

This is a New Hampshire Public Television Special Presentation. The New Hampshire Political Library and The New England Council present: Politics and Eggs with Republican Presidential Candidate Tom Tancredo. With Support from: BAE Systems, Clean Harbors Environmental Services.

(Michael Chaney): The problems surrounding Illegal immigration are getting worse; and more and more voters are upset about it all. This issue could be a huge one in 2008. Please join us this morning in welcoming: Tom Tancredo.

(Tancredo): My wife called yesterday because they (my grandson's team) won the game. She was very excited but she was also saying how beautiful it was in Colorado yesterday. I was happy to be able to tell her that although I missed being with my grandson or seeing my grandson play. She had nothing, they had nothing on us in that respect. Because it was a beautiful day here and it has been a beautiful time up here.

I appreciate this morning, being able to join you and say a few words. And it is certainly true that immigration has been the sort of the focal point of the campaign for a long time and it is the reason undecidedly that I decided to enter into field. No one had an interest in it and if they did, they didn't speak out. We (myself and others) had run an organization called Team America. It found people who were running for office and committed and dedicated on conservative principles. We were looking for someone to run for president – who we were going to support for President. We interviewed the folks, some of them that were running, and came up with (that) there was really no one that was going to take this issue on in a serious manner.

So in the course of doing that I recognize that I'm in the second tier of the candidates, standing on the end of the podium. (A) book-end sort of thing waiting to get the question. That's the way it goes. We have the superstars in the middle and it fans out from there. And, you know, sometimes this is brought home to me. My position, my situation there is brought home in humorous ways.

I was not too long ago invited to speak to the NAACP. They had gotten an invitation to NAACP. She said do you want to do this thing? I said yeah, sure, let's do it. It turns out all Republicans, all Republican candidates for President had been invited to their national convention in Detroit and only I showed up. It was great for me. I got a standing ovation going in simply because I showed up. And a standing ovation going out – maybe because I was leaving. I don't know. It was a great time.

When I got to Detroit that morning, I still had on jeans and baseball cap. And I got in the cab and I don't travel with much of an entourage. (And) The cabby and I started to talk. It was typical cab chat. "What are you doing here? How long you begin in the city? What are you doing here?" Blah. Blah. Blah. I said I've come to talk to the NAACP. There was a little pause. He said why. And I said because they asked me. And he said why. Because I'm running for President of the United States. And he turned around and he goes, nah!

Come on. It's true. Honestly. I started pulling out cards. I can assure you I am. It was a very interesting. I convinced him that I was at least in congress and I was running. When I said congress. And he was speaking in very precise English and very clear, he said congress? And (he had) picked up a bunch of members of congress and so on.

It turned out he was an immigrant from the ivory course. He was about to take his test and proud that he learned English and I told him we could roll down the window and call anybody to the car and ask if they were born be here and ask them the questions. I said I would be surprised two out of five would get the answers right. He was very happy about the fact that he was accomplishing this. I told him he's exactly whom the course is for. And it's people like him that will enhance our society dramatically. He wants to become an American. He was learning the

language. I told him if I had been in Detroit on July 19th when he was going to take his final papers that I would be happy to come to the event.

I usually do go to events in Colorado. I go to the events where people become citizens and take their oath. I always say I've come to tell you two things. One is welcome to America. And two, thank you for doing it the right way. And it is important for us, I think, to recognize that there is a way to do it. We are, by the way, the most generous nation in the world when it comes to opening our doors to immigrants from anywhere in the world. We've taken in over a million a year. That's more than any other country. There is a legal process. There's a way to come into the United States. We take in many, many more millions more through the visa programs. Some of them of course eventually move on to the status of immigration--move into the status of immigrant. It is not as though we have a closed door.

The fact is that every time that we ignore the fact that there is a process, (that there is) a way to come into this country the right way, and in fact end up giving all of the benefits that accrue to the people who do it the right way. To people who don't do it right way – then it's a slap in the face to all the folks... the cab driver and all the folks waiting to do it right way.

