

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

Sen. Inhofe introduces new official English bill; Senate action possible

At the time this newsletter went to press the Senate was poised to take up a major immigration bill that had been the subject of secret negotiations between the Bush Administration and Senate Democrats led by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA). Despite claims that it was a “comprehensive” overhaul of immigration policy, the bill had no provision making English the official language of U.S. government operations. Instead it had a meaningless statement under the heading “Declaration of English” that “English is the common language of the United States.”

ProEnglish and its allies are hoping to amend the bill when it is up for debate on the Senate floor. A similar move succeeded last year when the Senate passed an amendment to an immigration bill by Sen. James Inhofe



Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)



(late) Senator S.I. Hayakawa (R-CA)

(R-OK) declaring English the ‘national language.’ But the House refused to take up the legislation and the measure died.

The likelihood of a Senate battle over official English increased after Sen. Inhofe introduced a new official English bill in early May. The “S.I. Hayakawa Official English Language Act of 2007,” S. 1335, was named in honor of the late U.S. Senator S.I. Hayakawa (R-CA). Sen. Hayakawa

was the first to introduce legislation to make English the official language when he served in the Senate from 1977 to 1983, and is widely acknowledged as the founder of the official English movement.

ProEnglish chairman Bob Park said, “We strongly commend Sen. Inhofe for his leadership in defending our nation’s historic unity in the English language by introducing S. 1335 to make English the official language of U.S. government operations. And we urge the Senate to follow the example of 30 U.S. states, and pass his urgently needed bill.”

Park urged official English supporters to contact their congressmen by writing, telephoning, or visiting ProEnglish’s website to send them a (free) email message.

What You Can Do

To call your U.S. Senators or U.S. Representative, call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to their office. To express your views on official English to President Bush, call (202) 456-1414. To email your congressional representatives and get information about bills in Congress, visit ProEnglish’s website, www.proenglish.org.

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Bilingualism: the good and the bad

“Bilingualism for the individual is fine, but not for a country.”

—U.S. Senator S.I. Hayakawa

EEOC sues Salvation Army over English policy

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a government agency charged with enforcing federal anti-discrimination laws in employment, is suing the Salvation Army claiming that its legal policy of requiring employees to speak English on the job somehow violates the 1964 civil rights law’s ban on “national origin” discrimination.

“Once again the EEOC is ignoring the intent of Congress, three decades of federal court decisions, and the plain meaning of words, in order to pursue its anti-English policy,” said ProEnglish Chairman Bob Park.

Two former Spanish-speaking employees of a Massachusetts Salvation Army store, from El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, filed complaints with the EEOC when they were dismissed for not speaking English on the job in violation of the charity’s written



policy. The two employees had been on the job for five years and had been given a year’s notice that they needed to learn English and speak English at work in order to keep their jobs. When they continued to speak Spanish, they were terminated.

The EEOC lawsuit charges the Salvation Army with “malicious and reckless conduct” and says the employees were discriminated against “on the basis of their national origin

(Hispanic) by requiring them to comply with the [charity’s] English-only rule.” The suit seeks back pay and reinstatement, as well as punitive damages. In a statement the Salvation Army strongly denied the charges saying its mission is “to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.” It said there was no legal basis for the complaint filed by the EEOC.

Park said, “The EEOC lawyers need to learn English themselves. ‘Hispanic’ is not a national origin. Nor is speaking Spanish a national origin any more than speaking English is. Once again the EEOC is twisting and distorting the meaning of words in Orwellian fashion in order to carry out its anti-English agenda,” he charged. Park said it was likely ProEnglish would file a court brief supporting the Salvation Army’s right to its policy.

The ProEnglish Advocate

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On Capitol Hill



Amnesty plan's English requirement a mirage

Proponents of the plan to amnesty millions of illegal aliens claim it requires them to "know English." But the requirement kicks in only after they have been here for another 8 years. Then they have three chances to pass the same watered-down English test now required of immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship. That test asks applicants to read and write two sentences in English, and answer a few simple questions such as, "Where are you from?" and "How long have you lived in the U.S.?"

"The Administration's tough words about requiring those who want to legalize their status to know English are meaningless," said ProEnglish Executive Director K.C. McAlpin. "They are meant to lull the public into believing something that isn't true," he added.

