Companies that regularly produced the tools and hardware for America's builders have likewise been forced out of business as Asian imports seize their markets. National appliance companies in Illinois, Michigan, and elsewhere have closed plants and transferred production to Mexico. Most of the popular Levi Strauss jeans are now being made outside the United States.

Some displaced workers find jobs in the service industry where they try to eke out a less-prosperous living as retail clerks or hotel employees. But those jobs pay less than manufacturing jobs.

When a single manufacturing job evaporates, the effect is felt by many others. Consider what happens to a restaurant owner in a community where the main employer closes its doors. The same drop in business will be felt at the local automobile dealership, insurance agency, dry cleaning establishment, or any one of the many retail outlets built to serve the manufacturing public. Each of these is a service provider and is dependent on those whose labor produces the goods. If the nearby factory that generates wealth ceases to operate and the jobs it supplied disappear, many others are also victimized.

Suicidal Policies

The situation we have described is not getting better; it grows worse each year. Former Federal Reserve board member Alan Blinder recently predicted the potential loss of as many as 40 million American jobs to outsourcing "within a decade or two." By "outsourcing," he means jobs being transferred to another country. How can this be? What is causing such a dramatic trend? One need look no further than government action, especially the enormous drag of taxation and regulation that isn't borne by America's foreign competitors.

In 2006, the National Association of

Manufacturers (NAM) issued a study entitled *The Escalating Cost Crisis*. Placing the regulatory burden facing domestic manufacturers at \$162 billion per year, its authors noted that this cost to U.S. producers had risen 10 percent since 2000. About taxation alone, the report noted that "the corporate tax burden" was responsible in large measure for the "deterioration" in U.S. manufacturing. The NAM study concluded that while America's tax rates remained high, "several other trading partners continued to lower their rates."

The taxation figures reported by the NAM were then dwarfed by a parallel report issued by the Competitive Enterprise Institute. Its 2006 study entitled *Ten Thousand Commandments* claimed that the total tax and regulatory burden facing the American economy had reached \$1.16 trillion annually. According to the CEI, when income and corporate taxes are added to the regulatory costs, "the federal government's share of the economy is now 29 percent." None of this enormous government presence produces any goods. All of it inhibits the productivity of the American worker and producer.

Many foreign producers don't face such taxation and regulatory burdens. In addition, the wage scales they provide their workers, especially in China, amount to a fraction of the wage scales paid in America. U.S. laws against dealing with firms and countries employing slave labor, China for instance, are regularly winked at.

Building boom: China has been exporting so much in the way of finished products and importing so much in raw material that its shipyards build enough ships to make it the world's third-largest shipbuilder.



AP Images

Falling dollar: The euro soared to new highs against the U.S. dollar in 2007, largely as a result of U.S. policies that encourage printing currency to pay debts — which causes inflationary effects including weakening the dollar.

Subsidizing Our Competitors

And then there are the U.S. handouts. Early in 2000, Representative Ron Paul (R-Texas) delivered a speech to Congress in which he pointed out that supplying aid to other nations was destructive to American productivity. He stated:

If our American companies and our American workers have to compete, the last thing they should ever be required to do is pay some of their tax money to send subsidies to their competitors, and that is what is happening. They are forced to subsidize their competitors with foreign aid. They support their competitors overseas via the World Bank. They subsidize their competitors via the Export/Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. We literally encourage the exportation of jobs by providing overseas protection in insurance that cannot be bought in the private sector.

The Texas congressman pointed out that China “has now received \$13 billion from the World Bank,” a United Nations creation. A sizable portion of World Bank funds comes from U.S. taxpayers. Additional huge grants have been made to China by the UN’s International Monetary Fund and our own nation’s Export-Import Bank. And the congressman focused justifiable wrath on rulings from the UN-related World Trade Organization that not only negatively impact American producers but



AP Images

even chop away at our nation’s hard-won independence.

Government Fosters America’s Ills

As the cost of energy skyrockets, America’s productive arm takes another hit. Yet, if the government would get out of the way and allow willing producers to produce, our nation would be dependent on no one else for energy. American Chemistry Council President Jack Gerard insists that the “natural gas crisis is self-inflicted, caused by 25-year-old policies that drive up demand while restricting access to American energy supplies.” A report from the Consumer Alliance for Energy Security points to the Outer Continental Shelf surrounding our nation where there is “enough natural gas to heat 100 million homes for 60 years, and enough oil to drive

85 million cars for 35 years.” That estimate does not include Alaska’s vast energy resources that lie untapped because of government interference. Nor does it include the tremendous energy boost our country could receive by expanding our use of nuclear power.

No survey of our nation’s government-caused ills can ignore inflation. Persistent federal deficit spending covered by the government/Federal Reserve combination that creates huge additional quantities of money and credit has watered down the value of everyone’s holdings (cash, retirement funds, insurance policies, etc.). The American dollar, once the most respected currency on Earth, has seen its value shrink by approximately 90 percent over the past 50 years.

Now, instead of undoing the damaging policies, elitists in government and business are attempting to expand upon them, using the North American Free Trade Agreement to merge the

countries of North America.

The problems plaguing America are not insurmountable. In fact, there is realistic hope that America’s retreat from greatness can be reversed and that we can restore and retain freedom and prosperity for tomorrow.

That hope is based on the fact that there is still plenty right with America: our priceless Constitution still stands; the vast majority of our fellow citizens remain God-fearing and patriotic; and the family is still overwhelmingly recognized as the bedrock of a healthy society.

But these problems will not be solved by wishful thinking. America must now be rebuilt by the kind of people who don’t take freedom and prosperity for granted. We hope you will want to join the growing number of rebuilders. ■

There is hope that America’s retreat from greatness can be reversed. It is based on the fact that our priceless Constitution still stands, most of our fellow citizens remain God-fearing and patriotic, and the family is still overwhelmingly recognized as the bedrock of a healthy society.



Canadian riot police provide a security cordon around the secretive North American summit at Montebello, Quebec, August 20-21, 2007.

Continental Merger

A coalition of groups warns that President Bush's Security and Prosperity Partnership will lead to a merger of the United States, Mexico, and Canada, but Bush claims that the pact is not threatening. Who is being truthful?

by William F. Jasper

The U.S. media paid scant attention this past August when President George W. Bush headed for a meeting of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (more commonly referred to as the SPP) in Canada. The two-day summit (August 20-21) with Mexico's President Felipe Calderon and Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as well as top government ministers and business leaders, was conducted behind a cordon of security and secrecy at a luxury resort in Montebello, Quebec, down the Ottawa River from the Canadian capital.

At the summit's concluding press conference on August 21, the three heads of state were confronted with charges leveled by critics of the SPP's goals and process. A Fox News reporter asked the trio: "Can

you say today that this is not a prelude to a North American Union, similar to a European Union? Are there plans to build some kind of superhighway connecting all three countries? And do you believe all of these theories about a possible erosion of national identity stem from a lack of transparency from this partnership?"

President Bush evaded the questions and punched at straw men of his own making. "You know, there are some who would like to frighten our fellow citizens into believing that relations between us are harmful for our respective peoples," he said. "I just believe they're wrong. I believe it's in our interest to trade; I believe it's in our interest to dialogue." None of the summit critics, of course, had even remotely implied that the United States cease relations, trade, or dialogue with Canada and Mexico; those are legitimate, constitutionally permitted activ-

ities that our government and our peoples carry on (and have engaged in since our nation's founding) not only with our next-door neighbors to the north and south, but with virtually every country on Earth.

"I'm amused by some of the speculation, some of the old — you can call them political scare tactics," President Bush continued. "If you've been in politics as long as I have, you get used to that kind of technique where you lay out a conspiracy and then force people to try to prove it doesn't exist."

Prime Minister Harper also chose to respond with ridicule, joking that opponents of the SPP process were getting all worked up over something that was no more serious than candy regulations. "Is the sovereignty of Canada going to fall apart if we standardize the jellybeans?... I don't think so," Mr. Harper chortled.

Opponents of the SPP, however, are worked up about far more than trade, dialogue, and jellybeans. As Bush, Harper, Calderon, and their aides met away from public scrutiny, leaders representing a coalition of more than 50 conservative organizations in the United States and Canada held a press conference at the Ottawa Marriott to deliver very serious warnings about the developing "partnership," which they claim is an unconstitutional scheme for economic and political merger of the three countries.

Leading SPP advocates publicly deny that their integration plans will bring about a centralized EU-style government that will override national, state, and local governance. *Privately*, however, in their speeches and writings, they acknowledge that this is precisely what they are constructing.

“Our message,” said Howard Phillips, chairman of the Coalition to Block the North American Union, “is ‘President Bush, President Calderon, Prime Minister Harper, tear down the wall of silence and let the people see what you are scheming to do.’” Mr. Phillips, who is also founder and chairman of the Conservative Caucus, stated at the coalition’s Ottawa news conference: “Behind closed doors, step by step, the leaders of Mexico, Canada, and the United States are setting the stage for, first, a North American Community and, ultimately, a North American Union (NAU), in which new transnational bodies would gain authority over our economy, our judiciary, and our lawmaking institutions.”

John F. McManus, president of the John Birch Society and a founding member of the Coalition to Block the North American Union, charged that the political elites are planning a duplicate of the European Union for our own hemisphere.

Who’s Telling the Truth?

So, is the SPP a harmless (or even beneficial) trilateral effort aimed at improving relations, trade, and dialogue with Canada and Mexico, which has been wildly misrepresented by “conspiracy nuts,” as President Bush claims? Or is the SPP actually a scheme to create an EU-style North American Union that will gradually submerge U.S. sovereignty into regional institutions, erase our borders, and terminate our constitutional republic, as its critics claim?

The Security and Prosperity Partnership for North America was formally launched in Waco, Texas, on March 23, 2005 by President Bush, along with Mexico’s then-President Vicente Fox and Canada’s then-Prime Minister Paul Martin. The three leaders let it be known

that their new SPP initiative was an effort to build upon and expand NAFTA, the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement. Their expressed goal for the SPP was the creation of “a safer, more prosperous North America.”

Conceived completely as an executive-branch initiative, without any participation or authorization from Congress, the SPP established 20 trilateral “working groups” composed of current and former government officials, academics, and corporate leaders. The groups are directed to bring about continental “integration” on a wide range of political, economic, and social issues, such as manufacturing, transportation, energy, environment, e-commerce, financial services, food and agriculture, law enforcement, immigration, infrastructure, and health.

Who are the members of these working groups? Where and when are they meeting? What policies, programs, projects, and proposals are they hatching? How will these things affect our lives?

The Bush administration has resisted providing answers to these questions — to Congress, the media, or the American public. Much of what has come to light thus far about the SPP working groups has been as the result of U.S. government documents pried loose through Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) filings by Judicial Watch, a Washington, D.C.-based public-interest organization.

