

fused 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 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.

Don Feder is a syndicated columnist, ©1997, Creators Syndicate. Reprinted by permission.

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.

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

"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."

Blacks are being displaced. "I know a man who was a drywall 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."

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."

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 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. 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."

"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.

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."

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**

Israel's government plans to consider deporting tens of thousands of foreign workers and offering their jobs back to Palestinians, a Jerusalem newspaper reported. An estimated 300,000 Asians, Africans, South Americans, and Eastern Europeans began arriving three years ago to fill jobs previously held by Palestinians now barred from working in Israel because of terrorist attacks. A Palestine Authority official welcomed the proposal.

— *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 22, 1997

How Should the GOP Handle Immigration?

A WSJ column by Paul Gigot and a letter-to-the-editor response by John Tanton

Who says the last election changed nothing in Washington? Try telling that to the conservatives now denouncing fellow conservative Spence Abraham for daring to rescue Republicans from themselves on immigration.

Mr. Abraham, an upstart first-term from Michigan, has committed the sin of becoming chairman of the Senate's immigration subcommittee. This is more dangerous than it sounds. He replaces Alan Simpson, now retired, in what could be the biggest policy shift since Madonna became a mother. Mr. Abraham is courting the wrath of the anti-immigration lobby, which thought it had captured

the GOP.

And at least in the last Congress, it had — to the great joy of Democrats. With the help of Texas Rep. Lamar Smith and a boost from Pitchfork Pat Buchanan, Mr. Simpson succeeded in persuading the country that Republicans had become the anti-immigration party. Harass businesses, issue identity cards, bar education to alien six-year-olds: this became the optimistic message of what was once Ronald Reagan's party. Hispanic- and Asian-Americans rewarded the GOP by voting for Democrats in historic proportions last November.

Enter Mr. Abraham, who wants to restore some Ellis Island perspective to the immigration fight. "The debate over the last few years has been about what's wrong with immigration," says this grandson of Lebanese immigrants. "We shouldn't do anything more about legal immigration until we have a fuller debate on the benefits of immigration."

The senator got a taste of the politics of this message, pro and con, when he took it to Silicon Valley last week. At Cypress Semiconductor, he met high-tech entrepreneurs — from Sun Microsystems, 3Com, Cisco — who told him they need immigrants in America to compete around the world.

Cypress chief T.J. Rodgers, who said 40 percent of his top management is foreign-born, hailed the senator as "a hero of freedom."

Outside, however, Mr. Abraham was denounced in a demonstration promoted by the Federation for American Immigration Reform. FAIR's idea of "reform" is to stop immigration just about cold. Its 90 or so picketers carried such inspirational signs as "Close the Border," "Drug Cartel" and "Immigrants Smuggle Drugs," as if Mexico is responsible for more American kids using marijuana.

FAIR might be ignorable, except that its arguments are beginning to echo in the mainstream conservative media. *National Review* magazine now writes as if Mr. Abraham is a greater threat to its principles than is Ted Kennedy. Its latest broadside advertises a threat by John Tanton, a Michigan ophthalmologist who is FAIR's chairman, that the senator will "face a single-issue anti-immigration candidate" when he runs for re-election in 2000.

This is bizarre, because Dr. Tanton is the kind of zero-population-growth zealot that conservatives used to mock. His views have their roots in the limits-to-growth environmental left. A friend who's seen him on National Empowerment Tele-

Paul Gigot is a columnist with The Wall Street Journal. This column appeared in their January 24, 1997 edition and is reprinted by permission. © 1997, Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

John Tanton is the editor and publisher of The Social Contract and the founder and current chairman of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). His letter to the editors of WSJ appeared in their February 5, 1997 edition.