

Billion Dollar Properties  
A Monologue

written by

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SCENE 1

AT RISE:

*The stage is bare, with maybe the logo of a company or something to invoke a TEDTalk or a Steve Jobs like presentation. A well dressed, well spoken, good looking WHITE woman, roams the stage. Think a Tomi Lahren, Dana Loesch type.*

LUCRETIA

Illegal immigration is good for America. I know, I know, that may seem like a shock to some of you, but it's true. Illegal immigration is good for America because it's good for business and illegal immigration is good for business because it is a business. In fact, it is one of the most profitable businesses in America today and you didn't know it.

I can see you out there, crunching the numbers and doing the math. You know the numbers; roughly five percent of the civilian workforce in this country is made up of illegal immigrants. You're trying to figure out how much they pay in taxes -- and I can give you those numbers if you want -- but that's not what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about the billion dollar industry in detaining, housing, and taking care of illegal immigrants as they cross our borders.

We LOVE it when the conservative media, when conservative senators and representatives, candidates for office and the conservative working men and women of this country complain that the government can't do anything right. We cheer right along with everyone else to the cries of "drain the swamp", but for different reasons. We cheer because we know sooner or later they will come up with a plan, lack the infrastructure to enforce it, and come to us to fulfill it.

Take, for example, the congressional mandate that I.C.E. Must maintain thirty-four thousand immigration beds on a daily basis, at an estimated cost of one-hundred and fifty-nine dollars a night per person. There are, of course, cheaper options and alternatives, but this is the plan that has been devised and left up to us to implement. Over the course of a year, immigration detention centers costs the government almost two billion dollars.

And when you add in the cost of housing children, you can charge the government even more! Anywhere from three to seven hundred dollars a day per child. I know of one non-profit that got a government contract for over nine-hundred million dollars to house undocumented children.

(MORE)

## LUCRETIA (CONT'D)

You see, America cannot capture, detain, transport, and deport people without enlisting us, a network of outside companies, to carry out these tasks.

When the administration devises and enforces a "zero-tolerance" border policy -- a policy that requires one of the largest government presences in years -- but doesn't have the staff to execute it, they farm it out. To us.

Some of you, I can tell, aren't entirely comfortable with this type of work. But this is what we do. When there is dirty work that needs to be done -- weather that's raids and murder in Iraq or warehousing immigrants -- they call on us and protect us. We're safe from many of the transparency rules or Freedom of Information Act requests that our friends in the government aren't safe from. We can decide what information to disclose and who to let in.

Again, THIS is what we do. In fact, if the government were to abolish our contracts, the whole thing would crumble. JUST. LIKE. THAT.

So, embrace this industry. Embrace the billions that are out there to be made and embrace those wonderful illegal immigrants -- who have hiked through conditions unimaginable, sacrificed all they have, run from dangers we can possibly never know, all to escape to a better life -- embrace them because of them, YOU too can have the BEST life.