Why should they (do it the right way)? All you have to do is sneak into (the) country and wait for a bill. And someone will introduce a bill and give you amnesty. Why wouldn't they do it that way? America has to make a decision about this issue. Which way are you going? I think you have two options. You either enforce the law or repeal the law. That's it. You don't keep ignoring the law. All of the laws that are on the books with regard to immigration – and many others.

I have heard every reason imaginable to simply ignore the borders. I understand it. I know if you're a democrat you look at it and say well, they are voters and they will be voting for us. I don't care how they get in here. Legally or illegally. It doesn't matter. If you're a republican, you look at it and say those are cheap laborers and we will take advantage of that. We can hire them. No American will take the job. Again I've heard that so often. Well, I think that there's a part of that that's left off most of the time. "No American can do the job for what I can get an illegal alien to do this job for." That's true, probably.

I remember coming up here to visit New Hampshire. Gave an award to police chief here by the name of Chamberlain. This was long before I had any interest or idea that I would be running for president of the United States. I wanted to recognize the fact that there were people out there trying to actually enforce the law. He had a heck of a problem. (He was) telling us about his situation up there. (They) pulled over a van with ten to fifteen people in it. Found they had been living in one motel room and working at a cement plant that had been in the area for years.

Once someone found out you could hire people (immigrants) for a lot less than the people that had been there (Americans). The entire plant turned into an employment opportunity for illegal aliens. A van with ten people had a driver who was the head of crew. He was a crew boss. He had \$185 dollars a day for these ten people. \$18.50 a day is what they got to work in the cement plant. You're right. You're right. Probably not going to get an American to do that job. That's true. And these people are hard workers, undeniably true. For the most part, that is the case.

But you cannot look at this issue of immigration with only the perspective that they are simply laborers that we need in the country. Because it's a much bigger phenomenon than that. It has implications for us in a hundred different ways. We have to start talking about it. We have to start thinking about it and dealing with it. Every presidential candidate will be up here and talking to you about a variety of issues. Healthcare, tax policy, medical – I mean, our educational system... All of these issues are real issues of course. (And) all of them, by the way, have some – there is a touching of each one of these issues by the issue of immigration. Especially when we're talking about 12-20 million people in this country illegally.

Because the fact is that although they may provide inexpensive or cheap labor to some people. Does not mean they are cheap to rest of us. The infrastructural cost to maintain an illegal work force in this country is enormous. Healthcare costs alone are incredible and far greater than the revenue we derive from the taxes that come from the people who actually do pay taxes. Few illegal aliens pay taxes. (those that do, it is) through sales taxes. Primarily.

We passed something called the Medicare prescription drug act Not too long ago. There was a line in there. It was a lousy piece of Legislation number one. It had a line for \$1 billion for illegal healthcare. California spends that every single year. Eighty-six hospitals closed in 1995 in California alone. Hundreds more. Neonatal programs have closed. Simply because they can't afford the pressure placed on them by the use of people who are unable to pay.

I assure you our schools face some significant challenges in terms of not just the educational challenges posed. But a lot of children cannot speak english and who we allow by the way to continue to speak in a language other than English. Through bi-lingual programs. Because we are not reimbursed. We do not get back from the taxes that are paid. It can go on and on and on like that. The prison systems. 27% of people in the federal prisons are criminal aliens. The environment itself, we talk about the impact on the environment. We are concerned about the Environment. There is an illegal immigrant component to this. If nothing else, look and see what happens on the southern border. And what happened to the physical landscape there. Just that and the structure of the ecology is enormous. I don't see the Sierra club going through saying look at what's happening to the pristine damage and look how many generations it will take to recover.

There's another thing that's quite perplexing. We have to talk about immigration, massive legal and illegal on a culture. When we do not see a process. When you do not see assimilation occurring. That's a real rub. All of this we can deal with eventually. The worst thing we have to work with or work through is the fact that we are not seeing an assimilation process in the way we had in the past been able to observe it. I don't know about your grandparents. Mine came with the same desire of most people coming here as immigrants. To improve their lives, to get a better job. They came with somebody else, there was a strong desire to cut the ties from the past and connect to the new. My grandparents would never let my parents speak Italian in the home. They had to speak English. It was their way of saying we want to assimilate. We want to be part of the culture. Not just a job but to become Americans. There was a strong push on the side. Most people, when I talk to them, I hear the same story from their backgrounds. That's not happening today. Not to the extent necessary. Certainly it's happening at some level. But not to the extent necessary to maintain a society with some degree of homogeneity. It's not working. We do not encourage togetherness. We encourage separation. We encourage them to stay away from English. Because the numbers are so great. We cater to them in another way. That's the market. You offer ads in Spanish and papers places like (in Iowa), started printing their paper (in Spanish and English) everyday. This is a regular paper not a special edition bilingual paper, in Iowa. Bilingualism paper.

You can't ignore the fact that you have 10-12 million people living in this country calling themselves dual citizens. What does that mean? Understand something. There will be a time you would have a force of arms to defend yourself in that class. We need the force of ideas. We need to recognize the value of a nation based on (judaeo), Christian heritage idea, a Constitution based on this and a set of ideas. It's an important concept.

We have become so convicted by the multi-culturalism or (the)politically correct crowd that we are fearful of trying to pass on our own heritage. Our own set of values. The things that make America great. We're afraid to talk about them. We treat the issues differentially. The whole idea that cultural relatives we are always one generation away, one generation away from (tranny). Just because we had the experience the last hundred years, doesn't say we can continue it. We must pass it on to children. It has to be taught. It has to be something we hold

in common that we believe in. We can only do that if we are one people. People of different colors, different religious and attitudes and values and one people calling themselves Americans. It's more important than ever because we face a clash of civilizations.

Yes I talk about this issue at length. I hope I've been able to explain to you why I talk about it at length. It has far more to do with than (just) jobs, schools and medical care issues. It has to do with whether we make it over the next two hundred years, or maybe just twenty. Because there's a constant push to eliminate citizenship or uniqueness of America. We see it all the time. There's the idea (that) there's nothing significant here. What we are is really residents of the North American continent.

The president of Mexico says this in the address to the state of the Nation. He says there is no northern border and that the border of Mexico, he said is wherever there are Mexicans. This is not the first time that you have had a president of Mexico saying that. His predecessors admitted that there are no borders. (Someone was telling me) straight out about his ministry. Which was ministry for Mexicans (living) in the United States. I said what is it for? He said increase the flow. The flow of what? People he said. It doesn't matter whether they were coming in illegally or legally. They had a reduction in unemployment. It was a win/win and they got \$23 million a year sent back to Mexico.

The pressure to keep the borders is not just in the United States. It comes from countries all over. And especially our neighbors. As I said, I believe they are important issues. I believe they have to be discussed. I know they are uncomfortable for some but the degree to which people are uncomfortable, is almost always a sure determinate that it's a subject that has to be discussed. I hope I have not made you too uncomfortable today. I hope you understand what is the motivation for my being in this race and speaking on this issue as much as I do. Thank you very, very much for your kind time and attention.

I understand it's typical to take questions.

(audience member): [inaudible]... they pay a lot of money to the lawyers who then pass on not only the cost of application, but the very high costs for their connections and their ability to get them into the country. So that really, if you look at the INS reports and books and numbers that come out, these people are told that the wait times are maybe three, four, five, six, seven years (to get into the country legally). When in fact, a lot of regions around the world have been tapped for sometime as you know.

The INS is so far behind and as been so ineffective at getting legal entry for people who actually are waiting in line that they've created such a disincentive for people to enter legally that it's become almost impossible to gain legal entry in this country. Especially after nine eleven. The doors are closed. I believe that's why they come in illegally.

If you can address whether yhink the INS is remotely effective, that would be helpful...

(Tancredo): It's now ICE, Immigration Control and Enforcement. It's a disaster in terms of bureaucracy. It's hard when you are trying to gauge the level of incompetence of a federal bureaucracy. It's challenging. It's right up there at the top. However when you say it's capped... what has happened is that we rely almost entirely on family unification to get people into this country. That still is – I mean that amounts for the greatest number of people who gain entry. That's how they gain entry... because they have family members here. Naturally as one area of the world is overrepresented by the immigrants in this country, it's gonna expand the numbers of those particular people because it's a family unification thing.

