

## **RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION**

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Visiting Scholar

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To the editor of the Los Angeles (The Angels) Times:

As immigrants now residing on the East Coast, we await with heightened anticipation the inevitable arrival of local versions of Proposition 227, recently passed by the prescient voters of California to do away with bilingual education. We never got any of that bilingual coddling when we came here as kids, so everyone else might as well go through what we did, much as fraternity hazing rituals are handed down through the years. In fact, in the spirit of better citizenship, we urge Californians concerned with the insidious effects on children of public exposure to a Babel of non-English tongues to go a logical step further with a Prop 227(b) to really drive home the point that the foundation of civics and national unity is English Only. For history has burdened California with what is likely the largest concentration in the U.S. of unpatriotic names that could send bilingual kids a wrong and confusing signal. Get out the maps, Californians, roll up your sleeves, and let's get to work.

We hereby propose renaming into English, within one year of the passage of Prop 227, all of the places in California that are now provocatively named in foreign languages, particularly that all-too-common Spanish, all the way from The Jewel (misspelled "La Jolla" as it is), Hidden (Escondido), Big Box (El Cajón) and Saucy Sight (Chula Vista), to Old Mission ("Mission Old Man," if you want to get technical) and St. Anne, Green Sticks and the port of St. Peter, proceeding up to Oaks Pass (Paso Robles), Mount King, and along the coast through beautiful Big South to Tall Stick (Palo Alto). There would be new Butterfly, Skulls, and Feathers Counties (Mariposa, Calaveras, and Plumas). As a cost-effective move we can leave the old Catholic saints, so long as they are given their linguistically correct names—St. Ferdinand Valley, Bishop St. Louis, St. Bernard, St. Joseph and St. Francis—while the name of the capital can become The Sacramento, keeping Holy Cross company. Special anglicization efforts will be required for East The Angels, of course, but that's just for starters. "California" itself will have to go, along with truly foreign names like Yosemite, Mojave, Sequoia, Ahwahmee, and Tekachapi, although we are at present unable to translate those names and will have to find someone who is, well, bilingual, in the appropriate tongues.

The work involved would be well worth the effort. What passes in California usually goes nationwide a short time later, so imagine the useful work that lies ahead! The Renaming of America (itself of impure origins) will require the earnest efforts of all patriots, from Alabama to Wyoming. Amarillo, Baton Rouge, Chicago, Corpus Christi, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Honolulu, Miami, Milwaukee, San Antonio, Santa Fe, Seattle, Tallahassee, Valdez, Weehawken and Wichita, here we come!

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