Leading SPP advocates publicly deny that their integration plans will bring about a centralized EU-style government that will override national, state, and local governance. *Privately*, however, in their speeches and writings, they acknowledge that this is precisely what they are constructing. Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci, for instance, in an October 30, 2006 address to the Canadian Defense and Foreign Affairs Institute, said:

Now, I don’t believe that we will ever have a, *in name* anyways, a common union like the Europeans have ... but I



President Bush at the Montebello summit with Mexican President Calderon (left) and Canadian Prime Minister Harper (opposite page).

believe that, incrementally, we will continue to integrate our economies.... I think ... 10 years from now, or maybe 15 years from now we're gonna look back and *we're gonna have a union in everything but name.* [Emphasis added.]

Critics, of course, are not quibbling over what the SPP architects might eventually name their creation; they are concerned with the creation itself and what it actually will do — and *is already doing.* For instance, one of the major objectives of the SPP's chief architect Robert Pastor is the transfer of \$100-\$200 billion from the

United States to Mexico for infrastructure, education, and economic development. He has been proposing this in speeches and essays for the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, and SPP gatherings. Documents obtained through FOIA show that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Transportation, and other federal agencies are already funding, or are planning to fund, these objectives.

HHS documents show that this department, under the auspices of the SPP, intends to enhance “Mexico’s competitive position through the establishment of a grant fund for ... development of infrastructure in Mexico.” Aside from the important fact that the U.S. Constitution provides no authority for the federal government to tax Americans to build “infrastructure in Mexico” (or any other country), there is the additional grim fact that one government study after another has warned that our own infrastructure — especially roads, highways, bridges, and levies — is crumbling and in need of *hundreds of billions of dollars* for repair and construction. Sending badly needed infrastructure funds to Mexico will further hasten our own infrastructure decline and accelerate the flight of American companies and jobs to Mexico.

Sometimes the SPP programs are smuggled into actual legislation, as in the



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Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (right) says the Montebello summit was only about “harmonizing jellybeans,” while President Bush says critics are using “scare tactics.”

case of the “comprehensive immigration reform bill” (S. 1639) promoted by President Bush, Senator Edward Kennedy, and a bipartisan cast. That bill, which was defeated, would have authorized funds for “the development of economic opportunities” and “job training for citizens and nationals” in Mexico. Most of the SPP agenda, however, has been proceeding without congressional scrutiny or consent, quietly being implemented by the massive bureaucracy of the federal executive branch. The administration and its defenders claim that the SPP agenda falls within the authority already provided by NAFTA, which Congress approved.

This threadbare defense is wearing very thin. Even SPP advocates are admitting to a “democracy deficit” and a “transparency deficit” in the secret SPP process. At a pro-SPP seminar sponsored by the Hudson Institute on August 13, 2007 — just prior to the Montebello SPP summit — Hudson senior fellow Chris Sands acknowledged: “Congress was shut out from the very beginning of this [SPP] process. In the last couple of years, we’ve seen increasing concern on Capitol Hill about what’s going on in these negotiations, requests for information, discussion of having hearings, bringing people forward just to know more about what’s going on.”

Mr. Sands is coauthor with Professor Greg Anderson of a pro-SPP report by

the Hudson Institute, entitled *Negotiating North America: The Security and Prosperity Partnership*. This report makes some telling admissions, such as: “The SPP was designed to function within existing administrative authority of the executive branch.” This is a “very technocratic process,” they say, that is best carried out by “technocrats.”

But the technocrats have some very radical objectives, such as creating a “continental perimeter” around our three countries to replace our current national borders; creating a “North American passport”; merging our immigration, customs, and law enforcement; facilitating a free-flow migration of people among the three nations; “harmonizing” our tax and regulatory policies; and initiating education policies that foster a “North American identity” rather than national identities. Then there are policies aimed at “income gap” equalization, which of course will be achieved by a continuous *downward* trend for U.S. citizens, as Mexican incomes rise. This is what former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was advocating in his controversial March 2007 remarks in which he called for opening the “window” for skilled workers to enter the United States in order to “suppress the skilled-wage level and end the concentration of income.” As these policies come into the open, the SPP advocates know there will

be a public backlash that will be felt in Congress.

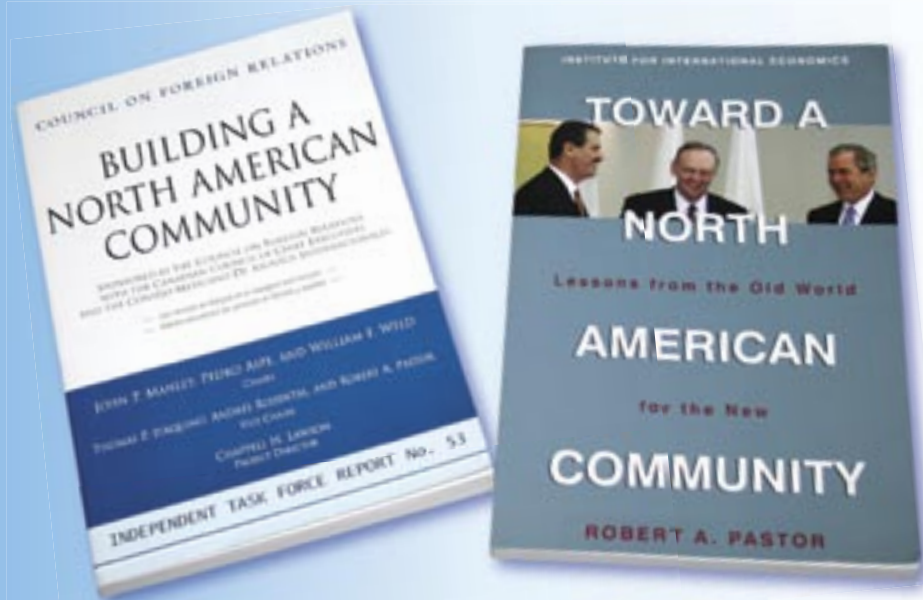
According to the Hudson Institute authors, “As criticism of the lack of transparency and public accountability of the SPP negotiations has grown, congressional interest and concern about the SPP has also grown.” Hence, say Sands and Anderson, “Congressional hostility represents the biggest threat to the continuation of the SPP after Montebello, and after the end of the Bush administration.”

Many patriots certainly intend to increase congressional hostility into a genuine threat to the continuation of the SPP. “We have no choice,” says the John Birch Society’s president, John F. McManus, “but to fight and defeat the SPP, and repeal NAFTA, the foundation upon which the SPP is being built.”

By both word and deed, the SPP architects have revealed their plans to copy the EU model of rule by technocrats and executive decrees. Mexican President Vicente Fox openly stated, prior to the launch of the SPP, that the “long-range objective is to establish an ensemble of connections and institutions similar to those created by the European Union.”

In their 2003 book *The Great Deception*, British authors Christopher Booker and Richard North describe the decades-long process of creating the European Union as “a slow-motion *coup d’etat*, the most spectacular *coup d’etat* in history.” Booker and North show that the EU has become the greatest concentration of political power in the history of mankind. That is precisely what the EU’s architects intended it to become; but they didn’t tell that to the people of Europe when they first began promoting what they called “the project” after World

Two of the most important books published by advocates of the NAU



community (kə myōō' nə tē) **n.** “A group of people residing in the same locality and under the same government.” (*Webster’s II, New College Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1995)

War II. It was launched as the European Coal and Steel Community, and soon after expanded into the European Economic Community (EEC), better known as the Common Market, to promote trade and ease of travel. Gradually, as more political integration took place, the EEC became the European Community, or EC. Finally, it changed names once again, from EC to EU. The NAFTA/SPP architects are copying the EU slow-motion *coup d’etat* blueprint — but on an accelerated schedule.

Congress has the constitutional authority — and duty — to stop this usurpation of power and this planned transformation of the United States. And the defeat last summer of the dangerous immigration-amnesty legislation showed that Congress can be prodded to act. It further acted in a surprise vote last summer to cut off federal transportation funds to the SPP working

groups. That historic vote came on July 24 on an amendment offered by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) to an appropriations bill prohibiting the use of funds by SPP working groups. The Hunter amendment passed the House with a landslide 362-to-63 vote.

How do we account for such stunning bipartisan opposition to something as supposedly inconsequential as harmonizing jellybean labels? The answer is that a rapidly growing grass-roots movement of American citizens is becoming aware of the SPP threat, and they are making their voices heard in Washington, D.C. But, as these recent battles have shown, members of Congress are not likely to take appropriate action on these urgent matters until a significant number of determined constituents become active and light fires underneath them. ■

The technocrats have some very radical objectives, such as creating a “continental perimeter” around our three countries to replace our current national borders; merging our immigration, customs, and law enforcement; and facilitating free-flow migration among the three nations.

“The Security and Prosperity Partnership is setting the stage for uniting the three nations of North America into a North American Union that will parallel for the West what the EU has done to Europe.”

*John Birch Society president **John F. McManus**, a founding member of the Coalition to Block the North American Union, issued this warning at the coalition’s August 20, 2007 news conference in Ottawa, Canada, not far from where President Bush and his counterparts from Mexico and Canada were meeting.*

“The NAC [a new ‘North American Commission’] should develop an integrated continental plan for transportation and infrastructure that includes new North American highways and high-speed rail corridors.”

*American University Professor **Robert Pastor**, a key architect of what critics have dubbed the “North American Union,” included this recommendation in his January/February 2004 Foreign Affairs article entitled, “North America’s Second Decade,” a reference to the second decade after NAFTA.*

“The ultimate goal is not simply a superhighway, but an integrated North American Union — complete with a currency, a cross-national bureaucracy, and virtually borderless travel within the Union.... It sounds like a recipe for transnational socialism and the further destruction of the U.S. economy. Terrorists surely dream of a borderless North America, where they can move freely from country to country unmolested.... We must demand that American sovereignty be protected.”

*Congressman **Ron Paul** (R-Texas) offered this assessment of the planned NAFTA trade corridors via video to the Coalition to Block the North American Union’s August 20, 2007 news conference in Ottawa, Canada.*



Ron Paul

AP Images



James Hoffa

AP Images

“I think the Bush administration has a master plan to erase all borders and to have a super-government in North America. There’s talk about mega-ports down in Mexico and superhighway toll roads built with foreign money right into the heart of America.... I am convinced that the plan to create a North American Union is what is going on.... I believe the Mexican truck demonstration is part of it.”

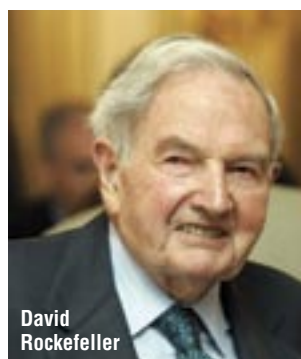
*Teamsters president **James P. Hoffa** told WorldNetDaily that the push to give Mexican trucks access to our highways is part of a larger plan.*

“NAFTA has been a success.”

