

A CHICANO RESPONSE
TO
Wilson

BRACERO PROGRAM

Compiled By:



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.

(619) 474-8195

The Roots of Immigration

A FACT SHEET ON FOREIGN DOMINATION & POVERTY IN MEXICO

- The transnational corporations, with over \$5 billion invested, control 35% of Mexico's total industrial production and employ 16% of all industrial workers. \$2 billion in profits and payments on royalties, patents and interests were sucked out of Mexico by the transnationals between 1961-71.
- About 3/4 of Mexico's foreign trade is with the U.S. and in 1975 Mexico imported \$4.5 billion more than it exported.
- Chronic unemployment now affects more than 40% of all Mexicans of working age. In Ciudad Juarez, across the river from El Paso, 43% of the 800,000 residents are jobless.
- The Mexican government has sought foreign loans to finance development, which has pushed its foreign debt to a staggering \$28 billion -- nearly \$500 for every man, woman and child in the country.
- Agribusiness corporations like Del Monte and Anderson Clayton have come to dominate Mexican agriculture, fostering a system which produces luxury food items for the U.S. market rather than provide for Mexico's hungry. One half of all the vegetables consumed in the U.S. during winter months come from Mexico, while every day more than 1,000 Mexican children die of malnutrition.
- Largely because of the spread of "modern" agriculture, the number of landless peasants rose from 1.5 million in 1950 to some 5 million today. There are more than 8 million migrant workers constantly on the move in search of temporary jobs, earning an average of \$2.50-\$3.00 per day in the Northwest region.
- Migration of landless campesinos to urban areas adds 1,000 unemployed per day to Mexico City, already with a population of 13 million. It is the most polluted city in the Western Hemisphere and is expected to be the largest by the year 2000.
- Approximately 3.5 million peasants and fishermen live on less than one peso (five cents) a day, according to a recent study from Mexico. 9.9 million Mexicans eat no meat. 11.1 eat no eggs. 18.3 million consume no milk products. 80 per cent of these families live in rural communities where there is no medical services, electricity or running water.
- Numerous studies have shown that the presence of large foreign corporations and their ties with the Mexican ruling elites has increased the concentration of wealth in fewer and fewer hands. Robert McNamara of the World Bank claims that Mexico's richest 10% now take over 50% of the national wealth, while the poorest 40% have seen their share shrink from 14% to 11% in the past twenty years.
- The average working life of a miner in Mexico is 10 years, due to overwork and black-lung disease, and doctors estimate that every day 4 million Mexican workers are subjected to poisonous fumes in their workplaces.

Senate shifts stand, OKs guest workers would allow 350,000 alien farm workers

By Benjamin Shore
Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — Reversing its action of last week, the Senate yesterday voted to authorize growers of perishable crops to employ up to 350,000 foreign field workers at any time.

By a 51-44 vote the Senate, in a major victory for Western growers, approved the measure proposed by Sen. Pete Wilson, R-Calif., as an amendment to a pending immigration control bill.

The amendment approved yesterday was a modified version of a Wilson proposal the Senate rejected last week by a vote of 50 to 48.

The three senators who switched their positions to support Wilson gave no reason for their action. The only change Wilson made in the amendment was to limit the number of guest workers to 350,000. The original amendment had no limit.

"There are too few Americans willing to do this work," Wilson said. "Those willing to do it should be allowed to do so."

Wilson said the measure was necessary to meet the labor needs of California and other Western growers who traditionally have relied on undocumented aliens to fill a large portion of short-term, semi-skilled harvesting jobs.

The Senate today is expected to complete action on the immigration bill, which would make it illegal to hire undocumented aliens knowingly and legalize those living permanently in the United States since at least January 1980.

A comparable bill is pending in the House, where more hearings are scheduled later this month.

Although both chambers passed similar legislation in the last Congress, efforts to compromise the differences collapsed last fall.

In another development yesterday, Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyoming, author of the bill, agreed to accept a Wilson amendment that would increase federal reimbursement to state and local governments for welfare and other costs incurred as the result of legalization. However, a vote on that amendment was postponed until today.

The Wilson guest worker amendment was opposed by the Reagan administration and Simpson, who said his bill already contained adequate provisions for the growers.

Simpson and other critics also said growers had made little effort to recruit and train Americans.

Growers have said the labor importation provisions in Simpson's bill, which would have required the government to certify first that Americans were not available in each grower's area, would not be responsive enough to their needs.

