

A. Serrano

J. SOONC



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

"BOUNTY HUNTERS APPROVED BY INS????"

JUNE 16, 1998

NATIONAL CITY, CA...THE ANNOUNCED PROPOSAL (SEE L.A. TIMES ARTICLE ENCLOSED) BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TODAY, THAT "TIPSTERS WILL BE REWARDED FOR TURNING IN IMMIGRANT SMUGGLERS, AND CIVILIAN PILOTS WILL HUNT FOR STRANDED MIGRANTS UNDER A BORDER SAFETY PROGRAM HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS (CCR) PRESIDENT HERMAN BACA "AS ONE OF THE MOST IDIOTIC AND DANGEROUS PROPOSALS TO EVER COME OUT OF THE INS".

ACCORDING TO BACA "THE INS PROPOSAL IS IDIOTIC, BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MANY "CROCDILE TEARS" THE INS SHEDS, THE FACT REMAINS THAT THEY AND THE BANKRUPT U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY, SPECIFICALLY THE 1987 SIMPSON/RODINO LEGISLATION WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE MILITARIZATION OF THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER ARE BOTH RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVER INCREASING DEATHS OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WORKERS."

FURTHERMORE, BACA LABELED THE INS PROPOSAL "AS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS" BECAUSE "IN ONE BUREAUCRATIC ACTION, THE INS, WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, HAS IN ESSENCE, (SHAMEFULLY WITH DUPED MEXICAN OFFICIALS APPROVAL), DEPUTIZED EVERY HILLBILLY, REDNECK, RACIST AND MILITIA SO THAT THEY CAN BEGIN TO LOOK, STOP, HUNT, AND ARREST....FOR A BOUNTY, ANY AND EVERY MEXICAN LOOKING INDIVIDUAL ALONG THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER".

-END-

CONTACT PERSON: HERMAN BACA, PRESIDENT

(619) 477-3800

**710 E. 3rd Street  
National City CA 91950  
(619) 477-3800**



MARCUSSEN

PAGE 01

FAX TRANSMISSION. PAGE 1 OF 1.

To: Mark Baca, the Consensus Organizing Institute,  
Fax: 299-9767.

From: Fr. Bjorn Marcussen  
St. Mary's Parish (Polish National Catholic)  
Tel. & fax: 696-0966.

Dear Mark!

I need your help in finding out how often immigration officers are stopping people in the streets or in stores in Golden Hill and surrounding communities, asking for i.d., and then summarily deporting those who are undocumented.

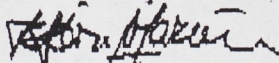
On Monday of this week a grandfather with a terminally ill wife was stopped across the street from the church when going to the store. He had no papers and was intimidated into signing off his legal rights to a hearing and immediately deported to Tijuana. His family is scared and other persons from my parish are afraid of leaving their apartments.

In the actual case of the deported man I have been able to help him and his wife to get back to Guerrero where they have family and can get medical attention, but the effect of INS/Border Patrol agents terrorizing people means that they must be organized to learn their rights and develop defensive techniques against the abuse and the abusers. I have recourse to some assistance from civil rights attorneys, and the first thing to be done is to gather some documentation of the extent of the incidents.

- - - Can you help? Can you - or can you find somebody who can - organize such a documentation?

Please, let me know. I am going to leave around 11.30 a.m. to day, Thursday, July 30. If you do not catch me to day, could you call me Friday morning between 9 and 10?

Sincerely



Bjorn Marcussen

July 30., 1998.



Date: Fri, 17 Jul 1998 13:03:57 -0800  
From: Pacific News Service <pacificnews@pacificnews.org>  
Subject: Another Translation-- RETURN OF THE "WILD WEST" -- PLANS FOR NEW  
To: <laprensa@ix.netcom.com>

Friends:

Here is another article we will be translating. We will have this article, and the article on the Billboards by Julie Reynolds on Monday.

George

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660 Market Street, Room 210  
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COMMENTARY-685 WORDS

RETURN OF THE "WILD WEST" -- PLANS FOR NEW BORDER POLICY WOULD RELY ON  
UNTRAINED CIVILIANS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The U.S. and Mexico have announced a \$5000 bounty for information leading to arrest of people trying to cross the border illegally -- a move both governments say aims to reduce the rising death toll of illegal border crossers. But critics view the new-national measure as a reversion to the worst abuses of the old west. PNS Associate Editor Alfonso Serrano F. is formerly the editor of El Mensajero, a bilingual weekly published in San Francisco.

