

POLICE CHIEF, D.A. HIT PROP. 187 WRONG APPROACH TO ILLEGALS, THEY SAY.

San Jose Mercury News (California)

August 31, 1994 Wednesday MORNING FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1994 San Jose Mercury News All Rights Reserved

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 1B

Length: 418 words

Byline: KEN MCLAUGHLIN, Mercury News Staff Writer

Body

Santa Clara County District Attorney George Kennedy and San Jose **Police Chief** Lou Cobarruviaz came out swinging Tuesday against Proposition **187**, the "Save Our State" initiative designed to drive illegal immigrants out of California.

Kennedy and Cobarruviaz painted a nightmarish vision of a future with SOS, **saying** it would lead to more crime, mountains of paperwork and a **police**-state mentality.

"I know we're in need of (immigration) reform, but Proposition **187** is not it," Kennedy **said** at a news conference at the county government center in San Jose. "We need tools that help us, not hurt us."

The initiative, favored by a 2-1 ratio in early polls, would make illegal immigrants ineligible for social services, public schools and most health care except for emergencies. Law enforcement agencies, school districts and publicly funded hospitals and clinics would be required to report suspected illegal immigrants to the attorney general and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Cobarruviaz lambasted the initiative's authors for their "serious disregard for public safety." He predicted their measure would unleash 400,000 juveniles from schools onto California's streets -- a gang recruiter's dream.

Kennedy and Cobarruviaz join other California law enforcement officials and groups that have come out against the proposition. They include Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block and the Peace Officers Research Association of California, the state's largest rank-and-file **police** group.

SOS proponents pooh-poohed their concerns.

"This is just a cheap trick," **said** Rick Oltman, chairman of the "Yes on **187**" committee. "They're manipulating children for their own purposes. These law enforcement officials should be ashamed of themselves for thinking that anyone not in school is a criminal."

Under the initiative, he **said**, children who are in the country illegally "won't just be kicked out on the streets. They'll be given 90 days to get squared away."

However, opponents argue that there are no provisions for deportation in Proposition **187**, so it's not certain what would happen to children taken out of schools.

Joining Kennedy and Cobarruviaz in pouncing on the initiative, which they **say** was sloppily drafted, was a coterie of Proposition **187** opponents, including representatives of medical, business, education and labor groups. Many complained that SOS would turn them into immigration cops.

POLICE CHIEF, D.A. HIT PROP. 187 WRONG APPROACH TO ILLEGALS, THEY SAY.

"It will sink our state," **said** Dr. Larry Bedard of Marin County.

Graphic

Photos (2);

PHOTO: 'We need tools that help us, not hurt us. '

--**D.A.** George Kennedy

940831 LO 1B 4

PHOTO: **Chief** Lou Cobarruviaz cited a "disregard for public safety."

940831 LO 1B

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (92%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); EDUCATION SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); COUNTY GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC SCHOOLS (90%); **POLICE** FORCES (89%); CHILDREN (88%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); REGIONAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (78%); COUNTIES (78%); SCHOOL DISTRICTS (78%); LAWYERS (78%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (76%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (65%); PRESS CONFERENCES (55%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (53%)

Organization: PEACE OFFICERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (54%)

Industry: EDUCATION SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (90%); PUBLIC SCHOOLS (90%); LAWYERS (78%); HOSPITALS (68%); CLINICS & OUTPATIENT SERVICES (53%)

Geographic: SAN JOSE, CA, USA (92%); SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (92%); CALIFORNIA, USA (95%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: October 25, 2002