

# Our Illegal Population Continues to Rise

*INS now puts it at 5 million*

by Ken Hamblin

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has released a new report which confirms what millions of Americans have been saying for a long while — that the sovereignty of our nation is at risk from a flood of illegal immigrants who are usurping the benefits of being American citizens.

The INS report indicates that the number of illegal immigrants who live within our borders has increased to about 5 million, and is swelling by about 275,000 a year.

According to this newly released data, the illegal population has increased 28 percent in the past four years, and illegal immigrants now represent as much as 2 percent of the population.

I suggest that this new data be accepted for what it is — evidence of the implementation of liberal policies in Washington and aimed at doing away altogether with immigration restrictions, perhaps even doing

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**Ken Hamblin** is a syndicated columnist. This article is © 1997, New York Times News Service and is reprinted by permission.

away with the border between the United States and Mexico.

If that seems absurd, how else can we explain such a flagrant disregard for our immigration statutes?

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***“...the effort to prevent illegal immigration has been reduced to little more than a recreational game of socio-political dodgeball between would-be illegals and the sympathetic U.S. government.”***

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The truth is that the effort to prevent illegal immigration has been reduced to little more than a recreational game of socio-political dodgeball between would-be illegals and the sympathetic U.S. government.

Rather than enforcing the law by expelling illegals, the liberals who hold sway over the INS are likely to send them — particularly those who fit into the romanticized category of the beleaguered Mexican poor — into the waiting arms of some

human-rights group that entertains the notion that Mexicans still have a legal claim to the Southwestern United States.

This bizarre notion has been advanced into mainstream politics by a ragamuffin cadre of political activists.

Their stance would be humorous were it not encouraged directly by generally liberal media bemoaning the circumstances of the runaway Mexican peasants. This support is seconded by turncoat conservatives such as former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and former Education Secretary Bill Bennett.

Kemp and Bennett contributed to this absurd extremist movement by siding with the opposition to California's Proposition 187, a 1994 referendum intended to free the state's overburdened taxpayers from footing the bill to support illegal aliens flowing across their state's borders.

At the time, according to the Urban Institute, Californians supported some 15,000 illegals in their prisons. They paid another \$166.5 million annually for emergency medical care, and \$1.3 billion annually to educate illegal immigrants' children.

The federal government refused to reimburse Californians for these unjust costs. Believing

that they had been abandoned by the federal government and by opportunistic politicians such as Kemp and Bennett, California voters overwhelmingly voted Proposition 187 into law.

However, that victory was stolen from them when state and federal judges recently ruled that illegal immigrants could not be denied services and that their children could not be expelled from California schools.

Is it any wonder that the illegal population in the United States continues to rise?

The INS report spotlighting the ever-increasing number of illegals represents a glaring failure of the liberal Immigration

Reform Act of 1986.

This grandiose plan granted amnesty to almost 3 million illegal immigrants living in the country at the time. It was supposed to be an act of compassion which, according to liberal logic, would stem the flow of Mexicans across the border from that time forward.

Once again, though, time has proven what the average American already knew and could have told the politicians in Washington: cruel as it may seem, we cannot afford compassion—the more lenient and kind-hearted we become, the more illegals Mexico flushes

north for us to support.

The proof is in the pudding—or in the latest INS report to be precise.

“The illegal population has now reached the level that it was before the 1986 amnesty,” says a spokesman for the Center for Immigration Studies quoted in the *Washington Post*. “The past ten years have essentially canceled out the entire effect of the amnesty.”

The fact is, we don't need any new political solutions. This is a matter of law. And the American people know—even if the Washington politicians don't—that all we have to do is enforce the law. **TSC**

# Immigration: The View from MacArthur Park

*So much for secure IDs*

by Don Feder

A man in a Lakers cap sold me a California driver's license.

Ira Mehlman, who runs the Los Angeles office of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, wanted to show me how easy it is for illegal immigrants to get bogus IDs. We went to MacArthur Park and drove around slowly.

A man approached. Ira said I

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needed a license. (“Would you like a green card, too?”) We repaired to one of those passport photo places. “One hour,” said my supplier.

While I waited, he ran customers in and out of the store. Most did not look like international travelers. My license—in the name of Fernando Feder (olé!)—cost \$70.

It's close enough to the real thing to pass muster in most situations. With it, I could get a job, go on welfare or register to vote. Any idea how Bob Dornan lost his House seat to Loretta Sanchez last November?

“Would you like to see Tijuana next?” Ira teasingly inquired. “It's five minutes from here.” Sure enough, just a few blocks from the gleaming skyscrapers of L.A.'s business district, on Broadway between First and Seventh, is a Third World enclave—store windows devoid of English signs, alien sights, sounds and faces.

In New England, immigration laps gently at our shore. In Southern California, it's tidal waves crashing on the border.

The day before my alien encounter, I met with a group of immigration reform activists. Terry Anderson is a 47-year-old

black man who repairs windshields. He's lived on the same block in South Central since 1954.

have made that demarcation 'twixt Tijuana and San Diego.

"A few years ago, I read three articles on the problems in our schools, hospitals and prisons.

***"Why are we importing poor people? Why are we importing sick people? Uneducated people? Don't we have enough problems here already?"***

Each mentioned immigration as an afterthought, but the statistics were significant." Gourley rattled them off: "Of women giving birth in L.A.'s public hospitals, two-thirds are illegals.

Twenty-five percent of our prison population is illegal alien. In the L.A. Unified School District, 48 percent of all students are English-limited."

"My neighborhood is lost," Terry claims. Two doors away from him, five immigrant families bought a two-bedroom house. "They've got chickens and goats! They hang their wash on the front fence."

"Why are we importing poor people? Why are we importing sick people. Uneducated people? Don't we have enough problems here already?" the ex-mayor asked. I suggested that he direct his inquiries to Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., and other immigration utopians.

Blacks are being displaced. "I know a man who was a drywaller for years. Made \$15 an hour. Good at his job. The boss fires him. Says he can hire these three Mexican brothers for \$5 a piece."

Barbara Coe worked 13 years for the Anaheim police department. Coe got involved with the issue in 1991 when she visited a welfare office on behalf of a crippled World War II veteran. "Of 300 people waiting for an appointment, four were Anglos. There was a line for Spanish-speakers, a line for Chinese-speakers and a line for English-speakers. Guess which was closed."

Anderson is bitter. "Black kids in my neighborhood are told they have to learn Spanish to work at McDonald's. Whose country is this?"

Francisco Martinez, whose family is from the Caribbean, is also black and a first-generation American. He, too, worries about immigration. "Hispanics look down on us because we were slaves. They say we don't have a culture."

Coe became a leader of the Proposition 187 campaign.

"Three days after 187 passed (since stayed by the courts), the other side held a conference at U.C.-Riverside. Brown Berets with clenched fists were shouting, 'Kill the racists' — that's us."

Her group tried to hold a demonstration at the federal building on Wilshire Boulevard last July 4. Families with children were assaulted by Hispanic activists screaming obscenities and throwing frozen soda cans. Heads were split open. No arrests were made.

Anderson quotes a Mexican in his neighborhood, each of whose eight children was born at taxpayers' expense and who is currently enjoying a whole welfare enchilada, "America is the stupidest place imaginable" — an assessment difficult to dispute.

"This is the destruction of the United States," Martinez laments. MacArthur Park isn't all that's melting in the dark — as well as the light of day. **TSC**

Steven Gourley, the former Democratic mayor of Culver City, created a furor during the Gulf War by observing that instead of drawing a line in the sand between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, George Bush should