

Pledge of Allegiance - To India, Part II

by Rob Sanchez

In Part One of this essay (*The Social Contract, Vol. XIV, No. 4, p.275*) I discussed how the triumvirate of the India Caucus in the House of Representatives, Friends of India in the Senate, and the Indian political action committee (USINPAC) conspired to open our borders to India's growing population of educated workers and to liberalize free-trade agreements that benefit the economy of India at the expense of the citizens of the United States. Part II focuses on the treacherous behavior of the members of the House India Caucus, and what can be done to change their anti-American behavior.

The India Caucus has helped India become the high-tech sweatshop capital of the world at the expense of jobs in the United States. They grease the wheels so that corporations can outsource jobs to India in order to exploit its cheap labor and slave-like working conditions. Thanks in part to the India Caucus, India has also become the Number One exporter of high-tech workers who are insourced into our country to replace more expensive American workers.

Free-trade ideologues within the India Caucus justify their behavior by claiming that the job destruction occurring in the United States is an inevitable act of God that can't be reversed, but nothing could be further from the truth. Policies that encourage outsourcing and insourcing are legislated by Congress, and the Congressional India Caucus in the House of Representatives has been one of India's most powerful lawmaking advocates. Washington insiders within the India Caucus push trade and immigration policies that benefit India even when the legislation

runs contrary to the best interests of the American public. The India Caucus has grown to over 182 members who routinely betray the American public in the name of "free trade" and "open borders immigration."

Engorged with cash, rich corporations in India regularly invite caucus members to lavish junkets to India in an effort to influence U.S. legislation. As an example, in April of 2003 an entourage of Democratic caucus members traveled to Mumbai, India, to pig at the money trough. Junketeers such as Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Chris Bell (D-TX), Kendrick Meek (D-FL), and Joseph Crowley (D-NY) were wine and dined in cities throughout India. These representatives assured Indian millionaires that the U.S. Congress will fight all attempts by labor activists in the United States to stem the job destruction caused by unfettered free trade and immigration. Sheila Jackson Lee even went so far as to say that it's a "win-win situation" when U.S. jobs are sent to Mumbai.² Jackson reassured her adoring audience of Indian aristocrats that she will do everything possible to raise the H-1B quota to allow more Indians to gain access to our labor markets.

Another notorious example of junketeering at its worst occurred in January, 2004, when nine members of the India Caucus took a trip to Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Agra. The Democratic politicians, considered by many to be "pro-labor," included Reps. Joe Crowley (D-NY), Steve Israel (D-NY), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Jim Marshall (D-GA), and Barbara Lee (D-CA). They masqueraded as friends of American labor unions but their behavior in India proves otherwise. Unions were fleeced by the India Caucus who had no intention of creating jobs in the U.S. to help American citizens maintain their middle-class life styles.

Rep. Joseph Crowley is co-chairman of the caucus and one of its most infamous members. He milked the cash cow by accepting money from labor unions while at the same time working in the India Caucus to undermine unions who are seeing

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their members' jobs disappear overseas. Three of Crowley's top ten contributors were labor unions who donated over \$62,000 for his 2004 campaign.³ Hopefully next time around the unions will put their money to better use by campaigning to vote scofflaws like Crowley out of office. Until he is forced to relinquish his leadership role in the India Caucus he will continue to betray workers in his home state of New York that are in need of jobs.

Indian corporations struck gold when they invited Crowley to India. For the cost of a few nights at luxury hotels Crowley wrote a letter extolling the virtues of Tata Consultancy,⁴ an Indian-owned bodyshop which routinely discriminates against American citizens. Crowley's deliberate deception included a claim that Tata hires American workers. Most Indian bodyshops, including Tata, hire almost exclusively upper-caste young men from India who come to the United States on temporary visas such as H-1B and L-1.

