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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Immigration Realities Ignored

KEARNEY HUB (Aug. 29): The problem with U.S. immigration policy is that it makes legal entry into the country so expensive, time-consuming and risky that instead of entering through the front door, foreigners are sneaking in through the back door — illegally.

For whatever reason, U.S. lawmakers cannot recognize this fact. They know there is an abundance of low-skill jobs Americans are unwilling to perform that is a magnet for illegal immigrants, but ignorance and prejudice seem to guide policy from that point. For example, many of the jobs that lure illegal immigrants are year-round, such as packing plant jobs, but our current policy provides only for seasonal workers to enter legally.

Why do we ignore the year-round needs? Another often ignored fact is that many young people come here from foreign lands to study math, science and engineering. They prepare for careers as scientists, researchers and engineers, but our immigration policy is slanted against them. They must first obtain visas and then hope that good fortune might hand them the opportunity to eventually become citizens.

But why wait for the United States when other nations, including Canada and Germany, allow easy legal entry for highly skilled and educated foreigners?

Why do we educate foreign students, but then sustain a policy that shoos them away to competing industrial nations?

Ignoring the need for scientists, researchers and engineers as well as for year-round laborers is a fatal economic mistake. Resolving those problems and others is in the interests of our nation, yet federal lawmakers are doing nothing. Why? If logic isn't guiding their actions, then something else is. Could it be prejudice?

There's a third fact that lawmakers standing in the way of reform don't seem to grasp, and that is the likelihood that all of those foreigners they chose to deny could eventually become legal, despite the legislative obstructions.

One avenue is through executive action. President Obama exercised his powers in 2012 by granting temporary legal status to children brought into the country illegally by their parents.

Some observers believe that in a few weeks Obama will issue yet another executive order that will legalize up to 4 million illegal aliens.

Only Congress can grant a path to citizenship and the right to vote, so obstructionists might not face immediate peril at the polls. However, U.S. demographics are constantly shifting and gradually, many congressional districts are losing their white majority. How soon will it be before the diverse blend of voters that results will turn against the obstructionists?

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, September 8, the 251st day of 2014. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 8, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon "for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 20, 1969 through August 9, 1974."

On this date: In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman, 16, of Washington D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1934, more than 130 people lost their lives in a fire aboard the liner SS Morro Castle off the New Jersey coast.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a "limited national emergency" in response to the outbreak of war in Europe.

In 1944, Nazi Germany fired the first of its V-2 rockets, which were faster and more powerful than the V-1, into London during World War II.

In 1954, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was founded in Manila by the United States, France, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan.

In 1964, public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, reopened after being closed for five years by officials attempting to prevent court-ordered racial desegregation.

In 1989, Partnair Flight 394, a Convair CV-580, crashed into the sea off Denmark, killing all 55 people on board.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

Ten years ago: CBS' "60 Minutes II" aired a report raising questions about President George W. Bush's National Guard service; however, CBS News ended up apologizing for a "mistake in judgment" after memos featured in the report were challenged as forgeries. The Genesis space capsule, which had spent three years gathering solar wind samples,

crashed to Earth when its parachutes failed to deploy. (Despite the crash, scientists were able to save enough of the solar samples for study.) Richard G. Butler, founder of the Aryan Nations, was found dead at his home in Hayden, Idaho; he was 86.

Five years ago: In a nationally broadcast pep talk from Wakefield High School in Arlington, Virginia, President Barack Obama challenged the nation's students to take pride in their education. Justice Sonia Sotomayor ceremonially took her seat at the Supreme Court in front of a packed courtroom that included President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. A U.N.-backed commission said it had found "convincing evidence" of fraud in Afghanistan's presidential election. Veteran Hollywood columnist Army Archerd, 87, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous, credited with boosting finances at the nation's largest civil rights organization and helping to stabilize it, announced plans to step down at year's end. Top-seeded Serena Williams won her fifth U.S. Open championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall by beating No. 2 Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-1 in a windy final. The International Olympic Committee voted wrestling back onto the program for the 2020 and 2024 Games. Perennial pitcher and car dealer Cal Worthington died in Orland, California, at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 74. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 73. Actor Alan Feinstein is 73. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 72. Author Ann Beattie is 67. Cajun singer Zachary Richard is 64. Musician Will Lee (TV: "Late Show with David Letterman") is 62. Actress Heather Thomas is 57. Singer Aimee Mann is 54. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 54. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 50. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech is 49. Alternative country singer Neko Case is 44. TV personality Brooke Burke-Charvet is 43. Actor Martin Freeman is 43. Actor David Arquette is 43. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 42. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 39. Actor Larenz Tate is 39. Actor Nathan Corrdry is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 35. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 34. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 33. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 27. Dance music artist AVICII is 25.

