

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

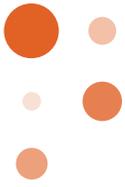
- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Carlson reminds us that, “Cesar Chavez hated illegal immigration. He was Hispanic, of course, and definitely on the Left, but he fought to keep illegal Mexican immigrants out of the country. He understood that peasants from Latin America will always work for less than Americans will.” What was the correlation between the fact that illegal immigrants would work for less compensation and Mr. Chavez’s view on illegal immigration? What other factors do you think motivated Cesar Chavez to hate illegal immigration? Explain.
- Mr. Carlson further shares with us that, “In 1969, Chavez led a march down the center of California to protest the hiring of illegal immigrant produce pickers. Ten years later, Chavez dispatched armed union members into the desert to assault Mexican nationals who were trying to sneak across the border. Chavez’s men beat immigrants with chains and whips made of barbed wire. Illegal aliens who dared to work as scabs had their houses fire bombed and cars burned.” Considering his highly contrary viewpoint and his brutal treatment of those crossing the border, why do you think that progressives lionize and so highly revere such a passionate hater of illegal aliens as their champion of open borders? Explain.
- Later in the video, Mr. Carlson points out that, “...Bill Clinton put in in his 1995 State of the Union address, ‘...Americans... are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public service they use impose burdens on our taxpayers.’ No prominent Democrat could say anything like that today without being denounced as racist. Clinton got a standing ovation.” What specific kinds of burdens do illegal immigrants impose on taxpayers? Why do you think that progressives automatically equate any notion of sovereignty and nationalism as ‘racist?’ Explain. Do you think that people who prefer legal citizens to receive priority for employment are necessarily racist based on that viewpoint? Why or why not?
- Mr. Carlson goes on to note that, “Twenty years after Bill Clinton told Americans they had the right to be upset about illegal immigration, his wife scolded the country for enforcing border controls. So, what changed? Not the economics. The law of supply and demand remained in effect. It’s not a coincidence that as illegal immigration surged wages for American workers stagnated.” Why do you think that Mrs. Clinton was so against enforcing border controls? What do you think is the specific correlation between so many illegal aliens coming to the U.S. and the average wage for legal citizens not going up? Explain.
- At the end of the video, Mr. Carlson explains that, “...Democrats stopped caring about those [American] workers. About the middle class, really. Why? Here’s the answer, in four simple facts. One: According to a recent study from Yale there are 22 million illegal immigrants living in the US. Two: Democrats plan to give them all citizenship. Read the Democrats’ 2016 party platform. Three: Studies show the overwhelming majority of first-time immigrant voters vote Democrat. Four: The biggest landslide in American presidential history was only 17 million votes. The payoff for Democrats: permanent electoral majority for the foreseeable future. In a word: power. That’s the point, no matter what they tell you. American workers be damned.” What other factors may be contributing to Democrats not caring about middle class workers? Explain. Do you agree with Mr. Carlson’s last point here? Why or why not?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Cesar Chavez

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the articles “Hail Cesar,” and “Cesar Chavez: Anti-Immigration to His Union Core,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What union did Mr. Chavez found? What was the Bracero Program, and why did Mr. Chavez oppose it? Why did Mr. Chavez lead a march to the Mexican border? What was the ‘Illegals Campaign’ and what did it do? What was the ‘Wet Line’ and what did it do? What was one of the core messages of Mr. Chavez’s life? Who is an honorary chairman of the Democratic Socialists of America? Why do Americans along the border today want it sealed? What did Cesar Chavez demand, in terms of sovereignty of the U.S.? Who is Travis Yancy, and how did he describe the ‘wet line?’ What are progressives deliberately trying to ignore, in terms of Cesar Chavez?
- Do you think that there should be a National Border Control Day? Why or why not? Why was Cesar Chavez so vehemently opposed to illegal immigration? Why do you think that progressives are willing to give up national sovereignty for long-term political strength? Explain.
- What specific points written in the articles support points made in the video? Considering their drastic change in position, would you consider progressives to be hypocrites on the topic of illegal immigration? Why or why not?