Wilson's amendment would affect only growers of perishable crops, chiefly fruits and vegetables that must be harvested by hand within a few days of ripening.

Wilson said 53,000 farms producing 200 different commodities worth \$23 billion a year were threatened by Simpson's bill.

Simpson, who said Wilson wanted a "very large guest worker program," contended that no more than 200,000 undocumented aliens work in perishable commodities.

He also said a major flaw in the measure was permitting the U.S. attorney general to adjust the cap after three years. Simpson predicted the cap would be raised.

Wilson and other senators said the large numbers of field workers needed for short periods of time usually outstripped the supply of available and willing workers.

The three senators who switched votes were Donald W. Riegle Jr., D-Mich., Warren B. Rudman, R-N.H., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., opposed the amendment.

The House last year approved a similar guest worker amendment, but it was substantially modified in the House-Senate conference.

Under Wilson's amendment, foreign farm workers would apply at U.S. consulates in their home countries to work in specified agricultural regions for up to nine months a year.

As an inducement to return home, 20 percent of their wages would be withheld by the federal government. Workers would have to claim the withheld portion in person in their home countries.

But critics said 20 percent would be a small price to pay for legal admission into the United States, despite employer sanctions that would make it difficult to get a job.

Arnoldo Torres, Washington representative of the Arizona Farmworkers Union, said the Wilson amendment "reflects the arrogance of Western growers and their total dependency on a free-flowing supply of cheap exploitable labor from Mexico. "The claim that this program doesn't displace U.S. farm workers and protects workers' rights is insulting and disgusting."

Wilson's reimbursement amendment would provide more money for state and local governments that experience increased welfare and social services costs as a result of legalized aliens suddenly claiming benefits.

Simpson's bill would have provided reimbursement of up to \$600 million a year for three years.

Wilson, however, proposed that the federal reimbursement be limited to \$300 million for each of the first two years after legalization takes effect, then \$600 million a year for the next four years.

Where Simpson's bill would have provided \$1.8 billion over three years, the measure now calls for \$3 billion over six years.

The House bill calls for 100 percent federal reimbursement for four years, regardless of the cost.

By a 74-22 vote, the Senate accepted an amendment by Sen. Alphonse M. D'Amato, R-N.Y., calling for full federal reimbursement to states for the costs of imprisoning undocumented aliens convicted of felonies.

Cranston and Wilson voted for it.

By a 66-30 vote, the Senate tabled — and thus killed — an amendment proposed by Sen. Steven D. Symms, R-Idaho, that would bar U.S. trade with Mexico if Soviet warships were allowed to visit a Mexican port.

Wilson supported it, but Cranston voted against it.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a former secretary of the Navy, opposed the measure, saying that not only is trade with Mexico valuable to the United States, but that U.S. warships often encounter resistance to port calls in some countries.



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 19, 1985

NATIONAL CITY, CA

THE COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS (CCR) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES SENATE VOTE APPROVING SENATOR PETE WILSON'S (R-CA) PROPOSAL TO IMPORT 350,000 OR MORE MEXICAN WORKERS " AS A STEP BACKWARDS TO SLAVERY AND A SHAMEFUL RETURN BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE INFAMOUS "BRACERO PROGRAM" OF THE 1940's, 50' AND 60's.

HERMAN BACA, CHAIRMAN OF THE CCR ACCUSED SENATOR PETE WILSON OF " NOW BECOMING THE BIGGEST "COYOTE" (SMUGGLER) IN THE HISTORY OF THIS COUNTRY AND OF CREATING WITH ONE SWEEP OF HIS LEGISLATIVE POWER, THE PRE-REQUISITE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH AFRICA POLICE TYPE STATE FOR EVERY PERSON OF MEXICAN ANCESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES".

THE VOTE BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE, STATED BACA IS "A MASSIVE CONTRADICTION TO THE CLAIMS OF THE PROPONENTS OF THE PENDING SIMPSON IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION THAT THE BILL WILL PENALIZE EMPLOYERS WHICH HIRE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND THAT AN INCREASE INS/ BORDER PATROL WILL KEEP OUT UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY "STEALING" U.S. WORKERS JOBS". THE VOTE ASIDE FROM BEING A MASSIVE CONTRADICTION, IS A TOTAL CAPITULATION BY THE U.S. SENATE TO THE GREED OF THE WORST EXPLOITERS OF MEXICAN LABOR IN THE U.S..... THE MEGA BUCK AGRI-BUSINESS INDUSTRY". THIS VOTE ACCORDING TO BACA, "SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE U.S. PUBLIC THAT THE SIMPSON/WILSON IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IMMIGRATION REFORM, BUT IS IN FACT A POLITICAL PLOY TO INSURE THAT AGRI-BUSINESS GROWERS ARE PROVIDED WITH A CHEAP SOURCE OF CONTRACT LABOR, WITH OR

