

California's Wilson: Keep the darkies out

by Robert Ingraham

Supporters of California Gov. Pete Wilson have placed Proposition 187, an anti-immigrant initiative, on the November ballot, and Wilson, whose reelection campaign was foundering only months ago, is attempting to manipulate anti-immigrant hysteria into a second term in office.

In April, the Republican governor sued the U.S. government for \$1.8 billion to cover prison costs from incarcerating illegal immigrants. A report by the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute attacked the suit, charging that Wilson grossly exaggerated the costs. Meanwhile, Wilson's campaign staff is deliberately fostering xenophobia in the state, blaming immigrants for unemployment, overpopulation, crime, high taxes, and every other social ill. Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D) and Barbara Boxer (D), and Senate candidate Mike Huffington have all scurried to join Wilson in this immigrant-bashing.

In the months preceding the U.N.'s Cairo '94 depopulation conference in September, newspaper editorials and columns linked the malthusian goals of the Cairo conference to the anti-immigrant movement in California. On April 30, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a paper which only a few days earlier had sharply attacked Pope John Paul II's opposition to the draft agenda of Cairo '94, published an editorial, "California's Population: Nightmare Potential?" warning that California faces a projected total population of 48 million people by the year 2020. Writing in the July 25 *San Francisco Examiner*, demographer B. Meridith Burke complained that in 1993, forty-four percent of all California births were to foreign-born (mostly Mexican) women.

Enter SOS

Proposition 187 was placed on the California ballot by the Save Our State (SOS) committee, an organization linked to the Fund for American Immigration Reform and to Republican Party backers of Wilson. According to a spokesman from Taxpayers Against 187, FAIR has direct ties to the Pioneer Fund, a white-supremacist organization. U.S. Rep. Anthony Beilenson (D), a leading backer of Proposition 187, is also the sponsor of HR 2447, the International Population Stabilization and Reproductive Act, which would link all U.S. foreign aid to mandatory population control. Beilenson was also one of the most vocal U.S. leaders to back the Cairo conference.

Governor Wilson claims that illegal immigrants are costing California billions in revenues. To back up this assertion,

the SOS committee cites the 1992 report by Donald Huddle, "The Cost of Immigrants," which shows a net cost to the state of \$18.1 billion from illegal immigration. Yet in February 1994, the Tomás Rivera Center in Claremont, California published a devastating refutation of the Huddle report, showing that Huddle grossly overestimated the number of illegal immigrants, and underestimated or omitted altogether tax revenue from them. Huddle also ignored the economic benefits of businesses started by immigrants and he claimed a huge welfare bill for illegal immigrants, whereas a 1992 Department of Justice study found that less than 1% of illegals receive General Assistance. In California, where immigrants make up 22% of the population, only 12% of immigrants receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The Rivera study shows that illegal immigrants in California actually contribute \$12 billion (net) to the state's economy. This view was confirmed by a *Business Week* article showing that nationwide, immigrants pay \$90 billion in taxes, yet receive only \$5 billion in services.

If passed, Proposition 187 will immediately bar all illegal immigrants from access to any government service, including medical care and education. Any school which enrolls an illegal child will be breaking the law. Any doctor who vaccinates or treats a sick illegal child will be breaking the law. All hospitals will be prohibited from treating any illegal person, creating the basis for epidemics and the breakdown of public health. All state employees will be required to snitch on suspected illegals or face criminal charges. Proposition 187 will also devastate California's schools, which receive state money based on the number of enrolled pupils.

Campaign of fear

Wilson is campaigning for reelection on three issues: illegal immigration, crime, and the death penalty. He backs the "three strikes and you're out" policy for felons, and has viciously attacked his opponent Kathleen Brown for her opposition to the death penalty. In late September, George Bush bestowed his blessing on Wilson, speaking at California fundraisers that netted more than \$1 million for Wilson's reelection committee.

Wilson is attempting to manipulate an anti-immigrant tradition with deep roots in California. The state's two most revered cultural icons are Jack London and John Muir, both "pro-nature" white racists. In 1905, London penned lurid anti-Chinese racialist articles during the period of the Chinese Exclusion Act. From 1900 to 1920, Los Angeles was built up as a bastion of white Protestantism, and from 1920 to 1960, it recorded the largest percentage of native-born white Protestants of any city in the United States. During this era, California was billed as the white man's paradise. From 1931 to 1935, hundreds of thousands of Mexicans were deported, amidst Depression-era hysteria. More than 110,000 Japanese, most U.S.-born American citizens, were interned during World War II.