

Arnie the Fascist Bashes Immigrants

by Harley Schlanger

Reeling from a series of potentially devastating political setbacks, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) has resorted to an old tactic used by one of his predecessors, Pete Wilson: When in trouble, bash illegal immigrants.

In the course of less than a week, Schwarzenegger issued a double-barreled assault against Mexican immigrants. In an address in San Francisco to a convention of the Newspaper Association of America, he answered a question about immigration policy with a deliberately provocative retort: "Close the border," he snarled.

When confronted on this later, he fell back on another old trick, claiming that he "misspoke." My English isn't so good, he protested. I meant to say, "secure the border."

Several days later, on a right-wing radio program hosted by two goofs who seem to believe they are part of his policy coterie, Arnie let loose another blast. He praised the Minutemen, a group of armed lunatics who claim to be policing the border. "I think they've done a terrific job," he said, "and they have cut down the crossing of illegal immigrants a huge percentage. So it just shows that it works when you go and make an effort and when you work hard."

He continued, making it clear that, despite his broken sentences and confusing syntax, he was saying exactly what he wanted to say. "I mean, it is a doable thing, and it's just that our Federal government is not doing their job. It's a shame that the private citizen has to go in there and start patrolling our borders."

The self-proclaimed Minutemen the Governor is enthusiastic over is the same group that President Bush denounced as "vigilantes."

The Not-So-Hidden Agenda

As the expected furor around his statements grew, Arnie's chief strategist, Mike Murphy, rose to his defense. "The political correctness industry is in a tizzy right now, but the everyday voters that support Arnold as a way to change Sacramento agree that we need the government to address this thing so people don't have to be walking around with binoculars on the border."

By this twisted logic, the failure of the Los Angeles Police Department to stop gang violence would justify patrols of the city's streets by armed vigilantes, a point made in a May 2

editorial by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The *Times* editors made another, more salient point, in their expression of concern over the out-of-control behavior of the Hollywood macho who is the state's chief executive. His "recent utterances on immigration," they wrote, seem "like a desperate ploy to capitalize on the prejudices and fears of others. . . . And as someone born and raised in the shadow of the Third Reich, he should know better than to be fanning this anti-foreigner frenzy."

Readers of *EIR* know that these latest episodes of outrageous comments by Schwarzenegger are not the result of "mis-statements," or lack of awareness that such comments would escalate an "anti-foreigner frenzy." They are fully consistent with the real intention of Arnie's boss George Shultz's "Schwarzenegger Experiment," which is to use the "charisma," cult-like popularity, and tough-guy persona of the "Terminator" to impose fascist economic policies on California.

Standard of Living Attacked

The whole program embodied in the "Year of Reform," which was announced during a contentious State of the State address in January, was meant as an assault on the traditional safety net provided by the state to its most vulnerable citizens. These so-called reforms were nothing but an attack on the standard of living of those in the lower 80% of family-income brackets. While claiming that he wished to negotiate with Democrats in the legislature—in which a majority are Democrats—he let loose with a series of belittling attacks, calling them "girlie men" and comparing them to drug addicts, thus eliminating the possibility for deliberation to occur.

Underneath the insults to his legislative opponents was a clear intent: to use the deadlock he created to go "to the people," placing initiatives on the ballot, couched in populist rhetoric, to completely circumvent the legislative process, thus consolidating all power in his hands.

And what do George Shultz et al. intend that he would do with this power? Make the state more "business friendly"; that is, substantially reduce taxes, cut wages and benefits, and slash expenditures for infrastructure, health care, and human services, ensuring that a cash flow would be diverted from necessary expenditures, directly into the pockets of those in the corporate cartels who have so generously dropped huge amounts of contributions into his campaign coffers.

After saying he was "kicking the butts" of nurses, and attacking teachers and fire fighters as "special interests," Arnie is now blaming illegal immigrants for the economic collapse which, in reality, has been precipitated by the policies imposed over the last four decades by his boss, Shultz. The hint in the *Los Angeles Times* editorial, that this is fascism, is absolutely right. It is urgent that others join Lyndon LaRouche in using the "F" word—"fascism"—to describe the Schwarzenegger Administration, while there is still time to stop it.