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## **Governor Eliot Spitzer: “Steamroller” Becomes Scrap Metal**

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New York Governor Eliot Spitzer has abandoned his attempt to give illegal aliens (and terrorists) the right to get any kind of driver’s licenses in his state. He first proposed to give illegal aliens drivers licenses that would be identical in every respect to those issued to citizens and legal visitors. That would have meant that people who violate American law on a continuing, moment-by-moment basis would get the same license given to those of us who obey the law. It would also have meant that illegals could vote, since under Federal Motor Voter Law (part of Bill Clinton’s “legacy”), the state would be required to give them a voter application at the time they applied for a license.

The opposition to that plan was fierce and bipartisan. Twenty-nine of the 52 county clerks who are responsible for license issuance said they would refuse to enforce Spitzer’s edict and began preparing a lawsuit. (The State DMV handles the job in ten other counties.) These included Democrats – one of them recently appointed by Spitzer himself to replace the man who left that office to become the State’s DMV Commissioner and at least two Democrat members of New York’s Congressional delegation. Former New York City Democrat Mayor Ed Koch issued a strong statement in opposition. Current New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg also opposed the scheme (and he, as a former Democrat, a former Republican and now an independent, must be the ultimate in multi-partisanship).

Spitzer was elected with 70% of the vote only last year. So confident was he of his power as a result of that landslide, and so weak and disorganized was the remaining Republican opposition that he referred to himself as a “f-----g steamroller.” Well, a steamroller he may have been, but Spitzer himself planted a landmine in his path and turned himself into scrap metal. And in the process he managed to send some shrapnel into Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. Here’s how Hillary became collateral damage:

Issuing licenses to illegals and the terrorists and violent felons among them has been a simmering issue since the nineteen 9/11 terrorists used dozens of authentic U.S.-issued licenses to carry out their mass murder. Although it is beyond comprehension that after 9/11 any state would even consider licensing illegals and terrorists, such is the power of the illegal alien lobby that the battle to deny licenses to them continued afterward in such states as Maine, Wisconsin, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, North Carolina, Kansas, Illinois, California, Utah, and other states. In many of these, local activists, often assisted by members of 9/11 Families for a Secure America, lobbied for laws to stop issuance to illegals and terrorists. In some states Americans won, in others the illegals did.

Nevertheless, six years after 9/11 and after so many battles in so many states, the issue of licensing illegals was still not a central issue for the nation, and certainly not in the presidential race. “El Gobierno” Spitzer changed all that, turning it instantly into one of THE issues of the day. And as Spitzer breathed new life into the New York Republican Party (some Republicans took to calling him the Party’s chief campaign strategist), he created a monster dilemma for Hillary. Asked at a press conference whether she favored giving licenses to illegals, she answered “yes,” “no,” and “maybe.” After the debate her campaign workers threw tantrums about the question being asked of her. (To the Clintons, being a Clinton means never having to tell the truth, and so

when asked a question that required a yes or no answer, each of which was sure to offend large numbers of voters, what could she do other than refuse to answer and attack the person asking the question?)

Meanwhile, back in New York, the Steamroller, in a mess of his own making, retreated to the idea of giving licenses to illegals and terrorists that looked different from those issued to honest people. However, having focused national debate on the question of whether illegals should be given any sort of reward for breaking the law, Spitzer gained nothing from that retreat.

The illegal alien lobby was angry even though he promised to give out Motor Voter applications with the ersatz license; they denounced him for cowardice, and rightly noted that such distinctive licenses amounted to a Scarlet Letter identifying the licensees as criminals. And over 70% of Americans, awakened for the first time to the fact that there even *was* a debate over rewarding illegal behavior, opposed any sort of license for illegals. Result: serious talk by Republicans in the U.S. House to ban all states from licensing illegals/terrorists; most Republican presidential candidates issuing statements of opposition to licensing illegals; American public opinion solidified in opposition to licensing illegals; Hillary Clinton still undecided, and probably mad as a wet hen at the Governor for raising the issue.

And now, Mr. Spitzer has retreated completely: no licenses for illegals in New York State. As I mentioned above, local activists and 9/11 FSA members have for six years labored in about 20 states to oppose giving licenses to illegal aliens. In that time we've won many battles and lost others, but never have we done so much for our cause as Governor Eliot Spitzer has in just two months. Thank you, Eliot.

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