

the *Congressional Quarterly* article itself. "National polls," it tells us, "continue to show that people are uneasy with the roughly one million people who are granted immigration visas each year. (A February Roper poll showed that 83 percent of the public thought that number was too high.)"

In fact, the Roper poll showed that among those wanting cuts, the majority favors virtually ending legal immigration into this country. It makes no sense at all to claim that Republicans ought to abandon efforts to reduce legal immigration because of the danger of a political backlash when more

than 8 out of 10 Americans wants it reduced.

Nevertheless, Mr. Gingrich did not even mention immigration in his victory speech. The tendency of Republicans is to seize on the flawed argument against immigration control as the path of least resistance, and since their natural friends and ideological soulmates among Big Business and the open-borders lobby favor unrestricted immigration, that's the path they are likely to travel.

But the Roper poll shows the real road for Republicans, who can use immigration reform as a

means of repairing their leaderless and rudderless party. They can do so, not by evading the issue, but by making immigration control a major part of their program, and they can arm themselves with the groaning shelves of studies that show the harm that uncontrolled immigration inflicts. That road may require more courage and brains than the current Republican leadership now possesses, but if they take it they could wind up with a real Republican majority in the country as well as one in Congress.

TSC

# Pro-immigrationists Prefer United Market of America to United States of America

by Dan Stein

For some time there has been a growing feeling in America that government has ceased serving the interests of the people and become a wholly owned enterprise of bankers, lawyers and multinational corporate CEOs. The almost daily revelations of the shameless fund-raising practices at the White House have more than confirmed these suspicions.

The President and the Democrats are in the hot seat at the moment, but the American people have little confidence that the Republicans are any less in the pockets of the donors who helped them take and keep control of Congress. The choice of the

Republican leadership to chair the Senate Immigration Subcommittee is a clear indication of where the party's loyalties lie.

According to recent polls, more than 80 percent of Americans believe that immigration to the United States is excessive and needs to be trimmed back. Among the small minority that favors high levels of immigration are those with a direct financial interest in the availability of cheap immigrant labor. When the Senate leadership appointed Senator Spencer Abraham of Michigan to chair the Immigration Subcommittee last January, they opted to side with the cheap labor interests.

Abraham has made it clear, in deed and statement, that he believes that American businesses should be able to recruit labor wherever it chooses. In his first official act as chairman, Abraham made a pilgrimage to California's Silicon Valley to assure corporate executives that the door to foreign labor

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will be kept wide open.

But it is not just skilled labor that Abraham has vowed to protect. The United States admits large numbers of poorly educated, unskilled immigrants

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through policies that guarantee admission to extended family members of other immigrants. After helping to defeat changes in the family-based immigration policies last year, Abraham has made it clear that any further attempts to reform these policies will never see the light of day as long as he wields the gavel.

Abraham is emblematic of an emerging culture in Washington that is further alienating the political leadership from the citizens. In a city where the people’s representatives have developed an incestuous relationship with lobbyists, PACs and soft money-givers, the idea of the nation has become somewhat of an anachronism. Washington thinks in terms of economies, markets and consumers. While Americans think of themselves as citizens with a stake in their nation, the prevailing culture in Washington views them as consumers and interchangeable workers who constitute a market. The concerns of a nation and the concerns of a market are very different.

The current immigration policy that Abraham has promised to preserve, protect and defend, is consistent with the philosophy of the United Market of America. The United States of America is a nation with a culture, a language and a national identity. The United Market of America has little use for such antiquated concepts. In the Market what is paramount is economic activity and corporate bottom lines. Non-economic considerations such as a sense of community, the commonweal and shared ideals are subjugated to short-term economic expedience.

What Abraham and other proponents of unfettered (legal and illegal) immigration forget is that the economy they worship depends on a stable, cohesive society. The reason the United States has a successful economy is because we have created a society in which people are not merely economic cogs in a machine, but rather citizens with a proprietary stake in the nation.

