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IMMIGRATION SERVICE CREATES POVERTY ALONG MEXICAN BORDER

The people of the United States should know about POVERTY STRIP which is on the American side of the Mexican-American border. This STRIP OF POVERTY is 100 miles wide and runs for 1,200 miles from San Diego, Calif. to Brownsville, Texas. This STRIP is chiefly a farming, ranching and mining area. This is Barry Goldwater country where the great mass of people do not have any GOLD and neither is there much WATER. This is the area where the words "LABOR UNION" are considered DIRTY WORDS by the power structure which has both the GOLD and WATER.

Here is the story how the IMMIGRATION SERVICE, a division of the U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, is in cahoots with the big farm, big ranch, big mining interests, and their allied industries, to create and maintain a POVERTY STRIP so that these groups of employers would have a big labor pool from which they could get workers at the lowest wages possible.

YET THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND CONGRESS ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS ELIMINATING POVERTY. But the Immigration Service in direct contravention of the President and Congress has been able to create and maintain poverty BECAUSE NO NATIONAL PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THIS POVERTY STRIP ALONG THE MEXICAN BORDER.

The Immigration Service by its own administrative acts has done this despite the fact that Congress passed the EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1946 which requires all Federal Agencies to coordinate their economic policies to "promote maximum employment, production and purchasing power".

The way the Immigration Service and these big employers are able to create this U.S. POVERTY depends on the Poverty in Mexico. Just across the border in Mexico, a MEXICAN FARMWORKER earns only 15 cents per hour if he can find work. All other types of work in Mexico have similar low wage scales. The people just across the border in Mexico have a living scale which is 1/3 that of workers in most parts of the United States.

The trick therefore was to have the Mexican workers do the work in the United States while they continued to live across the border in Mexico. In other words, each day the workers from Mexico cross in the morning to work and return to their homes in the evening. Since they have much lower living costs, they of course will be satisfied with much lower wages. But what happens to the American workers (farmworkers, truck drivers, sales clerks, carpenters, brick masons, tractor drivers, cotton gin workers, sugar mill workers, etc. etc.)?

THEY CAN NOT GET WORK!!! THEY HAVE TO GO TO WELFARE AGENCIES TO GET HELP SO THAT THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES DO NOT STARVE. In the meantime the power structure keeps up a steady propaganda campaign in the local newspapers that they control, saying "THE AMERICAN WORKERS DO NOT WANT TO WORK AND WOULD RATHER BE ON WELFARE THAN WORK".

Yes, My Readers, it is the IMMIGRATION SERVICE, a Federal Agency, which does this to its very own people ~~grinds them into~~ POVERTY!!!

In order to avoid generalities, the writer will describe the situation in Imperial Valley, Calif. which is just across the border from Mexicali, Mexico but the reader must remember that the same thing is going on along the entire 1,200 miles POVERTY STRIP.

Employers in Imperial Valley have signed up offering jobs to Mexicans who want to emigrate to the United States. It is required that the Mexican have independent means of support OR THAT HE IS PROMISED A JOB BY THE AMERICAN EMPLOYER. On the surface, the Mexican and his family are supposedly going to move to the U.S. and live in the U.S.

From the ANNUAL REPORT of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, here are the statistics showing the number of immigrants supposedly entering the United States through Calexico, Calif. which is in Imperial Valley and adjoins the Mexican city of Mexicali, Mexico:

1960	1961	1962	1963
2,679	4,827	8,503	8,604

Most of these supposed immigrants just crossed into the United States when they were immigrated, and turned around and went back to live in Mexicali, Mexico. Since then they cross each morning to work in the United States and return to Mexico in the evening. The employers of large amounts of labor knew they had a good thing with the Immigration Service being in cahoots with them by permitting these fake immigrants to do this. THIS FAKE IMMIGRATION STUNT CREATES POVERTY HERE.

IMPERIAL COUNTY AT THE PRESENT MOMENT HAS A 12% UNEMPLOYMENT. IT WOULD BE EVEN HIGHER BUT MANY WORKERS HAD TO MOVE OUT SO NOT TO STARVE. Each morning about 10,000 workers doing all types of work but mainly agricultural work come from Mexico to work. Imperial County has only 75,000 inhabitants so you can imagine the serious poverty caused here by this mob of Mexicans coming across the border each day to work.

To show the attitude of the big farm corporations, in 1959 Keith Mets, President of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association, was quoted in the local newspapers as to the wages for farmworkers, "We are willing to pay 50 cents per hour". Well, this might be a big wage for a Mexican living in Mexico and working in the U.S. but an American worker would starve at this wage and particularly so if he had to support a family.

Do not get the idea that all the poverty is caused in farmwork. There is the plant of the U.S. Gypsum Co. in Imperial Valley. About 50% of its workers come from Mexicali, Mexico which is 15 miles away. There used to be a union the International Association of Machinists. But then there was an election in which the Mexicans from Mexico voted against a union. So you can see how these Mexicans are used for union busting. Americans have to work at the U.S. Gypsum plant at wages that satisfy the Mexicans. U.S. Gypsum is a big company with many plants and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Holly Sugar Co. is another company with many plants which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. It has a big beet sugar refining plant in Imperial Valley. It also employs about 50% Mexicans from Mexico. There is a union here but you can see that a strike is impossible to obtain higher wages because the Mexicans from Mexico will not go out on strike for to them the wages are satisfactory.

But employers even North of the very long POVERTY STRIP are making use of the fake immigrants that live in Mexicali, Mexico. There is the big Delano grape strike now going on and this is about 500 miles North of the border. The employers are bringing up these fake immigrants to act as strikebreakers in the Delano grape strike.

It must be realized that the merchants are having bad business when the Mexicans earn their money in the United States and spend it in Mexico. The inhabitants of Imperial County have no jobs and have to pay all the local taxes that the Mexicans from Mexicali, Mexico avoid paying. The young Mexican men avoid U.S. Army duty by living in Mexico while immigrants from other countries have to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

WHO IS GETTING THE PAYOFF IN THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE?