July 14th 1993

Hispanic News

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IMMIGRATION:
California's Changing Faces
By Leonardo A. Gaymerac

Part II

Editors Note: This is the second of a two-part series dealing with the Social & Political issues of California's Hispanic populations.

Inevitability, the changing size and composition in California's population will continue to be shaped by both internal and external events and policies. Population growth has been extraordinary in third world Latin American countries. Joblessness and poverty, economic conditions in these countries provide the stimulus for people to migrate and seek what they perceive as a better life. The United States has long been sought as the world's refuge from both political oppression and poverty conditions. The continuing push by immigrants from these impoverished countries looms heavy.

According to Rafael Valdivieso and Cary Davis, "Spanish speaking countries are forecast to add 69 million people between 1988 and the year 2000." Mexico for example, will not be able to contain the growing numbers and economic conditions in these countries looms heavy.

California's clouded economic climate shows little evidence for an immediate economic recovery and is further being compounded by an exodus of California businesses to other states which offer a more favorable business environment. With these factors in mind, the equation is a limited number of jobs versus a growing California population. Recent estimates for job loss over the past several years has been put at 800,000. Due to the bleak economic forecast, legislators at both the federal and state levels have hastened to introduce legislation to limit the number of migrants into the U.S. and to impose certain sanctions upon illegals already residing in the U.S.

In California, several bills have been introduced which addresses perceived impingement upon California's resources. Bills which have been introduced into the legislature such as A.B. 299 which states under existing federal law, requires that states participating in specified federal programs, including specified federal housing assistance programs, verify the immigration status of aliens who apply for benefits under these programs. In order to comply with federal law, alien registration documentation or other proof of immigration registration from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service that contains the alien admission number or numbers or alien file number or number of that individual is required.

Two other assembly bills, AB 149 and AB 1968 address educational funding based on existing California's constitutional and statutory law which supplies funds bases on the number of pupils in average daily attendance at various schools throughout the state. Essentially, these bills would require each school district and county superintendent of schools to require the parent or guardian of each pupil enrolled in its schools to submit proof of the pupils legal citizenship, or legal residence in the United States, on or before September 15, 1994. At the postsecondary level of education, both AB 1801 and AB 2228 seek to address residency requirements for the purpose of ascertaining student fees to be paid by students who attend the University of California, California State University, the California Maritime Academy, and the California Community Colleges. In essence, the law would prohibit any person who is not lawfully residing in the United States, from being a student in any postsecondary educational institution. Such students would then pay full tuition.

The recent spate of legislation concerning undocumented immigrants in California is reflected in a fiscal crisis wherein public spending exceeds tax revenues. In August of 1992 the Chief Auditor of the state issued a report Continued on back page

Baltic Nations' Journalists Visit I.E. Hispanic News in Tour of U.S. Newspapers

Journalists from Latvia, Lithuania & Estonia Represented in International Visitors Program

On July 1, the Inland Empire Hispanic News was host to journalists from the Baltic Countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania through the coordinating efforts of the International Relations Council of Riverside, Inc., under the auspices of the International Visitors Program, United States Information Agency.

The IEHN was selected as the minority newspaper in which its readership represented the largest minority group in the Inland Empire.

The itinerary for the visiting group included newspapers in seven major cities in the United States.

The visiting journalists were hosted by Graciano and Trini Gomez, publisher and officer manager, respectively, for the newspaper.

Mr. Gomez presented a historical overview of the newspaper, including the origin, purpose and policies regarding news coverage. He described the area's demographic and geographical profiles in which the newspaper is circulated. Ray Abril, Jr. and Esther Mata, IEHN board members, and Jack Fitzgerald of JACLYN INK, discussed operations of the newspaper.

Representatives from government, Sheriff's Department and service clubs were invited to describe the function of their respective entities and working relationship with IEHN.

Michael Townsend represented Assemblyman Joe Baca's office; Administrative Assistant Arthur Milian (also IEHN board member) of Third District Supervisor Barbara Riordan's office and Special Representative Joe Rodriguez of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves Continued on page 3
By Lucia Rodriguez

"Solamente se esta haciendo viejita," that's what her family said. Her name is Martha and she is 67 years of age and throughout her life, as a wife, mother and grandmother, she had given a part of herself in everything that she did. She was a proud, energetic woman, always ready to prepare large meals for the family. Her home, a meeting place for everyone, was her pride and joy. As Martha advanced in age, her sons and daughters began to notice changes in her personality. She no longer took part in conversations with the energy she once had. Instead, she seemed to withdraw and become upset at her forgetfulness.