*President **George W. Bush** made this claim at the March 2005 Waco, Texas, summit meeting where he and his counterparts from Mexico and Canada launched the Security and Prosperity Partnership, as part of the step-by-step process for political and economic merger begun by NAFTA.*

“For more than a century ideological extremists at either end of the political spectrum have seized upon well-publicized incidents such as my encounter with Castro to attack the Rockefeller family for the inordinate influence they claim we wield over American political and economic institutions. Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as ‘internationalists’ and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure — one world, if you will. If that’s the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it.”

*This incredible admission against self-interest was made by **David Rockefeller** in his own book, *Memoirs* (2002).*



David Rockefeller

AP Images

If you believe the United States is the most unique nation on Earth with a government designed to protect your natural liberties, an economic system unlike any other, and a judicial system unknown to any other nation, then a North American Union is a threat to all you hold dear.”

*American Policy Center president **Tom DeWeese**, a founding member of the Coalition to Block the North American Union, stated this in his April 2007 DeWeese Report. ■*

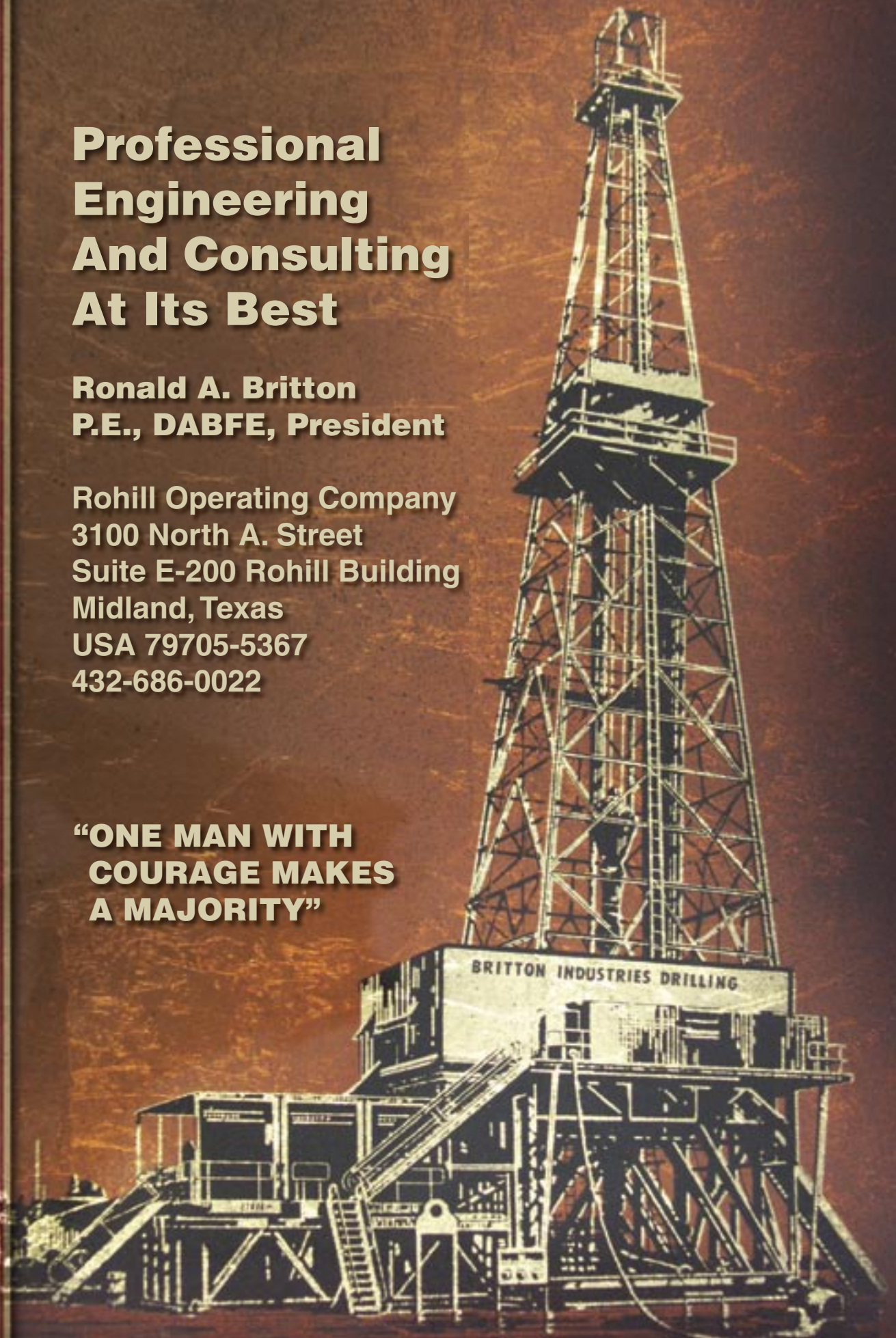
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Running Roughshod Over U.S. Laws



Rule of law? President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox at 2004 Summit of the Americas meeting in Monterrey, Mexico. Bush declares his devotion to “the rule of law.”

Under NAFTA and the SPP, the rule of law — including our U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights — is being replaced with arbitrary rule by unaccountable elitists.

by William F. Jasper

ITEM: “NAFTA court is law of the 3 lands.” So proclaimed the headline in the *Sacramento Bee* on April 18, 2004. The article, taken from the *New York Times*, reports on a NAFTA tribunal overriding the Massachusetts Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

ITEM: “State Laws Take Back Seat to Trade.” That was the headline of a *Los Angeles Times* story for December 5, 2004

on how rulings by courts created under NAFTA and the World Trade Organization are striking down state laws.

ITEM: “Mexican Trucks Begin Deliveries Beyond U.S. Border.” The September 9, 2007 Bloomberg.com story reported on the controversial move by the Bush administration to advance NAFTA objectives by opening the United States to long-haul Mexican trucking companies, in violation of state safety, labor, and environmental laws.

The rule of law, the great principle underlying our constitutional system of government, is under attack as never before. Two of the prominent threats to the rule of law in America are the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the 2005 Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). President Bush is an ardent champion of the former and a coauthor of the latter.

Nevertheless, the president regularly invokes the “rule of law” in his speeches and press conferences. As he did, for instance, at the January 2004 Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico. Standing next to his host, Mexico’s then-President Vicente Fox, Mr. Bush said of the illegal-immigration controversy: “We are a country of law. Rule of law is important in America.”

This is perversely ironic, in that NAFTA and the SPP are daggers aimed at the very heart of the rule of law. However, before examining these threats, it might serve to examine briefly just what that three-word phrase, “rule of law,” so revered in American heritage, actually means.

Our Founding Fathers believed that the primary function of government is to protect the inalienable, God-given rights of the individual.

Thus they devised a constitutional republic in which the powers of the national government were “few and defined,” as well as clearly separated into the three spheres of operation (legislative, executive, and judicial) and loaded with checks and balances to guard against arbitrariness, encroachment, and usurpation. Thomas Jefferson warned his fellow citizens to keep tyranny in check by binding government officials down “by the chains of the Constitution.” John Adams, in drafting the Constitution

The NAFTA judiciary has “been under the radar screen,” says Peter Spiro, a law professor at Hofstra University, “but it points to a fundamental reorientation of our constitutional system. You have an international tribunal essentially reviewing American court judgments.”

for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, gave us the famous phrase, “a government of laws and not of men.”

However, under the subversive processes established by NAFTA, the SPP, and other so-called free-trade agreements, the limitations on government are rapidly being destroyed. This became strikingly obvious when a NAFTA tribunal struck down U.S. state laws and court rulings in the case reported in the *New York Times/Sacramento Bee* article cited at the top of this story. John D. Echeverria, a law professor at Georgetown University, said that the NAFTA judiciary represents “the biggest threat to United States judicial independence.” Peter Spiro, a law professor at Hofstra University, likewise noted: “It’s basically been under the radar screen. But it points to a fundamental reorientation of our constitutional system. You have an international tribunal essentially reviewing American court judgments.”

However, adverse court rulings are not the only (or even principal) means by which NAFTA and the SPP threaten our constitutional rule of law.

A fundamental principle of constitutional law is that a law passed by Congress, or a treaty ratified by the Senate, that violates the Constitution is null and void. Though approved by Congress in 1993, many features of NAFTA, including the jurisdiction of NAFTA tribunals, should be declared unconstitutional. NAFTA also established dozens of secret tri-national working groups that develop “norms” and “rules” to govern all activities under NAFTA’s alleged jurisdiction. This unconstitutional legislative process has been carried over into the SPP, which, unlike NAFTA, was never even put before Congress. President Bush simply launched it in 2005 as an executive measure.

The SPP working groups are a developing legion of public officials and private citizens who are secretly crafting policies and rules on matters ranging from education, taxes,

immigration, and customs, to transportation, banking, and law enforcement. These “official” SPP working groups collaborate with privileged private organizations such as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the North American Forum, the North American Competitiveness Council, and the Council of the Americas.

The CFR’s main spokesman promoting the SPP, is Professor Robert Pastor, who favors merging the United States, Canada, and Mexico into a North American Community with a common border European Union-style. He also supports deep “integration” that would subject to tri-national jurisdiction many matters that our Constitution says can only be decided by the United States government, state and local governments, or the American people.

Dr. Pastor has been a key participant at SPP meetings that have been closed to the American people and their constitutionally elected representatives. One of Pastor’s influential SPP allies in this transformation of America from the rule of law to the rule of men is Princeton University law professor Anne-Marie Slaughter, the CFR’s lead-

ing exponent of “transgovernmentalism,” the growing trend of regional and global governance by networks of private-public actors independent of the nation state.

Ms. Slaughter’s 1997 essay, “The Real New World Order,” for the CFR journal *Foreign Affairs*, presents the case for governance by network and outlines precisely what has been taking place under NAFTA and the SPP. Slaughter enthusiastically notes that informal networks of judges, diplomats, technocrats, and business executives are circumventing national sovereignty and creating “a form of global governance” by performing “many of the functions of a world government — legislation, administration, and adjudication ... without the form.” She praises transgovernmentalism for being “fast, flexible, and effective.” No need for those slow, messy, constitutional checks and balances!

It is precisely individuals like Pastor and Slaughter — and their fellow globalists inside of and outside of government — whom Jefferson admonished that we should bind down “from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.” ■



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with David Rockefeller, founder and honorary chairman of the Council of the Americas, one of the principal private groups promoting a North American Union.

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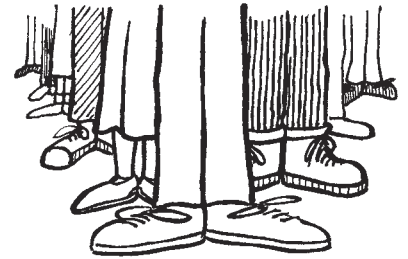
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| Zinc (Gluconate) | 30 mg | 200 |
| Chromium | 200 mcg | * |
| Selenium | 250 mcg | * |
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The North American Union Invasion

Despite the great harm that Americans face from rampant illegal immigration — crime, terrorism, economic devastation — our political and business elitists push for more amnesties.

by Sam Antonio

CNN's Lou Dobbs touched a nerve with the American public when he declared, "The Bush administration's open-borders policy and its decision to ignore the enforcement of this country's immigration laws is part of a broader agenda. President Bush signed a formal agreement that will end the United States as we know it, and he took the step without approval from either the U.S. Congress or the people of the United States."

