

Most Reverend Leo T. Maher
Bishop, Diocese of San Diego
P.O. Box 80428
San Diego, Calif. 92138

Most Reverend Bishop Maher:

It has come to the attention of this organization, The Committee On Chicano Rights, that there have been certain critical changes made in the mode^d manner ~~of the operations of the Padre Hidalgo Center, 2277 National Ave., San Diego, California.~~ ^{of} operations of the Padre Hidalgo Center, 2277 National Ave., San Diego, California.

Items have appeared in La Prensa San Diego which have alluded to the abandonment of the center by you, effectively ending the churches outreach programs to the thousands of Chicanos-Latinos that live within the immediate area. There appears to be a diminution of the Plan Pastoral for the area and a transferring out of all Chicano-Latino personnel, ~~from the immediate area.~~

In addition, ^{HAS} La Prensa alluded to the name of the center being changed from the Padre Hidalgo Center to the Padre Serra Center. The fact that the name of one who is consider to be ~~Mexico's father~~ the Father of Mexican Independence is being replaced by the name of Father Juimper Serra, who is historically consider the oppressor and enslaver of millions of Indians in Mexico and the Southwest ^{who} and supported of the Spanish conquest, ^{OVER MEXICO,} ~~is~~ is a matter of grave concern to us.

Recently, I also received a letter from one Carlos Yanez, director of a RETTC program, located in Padre Hidalgo Center, stating that a name change had been ^{"directed"} ~~directed~~ by Auxialary Bishop Gilbert Chavez. And stating that any inquiries ^{PARTAINING} ~~pertainig~~ to Padre Serra Center should be ^{SENT} to his attention.

This matters are of some concern to us. That major changes in the operation of the center have had to be gleaned from newspaper items and ~~personal~~ letters by a non-member of your staff or ~~from~~ your offices, we find highly irregular and on its surface suspicious. Since Bishop Chavez is out of country, we have not as yet been able to confront him with ~~Yanez's~~ Yanez's allegations. However, we shall upon his return.

At this point, we request an official statement from you as to the facts of the matter on the the name change, the staffing changes and for the

elimination of this locus for Catholic, social and community
~~services~~ ^{FROM} services, ~~center~~ Barrio Logan. With over 53% of
the members of the San Diocese being Mexican American, the handling of
their concerns in this ~~laical~~ manner leaves much to be desired.

In Christ

Herman Baca, Chairman
Committee on Chicano Rights

lh/dlm

encl: Yanez Letter
La Prensa Items



Tezozomoc Speaks

5/22/84

Barrio Logan may see some changes soon. **Obispo Chavez** planning on moving **Padre Hidalgo Center** out of Logan Heights. The current building will continue to be used by **RETC** for job retraining programs as usual.

6/13/84

Notes in Passing: The Hispanic Catholic presence has been removed from **Padre Hidalgo Center**. **Mendez** is in Mexico City, **Father Bernal** is in San Ysidro, and **Obispo Chavez** is in Mexico City for 2 months. Padre Hidalgo Center, shortly to be renamed Father Junipero Serra Center (that's what we hear.)

6/13/84

Logan Heights community caught by surprise to learn the Catholic Hispanic "Plan Pastoral" i.e., outreach, to Mexican Americans in the Logan Heights area has had funds cut off...No more staff at **Padre Hidalgo Center**. **Deacon Jessie Rivera** and **Roberto Labato** from St. Judes showing concern over decline of church's outreach for Raza. **Lilia Lopez** from Padre Hidalgo Center showing concern that they will be made the scapegoat for the move...(not to worry Lilia...everyone knows your program). Chicano Catholic leaders concerned over removal of only Chicano Youth leader/program administrator at the Chancellory. Chicano youth upset at importation of Imperial Beach area Priest to take over program. Seen as one more step to remove Chicanos from all positions of authority. We wish **Bishop Maher** would show as much concern for Hispanics as he did for **Fr. Spain**.