As her condition became worse, her family avoided visiting her. They knew Martha needed help, but were not certain what direction to take. The sons claimed that it was the daughter's responsibility to take care of Mom. The daughter, who was a working woman, stated that it was everyone's responsibility to take care of Mom. "Latinos never place their parents in old-folk's homes!" was the usual statement made.

Meanwhile, throughout the disputes and discussions, no one was really looking for services and assistance in time of crisis. It is a commonly held belief that Latino's take care of their own, which, in some instances may be true. The extended family can be a strong support system in caring for the elderly. However, there are economic differences between daughters of today and those of yesterday. More women work out of the home than in the home and are no longer available to remain home "cuidando mama y papa." Only 9% of Latino elders live with other family members; 60% live only with their spouse; 30% live alone.

The Latino elderly, like all elders, suffer the consequences of advanced years. Memory loss, confusion and disorientation are symptoms associated with dementia. A family may mistake those symptoms as part of the natural aging process. So often we have heard the word "senile" and assume that it comes with age but, in fact, it does not. Part of the myth of senility is the assumption that memory is inevitable with age.

There is a difference between poor memory and memory impairment. In some instances, an individual may be suffering from depression - a treatable psychiatric disorder. Depression, a common emotional problem among older adults has long been known to affect memory. In fact, this psychological problem closely mimics "senility" and is often misdiagnosed as such.

When a family needs assistance in diagnosing or treating a medical problem, they consult with a physician. But where does a family turn when they need assistance in home-help, education, resource, referral or simple problem solving so that they can be assured they made the right choice? There is help from at least one agency. The Inland Caregiver Resource Center is part of a statewide system of caregiver resource centers which provides assistance to caregivers of brain-impaired adults. Services include resource and referral, family consultations, legal consultations, support groups and respite.

It is a wonderful thought to believe that life would be so simple if we aged normally and died in our sleep, or that "la familia" will take care of us. Unfortunately, life has a way of presenting itself with unexpected turns. If you are a family with questions about dementia or are experiencing a crisis in dealing with a brain-impaired adult, contact the Inland Caregiver Resource Center for assistance. Bi-lingual services are available (909) 387-9440.

Recall Questioned

Leonard A. Goymerac
1264 West Highland Ave.,
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 792-3740

The Redlands Association and other splinter groups are attempting to revert to the at-large system for city council after the people of Redlands unani mously voted for representation by districts. If representation by districts were unfair I suggest they undo the Constitution of the United States and have members at-large in the House and Senate.

The brazen claims of manipulation, pro-development, and outrage made by spokespersons for this group are pure poppycock and appeals to political emotionalism.

In an effort to disguise the upcoming recall of measure "Q" one approach says in effect, the ward system would be in tack having council members from each district, but voted upon by the voters-at-large. I wonder how Congressman Jerry Lewis who lives in Redlands or for that matter any State assembly person would make out on an at-large system of voting?

In my opinion there is a faint and implied undertone of blocking political participation by minorities, specifically the northside Hispanic community. Some might even call it racist.

When you want to reach the 715,000 Hispanics living in the Inland Empire...

Lucia Rodriguez is the Bilingual Intake Specialist for the Inland Caregiver Resource Center and actively involved in community activities.

When you pay all of your savings and sign a promise to pay a lot of money over a thirty year period for your dream house, protect yourself. One of the frequent problems involves the roof of an older house.

When you are looking at an older home, look at all of the ceilings. If you see yellow stains, there has been water damage. Either check the roof inside and out or have a contractor do it for you. If all or some of the ceilings have been painted recently, the seller could be concealing the yellow stains. Ask questions. A new roof can cost from $2,000.00 to $10,000.00 depending on the size and type.

A seller is required to disclose facts about the roof before the sale. Read the disclosure report before you complete the sale.

If you learn after the sale was completed that the seller lied or concealed some important facts about the roof, consult with an attorney. The law provides a remedy for you.
Dr. Clarence Goodwin Named Assistant to Superintendent

Dr. Clarence Goodwin has been named Assistant to the Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District. In making the announcement, Dr. E. Neal Roberts, district superintendent, said Dr. Goodwin has been serving as administrator of Youth Services and in his new assignment will also continue these duties.