QUIZ

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: IT'S ABOUT POWER

- 1. Who made the slogan “¡Si, se puede!” famous?**
 - a. Che Guevara
 - b. Cesar Chavez
 - c. Barack Obama
 - d. Fidel Castro

- 2. Until recently, most Democrats opposed unchecked immigration.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 3. American workers in Miami with a high school education saw their wages fall by more than _____ percent after refugees from the Mariel boatlift arrived.**
 - a. three
 - b. thirteen
 - c. thirty
 - d. three hundred

- 4. Studies show the overwhelming majority of first-time immigrant voters vote _____.**
 - a. Republican
 - b. Democrat
 - c. Independent
 - d. Libertarian

- 5. According to the Democrats' 2016 party platform, how many of the 22 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. do they plan on giving citizenship to?**
 - a. Those who pass a citizenship test.
 - b. Those who have American born children.
 - c. Those who have been in the United States over fifteen years.
 - d. All of them.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/03/cesar-chavez-illegal-immigration-foe/>

Politics & Policy

Hail Cesar!

By Mark Krikorian

March 31, 2017 8:00 AM



Cesar Chavez in 1979 (Photo: Library of Congress) Honor the Farm Workers leader's 90th birthday with National Border Control Day.

On March 31, 1927, Cesar Estrada Chavez was born in Yuma, Ariz., to parents who had come north from Mexico as children in the 1890s. He went on to found the United Farm Workers union, and by his death in 1993 had become an icon for Hispanic activist groups and the Left in general.

And his views on border control would be a perfect fit in the Trump administration.

As a child working with his family in the California fields, Cesar quickly learned the reason farmworkers were paid so little and treated so poorly: As his biographer Miriam Pawel writes, "a surplus of labor enabled growers to treat workers as little more than interchangeable parts, cheaper and easier to replace than machines."

Chavez acolytes today try to explain away his hawkish pro-border views as coming from a different historical context, applicable only to specific strikes and the strike-breakers that farmers tried to import. But this is false.

In fact, even before he started the union and fought against illegal immigration, he was opposed to the *bracero* program, which *legally* imported cheap, disposable labor from Mexico at the expense of American

citizens (of Mexican and other origins) who had been working in the fields. Pawel quotes Chavez as saying, “It looks almost impossible to start some effective program to get these people their jobs back from the braceros.”

Congress ended the bracero program in 1964, and the next 15 years were the salad days, as it were, for farmworkers — until illegal immigration became so pervasive (despite Chavez’s efforts) that workers lost all bargaining power.

But during those 15 years, Chavez fought illegal immigration tenaciously. In 1969, he marched to the Mexican border to protest farmers’ use of illegal aliens as strikebreakers. He was joined by Reverend Ralph Abernathy and Senator Walter Mondale.

In the mid 1970s, he conducted the “Illegals Campaign” to identify and report illegal workers, “an effort he deemed second in importance only to the boycott” (of produce from non-unionized farms), according to Pawel. She quotes a memo from Chavez that said, “If we can get the illegals out of California, we will win the strike overnight.”

The Illegals Campaign didn’t just report illegals to the (unresponsive) federal authorities. Cesar sent his cousin, ex-con Manuel Chavez, down to the border to set up a “wet line” (as in “wetbacks”) to do the job the Border Patrol wasn’t being allowed to do. Unlike the Minutemen of a few years ago, who arrived at the border with no more than lawn chairs and binoculars, the United Farm Workers patrols were willing to use direct methods when persuasion failed. Housed in a series of tents along the Arizona border, the crews in the wet line sometimes beat up illegals, the “cesarchavistas” employing violence even more widely on the Mexican side of the border to prevent crossings.

None of this was unknown to or opposed by Cesar Chavez. As Pawel notes, “As always, Cesar protected Manuel at all costs. . . . Manuel was willing to do ‘the dirty work,’ Cesar acknowledged.” At one UFW meeting, Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the union with Chavez and always a more conventional leftist than he, foreshadowed today’s anti-borders agitators, objecting to the words “wetback” and “illegal”: “The people themselves aren’t illegal. The action of being in this country maybe is illegal.” Pawel relates Chavez’s response, from a tape recording of the meeting: “Chavez turned on Huerta angrily. ‘No, a spade’s a spade,’ he said. ‘You guys get these hang-ups. Goddamn it, how do we build a union? They’re wets, you know. They’re wets, and let’s go after them.’”