BY ALFONSO SERRANO F., PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

Parts of a new government plan, offered as a method for "increasing safety along the U.S.-Mexico border," threaten to revive some of the worst abuses of the old west.

The new program was announced to the press last month by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner and Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Jesus Reyes-Heroles. It is the first bi-national effort to patrol the border.

Ironically, recent U.S. policy on the border is the root of the problem that the INS now seeks to address. Operation Gatekeeper in California and Operation Rio Grande in Texas, introduced in 1993, tightened control on the most accessible routes, forcing immigrants and those who smuggle them in to the United States to travel on more isolated -- and more dangerous -- paths.

There is some disagreement about whether the program has done more than shift traffic. For example, border patrol arrests in El Centro, California have risen dramatically but arrests in San Diego hit a 17 year low last year -- to about half the number arrested before Gatekeeper began in 1993.

But Gatekeeper has undoubtedly increased the danger of crossing. According to the Center for Immigration Research at the University of Houston, more than 1200 people have died attempting to cross the border illegally since 1993. Deaths due to such factors as drowning, exposure



and dehydration have become much more common.

The new program was announced as an effort to reduce deaths among undocumented immigrants. One element involves the posting of warning signs.

However the novel element of the plan calls for civilian pilots to search for undocumented immigrants in border hot spots, including the Imperial Valley, eastern San Diego County in California, Kennedy County in Texas and an area near Yuma, Arizona.

As an incentive, these civilians would be paid up to \$5,000 for helping spot and arrest illegal smugglers.

"It's the next logical step in improving life on the border," said one INS official.

But a \$5,000 bounty seems certain to tempt untrained civilians to take law enforcement into their own hands. And a heated search for "illegals" is likely to involve not only the undocumented, but anyone who is brown and on or near the border --- including U.S. residents and citizens.

Violence against Hispanics has increased dramatically since the border became a major battlefield in the war against drugs. In June, a Marine Corps investigation cleared a drug patrol unit - working under the authority of the Border Patrol - in the death of Esequiel Hernandez. A U.S. citizen from Redford, Texas, Hernandez, 18, was herding his family's goats when he was shot to death. A House of Representatives immigration panel recently expressed dissatisfaction with the investigation and may call for public hearings.

Recent California history suggests the kind of troubles that may follow the INS plan. For example, after the state's voters approved Proposition 187 in 1994, denying education and social and health services to undocumented immigrants, millions of residents, naturalized citizens and U.S.-born Latinos found themselves the victims of intolerance. A 1995 report from the Los Angeles based Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights documented hundreds of civil rights abuses against Latinos of all backgrounds -- but more than 60 percent were U.S. residents or citizens.

The report makes it clear that bank managers, restaurant workers and private businesses took law enforcement into their own hands. A Palm Springs pharmacy demanded that a customer show immigration papers before filling out her prescription. At a restaurant in Santa Paula, California, a customer demanded that a cook show his green card, claiming "It's every person's duty to report illegals." In another incident, an immigrant rights lawyer received hate mail with a picture of her face and a target over it that read "open fire" and "Latina scum."

The INS budget has doubled in the past few years, and much of that increase has gone to beef up forces on the border. But increasing security on the border by using untrained civilians as bounty hunters in a volatile situation could turn the border regions into a new Wild West.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Desolate terrain:** *Border Patrol agents in Brooks County, Texas, have been trying to warn illegal immigrants that the heat can be fatal. Eleven have died in Brooks County alone.*

# Immigrants keep crossing border despite deadly heat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALFURRIAS, Texas — It took 15 days for Juan Martinez to make it from his home in central Mexico and across the border illegally into heat wave-seared south Texas. He plodded through thorny wasteland and rocky open country, carrying only a 2-liter water bottle that he refilled whenever he could find yard sprinklers along the way.

When his water ran out, he sought help at a ranch out of fear he would die in the desert. Security officers called the Border Patrol and he was arrested.

Martinez was one of the lucky ones.

Forty-three illegal immigrants have died on the same journey from heat exhaustion, dehydration and other heat-related causes. A 13-year-old boy was found dead Saturday, which was expected to raise the heat-death toll after an autopsy is completed.