The plan does envision the creation of a point-based system for some future immigrants that would favor those with English skills. ProEnglish's view is that the U.S. should make English skills a *requirement* for immigration if the government persists in forcing taxpayers to foot the bill for translations and interpreters for those who cannot speak the language.

As things stand only legal immigrants who apply for citizenship are required to pass the watered down test described above. Legal immigrants can spend their entire lives in the U.S. without ever having to know a word of English, and millions do.

House considers rigging Puerto Rico statehood vote

The House held two hearings in April on H.R. 900, the (misnamed) Puerto Rico Democracy Act. The bill calls for a two-stage plebiscite on the question of Spanish-speaking Puerto Rico's future status that tries to ensure the island nation becomes the 51st state by rigging the vote.

Since 1968 Puerto Ricans have voted three times to remain the independent US commonwealth they are at present. Twice voters there were given three options to choose among: commonwealth, U.S. state, or independence. But in 1998, after losing two times previously, statehood forces tried to split the commonwealth vote by adding a fourth commonwealth option as well as "none of the

above" to the ballot. In protest, commonwealth forces urged a vote for "none of the above," which won.

This time statehood forces are trying the opposite strategy of limiting voter choices. Thus H.R. 900 calls for voters to have only two options to choose from in round one: remain a commonwealth or change the Island's status. The hope is that pro-Independence voters will join pro-statehood voters and produce a majority vote for "change." In the second round Puerto Ricans again would have only two options: either become a U.S. state or become fully independent.

ProEnglish opposes H.R. 900 because we believe the Island government must make English instruction mandatory in public schools and commit to transitioning fully into English as a precondition for admission as a state. Anything less invites all the conflicts of a society divided by language that ProEnglish adamantly opposes.

The second is that the referendum scheme, even if successful, is likely to leave Puerto Ricans divided and embittered. History shows that countries that annex territories whose population is hostile or indifferent to being incorporated almost always end up being resented as imperialist and sooner or later regret their actions.

Congressional scorecard

ProEnglish strongly endorses the three official English bills that have been introduced in this Congress.

Rep. Steve King's (R-IA) "English Language Unity Act" is gaining co-sponsors at a healthy clip. The bill, H.R. 997, already has 102 bi-partisan co-sponsors which is almost a quarter of the entire House.

Rep. Peter King's (R-NY) "National Language Act," H.R. 769 that eliminates bilingual ballots in addition to making English the official language has 54 co-sponsors.

Senator James Inhofe's recently introduced "S.I. Hayakawa Official English Language Act," S. 1335 currently has 2 co-sponsors in the Senate.

You can see the text and a list of the co-sponsors for each of these bills by visiting ProEnglish's website at www.proenglish.org.



In the Courts

Housing groups join fight to block Executive Order 13166

The National Apartment Association and the National Multi Housing Council, two national trade associations, recently filed suit in the District of Columbia to stop the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from implementing Executive Order 13166 (E.O. 13166)

E.O. 13166 requires government agencies like HUD and all other recipients of federal funds to provide interpreter and translation services for persons who don't speak English. Apartment owners and multi-family housing companies that accept federal rent subsidies for low income tenants are covered by the rule.

The complaint charges HUD with acting "in excess of and contrary to HUD's statutory authority" in implementing the order, and dismisses the government's attempt to equate language and national origin discrimination as "contrary to law."

The lawsuit is similar to a legal challenge ProEnglish filed together with a national doctors' group in 2004, challenging the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) implementation of E.O. 13166. That case is currently awaiting a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal over whether or not ProEnglish and its co-plaintiffs have the standing to challenge HHS in court.

The new court challenge against HUD is a significant step forward in the fight to overturn E.O. 13166 according to ProEnglish's General Counsel Barnaby Zall. "There is no question that these trade associations, representing more than a thousand multi-family housing organizations are directly affected right now by E.O. 13166," said Zall. "So the

Justice Department should not be able to use procedural tricks to avoid court review of this unfounded order, which has been how the Department has countered ProEnglish's lawsuits against E.O. 13166 so far," he added.

9th Circuit turns down Arizona restaurant appeal

By a 2-1 vote, a 9th Circuit court turned down an appeal by the owners of an Arizona restaurant to overturn a court-ordered settlement of an English-on-the-job lawsuit. The owners say they never agreed to the settlement as required by law.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) sued Richard and Shauna Kidman, the owners of RD's Drive-In in Page, Arizona, in 2001 and charged them with illegal discrimination for having an English language policy at their restaurant.

