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Opinion

TRENTONIAN EDITORIAL: Obama deporting many more aliens than Bush did

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We interrupt the tumultuous demands that the Obama administration ratchet up efforts to secure the U.S.-Mexico border to note that the administration is doing so, according to non-partisan research.

From last Oct. 1 through June, 137,000 criminal aliens were deported — 60 percent more than in a comparable period in President Bush's last year in office. So reports the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) based at Syracuse U.

Over that same nine-month period under Obama, a total of 279,000 illegals were removed from the United States, TRAC reports. That figure was 10 percent better than the Bush administration's record over a comparable period in its last year in office.

The figure of 137,000 deported illegals classified as criminal aliens casts doubt on anti-enforcement activists' claims that fears of law-breaking illegals are the figment of xenophobic imaginations. The activists insist that many of the 137,000 actually were involved in trivial offenses. Maybe so — but hardly all.

Immigration authorities say 17 percent of the 137,000 had committed serious offenses including homicides and assaults. Most illegals are here seeking legitimate work, true. But the 17 percent figure comes out to 23,290 serious felons — not a number to be dismissed with a scoff.

No question about it, though — the overall numbers put the lie to overwrought complaints heard on the Right that Obama is ignoring the border.

This the president can legitimately be boastful about, because, as Dizzy Dean said, "It ain't braggin' if you done it."

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