

(1) - 1 DAY

(2) - MEMBER OR SP

(3) - 50.00 - 300.

(4) SERVE - 1 DAY

A.P. - DAY BOOK

5

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2 RM - PRES<sup>IDENTIAL</sup> RM - 250

50

180

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DIANO - RM 1376



*LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION*

HERMAN BACA

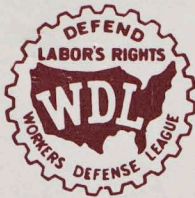
NATIONAL CITY, CA

NAT. IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CONSULTATION  
CONF.

AUG. 3-5, 1981  
WASH. D.C.



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# WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

15 UNION SQUARE

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003

(212) 242-0700

NATIONAL COUNSEL  
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Patricia Eames  
Ernest Fleischman  
Francis Heisler  
Carl Rachlin  
WEST COAST COUNSEL  
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Edward J. Sparling  
Clyde W. Summers  
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Ben J. Wattenberg  
Roy Wilkins  
Joseph Willen  
Jerry Wurt

June 26, 1981

Dear Friend,

We urge you to join us in signing the enclosed open letter to President Reagan on the subject of peonage of undocumented aliens. As the letter elaborates, we have evidence of growing abuse of workers in an extensive underground economy based upon forced labor and debt slavery in direct violation of the United States Constitution and existing civil rights and labor law.

We are sure that you share our concern both for the workers whose human rights are so trampled, as well as for the threat that such employment practices pose to our civil rights and employment standards.

The Workers Defense League is currently gathering information and documentation on both individual cases and the general patterns of peonage. The publication of this open letter will open a multi-staged educational campaign directed at federal law enforcement agencies, public officials, and the press, calling for the eradication of these abuses.

Your signature will add that much more weight to our demand for protection of the rights of all workers.

Please return the enclosed consent card to the Workers Defense League to have your name added to the list of co-signatories that will be sent to the White House and released to the press. To render the coordinating task manageable, however, we must insist that your card be postmarked by ~~July~~ <sup>August</sup> 31, 1981 in order for your name to be included.

We hope you will join us in this call,

Yours sincerely,

Sol C. Chaikin  
President  
International Ladies Garment  
Workers Union

Msgr. George G. Higgins  
Former Secretary for Special Concerns  
United States Catholic Conference

(continued next page)



Murray H. Finley

Murray H. Finley  
President  
Amalgamated Clothing and Textile  
Workers Union, AFL-CIO

Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin  
President Emeritus  
A. Philip Randolph Institute

Joyce D. Miller

Joyce D. Miller  
President  
Coalition of Labor Union Women

Howard E. Spragg

Rev. Howard E. Spragg  
Chief Executive Officer  
Board of Homeland Ministries  
United Church of Christ

Raul Yzaguirre

Raul Yzaguirre  
President  
National Council of La Raza

Marc H. Tanenbaum

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
Director of Interreligious Affairs  
American Jewish Committee

David Hyatt

David Hyatt  
President  
National Conference of Christians  
and Jews

Rowland Watts

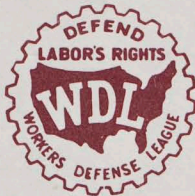
Rowland Watts  
President  
Workers Defense League

Harry Fleischman

Harry Fleischman  
Executive Committee Chairman  
Workers Defense League



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Joseph Willen  
Jerry Wurt

## OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Dear Mr. President:

Americans have widely varying views on how to resolve the complex problems of undocumented aliens in the United States and, indeed, of our entire immigration program. But all Americans are united in our firm opposition to slavery and peonage. These are not only a direct violation of the United States Constitution; they are also abhorrent to our ideals of justice, decency and morality.

Mr. President, you are in a unique position to wield enormous power to correct a blight on American Justice. We refer to the slavery and peonage of thousands of undocumented alien workers throughout the nation. Last October, a series of articles in the New York Times revealed that "uncounted thousands of Spanish-speaking aliens who flee to this country each year to escape the crushing poverty of their homelands are being virtually enslaved, bought and sold on sophisticated underground labor exchanges. They are trucked around the country in consignments by self-described labor contractors who deliver them to farmers and growers for hundreds of dollars a head."

Dozens of Immigration and Naturalization Service officials told the Times that the problem is not isolated but exists on a large and growing scale. Hugh Williams, recently chief of the Border Patrol in Del Rio, Texas, told of farmers in Arkansas who bought aliens from Durward Woosley for \$400 each and withheld wages until the \$400 was paid off. "Then," added Williams, "they would sell the alien to somebody else for \$400. The alien never saw any cash. In effect, each farmer was getting free labor. There were cases where we found Mexicans who were at their third or fourth farm and hadn't made a penny the whole time they were in the U.S. -- peonage, that's really what it was."

In November, 1978, Connie Ray Alford, a Truxno, Louisiana chicken farmer, pleaded guilty to chaining two of his workers in a chicken coop to keep them from running away.

Though we have heard reports of such practices in the southwest, these abuses appear to be most severe in the citrus and winter vegetable belts of Florida, the potato fields of Idaho, and on the tobacco farms of Virginia and North Carolina, where, according to the Times, "farmworkers are at a premium, so much so that the coyotes (labor contractors) who smuggle them north and east can easily command fees of \$500 a worker." The workers are often locked up at night to prevent their running away when they learn that they will receive no pay until the fee is repaid. When direct confinement is not used,



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other subtle, and not so subtle, means of coercion are, such as threats of exposure and deportation. More often than not, though, the threat of violence, either against the workers themselves, or against their families back home, plays a major role in preventing them from seeking help.

Needless to say, minimum wages, hours limitations, child labor protection, hygiene, health and safety, insurance and tax payment are hardly respected under such conditions.

Such peonage and slavery is illegal, but ignorant and intimidated aliens neither know the law in the United States nor have access to legal protection.

The existence of such cruel and illegal exploitation in a modern society is not a novel development. Back in 1948, the Workers Defense League testified before the Commission of Inquiry into Forced Labor on slavery, peonage, and forced labor throughout the world. Witnesses reported on their experiences in government-operated forced-labor camps in the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, as well as on forced labor in South Africa.

Witnesses also testified that the United States tolerated forced labor in defiance of the Constitution. In 1950, testifying before the United Nations Committee on Slavery, Rowland Watts of the Workers Defense League declared that peonage, or debt slavery, then operated commonly among black sharecroppers in the deep south. As but one example, he cited the case of Bill Edison, a black man repeatedly beaten and forced to work for long hours on a Mississippi plantation, who was never paid the five dollars a week he was supposed to receive.

But even such cases where individual workers have received outside help, the federal government has failed to take effective action. Watts rescued Edison and brought him to Washington, D.C., to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Despite initial promises of immediate legal action, the Bureau later reversed itself, maintaining that it did not have enough evidence to secure a conviction against Edison's enslaver and attacker.