**710 E. 3rd Street
National City CA 92050
(619) 474-8195**

FACT SHEET ON IMPORTATION OF TEMPORARY ALIEN AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS UNDER THE H2 PROGRAM



Immigrant agricultural workers in San Diego where living conditions are known to be unfit for human habitation. Photo: Copyright 1980 by Len Lahman

AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE 7.7 MILLION U.S. WORKERS UNEMPLOYED NATIONWIDE ACCORDING TO BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Section H-2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows for the importation of temporary alien workers only "if unemployed persons capable of performing such labor cannot be found in this country". There is no such shortage in this country.

THE H-2 PROGRAM DEPRESSES FARMWORKER WAGES.

U.S. farmworkers cannot negotiate for higher wages where the threat H-2 exists. In fact if farmworkers ask for merely one cent more than the "prevailing wages" (which is considerably lower in states which use H-2 workers), the Department of Labor can certify that these workers are unavailable for work and bring in H-2 workers to fill these jobs.

H-2 WORKERS HAVE FEW FREEDOMS OR PROTECTION.

H-2 workers may not change employers. If an H-2 worker complains about working conditions he may be sent home, black-listed, and never allowed to work in the U.S. again. Only those H-2 workers who are extraordinarily hard working and complacent will be allowed to return for employment in future years.

"THE CURRENT H-2 PROGRAM, THE BASTARD SON OF THE BRACERO PROGRAM, IS LIVING PROOF THAT FOREIGN IMPORTATION LABOR PROGRAMS DO NOT WORK".

EMPLOYERS WHO EMPLOY H-2 WORKERS DO NOT PROVIDE BENEFITS REQUIRED OF OTHER EMPLOYERS.

Employers of H-2 workers need not contribute toward social security or unemployment insurance. Even U.S. workers who work for H-2 employers become ineligible for unemployment insurance for that period.

GROWERS PREFER THE H-2 SYSTEM BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THEM WITH A CHEAP CAPTIVE LABOR FORCE.

For years, growers have used Jamaican workers to cut sugar-cane in Florida and pick apples in New England, Virginia, West Virginia and New York. Growers use a variety of means to circumvent Department of Labor regulations and avoid hiring U.S. workers. Last year, growers refused to hire, or harassed and fired more than 2,000 workers from Puerto Rico, so they could hire H-2 workers.

THE H-2 PROGRAM THREATENS TO EXPAND DRASTICALLY.

Approximately, 15,000 H-2 workers were imported into the U.S. last year. The Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy has stated that the H-2 Program should be slightly expanded and streamlined in order that workers can be imported easier. Already apple growers from Oregon and Colorado, citrus growers from Arizona, and tomato growers from Virginia have attempted to import H-2 workers.

Ex-chief recalls bracero 'slavery'

AUSTIN — Even at 72, a retired and comfortable Lee G. Williams is haunted by the memories of the bracero program he once ran, a program he says was nothing short of "legalized slavery."

Bracero.

Even the word rankles Williams. And his strong, resonant voice takes on an unexpected bitter tone as he recalls the plight of the 4 million hungry Mexicans who began flooding into the United States in 1942.

Bracero means the "strong-armed ones" in Spanish.

The thought of renewing the program, or revamping it, angers and frightens Williams, who as a U.S. Labor Department executive oversaw the day-to-day operation of the program from 1959 until its demise in 1964. Before that, he served for 20 years as general counsel and director of the Texas Employment Commission.

"I pray they don't reinstate this type program," he said.

"The bracero program was nothing but a way for big corporate farms to get a cheap labor supply from Mexico under government sponsorship," he said.

"It was purely a money-grabbing scheme by the corporate farms and the sugar interests. . . . The whole thing was supposed to be humanistic, but it was far short of what it should have been."

While he admitted the words "legalized slavery" are strong, Williams insisted they are accurate.

"They were so fearful of being away from home and not being able to send money to their families that they felt pretty much in bondage," he said.

A pledge by Gov. Bill Clements shortly after he took office in January 1979 to reinstate "a bracero-type program" to deal with the many job-seeking illegal Mexican and other foreign workers in the United States has touched off a new round of debate on the program.

