

BULLY PULPIT

Alcatraz

Given activist judges are wanting trials for the 10-plus million undocumented illegal immigrants that are in our country – trials to send them back to their country of origin, President Trump is again thinking outside of the box and using assets our country already has. This time, the idea is to rejuvenate Alcatraz Island off of the coast of San Francisco to house some of the worst of the worst criminal immigrants.

Pretty Boy Floyd, Al Capone, Machine Gun Kelly and other notorious criminals made Alcatraz home after being convicted of their various crimes.

I visited San Francisco in the later 80s, early 90s and never made it to the prison. Now, the prison reportedly makes \$60 million per year for the National Park Service from the 1.6 million visitors that stroll through the historic site. We saw it after fog lifted from the bay in the far distance.

Wikipedia reports, “United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, also known simply as Alcatraz or the Rock, was a maximum-security federal prison on Alcatraz Island, 1.25 miles (2.01 km) off the coast of San Francisco, California, United States. The site of a fort since the 1850s, the main prison building was built in 1910–12 as a U.S. Army military prison.

“The United States Department of Justice acquired the United States Disciplinary Barracks, Pacific Branch, on Alcatraz on October 12, 1933. The island became adapted and used as a prison of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in August 1934 after the buildings were modernized and security increased. Given this high security and the island’s location in the cold, great white shark-infested waters and strong currents of San Francisco Bay, prison operators believed Alcatraz to be escape-proof and America’s most secure prison.”

The prison was constructed for \$250,000, or in those days an amount that equates to approximately \$7.5 million to hold a maximum capacity of prisoners of 312. Compare that to the prison Linn County built a few years ago for \$17 million to hold 96 prisoners; a wake-up call to how much retrofitting Alcatraz would cost to hold prisoners securely and safely.

Whatever that amount, the cost the Biden Administration put the American taxpayer under far exceeded retrofitting a prison. The Budget.house.gov reports, “The Federal Cost of Immigration:

“Total Federal Spending: \$66,449,136,000

“Secretary Mayorkas has openly acknowledged to the American people that more than 85 percent of migrants illegally crossing our southern border are RELEASED into the country.

“The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) has calculated that the total cost to the taxpayer per illegal immigrant is \$8,776 per year.”

Interestingly, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem is now front-and-center in commercials touting payments to illegals if they self-deport.

The website, Dhs.gov, reports, “Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a historic opportunity for illegal aliens to receive both financial and travel assistance to facilitate travel back to their home country through the CBP Home App. Any illegal alien who uses the CBP Home App to self-deport will also receive a stipend of \$1,000 dollars, paid after their return to their home country has been confirmed through the app.”

Fight fire with fire; people involved in the last few years migrant trains have an option to return back to their homeland and have further opportunity to return to the United States and gain legal citizenship. Many of the millions are living under daily threat of ICE raids and deportation; this new option gives them an opportunity to leave with dignity and potential for becoming an American.

Fox News reported that the cost to the country for Trump’s deportation plan is approximately \$4,500 per person leaving; the cost to deport an illegal immigrant using law enforcement is \$17,500 – a marked savings for the country.

Honestly, Joe and Obama need to foot the bill out of what they raked in as presidents; the assault on our country came during their watches.

It looks like anyone wishing to see Alcatraz before it becomes a prison again might want to book a flight to San Francisco and take the Park tour before it’s too late.

