

CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

The Immigration Reform Movement is loosing ground in the Battle of Ideas.

We realized on starting FAIR in 1979 that ^{the} immigration reform battle would be won in the end by the side that had the best ideas, those most closely attuned to the times, and the best articulated. The third staff person we hired, after Roger Conner and a secretary, was a staff writer. He began to produce our newsletter, op ed pieces, testimony, and articles. Our goal was to make immigration reform a legitimate topic of discussion among thinking people.

Initially, we had the field largely to ourselves, and gained much ground. We had the satisfaction of seeing many of our phrases and ideas quoted back to us. No longer was Emma Lazurus's poem spewed forth as an automatic and sufficient answer to any immigration question. People began to actually think about immigration.

Unfortunately, in a time of tight finances, we had to cut the staff writer's position. At the same time, the pro-immigration forces were awakening to the issue, producing the likes of Julian Simon and the Heritage Foundation's reports favoring open immigration. Their star is now in the ascendency, as they have the manpower, the material, and the money to crank out papers, run seminars, and supply speakers, and so on. In addition, they have the ear of the President. If we do not successfully meet this challenge, we will surely loose.

After careful and prolonged study, the FAIR Board has concluded that a "Think Tank" on the scale of Worldwatch Institute is needed. For credibility, this will need to be independent of FAIR, though the Center for Immigration Studies, as we're calling it, is starting off as a project of FAIR. A grant from the Wood-Prince Foundation of Chicago underwrote our study, and provided funds for hiring an initial director, now accomplished.

Attached is a list of the type of papers that need to be researched and produced. Clearly, there is enough work here to occupy a small and competent staff for several years.

The first-year budget is listed on the reverse side. This grant could be made through FAIR, or through U.S., Inc.

John H. Tanton

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