Chavez’s vigilantism is unacceptable in a country ruled by law; in any case, the Border Patrol is both able and permitted (since January 20, anyway) to do its job. But neither Chavez’s occasional use of violence against illegals nor his later descent into cultism and paranoia detract from one of the core messages of his professional life: Flooding the labor market with people from abroad undermines American workers trying to improve their lot in life. For this we should honor his memory — by celebrating his birthday as National Border Control Day.

Hail Cesar!

— *Mark Krikorian is the executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies.*



Cesar Chavez: Anti-Immigration to His Union Core

July 15, 2014, 8:00 am

Call it the whitewash of Cesar Chavez. Yes, that Cesar Chavez: the late farm worker unionizer (he died in 1993) honored repeatedly by President Obama. The man the Left loves to name drop for his role in organizing all-those grape and lettuce and melon pickers in the day.

But there is a considerable twist to the story. In fact, Cesar Chavez believed ferociously in the border of the United States — because that border protected his union. So ferociously did he hold this view that the *New York Times* ran a story detailing an accusation that the union Chavez founded, the United Farm Workers, set up a 100 mile “wet line” to keep “wetbacks” and “illegals” — yes, all of those are Chavez’s words — out of the United States. So let’s go back in the time machine to the period when Chavez was rocketing to fame.

It was just after midnight on June 5, 1968. Forty-six years ago. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the brother and confidante of the martyred JFK, now himself a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, had just won the California primary. The Democratic National Convention was set for August, and, President Lyndon Johnson having withdrawn from the race, what lay ahead were two and a half months of political combat with Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy and LBJ’s vice president, Hubert Humphrey.

But this night in June, RFK had stepped to the podium in front of a cheering crowd in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to claim victory. Long forgotten now is the diminutive woman who was at his side, and the man for whom she worked. Both of whom were acknowledged by Bobby Kennedy before he left the podium, shortly thereafter to be assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan.

Here's the video of the first part of RFK's victory speech from that night. At about 5:20, RFK says: "*I want to thank Cesar Chavez, who was here a little earlier.*"

That would be the Cesar Chavez who was already a Hispanic icon. Founder of the National Farm Workers Association (later renamed as the United Farm Workers or UFW), Chavez was the Martin Luther King of Chicanos who, like King and their mutual hero Gandhi, believed and supposedly practiced non-violence. Chavez was a member of Kennedy's victorious California slate of delegates elected in the primary. Chavez wasn't on the platform because he'd stepped away to look for his wife. But that didn't stop the crowd from chanting at RFK's arrival at the podium: "We want Chavez! We want Kennedy! We want Chavez!"

Decades later, President Obama would celebrate a film tribute, *Cesar Chavez, American Hero*, lavishing praise on the "lessons" of his life, and taking note of the fact that Chavez's granddaughter works in the White House. Obama would also acknowledge the presence of, yes, Dolores Huerta — the dark haired woman pictured at RFK's side that long ago June night — whom the president would credit as a co-founder of the United Farm Workers. Further, here is Obama in Keene, California, announcing the Cesar Chavez National Monument. And don't forget the Medal of Freedom awarded to Dolores Huerta (who, as Rush Limbaugh notes, is an honorary chairman of the Democratic Socialists of America).

So. What's the big deal, you ask? A hat tip here to Mark Levin, who brought up a startling fact: Cesar Chavez was deeply opposed to illegal immigration. But the question here is why.

The fact is that just as Americans along the southern border today want it sealed to protect their private property or the safety of their families, Cesar Chavez wanted desperately to protect his union from illegal border crossings by Mexican "strikebreakers." At core, Chavez was demanding — like property owners along the border today — that the sovereignty of the United States be respected. Those who remember Chavez recall him vividly as a committed Chicano activist who neither minced words nor shied away from acting on his beliefs. And in doing so, he put himself firmly on record against illegal immigration.

Here is Chavez himself on video from a September 25, 1972 interview with KQED in San Francisco, explaining just why he opposes illegal immigration — along the way using the terms "wetbacks" and "illegals." (Both terms are considered offensive today, the latter being banned from usage by the *Los Angeles Times*, the Associated Press, and others.) Says Chavez in the interview: "As long as we have a poor country bordering California its going to be very difficult to win strikes as strikes are won normally by other unions with the employer." He goes on to discuss a strike his union was involved with against a gas and oil company, saying:

...where we closed them down, they were unable to get strikebreakers, or they'd gotten very few. And then all of a sudden yesterday morning, they brought in 220 wetbacks — these are the illegals — from Mexico. Now, there's no way to defend against that kind of strikebreaking...