The agreement to which Mr. Dobbs referred, the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), was launched in 2005 by President Bush, then-Mexican President Vicente Fox, and then-Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. But what is this "broader agenda" to which Lou Dobbs refers?

In short, the SPP agenda would merge the three countries inside a common "security perimeter," essentially erasing our current national borders. The SPP's designers commend the European Union's open migration policy and advise that we likewise merge our customs, immigration, and border enforcement agencies with those of Canada and Mexico to facilitate the flow of peoples and goods. They also propose a North American passport. These

Sam Antonio is the John Birch Society's national spokesman on immigration.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, in his 2007 State of the Union address, denounces U.S. border security and declares, "Mexico does not end at the border, ... wherever there is a Mexican, Mexico is there."



and other measures aimed at continuing political and economic integration of our three countries, they say, will enhance our security and prosperity.

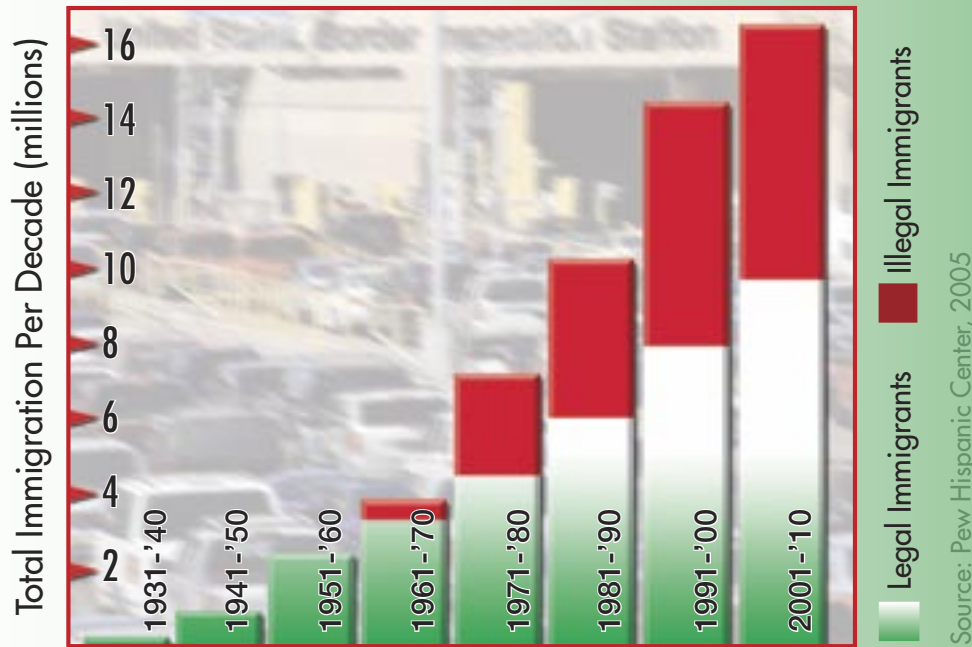
The godfather of the SPP, Professor Robert Pastor, gave testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2005 in which he asserted, "The best way to secure the United States is not at our borders with Mexico and Canada but at the borders of North America as a whole." This goal, he said, "we hope to accomplish by 2010."

Lou Dobbs expressed the shock of many when he said, "But this is — I mean, this is beyond belief!" And, he said, he hopes the American people have "the stomach to stand up and stop this nonsense, this direction from a group of elites, an absolute contravention of our law, of our Constitu-

tion, every national value."

These global elitists are trying to bring about a major shift, to convince us to begin considering ourselves not as Americans but as *North* Americans. To this end, they have backed and promoted the Bush-Kennedy-McCain efforts to grant amnesty to millions of illegal aliens already here, and to open the borders even wider to millions more "guest workers." At the same time, they have supported President Bush's thwarting of congressional mandates to build a border fence and dramatically increase Border Patrol manpower.

The Bush administration's reaction to Mexican President Felipe Calderon's September 2, 2007 State of the Union address is very telling. In his speech, President Calderon railed against recent U.S. deportations of illegal aliens, denouncing these



actions as “persecution” of “undocumented Mexican workers.” Calderon also declared: “Mexico does not end at the border, ... wherever there is a Mexican, Mexico is there.”

The Bush administration simply ignored Calderon’s blatant attack on our national sovereignty. Why? The SPP envisions a borderless North America where there will be no such thing as illegal immigration, but, rather, free *migration*. President Bush and top members of his administration have adopted the SPP’s language and now frequently interchange the term “migration” with “immigration.”

This helps explain the shocking fact that six years after the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration still has not secured our borders, despite the obvious fact that our open borders leave us vulnerable to future terror attacks.

Demoralizing the Border Patrol

by William F. Jasper

On October 19, 2006, Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean were sentenced to prison terms of 11 years and 12 years, respectively. Their alleged crime? They wounded a Mexican drug smuggler who was fleeing back into Mexico following a hot pursuit and a scuffle with agent Compean. According to the agents, the smuggler, Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, turned and pointed at them as though intending to shoot. The agents were not aware that any of their shots had struck Aldrete-Davila, as he made it back across the border and was picked up by his drug-cartel associates, apparently unhurt.

That might have been the last of the episode — *except* that the Mexican government learned of the shooting and demanded that the U.S. government punish agents Ramos and Compean for doing their jobs. That was not shocking, in light of Mexico’s increasingly bellicose interference in our border and immigration policies. What *was* shocking was the incredible lengths to which the U.S. government went to accommodate Mexico’s outrageous demands. U.S. prosecutors gave the drug smuggler full immunity and made him their star witness, even though he subsequently was apprehended in *another* drug-smuggling operation while enjoying immunity from prosecution. The prosecutors withheld that and other important information from jurors and the defense



Ignacio Ramos and wife, Monica

Courtesy of El Paso Times

team, while conducting an ongoing defamation campaign against the agents, lying to Congress, and stonewalling congressional requests for information about the troubling case.

The same U.S. prosecutors engaged in similar misconduct when they prosecuted Texas Sheriff’s Deputy Gilmer Hernandez for wounding an illegal alien in an incident in which a smuggler was trying to run him down with a vehicle. Documents released earlier this year show that the United States initiated the prosecution of Hernandez at the behest of Mexico. “Mexico wants to intimidate our law enforcement into leaving our border unprotected, and we now have confirmation of it in writing,” said Rep. John Culberson (R-Texas), noting it is “outrageous ... that our government is prosecut-

ing U.S. law enforcement officials at the request of the Mexican government.” He says there is reason to believe the Mexican government also prompted the Ramos-Compean prosecution, but the Bush administration refuses to release requested documents. T.J. Bonner, national president of the Border Patrol agents’ union, said the case shows that “the administration is trying to intimidate front-line agents from doing their job ... with trumped-up criminal charges.” (See: <http://www.thenewamerican.com/node/1664>)

Tragically, the case has had a chilling effect on our Border Patrol agents, and it is one more indication that the administration is just giving lip service to securing our borders while pursuing an open-borders policy. ■

An October 2006 report of the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Investigations noted that in 2005 the Border Patrol apprehended 1.2 million illegal aliens attempting to enter the United States. Even more alarming, however, is that the report, entitled *A Line in the Sand: Confronting the Threat at the Southwest Border*, noted the number apprehended was but a fraction of the estimated 4 to 10 million illegal aliens who tried to enter the United States. In other words, far more illegal aliens successfully entered than were caught. The report also states: "Members of Hezbollah have already entered the United States across the Southwest border." This includes "the brother of the Hezbollah chief of military operations in southern Lebanon." Do these shocking figures and statements indicate that the Bush administration is fighting a genuine War on Terror? Obviously not.

The price Americans are now paying for the Bush administration's open-borders

Internationalists are pushing to open the migration floodgates so that they may achieve their dream of a North American Union. For the business *elitists*, it means more prosperity through cheap labor, while for government officials it means more security to expand their power.

policy is steep. For instance, in fiscal year 2006, the Border Patrol deported 88,970 illegal aliens with criminal records. According to the U.S. Border Patrol, some of the major crimes that showed up on the records of *previously* deported, illegal aliens apprehended from Oct. 1, 2006, to Aug. 31, 2007 include: Kidnapping, 127; Homicide, 286; Sexual assault, 430; Robbery, 789; Assault, 5,078; Dangerous drugs, 10,843.

The economic costs are also mind-numbing. According to studies by Harvard economics professor George Borjas, the base cost of illegal aliens to the nation's economy is around \$70 billion annually, in addition to the more than \$133 billion in job-loss costs to American workers. Even more stunning is the 2007 study written by Dr. Robert Rector of the Heritage Founda-

tion, who calculates that the potential price tag to taxpayers for amnesty for the millions of illegal aliens now here could top \$2.5 trillion!

Powerfully placed internationalists are pushing to erase our borders and open the migration floodgates so they may achieve their dream of a North American Union. For the business elitists it means more prosperity through a continuous cheap labor pool, while for government officials it means more security to expand their power over their respective citizens.

But if there is to be any security or prosperity for the American middle class, then many more good Americans must get active, in partnership with their family, friends, and neighbors, to stem the tide of illegal immigration and block the creation of the North American Union. ■

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Myth vs. Fact

by Larry Greenley

MYTH: *The North American Union is a delusion perpetrated on the American public by cranks and crackpots.*

FACT: The phrase North American Union (NAU) is commonly used to refer to the very real process of merging the United States with Mexico and Canada. This process began when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was approved by Congress in 1993. Next, the launch of the Security and Prosper-

ity Partnership of North America (SPP) on March 23, 2005, at a summit meeting between President Bush and his counterparts from Canada and Mexico, greatly accelerated this process.

A key to understanding the North American Union process is recognizing that the government leaders and nongovernmental organization members who are building the NAU routinely minimize the significance of what they are doing. They draw your attention to snapshots of what they've accomplished so far in order to distract you from the real goals and the plans that reveal the overall process they are pursuing. **Decide for yourself...**



AP Images

July 18, 1993: Henry Kissinger stresses NAFTA's importance as a framework for future international restructuring. "[The proposed NAFTA agreement is] the architecture of a new international system." (Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, "With NAFTA, U.S.

Finally Creates a New World Order," *Los Angeles Times*, July 18, 1993)

October 15, 2004: Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), launches a task force to study the extent of North American integration after 10 years of NAFTA.