In 1964 Dr. Goodwin started working for the San Bernardino City Schools and taught for six years at Highland Junior High. He has held several key administrative positions throughout his career. From 1971 to 1972 he was Assistant to the Director of Personnel, and in 1972 was named Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

Included in his list of accomplishments and assignments while with the district is a stint as counselor at San Bernardino High School where he also served as the school’s Junior Varsity football coach.

Dr. Goodwin’s community service is as long and varied as his career in the district. He is currently serving as a member of the San Bernardino County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and as a member of the California Conservation Corps Community Advisory Board. He is currently also serving as chairman of the San Bernardino Community Hospital Board of Directors. He served as a Cub Scoutmaster as well as pastor for the Christ Temple church of Christ.

The administrator received his B.A. from San Diego State University; an M.A. from Los Angeles State University; an Administrative Credential from the University of California, Riverside; and his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Claremont Graduate School.

Dr. Goodwin and his wife, Eriwanda, reside in San Bernardino. Mrs. Goodwin is a first grade teacher at Burbank Elementary School.

UCR
Devra Weber Earns Fellowship

University of California, Riverside historian Devra Weber is one of 18 puses to be awarded a 1993-94 UC President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities. Sixty-five applications were submitted.

The fellowships, valued at up to $25,000, were established in 1987 by former UC President David P. Gardner as part of an initiative to encourage research in the humanities.

Weber will use the fellowship for a sabbatical leave to continue studies on transmigration between Mexico and the United States. Her project, “Sin Fronteras: Transnational Mexican Migration, Community Development, Social Conflict and Cultural Change, 1850-1992,” will result in two separate books.

Weber’s studies examine how migration back and forth affected the development of communities, social relations and organizations, and labor struggles on both sides of the border.

In addition to gaining historical perspective, Weber believes the research will assist in understanding current Mexican migration and its impact on social organization and communities. Part of her work will be undertaken at the UC Humanities Research Institute, Center for Minority Discourse on the Irvine campus where she will contribute to studies on issues concerning diversity and the future of California.

Weber, an assistant professor of history, has been a faculty member at UCR since 1991. She teaches course on the history of the American West, California, and labor. Her book, "Dark Sweat, White Gold: California Cotton, Farmworkers, and the New Deal," will be published next spring by the University of California Press.

Baltic Nations’ Journalists - From page 1

represented the County’s Board of Supervisors; Deputies Ron Cochran, Henry Calderilla, Tony Hernandez, Ken Owens, Rod Torres and civilian community liaison Norm Nunez represented San Bernardino County Sheriff’s department and; vice-president ‘Rocket’ Reyes and president-elect Manuel Hernandez represented the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino.

An added activity to the group’s itinerary was a visit to the Sheriff’s West Valley Detention Center guided by Deputies Torres, Owens and Calderilla.

Aquinas Key Clubbers in New Orleans

Members of the Key Club of Aquinas High School were in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 10-14 to represent their club at the 50th Annual Convention of Key Club International along with some 3,000 other Key Club members, announced club president Monica Alejandre. Another member who attended is Karen Marquez, Lieutenant Governor of Division 36.

The local representatives were selected for their service to their home, school, and community, and elected international officers and voted on issues which will determine the direction the organization will take in the year ahead.

Highlights of the convention included internationally known speakers and talent, as well as educational forums, individual and club competitions, and sessions designed to strengthen the local club and individual members.

Key Club International is the world’s largest high school service organization, maintaining ideals and objectives similar to its sponsor, Kiwanis International. The local sponsor is the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino. There are more than 146,000 Key Club members in approximately 3,900 high schools in eighteen countries.

Rosa Díaz Named Principal of Wilson Elementary School

Rosa M. Díaz, vice principal at Ramona-Alessandro Elementary School, has been named principal of Wilson Elementary School by the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District. In making the announcement, Dr. E. Neal Roberts, district superintendent, said Mrs. Díaz has established a fine leadership record with the district.

In 1987 Mrs. Díaz accepted a bilingual teaching assignment at California Elementary School and soon after became acting assistant principal at Emmerton Elementary. She served as assistant principal there until 1991 when she was assigned to Ramona-Alessandro.

