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IS THIS TRUMP'S "CATCH 22"?

By Steve Bakke  July 3, 2018



Is This Trump's "Catch 22"?

Bi-partisan immigration reform is something I've always considered compellingly achievable, but lack of agreement will become a defining issue in this mid-term election. We'll hear a lot about the process of the potential SCOTUS replacement, but I think the focus will be on immigration, family separation and Trump's Nazi followers.

This is nonsense. I say give DACA Dreamers legal status and build the wall. Everybody gets something, and many from both sides actually agree with both ideas. Doing that would relieve some of the bitterness. Leave it for later to fight over chain migration, refugee policies, etc.

Let's apply some logic here. In the privacy of their own thoughts, what right thinking American doesn't want border security and an orderly way of vetting and processing people seeking admission to our country? Here's what Jeh Johnson, Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security had to say just last month: "We cannot have a system of catch and release. We are a sovereign nation. We have to secure our borders."

Nevertheless, too many Democrats in Congress want this to be a wedge issue. I think their opposition to the border fence was all they had to exploit until they were able to dredge up the "family separation" issue. And they aren't going to let Trump fix the problems, or at least not acknowledge any improvements that may occur.

It started with Trump's expressed desire to have a humanitarian Dreamer's solution passed by Congress. Trump and Obama essentially agree that Congressional action is the only sustainable solution. But Democrats refused to pass anything that included the border wall, and some Republicans can't abide giving official status to the DACA Dreamers.

In order to get the ball rolling Trump did a power play by instituting a "zero-tolerance" policy. He obviously didn't realize how unprepared we were for dealing with the emotional issue of separating families, something that Obama also got wrong. Trump again requested legislation to get things under control, and once again, the Democrats refused and insisted he solve the family separation issue "with a stroke of the pen."

The President eventually acquiesced and issued an order to stop separating families, but still pursued aggressive investigation of attempted illegal entries. And the Democrats insisted

children not be held with their parents for over 20 days, but now we're back to Obama's dilemma, as to how to deal with these families. They can't prosecute the parents without also detaining the children. And now they're telling Trump he can't detain the children.

What should Trump do? Obama, issued the illegal immigrants hearing dates, then released them into the general population, and many were never heard from again. That's called "catch and release." Trump shouldn't and wouldn't do that. So, he attempted to get a waiver on the detention time limit for the children – no luck so far.

Thus far, Trump has been denied immigration reform legislation. He can't enforce the law by processing illegal immigrant parents without separately detaining the children. If he brings families together, which he has tried, he will eventually violate the 20-day limit on detaining children. So far, he hasn't received a waiver or extension on that time limit. His only alternative is to stop processing immigrants that attempt to enter the U.S. illegally, issue a hearing date, release them and hope they show up in court? That has been tried with poor success. And when Trump suggested perhaps simply turning them all around at the border, well you can imagine what happened!

Do the Democrats have the President surrounded? Is this a "Catch-22" for Trump? Na! If this goes on too long, it may be he who will eventually have them surrounded.