Several Texas congressmen, including Rep. Jim Collins, R-Dallas, and House Majority Leader Jim Wright of Fort Worth, have advocated a return to a similar program.

Bracero.

It was a word Clements was to regret using because it aroused strong emotions among Mexican-Americans and labor and civil rights groups.

Clements now goes to great lengths to avoid the term in discussing his proposals for solving the alien problem.

By GEORGE KUEMPEL and HOWARD SWINDLE

April 30, 1980

The governor's plan eliminates the provision in the bracero program that forces laborers to work for a particular employer. Clements proposes the Mexican workers be mobile. If they are mistreated, they simply can quit and try to find other jobs.

Under the bracero program, Mexican workers, unable to find jobs in their own country, were allowed to enter the United States to replace the farmers who had traded their plows for rifles. In return, the Mexicans — most of them illiterate — were to receive a fair wage, decent housing, nutritious food and the protections of the law afforded American citizens.

But it didn't work out that way, Williams recalled last week.

"The braceros were hauled around like cattle in Mexico and treated like prisoners in the United States," he said.

Despite efforts by the U.S. Department of Labor, the big corporate farmers managed to keep bracero wages "unconscionably low," Williams said. And housing and diet requirements were circumvented with acquiescence of the state agencies responsible for enforcing them.

"The employment service here was notoriously in league with the farmers," he said.

After World War II, a lot of returning GIs abandoned the farms to seek their fortunes in the cities. And the big planters, anxious to retain the ready supply of cheap, willing workers from Mexico, managed to keep the program going until 1964.

In addition to subjecting the Mexican laborers to abuse, the program hurt American workers by depressing wages along the border, Williams said.

"I personally did a wage survey beginning in California at the border to Brownsville," he said, "and I found that wages, not only of agricultural workers but of carpenters, butchers and others, were affected adversely within 200 miles of the Mexican border."

And he said the program resulted in exploitation of the Mexican worker on both sides of the border.

For the Mexican worker to get into the program, he had to pay off officials in his own country, Williams said.

"They (the officials) demanded *mordida* — you know, 'the bite.' " he said.

"It was a chain of officials, and the bracero didn't get on that list to the U.S. unless he paid in advance."

Williams, whose job included setting the wages that the Mexicans were to receive — based on the "prevailing" wages of the area in which they were to work — said farmers complained bitterly when wages were set higher than they wanted.

Williams bristles at the contentions of farmers and businessmen who hire illegal aliens today that they have no choice because American workers refuse to take the dirty, low-paying jobs, especially when it is so easy to get on welfare instead of working.

"They could get someone to work if they would pay a fair wage," Williams said. "When they would come to me and say they couldn't find American workers, I'd say, 'Why don't you offer them some (decent) wages.' And they would say that would put them out of business."

He said he is not the least bit surprised at Clements' proposal to implement a similar plan, although the governor insists it would give the workers better protection.

"The governor of Texas seems to have an affinity for the dollar, too," Williams said.

"Look what (Gov. John) Connally did. It's that attitude toward agriculture labor. It's the same one that (Gov.) Dolph Briscoe had. It's simply: we want to make money, and it looks like we're going to have to do it on low wages."

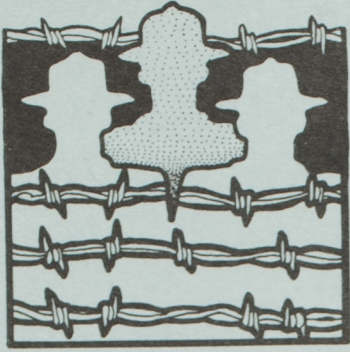
Williams was referring to Connally's refusal to meet with a delegation walking from the Rio Grande Valley to Austin to protest the plight of migrant farm workers.

And Williams also questions Clements' and the United States' sudden interest in Mexico.

"You know, we never did give a damn about Mexico until they discovered all of that oil there," he said.

Williams said he does not have a solution, but he is confident a program like the bracero program is not the answer.

