



President Spula's Statement on the Immigration Debate:

Friends:

In keeping with our tradition, the Polish American Congress will continue to assist and defend the civil rights and safety of our members and our extended families, people with roots in Poland.

The immigration issue has been with us since our beginning in 1944. The current critical situation is not entirely of our making.

Polish Americans and the Polish American Congress have supported the entry of hundreds of thousands of Displaced Persons into our country after World War II. We initiated legislation in the United States to provide political amnesty during the dramatic days of Solidarity. We have supported many important provisions on immigration reform that were passed in successive years.

We, the PAC, have always promoted and supported the legal way to integrate the influx of Polish immigrants into our country.

We must continue to be the voice of the silent and be vigilant at all times concerning issues such as this. Today, we are at the crossroads where the situation is polarized between those who wish to protect our country, those who wish to punish, and those who wish to incorporate some humanity into the process. The position of the PAC is clear:

We support providing border security and a legal path to citizenship, family reunification, and workers rights. At the same time we must be mindful that there are hundreds of thousands of individuals in the legal immigration system, still waiting in line, for their time to become U.S. citizens, and their opportunity to be reunited with their families.

This concern is what we now must pass on to our elected officials and our Senators, by email, fax or telephone IMMEDIATELY.

Today we are at a historical moment when the future of immigration to the United States is being shaped. We, Polish Americans, again need to stay united and, just as in case of NATO expansion, to make our voice heard. We need to make sure that our Senators nationwide are aware of the position of millions of Polish Americans. We need to take action NOW, TODAY. Please contact your Senator TODAY and

- (1) Give the receptionist your name and address;
- (2) tell him or her that you support immigrants' rights and a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants;
- (3) urge a yes vote on any amendments to make the Specter immigration reform bill less punitive; and
- (4) urge a no vote on amendments that would make it even more anti-immigrant.

God bless you and the United States of America.

Frank J. Spula

President

I hope that this will answer your questions. If there is any other information that we could provide, please do not hesitate to contact our Washington Office:

(202) 296-6955

or via email: pacwash@polamcon.org.

With best regards,

Col. Casimir I. Lenard, AUS (Ret.)

Executive Director ☐

News from

The Polish American Congress Anti-Bigotry Committee

177 Kent St.,

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11222

(718) 349-9689

Polish Survivors correct another Holocaust misrepresentation

Contact: **Frank Milewski**

(718) 263-2700 Ext. 105

NEW YORK, N.Y. – NJ 101.5's talk show hosts Carton & Rossi aired what was, for them, a very different type of show from what they usually give their audience. It was an interview with two Polish Catholic survivors of the Holocaust who are members of the Polish American Congress.

An agreement to do the interview was reached only minutes before air time with a delegation from the Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Polish American Congress in New York.

The group had come to the station's Trenton studios to meet with management and the radio personalities to correct a false statement previously made about the Polish people in World War II.

It was bad enough when Carton & Rossi went after New Jersey State Senator Raymond Leśniak and called him a "Polack."

Politicians may be fair game for the media but most Polish Americans feel the word "Polack" is just as offensive as "nigger," "kike" or "spic" would be to someone else.

Then, Carton really lost his cool when a listener called in to object to the duo's bashing of Leśniak with that word and reminded them that Hitler and the Nazis also denigrated the people of Poland as they occupied that country in World War II.

Carton interrupted the caller and asked him if he was Jewish. "No, Catholic," he answered. Carton shot back: "and you're going to tell a Jew (Carton is Jewish) about the Holocaust? Half the Polacks joined the Nazi Party - to do what - kill Jews" and disconnected the caller.

The incident created a furor in the Polish American community, even beyond the local area. Senator Leśniak was upset. So were countless Polish Christians whose families the Germans tortured or murdered the same way they tortured and murdered the Jews of Poland.

Also upset was Michael Preisler who personally got to know how the Germans tortured and murdered their victims because he spent more than three years as one of their prisoners in Auschwitz. So was Paul Wos who survived the Flossenburg concentration camp. But before the Germans sent Wos there, he and his parents rescued twelve Jews from the clutches of the Nazis and saved their lives.

Mr. Preisler and Mr. Wos are spending their latter years speaking and educating the public about "the anti-Christian, the anti-Catholic prejudice which has now become so evident among some so-called Holocaust historians and is destroying the reliability of that history."

Both of them felt the statement Carton blurted out was so absurd that he must have done it more from ignorance than from malice.

But they also thought the accusation, preposterous as it was, badly needed a correction. Despite their age and physical constrictions, they wanted to go and personally confront Carton about his false accusation.