Back then, the same pattern also applied to Mexican "wetbacks", illegal migrants at the mercy of farm employers. John P. Swanson of the Immigration Service reported that "peonage conditions under which 'wetbacks' frequently live, eat, and sleep can only be described as horrible."

Even today we are receiving evidence that that forms of bonded labor, coercion, and similar work-related violations of civil rights are practiced amongst domestic workers and in light industry, where exploitative employers prey on the vulnerability of undocumented aliens of many nationalities.

Anti-slavery and anti-peonage laws have not been adequately enforced. In the early fifties, the Workers Defense League found that the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division was grossly understaffed and lacked powers of investigation. Today similar problems persist. As both the Justice Department and Immigration Service staff concede, insufficient manpower and effort are being assigned to the job.

We therefore ask you, Mr. President, for a clear policy commitment to the eradication of peonage and forced labor in this country. We recognize the



difficulty of proving cases of peonage and slavery, but that is all the more reason for an affirmative posture from the Department of Justice.

Specifically we offer the following recommendations:

- That you direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to launch a broad investigation into the practices of peonage, to systematically document the patterns of abuse and bring to prosecution offending employers and labor contractors.
- That you alert all relevant federal agencies, and instruct these to cooperate with appropriate state and local authorities to maximize awareness of these civil rights violations and most effectively coordinate referrals, documentation and legal action.
- That you extend to victims of such exploitation sufficient immunity from deportation and offer any other inducements necessary to encourage them to come forward and secure their uninhibited testimony against their alleged enslavers.
- And finally, that you secure for the Immigration and Naturalization Service enough responsible staff to bring an end to the latter-day slave trade practiced by illegal labor contractors.

The philosopher, George Santayana, said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." You, Mr. President, can prove that we have learned from the past.

Sincerely yours,

(The names of all co-signatories will follow)





**Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc**

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 31, 1981

HERMAN BACA AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS (CCR), A SAN DIEGO-BASED HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, ARRIVED TODAY IN WASHINGTON D.C. TO CONTINUE THEIR CHICANO NATIONAL IMMIGRATION OFFENSIVE AGAINST PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN'S BRACERO PROGRAM AND LAW-ENFORCEMENT APPROACH IMMIGRATION PLAN.

RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RECENTLY RELEASED IMMIGRATION PROGRAM BACA DENOUNCED REAGAN'S AMNESTY AS MERE RHETORIC. "WHAT AMNESTY?" BACA ASKED. "RIGHT NOW THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (I.N.S.) HAS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION WHO HAVE WAITED YEARS TO IMMIGRATE. MEXICANS WHO APPLIED IN JANUARY 1972 ARE BARELY BEING PROCESSED NOW IN 1981. HOW IS THIS INCOMPETENT AND RACIST AGENCY GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROCESS THREE MILLION AMNESTY CASES WHEN THEIR RED TAPE HAS THEM 10 YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE? IT WILL BE THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BEFORE SO-CALLED 'ELIGIBLE' MEXICANS WILL RECEIVE AMNESTY", HE CHARGED.

THE LACK OF SINCERITY OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS REVEALED WHEN WE SEE PROPOSALS FOR MORE MONEY FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS TO FORCE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS BACK TO MEXICO BUT NO PROPOSALS FOR FUNDS TO RELIEVE THE I.N.S. BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE NIGHTMARE. BUT AN EVEN GREATER EXAMPLE OF REAGAN'S INSINCERITY, CALLOUSNESS AND HYPOCRISY IS HIS PROPOSED BRACERO PROGRAM. WHILE TRYING TO CONVINCING THE PUBLIC THAT HIS IS A HUMANE ATTITUDE IN RESOLVING THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE HE IS TRYING TO REINTRODUCE A FOREIGN WORKER TYPE PROGRAM LABELED "LEGALIZED SLAVERY" BY THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE BRACERO PROGRAM.

THE CCR ON BEHALF OF 200 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ATTENDED THEIR CHICANO NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE OF MAY 1980, AND THEIR CHICANO NATIONAL IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL OF APRIL 1981, RECENTLY SENT A TELEGRAM TO BOTH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND MEXICAN PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO TO "REFUTE ANY TYPE OF 'BRACERO' FOREIGN IMPORTATION PROGRAM OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AS SOLUTIONS TO THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM". BACA STATED "THAT ANY TYPE OF FOREIGN LABOR IMPORTATION PROGRAM CAN ONLY LEAD TO A SLAVE TYPE SYSTEM FOR THE IMPORTED MEXICAN WORKER AND AN APARTHEID SYSTEM FOR THE 20 MILLION CHICANO/LATINOS IN THE U.S."

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"WE CALL ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO TURN AWAY FROM THE PROVEN 'BANKRUPT' FAILURES OF THE PAST AND INSTEAD SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM ON THE PRINCIPLES OF PROTECTING THE DIGNITY, INTEREST AND THE HUMAN, CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS NOT ONLY OF THE UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WORKERS BUT ALSO OF THE 20 MILLION CHICANO/LATINOS.

THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT AND PAST ADMINISTRATION, ESPECIALLY THE SELECT COMMISSION ON IMMIGRATION, HAS NEVER ADDRESSED THE CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION AND HAVE CONTINUED TO DISREGARD THE MASSIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY WHICH WAS PRESENTED IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS PROVES THAT THE REAGAN PROPOSALS WILL PLAY NO POSITIVE ROLE IN SOLVING THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE. "IN FACT WHAT THE PROPOSAL WILL DO IS AGGRAVATE THE VIOLENCE ALONG THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER, AND THE MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN CHICANO/LATINO COMMUNITIES!

269-2385



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H. BACA CHAIRMAN OF THE  
CCR A <sup>DR</sup>SAN DIEGO, CA BASED RIGHTS ORGAN  
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N.P.C.B. EM ON 8-1-81 AT ? ~~FOR FURTHER~~  
TO ANNOUNCE A N.C. OF OPPOSITION TO  
~~10/1~~ ~~2/1~~ P.R.I.P. ON POSITIONS TAKEN ON B





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- 8
- (1) OPPORTUNITY TO DEFINE THE ISSUE IF: <sup>1977</sup>
- (1) GET ORGANIZE + ASSIGN OURSELVES A ROLE
  - (2)

(2) WE NEED TO 'EXTERNAL' (PRESS)  
TELEPHONE -

(1) CALL A PRESS CONFERENCE

(2) ~~TO~~ WRITE A PRESS RELEASE

<sup>VALLEY</sup> (3) WORK ON SELLING ~~OUR~~ WHO WE ARE TO PRESS

A (4) CALL EXCELLSOR FOR BLDG.