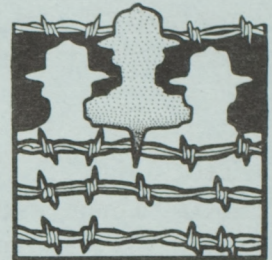
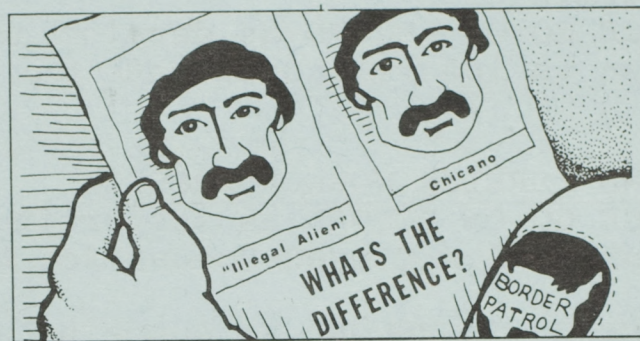
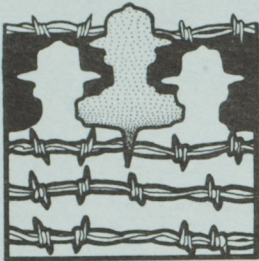
"I do have one answer: the bracero program is no answer. It would no more stop the flow of illegal aliens than they are presently being stopped."



"IN THE 131 YEAR HISTORY OF THE CHICANO/MEXICANO PEOPLE IN THE U.S. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO REPRESSIVE AGENCIES WHOSE ONLY JOB HAS BEEN TO INSURE THAT OUR COMMUNITY DOES NOT ORGANIZE AND BEGIN TO ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS AS THE ANGLO MAJORITY. ONE OF THEM WAS THE TEXAS RANGERS, THE OTHER SINCE 1924, IS THE U.S. BORDER PATROL".

A BRACERO PROGRAM CALLS FOR A DOUBLE OR TRIPLING OF THE U.S. BORDER PATROL AND AN ESCALATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| May 16, 1978 | Maria Contreras | Progreso, TX | Pregnant, died in INS interrogation room after being harassed by border officials. |
| Oct. 22, 1978 | Abel Reyes Silva Age: 21 | San Ysidro | Shot in the back while on the Mexican side of the border. |
| Feb. 11, 1979 | Margarito Balderas Age: 30 | San Ysidro | Shot twice from behind after surrendering |



| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|
| March 17, 1979 | Benito Rincon Age: 22 | San Ysidro | Shot while handcuffed. |
| March 17, 1979 | Efren Reyes Age: 24 | San Ysidro | Shot to death while handcuffed. |
| March 20, 1979 | Alberto Canedo Age: 4 | San Ysidro | Died in aunt's arms in INS offices after being denied entrance into U.S. |
| June 16, 1979 | Manolo Alberto Age: 18 months | Tijuana | Died of starvation three days after being denied entrance into U.S. |
| Nov. 25, 1979 | Maria Lopez Felix Age: 19 | San Ysidro | Raped and strangled to death by a Federal border official |
| Dec. 8, 1980 | Francisco Sanchez Age: 40 | Jacumba | Shot to death by a Border Patrol Agent |

CHICANO/LATINO/MEXICANO SOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LISTING OF
RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE NATIONAL CHICANO IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE
May 24, 1980

BORDER VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD in calling for the abolishment of the INS/Border Patrol.

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD in calling for the abolishment of the militarization policy between the U.S./Mexico as a solution to the immigration issue.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as supporting the creation of a broad-based coalition to end all residential sweeps.

CHICANO/MEXICANO PERSPECTIVE

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as demanding unconditional residency for all people with all rights and privileges of indigenous people as provided for in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as supporting the fact "Que Somos un Pueblo Sin Fronteras," and that the struggle for immigrant rights is part and parcel of the struggle for the Chicano/Mexicano rights to self-determination.

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as developing an informational network and campaign to inform and educate our people of the Immigration Issue.

ECONOMICS, LABOR AND FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as supporting an Open-Border for immigrant workers and a Closed-Border for Multi-National Corporation.

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD as opposing all forms of contract labor such as the H-2 Program, Temporary Visa Program or Foreign Guest-Worker Program.

EDUCATION WORKSHOP

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD demanding the right to free educational services and benefits that maintain and develop the primary language and culture of the Chicano/Mexicano community in all institutions of society.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES WORKSHOP

THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD in supporting that all health care and social services facilities must provide their services regardless of citizenship.

AND FINALLY THAT THIS CONFERENCE GO ON RECORD AS ENDORSING THAT A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BE UNDERTAKEN TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL POPULATION AND ELECTED OFFICIALS REGARDING THE FULL CHARACTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HEALTH NEEDS AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS.