Crowley claims that it's a good trade-off to sacrifice textile and call center jobs in order to stay in the good graces of Indian-owned companies that want to set up shop in New York. He wrote that,

For every \$6 an hour textile job or call center job lost in America, at least one much higher paying job is created here in America, and many of them in New York City.

Crowley's faith in a free-trade economics that claims outsourcing to India will create jobs in the U.S. is unfounded. Most Indian companies that set up shop in New York will hire just enough employees to market goods that were manufactured in India. These companies tend to hire Indian workers who come into the U.S. with H-1B or L-1 visas – they rarely hire American citizens.

Crowley just doesn't know when to stop kowtowing to India's rich corporate sweatshops. Recently he suggested that it would help New York by opening up the free trade of military goods to India! Crowley hawks his concept of outsourcing the manufacture of military supplies as a good deal for New York even though the manufacturing jobs for these contracts will go to Bombay not the Bronx.

In August of 2004 Crowley went on another junket tour of India to foster the Indo-US free trade agreement talks that are being negotiated by the WTO in Geneva.⁵ The proposed FTA agreement with India would allow unlimited numbers of Indian workers into

What is a Caucus?

A caucus is an organized but informal group of legislators established to promote or advocate a specific shared interest – in this case an interest in India. Caucuses are a very important but underestimated part of the legislative process that is funded by taxpayers' money. House ethics rules prohibit caucuses from receiving outside income but there are many perks such as junkets and free luncheons that are allowed.¹

In the year 2003 there were 166 House caucuses and 20 Senate caucuses. Their issues range from everything imaginable, from textiles to minor league baseball.

Congressional caucuses have been part of the American political scene since colonial times and they have often had an unsavory air about them. Consider this description of a caucus meeting in Boston from a diary entry in 1763 by founding father John Adams:

The Caucass Clubb meets at certain Times in the Garret of Tom Daws...There they smoke tobacco till you cannot see from one End of the Garrett to the other. There they drink Phlip [a potent mixture of beer, rum, and sugar] ...and Selectmen, Assessors, Collectors, Wardens, Fire Wards, and Representatives are regularly chosen before they are chosen in the Town.

the United States and in return India would lower tariffs on our agricultural products. Crowley's trip to India was paid for by the taxes of hard-working Americans and yet he was willing to barter our right for gainful employment in exchange for allowing large corporate farms to export a few bags of rice and beans to India. Crowley has used his leadership role in the India Caucus as a bully pulpit to covertly create trade agreements that destroy high-paying jobs in the United States.

Crowley and other junketeering caucus members will schmooze with anybody who has money, including India's enemies – such as Pakistan. Indian special interests are worried that their lap dogs in the American Congress may have a "conflict of interest" because some of them joined the newly formed Pakistani Caucus. Perhaps India will have to up the ante with more lobbying cash and lavish junkets if Pakistan continues to gain influence in our Congress. India Caucus members who have dual membership in

the Pakistani Caucus were revealed by *The Tribune of India*: Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Pete Sessions (R-TX), Fred Upton (R-MI), Dale E. Kildee (D-MI), Linda T. Sanchez (D-CA), Kay Granger (R-TX), Gregory W. Meeks (D- NY), Michael M. Honda (D-CA), Joe Pitts (R-PA) and Peter T. King (R- NY).⁶

Not to be outdone by Crowley, Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) had the chutzpah to accept donations from labor unions such as the Communication Workers of America who are opposed to outsourcing and H-1B. Israel was elated that our corporations can profit by exploiting the low cost labor environment in India when he compared high-priced programmers in New York that get paid \$70k a year, to Indians who get paid a paltry \$15k a year for comparable work. He promoted India's cheap real estate as an ideal opportunity for U.S. companies to relocate to India because rent for high-tech industries in Hyderabad is

"His [Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)] backstabbing of American workers included a special trip to India in order to learn how to offshore U.S. military defense work from New York to India."

a mere 80 cents a square foot compared with \$20 a square foot on Long Island. His backstabbing of American workers included a special trip to India in order to learn how to offshore U.S. military defense work from New York to India.⁷

