



THEY' RE

NOT

The strategy of the state:

Turn the people against each other
so we won't turn against them.

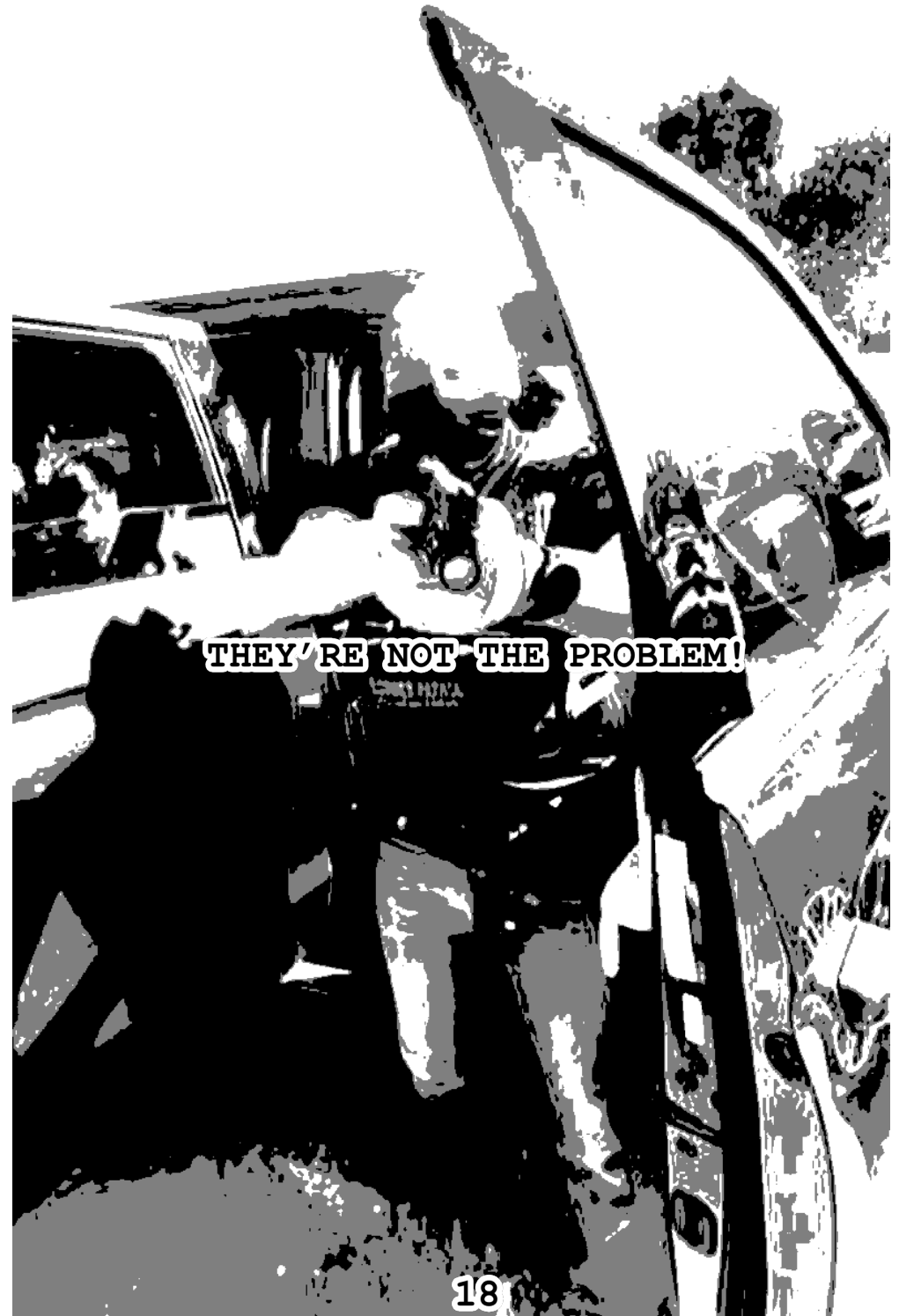
THE

PROBLEM





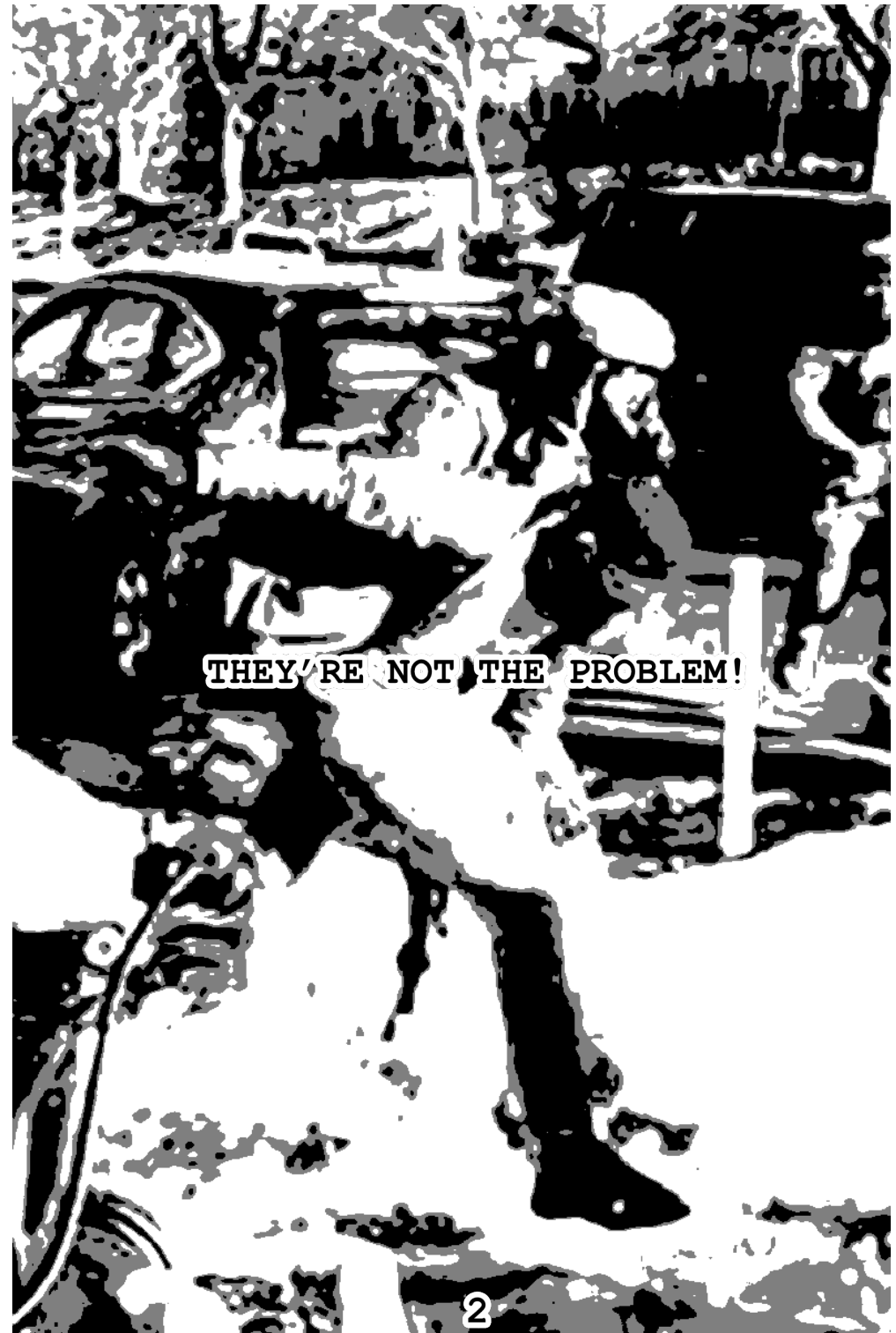
The MAGA party likes to peddle a lot of myths as it concerns illegal immigrants. Part of "national myth" building is to establish an enemy to unite against and illegals , among others, have been placed on the sacrificial altar. They're blamed for everything wrong with the economy today. But...



Myth 8

"They're driving up costs!"

