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Letter to Editor; Land of xenophobia

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Land of xenophobia

ROGER SMITH

WATERLOO - Dear Rep. Braley: Often, foreigners arriving in the U. S. have been motivated by a desperate need to escape persecution, extreme poverty, violence, and other deplorable and unbearable conditions in their country of origin. Our new visitors from south of the border have themselves sought to escape from social unrest, poverty, economic challenges, the violence of drug cartels, corruption, and more. We of the Catholic faith believe that the more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him. On the other hand, we also expect that political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens. The images in the international media of recent events in northeast Iowa are going to portray America as a land of xenophobes or worse. It is very troubling, the illegal status of these immigrants to the contrary notwithstanding.

BLANCA GALVIN

WATERLOO - Yes, they are illegal, but they are still people who are trying to make a better life, which they can't do in their own poor countries. They are here to work, support their families in their countries. Some of them sell or pawn the little belongings they have to get here. For some of them, it takes almost a month to get here and work, work, work - work which Americans won't do. Instead, they are being supported by welfare. Illegals get it done and sometimes for less money. Illegals need help and support, just like the help Ronald Reagan gave a lot of illegal immigrants in 1986. That is why America is lucky to have Latino workers in their companies. This is not a big deal for governors, senators, etc., but it will enormously affect the Iowa economy. America believes in God, even American money says so. My question is, what is wrong with people from other countries trying to survive in the United States?