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**"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."**

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

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# Commentary

## The Bush Immigration Proposal -- Part 2

**I** am inoculated from being called a racist on the illegal immigration issue because I have fed them, clothed them, housed them, collected their debts for them, and defended them in the pages of the Wall Street Journal. And not just a single incident, but scores upon scores – and for two decades. In 1986, I was the only Gringo standing in line at *La Migra* to vouch for two workers applying for, and getting, amnesty.

Nevertheless, the time has come to address the illegal immigration problem because the problem is now ten times what it was in the early 70s when I began my interest in not illegal immigration, but in illegal immigrants.

From 700,000 illegal immigrants in the United States in 1970, the problem has grown to 7,900,000, if the latest numbers from the Government of Mexico are to be believed. There is such a thing as too much of a good thing...and that is where we are currently. Two tablespoons of sugar sweeten a glass of iced tea – but a bowl full of sugar ruins the tea.

We now have social costs that are unnerving, at best. The Los Angeles Times says that the net cost of illegal immigration to California is a staggering \$5.7 billion a year...an impossible cost in the current economic climate.

**But it is the crime problem that has spiraled out of hand, and that has happened specifically because our local Mayors have forbidden their police officers from arresting known felons who are illegal immigrants.**

**I give you Special Order 40 in Los Angeles, which forbids L.A. police from arresting KNOWN federal felons. The following is the defense of that Special Order 40 from the ACLU website:**

*Special Order 40, enacted in 1979, bars police from enforcing federal immigration laws. The Police Commission and top LAPD officials strongly re-affirmed the Order four years ago, and then again last year. The Police Commission's own Independent Review Panel noted how critical the Order is to ensure public safety.*

**Public safety? Special Order 40 says that if a convicted felon is deported, and returns to Los Angeles streets (a new felony under Federal law) to continue gang activity, a Los Angeles policeman CANNOT arrest him unless he breaks still another law! L.A. gang police KNOW who the federal felons are, and have let felons walk the streets for 20 years.**

**And it goes on, daily, in most major cities of the United States.**

**On talk radio out of L.A., one of the 15 City Councilman said he opposed Special Order 40, but that if he offered a motion to overturn it, he "couldn't get a second."**

**In June of 1977, The L. A. Times estimated that 50%-60% of the infamous 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang of Southern California, then estimated to have a membership of 20,000 gang members, were illegal immigrants. Just that one gang has more than 10,000 felons walking the streets – untouched and untouchable!**

**This policy is insane...and it goes on in almost EVERY city across the country. New York has a similar rule, as does Chicago, and Houston and...yes, San Diego! The amount of crime that could be reduced by diminishing the size of Latino gangs nationwide by 50% tomorrow morning is HUGE!**

**Pogo was right...the enemy is US!**

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