Yesterday, the temperature soared through the upper 90s in this border region.

Elsewhere in the state, Dallas reached 100 degrees by early afternoon, the city's 14th straight

day of triple-digit temperatures.

The illegal immigrants found dead after crossing the border were in addition to 36 other people whose deaths in Texas were blamed on the heat. Louisiana has counted at least 22 heat deaths, and Oklahoma had six, with one each in California, Arizona and Missouri.

In addition to the U.S. deaths, four people have died in the last two days of heat-related causes in the Mexican city of San Luis Rio Colorado, about 20 miles south of Yuma, Ariz. Temperatures have climbed to 120 degrees in San Luis.

Last month, a search was suspended for six Mexican immigrants believed lost in the desert between the border town of La Rumorosa, Mexico, and Mexicali.

The six were believed lost near Laguna Salada, just across the border from the Yuha Desert in Imperial County, about 40 miles west of El Centro.

Many illegal immigrants get lost.

"They don't know the terrain," said Francisco Z. Camacho, supervisor at the Falfurrias Border Patrol station. "They walk all night. Suddenly it's daylight, the sun comes up, they get dehydrated and sick."



# Border Patrol alleges frequent agency critic interfered with arrest

By Leonel Sanchez  
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Border Patrol has accused one of its frequent critics, Roberto Martinez, of interfering with an arrest in National City on Monday.

Martinez allegedly tried to prevent a Border Patrol vehicle that was carrying an illegal immigrant from leaving the parking lot of a shopping center where the immigrant, a criminal suspect, was arrested.

"There was an altercation," said Border Patrol spokesman Mario Villarreal.

An agent suffered a cut on one hand but it was unclear how the wound was sustained, Villarreal said.

Martinez denied any wrongdoing and said he was at the shopping center at the request of merchants who had complained to him about frequent Border Patrol document checks of shoppers near their stores.

The Border Patrol denied targeting the shopping center and said the agents there on Monday had responded to a citizen's complaint.

Martinez, director of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S.-Mexico Border Project, appears frequently on Tijuana television to accuse Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service agents of a litany of alleged abuses. Over the years, the Quaker organization he heads has issued many reports condemning agents for their treatment of Latinos, mainly immigrants.

Martinez, 61, was not arrested in the Monday incident, but the U.S. Attorney's Office is reviewing a complaint made by the Border Patrol. The federal prosecutor will

decide next week whether to file criminal charges against Martinez.

The incident occurred about 5:30 p.m. at the Highland View Towne Center on Highland Avenue near Division Street.

Martinez got there just as two agents arrested the suspect inside a laundry room and placed him inside a patrol car.

Martinez allegedly tried to open the driver's door of the vehicle. A confrontation between the agents and Martinez followed. Tensions rose when several bystanders began yelling at the agents.

Villarreal said the two agents acted professionally and showed "extreme restraint" during the incident.

An eyewitness who did not want to be identified said the agents grabbed Martinez and appeared to be trying to arrest him. At least two of Martinez's supporters held on to him to prevent him from being led away, the witness said.

Villarreal said the agents initially did not realize they were dealing with Martinez, who has monitored law-enforcement activities in San Diego County for more than 20 years.

The incident received widespread attention later in the week when local radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock read excerpts of the crime report on the air. Villarreal said the Border Patrol did not authorize release of the report.

"We're concerned about the leak," he said.

Martinez's attorney, Knut Johnson, said he, too, was concerned about the leak and reiterated that his client did nothing wrong.

"He was there lawfully, acting as a human-rights observer," Johnson said.

# Scuffle with border agents leads to assault charges

By Leonel Sanchez  
STAFF WRITER

A routine arrest turned into a brawl when two men refused to be taken into custody by Border Patrol agents this week in San Diego.

By the time it was over, one shot had been fired, striking no one, and two men, initially suspected of being in the country illegally, were in custody on charges of assaulting federal officers.

The incident unfolded early Wednesday morning after two agents stopped the two unidentified Mexican nationals as they were walking on Lipcoln Avenue near 30th Street.

The two men, ages 23 and 26, said they were U.S. citizens, but after questioning admitted they were in the country illegally.

They were about to be arrested and placed in a patrol car when they began throwing punches, said Border Patrol spokesman Mario Villarreal.

"These were not small men and they were being really aggressive," Villarreal said.