AMAE, Southbay San Diego/American G.I. Forum, National, California, & San Diego/AMIGOS, San Diego/ August 29 Chicano Moratorium Coalition / Arizona Farm Workers/Barrio Station San Diego/Bishop Gilberto Chavez/ Brown Berets California Statewide MECHA/Centro Adelante Campesinos, Arizona/Centro de Inmigracion, Wash. D.C./ Chicano Health Coalition, San Diego/Chicanos Unidos, Texas/Chicano Park Steering Committee, San Diego/ Club Azteca CB Congreso Para Pueblos Unidos, California/Crusade for Justice, Colorado/El Clarin, Chicago/El Movimiento Artístico, Chgo./El Pueblo, Texas/Federation Internationale Des Droits de l'Homme, Paris, France/Voz del Pueblo Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Ohio/Hermanidad Mexicana General de Trabajadores, L.A./Hispanic Community Ministry Lutheran Church, Arizona/International Chamber of Commerce / National Chicano Moratorium Coalition / La Prensa, San Diego, Stockton/La Raza Legal Alliance, Houston, Texas/La Raza Health Alliance, California/Ladies Pride, San Diego/Las Hermanas, National / Los Perros, Los Angeles/Legal Aid Society, San Diego/Legal Service Center for Immigrants, Chicago/Life Car Club, San Diego/MAPA, Imperial Valley /Mario Cantu, Defense Committee, Texas/MECHA CENTRAL, San Diego/Mexican American National Organization, Los Angeles/Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants, Chgo./National Federation of Priests/National Lawyers Guild/LULAC NATIONAL/National Mexican American Correctional Association/National Center for Immigrants Organizational Feminil/PADRES, National/ Padre Hidalgo Center, San Diego/Office of Civil Rights, G.I. Forum, San Jose/MANZO, Area Council Arizona/REACT CB club, San Diego/Bishop Patricio Flores, Texas/Black Berets, San Jose San Diego City College, MECHA/Specials, San Diego/Spanish Speaking Executive Catholic Commission, San Diego, County/Sherman Unidos, San Diego/San Diego Low Rider Car Council/ San Antonio Human Rights Council Spanish Speaking Political Association, San Diego/Teatro Urbano, L.A./Tucson Coalition for Justice, Arizona/United California Mexican American Association, California/National Coalition On The Hannigan Case

WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF MEXICO. "WE QUESTION THE IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION MOVE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHETHER THE POLITICIANS ARE DISCUSSING IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION OR MATTERS RELATING TO LABOR".

BACA RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS IF THE SIMPSON/WILSON BILL IS PASSED AND STATED THAT THE CCR WILL RAISE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. How will Mexico react to the unilateral action of the U.S. Congress which proposes to lure 350,000 of its citizens to perform slave labor in the agriculture fields of the U.S. without any rights or the protection of their sovereign country?
2. How are the workers going to be recruited, transported or cared for from the interior of Mexico to the U.S.?
3. Who will see to their safety, welfare and housing and guarantee those rights?
4. How will they contain those workers to their assign fields? Will the INS now create a police state requiring passes to move from area to area?
5. Who will protect the workers rights from exploitation? The INS or Senator Pete Wilson?
6. How will the 20% of the workers salary which will be deducted to assure their return to Mexico be safeguarded? Who gets it? How? Mexico is not part of the Bill.
7. How will the "temporary" guest workers be identified from the other 20 million citizens? Will we all carry tattos on our arms to identify those legally here?

THE COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS IN CONCLUDING, STATED THAT A CAMPAIGN WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO INFORM EVERY MEXICAN VOTER IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF SENATOR PETE WILSON'S EFFORT TO SACRIFICE THERE RIGHTS ON THE ALTAR OF SELF INTEREST.

Simpson/Rodino Bills...

Employer Sanctions:

A key section of the bill, employer sanctions set civil and criminal penalties against employers for "knowingly hiring" undocumented. The penalties range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 fines for each undocumented worker hired, with a maximum penalty of six months in prison for repeat offenders. (Under a separate program, farmers will continue to use undocumented workers over a three-year 'transition' period.)

This provision rests on the idea that the U.S. has lost control of its borders and is being overrun by "illegal aliens" who are stealing American jobs. Its logic is that sanctions will stop employers from "enticing" undocumented workers with jobs, and will reduce the "pull" of immigrant labor into the U.S.