We do in fact take in more than any other country. The door is not shut. Last time we set a record. About one million, two hundred and some thousand let in.

I go to the event where people, as I mentioned, where people become citizens. And I always tell them, you know, thank you. Welcome to America. Thank you for coming the right way. Then I always say how long have you been waiting here? I have a little flag pin that I will give out to someone when they had to wait the longest time. You know, the gift for having to do that. And there's sometimes somebody with a couple of years, most of the people there--most of the people going through the process have been waiting maybe six to eight months from the time they applied. They may have been here a long time.

I'm telling you that it happens in Colorado and I don't know that it's that unique. The fact is we do take in an awful lot of people every year more than everybody else. Certainly a lot more applying and certainly there are problems that should be – we should be able to figure out. I'm telling you I'm concerned about the issue of the legal part because of the assimilation aspect. We have to get this assimilation part down first. That, to me, is far more important than making sure the doors are opened wider.

You know, not too long ago I got into quite a little dispute with Governor bush, Jeb bush. Because I said – I was in Florida and somebody asked me about the problem of assimilation. I said you have a good example of it sixty miles from here. Speaking of Miami. It's a third-world country for all intents and purposes. Well, I got nasty letter from Jeb bush that said: well, we celebrate diversity here. I said celebrating it is one thing and making state of religion is another. What's happening is a majority of business is transacted in Spanish in Miami. It wasn't the other day that that was reported in "Time Magazine," sometime ago. "The reason I love Miami... There's absolutely no pressure here to be an American." I'm telling you that if that's the case and not just Miami, but other places around this country, then I want to get that straight before I get anything else straight about how many more people we're going to let in. Because the assimilation process is the most important aspect of the immigration process. Just having bodies come, that's not all that helpful. They have to assimilate. People have to assimilate into our society. I would concentrate on that before I would try to improve and increase the numbers. Which I say today are higher than any other country in the world.

(audience member): What numbers of the illegal immigrants that we have in the country are actually from Mexico and coming in and overstaying their Visa? Flying in and not flying home?

(Tancredo): It's about half. 45% we call illegal immigrants. That is to say 12-20 million figure constantly thrown out. Illegal immigrants. It's about half. 45% of all these people came in the country legally with a visa and simply overstayed it. Again we have a tendency to look at the problem as being a southern border problem. It is true that the majority of the people who come in the country illegally cross that southern border are Mexican or Hispanic or Latin American. The reality is every year there's a group that goes around the capitol with shirts on that say, you know, free the Irish. They're talking about all the Irish illegal immigrants in this country. They are lobbying us for us to give amnesty to the Irish, because there's so many of them here. It's not unique to the southern border or Mexico. About 45%.

(audience member): What will it take for us to take us back to the 1950's laws? I'm a product of what you're discussing. If we had enforced the laws, we would not have the problem we have today. In those days I had to go through a physical exam and I interviewed in English and (they) introduced (us) to the authorities of The American consulate...

(Tancredo): That's still the process. If you want to come in the country legally, you have to go through a process as you described. Start off at the embassy. Make (an) application, go through a background check. That's one of the reasons it takes as long as it does. It's not something you can do overnight. The problem is not that we don't have the process. The problem is that we ignore it. It doesn't matter. That's only one way to come into a country. There's another called coming across the border and staying. It makes a mockery out of this... what you just described. Why would anybody do it that way? That's my whole point.

You have to determine as a nation, are you going to enforce these laws or not? If you are, are you going to do so just at the border? Or are you going to say I'm going to go after employers to make sure to disconnect the magnet that draws them illegally? I think it has to happen. It's going to take a president. That's what it will take. There are laws on the books that will accomplish those things. It simply takes somebody committed to do so. We do not have that today. We have not had that for a long time. You have to have someone who says appoint a Head of Homeland Security and someone (at the) Head of the justice department, and Attorney general. And say, this is it. This is the new marching orders you're going to get. We're going to secure the borders and go after people who are here illegally and employers who employ them illegally.