One of the attackers knocked down one of the agents and kicked him repeatedly in the midsection, he said.

The agent's partner came to his aid after he restrained the other attacker with handcuffs, Villarreal said.

He said a shot was fired, possibly from the gun of the agent who was knocked down. But it was unclear whether it was fired deliberately or accidentally during the struggle, Villarreal said.

The fighting stopped after the gunshot rang out, he said, and both men were arrested. A check later revealed that one of the suspects had a criminal background, he said.

Villarreal said the agent who was knocked down suffered bruised ribs and was treated at a local hospital and released.



# Plan Seeks to Save Lives of Illegal Immigrants

■ **Border:** U.S.-Mexico campaign will use civilian flights to spot those who become stranded. Perilous crossing routes have increased fatalities.

By KEN ELLINGWOOD  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN DIEGO—Tipsters will be rewarded for turning in immigrant smugglers and civilian pilots will hunt for stranded migrants under a border safety program to be announced today by U.S. and Mexican officials in Washington.

The joint campaign, which will make use of public service announcements and warning signs posted in Mexico near dangerous crossings, comes amid widespread concern over the rising number of deaths among undocumented immigrants who are following perilous back-country routes to avoid beefed-up patrols in places like San Diego.

Two of four "high-risk" areas being targeted by the program are in the Imperial Valley and eastern San Diego County.

Advocates for migrants say at least 51 immigrants have died this year after crossing the California border illegally. Drownings and exposure account for the vast majority of deaths, according to the Mexican Consulate in San Diego.

Near Calexico in Imperial County, which has seen a steep rise in the flow of illegal immigrants, 27 people have drowned in the swift-moving All-American Canal so far this year. The Border Patrol recently began installing lights along the canal as a safety precaution.

The two other danger zones are Kenedy County in south Texas and the desert near Yuma, Ariz. Officials plan to map the entire 2,000-mile southern border to identify in more detail which spots are most hazardous for crossers.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said the binational campaign was an attempt to broaden scattered efforts that are already in place in some spots across the country. One INS official described the joint effort as an "unprecedented" focus on safety by two nations that often have not seen eye to eye on migration issues.

"It's the next logical step in our effort to improve the quality of life on the border—to make it a safer place for everyone," said an INS official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Crossing the border illegally has grown more dangerous in recent years, and critics blame stiffened

Please see IMMIGRANTS, A18

## IMMIGRANTS: Drive to Save Lives of Imperiled Border Crossers

Continued from A3  
enforcement, such as Operation Gatekeeper, for driving border crossers to the mountains and deserts.

"It is this terrible border strategy that is causing all these deaths and near-deaths," said Claudia Smith, a migrant advocate in San Diego County.

As part of the safety program, the INS will pay the Civil Air Patrol to fly over wilderness areas on the U.S. side to search for stranded or injured border crossers. The flights will not involve military personnel or equipment or be used as spotters for the Border Patrol, officials said.

To crack down on smugglers who are increasingly leading migrants through dangerous terrain, and often abandoning them, authorities will offer rewards in hopes of arresting those using risky routes.

Radio spots and border signs will seek to discourage immigrants from choosing the most dangerous routes, which often offer the best chances for evading detection by Border Patrol agents.

Mexico plans to establish a hotline for family members who are worried about loved ones making the trek, and Mexican officials will pass along some of that information

to U.S. immigration authorities in an effort to locate the missing. Officials plan to set up a procedure for identifying those who die crossing the border and for

notifying family members. That will involve getting medical examiners on the U.S. side to share information with Mexican consular officials.

## INS unveils strategy to improve safety of illegal border crossers

UNION-TRIBUNE 6/17/98

A plan to increase safety along the U.S.-Mexico border includes paying up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of illegal immigrant smugglers who abandon their clients.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service yesterday unveiled a plan that has Mexico playing a key role by increasing its efforts to warn its citizens of the dangers of crossing through desert and mountainous areas.

The INS will focus its efforts in four hot-spot areas of the border, including eastern San Diego County and the Imperial Valley, where 27 illegal immigrants have drowned in

the All-American Canal this year.

Many of the tactics unveiled in Washington yesterday were already in place in San Diego, but will be expanded along the 2,000-mile border. The program will focus on warning would-be illegal immigrants about the dangers of crossing the border, expanding search-and-rescue capabilities and notifying families in the event of deaths.