On his website, Israel hyped India as a source of cheap military products without a thought to the economic and security implications for the United States:

Israel saw the challenges of outsourcing first-hand on a Congressional working trip to India in January. He also saw an opportunity for a new market: "There is absolutely no reason why the largest democracy in the world should be purchasing seventy percent of their security

*products from Russia," Israel said. "This is a great opportunity for Long Island defense manufacturers to tap into."*⁸

Congressman Jay Inslee (D-WA), serves on the Democratic Advisory Group on technology issues, and represented the India Caucus in New Delhi in May of 2003. Inslee spent most of his time hobnobbing with India's rich oligarchs and promising that the United States will never put barriers against long-term trade with India. Inslee made it very clear that he is willing to sacrifice jobs in the state of Washington when he told them,

*Ours is a trade-oriented state and we will not take any step that goes against the principle of market access. Our ability to access other markets will diminish if we ourselves block access to the US market. Trade is a two-way street.*⁹

Rep. Inslee licked so many boots in India it's a wonder that he didn't suffer dehydration of the tongue. In Mumbai, Inslee told his Indian audience that the United States is overly paranoid about security since 9/11 and he explained that this overemphasis on stopping terrorism has hindered the speed at which visas can be issued. Inslee affirmed that he was confident Americans would eventually ease their concerns about national security, and when that happens there will be a reduction in the time consuming security checks that are being imposed on foreigners who want to obtain H-1B and L-1 visas. Inslee seems to think that compromising national security is acceptable if it expedites the importation of India's vast labor pool of "intellectual capital" into the U.S. His kowtowing didn't stop there however; he forgave India for its refusal to do business with U.S. companies unless they outsource work to India. He made the ridiculous assertion that Americans have no hope of selling Microsoft products and Boeing airplanes in India unless the U.S. reciprocates by allowing India to have open-border access to our labor market. U.S. companies move to India in order to make products to export to the USA, not to sell in India. Inslee's belief that exporting American factories to India will somehow create American jobs is misguided and not supported by facts.

Examining the examples given in this paper, the obvious conclusion that must be drawn is that all India Caucus members have betrayed the public trust and

their Congressional oath to bear “true faith and allegiance” to the Constitution.¹⁰ The fourteenth amendment of the Constitution declares,

No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

By permitting employers to displace and replace American workers, and hire nonimmigrants when qualified American workers are available, it can be argued that the caucus violates due process by making covert agreements with foreign nations.¹¹

When a list of caucus members was made available to the public,¹² for me, one name stood out among all others – Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO). Tancredo, a stalwart friend of the immigration control movement and an ardent opponent of H-1B, was listed as a member of the India Caucus. Like me, many activists were wondering why Tancredo was a member of the India Caucus, and I got the chance to ask him. In May of 2004, when Tancredo visited Arizona to support the Proposition 200 initiative,¹³ I had an opportunity to ask him why he was a member of the India Caucus. Mr. Tancredo explained that he joined the India Caucus in order to help the Dalits. In India, people with very dark skin, such as their African population, are called Dalits, or the “untouchables.” They are so low on the social ladder they don’t even have a caste. Dalits are considered sub-human and forced to live in squalid slums. They can’t escape extreme poverty because they aren’t allowed to get an education and are only allowed to take menial jobs. Tancredo involved himself in a humanitarian effort to help the Dalits and signed onto the India Caucus because he thought it might help to further that cause.

When asked what his level of involvement with the India Caucus was, Tancredo said that aside from signing a piece of paper to be a member, he has never been invited to participate in caucus meetings and was not aware of their activities.

It’s no surprise that Tancredo wasn’t invited to the party because the caucus cronies would consider him an outsider who is opposed to their agenda of open-border immigration to the U.S. and unfettered outsourcing of American jobs to India’s sweatshops.

During our conversation, I gave Mr. Tancredo several reasons why he should not be in the India Caucus. Two weeks after our conversation he revoked his membership.

