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Four days in Washington DC

By: Joan Molinaro

Peter and I have just spent four days in Washington DC talking, learning and strategizing on what to do in the up coming months regarding issues of national security or rather the lack of it.

We started with Peter addressing the Conservative Working Group. This was our second invitation to speak before this group of Senate staffers. It is a good opportunity to cover the issues that concern us and to influence Senator through their staff.

We visited with some staffers of new members of House of Representatives to introduce ourselves and inform them about our concerns. We wanted them to hear the truth, before they could hear the poisonous lies of our opposition.

Most were open to our concerns and we left material for them to read. Newly elected members were still in the process of setting up their offices and hiring staff. We will return soon to follow up with them.

We also met with old friends in both the Senate and the House. Most were optimistic about no amnesty bill passing this year, some were not. That was enough for me to begin worrying, even though they all said that they would do all in their power to fight amnesty.

We have been at this for over four years now, and it still amazes me that there are so many Congressmen and Senators that are blind and deaf to what their constituents want.

Four days in Washington D.C. Peter Gadiel's Perspective

Joan and I spent four days trudging the halls of House and Senate office buildings. I think that far and away this was the most encouraging time I have spent in D.C. in the five years I have been lobbying.

My impression is that it is clear to our allies in the Congress that the President's insistence on passing amnesty and his utter failure to secure our borders were among the major reasons Republican voters sat on their hands in November, and thus a major reason for Republican losses. I believe that not only are Republicans aware of this but Democrats as well.

For this reason I think that Republican members no longer feel the least bit of obligation to support the President's policy of committing national suicide by amnesty. The anger among these members, visible on numerous television interviews, is just as real in person. George W.

Bush is, I think, facing a very difficult two years, and Republicans are liable to be his strongest critics.

Today Rep. Dana Rohrabacher mentioned the word “impeachment” in regard to the possible murder of former Border Patrolman Ramos who was railroaded into federal prison by Johnny Sutton, a US Attorney appointed by Bush. I think it is not beyond the realm of possibility that this word may heard more and more frequently from members of both parties.

On the Democratic side there is also a lot of reason for optimism. Many of the freshmen Democrats elected in November ran on very strong border security platforms. In speaking to staffers and their bosses, my worries were greatly lessened that these campaign promises would be forgotten once Nancy Pelosi got hold of them. Of course, no guarantees on that score as yet, but our allies seem somewhat optimistic on this.

Bennie Thompson, no friend secure borders, seems finally to be getting the message that the residents of his heavily black district are being hurt by unrestricted illegal immigration. He has stated his full support for the ICE raids on Swift meatpacking plants and wants more. Rep. Charles Rangel had said he believes a “guest worker” program is nothing more than slavery, and we don’t need it.

Finally, and most importantly: it is clear that members of Congress fully understand the massive scope of the damage caused to their constituents by illegal alien crime. We have found for the first time a real willingness to allow victims of illegal immigration crimes to stand front and center and show to the American people that illegal immigration is not a victimless crime.