"The Council has launched an independent task force on the future of North America to examine regional integration since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement ten years ago." (CFR News Release, October 15, 2004, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/7454/>)



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December 8, 1993: President Clinton signs into law NAFTA, which creates a framework for further trilateral cooperation. One of the objectives of NAFTA is to "establish a framework for further trilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement." (NAFTA, 1993, Article 102, <http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org>)

March 14, 2005: The Council on Foreign Relations' Independent Task Force on the Future of North America proposes the creation of a North American community to enhance security and prosperity for all North Americans. "When the leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States meet in Texas on March 23, they will be representing countries whose futures are shared as never before.... The ever-deepening integration of North America promises enormous benefits for its citizens.... We propose the creation by 2010 of a community to enhance security, prosperity, and opportunity for all North Americans.... The boundaries of the community would be defined by a common external tariff and an outer security perimeter. Within this area, the movement of people and products would be legal, orderly, and safe." (*Creating a North American Community*, CFR Task Force Report, March 14, 2005, http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/NorthAmerica_TF_eng.pdf)

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March 23, 2005: U.S. President George W. Bush, Mexican President Vicente Fox, and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin launch the *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America* (SPP). “We, the elected leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, gather in Texas to announce the establishment of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America.... It will help consolidate our action into a North American framework to confront security and economic challenges.” (Joint Statement by President Bush, President Fox, and Prime Minister Martin, March 23, 2005, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/20050323-2.html>)

March 23, 2005: The SPP will build upon the NAFTA framework. “The SPP builds upon, but is separate from, our long-standing trade and economic relationships, and it energizes other aspects of our cooperative relations, such as the protection of our environment, our food supply, and our public health.” (“Fact Sheet: Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America,” March 23, 2005, <http://www.spp.gov>, an official SPP website maintained by the U.S. Department of Commerce)

March 23, 2005: President Bush refers to the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America as a “union.” “As to what kind of union might there be, I see one based upon free trade, that would then entail commitment to markets and democracy, transparency, rule of law.” (President George W. Bush, press conference at SPP launch, March 23, 2005, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/20050323-5.html>)

March 28, 2005: Rafael Fernandez de Castro and Rossana Fuentes Berain, editors of the CFR’s *Foreign Affairs en Español*, urge the SPP to work toward a “true North American Union.” “[The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America should be] working toward an eventual goal of a true North American union.” (“Hands Across North America,” *New York Times*, March 28, 2005, <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/28/opinion/28fuentes.html>)

May 17, 2005: The Council on Foreign Relations’ Independent Task Force on North America proposes that the SPP establish by 2010 a North American economic and security community and lay the groundwork for a virtual open-borders policy throughout North America. “The Task Force offers a detailed and ambitious set of proposals that build on the recommendations adopted by the three governments at the Texas summit of March 2005. The Task Force’s central recommendation is establishment by 2010 of a North American economic and security community, the boundaries of which would be defined by a common external tariff and an outer security perimeter.... **WHAT WE SHOULD DO BY 2010. Lay the groundwork for the freer flow of people within North America.** The three governments should commit themselves to the long-term goal of dramatically diminishing the need for the current intensity of the governments’ physical control of cross-border traffic, travel, and trade within North America.” (*Building a North American Community*, CFR Task Force Report, May 17, 2005, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/8102/>) ■



Task force co-chair Robert Pastor

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NAFTA: It's Not Just About Trade!

The North American Free Trade Agreement was intended from the beginning to be the foundational framework for a future North American Union.



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Closed factory: Despite the promise that NAFTA would create new jobs, it has had the opposite effect. But the dangers of NAFTA to our country are not limited to our economic well-being.

by Gary Benoit

When President Bill Clinton pushed for congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993, he argued that the pact would create jobs for American workers — 200,000 in the first two years alone. “NAFTA means jobs, American jobs and good-paying American jobs,” Clinton assured us. “If I didn’t believe that, I wouldn’t support this agreement.”

Regardless of what Clinton believed then, it is now clear that the promised jobs never materialized. In fact, exactly the opposite has been the case. According to a briefing paper published by the Economic Policy Institute in 2006, “In the United States workforce, NAFTA has contributed to the reduction of employment in high-wage, traded-goods industries, the growing inequality in wages, and the steadily declining demand for workers without a college education.” That paper, written by EPI economist Robert E. Scott, said that our “growing trade deficits with Mexico and Canada have pushed more than 1 million workers out of higher-wage jobs and into lower-wage positions in non-trade related industries,” and that “the displacement of 1 million jobs from traded to non-

traded goods industries *reduced wage payments to U.S. workers to \$7.6 billion in 2004 alone.*” (Emphasis in original.)

Despite the economic devastation wrought by NAFTA, however, its promoters try to deny the obvious. At the North American leaders’ summit in Montebello, Canada, last August, President George W. Bush, with his counterparts from Mexico and Canada at his side, claimed: “NAFTA, which has created a lot of political controversy in our respective countries, has yielded prosperity.... It’s improved wages and a better lifestyle and more hope.” Obviously, many displaced American workers know otherwise.

The Bush administration is working to expand and strengthen NAFTA, steps that would make the economic devastation even worse. For several years, the president recommended a trade agreement extending the NAFTA concept to all the countries of North and South America, except for Cuba. As he put it in 2003: “We seek to build on the success of NAFTA with the Free Trade Area of the Americas.” His FTAA proposal has stalled, but he was able to ramrod the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) through Congress in 2005, extending the NAFTA concept to the nations of Central America.

And through the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), his administration is working to build NAFTA into a North American Union.

NAFTA was supposed to create jobs and prosperity through “free trade,” just as the name of the agreement indicates. But NAFTA was never about establishing genuine free trade, which would entail virtually unregulated exchange of goods across borders. NAFTA was based on regulated trade, with our trade policy no longer shaped by Congress but by the new transnational regulatory bureaucracy NAFTA created.

Means to an End

Nor is NAFTA just about trade — “free” or otherwise. From the very beginning, it was intended to be the means to merge the member nations economically and politically, following the path already taken by the European Union. And in fact, some NAFTA critics, this magazine included, made this very point prior to congressional approval. But many NAFTA promoters dismissed this charge as ludicrous, claiming instead that NAFTA was merely about eliminating tariff barriers.

NAFTA promoter William A. Orme, Jr. was not among them. Orme is the author

"NAFTA means jobs, American jobs and good-paying American jobs," then-President Clinton assured us. "If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't support this agreement." Regardless of what Clinton believed then, it is now clear that the promised jobs never materialized.

of the 1993 book *Continental Shift* (later republished under the title *Understanding NAFTA*), described by the *Boston Globe* as "the best, most balanced picture of the [NAFTA] issue yet to appear." In a column appearing in the *Washington Post* for November 14, 1993, just a few days before Congress approved NAFTA, Orme approvingly wrote that "NAFTA would restructure the continent, with lines of people and goods running north-to-south as well as east-to-west, and once-fixed borders blurring in overlapping spheres of economic influence and political power." NAFTA, he said, "is the framework for a relationship that would restructure much more than just trade."

Summarizing the debate about the true intent behind NAFTA — eliminating tariffs or creating a "European-style common market" — NAFTA promoter Orme admitted that the NAFTA critics were "essentially right":

When NAFTA was first proposed, critics in all three countries claimed that its hidden agenda was the development of a European-style common market. Didn't Europe also start

out with a limited free trade area? And, given the Brussels precedent, wouldn't this mean ceding some measure of sovereignty to unelected bureaucrats? Even worse, wouldn't this lead to liberalization and collaborative policy making in many other sensitive areas, from monetary policy and immigration to labor and environmental law?

NAFTA's defenders said no. They argued that the agreement is designed to dismantle tariff barriers, not build a new regulatory bureaucracy....

Yet the critics were essentially right. NAFTA lays the foundation for a continental common market, as many of its architects privately acknowledge. Part of this foundation, inevitably, is bureaucratic: The agreement creates a variety of continental institutions — ranging from trade dispute panels to labor and environmental commissions — that are, in aggregate, an embryonic NAFTA government.

NAFTA promoter Henry Kissinger, a key member of America's foreign-policy es-

tablishment, also acknowledged during the 1993 NAFTA debate that NAFTA would be far more significant than just another trade agreement. "It [NAFTA] will represent the most creative step toward a new world order taken by any group of countries since the end of the Cold War, and the first step toward an even larger vision of a free-trade zone for the entire Western Hemisphere," the former secretary of state enthused in a column appearing in the *Los Angeles Times* for July 18, 1993. "[NAFTA] is not a conventional trade agreement, but the architecture of a new international system."

On November 29, 1993, nine days after the U.S. Senate passed the NAFTA implementation legislation, completing congressional action, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake sent a memo to President Clinton stating: "Hemispheric institutions, including the OAS [Organization of American States] and Inter-American Development Bank and now the NAFTA institutions, can be forged into the vital mechanisms of hemispheric governance." This internationalist perspective is particularly infuriating when one realizes that Lake, in his role as national security adviser, should have been telling the president how to keep our nation independent, not how to submerge our nation in hemispheric governance.

End Goal

The record of the last 14 years shows that numerous elitists have been trying to move us in the direction described by Orme, Kissinger, and Lake. The Republican president now residing in the White House has been a willing partner in the drive to create a merger, as was his Democratic predecessor. If these individuals achieve their goal, not just jobs but the independence of our great country and even our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms will be lost. Yet the very fact that they have had to proceed slowly and stealthily, and have experienced setbacks such as the stalled FTAA agreement, shows that the unfolding NAFTA-NAU process can be exposed and reversed. ■



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Mexican trucks haul their cargo into the United States.

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Is It “Free Trade” or Something Else?

“Free trade” agreements are composed of large numbers of all-encompassing regulations. Do such tight controls really make trade “free,” and are they in America’s best interests?

by John F. McManus

When appended to trade, the word “free” brings to mind unencumbered transactions. The term has been applied to NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement), and other so-called free-trade pacts that the United States has signed. Almost completely ignored in commentary about these “free trade” agreements is the revealing fact that, while the measures carry the label “free,” they are book-length and chock full of mandates governing the exchange of goods. The NAFTA agreement alone fills over 1,700 pages. If buyers and sellers have to submit to such a massive array of regulations as those found in NAFTA, using the word “free” in the name of this or any similar trade agreement is deliberately misleading.

In fact, NAFTA and other trade agreements like it are polar opposites of genuine free trade. Moreover, free trade is impossible to achieve unless certain conditions are met.

Lewis E. Lloyd’s 1955 book, *Tariffs: The Case For Protection*, contained a chapter entitled “Free Trade and the Real World.” He listed eight assumptions that would have to be realized if free trade could exist. The first is that taxes must be similar. If only one country’s producers are burdened with heavy taxation, then the element of fairness doesn’t exist.

Similarly, because unnatural advantages can be achieved through currency manipulation, there would be a need for a single monetary system. Then, business laws and business ethics would have to be harmonized. Wage rates among the trading partners would also have to be similar. If freedom were to exist in the in-

ternational marketplace, Lloyd claimed, migration of workers would have to be allowed. And add to all of this the need to be assured that there would be no military action taken by one nation against any others — a virtual impossibility. Though he never used the term, Lloyd was suggesting what has more recently come to be known as a “level playing field.”

To create these conditions on a worldwide basis, there would have to be global governance — all nations answering to one ruling body, a body with the military power to back up its will. In simple terms, there would be a need for world government.

It becomes obvious that this kind of “free trade” is not in the best interests of Americans who value our unique American liberties under the U.S. Constitution. Moreover, most business leaders prefer that their transactions involve “fair” trade. Yet in November 1993, though NAFTA did not represent *fair* trade, the House and Senate approved U.S. entry into this pact, and President Clinton signed the measure into law on December 8, 1993.

NAFTA Never Meant to Keep Promises

NAFTA was sold to Congress and the American people with fervent promises that it would stimulate commerce with our neighbor nations, and also that it would create American jobs, curtail illegal immigration, and have no harmful impact on U.S. independence. But the promises were not kept, as millions lost jobs, factories closed, illegal immigration continued, and NAFTA’s judicial panels trumped U.S. court decisions. Yet our political elitists continue to push for new trade agreements similar to NAFTA, and they are doing it for a reason other than helping Americans.

Some internationalist heavyweights did indicate the purpose of the pacts. In the October 1, 1993 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, for instance, David Rockefeller (who hardly ever authors a newspaper column) wrote an article wherein he called



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“Show Us the Jobs” tour: In 2004, 51 people from 50 states and the District of Columbia did an eight-state bus tour to raise awareness about the loss of well-paying, blue-collar jobs across the United States.

for “winning the support of the American people, the administration and Congress for NAFTA” because it was needed “to build a true ‘new world’ in the Western Hemisphere.”

Simply put, globalist-minded elitists like Rockefeller have been hard at work to make fundamental changes in how our country is governed. They want all the countries in the Western Hemisphere to knuckle under to a regional government run by unelected bureaucrats of their choosing, similar to the EU’s domination of Europe’s formerly independent nations. These deliberately misnamed “free trade” agreements lure unsuspecting victims into giving up their country’s independence with lying assurances that the only goals are improved commerce, more jobs, etc.

Occasionally the leading minds behind such efforts bare their real intentions. American University Professor Robert Pastor, a champion of what he calls the “North American Community,” wrote a 2004 article in *Foreign Affairs*, the journal of the Council on Foreign Relations, acknowl-

edging that “NAFTA was merely the first draft of an economic constitution for North America.” He also wrote that “the European experience with integration has much to teach North American policymakers.”

In Europe, some public officials have acknowledged how they had been deceived. An official of Britain’s United Kingdom Independence Party laments, “The EU was sold to the people as a trading agreement and has turned into a political union which is changing our basic laws and traditions.” Czech President Vaclav Klaus said the EU means “no more sovereign states in Europe.” And early in 2007, Roman Herzog, the former president of Germany, noted with dismay that “84 percent of the legal acts in Germany” now originate at EU headquarters in Brussels. He questioned whether Germany could still “unreservedly be called a parliamentary democracy.” Here in the United States, NAFTA set the stage for these very same consequences.

In addition to the destructive effects listed above, NAFTA mandates that poorly inspected Mexican trucks have free access to

all U.S. highways, and it constitutes the real reason that our southern border remains wide open. All of this is designed to bring our nation down and lift Mexico up so that, along with Canada, an eventual merger of the three nations will be far more easily accomplished.

Also, because of NAFTA, the internationalists behind this monstrous scheme deem that they have the “authorization” to proceed toward “integrating” the United States with Mexico and Canada with no further input from Congress. They even launched the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Security and Prosperity Partnership in 2005 as a prelude to a more binding “regional trading group” commonly labeled the North American Union.

Regionalism

The business and political elitists who are guiding this transformation have even admitted that they won’t be content with achieving regional governance,

but that their end goal is global governance. In 1995, another of America’s veteran promoters of country-by-country merger spoke at a forum arranged by the Gorbachev Foundation. Zbigniew Brzezinski, the primary architect of David Rockefeller’s globalist Trilateral Commission, told the gathering, “We cannot leap into world government in one quick step. In brief, the precondition for eventual globalization — genuine globalization — is progressive regionalization because thereby we move toward larger, more stable, more cooperative units.”

Led by President Bush and his top internationalist teammates, the globalists promoting these attacks on our nation’s independence are proceeding without even notifying Congress. No one in either the House or the Senate should stand for such arrogance and destructiveness. Whether Democrat or Republican, all who serve in Congress must be alerted about these plans. Nothing less than the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the freedom of the American people are at stake. ■



Express Route to Poverty

Proposed NAFTA
superhighway system
from Mexico to Canada

U.S. policy already gives foreign competitors almost every advantage in trade, yet our government is working hard to make shipping foreign imports cheaper than ever before.

by Kelly Taylor

For a variety of reasons, the United States is getting creamed in world trade. In trade with China alone, America's trade deficit jumped from \$6 million in 1985 to \$201 billion in 2005. Most U.S. trade ills are the result of negligent U.S. policy decisions — allowing other countries to severely penalize American manufacturers via a Value Added Tax, actually funding the transfer of U.S. assets overseas through the U.S. Export-Import Bank and Overseas Private Investment Corp., insuring U.S. companies against loss for failed business ventures in foreign

Kelly Taylor is an Austin-based writer and filmmaker, and the producer of a politically based TV talk show.

countries, etc. Now, as countries that provide what equates virtually to slave-labor wages increasingly participate in the world economy — further putting American businesses at a disadvantage — American politicians are aiding our competitors once again in the world-trade arena. As if building foreign infrastructure were not enough, our politicians are working to lower the cost of transporting imports throughout the United States. They are building what has been called the “NAFTA Superhighway.”

The NAFTA Superhighway is a term coined by critics of a plan to create a massive new North American transportation/trade corridor system intended to handle the anticipated increased flow of Chinese and other foreign goods into our country. This is not “just another highway.” The Trans Texas Corridor (TTC), already

under construction, will be part of the system. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, it will, at points, include “separate lanes for passenger vehicles and large trucks; freight railways; high-speed commuter railways; infrastructure for utilities including water lines, oil and gas pipelines; and transmission lines for electricity, broadband and other telecommunications services.” And though Texas Governor Rick Perry is disinclined to tell Texans about the true purpose of the TTC (in Texas, he says that it is needed to improve that state's economy and relieve traffic congestion), he is not so shy when he is in Mexico. In August, Perry held meetings in Mexico with Jose Natividad Gonzales Paras, the governor of a Mexican state. Investigative journalist Jerome Corsi discovered a Mexican government website



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Here and in gear: In September, despite protests by various groups — including the U.S. Senate and House — Mexican trucks were allowed to start transporting shipments throughout the United States.

that quoted Paras as saying: “We have had a very productive relationship with Rick Perry, who is also interested in what we can do to continue that which is known as the Trans-Texas Corridor, that in reality is the corridor of North America, the Trans North America Corridor.”

Using the new system, Mexican freight drivers, carrying mainly Chinese imports from Mexican ports and using FAST lanes much like the EZ Pass system now used on many U.S. tollways, will be able to cross the U.S. borders without being checked by U.S. Customs. According to proponents of this “trade corridor,” such as the North America’s Super Corridor Coalition, Inc. (NASCO), a new transportation system is needed “to improve both the trade and competitiveness and quality of life in North America.” But such a system cannot possibly end up being good for Americans. In an odd twist, one of the saving graces stopping our trade deficit from being even worse is the fact that our country’s deepwater ports, used for bringing imports into the United States, are at capacity. They cannot keep up.

According to NASCO, “U.S. studies forecast national freight tonnage to increase nearly 70 percent by 2020.” Anticipating this, new ports are scheduled to be

opened in Mexico, with a large port already under construction at Lazaro Cardenas, to facilitate shipments into “North America” — in other words, into the two countries in North America that can purchase the items: the United States and Canada. Mexico simply does not have the wherewithal to buy an amount of goods to justify such an investment in infrastructure. Thereby, cheap Mexican dockworkers and truckers can be substituted for expensive U.S. labor, causing American truckers and longshoremen to lose their jobs. Driving distance in getting to locations in the central United States could also be shortened. Hence, transportation costs drop for imports.

The building of such a trade-corridor system would be unnecessary if our government would stop instituting policies that defeat and discourage U.S. manufacturing competitiveness. As it is now, ships are leaving U.S. docks virtually empty. Yvonne Smith, the communications director of the Port of Long Beach, told reporters in 2004 that through Long Beach alone the United States is importing \$36 billion in goods yearly from China and exporting just \$3 billion. And of course, as has been made painfully obvious by this year’s headlines regarding Chinese products, much of what we buy is not just “cheap,” it’s dangerous.

NASCO audaciously claims that these imports benefit America, implying that all Americans get a piece of the pie: “NAFTA’s reduction of import tariffs and trade barriers in North America powerfully stimulated trade that strengthened the economies of its partner nations.” This is true in one sense: it has made the ultra-rich even wealthier. But it is tearing apart the middle class. Jerome Corsi sums up some of the damage in his book *The Late Great USA*:

According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI),... “For working Americans, the effects of the enormous growth in foreign trade have been mostly negative.”... Between 2000 and 2005,

more than three million manufacturing jobs have disappeared from the U.S. economy. Today, about half of all U.S.-owned manufacturing production is now overseas.

Even though productivity in the U.S. economy has grown dramatically in the last twenty-five years, the wages and benefits of non-supervisory workers — who constitute about 80 percent of the U.S. workforce — have been stagnant.... The loss of jobs overseas has widened the income gap in America.... According to Federal Reserve Bank data, in 2004, the top one-fifth of American households held 80 percent of the nation’s net worth and 50 percent of the nation’s income.

Across the United States, grass-roots organizations are working to stop the NAFTA Superhighway. Many politicians are listening. In January, Congressman Virgil Goode (R-Va.) introduced legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 40, to “express the sense of the Congress” that a NAFTA Superhighway and a North American Union (NAU) are unacceptable. But other politicians contribute to the problem, either by denying that there is a govern-

Across America, grass-roots organizations are working to stop the NAFTA Superhighway. Many politicians are listening. But other politicians contribute to the problem, either by denying that there is a government plan to build a superhighway or by acting to aid the building and merger.

ment plan to build a superhighway or by acting to aid the building and merger.

Congressman Trent Franks (R-Ariz.) is an example of the deniers. In response to a constituent inquiry about these issues, Franks claimed:

While there are non-governmental organizations actively endorsing a common regulatory scheme between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, there has been no action taken by the United States Government itself...

A North American Highway or highway system could not be authorized by the federal government without significant new legislation. The interstate highway system authorized in 1956 has been completed and the funding program to build it expired in the early 1990s. The federal-aid highway program that exists today is a state managed program.

In other words, if anything is happening,

state governments and private entities are to blame — there is no federal involvement. But evidence of federal government involvement is abundant. NASCO is funded largely by the federal government's Department of Transportation. Moreover, Congress has passed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act — all of which either provided the long-term planning or funding for new "High Priority Corridors" that mainly run from Mexico to Canada. The Federal Highway Administration is also providing \$833 million between 2005 and 2009 under the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program "to facilitate/accelerate cross border motor vehicle and cargo movements." The list goes on.