Current immigration policies are changing that. Americans increasingly see themselves as hired hands who can be replaced at any time by workers from anywhere. The sense that the people who built the nation and the economy have an unquestionable right to determine its cultural, demographic and linguistic future is rapidly evaporating as cities, and even regions, are transformed by massive settlement of immigrants.

The concept of the nation must evolve to conform with the realities of the modern global economy. But as we embrace the challenges and opportunities of the global market we cannot forget that a nation is greater than its GNP. The market-driven immigration philosophy espoused by Spencer Abraham and endorsed by the congressional leadership and the Clinton Administration is dangerous and shortsighted. Along the banks of the Potomac the blizzard of money has obscured the reality that the economy cannot exist independent

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**Excerpt from the 1951 California State  
Constitution — Re: Immigration**

The Legislature shall prescribe all necessary regulations for the protection of the State, and the counties thereof, from the burdens arising from the presence of aliens who are or may become vagrants, paupers, mendicants, criminals or invalids afflicted with infectious diseases, and from aliens otherwise dangerous or detrimental to the well being or peace of the State, and to impose conditions upon which such persons may reside in the State, and provide the means and mode of their removal upon failure or refusal to comply... And the presence of foreigners ineligible to become citizens is declared to be dangerous to the well being of the State, and the Legislature shall discourage their immigration by all means within its power.

# Rudolfo Acuña

## A Chicano warhorse goes to court

by Diana Hull

In November of 1990, Rudolfo Acuña, probably the fiercest advocate of *Raza* power, decided to make an upward career move. It is safe to assume that this was his motive because he denied it so emphatically, saying he had never been interested in advancement or money. When he told his wife that he had applied for a Senior Professorship in Chicano Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, she asked him if he was looking for a fight.<sup>1</sup> Seven years after that fight began, it is still going strong so events proved that she surely knew her man.

Professor Acuña had been a fighter all of his life and as a movement hero he had appropriately humble beginnings. He enjoyed explaining that his Mexican father only went to 6th grade and that his mother had no formal education. Yet he grew up to be both a teacher and a creative performer of *teatro político*, using an imaginative script that he edited and polished over the years for its maximum effect on young people.

In front of an appreciative audience of stomping, clapping students, he was a spellbinder as he began the rhythmic MEChA chant of "Chi-can-o" "Chi-can-a." [MEChA is the acronym for *Movimiento Estudiante Chicano de Aztlan*, the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan.] While emotions were high he would declare, "Right now you are in the Nazi United

States of America. Fascism is growing and we will only get justice if we take to the streets." After wild applause he would say, "I'm proud that my parents made me a Mexican."<sup>2</sup>

Professor Acuña often took liberties with the literal truth. At the November, 1996, MEChA conference at the California State University at Northridge he told minority students, "You are the first immigrant group to make it in one generation from the working class to the university. Neither the Asians, the Irish nor the Jews were able to do that."<sup>3</sup>

He shared the spotlight with Delores Huerta, of the United Farm Workers Union, who led a chant called "Down with Wilson — Down with David Duke and Gingrich." The Republicans are fighting to keep you out of the educational system, she said, and plan to put Blacks and Chicanos in privatized prisons so the state can make money

"off of" your bodies. Then CSUN Assistant Dean Juana Mora told the group that when the Cal State administration says they want students that are better in English and math, they really mean students that are "whiter."<sup>4</sup>

MEChA members hawk the message of victimhood and seed the movement by recruiting for Chicano Studies classes. They do most of the protesting, the marching, the fasting and the taking over of university buildings. There are MEChA chapters in 90 percent of California high schools and in colleges and universities all over the nation.

The size and reach of the cult of *La Raza* (The Race) exceeds by far the wildest expectations of its 100 original organizers who met in 1969 as self-appointed representatives of "the northern and southern regions of La Alta California, Aztlan" and wrote the Chicano agenda for higher education and called it, "El Plan de Santa Barbara."<sup>5</sup> On the occasion of that ambitious undertaking, Corky Gonzales, founder of the Crusade for Justice,

Professor Acuña complains that Mexican citizens in the U.S. have been relegated to a "nation within a nation," yet separatism is exactly what he recommends as a solution to their problems.

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