

February 23, 1968

Members of the Mexican-American Joint Conference

Ladies and Gentlemen:

For years, some of us have protested the free-and-easy dipping into the cheap labor reservoir of Mexico. First the "wetbacks," then the "braceros," now the commuters or "green carders." Almost one hundred thousand of the latter displace citizen workers (Mexican-Americans) every day. They depress wages and bargaining position. You can't unionize to establish a minimum wages in an area where there is an unlimited supply of "scab" labor. This has got to stop!

We mexicanos have 1 million votes in Texas alone. Let those votes talk, to our representatives in Congress and to the President. Why should we Mexican-Americans be given the "rough end of the stick" by the very men whom we elect to public office?

The "war on poverty" sounds good. More beauracracy, more jobs for the political faithful--a bit for the poor. ¡Que no nos juegen el dedo en boca! Y que no nos den atole con el dedo. Protest!

A massive letter campaign--to the President, to Congressmen--would produce results. Get at it. If you don't do it, ¿who will? The pobre pelado can't. I will have to retire from active work in a few years. It will be a major disappointment if, after all these 45 years of my prodding, my people remain apathetic and gutless.

Cordially,

George I. Sánchez
Chairman