Here are some of my arguing points to Tancredo as to why his membership in the India Caucus was not in his best interest:

1. The mission of the India Caucus is to allow more Indian workers to be imported into the United States and to continue the export of American jobs to India. Being a member of the India Caucus, however well intentioned, symbolizes support for the destruction of American jobs and uncontrolled immigration – all of which Tancredo opposes.
2. Members of the India Caucus have the stigma of being puppets of India. Whether true or not, this stigma could come back later to haunt those who don’t resign their membership.
3. Being in the India Caucus would not further Tancredo’s goal to help the Dalits.

I appreciated Rep. Tancredo’s gracious willingness to listen to my reservations about his membership in the India Caucus, and it was heartening to hear about his desire to help the Dalits. Tancredo’s resignation is mostly a symbolic gesture because he is already doing the right things in Congress. He understands that being associated with the India Caucus could send contradictory messages to his supporters, so he resigned.

I use the example of Congressman Tancredo in this paper to warn everyone not to pre-judge members of the India Caucus. Members should be challenged and held accountable for their actions, including their rationale for being in the caucus. All Congressmen in the India Caucus should be encouraged to resign, and if they refuse it’s fair-game to brand them as betrayers of the American trust. They should be told that membership in the India Caucus infers a lack of patriotism and brings into question whether their oath of office, and pledge of allegiance, was to the United States or India. •

NOTES

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Pledge of Allegiance – to India, Part 1

by Rob Sanchez

The India Caucus has become one of the most effective caucuses on Capitol Hill”⁷ claimed Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-PA), the outgoing co-chairman of the 2004 caucus. Greenwood isn’t just boasting – his Caucus has managed to methodically push India friendly free-trade ideology down the throats of the unsuspecting American public. Greenwood considers this mass betrayal of public trust as a marvelous accomplishment but for Americans concerned about the future of their country and with their own employment prospects, India’s swift rise to power and influence in the halls of Congress is just another sordid demonstration of how our democracy has been subverted by money and greed.

Behind closed doors corporate and foreign lobbyists use “good ol’ boy” networks within the India Caucus to gain political favors. Deal-making is hidden from the public spotlight because decisions are often contradictory to the welfare of the nation. Legislative decisions are made in an undemocratic process that rivals the cronyism of the smoke-filled rooms of yesteryear.²

The House India Caucus was formed in 1994. Its founder, Kapil Sharma, understood that his pro-Indian advocacy could best be served by forming a caucus because they are one of the most powerful decision-making bodies in American government. Sharma used the Black Caucus³ as a model because he felt that they were very effective at winning legislative favors. Sharma convinced Congressman Frank Pallone to be the first chairman and, since then, the Caucus has grown to 182 members.¹⁹ Congressional caucuses are formed for pragmatic reasons in a system of under-the-table negotiations so it’s unlikely we will ever know exactly

what Sharma promised Pallone to inaugurate the caucus.¹¹ Sharma said that he wanted to target a Congressman in a district with a large Indian population so perhaps he promised to deliver votes, and of course the most important thing in Washington D.C. – money.

House and Senate ethics rules on caucuses are complex and allow politicians to have great discretion in deciding whether an activity is permitted or not. Subjective interpretations of the rules leave a lot of room for foreign interests to actively lobby politicians even when the resultant legislation runs contrary to the interests of the voting public. These ethics laws have been diluted by the new campaign-finance law that makes it very unlikely that politicians will get into trouble if Indian citizens shower them with cash in trade for favors.⁴

The India Caucus mission statement²⁰ claims that they are interested in the “facilitation of trade and commerce with India... visas,... and the promotion of Indian culture in the United States.” Their true agenda is to thwart all attempts by labor advocacy groups to limit the offshoring of jobs to India, provide unlimited and unregulated H-1B and L-1 visas so that Indians can wreak labor arbitrage in the United States, and to drive a wedge between our country and Pakistan. Adding insult to injury this betrayal of trust is subsidized at taxpayers’ expense.