5/29/84


Pregunta de la Semana: What is **Bishop Leo T. Maher** doing? He first rids the diocese of all active Chicano priests, some defrocked, some transferred to other dioceses. Then he sends all the Chicano Nuns and Sisters that have actively worked for their gente to lower Slobbovia. He then isolates the Episcopal Vicar for the Spanish Speaking People, **Aux Bishop Chavez**, away from the 300,000 Catholics of Mexican origin and effectively removes any and all power that he may have had. Now through **Rev. Douglas Regin**, head of Catholic Community Services, he is moving **Padre Hidalgo Center**, staff and all, out of the Barrio. In fact destroying all presence of the Church except the churches themselves, which are all run by non-Hispanic priests! La Raza is over 60% of the diocese yet the Church is firmly controlled by non-Raza...You can push our people just so far Bishop.

6/13/84


Padre Hidalgo Center is now functioning as a training and Job Placement Center under **Carlos Yannez** and **Lillie Lopez**. Program is funded by **RETC** through Catholic Community Services. Meanwhile over 200,000 Hispanic Catholics wonder what is going on. Hispanic presence almost reduced to Fr. Junipero Serra in San Diego. Of course, he died 250 years ago.

6/27/84


Pregunta de la Semana: How come **Padre Hidalgo Center** has now been renamed the **Padre Junipero Serra Center**? Hidalgo gave the Mexican people freedom and independence. Serra gave the Spaniards an empire and millions of Indians slavery. **Bishop Maher** ill-advised on this move.



san diego county



AD HOC COMMITTEE



newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1976

VOLUME 5

REGISTER!

(Massive effort launched)

A massive Voter registration Drive was announced this week by the AD-HOC Committee on Chicano Rights. The official kickoff starting the County wide Drive will begin this Friday September 17, 1976 at St. Anthony's Hall, 18th and Harding in National City at 7:00 P.M.. The community rally will involve Ceasar Chavez of the United Farmworkers and prominent Chicano and Black community leaders. Chavez is presently speaking throughout the state appealing to California's Voter's to support the Farmworkers Initiative. The AD-HOC Committee has endorsed a YES vote on Proposition 14.

According to the Voter Registration Committee, the Drive will end October 4, 1976. Target areas will include National City and other South Bay Cities where it is estimated that there are 50,000 Chicanos with 17,500 new potential voters.

In an exclusive interview, Milton Rivera coordinator of the Drive recently stated, "that when one

considers that there are only 7,500 registered Chicanos out of 25,000 potential new voters, our campaign to register will have to be conducted by going door to door, to churches and to shopping centers. It will be a non-stop 7 day week effort. It is our hope that because of Proposition 14 the Farmworker Initiative and other crucial issues facing our community in this presidential election that our people will see the urgency and register to vote."

Organizers of the Drive are optimistic that the concerted drive will be more successful than the last registration which netted over 2,500 new voters in National City during the Recall effort and the March 2, elections of 1976. The AD-HOC Committee in launching this Drive is concerned that all previously registered voters maintain their voting eligibility by going to the Polls on November 2.

By increasing the number of eligible Chicano voters in the South Bay, the AHC intends to create a voice that the politicians can not successfully ignore.



UFW INTERVIEW

The following is an interview with Arturo Mendoza, a United Farm Worker organizer who is coordinating the YES on 14 campaign in the 80th Assembly District.

What is Proposition 14 all about?

Mendoza: Proposition 14 is an initiative measure that will be voted on in the November 2nd elections. If passed by California's citizens it would guarantee farmworkers the right to determine the union of their choice through secret elections.

Don't farmworkers already have this right?

Mendoza: A law allowing such secret elections was passed by the state legislature in May, 1975. As a result, elections were held from September 1975 to February 1976. Because of the UFW's history of struggle in behalf of the farmworkers the UFW won 68% of the elections that took place. The farmworkers had the right to free elections until they began to vote strongly in favor of the UFW-then the state legislature denied them that right.

How did that happen?

Mendoza: The Governor had appointed an Agricultural Labor Relations Board to conduct the elections. Without the ALRB there could be no election. The UFW victories threatened the agribusiness in California so these wealthy landowners ordered their politicians in the legislature to stop the elections. This was done when the legislators cut off the funds of the ALRB.