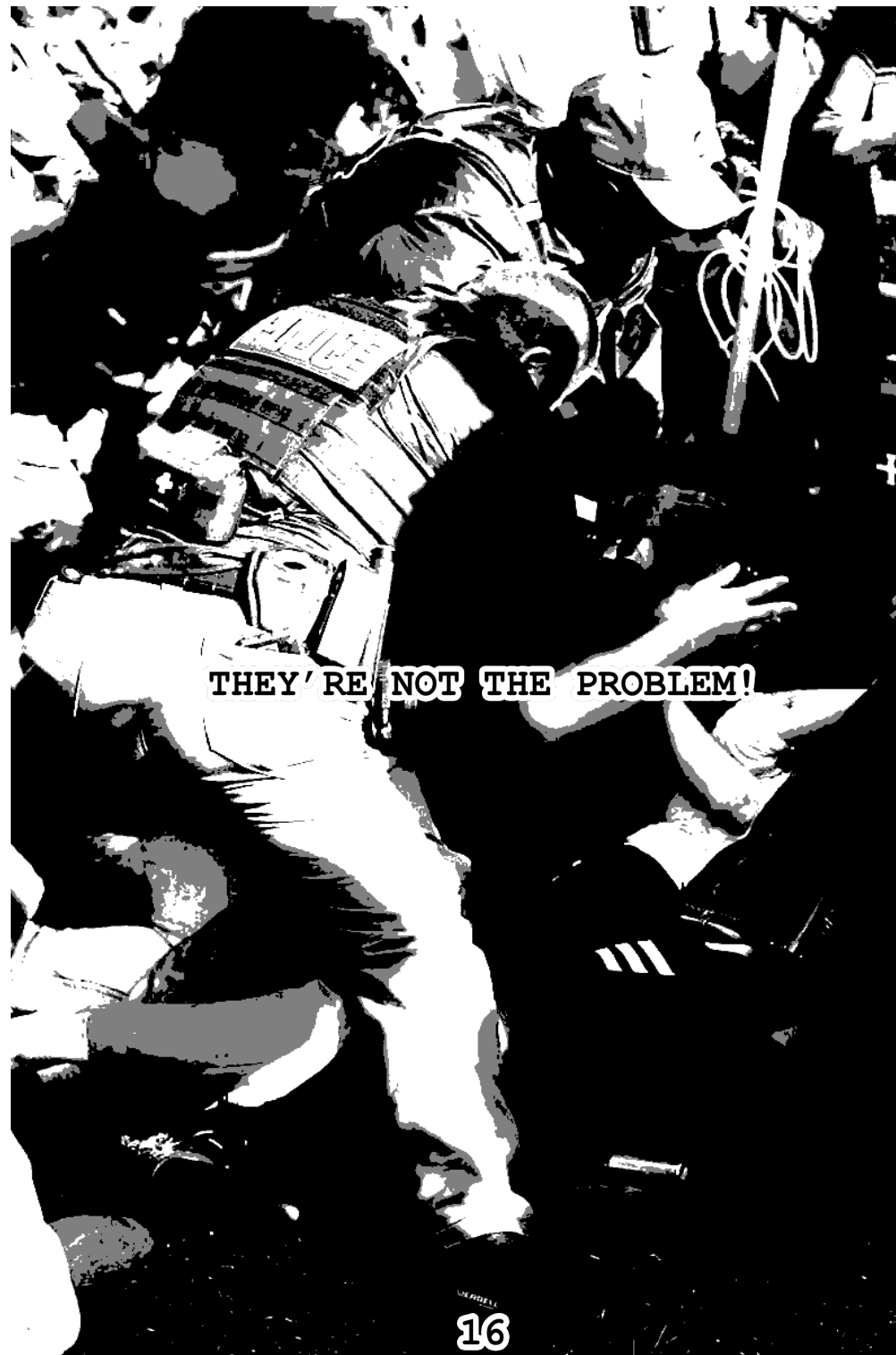
If you hear someone complain that illegals are making everything more expensive... don't even bother to smack sense into them, they're too far gone. The principle of supply & demand dictates that, all else being equal, the cost of something should decrease as its supply increases. As stated in Myth 4, illegals actually increase productivity. Should supply & demand be followed through, costs would be decreasing thanks to illegal labor! They expand the labor supply making production increase. Studies have consistently found they suppress inflation of essentials. They're paid less, allowing for businesses to save on labor and thus have the ability to pass on those savings through their prices. So why is the cost of living still going up? Corporate consolidation, price-gouging, supply-chain monopolies, and investor speculation. The problem is with the economic elite, not illegals (CATO Institute, Pew Research, USDA, &c.). Let's say it one more time...



