SOME LARGER INSIGHTS AND LESSONS
From “ORDEAL IN WAUSAU”

Unanticipated & Unintended Consequences of Purposive Social Action

- Compounding effects – 1st stream (initial immigration; 2nd stream (secondary migration); 3rd stream (high birth rates & large extended families)

- Multiplying, confounding events (e.g., Hmong reproduction vs “white” reproduction rates—$2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 16 \rightarrow 64$ vs $2 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 8$ great grandchildren)

- Relative increases, absolute & relative (1980-200 Hmong; 1990-4,200 Hmong=11% of total population, 25% of school population)

- Differential distributions (35% Hmong HS pregnancy rate; children under age 6=30% Hmong vs 7.7% “white”)

- Cultural lag & cross-cultural disparities (e.g., menarche, marriage & family patterns, values, parental control, differential assimilation across generations)

- Differences in Asian groups in language skills, education levels, “urbanity”

- Disconnect between decision-makers (e.g., federal government) and program implementation (local agencies & communities)

- Changing demands on social priorities and allocation of resources (e.g., from better to just more)

- Importance & Salience of public schools – the institution that represents and is an arena of immediate social change; a vehicle of democratic “social engineering;” a gateway and/or gatekeeper especially in regard to social mobility and the access to desired futures
  * involve people’s children – their projected future
  * neighborhood level – area of perceived control
  * neighborhood schools = proximity of various social “boundaries”
  * immediate costs – time, money, taxes
  * everyday, ubiquitous presence
  * salience of language, the medium of instruction and social intercourse
THE RANGE OF RESPONSES TO IMMIGRATION

A. "No Way, No More!" Really close the borders, especially with Mexico, but ultimately to almost everyone from everywhere.
B. Breathing Room. Impose a short-term moratorium on immigration.
C. Encourage LEGAL immigration while discouraging ILLEGAL immigration.
D. Encourage more-selective immigration, so we get the people with the skills this country needs.
E. Open the Borders to everyone, and especially recognize that functionally we are becoming one economy with both Mexico and Canada.

WHERE DO YOU COME DOWN IN RE: THESE ALTERNATIVES?

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MAYBE BEFORE ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTION,
THERE MAY BE SOME OTHER QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON --

• Are we simply getting too many immigrants?
  How many is too many?

• Are we getting the “wrong” immigrants?
  Who are the “right” immigrants?

• Are we getting too many illegal immigrants?

• Since immigrants end up in states and local communities, who should be making these decisions?
  Can there be workable/enforceable policies below the level of the federal government (which, after all, monitors the national borders)?

• Should the impact of immigration and immigration policy on racial tensions be taken into consideration?

• Do we have too few immigrants?
  If so, how many is “enough?”

WHAT OTHER QUESTIONS OR CONSIDERATIONS WOULD YOU ADD TO THIS LIST?