

News from ANCIR

December 2006

NO DECEMBER MEETING

See you in January

American Council for Immigration Reform
1600 So. Eads Street, Apt. 723-North
Arlington VA 22202

November Speaker

Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), discussed the impact of massive immigration on low-wage American workers. He distributed copies of a backgrounder by CIS researchers on "The Impact of New Immigrants on Young Native-Born Workers -- 2000-2005."

The study states that roughly half of new immigrant workers during that period were illegal. It finds a strong negative relationship between the arrival of new immigrants, both legal and illegal, in a state and a decline in employment among young native-born workers in that state.

For example, illegal immigrants -- estimated between 1.4 and 2.7 million of the 4.1 million immigrant workers arriving 2000-2005 -- accounted for up to 56 percent of the net increase in civilian employment in the U.S.

over the past five years. Legal plus illegal immigrants account for 86 percent of the net increase in the total number of employed persons (16 and over), the highest share ever recorded in the United States.

While the number of new male immigrant workers age 16 to 34 increased by 1.9 million in 2000-2005, the number of age 16-34 native-born men who were employed declined by 1.7 million. In other words, in the five year period 2000-2005, 1.7 million young American men were idled. It is Mr. Camarota's view that these men were displaced by the foreign workers.

Mr. Camarota debunked the idea that illegal immigrants contribute taxes. One-half to two-thirds of them are uneducated -- only 20 percent are high school graduates -- so even if they work "on the books," meaning they have deductions from their wages for Social Security and Medicare benefits, their wages are not enough to offset the services they use. The 40-

50 percent estimated to work “off the books” pay nothing.

Invoking the law of supply and demand, he stated that if there is a shortage of workers, wages should rise. Instead, wages have gone down or stagnated, and fewer benefits are offered to workers.

He gave many rebuttals to those who cite our immigrant forebears as justification for welcoming all immigrants:

-- There was no welfare when traditional immigrants arrived. Today government expenditures account for one-third of Gross Domestic Product.

-- There was general agreement that assimilation was desirable.

-- Immigrants were cut off from their countries of origin -- there were no computers, telephones, radios or televisions to keep in touch.

Further information on this subject is available from CIS at www.cis.org.

If you have material to submit for the next newsletter, or need directions to ANCIR meetings, please call 202/659-9499
