

# **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS PAYING THEIR DUES**

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## **Body**

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To the Editor:

The Dec. 3 letter by Roger Conner of the Federation for American Immigration Reform is dead wrong.

Curtailing ***illegal*** immigration will not "keep future budget deficits from growing."

Rather, it will augment budget deficits and accelerate the depletion of the Social Security Trust Fund since these workers contribute so much to the gross national product and take so little out of the economy.

According to a 1979 Labor Department study, undocumented workers spend 60 percent of their wages in the U.S., and 75 percent of them ***pay*** Social Security and income taxes, even though only 0.5 percent receive welfare and one percent receive food stamps. Ten percent - and every day more - join America's labor unions, helping to keep them alive.

If Mr. Conner's assumption that 21 percent take jobs from Americans were true, then why did the Government's "Operation Jobs" fail to deliver more than a handful of jobs to American applicants for vacancies created by the arrest of 5,635 workers in May 1982 (87 percent of whom were Mexican and most of whom were back at work within days)?

Eliminating ***illegal*** immigration will not achieve "the protection of American workers." In fact, implementation of legislation such as the Simpson-Mazzoli bill will mean admitting more Mexican workers than ever before - but under regulated conditions that will help preserve slumping American businesses and stimulate the growth of new ones with low-wage, non-organized labor to the detriment of

all

workers, especially the Spanish-speaking and dark-skinned.

JAMES D. COCKCROFT Chestertown, N.Y., Dec. 5, 1983

The writer is an editor of Latin American Perspectives.

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## ILLEGAL IMMINGRANTS PAYING THEIR DUES

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