Mrs. Díaz, who holds an M.A. in education from Harvard University and a B.A. in Spanish from San Diego State University, was serving as a lecturer and supervisor of student teaching at the University of California, San Diego, when she accepted her position in San Bernardino. She has also taught in Bilingual classrooms in the South Bay School District, Encinitas Union School District, Stockton Unified, and Sweetwater Union High District. She is a member of the Association of California School Administrators and the Latin American Women’s League.

Rosa M. Díaz, Principal Wilson Elementary School

Theodore Alejandro, a fourth/fifth grade teacher at North Park Elementary, has also been appointed by the Board of Education to an administrative post. He will become vice principal at Kendall Elementary. Mr. Alejandro has been teaching at North Park since 1989 and previously was fiscal analyst for the Rialto Unified District. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from California State University, San Bernardino.

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Jim Berrios Promoted by Denny's

Jim Berrios was recently promoted to Division 5 Leader in the Denny's, Portion-Trol and Proficient Foods Company, the corporate owners of Denny's Restaurants chain. In his new responsibilities, he will direct the Denny's Restaurants located in Canada, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Washington, which includes a total of 124 restaurants.

Berrios is the son of Ruben and Carmen Berrios of Reche Canyon, owners of Rubensat Satellite Distribution, San Bernardino. Born in Puerto Rico, Berrios graduated from Big Bear High School in 1977, started working as a cook for Denny's while attending Orange Coast College in 1978.

Continuing to work for the restaurant chain, he held the positions of expeditor and service coordinator prior to entering the Denny's Management In Training Program in 1980.

Mary Figueroa Announces Candidacy for Riverside City Council

Mary Figueroa, long-time Riverside activist, announced her candidacy on July 10 for the Riverside City Council in the Fourth Ward.

"As a resident of Riverside and actively involved in our community for many years, I am fully aware of the strength of our city and areas where we should concentrate our efforts to improve the quality of life, not only ourselves, but for our young generation," she stated before a large group of supporters during a press conference.

Continuing, she said, "I was raised in this neighborhood, this is where my family resides, and this is where our roots are. I want to fully utilize the resources that are available. These are the reasons for my announcement for the candidacy."

Figueroa stated that main issues confronting the city are in the areas of police and fire protection. Although these agencies continue to provide the community with quality and professional services, the staffing levels have not been maintained with the population growth. Furthermore, she said, equipment used by these departments has exceeded the established work capabilities.

Another area of importance for Figueroa is economic and business development. She feels that incentive programs should be expanded to actively recruit businesses that would provide employment opportunities throughout the region. "Other encouragements must be provided to insure Riverside's attractiveness to potential businesses," she said.

A prime issue for Figueroa is the needs of the youth in the community, in which "Youth at Risk" should include all youth.

The encouragement of youth to say "no" to drugs, physical and sexual abuse, gangs and illiteracy are critical issues in the community, which she stated very strongly.

Figueroa graduated from John North High School in 1974, continuing her education at UCR, graduating with a BA in Chicano Studies and Political Science. Since 1985, she has held the position of Correctional Counselor at California Institution for Men. Previous professional positions are Victim/Witness Advocate for the District Attorney's Office; Placement Counselor for Riverside's Summer Youth Programs; and RUSD Substitute Teacher.

Figueroa has been actively involved in numerous community civic and social organizations. Since 1986, she has been a member of the Riverside Human Relations Commission and chaired the Law Enforcement Policy and Cinco de Mayo Planning Committee; Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; State Chair-Department of Corrections Women's Liaison Council and Equal Employment Opportunities Committee; Northside Neighborhood Advisory Committee; UCR M.E.C.H.A.; Riverside Youth Development Council; Eastside Social Service Center Advisory Board; Action Before Crisis Committee; Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center; and Eastside Youth Committee.

"If elected, I will devote my full effort to our ward and City of Riverside, as I have served these many years to the region and state."
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
Affirmative Action Awards to U.C. Cooperative Extension Employees

Trujillo named Distinguished Administrator

County Director Michael D. Trujillo, University of California Cooperative Extension, San Bernardino County, was awarded the 1989-90 University of California's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Administration. This award is granted on the basis of truly outstanding performance, excellence above and beyond the normal call of duty.

Mr. Trujillo was recognized for this achievement award by the County Board of Supervisors meeting on May 21.