(5) CALL & DELIVER PRESS PACKET

A (6) GET A PACKET ON THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASE

(1) ~~BE~~ WORK ON BRIEFING - FOLLOW-UP

(3) . . . . . INTERNAL (CONFERENCE)

(1) WORK ON SPEECH

(2) CONTACT INDIVIDUAL

(3) WHO GOING TO SELL <sup>BUTTONS</sup> & PASS BROCHURE

(4) GET PACKET

(5) WHO ARE WE GOING TO GIVE PACKET TO

(6) GAME PLAN FOR FUNDS; COMMUNICATION

TYPEWRITER

(1) WE CONTROL ~~CO~~ ✓

(2) DISMISSES US - REPRESENT OUR PERS. WERE NOT DISMISSING THEM

(3) DAN

(4) CONFERENCE - VOTED TO

(5) HOLY THAN + HOW ←

(6) MAKING IMPACT

- REAGAN PLAN

1 - 150  
WE DO NOT CONTROL



NATIONAL IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CONSULTATION

AUGUST 3-5, 1981

TRINITY COLLEGE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 3, 1981

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00-11:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION	MAIN AUDITORIUM
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	<p>U.S. immigration policy as a function of U.S. foreign and economic policies</p> <p>Presentors: Hilburn Watson, Professor of Political Science Howard University</p> <p>Henry Foner, President Joint Board Fur, Leather and Machine Workers (AFL-CIO)</p> <p>Presentations will focus on how U.S. immigration/refugee policies are influenced by and formed on the basis of U.S. foreign policies and domestic economic policies; overview of the historical links between U.S. foreign and economic policies and immigration/refugee policies; what the current administration's foreign and economic policies mean in terms of immigration policies.</p>	
12:15-1:15 p.m.	<p>LUNCH</p> <p>U.S. treatment of Salvadorean refugees and Manzo's recent victories in gaining the release of hundreds of Salvadorean refugees from INS detention camps.</p> <p>PRESENTOR: Margo Cowan Manzo Area Council Tuscon, Arizona</p>	ALUMNAE HALL CAFETERIA







AUGUST 3, CONTINUED

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4:00 - 5:15 Administration proposals for an employer sanctions Law and Congressional interest in a national work ID card; the use of INS against labor organizing activities. MAIN AUDITORIUM

PRESENTORS: Amit Pandya  
NCIR  
Washington, D.C. Counsel

and Jose Bracamonte, University of Michigan  
Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Presentations will focus on the historical use of INS in disrupting labor organizing activities; labor strategies for organizing in the face of the employer's use of INS as a tool to disrupt such activities; proposals for an employer sanctions law and national work ID card and what these mean for minority communities and workers in general.

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5:15 - 6:30 Administration proposals for a temporary worker program MAIN AUDITORIUM

PRESENTORS: Domingo Gonzalez  
American Friends Service Committee

Michael Semler  
Migrant Legal Action Program  
Washington D.C.

Alfredo dí Avila,  
Texas Farmworkers

Presentations will focus on U.S. prior experiences with Bracero program; what we can expect with a new temporary worker program; the impact on organizing efforts of a temporary worker program.

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6:45 - 7:45 DINNER ALUMNAE HALL  
CAFETERIA

PRESENTORS: Herman Baca  
Committee for Chicano Rights  
San Diego, California

Alberto Luera  
Asocion Por Servicios Sociales  
Laredo, Texas

Presentations on INS and Border Patrol activities in the border areas.



AUGUST 4

8:00-9:00 a.m.	BREAKFAST	ALUMNAE HALL
9:00-10:15 a.m.	<p>U.S. immigration quotas and their impact on illegal migration; legalization for undocumented workers.</p> <p>PRESENTORS: Ruben Bonilla, LULAC</p> <p>Charles Keely Center for Policy Studies New York, New York</p> <p>Presentations will focus on the manner in which U.S. quotas impact on the undocumented issue; current proposals for immigration quotas; the historical use of quotas to control immigration; proposed legalization program; impact of the administration's proposed legalization program.</p>	MAIN AUDITORIUM
10:15-11:30 a.m.	<p>U.S. asylum &amp; Refugee policies</p> <p>PRESENTORS: Reverend Jean Just Haitian Refugee Center, Inc. Miami, Florida</p> <p>Hurst Hannum International Human Rights Law Group Washington, D.C. ; Amnesty International</p> <p>Father Cuchulain Moriarty Salvador Interfaith Task Force San Francisco, California</p> <p>Presentations will focus on U.S. Policy toward persons seeking asylum, particularly from Haiti, Salvador and other Central and South American countries; INS treatment of these refugees; strategies for protecting the rights of asylum seekers disfavored by U.S. policies.</p>	MAIN AUDITORIUM
11:30-11:40	COFFEE BREAK	OUTSIDE OF MAIN AUDITORIUM
11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	<p>Civil rights of migrant workers in the U.S.</p> <p>PRESENTOR: Isaias Torres La Raza Legal Alliance</p> <p>Presentation will focus on the civil rights protections that migrant workers in the U.S. do and do not have; Constitutional protections for undocumented workers; eligibility migrant workers for public benefits.</p>	MAIN AUDITORIUM



AUGUST 4 - Continued

12:30-1:30 p.m.	LUNCH	ALUMNAE HALL CAFETERIA
	PRESENTOR: Rose Ochi Former Commissioner on the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy	
	Persentation will focus on (1) the process and product of the Select Commission, and (2) the impact of immigration policies on Asian migrants.	
1:30-3:00 p.m.	Strategies for meeting the new administration's plans; suggestions on coalitions which must be built and ideas on work plans	MAIN AUDITORIUM
	PRESENTOR: Vilma Martinez MALDEF Susan Herrera, Staff Director, Congressional Hispanic Caucus	
	Presentation will focus on proposed strategies for responding to the administration's immigration pro- posals; what kinds of coalitions must be developed; how can organizations make their views known to Congress and the administration.	
3:00-3:15 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK	OUTSIDE OF MAIN AUDITORIUM
3:15-5:15 p.m.	TASK FORCE MEETINGS	
	Asylum and Refugee Policy Task Force Co-Chaired by Reverend Jean Juste and Peter Schey	ROOM 240
	INS Enforcement Task Force Co-Chaired by Timothy Barker and	ROOM 218/222
	Labor and INS Task Force Co-Chaired by Lupe Sanchez, Arizona Farm Workers Union and Amit Padya, NCIR, Washington, D.C. Counsel	FACULTY DINING ROOM
	Immigrants and Social Services Task Force Co-Chaired by Margo Cowan, Manzo Area Council Tuscon, Arizona and C. Holguin	MUSIC HALL
5:30-6:30	DINNER	ALUMNAE HALL CAFETERIA
	PRESENTOR: TO BE ANNOUNCED Sr. Juan Barona,	
	Presentation: Organizing the Unorganized Mexican Government's perspechve on U.S. immigration	