So they asked Frank Milewski who heads the Anti-Bigotry Committee to arrange a meeting with the Millennium Radio Group which employs Carton & Rossi.

"We are deeply grieved by such an outright lie you allowed on your station," Milewski advised Millennium. "Mr. Carton should not be permitted to mislead your

audience by making such malicious and fraudulent charges. It is distressing that you have not yet rebuked him for it and directed him to correct this falsehood." Millennium agreed to a meeting.

In a two-hour session prior to show time, Preisler and Wos gave Millennium and their talk show hosts a Polish perspective on Holocaust history which often has been "deliberately suppressed."

Over the years, Preisler noted "only Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals are usually recognized as the 'other' victims besides the Jews. Rarely the Christians."

When Paul Wos and his parents were honored at the Israeli Consulate in New York with the Yad Vashem Medal as "Righteous Among the Nations," the Consul General played an audiotape recorded by one of the Jews the Wos family had rescued. In it, he thanked them for risking their lives to do it. Mr. Wos brought the tape with him and asked Carton & Rossi to listen to it and learn from it.

When Preisler and Wos took their seats at the microphones of NJ101.5, they were able to tell listeners in New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania and New York facts about the Holocaust which most of them, undoubtedly, never heard before.

They emphasized that the magnitude of the Holocaust was even greater than what has thus far been revealed. It was not limited simply to Jews and some small minority groups but also included millions of Christians like Preisler and Wos.

Preisler recalled how he was told when he first arrived in Auschwitz that the only way out of there was up the chimney of the crematorium.

These days, when people notice his Auschwitz number engraved on his arm, they usually express their sympathy and respect for the Jewish people.

When Preisler tells them he is Christian and not Jewish, the most common response from them is "we didn't know there were Christians in Auschwitz."

When a puzzled Carton asked Wos why he and his parents were willing to risk the possibility of being killed for trying to rescue someone else, Wos told him "because I am a Christian."

In its official statement issued after the Polish survivors appeared on the station, Program Director Eric Johnson said "New Jersey 101.5 was happy to extend an invitation to the Polish American Congress and work in cooperation with them to resolve this issue." ☐

**Please send articles
about your
Polish Organization
To the
NEWS OF POLONIA**

Homeland Security wants to toughen travel rules for Europeans

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has suggested Europeans register online and fill out a questionnaire 48 hours before they're allowed to enter the United States under a visa-waiver program. The current program allows citizens from most Western European countries to enter the country without visas.

In a *St. Petersburg (Florida) Times* article by Steve Huettel... Tourism business leaders looking for European travel to pick up in Pinellas County got a jolt of bad news.

Comments by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff that he wants to tighten travel rules for Europeans entering the United States were playing badly in Germany, said D.T. Minich, the county's tourism chief.

While no changes seem imminent, the statements published by a major German magazine last weekend and picked up in other media may reinforce feelings that travel to the United States is too much of a hassle, he said.

"It seems like we've got another downward turn in terms of perception," Minich told the county's Tourist Development Council. Nearly 900,000 Europeans, most from England and Germany, came to Pinellas last year. They accounted for 17 percent of the county's 5.25-million overnight visitors.

That number was down 2 percent from the year earlier, the first annual drop since 2002. Tourism officials were shocked because the strengths of the euro and pound against the dollar have made travel to the United States a bargain for Europeans.

Those who do come here "are literally buying suitcases to bring stuff home," said Minich.

Florida doesn't break out numbers of European visitors. But travel by overseas tourists overall was down 2 percent, to 4.3-million, last year. Visits by overseas visitors, particularly Western Europeans, were also off nationally.

Tourism experts point to several reasons. Fuel prices sent trans-Atlantic air fares soaring. Other destinations - including Dubai, Egypt and Australia - heavily advertise to Europeans.

But there's also a public perception, widely reported in England and Germany, that the United States has gone overboard on security. Travelers say obtaining a visa has become a hassle and customs agents grill them like criminals when they enter the United States.

"We're making it harder instead of finding ways to encourage them," said Doreen Moore, a council member and owner of Travel Resort Services in Madeira Beach.

In comments to the magazine *Der Spiegel*, Chertoff said Europeans wishing to visit the country without a visa should register online

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Polish American Congress

Southern California Division

Invites you to attend our annual meeting
and election of officers

Sunday, June 24 - 2:00 P.M.

Polish Reirement Home - Szarotka
3400 W. Adams Blvd. - Los Angeles
(East of the Our Lady of Bright Mount Church)

**Non-members of the
Polish American Congress
are welcome to attend our meetings
to see the many projects we have achieved
and are working on for Polonia.**

Richard Wideryński, President
Information: (626) 577-9797

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