Taxpayers aren’t the only ones who foot the caucus bill. The National Association of Software and Service companies (NASSCOM) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) are funded by Indian businesses that consider spending money to woo our Congress a worthwhile business expense. These organizations sponsor lavish junkets for our politicians in Mumbai and Bangalore to influence their voting behavior. As an example, in April of 2003 an entourage of Democratic caucus members were wined and dined in Mumbai. Junketeers included Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Chris Bell (TX), Kendrick Meek (FL), and Joseph Crowley (NY). These representatives assured Indian

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millionaires that they don't have to worry about labor activists in the United States who strive to preserve a semblance of the American middle-class by saving good-paying jobs. Sheila Jackson Lee's speech in Mumbai must have sounded like a soothing mantra to her Indian audience when she ranted against "unhealthy" legislation to protect American workers from the ravages of outsourcing. Lee sang to the choir when she told the wealthy aristocrats that it's a "win-win situation" when U.S. jobs are sent to Mumbai.⁸ Jackson reassured her cheering Mumbai audience that she will do everything possible to raise the H-1B yearly cap so that more Indians can flood our labor markets.

Another notorious example of junketeering at its worst occurred in January, 2004, when nine members of the India Caucus took a trip to New Delhi. A significant portion of the \$165,000 cost was paid for by U.S. taxpayers.⁶ Participants included Reps. Joe Crowley, Steve Israel (NY), Linda Sanchez (CA), Jim Marshall (GA), and Barbara Lee (CA). High-tech workers strongly protested the junket because of its obvious conflict of interest and because these politicians are considered "pro-labor." CII senior director Kiran Pasricha tried to calm the dispute by claiming that she has been organizing junkets to India since 1995 but it's not clear why she thought that would ease concerns that India was hijacking our Congress. Pasricha tested her skills at comedy by claiming that, "India is no longer a country of snake charmers and sweatshops and cheap labor" and then went on to claim that the outsourcing controversy is nothing but election year campaign fodder. Rep. Linda Sanchez tried to persuade detractors that caucus members didn't capriciously spend taxpayers' money by claiming, "Nobody was cooling us with palm fronds and peeling us grapes." Sanchez might be telling the truth about the palm fronds but it's doubtful that caucus members slept on dirt floors in straw huts either.

While our politicians stampede to India with promises of a continuance of our self-destructive trade policies, India never offers reciprocal concessions. India imposes very strict tariffs and immigration policies to protect their domestic workforce and industries. India's pervasive trade barriers are enforced with tariffs up to 45% to insure that foreign competitors can't undercut their own industries.¹⁷ The United States stands alone in its desire to offshore jobs without constraints and to issue temporary guest-worker visas so that foreign workers

can take our most coveted jobs.

Indian corporations aren't the only ones which shower the politicians within the India Caucus with money. Some of the most notorious of these lobbyists include the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), American Immigration Lawyer Association (AILA), and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. These organizations want to insure that politicians continue to support legislation to enable the importation of cheap foreign labor and to guard against any restrictions to the outsourcing gravy train.

"The India Caucus has been so effective at changing U.S. foreign policy that Pakistan is now trying to form their own caucus to counter India's influence."

The India Caucus has been so effective at changing U.S. foreign policy that Pakistan is now trying to form its own caucus to counter India's influence. Our Congress is being bought by nations who are willing to be the highest bidder while American workers are duped into believing that Congress is their advocate for economic security.¹⁴

India's influence over American policy-making accelerated in the year 2002 when a group of Indian activists, led by Yash Aggarwal, created a lobby group named the United States India Political Action Committee, or USINPAC. Aggarwal explained that this PAC was patterned after the highly effective Israeli lobby – American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).¹² Aggarwal may be a U.S. citizen but he is very active in politics both here and in India.¹³ His true loyalty probably lies wherever money is to be made.

