

Position Statement by Herman Baca, Committee on Chicano Rights

on the line

YA BASTA! (PROBE OF BORDER PATROL CALLED FOR)

The Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR) has written a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy, Chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee and to Representative Elizabeth Holtzman of the House Immigration Sub-committee requesting a full-scale Congressional investigation of the U.S. Border Patrol. The CCR, with a long history of involvement in border and immigration-related issues, feels intervention is necessary- if further Border Patrol abuses and violence are to be prevented. The CCR is waiting for a response from Senator Kennedy and Representative Holtzman and will at that time provide documentation on the charges that have been made against the Border Patrol.

Editor's Note

March 21, 1979

Dear Senator Kennedy and Representative Holtzman:

Our organization is requesting a full-scale Congressional investigation of the U.S. Border Patrol. We are accusing the U.S. Border Patrol of committing illegal acts and abuses involving the human and constitutional rights of both undocumented persons and U.S. citizens of Mexican ancestry. We are hereby petitioning your committees to initiate a full-scale Congressional investigation into the following:

1. The March 17, 1979, killing of Efren Reyes with a .357 Magnum by the U.S. Border Patrolman Daniel Cole and the wounding of his companion Benito Rincon. At the time Reyes and Rincon were shot, both men were handcuffed and were reported to have been shot in the back.
2. The massive violations of human and constitutional rights by the Border Patrol at the international border and in the Chicano Community. The latest killing of Reyes and the wounding of Rincon involving the U.S. Border Patrol is not an isolated incident, but the "tip of the iceberg" of such violations. It is apparent to us that the Border Patrol is now totally out of control and is nothing but a lawless agency which is accountable and responsible to no one.

Because of the lack of supervision and adequate training the Border Patrol have in essence become a law unto themselves.

Additionally, we request that your committees conduct an investigation into the entire operation of the Border Patrol and investigate the following documented cases of illegal and unconstitutional acts which have been committed by the Border Patrol over the past 10 years:

- a. Shooting and killing of individuals;
- b. Beatings;
- c. Sexual abuse of women;
- d. Breaking into homes;
- f. Stopping persons in the streets, airports, bus depots, etc., on the basis of race and without reasonable suspicion;
- g. Stopping persons from entering places of worship;
- h. Boarding public transit buses and interrogating persons on the basis of race and without reasonable suspicion;
- i. Collaborating with the K.K.K.;
- j. Entering schools to question children;
- k. Strikebreaking and involving themselves in labor disputes;
- l. Mistreatment at detention camps.

Our committee believes that a Congressional investigation is not only necessary but imperative at this time. Any further delay can only inflame the already volatile situation along the border and lead to further confrontations and violence. We will be awaiting your response on this urgent matter.

Thank You,

Herman Baca

Herman Baca
Chairperson

cc.
President Jimmy Carter
President Jose Lopez Portillo
Attorney General Griffin Bell
Commissioner Leonel Castillo
Senator Cranston
Senator Hayakawa

You Can Help!

WRITE SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, 431 RUSSEL OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510 OR CONGRESSWOMAN ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, 2238 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

SEND ANY DOCUMENTATION OF ABUSES OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS TO THE CCR AT 1837 HIGHLAND AVE., NATIONAL CITY, CA. 92050

WRITE THE CCR A LETTER OF SUPPORT ENDORSING THIS EFFORT

SEND A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION



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We Make Our Stand In San Ysidro!

SAN DIEGO, Ca. - 117 years ago in Puebla, Mexico, our people raised their voices against tyranny, against oppression and in the process expressed their deep seated desires for freedom and dignity. Today it is significant that Pope John Paul II has chosen Puebla as the historical site for his first visitation with the Latin American Bishops.

Today, in 1979, we also raise our voices because of the immigration issue in a new cry of outrage and call for a National Protest March against the new tyranny of the spirit, the oppression of our civil rights, and the degradation that is being perpetuated daily against Americas 16 million Chicanos/Latinos. SAN YSIDRO, to la raza, is rapidly becoming the Puebla of the 70's.

"Gente del pueblo Mexicano, del pueblo Latino, del pueblo Chicano", our leaders have tried for years to bring solutions to our problems with dignity, respect, and honor to our people. Our leaders have sought to use the avenues of reason to resolve the manifold problems that confront our people and have found those avenues closed. We ask our people to now raise their voices, as they did in Puebla so long ago.