Trujillo began his career in Cooperative Extension in 1971 and was appointed director in 1979. His reputation statewide as a dedicated and respected administrator recently resulted in University of California Vice President Kenneth Farrell asking him to serve for 18 months as Cooperative Extension's acting southern regional director of eleven counties headquartered in Riverside and for 8 months as acting statewide affirmative action director in Oakland.

During this period, extensive reorganization of Extension's management and operation system was occurring and Trujillo provided leadership, stability, and open communication for both academic and support staffs.

Trujillo's dedication, involvement and encouragement towards innovative and creative thinking in program planning has been a major factor in San Bernardino County's Cooperative Extension staff and programs receiving state and national awards.

A native of New Mexico, Mr. Trujillo was educated at the University of California in Riverside; he also served as vice president and president of the student body. In 1974, Trujillo was named Outstanding Young Man in America.

Trujillo and wife, Jeannie, reside in Highland and they have five children.

Marielena Garcia receives recognition from Supervisor Jon Mikels for University of California Cooperative Extension outstanding service to Hispanic community.

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Inland Empire Hispanic News
Perris Hill Senior Center

The Perris Hill Senior Center provides a broad range of group and individual activities and services designed to respond to the interrelated needs of Senior Citizens in the community. The Center is located in the beautiful Perris Hill Park in the north-eastern section of San Bernardino. The Senior Center welcomes the participation and involvement of all interested citizens of mature years.

Senior Nutrition Information and Referral Services

Ongoing Programs:
- Senior Birthdays
  - 3rd Wednesday (monthly)
- Bingo for Fun
  - Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Advisory Council
  - 2nd Tuesday (monthly) 1:00 pm
- Senior of the Month
  - 4th Tuesday (monthly) 12:00 pm
- Arts & Crafts
  - Mondays, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Pocket Billiards (pool) Men & Women
  - Monday-Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
  - No Fee
- Piano
  - Monday-Friday: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
  - Card Club
  - Thursday: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
  - Coffee Klatch
  - Monday-Friday: 9:00 - 10:00 am
  - Horserace Court
  - Daily (M-F): 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
  - AARP 55 & Alive Mature Driving Class
  - Monthly (call for information)
  - Fee: $8.00

The Perris Hill Senior Center is located at 780 East 2nd Street in San Bernardino. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. For more information contact Tano Lechuga, Manager, at (909) 384-5301.

Child Immunization Available

GREAT NEWS FOR PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN! Now there are more immunization clinic locations and extended hours at existing clinics to serve you. Beginning in July, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health will offer childhood immunizations at new sites in Ontario, Colton, and San Bernardino. The fee is $5.00 per visit per child, but no one is turned away if they are unable to pay. Parents and guardians are asked to bring their child's immunization record on the day of the visit. Here are the sites, dates, and times in July for your convenience:

Hutton Center
660 Colton Avenue

Colton
- July 27 (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.)
- S.B. Co. Public Health
- Clinical Services
  - 799 E. Rialto Avenue
  - (Corner of Rialto & Lena)
- San Bernardino
  - July 16, 23, 30
  - (8:00 - 11:00 a.m.)
- Ontario Public Health Center
  - 520 E. "D" Street
  - Ontario
  - July 19, 26
  - (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
  - For more information, please call
  - (909) 383-3070.

Colton Children's Cultural Sharing

The City of Colton Parks, Recreation and Human Services Department invites youngsters ages 5 to 18 to take a journey to far away countries and learn new ethnic cultures. Children are encouraged to come in costume and share their own culture with others. Come join in all the fun at Veterans Park, 292 East "O" Street, Colton. Friday, July 16, 1993, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program is free and children under five must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call 370-5087 or 370-5088.

Mature Driver Improvement Class

Mature Driver Improvement classes are for licensed drivers, age 55 or older, who wish to qualify for a reduced insurance premium or brush up on traffic laws and safety techniques for a driver's license examination. DMV certificate is included in the fee.

Date: Saturday, July 17
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Place: A-203
Fee: Advance registration: $25;
Registration at door: $30

When you want to reach the 715,000 Hispanics living in the Inland Empire...

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Hispanic News

Chino Valley Bank Promotes Three

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA, June 21, 1993 - D. Linn Wiley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Chino Valley Bank has announced the appointment of Gilbert B. Acedo to the position of Investment Sales Manager. He is based at the Bank's Covina Office.