USINPAC is registered with the U.S. government as a nonprofit lobbying organization.⁵ They claim that their mission is to advance the interests of Indian-American citizens but that's a transparent charade to hide the fact that they represent rich Indian-owned business organizations such as NASSCOM and CII. PACs cannot

receive money from foreign nations so USINPAC claims that all their funding is from rich businesses both inside and outside of the United States.

USINPAC's sole purpose is to raise money to lobby Congress and to channel money to both presidential campaigns (see box below). Their hope is that whether our next president is Bush or Kerry, the winner will be loyal to their cause. They prefer Republicans but contribute to the Democrats almost equally to insure that democracy doesn't get in the way of their agenda.²² It's

Special Groups that Cater to India
India Caucus – Over 180 Congressional Representatives who favor the interests of Indian nationals over the welfare of United States Citizens. Formed in 1994.
Friends of India – The Senate version of the India Caucus. Formed in 2004.
United States - India PAC (USINPAC) – A political action campaign whose sole purpose is to raise money to lobby both houses of Congress and the President. They claim to represent American-Indian citizens but their true allegiance is to India. Formed in 2002.
“Only two years old, USINPAC already has organized House and Senate India caucuses; gained some 27,000 members; helped defeat the candidacy of Republican congressman Dan Burton for chair of the House International Relations Subcommittee on South Asia (Burton is perceived by some as unfriendly to India); and, as the <i>Washington Times</i> has reported, convinced most of the leading Democratic presidential candidates to offer position papers on Washington's relationship with Delhi.” – Excerpt from USINPAC Newsletter ²¹

no coincidence that their agenda is identical to that of the India Caucus – expanded visas for Indian nationals, no restrictions to the offshoring of jobs to India, and insuring that Pakistan doesn't get too cozy with the United States.

USINPAC claims that they represent Indian businessmen and citizens of Indian ancestry. PACs cannot legally accept money from foreign interests so it's not surprising that they make this claim. In all likelihood there is much more to their money supply than meets the eye. It could be a conduit to launder money from India's coffers directly to USINPAC — and then into the pockets of our Congressmen. India's highest levels of government and industry consider the mission of USINPAC as critical to their economic future so it would

be naive to think that they aren't fueling this organization with foreign money. The Prime Minister of India promised to give the PAC support from Indian policy makers, and invited a delegation of USINPAC officers to India in January 2004 to meet with the money moguls of India. During that meeting with the Indian Ambassador, Lalit Mansingh, and the Joint Secretary, P S Raghavan, the Prime Minister told USINAC that, "The mission you have started has to succeed."

USINPAC mentions the names any of our politicians who do their bidding on their website. Presidential candidates including Dick Gephardt, Joe Lieberman, John Kerry, Howard Dean, Wesley Clark, and John Edwards wrote letters of support for offshoring and H-1B visas to USINPAC for all to see on their website.²⁰

Until recently, the India Caucus was limited to the House but like a metastasizing cancer tumor it has spread to the Senate, thanks to the money and influence of USINPAC. On April 29, 2004, Sanjay Puri, the Executive Director of USINPAC, proudly announced the formation of a bipartisan Senate version of the India Caucus dubbed the "Friends of India." According to Puri the Senate caucus was created at the behest of USINPAC. Puri didn't mention how much money was spent to lobby the Senators but you can bet that he expects something in return.¹⁵ Puri recognized the value of the junkets to India when he wrote: "After recalling her fond memories of trips to India as first lady, Sen. Clinton commented: "It is imperative that the Unites States do everything possible to reach out to India." Clinton reached out to India as soon as the price was right to become the co-chairman of the Friends of India.