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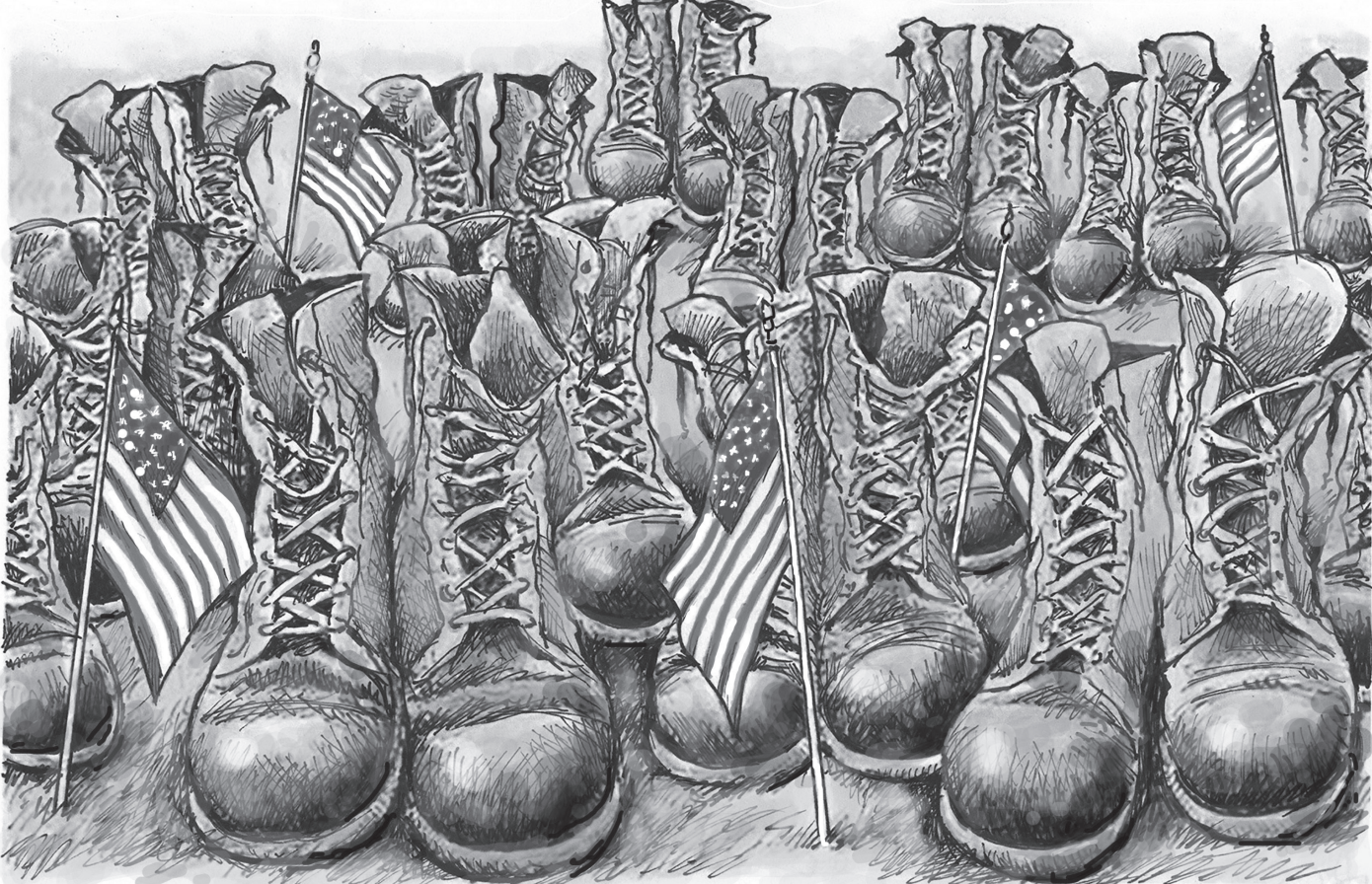
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1975 – Official end of Vietnam War.



For 58,220 it came earlier.

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Big, beautiful bill
should rein in
regulation

BY PHIL KERPEN

The single most important pro-growth policy change in the “Big, Beautiful Bill” may not be in the tax title House Ways and Means has been working on, but in the work of the House Judiciary Committee, which has included a version of the REINS Act in its section of the bill.

Federal regulation now nearly rivals taxation as a burden on the U.S. economy, totaling north of \$3 trillion per year. Recent Democratic administrations have stretched decades-old laws to within inches of their breaking points to impose vast costs, with Biden setting a new world record of about \$47,000 per family in new regulatory costs during his four-year term. Much of that has already been reversed by President Trump – but absent a legislative fix, it can snap back into place, and more, as soon as a Democrat is back in the White House.