How will Proposition 14 prevent this from happening again?

Mendoza: Because Proposition 14 is an initiative to be voted on by California's citizens and not just a few politicians. The legislature cannot change this law. When Proposition 14 is passed the law will state that the legislature must provide the necessary funds to operate the act, which includes the secret elections.

Why have the farmworkers been denied secret elections when other types of workers have had this right for decades?

Mendoza: Farmworkers in California are mainly poor Chicanos and Mexicanos who have been unorganized. For 125 years they have depended on the legislature to give them their rights. The legislature has failed. Only through the workers organizing themselves and applying political pressure and economic pressure was the 1975 law passed. But the legislature cannot be trusted. NOW, THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA WILL DECIDE ON NOVEMBER 2nd. VOTE YES ON 14.

Support
the Farmworker's
fight to control
their own destiny
ON NOVEMBER 2

VOTE
YES
ON 14



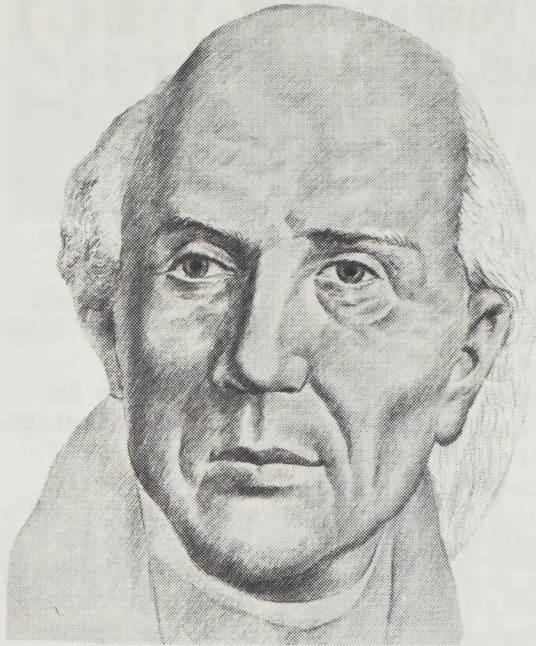
This is a campaign of people not money. You can help the Farmworkers win their right to organize.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
contact the United Farmworkers
YES on 14 office.

2137 Logan Ave.
San Diego, Ca
233-5648

16 De SEPTIEMBRE

(Our historical struggle against injustice)



his uncompromising leadership in their attempts to gain a better life earned him the respect of millions; he lost his life in the fight for independence and we honor his memory and his accomplishments as the FATHER OF MEXICO.

Today, over 150 years after Hidalgo's death, we of Mexican descent live in conditions similar to those that inspired the first rebellion. The need for justice is as great today as it ever has been.

On the 16th of September people of Mexican descent come together to reenact that time in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang the bell of his church in Dolores. He thus summoned his congregation and told them that the time had come for the overthrow of the Gachupines (Spaniards).

His "Grito de Dolores" attracted thousands within one week. It was the beginning of 5 years of civil war.

Armed with clubs, slings and machetes, the Indians set off with Hidalgo to liberate Mexico. "Long live our Lady of Guadalupe!" and "Down with the Gachupines!" were their battle cries. With the capture of Guanajuato and the occupation of what is now Morelia, the rebel leaders published decrees abolishing slavery and the paying of heavy taxes.

Prior to the revolution Father Hidalgo realized that the majority of the country, the peasants, had no control over their lives. His dedication and love for his people and

Here in National City the need is clear. The cowardly police shoot our brothers in the back and brutalize our families. The courts encourage such crimes by refusing to conduct proper investigations. Our elected "representatives" ignore us because we are poor and unorganized. It is obvious that we are not considered as citizens with constitutionally guaranteed rights. The U.S Supreme Court has given the MIGRA the power to stop us and question our citizenship.