We ask that they raise their voices once again to the heavens against the tyranny, oppression, loss of individual freedom and dignity, that is now being occasioned against la raza by the immigration issue. Let us raise our voices, from the most humble individual to the highest of

approach to the human problems that confront the two nations.

... Rather than an immigration policy which plants the future seeds of hatred and antagonisms, and fear, let us work for a policy of mutual reciprocity.

... Rather than the continued maintenance of a border patrol which can only justify its existence through terror, oppression, and denial of human and civil rights, let us seek instead to place along our borders, representatives of a just and righteous policy rather than establish a reign of terror, corruption, and brutality.

Our people have been ignored in the councils of government which have proposed the current policies and prepared the accords for President Carter to discuss with President Portillo. Let us make it clear that our peoples' dignity, honor, and pride, will not be sacrificed upon a barrel of oil or the almighty dollar.

Instead of confrontations, we propose national hearings in every city with a significant Chicano/Latino population. In this manner, those who stand to be affected by future immigration policy may have a say in determining their future.

... Instead of constructing a barbaric fence, we ask that those funds be used to provide tools to effectively establish a just, fair and humane immigration policy, and to eliminate the main instrument of incompetence rampant throughout the INS.

... Instead of pseudo paramilitary policemen manning border patrol stations or policy making offices of the INS, we ask that professional competent administrators be hired and utilized. Vietnam has demonstrated the stupidity of "General Chapman-type" policies which currently hold sway within the INS.



San Ysidro - 1977 - March Against the KKK

We have implored, petitioned and requested that the government not construct the proposed "Curtain of Hatred" between Mexico and the U.S., between Anglo-Americans and Chicanos/Latinos. Our people, in concert with our national leaders, have attempted to make the government understand the offensive nature of this fence. To America's Chicanos/Latinos it represents a monumental failure to the intolerable racism existent within our country. There is no further recourse. We have tried, but found all doors to reason locked.

... We have spoken eloquently before every tribunal . . . and found disdain.

... We have sent our most respected leaders to speak for us. . . and they have been turned out.

... We have trod the path of reason and found fences blocking our way.

We have no recourse but to bring our message to the people of the United States and Mexico in the only way left ... on the streets!

our leaders, in justifiable outrage, at the continued insistence of the Carter administration to construct their infamous "Carter Curtain". A fence which stops nothing and stands as a constant reminder of America's insensitivity to its largest growing minority - the Chicano/Latino.

... Let us raise our voices in opposition to the continued treatment of the Mexican and American border as a "Militarized no mans land" rather than as a boundary between brothers.

... Let us raise our voices against the continued massive civil, constitutional and human rights violations which continue to be perpetrated against the Chicano/Latino population by the border patrol.

The government has left us no alternative but to march. Let our feet send a resounding message to Lopez Portillo and to Jimmie Carter. . . that the sleeping giant sleeps no more.

... Rather than a fence and a continued militarization of the border, we seek a social, economic, and humane

... Finally, we ask that Congress enjoin President Carter from creating international policy, adhoc, without the advice and consent of Congress . . . for President Carter to consider the establishment of treaties with Mexico when his Congress is so totally uninformed of the problems and ramifications constitutes an act of political expediency rather than of reasoned policy making.

Today we make our stand in San Ysidro and raise our voices to the world community to hear.



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on the line

Foreign Aid = Foreign Domination

Of the six legislative immigration proposals submitted under the Carter Immigration Plan to the U.S. Congress and the American public by President Carter on August 4, 1977, the one which has received the least notice is the foreign aid proposal. The intent of the President's proposal is ambiguously stated but it purports to help poor countries obtain economic assistance which will improve their economies.

In some cases this will involve "technical assistance, encouragement of private financing and enhance trade, or population programs." But whatever the intent: the end result will be the same as all of the other economic plans and foreign aid programs which have been developed for Mexico by the U.S. Congress. The foreign aid proposal will mean more foreign domination and control of Mexico's economy by U.S. multi-national corporations which in turn will continue to mean more poverty, misery, and unemployment for millions of Mexico's citizens.

Furthermore in analyzing the President's proposal what becomes obvious is that the proposal will not work even though millions of dollars will supposedly be given to Mexico because nothing in the proposal addresses itself to the causes of Mexico's economic problem. That problem being the foreign economic domination of the Mexican economy and the billions of dollars in profits which U.S. multi-national corporations have and are taking out of Mexico. This

can clearly be seen when one considers the following facts.