Some congressmen are blatantly sponsoring such a corridor. Indeed, Texas GOP Senator John Cornyn sponsored a bill to commit U.S. taxpayer money to build the corridor in Mexico — twice. And under

the auspices of NAFTA, the Bush administration is, for the first time, allowing Mexican trucks to bring goods throughout the United States.

Unless it is stopped, the superhighway is coming. The only remaining question is, "What ripple of consequences will happen because of its building?" The first consequence will be an almost complete loss of border security. Under the guise of facilitating efficient border crossing, border security will be dismantled — preparing for a free flow of people across North America. Instead of going through checks at the border, imports will be inspected in the originating country, monitored electronically, and then not inspected again until they are in middle America. Once unloaded at Lazaro Cardenas, containers will pass virtually unchecked over the Texas/Mexico border, using the superhighway, en route to the Kansas City SmartPort, one of several inland ports. Only there will containers undergo inspection — and then by Mexican customs officials! Feel safe?

And the stripping of border security can only exacerbate our illegal-immigration problems and further drive down Americans' wages. Unless government policies are changed, it will only get worse, owing to the massive lay-offs that will occur as the cheaper shipping costs send even more U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas.

Do not forget the physical requirements of a road the width of four football fields. According to TxDOT, the TTC will displace nearly a million Texans — nearly four times the number displaced by Hurricane Katrina, requiring more than 500,000 Texas acres. That is the number displaced in just one state!

These are just some of the more notable consequences of this wrongheaded policy. Let's reject this! ■



U.S. textile plants have moved to China — which has the trade advantages of cheap labor, artificially cheap money, and less regulation. Now, U.S. leaders are poised to help China lower its shipping costs to the United States via a superhighway running from Mexican ports.

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NAU merger: An artist's conception of what the flag of a North American Union might look like. Internationalists are urging integration as a strategy to ward off threats in a risky modern world.

Global Risks, National Solutions

Internationalists argue that global risks require global governance. In reality, global risks are best managed by independent nations.

by Dennis Behreandt

The world has always had its idealists. Frequently enough, they have dreamt of erecting a paradise on Earth where the squabbles of nations, the ravings of dictators, and the recurring banes of famine and disease would be made relics of the past in a unified world ruled by a single globe-spanning government. Such was the vision and the hope of John Lennon when he sang the lyrics to the song "Imagine." Such was the hope of the World Federalist Association which,

as late as the 1980s, blithely called for a world government on the basis that humanity was one large family.

That kind of idealism perished on 9/11. There are still some who believe that regional and world schemes for government make more sense than national governments. But instead of pointing to various utopian fantasies of peace and prosperity, today's internationalists point to threats and risks they say can't be managed by independent nations.

In 2004, writing in the journal *Foreign Affairs*, published by the Council on Foreign Relations, the most influential foreign-policy think tank in the United States, Robert Pastor argued that progress toward a more secure future "can only occur with true leadership, new cooperative institutions, and a redefinition of security that puts the United States inside a continental security perimeter, working together as partners." In other words, security demands that we build a North American Union. Pastor, though, doesn't call it that.

He calls it a North American Community.

The new world of global risk, according to theoreticians like Pastor, requires the formation of supra-national organs of governance in order to mitigate threats that the individual nation-state alone supposedly cannot manage. This, however, is a dangerous misconception, a delusion that if allowed to be put into concrete practice would not only mean the end of liberty as Americans have long understood it, but would also open up new and particularly virulent dangers the likes of which the world has not seen before. Indeed, contrary to the beliefs of internationalists like Pastor, both liberty and security require the maintenance of sovereign and free nations.

Metaphor of a Sinking Ship

To understand why it is the nation state that is the best solution to a world society filled with risk, you need to think like a naval architect. A ship functions in an environment that is inherently unsafe. Subject to the unpredictable and

sometimes violent vagaries of wind and water, a vessel can stay afloat only so long as it maintains its watertight integrity. In the event that the hull is breached, the ship will sink, if proper countermeasures have not been incorporated in its design.

For centuries, those countermeasures primarily have taken the form of bulkheads used to create watertight compartments. Currently, even for large yachts built for private use, regulations require multiple watertight compartments so that if any one compartment floods, others will remain dry and the vessel will remain afloat. Palmer Johnson, builders of the 156-foot mega yacht *Anson Bell* (since renamed) went further. According to *Power & Motoryacht*, regulations require "the inclusion of five watertight bulkheads, creating seven watertight compartments, *Anson Bell* has six bulkheads, creating eight compartments." If even two such compartments on the *Anson Bell* suffer flooding, the super yacht will still remain afloat, its passengers safe and secure.

In this sense, nations are like watertight compartments, with secure borders acting as bulkheads. This understanding of national sovereignty, in fact, played a significant role in shaping the thinking of the Founding Fathers as they built the constitutional framework for the United States during the early years of the republic. Recognizing that the 13 original colonies were independent and sovereign, the framers of the Constitution created a federal system of national government that left a great deal of power to the states comprising the United States. This approach was explicitly defined in the 10th Amendment, which reserves to the states and the people those powers “not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States.”

This federal organization of the United States was part of the constitutional plan for additional watertight compartments within our government itself. “By reserving to the states considerable power,” noted Ohio Northern University professor of political science David C. Saffel, the federal arrangement “lessened the likelihood of centralized tyranny.”

International Federalism

In the same way that the retention of important powers by the American states has long stood as an important bulwark against the erection of centralized tyranny in the United States, independent, sovereign nations stand themselves as bulwarks against the potential spread of a variety of disastrous policies, including tyranny. Consider the two greatest dictators of the 20th century, Hitler and Stalin. Unquestionably both would have been eager to satisfy their unquenchable thirst for power by seeking



Myths of regionalism: People in boats row past the EU parliament building in Strasbourg, France. Regional integration, such as has occurred in Europe, exposes larger numbers of people to risk. By contrast, sovereign nations act as bulkheads, limiting the spread of risk.

dominion over the entire globe.

Hitler, for instance, would have found his quest more easily attained had he risen to power in a world that already included the European Union rather than a collection of independent states. As it was, the Austrian madman was forced to abandon political means of conquest for military means as soon as his ambitions brought him into conflict with sovereign nations willing to fight for their independence. True, a bloody and terrible war ensued, but the growth of the Nazi dictatorship was checked and driven back by nation states fighting for their very existence. Stalin and the Soviet Union, also confronted by independent nations intent on retaining their sovereignty, were contained and prevented from enveloping all the nations

of the world in a communist tyranny. If either dictator had gained power within a supranational power structure, he would have been able to extend his tyranny much further and much faster. A future dictator with similar ambitions might salivate at the prospect of taking power in the European Union.

Hitler and Stalin are extreme examples, but the lessons apply equally with regard to the seemingly more pedestrian propositions imagining deeper and broader integration of the nations of North America. Suppose a North American Union is achieved and suppose that, as a result, the three formerly independent nations find they need to harmonize and standardize their healthcare systems — not a farfetched supposition since under NAFTA there has been significant movement to harmonize standards in various professions. Would former U.S. citizens enjoy having

the Canadian healthcare system, where in 2003 about 13 percent of citizens had trouble getting in to see a family doctor? Or, worse, would former Canadian and U.S. citizens rather be forced into some semblance of Mexico’s segregated system with one set of healthcare providers for workers, a separate set for government employees, and a third set of healthcare providers for “certain executives in the oil, telephone, and electrical industries and in the government [who] have special benefits to access the private medical system”?

Whether against the threats of tyranny, war, disease, or even the threat of incompetent socialist bureaucratic bumbling, nations serve as bulkheads preventing the spread of disastrous problems and ideas. ■

In the same way that the American states stand as an important bulwark against centralized tyranny in the United States, independent nations stand themselves as bulwarks against the potential spread of a variety of disastrous policies, including tyranny.

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An Amero for Your Thoughts

If America adopted a single currency (e.g., the “amero”) with Canada and Mexico, we would no longer control our own monetary policy.

by Brian Farmer

On May 16, 2002, then-Mexican President Vicente Fox gave a speech in Madrid, Spain, in which he stated:

Eventually, our long-range objective is to establish with the United States, but also with Canada, our other regional partner, an ensemble of connections and institutions similar to those created by the European Union....

The new framework we wish to construct is inspired in the example of the European Union.

Part of the framework that fostered the creation of the European Union (EU) was an institution called the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The implementation of the EMU culminated with the adoption of the euro on January 1, 1999 as the official currency of 11 EU member states.

Even before Fox’s Madrid speech, the example of the EU was already inspiring some academics to consider the creation of a North American Monetary Union. In a 1999 paper entitled, “The Case for the Amero: The Economics and Politics of a North American Monetary Union,” Canadian economist Herbert G. Grubel explained his ideas for creating a North American regional currency, and coined the term “amero.” On the U.S. side of the border, Robert Pastor, a noted political scientist and member of the Council on Foreign Relations, is leading the charge for adopting a North American currency. In his 2001 book, *Toward a North American Community*, Pastor speaks approvingly of the concept of the amero, claiming that “in the long term, the amero is in the best interests of all three countries.”

It is clear that those who favor “an ensemble of connections and institutions” along the lines of the EU feel that a monetary union is essential. Their main argument is that it would

facilitate financial transactions.

Adopting the amero would have definite disadvantages, however. It would come with the same loss of sovereignty that the introduction of the euro has shown in Europe. The individual EU states now using the euro must accept the monetary policy dictated by the European Central Bank Executive Board. If the economy of a particular state suffers as a result, that country must simply grin and bear it.

If the experience with the euro is any indication, the introduction of the amero would not be universally popular. For example, a poll by *Stern* magazine released on June 1, 2005 revealed that 56 percent of Germans favored a return to the Deutsche Mark, citing the excessive increase in prices in the years after the introduction of the euro. Prices of small, everyday items were boosted significantly. For instance, a tube of toothpaste that previously cost DM2.00 might afterwards cost 1.50 euros or even 2.00 euros. Since Germans received one euro for every 1.96 Marks they originally held, the euro price for that same tube of toothpaste amounted to a 50-percent to 100-percent increase!

While the goals cited in the writings of Grubel and Pastor sound reasonable, it is also clear that the workings of a North American Monetary Union could easily be used to usurp the authority of the U.S. Treasury and redistribute economic power and wealth among the three North American nations. For example, at the time of the conversion to the amero, the exchange rates could be set to overly inflate the value of the Mexican peso in relation to the U.S. dollar.

