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Cecilia

# Hispanics blast Hance

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## Politics

AUSTIN — Three Hispanic leaders Friday blasted U.S. Senate candidate Kent Hance for what they called distortions on the amnesty issue.

"His inflammatory rhetoric about the 'flood of illegal aliens' borders on an outright racist appeal," Willie Velasquez, director of the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, told a Capitol news conference.

Asked if he was calling Hance a racist, Velasquez said, "No, I don't think Hance is a racist. In fact, I think we ought to call a moratorium on using that word."

But Hance "shamefully distorted the facts," "appealed to the worst instincts" and "injected fear and prejudice" into the U.S. Senate campaign as "a political ploy to gain votes at the expense of the Mexican-American community," he said.

Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of the GI Forum, said, "Amnesty? My God, this country was built with 'Give me you poor, your needy, your sick.' It's late to say, 'To h---with those guys."

"I believe, yes, we should have some officers at the borders to stop the illegal influx and other things, but as a doctor and a human being, as an American Texan, I am sorry, indeed sorry, to see the tragedy that this involves in indoctrinating folks into this issue today."

Andres Gonzales, with the Mexican American Democrats, also addressed the news conference.

Velasquez said Hance's only information came from "a much criticized report"

by Rice professor Don Huddle, which "suffers from serious defects, which may explain why it remains unpublished."

The Huddle study showed 65 citizens lose their jobs for every 100 undocumented workers that enter this country. Velasquez said Huddle used opinions of construction foremen interviewed by students on the legal status of their workers. The study was unscientific because it contained no sampling procedure, he said.

Furthermore, Huddle himself says Hance distorted his research in a demagogic context, Velasquez said.

"Harvard professor Peter Drucker says the reason the Southwest is booming is because of the immigrants," Velasquez said. More immigrants are coming from Michigan, Indiana and the factories of the North than from Mexico or Central America.

People need someone to blame when times are hard, he said, citing the Know Nothings of the 19th century who blamed Catholics and Jews.

Other studies show illegal aliens contribute more in taxes than they cost, he said, citing one study that indicates Texas alone gains a net of at least \$60 million a year.

None of the three leaders said they endorsed Hance's opponent in the June 2 Democratic primary runoff, Lloyd Doggett.

Velasquez said Hance's campaign "has had a negative effect on the Mexican-American community, and I don't think we should pussyfoot around about it."