



AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE U.S.

September 27, 1985

Delivered at

INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM, 1985

Corpus Christi, Texas

HECTOR P. GARCIA, M.D.
FOUNDER

1315 BRIGHT STREET
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
78405

AC 512 • 883-1789
883-1780

GREETINGS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM:

I AM DOCTOR HECTOR P. GARCIA, A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE; FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN GI FORUM, WHICH IS THE LARGEST HISPANIC VETERANS FAMILY ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

FOR THE LAST 38 YEARS, OUR ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ALL OF THE ASPECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SITUATION AND IT'S PROBLEMS. WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL SYMPOSIUMS AND GIVEN TESTIMONY AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS FOR 38 YEARS. I FEEL CONFIDENT IN SAYING THAT WE REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN FROM A TOTALLY OBJECTIVE VIEWPOINT AND A COMPASSIONATE POSITION.

WE ARE THE OLDEST GROUP OF HISPANICS THAT HAS DONE THIS WORK AT NO EXPENSE TO OUR UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS. MOST OF OUR INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN WITH THE MEXICAN AMERICANS AND NOW THE OTHER HISPANICS. WE FEEL THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION TODAY, BASED ON OUR HISTORY AND OUR INVOLVEMENT AND OUR DEEP CONCERN, THAT TODAY WE ARE OFFERING A GOOD SOLUTION AND A GOOD PLAN THAT WOULD PLEASE THE MAJORITY OF THE VESTED INTERESTS BUT ALSO GIVE THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN THE RELIEF THAT HE SO LONG SOUGHT AND SO MUCH DESIRES:

"F R E E D O M F R O M F E A R"

IMAGINE THE MAGNITUDE AND SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN WHEN WE CAN STATE THAT IT WOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

- (1). FURNISH ABOUT 2,000,000 LEGALIZED WORKERS FOR THE AMERICAN INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.
- (2). GIVE 4,000,00 CHILDREN A SAFE, SURE AND CERTAIN RIGHT TO ATTEND THE PAROCHIAL, PUBLIC AND OTHER SCHOOLS.

IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM

September 27, 1985

IN THIS WAY, SUCH LEGISLATION SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE A TRUE BEGINNING IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS. AS IT IS, NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE DUE TO THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE AMENDMENTS BY ALL INTERESTS.

FURTHERMORE, SINCE WE ARE A REALLY RELIGIOUS COUNTRY, IT WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THESE PEOPLE TO ATTEND THEIR CHURCHES AND THEIR CHURCH SERVICES.

I PREDICT THAT NO LEGISLATION INCLUDING THE GUEST WORKERS PROGRAM WILL BE PASSED. THAT FEW, IF ANY, ILLEGAL ALIENS WILL RECEIVE PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS OR CITIZENSHIP. I PREDICT THAT THE CHILDREN OF THESE ALIENS, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE CITIZENS, WILL LOSE THEIR FEAR AND ATTEND SCHOOL AND ACHIEVE GREATLY AS ONLY THAT FREEDOM WILL ALLOW.

BUT WE MUST MAKE A CLEAR, UNIFIED BEGINNING SO THAT IT WILL ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE - "FREEDOM FROM FEAR".

BUT OF COURSE, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

- (1). GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO SOME.
- (2). GRANT PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS TO OTHERS.

WHAT THE LEGISLATION WILL DO:

- (1). MAKE AVAILABLE A GREAT NUMBER OF LEGALIZED WORKERS.
- (2). AVOID A GUEST WORKERS PROGRAM FOR THE TIME BEING.
- (3). AVOID IDENTIFICATION CARDS SINCE ALL NATURALIZED CITIZENS WOULD CARRY THEIR NATURALIZATION (CITIZENSHIP) CARD.
- (4). IMPOSE NO SANCTIONS ON THE EMPLOYERS.
- (5). AVOID THE UNIONS FROM FIGHTING IMPORTED WORKERS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



HECTOR P. GARCIA, FOUNDER,
AMERICAN GI FORUM

IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM

September 27, 1985

IN THIS WAY, SUCH LEGISLATION SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE A TRUE BEGINNING IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS. AS IT IS, NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE DUE TO THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE AMENDMENTS BY ALL INTERESTS.

FURTHERMORE, SINCE WE ARE A REALLY RELIGIOUS COUNTRY, IT WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THESE PEOPLE TO ATTEND THEIR CHURCHES AND THEIR CHURCH SERVICES.

I PREDICT THAT NO LEGISLATION INCLUDING THE GUEST WORKERS PROGRAM, WILL BE PASSED. THAT FEW IF ANY ILLEGAL ALIENS WILL RECEIVE PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS OR CITIZENSHIP. I PREDICT THAT THE CHILDREN OF THESE ALIENS ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE CITIZENS, WILL LOSE THEIR FEAR AND ATTEND SCHOOL AND ACHIEVE.

BUT WE MUST MAKE A CLEAR UNIFIED BEGINNING

IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM

September 27, 1985

- (3). GIVE 20,000 TEACHERS A JOB TO TAKE CARE OF THESE FREED CHILDREN WHO ATTEND OUR AMERICAN SCHOOLS.
- (4). REDUCE THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN SEARCHING FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO WILL NOW BE LEGALIZED.
- (5). REMOVE ALL FEARS OF SANCTION FOR EMPLOYERS WHO WILL HIRE THESE NOW 2,000,000 NEWLY LEGALIZED WORKERS.
- (6). THESE 2,000,000 PEOPLE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY GET CITIZENSHIP CARDS AS THE RESULT OF BEING CITIZENS.
- (7). REDUCE BY 2,000,000 THE WORK THAT THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE HAS IN REGISTERING ALIENS IF THE ALIEN REGISTRATION ACT IS REVIVED.
- (8). GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO COUPLES WHO ARE COMMON LAW IN BECOMING LEGALLY MARRIED COUPLES, WHO HAVE NOT MARRIED UNDER THE LAW IN FEAR OF BEING DEPORTED.

THERE HAS BEEN OPPOSITION TO THE LEGALIZATION OF THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS FROM MANY SIDES FOR MANY REASONS. YET IN ALL, NO ONE REALLY SEES THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKS AS A TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR COUNTRY.

THE NEW APPROACH SHOULD COVER THE FOLLOWING POINTS, IN ORDER TO SEEK MENTAL RELIEF FOR THESE PEOPLE WHO IN MANY CASES HAVE CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE THEREBY CITIZENS ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THEIR LEGAL STATUS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROACH SHOULD REMOVE THE DESIRES OF MOST OF THE LEGISLATORS, AND OTHER AGENCIES AND GROUPS THAT ARE INVOLVED.

- (1). THAT ALL ILLEGAL UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS WHO DO NOT HAVE A FELONY CRIMINAL RECORD AND WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE YEAR OF 1970 AND THEIR CHILDREN, SHOULD BE GIVEN AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.
- (2). THOSE ALIENS WHO ENTERED BETWEEN 1970-1980 SHOULD BE GIVEN PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS AND THEREBY OPEN THE DOOR FOR JOB PLACEMENT IN THE OPEN MARKET AND START ON THEIR PATH SEEKING CITIZENSHIPS.
- (3). THAT ALL ALIENS BETWEEN 1980-1984 BE GIVEN TEMPORARY RESIDENT STATUS.