Myth 1

"They're violent criminals!"

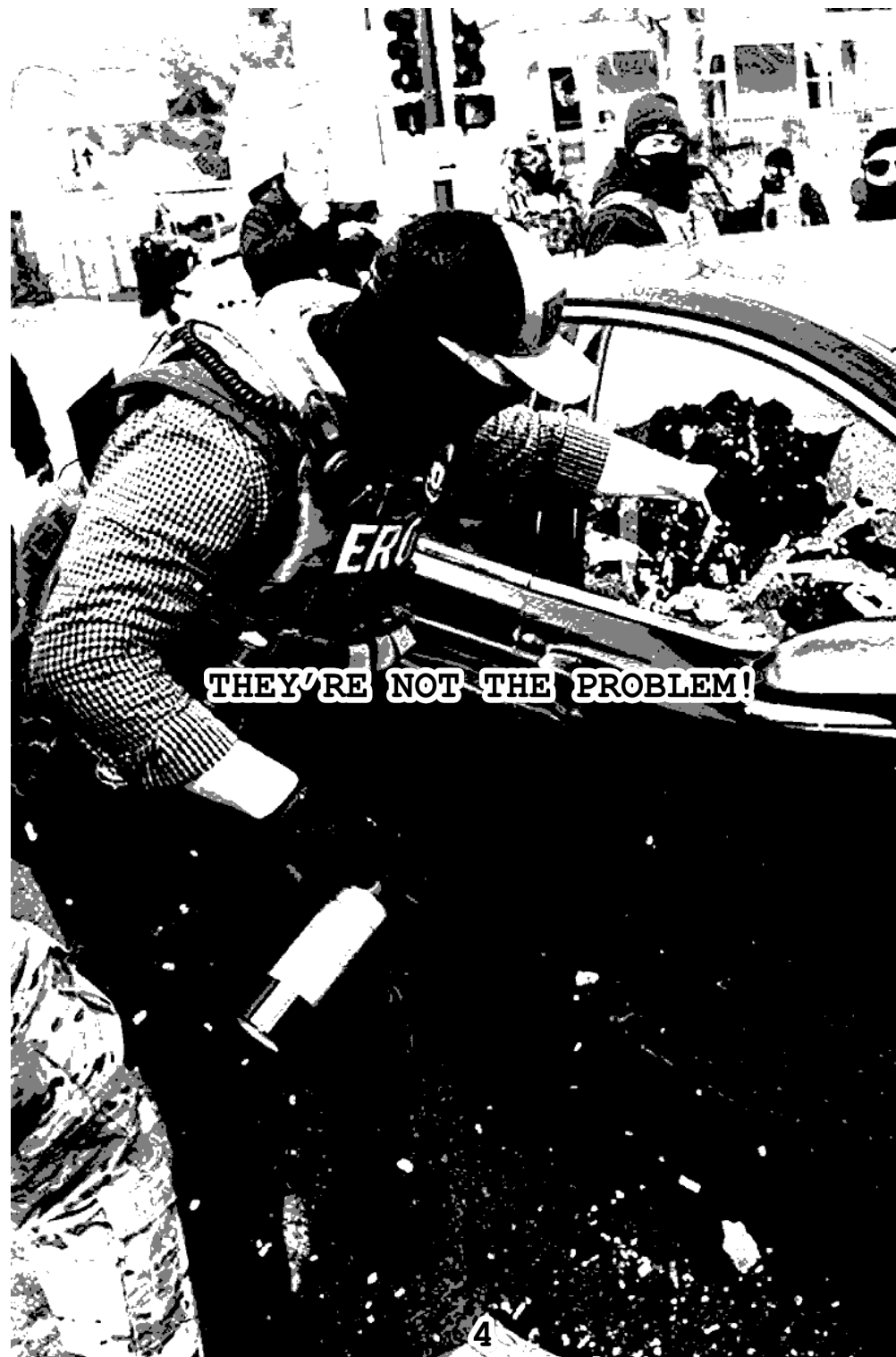
This is the most talked about myth today - this idea that illegal immigrants are so much more violent than "us". The DHS will parade the faces of pedophiles and murderers, framing their work as keeping everyone safe. What they're counting on is frequency bias - the more you see something, the more prevalent you think it is. In reality, if you remove "crimes" related to their immigration status (illegal border crossing or overstaying visas), immigrants, both legal and illegal, are much less likely to commit crimes than homegrown citizens. Americans are over 2× as likely to commit crimes, including violent crimes. We know this applies to illegal immigrants as well thanks to states that document immigration status like Texas does. Even when it came to property and drug crimes, illegal immigrants are still significantly less prone to criminality. In many analyses (The Marshall Project, OPB, &c.), areas with larger illegal populations had similar or even lower crime rates compared to other areas. All of this to say, when it comes to crime...



