

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1965

Hon. R. P. Sanchez
Attorney and Counselor at Law
223 South 17th (Guerra) Street
McAllen, Texas 78501

Dear Bob:

It was good to have your letter. You are not the only one who has gained from the news account the erroneous impression that I was "crusading" for a revival of the bracero program. This is not correct, however. As a matter of fact, I received just last week a similar letter from our mutual friend, Leo J. Leo, and pointed out to him that I emphatically did not encourage the Mexican lawmakers to anticipate a revival of the bracero agreements.

In fact, as I told Leo, I definitely stressed to the Mexican Congressmen that no such program would be instituted in the future unless there were a clear and unmistakable showing that we do not have adequate domestic labor available for the harvesting of our crops.

As I explained to Leo, I carefully explained to them that mechanical harvesting equipment, particularly with regard to cotton, had drastically reduced the number of workers needed in the first place, resulting in a reduction of braceros from 445,000 in 1952 to 180,000 last year.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing some reproductions from stories which appeared in the two Fort Worth papers concerning my participation in the Conference. I also am enclosing a copy of the official report which I prepared and delivered in behalf of the U. S. Delegation, and which formed the basis of the news speculation with regard to the bracero program. The paragraph relating to the migratory farm workers begins at the bottom of page six of the report. You will see from this that it does not promise any revival of the bracero agreement but simply sets two guidelines for the governing of any future agreements concerning Mexican workers in the United States.

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I believe you will agree that both of these guidelines are desirable and necessary. I think you will agree also that they would apply with equal effectiveness to the commuter problem which in the judgment of many has caused more unfair competition for American workers than the bracero program did.

Aside from this particular matter, I think you will find some useful and worthwhile suggestions contained in the rest of the report.

I am glad you wrote because this gives me an opportunity to renew our friendship and also to give you the above clarification with respect to the unauthorized speculation in the newspapers.

Warmest good wishes.

Sincerely,

Jim Wright

cc: Dr. Hector P. Garcia
Hon. Gilbert Garcia
Hon. Chris Aldrete
Hon. Ed Idar, Jr.
Hon. Albert Pena
Hon. Bob Benavides