And yes, I understand there's a great human cry for a Guest Worker Program. Well, I tell you, what we first need to do is before we talk about guest worker (programs), which frankly, I would challenge to begin with, this notion that we cannot live without the inflow of illegal Labor. But certainly the idea is to secure your borders and enforce the law internally in this country. It takes a president to do that. No other person.

Not too long ago, the – there's an example of this. A guy by the name of (Kareo). He's a head of the pastor sector for the border patrol and made a speech two weeks ago. He said the job of the Border Patrol is not to stop illegal immigrants coming into the country. A revelation. He said it's not to stop drug trafficking in the country. We're supposed to go after terrorists. When he was called on it from the press there, they reported and called our office. They called us and we challenged the idea that the border patrol is not to actually stop people from coming into this country illegally.

He said (I was) misquoted and (it was) taken out of context. We found Two weeks earlier he said the same thing. That's what he believes. He was not chastised and he got in no trouble from his superior, Mr. Agular. And he didn't get in trouble because his superior, the Homeland Security Secretary did not care and he didn't care because the guy who is his boss also didn't care. It's called the President of the United States. That's why we ended up with nobody saying a word about such an outrageous idiotic statement.

And nobody turned to the President of Mexico when he said there's no border. How come the President of the United states didn't turn to him and say I'll send you an atlas. There is a border. It's called the Rio Grande. And we will defend it just like you treat your southern border. We will ask the same thing of people you ask coming into your country. By the way they are very, very strict on immigration into Mexico. And should you show up there illegally without their permission, you would be in for a rude awakening. It's called a detention center. And it's an ugly place, while you're waiting to be deported. You don't get access to schools or jobs or healthcare.

Why is that it is perfectly acceptable for any other country in this world to secure its own Borders? But for us, this is something That we have to, you know, make apologies for. Hog wash. No more apologies. We are American. This is a country. It is a sovereign nation. Without it, you will see the continuation of this process. It will require a President who is dedicated to doing something about it.

(audience member): Good morning, thank you for coming. I'm glad we could deliver nice weather for you. I'm Kathryn Dodd in Post Secondary Education Commission here in New Hampshire. I wonder if you have any policy ideas that relate to education in terms of English language instruction and civic education for students going through educational systems.

(Tancredo): Yes, I do. First I'm opposed to bilingual education. Since I was in the state legislature in 1986, I started introducing bills to abolish it. I was teacher in the time when Colorado was the first state in the nation to pass a bilingual educational program. It was a bizarre (program) – it didn't have anything to do with education. It was a politically motivated. It took people out of

classes, who were not able to speak Spanish, they had a Spanish surname or checked on the box that was a language spoken at home and they were put in Spanish speaking classes – by the way, over the objection most of the time of their parents. As a teacher, I kept thinking, what is going on? Who is going over this idea? It's bizarre. Show me a place that allows movement of a transfer of a child into a classroom where he doesn't speak the language and be surprised that they could not do well and have a dropout rate that increased dramatically.

I looked into it. Most of it was politically based. Politically motivated. Not educationally driven. Children should be immersed in English at the earliest time possible in their educational career. The quicker the better. Do you care about kids? Do you really care about kids? Do you really want the best for them? Do you really want them to achieve something in their lives better than we could give our own kids? We want them always to do better. And if we really want that for our kids, you do not put a straight jacket on them in terms of linguistic capabilities. And that's what we were doing.

Now, it's changed in some states that have thrown it out entirely. Like California. And the children are doing much better academically speaking. My philosophy with regard to ESL. Or any program, the earlier the better. Immersion is better than a plan that keeps them in a class, where a language other than English is predominantly spoken. Higher education and the whole issue of whether or not we'll be able to, you know, pass on these civic values. That is a tougher one. That is a tough one. Especially tough to offer on the day when you know that the President of Columbia University has had Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who has been asked to speak at Columbia. I can't pass a law. There is no law to pass in congress, to make people appreciate the value of western civilizations. You can't do it. We can't control curriculums. I don't want to. I don't want the federal government involved in it. It will take, again, a president, a lot of rhetorical attention to this detail for the president of the United states.