Acedo is responsible for the sale of Annuities and Mutual Funds to Bank customers and the general public.

Acedo joins Chino Valley Bank with twelve years of experience in Investment Services. His last assignment was with Great Western Financial Securities where he was Vice President and Manager of Financial Investments.

Acedo attended Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.

Chino Valley Bank is the largest independent bank headquartered in the Inland Empire with assets over $600 million and 16 offices conveniently located to serve the communities in the Inland Empire and San Gabriel Valley.

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA, June 21, 1993 - D. Linn Wiley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Chino Valley Bank has announced the appointment of James Apodaca as Vice President and Lending Officer of the Bank's Construction Loan Department.

Apodaca joins Chino Valley Bank with over thirty years of experience in construction lending. His last assignment was with The Bank of California where he was Vice President and Real Estate Examiner in the Credit Examination Division. He is licensed in Real Estate Sales and holds credits in Business Management and Real Estate from Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA.

Apodaca is active in community affairs and is affiliated with the Whittier District Board of Realtors, Builders Industry Association and the Orange County Real Estate Investment Group.

Chino Valley Bank is the largest independent bank headquartered in the Inland Empire with assets over $600 million and 16 offices conveniently located to serve the communities in the Inland Empire and San Gabriel Valley.

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA, June 30, 1993 - Chino Valley Bank has announced that Linda Borba, Vice President and Investment Officer will assume the responsibility of managing annuities and mutual funds. These products are a new addition to the list of investment products already offered by the Bank.

Linda Borba assumes this additional responsibility with over 12 years of practical banking experience. Borba joined Chino Valley Bank as a Business Development Representative and has functioned as a Business Development Officer and Diversified Investment Officer before she was promoted to the position of Vice President and Investment Officer. Borba received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Behavioral Science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California. She is active in the Inland Empire Community and has served on the California Milk Advisory Board.

Gilbert B. Acedo

James Apodaca

Gilbert B. Acedo

Linda Borba

Borba and a team of licensed and specially trained professionals are located in all Chino Valley Bank offices to offer these products. They are prepared to personally meet with customers and other interested clientele to discuss these investment options.
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Wednesday, July 14, 1993

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INFORMATION MEETINGS WEEKLY

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVING MONEY PROBLEMS?

If so, we’d like to talk to you.

We're conducting research at UC Riverside about the effects of the recession on families, and we're looking for people in the Inland Empire who are going through rough economic times to participate in our focus groups. We'll pay $10 for an hour of your time, and child care will be provided.

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Throughout the County
(Verification of Low-Income Status Required)
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Immigration - From P. 1

prepared under contract by Rea & Parker, Inc., “A fiscal impact analysis of undocumented immigrants residing in San Diego County; costs and revenues of significant state and local government programs.”

Professors Manuel Garcia y Greigo and Leo R. Chavez who both teach at the University of California at Irvine, appeared before the Assembly Select Committee on California-Mexico affairs, California State Legislature Sacramento, California in February of 1993. The two professors critiqued the findings as to their accuracy and declared that the survey was seriously flawed. Both men agreed: “We need to go beyond cost-benefit analyses based on fiscal impacts and short-term effects and think more broadly about the role of immigrants in California and what should be appropriate and intelligent responses. The report was subsequently reviewed and in a statement from a spokesperson for state assemblyman Richard G. Polanco of the 55th district, the report was described as an inaccurate boondoggle.

Assemblyman Polanco speaking before the Select Committee on California/Mexico Affairs, stated: “Immigration, like few other policy issues, has polarized public opinion in California and the nation. The debate has centered on whether immigrants take more from public coffers than they contribute. Efforts to quantify the costs and benefits of immigrant participation in California have yielded mixed and often contradictory results.”

In a submitted testimony to the Select Committee, “Immigrants and the California Economy,” Helen Graham of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) stated, “Individuals who enter the country in violation of U.S. laws, are undermining our system of laws and heritage of legal immigration.” Graham contention was that there are about 1.3 million illegal aliens living in California with approximately 100,000 more added annually. She cited San Diego as having the highest number of illegals with Los Angeles and Orange County second. According to Graham, Los Angeles County reported that it spends $500 million a year on illegals. Other examples were that it cost the state $300 million last year to keep 15,000 alien felons in jail. Graham also estimated California Medical privy’s benefits to illegals costing an estimated $670.7 million in 1992. She added; two thirds of babies born in L.A. County Hospital are born to women who are here without legal status.