AUGUST 5,

8:00-9:00	BREAKFAST	ALUMNAE HALL
9:00-11:00 a.m.	Continuation of Task Force meetings; development of work plans and positions  TASK FORCE MEETINGS - CONTINUED  Asylum and Refugee Policy Task Force  INS Enforcement Task Force  Labor and INS Task Force  Immigrants and Social Services Task Force	ROOM 240  ROOM 218/220  FACULTY DINING Room  MUSIC HALL
11:00-11:15	COFFEE BREAK	OUTSIDE OF MAIN AUDITORIUM
11:15-12:15	Task Force Reports to Plenary Session	MAIN AUDITORIUM
12:15-1:15	LUNCH  PRESENTORS: Jose Medina Antonio Orendine Texas Farm Workers Union  Presentation on strategies for local self defense efforts contemplating declining legal services representation.	ALUMNAE HALL
1:15-2:15	Task Force Reports to Plenary Session (continued)	MAIN AUDITORIUM
2:15-3:30 p.m.	Discussion on role of Legal Services programs in light of Task Force work plans and anticipated decrease in availability of free legal services through LSC; how local networks can be developed and information disseminated.  MODERATOR: TO BE ANNOUNCED	MAIN AUDITORIUM



NATIONAL IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CONSULTATION

AUGUST 3-5, 1981

TRINITY COLLEGE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Irene L. Adame  
Dept. of Political & Human Rights  
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Amy Anawati  
Int'l Human Rights Law Group  
1700 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 801  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Deborak Anker  
International Institute  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Carlos Arango  
c/o Tomas Santana  
Casa Hermandad Central de  
Trabajadores  
2337 W 24th Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Telly Armijo  
Socio-Statewide Chicano  
Organization of Utah  
3060 Lester  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Kevin M. Aslanian  
Welfare Recipients League, Inc.  
1505 Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, California 95116

David Avalos  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
1837 Highland Avenue  
National City, California 92050

Raul Ayala  
O.L.A. RAZA, Inc.  
115 West Main Street, #C  
Visalia, California 93291

Ellen Barry  
Legal Services for Prisoners with  
Children  
693 Mission Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, California 94105

Margarita B. Bernal  
Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.  
155 East Alameda  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Elizabeth Zepeda Blubaugh  
NALEO  
P.O. Box 24266  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Juan Jose Bocanegra  
2524 - 16th Avenue  
South Seattle, Washington 98144

Phillip L. Boneta  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp.  
260 Broadway  
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Paul Bovarnick  
Montana Legal Services Association  
2718 Montana Avenue  
Billings, Montana 59101

Francisco Briones  
Church and Society Department  
P.O. Box 547  
Alamo, Texas 78516

Roy S. Bryce  
Research Institute on Immigration  
& Ethnic Studies  
955 L'Enfant Plaza - Rm 2300  
Washington, D.C. 20024



Patricia L. Campbell  
Utah Legal Services  
352 South Denver Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Eduardo Canales  
5115 Harrisburg Blvd.  
Houston, Texas

David Carliner  
1511 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 931  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Timothy Castro  
Georgia Legal Services/Migrant Div.  
150 S. Ridge Avenue  
Tifton, Georgia 31794

Patrick Emmett Clarke  
West Texas Legal Services  
Lawyers Building  
100 Main Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 79102

Roberto A. Cornelio  
Midwest Coalition in Defense of  
Immigrants  
c/o Mujeres Latinas en Accion  
1823 W. 17th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Meg Crabtree  
Human Rights Internet  
1502 Ogden Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Alfredo De Avila  
Texas Legal Services Center  
500 W. 13th  
Austin, Texas 78701

Louis De Larde  
U.S. Catholic Conference  
700 South Santa Fe St.  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Rev. Elli Elliott  
Interfaith Coalition for Justice  
to Immigrants/Chicago Area  
22 East Van Buren - Room 300  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Ms. Rosemary J. Esparza  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego,  
Inc.  
429 Third Avenue  
Chula Vista, California 92010

Ciprano Ferrel  
Williamette Valley Immigration  
Project  
356 Young Street  
Woodbarn, Oregon 97071

Charlotte Fishman  
Golden Gate University  
Immigration Law Clinic  
609 Mission Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, California

Hugo Fleischman  
Ayuda, Inc.  
1736 Columbia Road, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Judith Fournelle  
Legal Aid Bureau  
341 N. Calvert  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Margaret Fung  
Asian American Legal Defense  
& Education Fund  
350 Broadway, Suite 308  
New York, New York 10013

Lillian Galedo  
Fillpino Immigrant Services  
164 - 11th Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Kenlynn K. Gallegos  
Church World Service  
5250 Santa Monica Blvd., #311  
Los Angeles, California 90029

Mark Galvin  
Rhode Island Legal Services  
77 Dorrance Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Alberto Garcia  
United California Mexican  
American Assn.  
318 E. San Ysidro Blvd.  
San Ysidro, California 92073



Canon Oliver B. Garver, Jr.  
West Coast Committee  
P.O. Box 2164  
Los Angeles, California 90051

Jaime Geaga  
National Filipino Immigrant  
Rights Organization  
2942 - 23rd Avenue  
Oakland, California 94606

Kenneth Gilchrist  
Southern Minnesota Regional  
Legal Services  
P.O. Box 3304  
529 So. 5th Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Dick Ginsburg  
Grey on Legal Services  
Farmworker Office, Rm 5  
107 S.E. - 2nd Avenue  
Dalland, OR

Ira Golobin  
277 Broadway Suite 1200  
New York, New York 10007

Domingo Gonzalez  
1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Jose A. Gonzales  
Legal Services Program for  
Pasadena  
3513 Johnson Avenue  
El Monte, California 91731

Linda Gorey  
Clinica Adelante  
P.O. Box 760  
El Mirage, Arizona 85335

Lois Greenburg  
Church World Service  
Immigration & Refugee Program  
5250 Santa Monica Blvd. - Suite 311  
Los Angeles, California 90029

Juan Gutierrez  
International Brotherhood of  
General Workers  
Los Angeles, California

Ventura Gutierrez  
El Progreso Del Desierto  
51-800 Harrison Avenue  
Coachella, California 92236

J. Patrick Hamilton  
Buddhist Social Service, Inc.  
5401 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

Daniel C. Harms  
Centro Para Immigrants  
Gulf Coast Legal Foundation  
2314 Cochran  
Houston, Texas 77009

James W. Hengelbrok, Jr.  
Bay Area Legal Services  
305 North Morgan Street  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Esteban Hernandez  
Channel Counties Legal Services  
P.O. Box 1228, 730 South A St.  
Oxnard, CA 93032

Joseph Hilbert  
Justice & Peace Committee  
950 West Market Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17404

David Horton  
259 South Texas  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Ralph Inzunza  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
1837 Highland Avenue  
National City, CA 92050

Arturo Jaurequi  
Legal Services Center for  
Immigrants  
1661 South Blue Island Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Ricardo LaFore  
Colorado Migrant Council  
7905 West 44th Avenue  
Wheatridge, Colorado 80033

Warren Leiden  
National Immigration Project  
of the National Lawyers  
Guild, Inc.  
120 Boylston Street - Rm 1009  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



Edward Luban  
Nassau/Suffolk Law Services  
91 North Franklin Street  
Hempstead, New York 11550