The REINS Act would stop

the swinging of this exorbitant regulatory pendulum by fixing the Congressional Review Act’s fundamental design flaw. Right now, even if Congress votes to overturn a harmful regulation, a sitting president can veto it and keep the rule in place. This fix flips the default.

Going forward, any regulation with a budgetary impact would require affirmative approval from both the House and Senate before it could take effect. The language is similar to the note Tea Party activist Lloyd Rogers handed to then-Congressman Geoff Davis back in 2010, when the REINS Act was invented.

Congress is more than capable of approving stupid regulations, of course, but this system would put a critical check on the process and would likely stop most of the worst and most destructive regulations. At a minimum, when bad rules and regulations do pass, voters would know who to hold responsible

SEE REINS, A3

Letting Noncitizens
Vote?

“All of us want to make sure only U.S. citizens are voting in our elections,” Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson told NBC’s *Meet the Press* before last year’s election. She assured the national audience that she and other Secretaries of State were following the law and “ensuring that only valid votes are counted in our states.

“We are doing all that we can and more to ensure — as the facts show in all of our states — that only U.S. citizens are voting.”

Last November, a Chinese student at the University of Michigan registered and voted. The reason we know this is that the foreign student apparently thought better of it and asked officials for his ballot back.

Too late, though, for Haoxiang Gao’s vote had already been counted. Last week, Gao missed a court hearing and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. (Will Beijing send him back to stand trial?)

Since that one, lone, incredibly rare, don’t-worry-your-pretty-little-head-about-it incident, officials have discov-

ered another 15 votes cast by noncitizens.

Also last week in Michigan, House Joint Resolution B was defeated. This measure would have clarified only citizens as eligible voters, requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and photo ID to vote. Democrats, including Secretary Benson (now a candidate for governor), opposed it fiercely.

Yet, you guessed it, something else happened last week: Americans for Citizen Voting-Michigan filed an initiative petition to place the Citizen Only Voting Amendment, passed overwhelmingly so far in 14 states, on the ballot in the Great Lakes State. Polling back in January showed 82 percent of likely voters favor the measure.

“Leaving holes in the process that easily allow noncitizens to vote disenfranchises citizens,” said Kurt O’Keefe, the committee’s treasurer. “We need to make sure that only U.S. citizens can vote in our elections. This initiative does the job.”

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

Nuclear talks and port explosion:
Coincidence or conspiracy

BY NIK KOWSAR

An explosion rocked the port of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran this week, conveniently timed with nuclear talks between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic. But don’t worry — officials assure us it’s just an innocent coincidence. Nothing unusual about a random parcel of ammonium nitrate deciding to detonate and vaporize everything within a few hundred yards. Happens all the time, right?

If you’re getting Beirut 2020 flashbacks, you’re not alone — same explosive, same port scenario and a similar

body count. Hundreds killed or wounded back then, and at least 70 this time around in Bandar Abbas. Coincidences just love repeating themselves.

Oh, and that parcel? It reportedly belonged to the Revolutionary Guards — though that little detail vanished faster than accountability in Iranian state media. Funny how quickly redactions appear when the wrong names pop up. And speaking of patterns, remember the explosive stash in Beirut? Some believe it belonged to Hezbollah — the IRGC’s ever-faithful clients.

Once upon a simpler time,

ammonium nitrate was just for growing happy little crops. Then the military, militias and the fine art of turning fertilizers into fireworks entered the chat. Welcome to modern logistics, where your future salad and your next regional conflict might just arrive in the same shipping container — buy one, bomb one free!

As for this particular case, reports suggest the shipment was most likely imported from China, because apparently even terror plots outsource these days. According to Ambrey, a private security firm, the port received a lovely care package of missile

propellant chemicals in March 2025 — just in time for Iran to top off its missile stockpiles, which were apparently running a little low after recent... disagreements.

But hey, who’s in the mood to escort the Ayatollahs to the same cozy spot where Hezbollah’s beloved Hassan Nasrallah is allegedly hiding these days? You betcha — nobody beams brighter at the thought of a few “unplanned fireworks” in the neighbors’ backyard than good old BiBi Netanyahu. If there’s anything he loves more than political drama, it’s watching

SEE NUCLEAR TALKS, A3

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