Like Padre Hidalgo we must be willing to cry-out against those force's that are organized to deny us our right to self-determination. We must realize that we can not depend on legislators and judges to protect our rights. It is only ourselves who will protect our rights and our dignity. We must organize ourselves for strength and with our forces united we must never turn back from the struggle of La Raza. No one can prevent our efforts to better our lives and the future of our families. Like Padre Hidalgo we must be willing to dedicate our lives to the struggle.

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PINTOS CONVENTION!

In a concerted effort to unite all Chicano Pinto/Pintas (Pinto-A prisoner or ex-con), to safeguard their individual rights, human freedom and personal dignity, the Chicano Pinto Union Organizing Committee (CPUOC) is holding its Constitutional Convention on September 17 thru 19, 1976, at the Universidad de Campesinos Libres, 841 West Belmont Ave, Fresno, California.

Formation of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of La Hermandad Mexicana, the organization announced that it was beginning a National organizing campaign. "Un Dano Contra Uno Es Un Dano Contra Todos" is the principle which La Hermandad will employ to organize union and non-union workers. At a recent picnic at Felicitas Park, Escondido, celebrating the 25th Anniversary of La Hermandad Bert Corona National organizer outlined the benefits in becoming a member of the National organization. Corona in speaking to 800 workers and their families stated "that each individual will multiply his or her strength and capacity to struggle with more success on basic issues like wages, housing, civil rights, and social and economic security". More important Corona continued "every worker will have the opportunity on their jobs in attaining their full potential without discrimination or contempt".

In commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of La Hermandad Mexicana, a 6x22 foot mural was painted by Chicano artistas Salvador Torres, Antonia Perez and Tomas Castaneda.

It portrays the many labor skills possessed by Chicanos. The portable mural is available to all chicano groups interested in displaying a fine example of our working pride.

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REGISTRATION FORMS AND
MORE INFORMATION:**

474 - 8195

The Ad-Hoc Committee is open to all people of all ages who are interested in protecting the civil and constitutional rights of their communities.

Meetings of the AD-HOC are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month.

NEXT MEETING:

7:00 P.M. September
22, 1976
Rubio's Restaurant
725 W. 18th Street
National City, Ca



AHC Sues State


The AD-HOC Committee on Chicano Rights and Mexican-American citizens and taxpayers in eight counties including San Diego, filed suit on August 24, in the California Supreme Court against March Fong Eu, the Secretary of State of California, and County election officials. The officials are accused of drastically curtailing voter registration and refusing to provide bilingual registrars and outreach as required by state and federal law.

The petitioners, represented by California Rural Legal Assistance and other attorneys, including San Diego's Ralph Arriola, seek immediate hiring of bilingual registrars and the extension of the voter registration deadline until 10 days before the November 2 elections. As matters now stand, registration will end on October 10. The matter is now before the court in San Francisco. According to Ralph Arriola the suit is only asking that the public officials comply with the law.

In initial responses to the suit the Secretary of State and officials from two counties have admitted that they have not complied with the law.

To date San Diego has not responded officially to the suit but soon after the court action the Registrar of Voters finally began sending out forms enabling citizens to register by mail.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE**
ON
CHICANO RIGHTS
SALUTES THE
Labor Council
For
Latin American Advancement



GRAND JURY ALLOWS OAKLAND POLICE CRIMES

On August 4, 1976, the Alameda County Grand Jury decided not to indict Oakland Police Officer Michael Cogley, the man responsible for the shotgun death of Jose Barlow Benavidez, on June 11, 1976. Despite the fact that the Grand Jury heard testimony from numerous witnesses who testified that Barlow Benavidez did not make any abrupt movement while being searched, the Grand Jury refused to return an indictment even for involuntary manslaughter.

The Benavidez family is totally outraged by the fact that even after a Grand Jury investigation there is still no disciplinary action being taken by the Oakland Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Committee on Public Safety, or the Alameda County Grand Jury,

Once again a minority citizen has been gunned down in the streets and once again the Grand Jury has protected the killer: The Barlow Benavidez Committee Against Police Crimes has organized protest marches against this latest example of our oppression. Barlow's crime was living in a barrio where more money is spent on the police department than in providing medical care and education. The intimidation by the Police and agencies like the Immigration Service are intended to keep us afraid to speak out about lack of decent jobs, education, and medical care.