Ricardo Msdrigal  
Georgetown University Law  
Center  
600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Roberto Maestas  
El Central De La Raza  
2524 16th Avenue South  
Seattle, Washington 98144

Marco Mason  
Urban League  
1500 Broadway  
New York, NY 10036

Margaret D. McCain  
Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc.  
277 Lisbon Street  
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Jean Jacques Medina  
IBGW  
213-383-7057

Jose L. Mendez  
Fresno/Merced Counties Legal  
Services, Inc.  
906 N. Street #125  
Fresno, California 93721

Sal Mesa  
Political Coalition de la Raza  
32699 Navajo Trail #3  
Palm Springs, California

Kim Miller  
Office for Refugee Resettlement  
900 So. Arlington Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

William W. Monning  
California Rural Legal Asst.  
3 Williams Road  
Salinas, California 93905

Mario F. Moreno  
Community Legal Services  
P.O. Box 808  
Somerton, Arizona 85350

Baldwin Moy  
Legal Services of Middle  
Tennessee, Inc.  
102-1/2 East Vine Street  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

Maria A. Olivares  
La Raza Centro Legal  
2588 Mission Street, Suite 200  
San Francisco, California 94110

Bessie O'Rourke  
Alaska Legal Services Corporation  
Suite 100  
615 H Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Michael J. Ortiz  
Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance  
Project, Inc.  
103 Mt. Vernon Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Elisa Parascandola  
Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.  
31 S. Mills Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Martha L. Permalee  
Catholic Migration and Refugee  
Office  
75 Greene Avenue  
P.O. Box C  
Brooklyn, NY 11202

Pedro Parra  
Legal Services of Southeast  
Nebraska  
800 Anderson Building  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Jose Parton  
Puerto Rico Legal Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9134  
Santurce, Puerto Rico 00908



Frank Pola, Jr.  
New Orleans Legal Assistance  
Corporation  
226 Carondelet Street  
Suite 601  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Eileen Purcell  
Community Organizer at Catholic  
Social Service  
445 Church Street  
San Francisco, California 94114

Javier Rabadan  
Centro Cristo Rey  
315 N. Root Street  
Aurora, Illinois 60505

Joseph Ramirez  
Chicano Awareness Center, Inc.  
4825 South 24th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68107

Jose Luis Ramos  
San Fernando Valley Legal Services  
13327 Van Nuys Boulevard  
Pacoima, California 91331

Viola D. Richardson  
Bronx Legal Services  
1211 White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York 10472

Frank Riley  
Centro de Asantós  
Migratorios  
835 D Avenue  
National City, CA

Connie Romero  
Denver Catholic Community Services  
416 - 22nd Street  
Denver, Colorado 80205

Jesus Romo  
Farm Workers Rights  
P.O. Box 1102  
Imokawlee, Florida 33934

Robert Rubin  
Bay Area Immigrant & Refugee  
Rights Project  
625 Market Street, Suite 1208  
San Francisco, California 94105

Isabel R. Safora  
Evergreen Legal Services  
618 2nd Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104

G. Salazar  
Civil Rights Immigration Legal Aid  
318 San Ysidro Boulevard  
San Ysidro, California 92073

Guadalupe Sanchez  
Arizona Farmworkers Union  
P.O. Box 819  
Elmirage, Arizona 85335

Ricardo Sanchez  
Consuello Spanish Speaking,  
King County  
107 Cherry Street - Suite 210  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Elizabeth Sandoval  
La Raza Legal Alliance  
819 6th Street  
Marysville, California

Pable Sedillo  
U.S. Catholic Conference  
Washington, D.C.

John Spain  
Amerinole Justice & Peace Office  
Amerinole, NY 10545



14  
Reverend Ken Stumpf  
Lutheran Council  
360 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10010

Sue Sullivan  
Haitian Refugee  
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

John Tenhula  
National Council of Churches  
475 Riverside Drive - Room 528  
New York, New York 10027

Father Lydio Tomasi  
Center La Migration Studies  
209 Flag Place  
Staten Island, New York 10304

Deborah Townsend  
Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.  
Northside Shopping Center  
149 West Plaza  
P.O. Box 47000N  
Miami, Florida 33147

Hna Clarita Trujillo  
Northeastern Deanery of the  
Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
909 - 8th Street  
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

Carlos Vazquez  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.  
429 3rd Avenue  
Chula Vista, California 92010

L. A. Velarde  
U.S. Catholic Conference  
700 S. Santa Fe Street  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Marta R. Velazquez  
Georgetown University Law Center  
600 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Charles H. Wheeler  
Colorado Rural Legal Services  
1626 High Street  
Denver, Colorado 80218

Luis A. Wilmot  
Gulf Coast Legal Foundation  
2314 Cochran  
Houston, Texas 77009

Joseph F. Zuiker  
Migrant Farmworkers Law Unit  
Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 66  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605



ADDENDUM TO PARTICIPANTS LIST

David Iverson  
Legal Services of the  
Virgin Islands  
15-16 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00801

Ben de Hoyloz  
Legal Aid of Los Angeles  
3663 West 6th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90020

Salvador Mendez  
Socio Statewide Chicano Organization  
of Utah  
3060 Lester  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Rita Nunez  
Congreso National Para Pueblos Unietos  
742 W. Second Street  
San Bernandino, California 92410

Linda Wong  
MALDEF  
1636 West 8th Street, Suite 319  
Los Angeles, California



NATIONAL IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE CONSULTATION  
August 3-5, 1981

Trinity College  
Washington, D.C.

Trainers for Immigration Conference

Herman Baca  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
1837 Highland Ave.  
National City, California 92050

Jim Barker  
National Center for Immigrants'  
Rights  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
1550 West Eighth Street  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dr. Jose Bracamonte  
Univ. of Michigan Law School  
Room 941  
Legal Research  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ruben Bonilla  
P.O. Drawer 5427  
2590 Morgan Avenue  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dr. Jorge A. Bustamante  
Colegio de Mexico  
Mexico City, Mexico

Margo Cowan  
Manzo Area Council  
Tucson, Arizona

Domingo Gonzales  
American Friends Service  
Commission  
1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Hurst Hannum  
International Human Rights Law  
Group  
1700 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Susan Herrera  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
Washington, D.C.