Myth 7

"They're draining public services!"

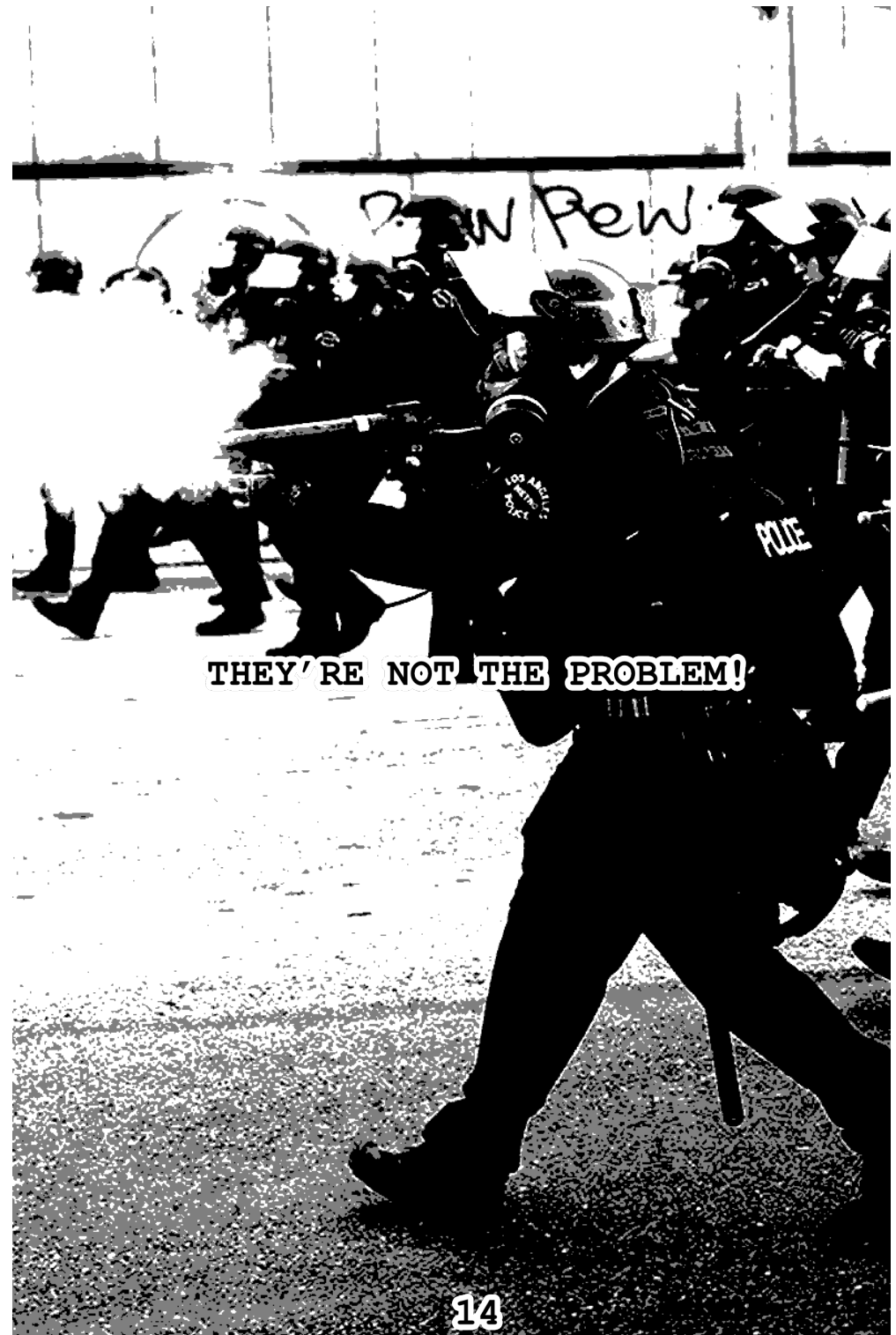
Often, illegals are looked at as the welfare queens, taking up all the resources that could be going to citizens. There's just one problem: citizens are the biggest welfare queens (CATO Institute). Illegals more often than not can't access medicare, SNAP, TANF, or other public services. As shown in Myth 6, illegals actually give more than they take! They're more likely to work than rely on public assistance (Pew Research). They pay into a system that they don't benefit from so that those who do benefit from it can complain that they're taking from it...