Under intense pressure from the judge handling their case, the Kidman's made the mistake of participating in negotiations aimed at settling the lawsuit out of court. When they refused to sign an EEOC-drafted settlement agreement containing provisions that had not even been raised in the negotiations, the judge intervened and ordered them to abide by a settlement he crafted.

ProEnglish has been helping the Kidmans defend themselves. They are now considering an appeal to the entire 9th Circuit. The judge's settlement order has protected the EEOC because it has denied the Kidmans the opportunity to defend the legality of their English-on-the-job policy in court.

ProEnglish advisory board member authors new book

Georgia-based media consultant Phil Kent, a member of ProEnglish's national board of advisors, recently authored a new book entitled *Foundations of Betrayal*. In it Kent reveals how huge tax-exempt foundations like Ford and

Rockefeller, and some new foundations like those run by billionaire kingpin George Soros are deliberately undermining American institutions and values. Those values include the rule of law, the 'Melting Pot' ideal, English as our common

language and American sovereignty. The goal: to transform the U.S. into a balkanized society virtually unrecognizable to Americans today.

Published by Zoe Publications, the book sells for \$24.95 and is available at Amazon.com.

Youth strongly favor making English official

A Harvard University survey of the political attitudes of America's youth found 72 percent favor making English the official language of the U.S. The poll of 2,923 people ages 18-24 was the seventh annual survey the University has done analyzing the political and cultural attitudes of America's young people.

Among the findings, majorities of Hispanic and Asian young people favor making English official too.

"We always knew there was strong support for making English the official language among the greatest generation," said Ben Piper, director of government relations for ProEnglish. "Now we know that the next generation is equally

passionate about preserving our unity in the English language."

The poll was conducted March 8-26 and has a 3 percent margin of error. It comes on the heels of two national polls last year that showed Americans as a whole favor making English the official language by lopsided 84 percent and 85 percent majorities.

On the need to teach the "comers"

"I think personally that [an official English law] will help, because it's much better to speak English. But we have to educate the comers."

—Psychiatrist and immigrant Alvaro Argueta, guest speaker at an April ACLU forum on illegal immigration.

Presidential candidates duck questions on language

This March ProEnglish sent a letter to every candidate identified as running for either the Republican or Democratic nomination for president and asked them to answer three questions to identify where they stand on the issue of language.



1. Do you support making English the "official language of government of the United States?" (not just some vague "national language")

2. Do you support repealing the law that requires voting ballots and election materials to be made available in languages other than English? (e.g. bilingual ballots)

3. Would you rescind Executive Order 13166, the order that forces federally-funded agencies and individuals to provide interpreters and translations for their non-English speaking clients?

ProEnglish followed the letter up with a second letter in May, faxing and mailing it as well as sending it via email to the candidates. But by the time this newsletter went to press only two Republican candidates: Rep. Tom Tancredo and Rep. Duncan Hunter had replied. Both the GOP candidates answered "yes" to all three questions. None of the Democratic candidates had responded.

ProEnglish urges all supporters of official English to help us by asking these questions of presidential candidates and urging them to clarify their positions on preserving our nation's unity in the English language.

Around the Nation



Idaho & Kansas make 30 states with official English

This spring Idaho and Kansas joined a growing majority of states that have made English their official language.

ProEnglish director of government relations Ben Piper said, "The decisions by Idaho and Kansas to adopt English as the official language of government operations could not come at a better time. This puts added pressure on Congress to pass legislation at the national level."

Piper appeared before a committee of the Kansas legislature to testify in support of the state's official English legislation early this year.

A national poll last December found that by more than 2-1, voters think that Congress and the president are not doing enough to defend English's historic role as the unifying language of the United States.

"The failure of leadership at the national level is partly to blame for the growing move by state and local governments to pass their own official English laws and ordinances," Piper said. But he noted that even if an official English law were adopted at the national level, under our federal system there would be a need for states and local governments to act.

"There is a lot of talk by lawmakers in Washington D.C. these days about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. If those lawmakers are sincere, official English will be part of any reform package," Piper added.

Nevada likely to be next

Nevada could be the 31st state to make English its official language.

State Sen. Bob Beers is the author of S.B. 325, which requires all official proceedings of the state to be in English, and requires the legislature to take "all steps necessary to ensure that English is preserved and enhanced as the common language of this State."