It is time for Chicano communities throughout the state to unite in our efforts to stop police crimes. We can not allow these crimes in the streets of our communities.

U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE URGES AMNESTY

The Most Reverend Robert F. Sanchez, Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico, recently spoke in behalf of the United States Catholic conference before the United States Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization. Presenting the USCC's position on much needed immigration reform Archbishop Sanchez pointed to an inconsistency in proposed Federal legislation

On one hand the Senate Bill calls for sanctions against employment of illegal aliens because jobs are taken away from American workers during a time of critical unemployment. But, on the other hand the bill would enable farm owners to import foreign workers because of an alleged shortage of domestic labor. The Archbishop wonders how agribusiness can claim a shortage of domestic labor when millions of unemployed Americans are walking the streets.

Reverend Sanchez objected to civil penalties for employers who knowingly employ unauthorized aliens because such penalties could deny employment to lawful resident aliens and minority group citizens. Employers would use the fear of violating the law to discriminate against Mexicans and Chicanos working in the United States. Furthermore, Sanchez strongly opposed the importation of foreign labor. He said it was nothing but the reinstatement of the disastrous Bracero Program of the late 50's.

The Catholic Conference was concerned with the hardships that the proposed legislation would create on people, especially, possible mass deportations that would separate families.

Sanchez encouraged the Subcommittee to include in the proposed bill a meaningful "across the board type" amnesty, particularly for those with family ties. "Illegal aliens" in the U.S. would be able to establish legal residence without leaving the country

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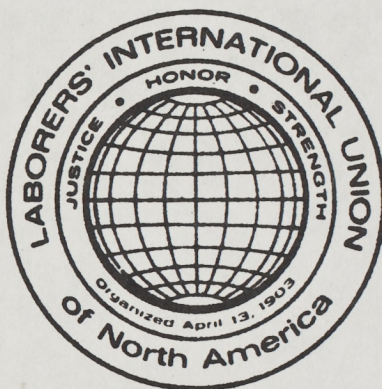
16 De SEPTIEMBRE

with the

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CHICANO RIGHTS.



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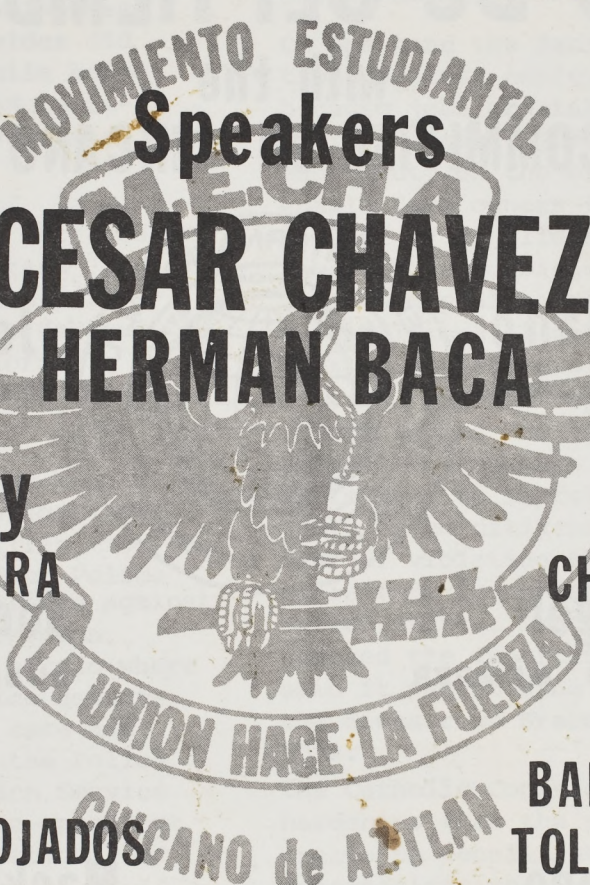
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