In fact, the concern was raised to Robert Kennedy, who went to California in 1966 to conduct a Senate hearing on the issue. RFK was furious with a local sheriff accused by Chavez and his allies of being anti-Farm Union. The sheriff told RFK he was only trying to prevent violence. They had told the sheriff and his deputies of the Chavez strikers: "If you don't get them out of here, we're going to cut their hearts out."

Said RFK: "They're struggling for their rights." Kennedy worked closely with Chavez to write federal legislation that protected the right to collective bargaining for farm workers. When Kennedy was heckled by McCarthy supporters in 1968 demanding to know where he had been while they were busy trying to defeat LBJ in the New Hampshire primary, it was Chavez who answered: "He was walking with me in Delano!" As indeed he had been, RFK having showed up in Delano, California, to personally lend his support to the fasting Chavez.

On February 7, 1979, the *New York Times* ran a story in which the paper reported that Chavez, during a UFW-led seven-month-long strike outside Yuma, Arizona, five years earlier, had the union establish a

“100-mile-long ‘wet line’ of military-style tents to halt the flow of illegal aliens across the border.” What happened? Said the *Times* of a strike led by Cesar’s cousin Manuel Chavez: “... hundreds of Mexican aliens were brutally beaten by UFW representatives to keep them from crossing the border and taking the jobs of striking melon workers.”

The sheriff of Yuma County, Travis Yancy, told the *Times*: “Each tent was manned by five or six of their people who were paid \$5 to \$7 a day, plus their grub. They’d catch any ‘wet’ coming through and beat the hell out of them.” The UFW workers were, said the *Times*, “using clubs, chains and five-foot-long flogging whips comprised of intertwined strands of barbed wire.” The paper also reported that Yancy “alleged that the UFW had ‘bombed the houses and burned the cars’ of potential strike-breaking aliens and bribed Mexican officials not to interfere with the ‘wet line.’” To put it mildly, the story of the UFW’s alleged treatment of strikebreakers was leagues beyond what had so angered Bobby Kennedy about the California sheriff’s alleged treatment of UFW workers in 1966.

The *Times* in its 1979 story reported this next:

Asked in an interview about these allegations, Cesar Chavez acknowledged: “We had a ‘wet line’; it cost us a lot of money, and we stopped a lot of illegals.” Chavez, the disciple of non-violence in the fashion of King and Gandhi, said of the alleged violence against illegals said to be committed by the UFW: “If it happened... I know nothing about it. I tried to look into it. I talked to all of the Mexican officials I could get hold of; I checked everybody to get a feeling of what had happened, but I didn’t find anything that made me feel anything wrong had happened.”

Why does any of this matter now? Who cares?

Just as liberals are relentlessly trying to whitewash (so to speak) their own role in historical American racism, so too are they trying to simultaneously establish Cesar Chavez as an American hero and deliberately ignore his repeated and vivid views about illegal immigration. Here, for example, is a video from the UFW itself celebrating Cesar Chavez, replete with narration from liberal actors Martin Sheen, Ed Begley, Jr. and Edward James Olmos along with images of Chavez and RFK. There’s not a word — not a peep — about Chavez’s views on “wetbacks” and “illegals.” These Chavez views have also suddenly gone missing today as President Obama celebrates Chavez on film and with that national monument in California. Everything else, including those serious allegations made in the *Times* that UFW workers, under the leadership of Chavez’s own cousin, brutally beat Mexican workers, is swept under the rug.

But well aside from the airbrushing, the real point in paying attention to what the late Cesar Chavez had to say — in listening to the man who was supported by Bobby Kennedy and honored by Barack Obama — is that he was making a common sense point (though perhaps in words we wouldn’t endorse today). Chavez, in his own quite distinctive way, understood the concept of sovereignty. He understood that without a border, his union was under threat. Cesar Chavez, documentedly born in Yuma, Arizona, in 1927, was in fact a citizen who had a right to express his own “consent of the governed.”

Thus Cesar Chavez. Do liberals want to live up to the ideals of this hero of union rights, the real ideals on immigration as he himself expressed them? Then do it — peacefully — by bringing the federal government’s resources to bear on closing the border. Organized labor, take note.