The bill passed the Senate, 19-2. It is waiting for a vote in the House, where it is likely to pass, and be signed by Republican Governor Jim Gibbons. "A large number of Democrats voted for it, about

80 percent, so it appears to have universal appeal," Beers said.

Official English bills have been introduced in many other states this year, including Connecticut, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Other states are considering toughening already-existing laws. Internet users can find up-to-date information on the status of official English legislation in their state by visiting the "state profiles" page on ProEnglish's website, www.proenglish.org/states.html.

To subscribe to ProEnglish Action Alerts, go to <http://capwiz.com/proenglish/mlm/verify>

California city chamber launches English campaign

Santa Ana, California is America's 51st largest city. According to the Census it also has the highest percentage of Hispanic residents, 76 percent, and the lowest percentage of residents who speak English at home.

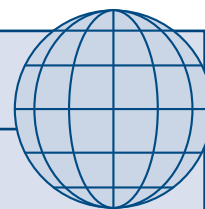
But Santa Ana's Chamber of Commerce is out to change the last part. Business owners there are struggling to find workers who can speak English. So the Chamber has launched a \$4.6 million campaign aimed at getting 50,000 workers to learn English.

"Two-thirds of the workforce does not qualify for an entry-level job because they do not speak English," according to Chamber Vice President Dale Ward.

Mike Weisman, another Chamber official whose firm created the campaign, told the *Los Angeles Times*, "Business owners are screaming for workers, but they need to learn English... If you can't speak English you might not find a job."

City officials are firmly behind the campaign which, if successful, will boost the economy by improving the skills of the local workforce. Santa Ana has applied for \$1 million in funds from the federal government, through Empowerment Zone programs aimed at revitalizing depressed or impoverished local economies. The city intends to spend much of that money on English classes.

Around the World



Madagascar becomes 53rd country to make English official

The island nation of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa became the 53rd nation to adopt English as an official language following a national referendum. The change was one of several constitutional changes backed by 75 percent of voters in elections held in early April.

English will now be one of the country's three official languages along with French and Malagasy. Several years ago the country's democratically elected president, Marc Ravalomanana, added English instruction to the curriculum of the country's schools.

Thirty-one of the 53 official English countries have made English their sole official language. The U.S. is one of the few countries in the world without an official language.

UK imposes English requirement for residency

In response to worries that immigrants are not assimilating into British society the British government has begun requiring immigrants to know English before they enter the country.

Applicants for permanent residency are now required to pass a 24-question exam demonstrating their proficiency in English as well as knowledge about the history, politics, and culture of the country. Questions include: "How

many deputies sit in the Scottish Parliament?" And "When was Queen Elizabeth II crowned?"

The test has long been required of immigrants seeking to naturalize. But beginning April 2 the British government began requiring them for permanent residence as well.

Commenting on the new policy British Immigration Minister Liam Byrne was quoted by *Agence France-Presse* saying, "Having a good grasp of English is essential in order for [new immigrants] to play a full role in society and properly integrate into our communities."

English becoming world dominant

English is spoken at varying degrees of fluency by about a quarter of the world's population according to recent estimates, an unprecedented level of linguistic penetration.

"English is dominant in a way that no language has ever been before," says Manhattan Institute scholar John McWhorter, adding "It is vastly unclear to me what actual mechanism could uproot English given conditions as they are."

Estimates are that there are three times as many people who speak English as a second language as there are native speakers of English. And the language is now spoken by significant numbers of people in every country on earth.

ProEnglish launches Internet push

ProEnglish has launched an ambitious effort to more than triple the number of people that regularly use our website to support official English. The website, www.proenglish.org, is already the most-visited website in the official English movement. Thousands have used it to send messages to Congress and other public officials. ProEnglish's goal is to get thousands more involved.

Using the website is simple: Supporters can use it on their own or in response to ProEnglish Action

Alerts sent to them via email. The site is designed to help people communicate with their public officials in the way that is most effective for the situation, whether by e-mail, phone, or fax. There are even "talking points" which can be added to an e-mail or fax with a single click of a mouse. Users also can also choose to receive periodic email Action Alerts with information about important legislative developments.

Each state now has its own page, with information about pending or

existing legislation, demographic information, and information about contacting elected officials. Users can find useful information about their elected officials including voting records and other actions on English-related bills. There is even help about how to send letters to the editor of local newspapers.

To learn more visit:
www.proenglish.org
or our Legislative Action Center at capwiz.com/proenglish.