There will be a clash going on in the halls of academe with the views of what the United States is about. But the President has a megaphone louder than anybody else and can redirect the rhetoric in the country, from my point of view. There is no magic bullet. I introduced a resolution. I introduced a resolution, a simple one that said all children graduating that it is the hope of congress – because I do not like mandates from the Congress. I don't believe we have any right whatsoever at the federal level to interfere in the education of the children of United States and constitutionally I don't believe we are empowered with that at the federal level.

The resolution says, the House of Representatives simply goes on record as saying – I guess that's the signal right? Time to shut up, Tom. The House of Representatives goes on record as saying we believe it would be good if children would graduate from school with an appreciation of the western civilizations. That's it. That's as far as I got.

The NEA, National Education Association, which I think should be sued for using the word of education in their title. They opposed it. How dare we say we want children coming out of our schools? How chauvinistic of us? We couldn't get it heard. It was just a resolution. We thought it would be a good idea. It was a resolution. Couldn't get it passed. Too controversial. It's a shame.

(audience member): In America, across America we have 13 million children living in poverty. We have more than 28,000 living in New Hampshire. Do you have a plan for families to earn not a minimum, but a livable wage to become self-sufficient?

(Tancredo) : It's interesting to note that the increase in child poverty is directly related, believe it or not, to the immigration rate. A significant portion of people we identify in that category are people who are here illegally, and their children. It's impossible. They will always come in at that level, when you bring in low-skill low-wage workers. That's the family that comes with them and they fall into that category. If you want to alleviate that to a certain extent, you reduce illegal immigration into the country.

Beyond that, the ability for people to earn a living wage. Now that's an interesting way that you put it. You see, I don't believe, for instance, that the Federal Government or any government has the slightest idea of what you're worth in the marketplace. Not a bit. I couldn't begin to tell you. Every time we say things like "we are establishing a minimum wage for people or increasing it"... I find it incredibly audacious – because you're telling me that the government knows the best rate that you're worth. If I can establish that, the minimum wage... seven dollars and twenty two cents, not eight dollars and fourteen cents, not four dollars and eight cents, not fifty dollars an hour, but seven twenty three... if you can come up with a concocted idea of what the minimum wage should, then why not do it for everybody?

Here's what we can do. We can begin moving away from a graduated income tax. I believe in fair tax. I believe we should move to it as quick as possible. It's a consumption tax. We will see an explosion in job opportunities in this country, once you get rid of a tax on productivity. Which is what a graduated income tax really is. It's a tax on productivity, the better you are the more productive you are, the more you're gonna get taxed. Another thing wrong with that system is that it is used by the government to manipulate behavior. Certain behaviors we reward, certain ones we punish.

Well I guarantee if we eliminate income tax, we will become the tax haven for the world. The average salary of Americans will rise, and by the way, if you reduce illegal immigration you will see an increase in the wage race. It's a supply demand issue. In Georgia, typical example – a chicken processing plant closes up because they get raided. Ninety percent of their employees were illegal. They said, we can't go on. What will we do? No one will do this job. Chicken processing is not a great job. They said they'd we'll give it a try. They go to the community and start talking to unemployment office in the state and work with people in the plant. Sure enough within a week the plant is opened and operating full capacity. They hired almost all black Americans. Many had never been employed before, had been on the unemployment roles for years.

What did they have to do? They had to go from \$7 to \$9 an hour and provide transportation. From the community to the plant because most folks didn't have a car and some sort of healthcare benefit. Well, you know what, the price of chicken didn't go through the roof. The plant's operating and people are making \$9 an hour instead of \$7. If you want to influence wage rates in this in the country, eliminate illegal immigration in that country. Thank you.

(Michael Chaney): And we appreciate your presence here in New Hampshire. We look forward to welcoming you back and appreciate the time that you have taken within a number of audiences in the state And as a memory of your visit, a Politics and eggs mug.

(Tancredo): I'm glad I brought a big suitcase.

(Michael Chaney): That concludes this morning's program. Have a great day.

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