

Para la Raza

By

Charles R. Coombs

Mexican President Vicente Fox recently protested the Minuteman movement, a group of American citizens who detect and report illegal border crossings from Mexico into the United States, but do not confront or communicate in any way with the illegal immigrants themselves. President Fox believes that the border should be open, and that American sovereignty does not extend to our being allowed to determine for ourselves who may or may not enter our country. Simultaneously, however, he believes that Mexican sovereignty allows his government to bar American ownership of Mexican property, and to impose restrictions upon foreigners who may wish to found businesses or establish residence in Mexico.

In this context, President Fox is worried that the Minuteman participants might “break the law,” by confronting illegal immigrants (although the Minutemen have promised not to do so) as if obedience to law might be commanded from one group of people, but not another and still be binding on anyone.

Clearly we face a dilemma, and this dilemma stems from its root in Mexican poverty *vis-à-vis* American wealth. People come to the United States from Mexico because Mexico is poor and the United States is not. To resolve this problem, assuming the undesirability of making the U. S. as poor as Mexico, requires making Mexico significantly richer than it is. This can best be done by 1.) Recognizing that Socialism equals poverty, that those nations’ people are richest that have the greatest degree of economic freedom; 2.) Temporarily prohibiting all migration to the United States from Mexico and expelling illegal residents from U. S. soil until such time as Mexico abolishes its current socialist kleptocracy and instantiates effective (*i.e.* capitalist) economic reform; and 3.) Creating a protected but self-governed proto-nation, Aztlan, in which an effective Mexican economic model can be built.

Mexico’s government is more socialist than is consistent with general wealth and welfare. Taxes are high. Government regulation, especially in areas like social security and anti trust, is draconian. Property rights are sometime things – You may or may not own something depending on who is in power at any given moment. To its credit, Mexico has dropped most, but not all, of the price and wage controls which for years crippled the Mexican economy, but this effort is not nearly enough.

In the United States, by contrast, taxes are high, but not so high as to stifle economic growth as they do in Mexico. Property rights are under attack, particularly by our left wing judiciary, but still have meaning. Many regulations that did threaten economic

growth have been rolled back. As a consequence, our median income is around \$40,000 with little variation between states as opposed to a median income that ranges from \$1,000 to around \$16,000 depending on the state you're looking at in Mexico. Some states, especially California, are seeing a sizeable drop in median income as illegal immigrants force wages down, lending credence to the notion that poverty is contagious.

Given this erosion in American median incomes, it seems reasonable to conclude that the open border solution is a good way to implement not the restoration of Mexico, but rather the degradation of the United States. As this would leave no place for Mexicans to find economic opportunity, we need to halt this process as quickly as we can. All immigration, legal and illegal, should be temporarily cut off. Illegal immigration must be punished by jail immediately followed by deportation, and Mexican citizens residing illegally in the United States must be returned to Mexico.

Some people have qualms about splitting up families of illegal immigrants who have had children here. Those children are constitutionally American Citizens. This should not be a problem, however: We can allow the parents to return to Mexico and keep the children here, adopting them out or placing them in foster care until they reach majority. Alternatively we can allow the children to return with the parents, to relinquish their U. S. citizenship or return to the U. S. upon reaching adulthood. The message should be, "Obey our laws and keep your kids." That is true compassion.

We should keep the borders open to commerce as we do now. Both nations depend on that trade, and we have made commitments to Mexican businesspeople that closing our borders off altogether would violate. We have both the manpower and the technology to allow unlimited trade while cutting off immigration.

If we simply stop there, however, we leave Mexico in socialist destitution with nowhere for its citizens to find opportunities to better their lives. This, too, is undesirable, as it would create tremendous pressure for Mexicans to take greater risks to sneak in. Our jails would be flooded with illegal aliens. President Fox would be outraged and might take reprisals on us that would damage the free flow of goods and services across the border. Even worse, our own nation would be encouraged to continue its own downward slide into socialism and poverty.

To prevent this, I believe it is time to re-examine the idea of Aztlan.

Aztlan in the sense used here is the creature of the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan (MEChA), a Latino student organization that seeks to form an independent Latino nation from the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas.

The idea has some merit: A free Aztlan could be used to build a new economic model for Mexico. Relieved of U. S. micromanagement a free Aztlan could become a magnet for business and industry with low taxes, relative freedom from regulation, and two strong trading partners on its northern and southern borders.

Both borders would be open. Mexicans and Americans could come and go, or settle down as they pleased. Travel and immigration in either direction beyond Aztlan would continue to be regulated by the laws of Mexico and the United States. Any citizen of Mexico or of the United States could start a business, work, own property and reside in Aztlan.

In this new climate of economic freedom, Aztlan would flourish, very possibly surpassing the United States in individual median wealth. As it succeeded, the Aztlan model could be adopted by other Mexican states, or even by other American states as desired. Mexico would grow and prosper, and so would the rest of us. Aztlan would become a beacon of capitalist success and compassion for all the world.

Aztlan itself, however, would never become an independent nation, nor should it. Certainly, however, Mexico's kleptocratic record disqualifies that unhappy nation from any participation in the government of Aztlan: Rather, it would have to be set up as a protectorate of the United States, but with its own limited government, until such time as it could be reabsorbed as its several states into its mother country. By that time, all of Mexico would be wealthy, and few Mexicans would have either need or desire to emigrate to the U. S.

To carve Aztlan out of existing American states, moreover, would weaken the American economy and make it more difficult to build an effective model for the Mexican economy. Instead, Aztlan should be formed from the states of Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, Coahila, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Baja California. Since the Protectorate of Aztlan is a temporary arrangement, designed to benefit the Mexican people, the Mexican government should be happy to cede the six relatively insignificant states in question. If they refuse, of course, Mexico could always be partitioned and the territory taken by force. In the final analysis, might is always right.

We see, then, that we can solve our border problems and greatly enrich our neighbor to the south by understanding that socialism brings poverty while capitalism brings compassion, love and well-being; by exercising a little tough love, cutting off all immigration until we can put a better plan in place; and by creating in Aztlan a new economic model, not only for Mexico, but for the entire world. It's a big job to be sure, but we Americans are up to it.

So let us begin. Join the Movement for the New Aztlan!