The Border Patrol and the Mexican consulate in San Diego have combined forces in recent years to increase safety along the border as a result of the effects of Operation Gatekeeper, the federal crackdown that has shifted illegal immigration traffic to rural East County and the Imperial Valley.



# Lost

## Women's clothing found in search area

Continued from B-1

El Centro.

In recent years, the area has become popular with groups of people trying to illegally enter the United States.

The migrants and their smugglers have increasingly shifted their illegal crossing attempts east of San Diego since the U.S. Border Patrol launched its border crackdown nearly four years ago.

As a result, many more crossing attempts occur in the mountains and deserts east of San Diego, making for deadly mountain crossings in winter and equally dangerous desert treks in summer.

The search began Thursday when two youths walked into a

small restaurant here and reported the missing migrants, saying the pregnant woman had been left under the shade of a small tree, Alvarez said.

They also reported that other members of the group had died in the desert heat, which has approached or exceeded 100 degrees in recent days.

Members of the Mexican Red Cross, as well as volunteers, organized a search, Alvarez said. The volunteers were joined by units of the Mexican army's 23rd Motorized Cavalry, driving Humvees.

Articles of women's clothing, including shoes, were found in the search area, along with empty gallon bottles of water, but there was no sign of the missing migrants, Alvarez said.

The search was called off Sunday because of intense heat.

The migrants might have survived if they had gotten far enough across the border to be picked up by the U.S. Border Patrol, Alvarez said.

The Border Patrol, however, said it had not seen any group of immigrants in the search area and had not received requests from Mexico to help a group of immigrants.

## 6 would-be immigrants feared lost in desert heat along border

By Gregory Gross  
STAFF WRITER

LA RUMOROSA, Mexico — Authorities have suspended a search for six Mexican immigrants believed lost in the desert between this mountain border town and Mexicali.

Red Cross volunteers, townspeople and Mexican troops had been scouring the desert since Thursday for the group, some of whom were believed to be dead.

Among the six was reported to

be a pregnant woman, said Crescenciano Alvarez, the headman or *delegado* of La Rumorosa, which is 60 miles east of Tijuana.

Twenty-nine other would-be illegal immigrants to the United States were rescued in the desert over the weekend.

The six were believed lost near Laguna Salada, just across the border from the Yuha Desert in Imperial County, about 40 miles west of

See **LOST** on Page B-4

6/23/98



# INS unveils strategy to improve safety of illegal border crossers

UNION-TRIBUNE

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The Border Patrol and the Mexican consulate in San Diego have combined forces in recent years to increase safety along the border as a result of the effects of Operation Gatekeeper, the federal crackdown that has shifted illegal immigration traffic to rural East County and the Imperial Valley.



# Deadly risks

## *Border warnings should save immigrant lives*

**T**he problem exacts a horrifying death toll: In San Diego County, it has claimed at least 51 lives already this year. In Imperial County, another 27 people have perished. Nationwide, hundreds more are expected to die in 1998.

We're referring not to a lethal new disease, but to the growing number of foreign nationals, mostly from Mexico, who lose their lives trying to cross the border illegally in remote and inhospitable locations.

At this time of year, the bodies of many are found in the deserts of Southern California and Arizona, the victims of heat exposure and dehydration. During the winter months, the rugged mountains all along the 2,000-mile border deliver up bodies frozen by the wind and cold. Scores of drowning victims are recovered from rivers and streams, including the Tijuana River in San Diego County and the All American Canal in Imperial County.

Operation Gatekeeper, which has done wonders to curb illegal immigration in urban areas along San Diego's coast, has pushed the problem eastward. To evade Operation Gatekeeper, unscrupulous smugglers charge steep fees to escort illegals, including the frail and elderly, through the mountains of

East County, often abandoning them to the elements if they become a burden.

Some immigration activists wrongly blame Operation Gatekeeper for the rising death toll. The real culprits are the smugglers and, tragically, the ignorance of poor, uneducated migrants who don't recognize the life-threatening dangers of the trek across the border.

Now, encouragingly, U.S. and Mexican officials have joined forces to reduce the needless loss of lives. Under a program announced last week in Washington, a more effective education campaign will be mounted in Mexico to warn prospective aliens about the risks of crossing the border in the perilous back-country of San Diego County. It will include public-service announcements on radio and warning signs posted at dangerous crossing spots. In addition, the U.S. Civil Air Patrol will fly daily missions over deserts and mountains in California, Arizona and Texas to be on the lookout for stranded immigrants in trouble. Pilots will alert the U.S. Border Patrol so that it can stage rescue missions.