The Friends of India includes 33 members and is chaired by John Cornyn (TX). Other powerful Republicans in this caucus include Bill Frist (TN), Orrin Hatch (UT), and Charles Grassley (IA). Hillary Clinton (NY) is the co-chair and is joined by Democrats such as Thomas Daschle (SD), Paul Sarbanes (MD), Joe Lieberman (CT), and Edward M. Kennedy (MA).¹⁶

This bi-partisan Senatorial sellout was a bad omen for American workers but it signaled celebration time in India. Lalit Mansingh, an Indian ambassador, said he was ecstatic over the news that the Senate created the caucus because he now knows that India's influence on Congress has made a huge leap forward.

Cornyn and Clinton were logical choices to lead the

Friends of India because they are long-time supporters of outsourcing and H-1B. Cornyn has voted in favor of the H-1B guest-worker bill – a visa that is favored by Indian high-tech workers. Senator Hillary Clinton's connections with Indian power brokers has a long and scandalous history that goes back to her days as First Lady. Vinod Gupta, the president of the Indian-owned bodyshop Tata, got a call from the Clintons for a dinner banquet during Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit, and afterward was invited to a sleepover at the White House. Gupta thanked Hillary Clinton by giving her a \$2,000 donation to support her campaign and more than \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee. More recently Sen. Clinton gave a red-carpet welcoming party when Tata and its CEO, Subramaniam Ramadorai, opened an office in Buffalo, NY.

The triumvirate of the India Caucus, Friends of India, and USINPAC makes a powerful voice for India's self-interest in exporting workers to the U.S. by using H-1B and L-1 visas and accelerating the offshoring of our industries. The *Hindu Business Line* remarked that "There can be no doubt that the caucus will make a great impact as an influential platform for projecting India's stand on various issues. They were jubilant that they snared Sen. Hillary Clinton because she is the wife of another ardent supporter of India – former President Bill Clinton."¹⁸ They go on to explain that the Friends of India may have even more influence than the India Caucus because unlike the House, the Senate will be easier to manipulate – 32 Senators out of the existing 100 signed up to the caucus. Simply put, 32% of the Senate is already on their side.

Dubious behavior of India Caucus members brings doubt that the Congressional oath to bear "true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution¹ is taken seriously by our politicians. These Benedict Arnolds have shown scant compunction to support the interests of the American workers who built this nation and who voted them into office. Now the only question left is whether voters will endorse the treasonous behavior of their Congress by re-electing them.

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Economist says American workers lose \$1,700 a year

WASHINGTON – Two decades of growth in the supply of immigrant workers cost native-born American men an average \$1,700 in annual wages by 2000, a top economist has concluded.

Hispanic and black Americans were hurt most by the influx of foreign-born workers, says a report by Harvard University's George Borjas, considered a leading authority on the impact of immigration.

The findings, to be released today, could influence wide-ranging immigration proposals being urged by lawmakers and White House officials.

Congressional Democrats plan today to launch comprehensive legislation whose provisions would legalize immigrant workers already here, guarantee labor rights and allow an increased flow of legal, temporary foreign workers.

Earlier this year, President Bush announced his own massive overhaul for immigration that would offer temporary legal status to workers now here and open the door for greater numbers of "willing workers" from abroad to take temporary jobs in America.

In his report, Borjas suggests that one effect

of such proposals would be to depress wage growth for Americans at all levels of education and job skills.

His study of two decades of wages concluded that U.S.-born high school dropouts suffered the most – a 7.4 percent drop in annual wages by the year 2000. For high school graduates and workers with some college, the loss was a little more than 2 percent. And for college graduates, wages were held back an average 3.6 percent.

Borjas found that U.S.-born Hispanic workers saw their wages reduced by an average 5 percent, and U.S.-born blacks experienced a 4.5 percent drop.

"The reduction in earnings occurs regardless of whether the immigrants are legal or illegal, permanent or temporary," said Borjas, an immigrant from Cuba. "It is the presence of additional workers that reduces wages, not their legal status."

The Borjas study on the impact is unusually bleak, said Jared Bernstein, senior economist with the Economic Policy Institute, a research group financed by labor unions.

"I think the magnitude of the effect is quite large relative to other research," Bernstein said,