U.S. Corporations Dominate Mexico

At the present time the multi-national corporations have over 5 billion dollars invested in Mexico (up from 449 million in 1940), then control 35% of Mexico's total industrial production and employ 16% of all industrial workers. Between 1961-71 two billion dollars in profits were taken out of Mexico by the multi-national corporations. Currently, 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. The multi-national corporations today control 21% of Mexico's food, 46% of the basic metals, 48% of the petroleum products, 50% of the chemicals and 64% of the transportation equipment. Furthermore to finance development, the Mexican government has pushed its foreign debt in 1977 to a staggering 28 BILLION, nearly \$500 for every man, woman, and child in that country.

Numerous studies have also shown that the presence of large foreign corporations and their ties with the Mexican ruling class has increased the concentration of wealth in fewer and fewer hands. 10% of Mexico's rich possess over 50% of the national wealth, while the poorest 40% have seen their share shrink from 14% to 11% in the past 20 years.

Because of the preceding facts Mexico today suffers from a 50% unemployment rate and it is estimated that approximately 3.5 million peasants and fishermen live on less than 5 cents a day. Recent studies from Mexico also show that 9.9 million Mexicans eat no meat. 11.1 million eat no eggs. 18.3 million consume no milk products, and 80% of these families live in rural communities where there is no medical service, electricity or running water. Furthermore, 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. (1/2 of all the vegetables consumed in the U.S. during the winter months come from Mexico) while every day 1,000 Mexican children die of malnutrition. And it goes on and on, the statistics showing that the so called people whom the U.S. calls "illegal aliens" are in



fact economic refugees created by this country's economic domination of Mexico through its powerful multi-national corporations.

Foreign Control Produces Mexico's Economic Refugees

In concluding our analysis of Carter's immigration foreign aid proposal one can see that there is a strong correlation between the foreign domination of Mexico's economy by U.S. corporations and the large number of economic refugees entering the United States without documents. Since 1940, when 8,051 were apprehended, the number of so called illegal aliens has gone up to 1,033,000 in 1977; while at the same time investments went up from 449 million in 1940 to over 5 billion dollars in 1971.

It should then be obvious to anyone that this type of foreign aid (which will cost millions of dollars) is not what is needed. The 1960 alliance for progress proposed by then President Kennedy, is proof (Latin America in 1978 is poorer than it was in 1960) that the proposed foreign aid plan will not benefit Mexico's economy; but will once again be a bonanza for the multi-national corporations and the elite class in Mexico. Also, instead of resolving the immigration issue such a plan will in fact perpetuate the problem because of the poverty resulting from it.

In our opinion, what is needed is a thorough review by Congress of this country's economic foreign policy towards Mexico and other so called underdeveloped countries. For the flow of "economic refugees" will not cease until a new foreign economic policy is created. That policy must question seriously the involvement of multi-national corporations in the economies of foreign countries.



Committee on Chicano Rights

The CCR is a non-funded, non-profit community based membership organization which was founded in 1970. The CCR was organized to fight for the human, civil, and constitutional rights of our people through education and self determination. Since its' inception, the CCR has been involved with the issues of immigration, education, police brutality, voting rights, re-zoning, housing, and others affecting the interest and welfare of our people. The CCR is funded solely by membership dues and community contributions.

Leonel Castillo: One Year Later

Position Statement by Herman Baca
Committee on Chicano Rights



A sigh of relief was felt in the Chicano/Latino communities throughout the United States when President Carter announced that he was replacing Commissioner Leonard Chapman and appointing the first "Mexican-American" Leonel Castillo, to head the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Commissioner Chapman, a retired reactionary ex-commandant of the U.S. Marines and a proponent of "military tactics" had left a trail of civil, constitutional, and human rights violations. In his campaign to weed out the so called "illegal alien," Chapman ordered dragnet raids and illegal search and seizures in the Chicano/Latino communities.

Based on President Carter's human rights campaign, the appointment of Castillo, the young boy wonder of Texas politics to commissioner was expected to change all that.

But after one year of Castillos performance, the high expectations and high hopes felt toward him by the Chicano/Latino community, religious community, and numerous individuals concerned with the immigration problem had diminished.

