

## **Illegal Aliens, Social Security, and Tea Parties**



On Sunday, May 21, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) appeared on “Fox News Sunday” with host Chris Wallace. A key subject they discussed was the issue of whether or not illegal aliens should be allowed to receive social security benefits.

Before I provide you the text of an exchange from that transcript, two notes:

1. In July, 2005, the U.S. Attorney General’s Office (Colorado District) announced an indictment of an international counterfeit document ring whose top man lives in Mexico.
2. In June, 2004, President Bush signed what is called a “Totalization Agreement” with Mexico allowing non-citizen spouses and children residing outside of the United States to receive social security benefits.

I’ll get to the details of those two issues, but first, the exchange between Chris Wallace and Senator John McCain (R – AZ). What follows is a small portion of the interview that aired May 21, 2006. The full citation, which I accessed originally on May 23, 2006 and again on January 10, 2008 at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,196366,00.html> reads as follows:

**WALLACE:** This week, this past week, you were one of the leaders in a 50-49 vote — you were one of the 50 — that will allow illegal immigrants to collect Social Security benefits even if they got their job illegally by forging documents. Forty-four Republicans voted against this. You were one of only 11 Republicans who voted for it. At a time when Social Security is running out of money, should we allow illegals to benefit from committing a felony?

**MCCAIN:** Well, they paid the taxes. Do you want to refund — at least shouldn’t you then, if you don’t want them to get benefits — they paid the taxes. They came out of their salaries, and so they contributed. Should they at least not — should they be deprived of the taxes that they paid? I don’t think that’s fair.

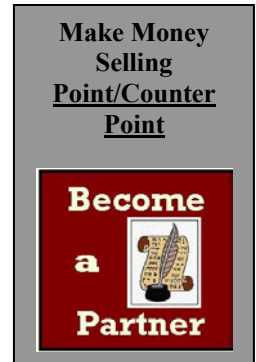
**WALLACE:** But I don’t have to tell you conservatives are saying they broke the law and they’re going to benefit from that.

**MCCAIN:** Chris, many conservatives — that’s the same argument that we made throughout this debate, that we are giving them amnesty. Look, the taxes were taken out of their paychecks. They were put into a fund that is a legitimate fund.

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Of course, they were illegal because they were here illegally. But what we'd like to do over time, and I think we could do this over time, is establish some of these funds back in the country that they came from, so that there would be incentives for them to return home.

But if you just said I'm sorry, you came here illegally, even though you paid into the trust fund, we're just taking your money, I don't think that's really fair, either. (Accessed on 5/23/06 at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,196366,00.html>).



### **Do Illegal Aliens Get Social Security Now?**

What was confusing to many Americans was this question: Are illegal aliens allowed to collect Social Security under existing law?

The answer is YES. The vote that Senator McCain took part in narrowly agreed to continue this practice.

### **Totalization Agreement**

President Bush signed an agreement in 2004 that makes it possible for foreign workers to qualify for social security payments. It is called a "totalization" agreement. The Social Security Administration (SSA) estimates that the cost of the program will grow from \$78 million a year to \$650 million a year. However, in an independent analysis of SSA's estimates, the US General Accounting Office said: "Because of the significant number of unauthorized Mexican workers in the United States, the estimated cost of the proposed totalization agreement is even more uncertain than prior agreements" (that we have made with other countries. Other estimates were about 25% too low). The source of this information is: US General Accounting Office. Social Security: Proposed Totalization Agreement with Mexico Presents Unique Challenges, September, 2003, Executive Summary. (For the report, [Click Here](#)).

There are two other important aspects of which the reader should be aware.

1. It allows non-citizen spouses and children residing outside of the United States to receive social security benefits. In other words, the money you thought was going for your old age retirement will be going to illegal aliens, and their families living back in Mexico, instead.
2. Individuals who begin working illegally and later obtain legal status could still use their illegal earnings to qualify for Social Security benefits. One way they might obtain legal status is to use forged identities, or steal real ones from US citizens.

### **International Identity Forgery Ring Centered in Mexico**

The U.S. Attorney General's office is aware of an international identity forgery ring, whose No. 1 guy, Pedro Catorena-Ibarra lives in Mexico. According to a U.S. Immigration Services press release, **we learn that:**

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The investigation revealed that **CASTORENA-IBARRA** and other members of his criminal organization have been involved in manufacturing and distributing counterfeit identity documents in numerous cities throughout the United States, including Los Angeles, California, Chicago, Illinois, Atlanta, Georgia, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Lincoln, Nebraska, Des Moines, Iowa, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Denver, Colorado, as well as other locations throughout the United States. ([Click Here](#) for the link).

Think about this. We are giving illegal aliens access to the Social Security system. We know with certainty that there are criminals operating out of Mexico who are running an international black market for stolen identities and fake Social Security cards. So, here are three questions that voters should be asking of the powers that be:

1. Why doesn't the government, and elected officials like Senator John McCain, tell us about this "Totalization Agreement" and the truth that they don't really know how much it will end up costing us?
2. How can the government continue paying US tax dollars to illegal aliens knowing there are many who are using fraudulent means to get into the Social Security System?
3. Is it about time for another Boston Tea Party and throw those who won't defend and protect the citizens of this country out of office?



Order **Point/Counter Point: Illegal Aliens & The American Way of Life**. This is an e-book laid out in a "comic book" format, informing & entertaining the reader on the subject of illegal immigration. Cartoon sketches of such political figures as Hillary Clinton and Rush Limbaugh "present" quotations by twenty politicians and expert research to analyze the loss of "The American Way of Life" due to illegal immigration. Inaugural speeches of early American Presidents are also included. **Also included is the sermon that led to the inclusion of the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance**

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