However, under the so-called "employer" sanctions, undocumented workers found using fraudulent documents to obtain employment can be fined \$5,000 or imprisoned for up to two years. Labor advocates project that employer sanctions will spur a whole new level of INS scrutiny and repression at the workplace. In addition, sanctions may well lead to discrimination against legal residents or U.S.-born minorities who "look foreign" in the eyes of the employer. There are already reports that under the "threat" of future sanctions, employers have harassed and threatened minority employees. No adequate safeguards can be placed on the bill to prevent such abuse.

Wilson

Expanded Temporary Workers Program:

In a very controversial move, the Senate approved a temporary workers program that could bring up to 350,000 workers into the U.S. at any one time for seasonal farm work. Although in previous years Congress has been reluctant to include a program that so closely resembles the widely-criticized Bracero Program of decades past, today's rightwing and anti-labor climate provided the backdrop for a successful Western growers lobby for a pool of cheap foreign labor.

Many speculate that the numbers of temporary workers will actually be much higher than 350,000 on an annual basis. The House bill would streamline the guidelines for employers to obtain temporary workers, thus allowing a major expansion of workers with few, if any, rights.

It is no secret that this temporary workers program is designed to undercut standards for U.S. labor by using workers who must accept low wages and will be limited in protesting working conditions or other grievances. The inclusion of this provision indicates that the bill's aim is not simply to "seal the borders," but to create a more "controllable" source of cheap foreign labor for U.S. business.

Legalization:

The Senate's legalization program offers temporary status to those undocumented who have lived in the U.S. prior to 1980; after two and a half years, they could apply for permanent residence. However, even those who might qualify for legalization would not be eligible for public benefits for nine years after joining the program.

The House bill has a Jan. 1, 1982 cut-off date to obtain temporary status, which could be adjusted to permanent after a year, and after meeting various requirements. They would be eligible for federally-funded public assistance five years after qualifying for legalization.

These proposals are even more weak than the restricted programs of previous bills. Under the Senate version, the implementation of the legalization program may be delayed for up to three years after the bill is passed. Eligibility requirements are stiff: applicants would have to prove "continuous residence" in the U.S. since the cut-off date, as well as satisfy English language and U.S. history and government requirements to obtain permanent residence. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that only 10% to 35% of the undocumented would be eligible at the 1982 cut-off date.

Finally, there is a serious danger of mass deportations on the scale of the 1950's Operation Wetback to reduce the number of undocumented immigrants in the country even before the legalization program begins. Many are also concerned that undocumented would be "entrapped" by the lure of legalization—identify themselves to the INS, fail to meet the eligibility requirements, and be targeted for deportation. At any rate, once the bill is passed, the INS will have even greater leeway to step up harassment and raids on neighborhoods and workplaces to "weed out" the undocumented whom they claim would not qualify for legalization.

Increased Enforcement:

The INS would almost double its current budget to \$840 million, according to the Senate-passed bill, which encourages increases for the Border Patrol and enforcement activities. The Rodino-Mazzoli bill proposes a \$422 million budget with increases for enforcement purposes.

Crackdown on the Refugee Movement

Because there is no special status for refugees from Central America and the Caribbean, they share the same conditions of oppression and repression as undocumented people from other parts of the world, and would also be victimized by the same provisions of the Simpson/Rodino-Mazzoli bills. However, the bill takes a clear shot at the refugee movement by increasing penalties for the transportation and protection of undocumented that is aimed at silencing the sanctuary movement. Church-based sanctuary work has brought national attention not only to the plight of refugees, but to U.S. policies supporting repressive governments in Central America.

Bill of Rights for the Undocumented Worker

Article I: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to establish legal residency by demonstrating a status as wage earner and taxpayer.

Article II: Every immigrant worker shall have all of the Constitutional Rights guaranteed all persons in the U.S. This right shall include but not be limited to: the right to due process, and the right to be free in their persons and possessions from unreasonable searches and seizures; and such rights shall not be violated by raids in factories, residential areas and in public places and shall be free from deportations and other unconstitutional practices.

Article III: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to be reunited with his or her family in country where he or she is a wage earner.

Article IV: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to legalize and adjust their status within the U.S. without having to return to their country of origin.

Article V: Every immigrant worker shall fully enjoy all the rights guaranteed to citizen workers including socio-economic and labor rights.

Article VI: Every immigrant worker, particularly seasonal workers, shall be provided adequate housing, health and safety provisions.

Article VII: Every immigrant worker shall be guaranteed the same rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens especially the right of access to free and adequate social and health services, child-care, and other similar social benefits.