The following chronological events in our opinion proves that Commissioner Leonel "Coyote" Castillo is just as bad as any other past commissioner if not worse.

May 13, 1977: Castillo is sworn in as INS Commissioner, first Mexican-American to ever hold that position.

May 20, 1977: Castillo announces in San Diego, Ca. that he will assign 100 Border patrolmen, seventeen four-wheel drive vehicles, eight vans, radio communication equipment and 24 special scopes for night viewing to stem the flow of the "illegal aliens."

June 22, 1977: President Carter and Castillo over the objection of the U.S. Department of Labor bring in more than 800 Mexican Nationals to pick onions for wealthy growers in Presidio, Texas.

July 8, 1977: United Farm Workers denounce Carter's Immigration proposals at the National Convention.

July 17, 1977: Border City Mayors meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico, inform Castillo that the INS is discourteous, uses verbal abuse, and is just plain harrassing visitors and U.S. citizens who attempt to cross the border.



**Trust me
... I'm only obeying orders.**

Leonel "Coyote" Castillo
INS Boss
Salary: \$50,000

Aug. 4, 1977: President Carter announces his Immigration Plan.

Aug. 6, 1977: The CCR at a press conference in San Diego denounces President Carter's Immigration Plan.

Sept. 16, 1977: Castillo announces in Washington that 47% more "illegal aliens" were apprehended (6000) in August 1977, than in August 1976 (5200).

Oct. 9, 1977: Castillo in his 5th month as INS commissioner personally aids in the capture of 19 "illegal aliens" by hunting his own people down with a helicopter.

Oct. 14, 1977: President Carter requests 4,000 more additional Border Patrolmen for the INS in San Ysidro, Ca.

Oct. 16, 1977: INS in San Ysidro, Ca. gives the KKK a "red carpet" treatment tour, where the KKK announces that they will be establishing a "border watch" to keep out "illegal aliens."

Nov. 21, 1977: Chicano community in San Diego pickets Leonel Castillo and the CCR announces its' National Campaign to stop President Carters Immigration Plan.

Jan. 5, 1978: Local newspaper reports that Gama Puente, a 15 year old girl whose mother is a U.S. citizen was picked up by Border Patrolmen and arbitrarily thrown across the International Border into Mexico where she was alone, crying, and penniless, without friends or relatives.

Jan. 5, 1978: Border Patrol Helicopter is shot at along the San Diego International border.

Jan. 20, 1978: Civil Rights Office announces that hearings will be held because of the large number of complaints by the Chicano community concerning violations of constitutional rights.

Feb. 4, 1978: Border Patrol in San Onofre stop woman with legal documents and give her a body cavity check after threatening to beat her husband.

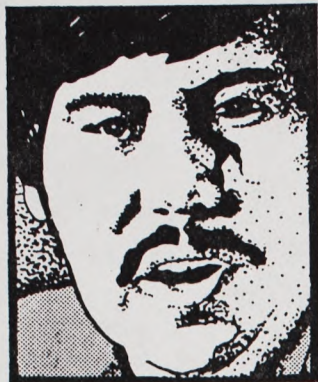
Mar. 24, 1978: INS and Customs agents are charged along with 7 other persons of operating a smuggling ring.

March 26, 1978: Coroner's Office report it is investigating the death of a 44 year old Mexican man who died in a Border Patrol car.

Apr. 3, 1978: KKK apprehend a legal resident alien and turn him over to Border Patrol in San Onofre.

Apr. 9, 1978: Castillo requests a short range plan to resolve the "illegal alien" issue which calls for 500 more Border Patrolmen for the next 3 years.

Leonel Castillo after one year as commissioner is a tragic figure, a man who for the expediency of playing the game has hunted down his own people in helicopters, will venture into our communities, and is telling us that the Carter Immigration Plan is good when every Chicano/Latino organization is stating that it is detrimental to our interest, a man who appears to be more concerned with his own personal advancement rather than the welfare of his people. I always wonder, if Castillo had been Commissioner three generations ago when his grandfather came from Mexico, if he would have deported his "abuelito."



On To Washington D.C.

Position Statement by Herman Baca,
Committee on Chicano Rights

The Carter Immigration Plan which was introduced on August 4, 1977 is finally a legislative reality. Hearings into the various immigration proposals will commence on March 16, 1978 before the U.S. Senate.