In the past, such cooperation between the United States and Mexico was exceedingly rare. Today, it offers the best possible hope of stemming the senseless loss of lives along the border.

S.D. 07107  
6/21/98



# On salary Should lawmakers be paid?

ALBUQUERQUE — In the last 76 years, New Mexico voters have been asked 18 times to put their lawmakers on the state payroll. Not just those per diem payments they get — which, for most, barely pay their room and board while they are passing laws that affect our lives — but a real salary.

Every time the voters have said NO.

So New Mexico remains the only state in the union that pays its lawmakers no salary. Granted, a couple of states that do pay do so at what can only be seen by the recipients as an insulting level. New Hampshire has a legislature that meets about three months a year. Its members collect \$100 annually for their troubles — and no expenses. Utah, another high roller, shells out \$4,500 a year to its lawmakers, plus \$35 a day for expenses.

Those are the only two states that are chinsier than New Mexico in paying their legislators. And worthy every penny, grumbles a cynical, angry and indifferent public.

Thus we have the Manny Aragon spectacle, as only the latest evidence of what happens when money is allowed to talk loudly in politics. Sure, there are whole bunches of Democrats running around pulling their hair, shrieking about conflicts of interest. Some have even called on Manny to resign.

Aragon, meanwhile, has adopted a position that only makes sense if he believes the public is too stupid to recognize a violation of basic ethics when it sees one. Several of Aragon's cronies seem to have fallen into this abyss, as well. "He has to earn a living, doesn't

he?" they bleat hopefully.

A lot of people just shrug their shoulders. "Oh, they all do it," is the reaction. "That's just how the system works, isn't it?" they ask, as if those of us who believe ethics and moral issues actually have a place in public discourse are simply deluded.

Yes, the cynicism and indifference of votes can be depressing. Likewise, the inability of the public to recognize that all jobs are not the same. There is an ethical context to the way we earn a living. Some jobs require constant confrontation of basic principles and a reaffirmation that we believe in them. Some jobs are a public trust. Journalism for instance. And lawmaking, for another.

A lot of polls show these professions way down on the respectability ladder these days. And, truthfully, the practitioners of these professions have brought much of this disrepute upon themselves. Journalists have so lost their way that the news, itself, has largely lost its meaning today.

Politicians have so lost their way that a Manny Aragon can shamelessly take a paycheck from the high-rolling outfit that is building prisons in his state. And keep his job because, after all, he "has to earn a

living."

Aragon's colleagues who buy the outlandish argument that a "citizen" legislature — that is, one made up of people who earn their livings doing something other than making laws — is shot full of conflicts of interest that we simply have to tolerate. Get over it, they scoff. Teachers vote on their own pay raises, ranchers vote on ranching issues, drive-up liquor dealers vote on bills to ban drive-ups. Etcetera, etcetera.

Here's a suggestion: they shouldn't. Legislators should bow out of any debate and vote in which they have a direct financial interest. Or perhaps they should be required to declare their financial interest while debating an issue and be required to excuse themselves from any vote.

Or maybe you thought your civics class was a joke. Well, the joke is on you. Our democracy is based on the premise that knowledgeable citizens and legislators have the ability and capacity to balance their own selfish interests against the interests of society at large and reach intelligent decisions on public policy. Fair and accurate journalism is a crucial component of this mission.

So are serious limits on campaign contributions to our politicians, and, in return, fair compensation for them. Sure, we all have to earn a living. But it doesn't have to be at the expense of each other. Corrupt politicians ear their livings at our expense.

We do not have to tolerate that. But we do have to pay. One way or another.