Thought for Today: "Fools act on imagination without knowledge, pedants act on knowledge without imagination." — Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher and mathematician (1861-1947).

FROM THE BIBLE

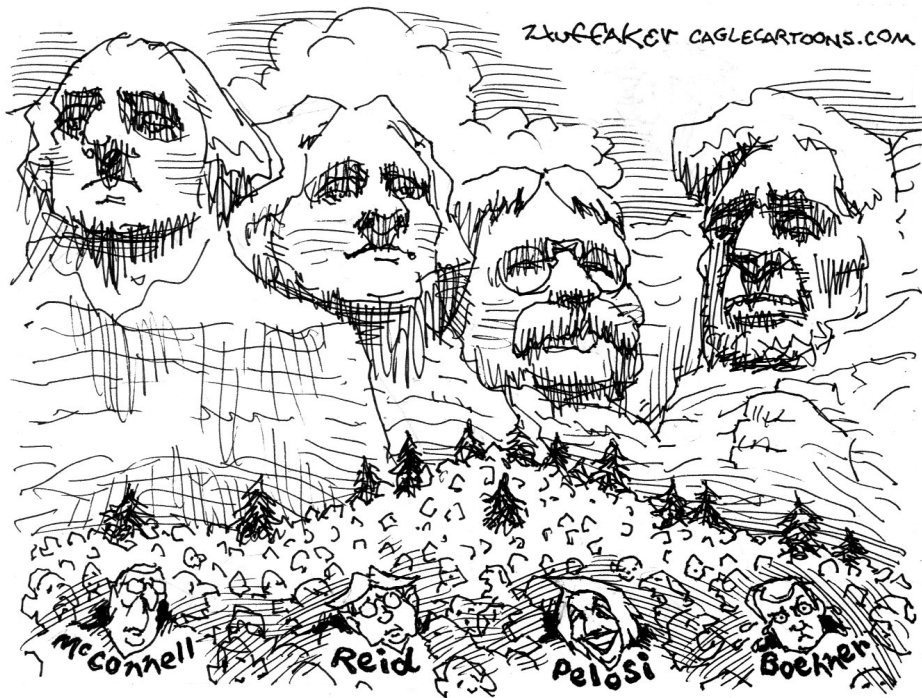
But for You, O Lord, do I wait; it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer. Psalm 38:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

On Target!

Carol and Bill Arens, Yankton
We would like to thank each and every member of the Pink Ladies Dart League for the donation, support and home visit.

With such caring people in this community, how can a person not stay strong and fight through this? Your support will never be forgotten. Yankton Pink Ladies are the best! Go Ladies!



Capitol Notebook

A Public Issue: Where's The Benda Report?

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — This is the month, one year ago, when the legal noose began to tighten around a suspected criminal.

State government's top law enforcement official was preparing to bring felony charges against a former state official for embezzlement.

The general public didn't know it yet.

In fact none of it would be known, not until after Richard Benda evidently killed himself on Oct. 20.

When he didn't show up for work the next day, the questions began about where he was. His body was found the day after that on Oct. 22.

After that, some of the information came out, one piece here, another piece there. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office volunteered some of it.

Other facts emerged from special reviews and audits commissioned by his office of economic development.

Gradually the pieces shaped into a story. It would appear Richard Benda went to a relative's farm near Lake Andes.

There, according to the official death certificate, he used a stick to fire a shotgun into his abdomen, killing himself.

But beyond one partial sentence on the death certificate, regarding the stick and shotgun, we don't know what law enforcement found at the scene.

We don't know the facts upon which the conclusion was reached.

That is why this reporter requested the death-investigation information from state Attorney General Marty Jackley.

State law said the records could be kept confidential. State law also said redaction could be used to eliminate sensitive information in those records if they were released.



Bob
MERCER

The public-records case is still progressing through South Dakota's court system. So far the records remain secret.

Meanwhile, there hasn't been a public report of any depth issued in the Benda matter.

His body was found Oct. 22. Not until July 29, when the attorney general testified to a committee of the Legislature, did the public learn that an arrest was planned and a state grand jury was already scheduled when Benda died.

I went to the State Library recently and located a copy of a previous attorney general's report on his investigation of South Dakota's brand-inspection operation.

The 13-page memo from then-Attorney General Larry Long to then-Gov. Mike Rounds dated Feb. 11, 2004, was made available to the public.

It also had a lengthy appendix that included a 1990 investigation report by the attorney general at that time, Roger Tellinghuisen.

There were several other reports next to it on the shelf.

One from 1964 dealt with a probe of the state insurance division. A special investigator on loan from Iowa, Vinton Nutt, reported his findings to then-Attorney General Frank Farrar.

