TELEVISION REVIEW;

Entering the U.S. Illegally And Provoking Anger

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Byline: By WALTER GOODMAN

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Body

"Slamming the Door" captures the spreading resentment against immigrants, particularly against illegal immigrants and most particularly against illegal immigrants who commit crimes.

Phil Jones, of the "48 Hours" team, talks to workers in a New Jersey insurance company who lost their jobs to newcomers from India with temporary work visas. Through a loophole in the law, the noncitizens were paid half what the Americans were making.

In the small town of St. George, Utah, Erin Moriarty finds an 11-year-old girl who was raped by an illegal immigrant from Mexico already possessed of a criminal record. Everyone, including an official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, agrees that the understaffed service does little to crack down on the illegals. Those who are deported just keep coming back.

Even immigrants who commit no crime except slipping into the country are imposing burdens on cities like Miami, which receives 100 or more children a day into its schools from Cuba and other lands to the South. Perhaps half of them are in the United States *illegally*, but school officials say they are barred by law from inquiring. Parents at a P.T.A. meeting show sympathy for the children along with concern for the expense.

Medical costs, too, are running high. Richard Schlesinger reports that pregnant women from Mexico come to the San Diego area to have their babies: it's safer and cheaper, with the extra attraction that children born on this side of the border become American citizens. For California, these and other medical costs are reaching \$1.2 billion a year.

The sharply focused hour ends with an interview with Barbara Jordan, now heading a commission that recommends tightened border controls and tougher checks at workplaces. Such crackdowns are trumpeted periodically, but this time the Administration seems to be putting some money where its trumpets are. The <u>anger</u> heard tonight leaves the concern that if something effective is not done soon about the illegal immigrants, legal immigrants, too, will feel the growing wrath.

48 HOURS

Slamming the Door

CBS, tonight at 10 (Channel 2 in New York)

Written by Greg Kendra; directed by Eric Shapiro and Ron Flaum; Linda Martin, producer; Mary Noonan, associate producer; Al Briganti, senior producer; Catherine Lasiewicz, executive producer.

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