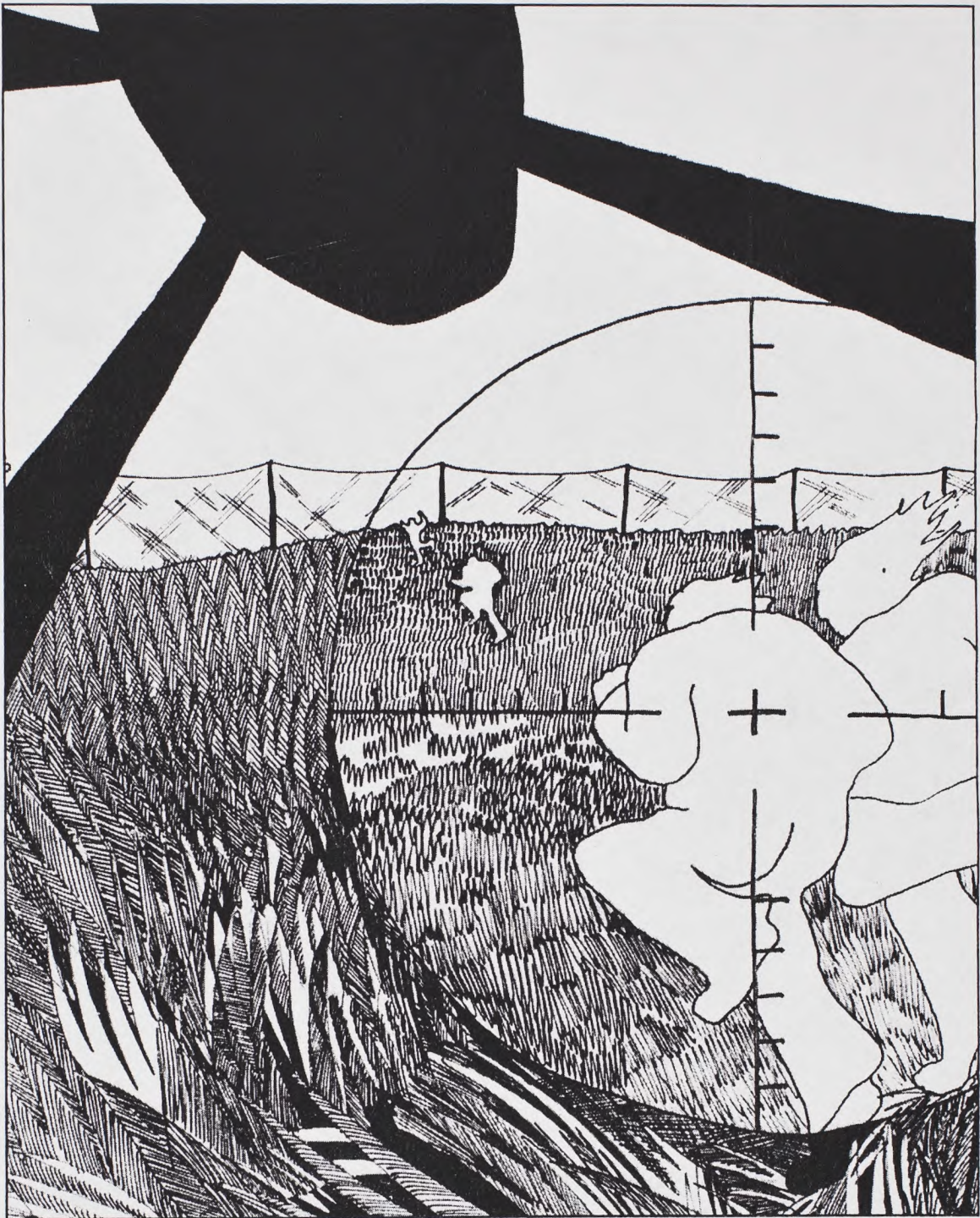
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## RELIABLE SOURCES



Steve Lawrence







# La Prensa San Diego

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June 19, 1998



## Bounty Hunters to Seek Out Immigrants!

*INS plan seeks to save lives?*

By Daniel L. Muñoz

U.S. and Mexican officials in Washington D.C. announced a here-to-for secret plan to pay up to \$5,000 for civilian "Bounty Hunters" to seek out those that they believe are illegal aliens seeking to enter the United States.

Cloaked under humanistic rhetoric the new program seeks to reduce the number of immigrants being injured while crossing the Sonoran desert, or drowning in the Rio Grande, or falling down deep ravines in San Diego's East County mountains, the INS is establishing a defecto "Border Patrol" out of non-trained civilians who roam the countryside! Not only does the new bounty plan, informally deputize every right-wing extremist militia group to hunt down "those that appear to be illegal aliens," but it also seeks to pay a bounty to the Civil Air Patrol for flying over wilderness areas, such as Jamul, and search for illegal aliens from the air.