In a motion in December of 1991, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors requested the Urban Research Section Los Angeles County internal Services Department to conduct a study on the impacts of immigration in Los Angeles.

Project Director of the county urban Research Section, Manuel Moreno-Evans presented the findings to the Select Committee of California-Mexico Affairs on February 25, 1993. The study was to, (1) estimate costs and overall impact on county services, (2) estimate revenues, taxes, and fees to all levels of government, (3) estimate revenue generated by amnesty persons during their initial five years of legal status, (4) review and report on previous studies on the economic impact of undocumented persons, (5) estimate costs to school districts, (6) survey the potential revenue loss from immigrant participation in the underground economy, (7) survey the impact of a legal work permit system patterned after the European experience with guest worker systems, and (8) inventory the uses of public housing in the county.

In order to measure the fiscal contribution made by immigrants, the county made an estimate of revenues paid by Legal immigrants, amnesty persons and undocumented persons. Included were: federal income taxes, state income tax, social security taxes, unemployment insurance tax, property taxes, vehicle license and registration fees, sales tax, gasoline tax, excise taxes, and state lottery revenues.

The study found that a substantial amount of the revenues contributed by immigrant households for 1991/1992 were estimated for all levels of government to be $4.3 billion, or 8.7% of the $49.2 billion in revenues collected from all households in Los Angeles County.

The report disclosed, “In terms of relative contribution from immigrant households we showed windfall at the national level. The Federal government receives the largest share of revenues and the County the least.” Of the $4.3 billion revenues generated by the three immigrant groups, legal immigrants; amnesty persons, and undocumented persons, the distribution of these monies were found to be, about $2.6 billion (60%) went to the Federal government, $1.2 billion (29%) wound up in the State coffers, $357 million (8%) went to other local entities, and $139 million (3%) to the County of Los Angeles.

Based on this study, Los Angeles County bears a disproportionate high cost in serving immigrants who are in the country as a result of Federal laws, i.e., policies, and decisions while most tax revenues collected from immigrants go to the Federal government. The gap between the costs of services and by the revenues generated by the three immigrant groups becomes a special problem for counties. What the study did reveal was when these revenues are aggregated at the State and national levels, there exists a significant contribution from these immigrant households in Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles survey emphasized that it studied only a limited aspect of immigration research and in order to understand the full impacts of immigration and costs to all levels of government further research is needed. Indeed, it would be interesting to know what the cost of the study was.

Meanwhile, in the Congress of the United States there have been several bills drafted by representative Anthony C. Beilenson (D) 24th District Calif., which focuses on undocumented aliens in the U.S.

In a joint resolution (H.J. RES 117) which proposes to amend the constitution "to restrict the requirement of citizenship at birth by virtue of birth in the United States to persons with a legal resident parent in the United States". Beilenson also submitted the following concurrent resolution concerning criminal aliens. The resolution declared that illegal and legal immigrants represent a substantial portion of the prison populations of several states and local communities and the presence of such large numbers of criminal aliens has placed an enormous financial burden on the criminal justice systems of the affected communities. In two other bills, Beilenson ask for increased appropriations for more border patrol personnel.

In order to stem the tide in a surfeit of forged documents in the possession of illegals, which range from drivers licenses to passports and birth certificates and Social Security I.D.s.

Beilenson introduced a bill which would serve as a "counterfeit resistant Social Security card." The new identification card would support the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1988 which would act as a deterrent for employers to knowingly hire or to continue to hire illegal or undocumented immigrants of any race or ethnic background. As part of the 1988 IRAA provisions, a generous amnesty program was added to allow immigrants to become citizens upon application.

In a news release, Congressman Beilenson stated: "Our failure to address illegal immigration effectively makes a mockery of our current, very generous, system of legal immigration, and it is patently unfair to the thousands of people who have waited years for the right to enter the United States legally."

To be sure, the immigrant problem for not only California, but for the rest of the country will continue to be a controversial subject from the dinner table to the floors of state and federal legislators. Those who argue and debate over the proper role of immigration can provide solid reasons and documentation in support of, sail against immigration policy and the ensuing socio-economic fallout.

This article concludes our series on Immigration and the Changing Faces of California.

Your comments and letters are welcomed.