

25 January 1980

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The American Federation of Government Employees Local 1735, Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas is indeed extremely concern over the possibility of contracting-out several functions at NAS, Kingsville. We therefore ask for your help and support to forbid the use of contracting-out to circumvent personnel ceilings within the Department of the Navy.

The work force at NAS, Kingsville is comprised largely of Mexican-Americans and is 50 percent minority and also is a major employer in an economic area largely dependent on the Navy. A work force reduction at NAS, Kingsville will have an immediate and lasting advance effect on the local economy.

Several months ago we were informed that the following functions would be up for studies for possible contracting: Aircraft training simulator operation and maintenance, guard service, fire protection, ground electronics, messenger mail, refuse collection, packing & crating, grounds maintenance, motor vehicle maintenance, maintenance of surfaced areas and insect & rodent control. There are 84 positions effected in these functions.

A contract for air conditioning maintenance was awarded on October 1979. Now they are in the process of awarding a contract for sweeping and grass cutting of runways by January 1980.

Three years ago a contract for Janitorial-Custodial services was awarded and after three years studies conducted by our Local 1735 the studies indicate that the government is not saving any money and the contractor is doing "shoddy work".

We understand that these studies that are being conducted are aimed at saving government money, but we believe the Department of the Navy should certify that the "in-house cost" calculation for these functions in question be based on an estimate of the "most efficient and cost-effective organization". We will assure you that in the long run the taxpayer will pay more for the contractor than the federal worker.

We are asking for your help in supporting a measure that would help reduce contracting-out practices within the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,



JOSE A. OLVERA
President, AFGE Local 1735

Copy to:
U. S. Rep. Kika De Ia Garza
Dr. Hector P. Garcia