



June 12, 1986

*** * * ACTION ALERT * * ***

The Simpson-Rodino Immigration Legislation presently being considered in Congress is scheduled to be reviewed again in the House Judiciary Committee on June 17th. Amendments to the legislation will be offered and considered at that time in a procedure called "mark up". The House version introduced by Congressman Rodino continues to be the most repressive and restrictive immigration legislation that has been proposed in recent years. EMPLOYER SANCTIONS. The civil penalties are stiffer than in last year's bill, ranging from \$100.00 to \$2,000.00 for the first offense, \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for the second offense and \$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for "pattern and practice" violations. Criminal penalties can be imposed after several pattern and practice violations. The bill contains no anti-discrimination provisions to address discrimination that will result from these EMPLOYER SANCTIONS provisions. As for the employer, they also face a choice - pay higher wages to attract employees from a smaller pool, risk jail terms and fines of \$100.00 to \$10,000.00 for each undocumented person worker or eliminate the jobs. EMPLOYERS SANCTIONS will be detrimental to the Hispanic worker as well as the Employer.

LEGALIZATION. The restrictive legalization program provided for in the bill will be "triggered" only after a Presidential Commission determines that employer sanctions have been implemented and are working effectively to control undocumented immigration. If the Commission has not acted in three years the legalization program would be implemented automatically. The three year delay, during which undocumented peoples are not protected from deportation, the continuous residence requirement and the 33 grounds for exclusion make this legalization program undesirable and unworkable. If the person applying is poor s/he will not meet the requirements for residency and will be deported.

AGRICULTURAL GUESTWORKER PROGRAMS. A newly proposed compromise on the guestworker issue proposes permanent resident status for all people who apply to work in agriculture, that can prove they previously worked in agriculture. There will be a requirement that for the next 5 years that applicant work 40 mandays/year in Agriculture to be eligible for U.S. citizenship. This new proposal will, in essence, provide a vast sub-class of individuals who will, practically, be held in involuntary servitude for 5 years for the benefit of U.S. Agriculture. The compromise calls for an additional H-2 program - more guestworkers, and a 1½ year exemption from Employer Sanctions for all "Agricultural Systems". The strategy of the proponents of this legislation is

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to move the legislation as fast as possible by-passing the usual procedures by which legislation is proposed. Proponents of the legislation are at this moment working to "convince" the chairpersons of committees that have jurisdiction of this legislation to give up the committee's right to review the legislation. We are asking that you telegram, or call Congressman Kika De La Garza and ask him not to give in to the pressures that be. We need the Committee on Agriculture and the Labor and Education Committee and the other committees that have jurisdiction of the legislation to hear this bill. We need the time to prepare alternative proposals to the new amendments and proposals and the people need the forum of these committees to voice their opposition to the legislation.

We need your calls or letters to go to Congressman Kika De La Garza, Room 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. His telephone number is (202) 225-2531. Please send your message today. Other Congressmen to write or send a "Public Opinion Message" (\$6.45 for 40 words-Western Union) to voice your opposition to the Simpson-Rodino are as follows:

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