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IMMIGRATION SERVICE SABOTAGES WAR ON POVERTY

Working at decent wages is really the only solution in the WAR ON POVERTY. The IMMIGRATION SERVICE has been preventing people living in the United States along the Mexican-American border from getting work at decent wages so that they can make a living!!!

This problem has been previously discussed in Newsletters entitled IMMIGRATION SERVICE CREATES POVERTY ALONG MEXICAN BORDER dated January 7, 1966 and IMMIGRATION SERVICE HELPS SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS dated January 14, 1966. But the Immigration Service is very subtle and ingenious in its acts of omission and commission in the methods of supplying big farms and big ranches, large manufacturing plants, mines, and various other sorts of businesses with many Mexicans who live in Mexico and cross the border each day to work in the U.S. at MUCH LOWER WAGES.

In 1946, the EMPLOYMENT ACT was passed which makes it the duty of all Federal Agencies including the Immigration Service, "to promote maximum employment, production and purchasing power". Obviously, if residents of the United States are prevented by the subtle methods of the Immigration Service from getting work at decent wages, there CAN NOT BE maximum employment and purchasing power.

To avoid generalities, attention will be focussed on Imperial County, Calif. which is on the border with Mexico and adjoins San Diego County. But it must be understood that what is said about Imperial County, holds true for the rest of the United States along the border. In 1952, there were many illegal Mexicans working on farms and ranches of Imperial County. They would work for practically nothing depriving local farmworkers from making a living. But the really bad feature was that the employer would call up the BORDER PATROL (a division of the Immigration Service) and tell them that Mexicans illegally in the U.S. were working at the ranch. THE EMPLOYER WHEN HE CALLED THE BORDER PATROL, DID NOT REVEAL THAT HE WAS THE EMPLOYER SINCE HE REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME.

The Border Patrol would go out to the ranch and catch the Mexicans and deport them from the U.S. WITHOUT GIVING THEM THE CHANCE TO COLLECT THEIR SMALL WAGES. So in 1952, the Immigration Service was helping many ranchers in this racket so that they did not have to pay the illegally entered Mexicans. Employers would repeatedly do this to avoid paying the wages that the Mexicans earned.

Now there has been another great increase in the number of illegal Mexicans working on the big farms. Again they are being caught by the Border Patrol. ARE THESE MEXICANS BEING PERMITTED TO COLLECT THEIR PAY? The writer has requested of the Immigration authorities to permit him to interview the Mexicans held in the Detention Camp at El Centro, Calif. so that he learn whether these Mexicans have received their pay. THE AUTHORITIES REFUSED THIS REQUEST. They claim

the Mexicans have received their pay. But the Immigration Authorities are not to be trusted. Previous experience with them have shown that Mexicans who were legally in this country under Public Law 78, were deported by the Border Patrol when these Mexicans filed lawsuits against employers and insurance companies whom they accused of swindling. By deportation, the lawsuits in the Small Claims Courts stopped.

Then there are many other acts particularly of omission that show that the Immigration Service is untrustworthy and can not be believed. It must be known that the Federal Laws do not make it a crime to employ illegally entered aliens. The Judiciary Committee of both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE BORDER BECAUSE THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE NEVER REVEALS THIS WHEN THE COMMITTEES ARE HAVING HEARINGS.

It is very common procedure that a Federal Agency when confronted with a problem, will offer a bill to such a Committee to solve the problem. On June 24, 1963, L. Paul Winings, General Counsel of the Immigration Service gave testimony on behalf of the Service and NEVER ONCE OFFERED THE SUGGESTION THAT A LAW BE PASSED MAKING IT A CRIME TO HIRE AN ILLEGALLY ENTERED ALIEN TO WORK.

All the employers know they are hiring illegally entered aliens. So it is suggested that a law be passed, that the first time an employer is caught with illegally entered aliens working for him that he be warned; the 2nd time, that he be fined 1,000.00 for each illegally entered alien he is working; the 3rd and additional times--a jail sentence of 3 months be given besides the fines. These Mexicans are no fools. When they find out that the employers will not hire them, they will no longer cross the border looking for work. Such a law would save much money for it costs the Federal Government a great deal to catch the illegals and deport them to Mexico.

The Imperial County Economic Opportunity Commission (which is controlled by the big ranches and not by the poor) has announced that unemployment is 10.4%. But it has not told how many families had to leave here to avoid starvation. The big ranches are the POWER STRUCTURE here and they have prevented FEDERAL SURPLUS FOOD from being brought in so that the domestic farmworker families will be forced to leave by starvation SO THAT THE BIG RANCHERS CAN EMPLOY THE FOREIGN FARMWORKERS FROM MEXICO AT VERY CHEAP WAGES LIKE 50 CENTS PER HOUR SINCE THERE IS NO MINIMUM WAGE LAW IN FARMWORK.

Then there are the the "green card" commuter and also the 3 day visiting pass rackets which permit other mobs of Mexicans to work in the United States. The 3 day visitors pass is just for visiting or shopping and not for working. The Immigration Service keeps no record when these so-called visitors enter or leave the U.S. In actual practice, they cross neatly dressed into the U.S. and then at the place of work change into work clothes. In the evening, they wash up and change into the neat clothes again and then cross back into Mexico.

The Border Patrol of the Immigration Service, sits idly by and pretends that nothing illegal is going on. But the unemployed persons in the U.S. know where these illegals are working. The Immigration Service should make spot announcements on radio, television and in newspapers advising domestic unemployed workers to call collect the Border Patrol and tell where the illegals are working. As it is now, the unemployed residents of the U.S. do not know what to do. Even if they did, they are too poor to pay for telephone calls to a Border Patrol that does not encourage people informing it.

It must be realized that Mexican farmworkers in Mexico IF THEY ARE ABLE TO GET WORK IN MEXICO, only earn 15 cents per hour. So if they illegally get work in the United States, they not only take jobs from domestic workers BUT ALSO DEPRESS THE WAGES GREATLY FOR THEY WORK FOR 50 CENTS PER HOUR. This discussion has been mainly as to farmwork, but this serious problem also affects domestic workers in NON-FARM WORK.

All ethnic groups suffer from the competition of these FOREIGN WORKERS. THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE CAUSES MUCH SUFFERING OF AMERICANS!