Article VIII: Every immigrant person shall have the right to quality public education in his or her native language, utilizing English as a second language and shall not be restricted from fully practicing the culture of his or her country of origin.

Article IX: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to receive disability insurance (partial or permanent), workers compensation, retirement and death benefits. In the event of a death, the cost of transporting the deceased to his or her country of origin shall be borne by the employer, and any corresponding benefits shall be delivered to the family of the deceased without regard to their place of residency.

Article X: Every immigrant worker shall have a right to organize and to collective bargaining, including the right to join existing unions or form new ones, for the defense of their labor rights and for the improvement of their wages and living and working conditions.

A) The right to collective bargaining shall include agricultural and public service workers in order to protect their right to organize.

Article XI: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to utilize his native language in all legal proceedings, (i.e., to acquire citizenship, in judicial proceedings, etc.) and in all private or public contract agreements.

Article XII: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to exercise their right to vote in their native country's federal elections. This right should be facilitated through consulates and all other places (union-halls, schools, etc.) designated by competent authorities.

Article XIII: Every immigrant worker shall have the right to vote in local and state elections from the moment of legalizing their immigration status without having to become citizens. The right is based on their status as taxpayers, workers and residents.



International Coordinating Committee

1st International Conference for the Full Rights of Undocumented Workers

P.O. Box 819
El Mirage, Arizona 85335
(602) 977-1219

3123 West Eighth Street
Los Angeles, California 90005
(213) 383-7057

1642 S. Blue Island
Chicago, Illinois 60608
(312) 226-0173

P.O. Box 876
San Juan, Texas 78589
(512) 787-5984



YOU CAN HELP! - ORGANIZATE RAZA!

JOIN THE 100'S OF CHICANO/LATINO ORGANIZATIONS



THAT WENT ON RECORD ON MAY 24, 1980, AT THE NATIONAL CHICANO IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE, OPPOSING ALL FORMS OF CONTRACT LABOR SUCH AS THE H-2 PROGRAM, TEMPORARY VISA PROGRAM OR FOREIGN GUEST WORKER PROGRAM.

AMAE, South Bay San Diego/American G.I. Forum, National, California, & San Diego/AMIGOS, San Diego/ August 29 Chicano Moratorium Coalition / Arizona Farm Workers/Barrio Station San Diego/Bishop Gilberto Chavez/ Brown Berets California Statewide MECHA/Centro Adelante Campesinos, Arizona/Centro de Inmigracion, Wash. D.C./ Chicano Health Coalition, San Diego/Chicanos Unidos, Texas/Chicano Park Steering Committee, San Diego/Club Azteca CB Congreso Para Pueblos Unidos, California/Crusade for Justice, Colorado/El Clarin, Chicago/El Movimiento Artistico, Chgo./El Pueblo, Texas/Federation Internationale Desdroits de el Homme, Paris, France/Voz del Pueblo Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Ohio/Hermandad Mexicana General de Trabajadores, L.A./Hispanic Community Ministry Luthern Church, Arizona/International Chamber of Commerce / National Chicano Moratorium Coalition / La Prensa, San Diego, Stockton/La Raza Legal Alliance, Houston, Texas/La Raza Health Alliance, California/Ladies Pride, San Diego/Las Hermanas, National /Los Perros, Los Angeles/Legal Aid Society San Diego Legal Service Center for Immigrants, Chicago/Life Car Club, San Diego/MAPA, Imperial Valley /Mario Cantu, Defense Committee, Texas/MECHA CENTRAL, San Diego/Mexican American National Organization Los Angeles Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants, Chgo./National Federation of Priests/National Lawyers Guild/LULAC NATIONAL/National Mexican American Correctional Association/National Center for Immigrants Organizational Feminist/PADRES, National/Padre Hidalgo Center, San Diego/Office of Civil Rights, G.I. Forum, San Jose/MANZO, Area Council Arizona/REACT CB club, San Diego/Bishop Patricio Flores, Texas/Black Berets, San Jose San Diego City College, MECHA/Specials, San Diego/Spanish Speaking Executive Catholic Commission, San Diego, County/Sherman Unidos, San Diego/San Diego Low Rider Car Council/ San Antonio Human Rights Council Spanish Speaking Political Association, San Diego/Teatro Urbano, L.A./Tucson Coalition for Justice, Arizona/United California Mexican American Association, California/National Coalition On The Hannigan Case



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc.

710 E. 3rd Street
National City CA 92050

(619) 474-8195