The plan was immediately denounced by Herman Baca, president of the Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR) as being "idiotic and dangerous." The publisher of *La Prensa San Diego* was immediately interviewed on KNSD-TV 7/39 on the plan. Muñoz denounced it as being a "bounty plan" similar to the ones used in Texas after the Mexican-American war that led to thousands of Mexicans being shot, hung, jailed and, if lucky, deported to Mexico even

though they had every right to be in the U.S. under the "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo".

Baca made the point that "the U.S. Congress passed the 1987 Simpson/Rodino legislation that is responsible for the ever increasing number of deaths of undocumented workers. "The reason it has failed," continued Baca, "is that while all the police/military actions that have been taken to turn the border into a no-mans land, only one part of the Simpson-Rodino bill. The government has never seen fit to implement the "employer sanctions" part of the law that exerts the massive pull factor bringing the workers across the border. There would not be any massive illegal immigration if agri-business, corporations, the secondary labor market did not actively seek and encourage workers to illegally migrate into the sweatshops and killing fields of agri-business."

INS Commissioner Doris Missner who announced the program with Mexican Ambassador Jesus Reyes-Heroles stated: "The need for this public safety initiative couldn't be clearer." The question we have is: Since when did the Justice Department usurp the role of the United States Congress to change Federal law? Perhaps the U.S. Attorney General should reread past rulings from her own department which stopped the use of local police, sheriffs, taxi-cab drivers, and

(See BOUNTY, page 5)

### BOUNTY

(Con't from page 1)

other assorted civilians from carrying out the duties of the Border Patrol, who are sworn officers of the United States and serve as agents only after training and certification. No matter how Missner sugar-coats it, this initiative is a thinly disguised sham to turn 'Bounty Hunters' loose on a defenseless group of people drawn here shamelessly by the inducements of the business community.

Baca concluded his statements by labeling the INS proposal "extremely dangerous," and one which shamefully duped Mexican officials, and deputizes every hillbilly, redneck, racist and militia to begin to hunt, stop and arrest, for a bounty, every Mexican looking individual along the U.S. border."



## By Daniel L. Muñoz

U.S. and Mexican officials in Washington D.C. announced a here-to-for secret plan to pay up to \$5,000 for civilian "Bounty Hunters" to seek out those that they believe are illegal aliens seeking to enter the United States.

Cloaked under humanistic rhetoric the new program seeks to reduce the number of immigrants being injured while crossing the Sonoran desert, or drowning in the Rio Grande, or falling down deep ravines in San Diego's East County mountains, the INS is establishing a defecto "Border Patrol" out of non-trained civilians who roam the countryside! Not only does the new bounty plan, informally deputize every right-wing extremist militia group to hunt down "those that appear to be illegal aliens," but it also seeks to pay a bounty to the Civil Air Patrol for flying over wilderness areas, such as Jamul, and search for illegal aliens from the air.

The plan was immediately denounced by Herman Baca, president of the Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR) as being "idiotic and dangerous." The publisher of *La Prensa San Diego* was immediately interviewed on KNSD-TV 7/39 on the plan. Muñoz denounced it as being a "bounty plan" similar to the ones used in Texas after the Mexican-American war that led to thousands of Mexicans being shot, hung, jailed and, if lucky, deported to Mexico even

though they had every right to be in the U.S. under the "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo".

Baca made the point that "the U.S. Congress passed the 1987 Simpson/Rodino legislation that is responsible for the ever increasing number of deaths of undocumented workers. "The reason it has failed," continued Baca, "is that while all the police/military actions that have been taken to turn the border into a no-mans land, only one part of the Simpson-Rodino bill. The government has never seen fit to implement the "employer sanctions" part of the law that exerts the massive pull factor bringing the workers across the border. There would not be any massive illegal immigration if agri-business, corporations, the secondary labor market did not actively seek and encourage workers to illegally migrate into the sweatshops and killing fields of agri-business."

INS Commissioner Doris Missner who announced the program with Mexican Ambassador Jesus Reyes-Heroles stated: "The need for this public safety initiative couldn't be clearer." The question we have is: Since when did the Justice Department usurp the role of the United States Congress to change Federal law? Perhaps the U.S. Attorney General should reread past rulings from her own department which stopped the use of local police, sheriffs, taxi-cab drivers, and

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