

Subject: Louis Roehr's letter of Sept. 4 re my Immigration essay

While I was disgusted with Louis Roehr's letter of Sept. 6 rebutting my essay on Immigration and Terrorism (Aug. 18), my first impulse was to let it be. Rational and honest dissent is expected and intellectually challenging debate is desired. Roehr's letter was neither. It was a dishonest, unintellectual attempt to impugn not only my integrity, but both the integrity and courage of the people who entrusted me, in spite of their fears, with their personal knowledge about potential terrorists coming through Mexico. We were stranded in Guadalajara airport after 9/11. I can still visualize the desperation on the face, not a foot from mine, of the intelligent and beautiful Mexican-American as she grasped my jacket lapels and emotionally implored me to "tell our government" of Middle Easterners coming into the USA with help from Mexicans. She and her physician husband were returning home after visiting her family in Mexico. I asked if her family or friends were involved. Her teary eyes confirmed it. Her husband nodded. I assured her I would inform our government. I did, but first I asked other associates in Mexico what they knew. They confirmed it. Two knew of anotherways non-Hispanics were being helped into the USA without visas. Coyotes on either side of the border used cell phones to identify non-Hispanics for corrupt border agents to permit into the USA. All were highly paid. This has been reported.

Herr Roehr's nonsensical attempt to disprove Hezbollah's threat at the South American Tri-Border would be laughable were it not so serious. How he can equate his frequent enjoyment of food, music und frauleins in the German communities of Argentina with Hezbollah's South American activities is beyond comprehension. Brainless! His assertion that terrorists could not exist in the Tri-Border region ignores what has now become well-reported. All he had to do was find the reference I gave from 2007 or Google Tri-Border Hezbollah and find over 9,000 references, even from Library of Congress and the US Treasury Department. Did Roehr's Treasury friend not know of the report about the region he represented?

Roehr even used the agents's misinformation to discredit me and my Mexican associates. This is very wrong! Dishonest, ignorant or both? No information is likely to change a mind cast in stone or one motivated not to inform or to be informed, but to impugn.

By the "Roehr logic" of there being no problem if it isn't visible, I must conclude that Mexico has no problems and no violence now. I didn't see the problems in association there from 1987 to 2007. Like Roehr, I dined with and enjoyed the company of many friends in many regions and never saw a problem. Therefore, the recently reported murder in Tamaulipas, where I frequently worked until 2007, of 72 Central and South Americans (as well as possibly non-Hispanics) by Los Zetas didn't happen. Nor was my friend Atilano murdered in Sinaloa two years ago, because this has always been a peaceful manufacturing place. And, surely Nuevo Leon (Monterrey) doesn't need the military force just assigned there because I've spent scores of days there with no evidence of problems. My best friend must have hired security for his family in the once quiet family town of Aquascalientes only because he wanted to spend the money. No problemas! And surely 28,000 people haven't been murdered in Mexico in the last three

years. And, for half of Mexico to be in virtual lock-down from Gurerro in the south to Mexicali and Sinoloa in the North surely is unnecessary. No problemas! False reports!

Herr Roehr, your letter was of no value to any objective person. It was foolish and worse. You will have misled some people, but they will want to be misled because, like you, they refuse to face reality and prefer to remain ignorant. I don't strive to be confrontational, especially with people I don't even know, but I won't slink away from attack, and I do not take such foolishness as your letter lightly. As I get further into the final chapter of life, I find it more and more difficult to suffer fools graciously. But, I thank you. Your letter gives me a bit more impetus to write the book I've been contemplating for some time lamenting the "Decline of America," or "The Breeding of Mediocrity In America." You have reinforced it.

Joe Mann

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