Here in San Diego with human and constitutional violations against our people increasing daily because of the Border Patrol and the various agencies from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, our organization has begun a campaign to inform our communities and the general public of our campaign against the dangerous and undemocratic Carter Plan.

In launching our campaign against the Carter Plan we firmly believe that if we are going to be successful we are going to have to do the following. First and this is imperative, we must inform and educate the Chicano/Latino communities to the true fact of the dangerous implication posed to our people by the Carter Plan.

Our efforts in informing our communities must include a counter campaign to the slick Madison Avenue type campaign which is being waged by the Carter Administration thru it's \$50,000 a year INS Commissioner, Leonel Castillo. Castillo claims that the plan is a positive resolution of the immigration issue.

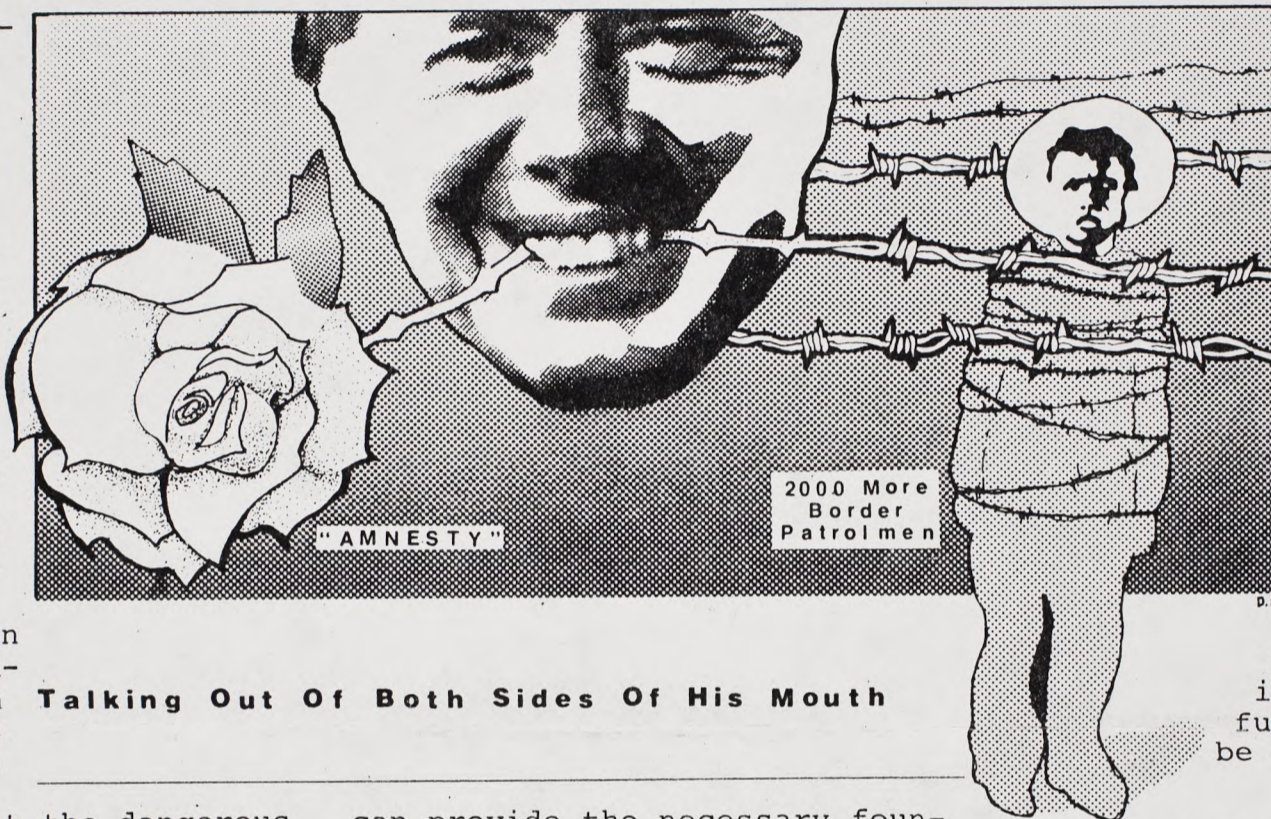
But, where Castillo describes a just and humane amnesty, we see false promises and the creation of a semi-slave state. Where Castillo claims that Carter's plan will fine employers, we see a legal farce which provides employers with a giant loophole. Where Castillo holds out the promise of foreign aid to poor countries we see a proposal which will make poor countries more dependent on the same corporations which made them poor in the first place.