Myth 2

"They're filling the hospitals!"

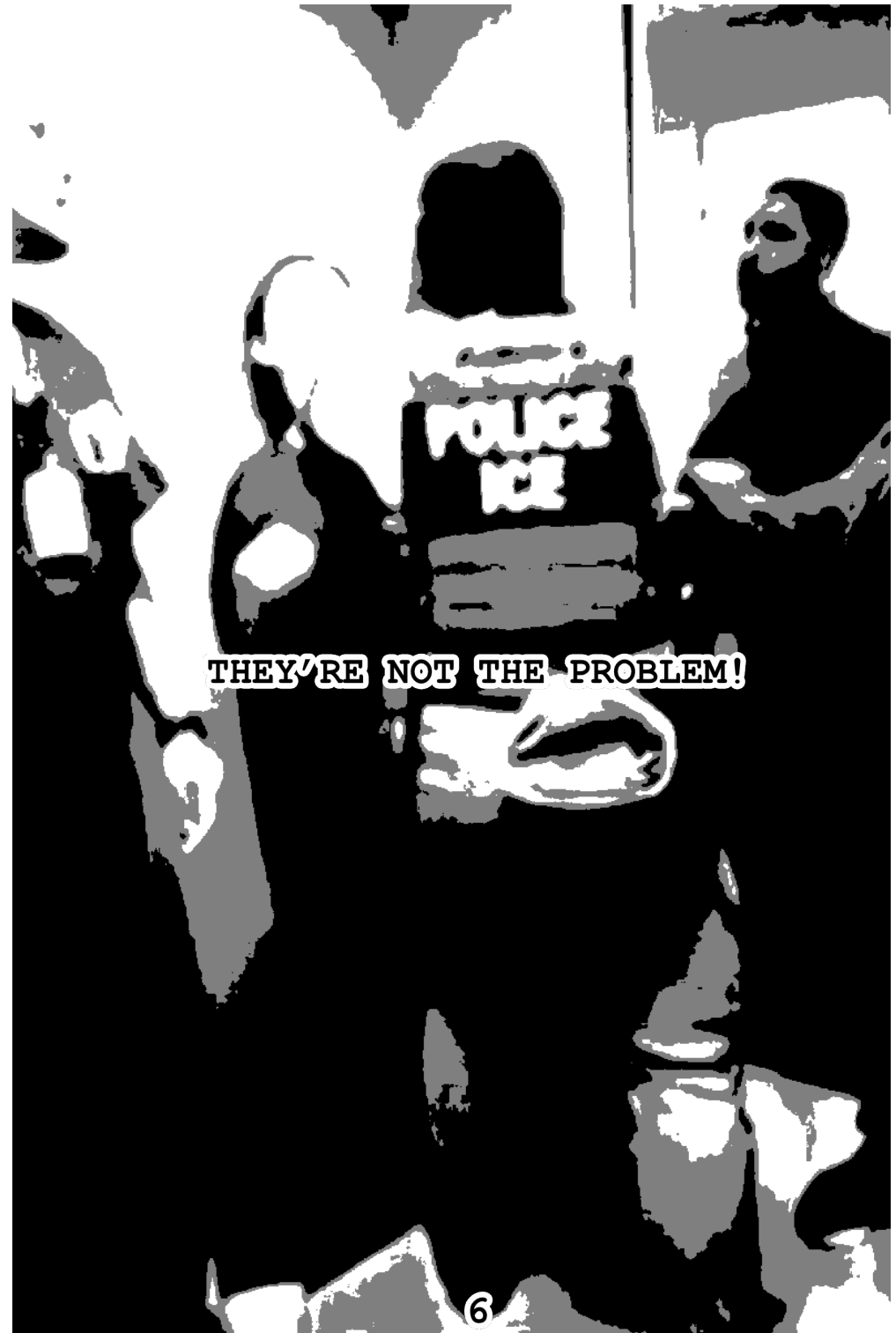
A frequent fear mongering tactic I hear is that hospitals are being strained because of illegals. The idea behind it is that "They're not paying for it, so they'll go in for every small issue!" So you get waiting rooms full of illegals in there because they've got an itchy throat. But this isn't what's happening at all (KFF, The Hastings Center, &c.). In fact, they're actually less likely to seek out medical attention. And despite what the fear says, cost is actually one of the barriers for them. They're worried about their immigration status being exposed, which means they don't get insurance as often and put off seeking medical attention if it's not serious enough. You're more likely to see your local blond cat lady with a Starbucks in her hand at the ER than an illegal...



