

QA-27638

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97 OCT -7 PM 3:26

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October 2, 1997

Docket No. FHWA-97-2759,-10
Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets,
Room PL-401,
400 Seventh St. S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

IN RE: Conversational English to Drive???

To Whom it may concern:

I just read a Palm Beach Post article involving a law that supposedly requires drivers to be able to speak English to a degree understandable to the general public. The article said that comments regarding this law were invited.

Who is going to pay for the enforcement of such a law? And assuming that a driver can otherwise pass a roadsign and driving test, what are the benefits of such a law? I recently came back from a trip to France. I can't speak French well enough to carry on much of a conversation, but I could understand the street signs and could otherwise get around safely. I'm really at a loss to understand this law.

In the article I read, Palm Beach County criminal prosecutors were bringing a criminal case against a violator of this law. Does the law carry a jail term? Who pays for that? Along those lines, does the government have a compelling interest here? Is it so compelling that the government believes it has the power to force on pain of prison a person to speak a certain way? Where would this all end? My friends from Georgia speak English pretty well, but down here in South Florida, the general public might not be able to understand them. And most of the transplanted New Yorkers around here sound pretty strange in Plains.

I hope this letter was worth the time and postage. I'm wondering how something this goofy could have come about in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tim Morell

cc: Valentin Rodriguez, Esq.

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