Carlos Holguin  
National Center for Immigrants'  
Rights  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
1550 West 8th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Rev. Jean Juste  
Haitian Refugee Center, Inc.  
32 North East 54 Street  
Miami, Florida 33137  
P.O. Box 370543

Charles Keely  
The Population Council  
Center for Policy Studies  
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017

David Kramer  
The Lawyers Committee for  
International Human Rights  
New York, New York

Alberto Luera  
Asociacion Pro Servicios  
Sociales, Inc.  
520 Garza  
Laredo, Texas 78040

Vilma Martinez  
MALDEF  
28 Geary Street  
San Francisco, California 94108

Jose Medina  
IBGW  
Los Angeles, California

Juan Mendez  
Nation Forum/Lawyers Committee  
for Civil Rights  
Alien Rights Project  
733 - 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Father Cuchulain Moriarty  
Salvador Interfaith Task Force  
Most Holy Redeemer Church  
100 Diamond Street  
San Francisco, California 94117

Rose Ochi  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012



Antonio Orendine  
P.O. Box 876  
San Juan, Texas

Amit Pandya  
National Center for Immigrants'  
Rights  
1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 931  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Michael Posner  
The Lawyers' Committee for  
International Human Rights  
New York, New York

Anselme Remy  
Centre Haitian d' Information  
de Documentation  
et d'Action Sociale

Lupe Sanchez  
Arizona Farmworkers Union  
P.O. Box 760  
El Mirage, Arizona 85335

Peter Schey  
National Center for Immigrants'  
Rights  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
1550 W. 8th Street  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Steve Schneibaum  
Washington, D.C.

Michael Semmler  
Migrant Legal Action Program  
806 15th Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Isa~~n~~ias Torres  
La Raza Legal Alliance

Prof. Hilburn Watson  
Political Science Dept.  
Howard University  
Washington, D.C.

Alfredo De Avila  
Texas Legal Services Center  
500 West 13th  
Austin, Texas 78701

RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONSULTANT

Erika Gordon

(202) 272-4100

OPS, ATDU, STAFF

Marlene L. Watkins  
Conference Manager

(202-272-4180)





**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**  
733 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

Dan J. Bradley  
President

Writer's Direct Telephone  
(202) 272-4180

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When participants were selected to attend the National Immigration and Refugee Consultation Conference we attached a dollar figure to your acceptance form that indicated the dollar amount up to which you would be reimbursed for travel, room and board. This was done to assure that the conference did not run over the allocated budget. We have subtracted from this amount the cost of food and/or lodging for the conference. On your expense forms we will indicate the total dollar amount up to which you can be reimbursed for travel:

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You may submit your travel expense forms to Erika Gordon or Marlene L. Watkins following the last session of the conference or mail them to Marlene L. Watkins in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

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Howard R. Sacks  
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Ramona Shump  
Topeka, Kansas

Richard Trudell  
Oakland, California

Josephine Worthy  
Holyoke, Massachusetts







NEWSPAPERS

Herman Baca has been interviewed by dozens of newspapers including large U.S. metropolitan dailies, the foreign press, alternative media, student tabloids and Chicano newspaper.

New York Times  
Chicago Tribune  
Dallas Times Herald  
Los Angeles Times  
Sacramento Bee  
San Diego Union  
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UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Culiacan, Mexico  
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metropolitan State College, Denver, Colorado

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Conferences:

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California State M.E.Ch.A. Conference, Fresno  
Banquet 78, Towards a New Immigration Policy, Los Angeles  
National Workers Conference for the Rights of Undocumented Workers, Washington D.C.  
World Council of Churches Immigration Conference, New York  
National Federation Of Priests Ecumenical Immigration Conference, El Paso  
National Haninigan Coalition Trial Vigil  
Arizona State M.E.Ch.A. Conference  
El Primer Simposium (sobre causas y efectos de la Migración en Mexico y los Estados Unidos)



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
Saturday, February 21, 1981

# Hispanics to show support for Hanigans' prosecution

A group of Hispanics is staging an around-the-clock vigil, a "run for justice" and a candlelight procession to show support for the prosecution of the Hanigan brothers.

The National Coalition on the Hanigan Case has planned a weekend of demonstrations and fund-raising events.

The activities were to begin Friday evening with a run to carry a torch from South Mountain Park to the Federal Building at 230 N. 1st Ave.

A group planned to camp outside the building with the torch until the two juries inside reach their verdicts, coalition spokesman Ben Miranda said.

The juries began deliberations Friday in the cases against Thomas and Patrick Hanigan. The brothers are accused of robbing and torturing three undocumented Mexican laborers Aug. 18, 1976.

The juries may deliberate through the weekend. Regardless of whether the juries reach verdicts by Sunday evening, the coalition is planning a 5 p.m. Mass for that day at St. Anthony's Church, 909 S. 1st Ave.

The candlelight procession from the church to the Federal Building is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Sunday.

At a press conference Friday, a San Diego Chicano leader said the Hanigan case represents a "crossroad for the United States" in its treatment of undocumented aliens and in its immigration policies.

Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights, said that crossroad is whether the nation "will begin to resolve the immigration issue in a humane, just, sane and rational manner, or whether it will continue to give vigilante groups and law-enforcement groups the 'green light' to take the law into their hands."

Feb. 20.....Herman Baca spoke to 300 students (high school and college) at the state-wide MECHA conference (Arizona). Herman denounced the term "hispanic", as a label imposed upon us by the anglo system. The conference was held at Carl Hayden High School Phoenix, Arizona.

Feb. 27.....Sacramento, California. Bert Corona (National Immigration Coalition), Ricardo Torres (Sacramento Immigration Committee), and Herman Baca (Committee On Chicano Rights) criticized the findings of the president's Select Committee on Immigration. The organizations called for a campaign against policies they said would perpetuate "20th century slavery." The immigration conference was held at the La Semilla Cultural Center.



HERMAN BACA

## Chicanos rip immigration policies

By MICHAEL ACKLEY  
SACRAMENTO UNION STAFF WRITER

A group of Chicano activists called Thursday for a campaign against immigration policies they said would perpetuate "20th century slavery."

Representatives of three organizations held a press conference at La Semilla Cultural Center to criticize findings of the president's Select Committee on Immigration.

Spokesmen Ricardo Torres, Herman Baca and Bert Corona decried what they termed a "law-enforcement approach to a social, political and economic problem."

Torres represented the Sacramento Immigration Committee. Baca is the San Diego-based...



# Chicano Activist Has Lifetime Hitch In Movement

Thursday, April 3, 1980

(The author of the following article is an editor with the Hispanic Link news service in Washington.)  
Charlie Ericksen

WASHINGTON — Militancy is like the military. You can join up for short hitches or long ones. Or you can make it a career.

With Herman Baca, being a Chicano is a career.

He started in the '60s with thousands of others, but few of those who established reputations as spokesmen for pure Chicanismo remain.

"I can think of two," Baca says, eliminating all of those who gained political office or took jobs with the government or profited from affirmative action efforts in the private sector. "There's Bert Corona and Corky Gonzales."

Patriarch Corona, a founder of the Mexican American Political Association in 1959, remains active today in immigration issues.

Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, now past 50, heads the Denver-based Crusade for Justice, an organization he founded in the mid '60s. He is credited with resurrecting and popularizing the term "Chicano."

Baca, the baby of the trio at 36, walked precincts as a teen-ager for Richard Nixon, but in 1968 started questioning the political structure of which he was trying to become a part. He helped organize a MAPA chapter in National City, Calif., situated midway between San Diego and Tijuana.