This effort to get to the Chicano/Latino community is crucial because if we cannot convince our own people of the danger of the Carter Immigration Plan, all chances of ever getting off the ground will be lost. For only our communities

the 14th Amendment (which provides equal protection, and due process under the law).

The religious community must also be made to understand that the issue of the so-called "illegal alien" is the moral issue of this decade and that they must take a position on it.

Labor must be informed that the Carter Plan will not solve the unemployment crisis but will most likely increase it because of the possibility that a new Bracero program might be introduced. The fact that employers will be given the power to determine who is or is not a lawful worker will also be a blow to labor.



Talking Out Of Both Sides Of His Mouth

can provide the necessary foundation for the raising of support and the financial resources to organize a successful campaign. Furthermore an all out effort must be made to educate and politicize the Black, Anglos, religious, labor, and other organizations of the danger posed to their interest by the Carter Plan in order that a broad based coalition can be organized.

For further information and details regarding the Senate Judiciary Hearings, contact the CCR or:

Jose A. Medina
248 16th St. N.W. #221
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 624-8374 (Georgetown U.)

In carrying out this task we must inform the Black community that the "illegal alien" issue refers not only to Chicano and Latino communities but also to the Blacks because of the large number of people from the Caribbean Islands who are presently residing on the Eastern Seaboard.

The Anglo community must also be educated to the fact that the Carter Plan will ultimately result in attacks against basic democratic guarantees under the 4th Amendment (which allows freedom of travel and prohibits illegal search and seizures), and

At the same time that we inform and educate the community, we must demonstrate our strong resistance to the Carter proposals.

The Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the immigration proposals are important for that reason. It is absolutely vital that as many of us as possible go to Washington D.C. and confront the politicians who will be holding the hearings on the future of our people.

The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Eastland, has made the decision not to allow the general public to testify on March 16 as we had initially been led to believe. Instead, he will allow only government agencies like the INS to testify.

It is obvious that this is an effort to give the proponents of the Carter Plan the tactical advantage by allowing them to present their side first in order that they may benefit from the massive media coverage that will ultimately result. He also wants to discourage and confuse those who oppose the plan in order that few will testify. We must not fall into this trap and we must continue to organize and make sure that when public hearings are conducted that we will all be in Washington.



On the Line

Position Statement by Herman Baca, Committee on Chicano Rights

Exposing Carter's Immigration Salesman

It appears that efforts have been launched by INS Commissioner Leonel Castillo and the Carter Administration to discredit and divide the unanimity of the Chicano/Mexicano/Latino community against the Carter Immigration proposals of August 4, 1977.

The first official response came on November 21, 1977 when \$50,000 a year Leonel Castillo stated in a press release that the CCR was "misleading the public with inaccurate statements through scare tactics." In his opening statements the Commissioner says "that there are no plans to utilize dogs in guarding the border." If this is not the case why then did Mexican Ambassador Hugo Margain state in the L.A. Times August 11, 1977 that "sealing the border will not be welcome in Mexico - using dogs and so forth." Was this a misunderstanding on the part of the Ambassador or was it a real fear (just like ours) based on the knowledge that up to this date the administration has continually emphasized law enforcement solutions? Commissioner Castillo continues in his press release that "there are no plans to triple the Border Patrol." But when one looks at the reported Carter proposals by the news media, what can one conclude? Consider the following! At the present time there are approximately 2,000 Border Patrolmen. The Carter Immigration proposals call for an additional 2,000 or a doubling to 4,000 and on October 14, 1977 President Carter in a story carried by the San Diego Union is quoted as requesting from Congress 2,000 additional Border Patrolmen for a total of 6,200 or a tripling of the force. This can only mean that Commissioner Castillo either is unaware of his boss' proposals, flunked math in those fine Texas schools, or is purposely mislead-

ing the American public. And the fact still remains that even 1 additional Border Patrolman will increase the denial of human, and constitutional rights in our communities.

For as Cesar Chavez, leader of the UFW, has stated, the Border Patrol "is the Gastapo of the Mexican people."