The sovereignty of the United States is our most precious asset. It is part of the formula that has made our nation the greatest and most successful political, economic, and cultural experiment in the history of the human race. In order to protect it, it is imperative that we contact our representatives in Congress and demand that they oppose anything to do with a North American regional union, including the adoption of a common currency. ■

It's Good at the Top

NAFTA promised to raise wages and living conditions in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, yet the middle class in these countries is getting poorer while the rich get richer.

by Charles Scaliger

“Free trade agreements are designed to force adjustments on our societies,” Donald Johnston, former Canadian MP and cabinet minister, once remarked. Mr. Johnston ought to know: a longtime vociferous supporter of both NAFTA and its bilateral predecessor, the 1989 free-trade agreement between Canada and the United States (CUFTA), Mr. Johnston served from 1996 to 2006 as secretary-general for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an organization that has worked for decades to encourage governments to harmonize trade, tax, and other economic policies across international lines.

So what kinds of “adjustments” have been forced on the societies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico since the inception of the North American Free Trade Agreement, more than a decade ago? Certainly not those promised by the political leaders in those three countries when NAFTA was in the ratification stages.

The fruits of NAFTA in the United States — massive job losses and the relocation to Mexico of entire industries, such as North Carolina’s textile plants — are well known, especially among the millions of Americans who have been its victims. Less familiar, to the American public at least, are the effects of the managed-trade



Down on the farm: Forced to abandon their land as a result of cheaper, subsidized crops, including corn, imported from the United States under NAFTA rules, many former farmers in Mexico, like this displaced Mixteco Indian family, now work for large corporations (in this case, a sugar-cane plantation), while their standard of living continues to plummet.

AP Images

agreement on the citizenries of our two luckless partners in this extraordinary international scam.

North of the border, largely as a result of CUFTA and NAFTA, Canada has seen a significant decline in average per capita income, with wages failing to keep pace with rising productivity. Close to 200,000 Canadian manufacturing jobs disappeared by early 2006, a decline of 8.5 percent. Not only that, the decline in manufacturing-sector jobs has not been offset by a rise in higher-wage, higher-skill jobs in other sectors, contrary to the predictions of NAFTA proponents. Instead, writes Bruce Campbell of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in a September

2006 publication of the Economic Policy Institute, “displaced workers in the trade sectors have moved to the lower-skill, lower-wage jobs in the services sector. Precarious forms of employment (part-time, temporary, and self-employment) have also increased.” Overall, says the Canadian study entitled *Zip Locking North America*, Canada’s involvement in NAFTA has “significantly weakened the Canadian economy, has harmed the interests and the standard of living of 80 percent of Canadians relative to their position pre-free trade, and has allowed productivity to decline rather than increase relative to the United States. None of this was supposed to happen.”

Charles Scaliger is a teacher and freelance writer.



Well-heeled: One of Mexico's wealthy takes a stroll under the approving gaze of Felipe Calderon, Mexican president and supporter of NAFTA. The trade agreement has benefited Mexico's elitists at the expense of millions of subsistence farmers and the rest of the Mexican working class.

AP Images

prop up Mexico's currency — the Mexican economy has continued to stagnate, never coming close to the healthy 6.5 percent average growth in GDP from 1950 through 1980. Real wages, in fact, are lower now than they were 25 years ago, and overall economic growth has averaged a paltry 1.3 percent per year, more than 30 percent behind the average growth rate of comparable middle-income countries around the world. The estimated 500,000 Mexicans a year who choose the hazards of illegal residency and employment north of the Rio Grande are eloquent testimony to the abject failure of NAFTA-style managed trade to cure Mexico's economic woes. As one illegal immigrant quoted in a recent

Los Angeles Times article put it, "If it were true that NAFTA was good for Mexico, we wouldn't be here."

On one thing do supporters and opponents of NAFTA all agree: the North American Free Trade Agreement has greatly benefited the corporate and financial elitists in all three countries, allowing capital to collude more easily across international boundaries. All available information shows significant growth in income and assets among the wealthiest few percent in all three countries, growth that is strongly linked to more open borders. These are, of course, the very people who have been pushing NAFTA from the beginning, in cahoots with political leaders, and the deal has paid off handsomely for both groups — as it was intended to do from its inception.

NAFTA has indeed "forced adjustment" on millions of people throughout North America, and its contemplated successor, the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), if allowed to go forward, will inflict more of the same. ■

The situation is even bleaker south of the Rio Grande. The effects of NAFTA have been felt most acutely in the Mexican agricultural sector, where huge numbers of Mexico's poor farmers have been put out of business, unable to compete with heavily subsidized, cheaper produce from the United States. Ironically, it is in the production of corn, a crop that originated in Mexico and remains a staple of the Mexican food supply, where NAFTA-induced economic distortions have been most severe. As cheap American corn has flooded Mexican markets, Mexico's wealthy farmers have been forced to shift to other crops to survive. Those who cannot do this — the millions of rural Mexicans who rely on subsistence farming centered on corn cultivation — have seen their already precarious standard of living spiral downward.

With no change from their millennia-old corn-centered style of farming, large numbers of Mexico's rural poor have fled northward to the United States to survive, accounting for a generous proportion of the flood of illegal immigrants threatening

to overwhelm our country. "The assumption was that tens of thousands of [Mexican] farmers who cultivated corn would act 'rationally' [under NAFTA] and continue farming, even as less-expensive corn imported from the United States flooded the market. The farmers, it was assumed, would switch to growing strawberries and vegetables — with some help from foreign investment — and then export these crops to the United States. Instead, the farmers exported themselves," writes Louis Uchitelle in a February 2007 article for the *New York Times* that explored why NAFTA — contrary to the promises of its framers — has failed to halt or even reduce illegal immigration.

Not only in the agricultural sector has NAFTA failed to live up to the hype. Within months after NAFTA came into force in January 1994, Mexico was plunged into a currency crisis that rocked global finance. Though the peso was eventually stabilized — thanks largely to the generosity of the Clinton administration with American taxpayer dollars deployed to

On one thing supporters and opponents of NAFTA all agree: the North American Free Trade Agreement has greatly benefited the corporate and financial elites in all three countries, allowing capital to collude more easily across international boundaries.



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Signs of Hope

Standing for America: Not only does Rep. Virgil Goode (R-Va.) oppose amnesty, he has introduced a bill in Congress to block the North American Union.

Newscom

There are significant signs that an aroused and knowledgeable populace can defeat efforts to merge the United States with Canada and Mexico.

by Larry Greenley

State and national legislators are beginning to slow down the drive toward the North American Union. They are responding to alarmed American citizens who are increasingly connecting the dots between stagnant incomes, job losses, North American integration, open borders, “free trade,” and globalization.

Signs of Hope in 2007

While the Bush administration and prominent members of non-governmental organizations are straining to establish by 2010 a “North American economic and security community,” popularly known as the North American Union (NAU) the American people are beginning to rise up in sufficient numbers to force state and national legislators to block key components of the NAU merger. Below are five examples.

• **Support grows in Congress for Rep. Goode’s anti-NAU resolution:** On January 22, 2007 Rep. Virgil Goode (R-Va.) introduced House Concurrent Resolution 40 in the U.S. House of Representatives

“expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway System or enter into a North American Union with Mexico and Canada.” As of September 19 this resolution had 32 cosponsors. Due to increasing constituent awareness about the North American Union, support for Goode’s resolution is still growing. Five new cosponsors added their names in the first 19 days of September alone.

• **The Senate abandons the Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill:** As documented in “Myth vs. Fact” on pages 22-23, a major goal of the NAU merger process is to “lay the groundwork for the freer flow of people within North America” by 2010. The groundwork for this freer flow of people within North America has actually been under construction since passage of the 1986 immigration law providing amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

During the last three years, the Senate has led the way toward open borders by passing comprehensive immigration (read amnesty and temporary-worker) bills,

while the House has refused to go along and instead insisted on passing bills to improve border security.

In light of this context, one of the most gratifying signs of hope from Congress this year was the decisive retreat by the Senate from voting on the Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill (S. 1639) on June 28. This surprising turnaround demonstrates just how widespread and intense the public’s opposition to NAU-style open borders is. However, now that the uproar has died down, the Senate is once again pursuing amnesty, but they have labeled it as an agricultural work program (AgJobs) to try to slip it past unaware constituents.

• **Congress votes to stop Mexican trucks:** Another gratifying sign of hope from Congress was its votes in July and September to stop the Bush administration’s pilot program to allow Mexican trucks to deliver goods throughout the United States. This Mexican-trucks issue is a holdover from the original NAFTA agreement in 1993. Although the NAFTA agreement provided the basis in principle for Mexican trucking firms to begin mak-

ing deliveries throughout the United States immediately, Annex I of the agreement delayed authorization for Mexican cross-border trucking services until the end of 1995. When the United States continued to refuse to allow Mexican trucks into the United States after 1995, Mexico appealed to a NAFTA "Arbitral Panel." This panel ruled against the United States in 2001, citing U.S. obligations under NAFTA as its basis.

During the next few years, the Bush administration attempted to permit Mexican trucks to deliver goods throughout the United States, but was prevented from doing so by a combination of congressional votes and court actions. In 2006, the Bush administration announced it would begin a pilot program for Mexican trucks. This time the courts failed to stop the program. (The pilot program was instituted in early September.) However, the House (by a voice vote in July) and Senate (by a vote of 75 to 23 on September 11) added an amendment to the Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill for 2008 denying federal funding for such a program.

• **House votes to prohibit funds for the SPP:** Showing just how much citizen opposition to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) aspect of the NAU merger process is being expressed to Congress, consider that on July 24 the U.S. House of Representatives cast an historic first vote to restrict funding for the SPP. The House overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the Department of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill for 2008 (H.R. 3074) "prohibiting the use of funds to participate in a working group pursuant to the Security and Prosperity Partnership" by a vote of 362 to 63.

• **Eighteen state legislatures consider anti-NAU resolutions:** Another impressive sign of hope in 2007 has been the significant degree of success in the campaign to block the NAU through state resolutions launched by the John Birch Society in late



2006. This campaign is based on a model anti-NAU resolution, available online, for state legislatures to adopt, asking Congress to block the NAU. As can be seen in the accompanying U.S. map, anti-NAU resolutions were introduced in 18 state legislatures. *In three states, both houses passed their anti-NAU resolution. In two additional states, one house passed such a resolution.* With 44 states having legislative sessions in 2008, this campaign will continue next year. One new wrinkle is that a Repeal NAFTA model resolution for state legislatures has now been published online by the Birch Society. Both the anti-NAU and anti-NAFTA model resolutions and related information can be found at www.JBS.org/freedom.

More Remains to Be Done

Although the five "signs of hope" described above are a welcome start, much more remains to be done to permanently derail the NAU merger process. Basically, public pressure on Congress has to be ratcheted up to definitively:

- Secure our borders, stop illegal immigration, and enforce our existing immigration laws.
- Block any future amnesty and temporary-worker legislation.
- End automatic citizenship at birth for the children of illegal immigrants.
- Block the NAU merger process by (1) defunding and dismantling the Security and Prosperity Partnership; and (2) repealing NAFTA by withdrawing from it. ■

What You Can Do

You can help stop the NAU merger process by:

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