

Editorial

Good intentions

The road to hell is paved with good intentions, and some bad ones, too!

After winning the referendum of Proposition 187 in California, which had been closely tied to his reelection bid, Gov. Pete Wilson has already made a move to make schooling and medical care unavailable to illegal aliens. How is his action different from that of the demented South Carolina mother who allegedly drowned her two children, apparently because they were restricting her social life? It is not Pete's own children who may die because they do not receive timely medical treatment—but is it normal for an adult not to reach out to give succour to any child in trouble?

Well, things are different in California, where a majority of voters supported the Wilson child-abuse referendum. We are reminded of how, in the seventeenth century, Jonathan Swift dealt with similar such English policies directed against the Irish. With devastating irony he framed what he called "A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People In Ireland from Being a Burden to Their Parents or Country and for Making Them Beneficial to the Public." This was that Irish babies be featured on the dinner menu, so that the English elite could feast upon their corpses.

The California anti-immigration referendum is truly an abomination, but the situation is not much better for children who were born in the United States. Just look at the situation in the nation's schools. They are essentially being put through the same kind of deliberately engineered decay as an inner city slum in an area later scheduled for gentrification.

Decades-long failure to invest in these schools is now being compounded by an outright rip-off. Just as Michael Millken's junk-bund raiders were allowed to merge and destroy businesses at will, now private corporations are being allowed to take over public schools and strip them of their last remaining assets. Privatization, coupled with the rape of curriculum known as outcome-based education (OBE), is an attempt to deprive all but the most privileged American children of even the shards of an education. By getting

rid of qualified teachers and "dumbing down" the curriculum, these new schools will offer a tidy profit to their private managers. Any parent seriously concerned for his or her child's education will be forced to remove that child from the privatized public school system.

At the time of the American Revolution, the colonies had the most literate population—taken as a whole—of any in the world. An educated citizenry is the premise of the republican form of government. It was a unique feature of the new nation, that every child born on U.S. soil had the right to become a U.S. citizen on reaching the age of 21. But a commitment to quality education for all children depends upon a quality of mind, a level of moral commitment, no longer shared among Americans who voted for Proposition 187, or who could tolerate Oliver North as a legitimate candidate for high office.

It is about time that Americans woke up to the fraud of organizations like the Christian Coalition, which pretends to be Christian while repudiating the fundamental tenet of Christianity—that every man, woman, and child is created in the image of God, and must be treated accordingly. It is long overdue that we remember the basic tenet of the Declaration of Independence—that all men are created equal.

It took a century-long fight and a civil war to turn this battle cry against the British oligarchy and everything for which it stood into the law of the land—South as well as North. Now, 125 years after the Civil War was fought to a victorious conclusion, we stand in mortal danger of allowing George III's heirs to reconquer the United States, under the banner of a Conservative Revolution. Just as, before 1865, it was against Confederate law to educate the children of slaves, so today the citizens of California would have us deny education, medical, and other care to the children of illegal aliens. Proposition 187 is clearly unconstitutional. Worse than that, it is immoral. If the American public as a whole does not repudiate the mentality that allowed its passage, then more and more rapidly the entire fabric of our society will unravel.