Myth 6

"They don't pay taxes!"

Putting aside the fact that taxation is theft, I can see where this idea comes from. They often do under-the-table work, they don't have a Social Security number, who's gonna know? Well, I have some news for ya: they suffer taxes too! Instead of an SSN, they usually have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). They often lose part of their pay to medicare and social security, of which they rarely if ever see the benefits of. The IRS even notes billions of dollars paid through ITIN returns being filed. This means they're actually subsidizing medicare and social security! Then there's property, utility, sales, and excise taxes. These all go back into the state's funds. Aren't you grateful that we have a labor force who's labor is stolen from to pay for your failing school districts? One thing's for certain...



Myth 3

"They're taking the houses!"

In the 1970s, housing was about 2.8× the median income. Today, it's closer to 5.4×! Those darn illegals! Except they didn't do that either. Housing costs were already on the rise before the larger waves of illegals picked up in earnest in the late 1990s. Majority of illegals in these waves are seasonal workers, not residents. Those that are residents tend to live in more crowded housing situations, meaning that, on average, 1 illegal takes up less housing than 1 citizen. They're more likely to rent apartments or multi-family units than single family homes (Urban Institute) and are more likely to be in housing-insecure situations (Migration Policy Institute). The main drivers of increased housing costs comes down to supply limits due to zoning restrictions and lack of affordable options, investor speculation, short-term rentals such as AirBnB, gentrification, and rising construction costs due to inflation (NBER). In other words...



Myth 5

"They're lowering wages!"

So they're being paid low wages, making them cheap labor. That must be affecting the wages of citizens! Well, yes, but actually, no. Studies have consistently shown that illegal workers have little to no effect on legal wages (NBER). Illegals can be used to suppress wages in small portions of sectors, but nowhere near enough to affect average wages. The issues come right back to what I said before: corporate greed and state and federal policy (Migration Policy Institute). Illegal work has led to increased productivity and demand by the fact that illegals will take the jobs that citizens more often avoid doing. The effect of this can actually be the opposite of the myth: the labor market expands and wages rise (American Immigration Council). Wage stagnation has largely been a result of the erosion of effective unions (ones owned and run by the workers), corporate consolidation, and inflation. Yet again...



THEY'RE NOT THE PROBLEM!

Myth 4

"They're stealing our jobs!"

I briefly mentioned it in Myth 3, and yes, it's true! A lot of illegal immigration is seasonal labor, which studies have consistently found to be complementary, not competitive, with citizen labor. It's not just seasonal labor either, it's fairly often the case that an illegal will take a complementary job (NBER). Across multiple decades, studies have consistently found that illegals have little to no negative effects on the job market. The real issue to be had with illegal workers is that their bosses are exploiting them in a way they can't the citizenry, by giving them little in wages while their labor increases productivity and demand - which it turns out is actually a benefit for citizens at their expense (Migration Policy Institute). They're more likely to go into the jobs citizens avoid than ones they want (American Immigration Council). The real problem is corporate greed and state and federal policy (CATO Institute). So, again...