Another from 1998 covered then-Attorney General Mark Barnett's investigation of allegations made by Bernie Hunhoff, the Democratic candidate for governor, against Republican Gov. Bill Janklow about possible misuse of the governor's state office.

A report from 1999, also from then-Attorney General Barnett, looked at the death of Gina Score while on a forced run at the Plankinton youth correctional facility.

There are pieces out there regarding the Benda matter. South Dakota needs a true report like those others we received before.

Where In The World Is Jihad Pilot Adnan Shukrijumah?

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Black caliphate flags flap in the open air. Islamic head-choppers wreak bloody havoc around the world. Nearly a dozen commercial airliners disappear in Libya. And America's immigration and entrance systems remain in shambles.

Now is a good time to ask a question I first posed 10 summers ago: Where is Adnan Shukrijumah? A decade later, the question is still unanswered. The FBI has yet to track down this homicidal plotter. Have you forgotten?

Saudi-born Shukrijumah, billed as the "next Mohammed Atta," has been a fugitive since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. His father, Gulshair, was a Wahabi cleric funded by the Saudi government. The elder Shukrijumah headed mosques in New York and Miami, consorted with Israel-bashing black Muslim agitators and also served as one-time interpreter for convicted 1993 World Trade Center mastermind Omar Abdel Rahman (the Blind Sheikh). The radical Muslim apple didn't fall far from the tree.

The younger Shukrijumah has been tied to al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan and reportedly met convicted Muslim convert "dirty bomb" plotter Jose Padilla overseas. Gitmo detainee and jihad overlord Khalid Sheikh Mohammed identified Shukrijumah as a fledgling new cell leader. He allegedly trained under alleged terror financier Ramzi bin al-Shibh.

In September 2003, the feds put a \$5 million bounty on Shukrijumah's head. The FBI "Most Wanted Terrorists" bulletin warns he is "armed and dangerous." Aliases: "Adnan G. El Shukri Jumah, Abu Arif, Ja'far al-Tayar, Jaffar al-Tayyar, Jafar Tayar, Jaafar al-Tayyar, Hamad." The translation of Ja'far al-Tayar, Jaffar al-Tayyar, Jafar Tayar and Jaafar al-Tayyar? "Jafar the Pilot."

One of these aliases linked the enigmatic man to the same Oklahoma flight school attended by convicted "20th hijacker" Zacarias Moussaoui. Shukrijumah reportedly undertook flight training in the late 1990s or early 2000 in Florida and secured a flying license for light aircraft. He is rumored to have acquired bomb-making expertise, as well. Somehow and somewhere along the way, Shukrijumah obtained a legal U.S. green card.

Among the nightmare activities Shukrijumah has reportedly coordinated, according to the FBI:

"Conspiracy to Use Weapons of Mass Destruction; Providing Material Support to a For-

eign Terrorist Organization; Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization; Receiving Military-Type Training From a Foreign Terrorist Organization; Conspiracy to Commit an Act of Terrorism Transcending National Boundaries; Attempt to Commit an Act of Terrorism Transcending National Boundaries; Use of Destructive Device."

In 2007, Shukrijumah's name surfaced in wiretaps related to a busted New York City subway bombing plot. (Colorado jihadist Najibullah Zazi pleaded guilty to terrorism charges related to the "martyrdom operation" in 2010.)

In 2010, Shukrijumah was indicted in the Eastern District of New York for his alleged role in a terrorist plot to attack targets in the United States and the United Kingdom. According to the charges, senior al-Qaida leadership in Pakistan oversaw the conspiracy and a larger scheme by al-Qaida in Pakistan to use Western operatives to attack a target in the United States.

Law enforcement sources have placed Shukrijumah on the southern border, in Guyana, at a Trinidad jihadi compound, and at a meeting of Latin American gangs. Shukrijumah reportedly joined high-level jihad planners in Pakistan's outlaw Waziristan province in 2004, which experts likened to the pivotal planning session in Kuala Lumpur that preceded the 9/11 attacks. "This was a meeting of a bunch of cold-blooded killers who are very skilled at what they do and have an intense desire to inflict an awful lot of pain and suffering on America," a source told Time magazine at the time.

"He speaks English and has the ability to fit in and look innocuous," an FBI agent noted. "He could certainly come back here, and nobody would know it." The magazine added that "U.S. authorities have put his name on domestic and international watch lists but fear he will travel to Mexico or Canada on phony documents and then sneak across the border into the U.S."

Bin Laden may be dead. But jihad lives. Our borders are wide open. Our fraud-riddled visa programs continue to be exploited. Tens of millions of visa overstayers, deportation fugitives and border-crossers go unpunished, undetected and unmonitored. And political correctness reigns. God help America the Unsecure.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.