BORN AND RAISED there, he learned the printing trade after graduating from high school. When he lost his print shop job in 1969 for becoming too engrossed in running the successful initial primary campaign for California Assemblyman Peter Chacon, he opened his own shop. It has led a struggling existence ever since, but has proven invaluable in his efforts to

communicate the messages of the parade of Chicano community issues on which he has seized.

The first one was to halt the development of an industrial park in National City.

"We lost," he remembers. "The system is a powerful creature."

Then, as head of the Committee for Chicano Rights, he launched into issues at the rate of one or more a year: police brutality, jury exclusion, local rezoning, treatment of Chicano students, harassment of low-riders, bilingual education, Border Patrol tactics, employment discrimination...

With equal fervor, he attacks the behavior of the KKK, which has attempted its own border patrols, or former Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner Lionel Castillo, whom he still calls a "coyote," a word normally reserved for alien smugglers.

WHENEVER A Mexican-American issue is brewing, the media automatically checks with Baca for a reading. Over the years he has developed an ability to carve around the subtleties of the problems and cut quickly to the core.

Undocumented workers are "the slave issue of the 20th century," he says. Chicanos are "playing poker with no chips," trying "to out snow the snowman."

It used to be just the local press that would call on Baca. But now there are reporters from national and international publications, most recently from West Germany, Mexico City, and Sweden, walking up the driveway of his modest home, where he's lived since 1966.

"The name Herman Baca triggers a reaction from our readers like no other name," admits San Diego Union associate editor Peter Kaye. "Nobody's neutral about Herman."

His wife and four children have shared in the price one pays for

such notoriety. Their home has been shot at and vandalized. A cross has flamed on their front lawn. His teen-age boys have been harassed and threatened.

"But they know that what I'm doing is for them," he explains. "It's just doing my bit, like a lot of others who work with me."

"If we don't try to change things, the Chicano will never be a complete human being."

The Committee for Chicano Rights has become the agency of last resort for many Chicanos with a problem. Unlike government agencies, it's not selective about who it tries to help.

IT CONTINUALLY sponsors dinners, dances and other functions to raise money for one cause or another. In May, it's coordinating an immigration conference that is attracting national attention.

Baca spends more than half of his waking hours in pursuit of Chicano rights, he estimates. Last year, his print shop netted him just \$6,000, he says.

Will he ever retire as an activist? Step aside?

"How can you even think about it?" he asks. "Things are worse now than they were 10 years ago. A few individuals have moved up and out, but the community's gone backwards. It's poorer than ever, more disenfranchised, with fewer remedies and fewer outside people willing to help."

Will his anger ever subside?  
Baca just laughs.

"My anger? How can white people be so naive? All those goody-goody persons of Latino ancestry who are so nice to them, who white people think are not like Herman Baca — just give them a few beers, turn the mariachi up a little louder, and they'll make Herman Baca sound like a moderate."





Herman Baca, head of the Committee on Chicago Rights.

## 'Combat Zone' at Border Near Tijuana

year, Leonel J. Castillo, then the Commissioner of Immigration, ordered a study of the violence. Mr. Castillo is resigning his post in October.

Among other things, the recently completed study suggested that increasing numbers of aliens streaming across the border, combined with the belief shared by many Border Patrol agents that the United States was less than totally committed to stopping them, had produced "frustrations" that resulted in incidents of violence.

### Number Down in July

In July, as the Mexican effort proceeded, the number of aliens flowing across the border actually decreased, as did the incidence of violence. But lately the Mexican police have become preoccupied with the search for a couple of Tijuana bank robbers, and the violence is on the rise once again.

Nearly all illegal aliens who are captured are permitted to return voluntarily to Mexico without penalty, a practice

that, the Castillo report said, "makes illegal re-entry almost certain" and contributes still further to the level of frustration within the Border Patrol.

Attrition at San Ysidro is the highest of any station in the Immigration Service. Border Patrol officers are transferring or simply resigning at a rapid pace — there were nearly a dozen departures last week alone, and the average term of service here is down to 19 months, compared to five years or more at other posts.

The Castillo report also found concern within the service over the "quality, dedication and maturity" of the new recruits who are replacing the journeymen patrol officers, and it suggested that in addition to stricter hiring standards applicants be "psychologically tested as to their suitability" for such work.

### 2 Handcuffed Aliens Shot

The need for such testing, critics say, is made evident by the violent reactions of some patrol officers. The critics are

particularly enraged by an incident here last March in which two illegal aliens were shot by a Border Patrol agent after he had arrested them about 30 yards inside the United States and handcuffed them together. One of the aliens died of the wounds.

The Border Patrol said that the agent had acted in self-defense after the two men had tried to strangle him with the handcuffs that bound them. But the San Diego District Attorney investigated and found instead that the aliens had been shot while attempting to flee back into Mexico.

The District Attorney declined to file charges, however, noting that the Border Patrol officer had been on duty "in a combat-zone atmosphere." Nor has the United States Attorney in San Diego taken any action against any of the officers involved in such incidents, prompting several lawyers in the Federal defender's office to label the Justice Department "a washing machine" from which allegations against the Border Patrol "come out clean."

**The New York Times**



# Violence Grows in 'Combat Zone' Along U.S. Border Near Tijuana

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

SAN YSIDRO, Calif., Aug. 16 — Scarcely a night goes by that the beleaguered agents of the United States Border Patrol do not encounter gunfire or barrages of stones from across the rickety chain-link fence that divides this hamlet from the bustling border city of Tijuana, Mexico.

Donald Cameron, the Border Patrol chief here, calls the boundary he oversees, traditionally the most heavily used gateway for legal and illegal entrants, "the 16 hottest miles of border in the world." Herman Baca, the head of a local Chicano rights group, says he sees the area as "the Vietnam of the Southwest."

### Border a Combat Zone

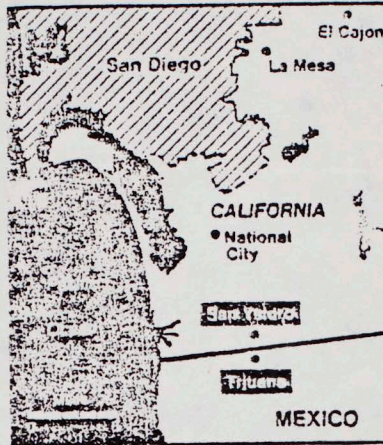
Their comparisons may be somewhat overdrawn, but both sides have evidence to show that from the Pacific Ocean eastward through the California desert until the terrain becomes mountainous, the American side of the border has become a combat zone.

As John Munch, a young Border Patrol agent working the 4-to-midnight shift, wheels his lime-green cruiser through the rugged foothills outside of town, he remembers with a shudder the night last week when he and two other officers were pinned against the fence by stone-throwers.

They were not hurt, but other agents have been, and badly. One has a steel plate in his head, and there are places along the boundary where Mr. Munch is now afraid to drive, even though he is far from alone.

Above him, Border Patrol helicopters, searchlights blazing and loudspeakers blaring the warning "go back" in Spanish, dip and wheel in the inky sky. All across the hills behind him other agents, many of them veterans of the Vietnam War, peer at the border through special night-vision scopes.