In defending his boss' most controversial proposal, Castillo claims that the Administration's Amnesty proposal, which will allow individuals who entered the U.S. before Jan-

uary 1, 1970 to adjust status is not a "false amnesty" as CCR claims, but calls for the awarding of lawful permanent resident status with the privilege of applying for citizenship. We of the CCR stand behind our statement that the amnesty is not only false, but a sham! Individuals who can apply will be required to prove continuous residency for the last 7 years by producing utility bills, rent receipts, W-2 forms etc.

Because of this and other stringent criteria, few will be able to meet and receive Carter's amnesty.

Castillo's Press Release

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

PRESS RELEASE FOR NEWS MEDIA

BY: LEONEL J. CASTILLO, COMMISSIONER
Immigration & Naturalization Service

The Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc., on November 21, 1977, distributed a press release which contained some inaccurate statements about the Administration's immigration proposal. The release charged, among other things, that the President planned to place guard dogs on the border and to triple the U. S. Border Patrol. There are no plans to utilize dogs in guarding the border and no plans to triple the strength of the Border Patrol, although some needed increase in Border Patrol personnel is proposed over the next several years.

The release also criticized the establishment of a "false amnesty" for undocumented aliens who have been in the United States since before 1970. The amnesty proposed is not false but calls for the awarding of lawful permanent resident status with the privilege of applying for citizenship after five years.

Further, the Administration proposal for temporary resident status for those aliens who have been here without documents since before January 1, 1977, does not create a "semi-slave status" as CCR charged, but provides an opportunity for such persons to come into the open and take advantage of many rights. These include the right to work, to move freely from job to job without fear, the right to receive the standard wage and to labor and working conditions that are in keeping with State and Federal laws and regulations. These persons will not have the full rights of United States citizens or of permanent resident aliens. This is, however, the practical and humane approach to a difficult question.

I welcome honest and open criticism and constructive comments about the proposed program to help solve the pressing problems of unlawful immigration and undocumented aliens. However, I believe it is improper to mislead the public with inaccurate statements through scare tactics. I call upon the Committee on Chicano Rights to join with me, the Administration, and other responsible Latino organizations in helping to seek solutions to these problems through serious and honest dialogue.

I am most appreciative of the fact that Mexican-Americans have a special interest and concern over the issue of undocumented and documented foreign nationals in the United States.

Castillo also charges that the 2nd part of the Carter pro-

posal, temporary resident alien status for those who came into the U.S. after January 1, 1970 but before December 31, 1977, does not create a "semi-slave status" as CCR has charged. It is odd that Castillo would take us to task for simply stating what others in our community have stated and recognized to be the truth.

Congressman Edward Roybal has called the temporary resident alien a "new subclass of stigmatized and segregated people. Ruben Bonillo of LULAC calls it "the establishment of a second class citizenship." Vilma Martinez of the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund is quoted as stating "the proposed formalization of a non-deportable subclass of workers sounds strongly like another peculiar institution, slavery!"

It is our position that the temporary resident status

does create a "semi-slave status" because it violates Constitutional Law, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees equal protection under the law, and Human Rights violation under the Helsinki Agreement (signed by the U.S. Government) giving the immigrant laborer the same rights and opportunities as domestic laborers. We ask is it not "semi-slavery" to work and not to be able to reunite with ones family, to pay taxes like everyone else but not receive what you paid for, not to be able to collect unemployment, or build this society but not ever be able to be part of it?

If this and other 2nd class restrictions do not constitute "semi-slavery" then South Africa is a democracy. Castillo also states that the temporary resident alien status will allow these persons to receive the standard wage and to

labor and work in conditions that are keeping with State and Federal laws and regulations. It is indeed odd that this rationale should be used by Commissioner Castillo when he and President Carter had the opportunity to show their concern for the enforcement of wage law and working conditions in the Presidio Texas issue of June 1977. In that infamous issue, Castillo and Carter ignored U.S. Department of Labor objections that growers pay the \$2.89 minimum wage and that they provide adequate housing. It is

hard to believe that the enforcement of wages and work conditions will be any better now under the temporary resident status than they were in Presidio.

Commissioner Castillo in concluding his press release states that the Carter Immigration Proposals are the most practical and humane approach

to a difficult problem and that he welcomes honest and open criticism and constructive comments.

If this is the fact, I wonder why Carter and Castillo haven't listen to the one overriding fact coming out of the Chicano/Mexicano/Latino community. That being that not one single Chicano or Latino organization nationwide is in favor of the Carter Immigration Proposals! Get the honest, open, and constructive criticism Leonel?