At patrol headquarters, red dots on a room-size map wink and computer screens blink as electronic sensors buried along the border record the tentative footsteps of one illegal entrant, then another, and then, as their own scouts give the signal "all clear," a small army of them.



San Ysidro is the busiest crossing point on the United States-Mexico border, which makes it the busiest overland port of entry in the world. There are 40 million legal border crossings here each year, and every day, close to 1,000 more are caught trying to enter illegally. Officials estimate that for every alien captured, five to 10 slip by.

One problem is that at this point there is nothing between the United States and Mexico — no river, no mountains; no physical barrier of any kind, just the decrepit fence that, in some places, is no more than a steel cable suspended between posts. Five miles of the fence are now being replaced with a new, tougher barrier, but the border patrolmen joke about it and even its builder acknowledges that it will not hold back the tide for long.

Tijuana, with a million residents the largest city along the border on either side, is also the fastest-growing. Thirty thousand men and women arrive there every month from the Mexican interior, hoping to make their way across the border illegally in search of work, and those who are not successful do not often go back home.

Since the beginning of the year the violence against the patrol here has been the worst in memory. There have been sporadic outbreaks at El Paso and Calexico, Calif., as well, but none of them have approached the severity of those at San Ysidro, where Border Patrol cars have been attacked by bands of aliens and brush fires have been set along the border.

In June, said Mr. Cameron, the Border Patrol chief here, "our people were getting shot at nearly every night," prompting what he termed "a minirevolt" by his

officers, who refused to set foot in a 300-acre zone next to the border or to go out on patrol except in pairs.

Temporary reinforcements were quickly brought in from around the country and nearly 200 new, permanent agents are due to arrive here next month.

The tension, officials say, stems in part from a new, more aggressive breed of alien, one who knows the limits of the law and knows, too, that there is almost no chance of being prosecuted if caught. Aliens have even been found bearing handbills of unknown origin advising them of their rights and urging them to resist arrest or attempt to escape if captured.

The troubled situation improved a little here last month after the authorities in Tijuana began to round up some of those believed to be behind the violence — smugglers of aliens and "border bandits" who prey on their own countrymen attempting to cross the border illegally. But the Mexicans, Chief Cameron said, made it clear that they had "no interest in helping shut off the flow of Mexican nationals into the United States," only in reducing the violence perpetrated by Mexicans against other Mexicans.

By and large, the bandits and stone-throwers are not border-crossers themselves but gangs of unemployed youths who live in and around Tijuana. Officials here believe that much of the gunfire and other violence is orchestrated by the smugglers and bandits to divert the Border Patrol and create holes in its defenses.

The patrol's methods of dealing with this onslaught are drawing criticism. At least six aliens have been shot by the patrol so far this year. There have been allegations of beatings and other mistreatment. Mexican-American groups and even the local Federal Public Defender's office are growing increasingly angry at what they see as the patrol's unwarranted response to threats against it.

### Ku Klux Klan Rallies Support

Perhaps the most outspoken defenders of the patrol are local members of the Ku Klux Klan, who have held rallies supporting patrol efforts and have even sent out some "patrols" of their own to hunt down illegal aliens, though without noticeable success.

In March, after learning that the bodies of 50 aliens had been discovered along the border in adjacent Imperial County last



SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



**TOUGH TALK** — Chicano leader Herman Baca denounces a threat by the Ku Klux Klan to patrol border areas in search of illegal aliens. He said

any such action by the klan will bring an immediate response from Chicano communities throughout the nation. — Tribune Staff Photo by Joe Holly

## Klan receives Chicano warning

By PAUL VAN NOSTRAND

Any attempt by unofficial organizations to apprehend aliens illegally crossing the border will be vigorously resisted, a Chicano spokesman said yesterday.

In a statement obviously aimed at the Ku Klux Klan, Herman Baca, of the Committee on Chicano Rights, said, "The 15 million Latinos in these United States will not sit idly by while extremist groups take the law into their own hands."

Klan leaders said Sunday they plan to patrol the border, possibly armed where it is legal.

"These extremist, racist vigilante groups have declared their intent to roam the border areas, armed, with the stated purpose of apprehending Mexican-looking individuals," Baca told a press conference yesterday.

"We are here to state today that

Chicano communities from the United States will not tolerate or meekly submit to terrorist harassments, intimidations or interruption of our daily lives."

He said any action taken by such groups "against our people will call forth an immediate response in kind."

Baca said more than 20 local religious, civil rights and minority organizations have signed a statement supporting his committee's stand. He added other support has been

received from state and national organizations and individuals active in the civil rights movement.

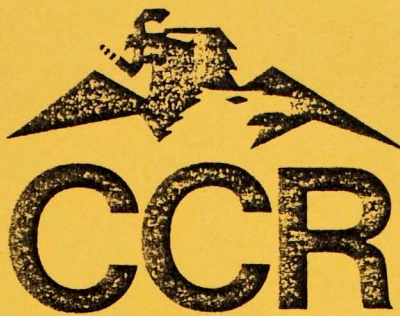
Asked if Chicanos would resort to violence in opposing any unofficial enforcement activity along the border, Baca said Chicano groups would take whatever steps are necessary to defend themselves.

"When we defend ourselves, we do not consider it violence," he said.

Returning to a recurring theme of the past several years, Baca blamed

See BORDER, A-10





Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

MARCH 28, 1981

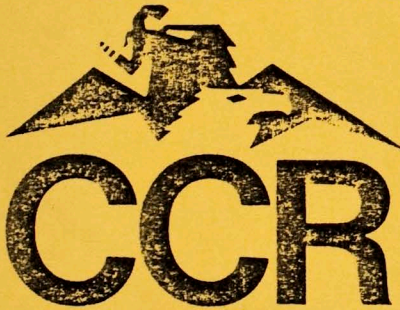
The purpose of this information packet is to acquaint you with Herman Baca Chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR).

The CCR is a grass roots organization dedicated to the promotion of the civil, constitutional and human rights of La Raza. As CCR Chairman, Herman devotes much of his time and energy communicating the committee's position on such important political issues as immigration. Herman speaks directly to groups as small as two or three and as large as two or three thousand, and indirectly to millions thru the mass media of newspapers, television and radio.

This packet includes a partial list of past speaking engagements and media interviews as well as examples of articles which have appeared in newspapers and magazines. It is hoped that this packet illustrates the day-to-day efforts of Herman Baca and CCR in their struggle for human rights and dignity.

HASTA LA VICTORIA!  
Publications Committee





Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.

1837 Highland Avenue  
National City CA 92050  
(714) 474-8195

**Come & Hear . . . .**  
**HERMAN BACA**

Chairperson

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

DATE: Wed., August 5, 1981

PLACE: Gov. Boardroom  
Nat'l Press Bldg.

-Press Conference-

*Reagan  
Immigration  
Plan!*