

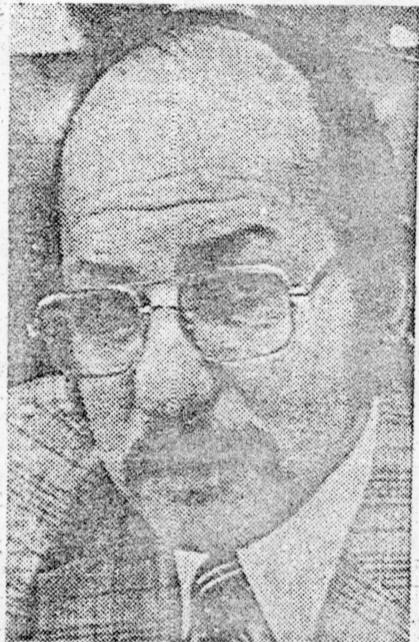
# Nominee for Alien Agency Backs Identification Cards

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 — Matt W. Garcia, President Carter's nominee for Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, says he would support sanctions against employers who hire illegal aliens and also the use of identification cards for all workers if their privacy and civil rights could be protected.

A Federal commission studying immigration and refugee policy is considering the combination of employer penalties and employee identification to reduce the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

Mr. Garcia, a 52-year-old Democratic member of the Texas House of Representatives, encountered sometimes hostile questioning, especially from Senator Thad Cochran, a Mississippi Republican, at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee last Wednesday. Mr. Garcia acknowledged that he had filed his Federal tax returns late each year from 1970 through 1978,



Associated Press

Matt W. Garcia

to legalize the status of illegal aliens, especially those who had been here for some years and "built up equity" in the United States. He promised to enforce the immigration laws vigorously.

He said that he specialized in criminal, domestic relations and personal-injury law, three fields where clients were quick to complain if they were not satisfied with a lawyer's services. He said that most of the complaints against him had been dismissed by the state bar, that none resulted in disciplinary action and that many of the complainants were still his clients.

He said that his firm had had 10 lawyers before he suffered a "severe" heart attack in 1970. Now, he said, he has two associates, two secretaries and one paralegal.

Senator Cochran asked, "What other kind of managerial or administrative experience have you had?" Mr. Garcia replied, "None."

The Senator then asked, "Have you, in your legal training or experience, developed any special knowledge or expertise or understanding of our immigration policy and laws and regulations?" Mr. Garcia answered, "I have not."

Ruben Bonilla Jr., president of the League of United Latin American citizens, described Mr. Garcia as "fully fit for the job." Noting that the new Secretary of Education, Shirley M. Hufstедler, had been a Federal judge with no particular experience as the head of an agency, Mr. Bonilla said, "The standard for Matt Garcia should not be different than that which has been utilized for other Americans."

When Mr. Garcia said he felt that the immigration service had done a "respectable" job of finding Iranian students in the United States, Senator Cochran disagreed, saying:

"I worry about your being head of I.N.S. if you think that the job the I.N.S. is doing now is respectable. I think it needs to be improved. I think it is mismanaged. That place is a disaster area over there. We need somebody with leadership ability to shake it up."

Mr. Garcia concurred, saying the agency was "in a very bad state."

that disgruntled clients had filed 39 complaints against him with the Texas state bar and that he had little experience in immigration law and no experience managing a large organization.

## Says He Can Motivate

He said, however, that he was qualified for the job of commissioner because he knew how to motivate people and would select deputies with the managerial skills that he lacked. Members of Congress and independent auditors have repeatedly found waste, inefficiency and low morale in the agency, which has been under the direction of a temporary appointee since the last commissioner, Leonel J. Castillo, resigned 11 months ago.

The committee intends to leave the record open for additional testimony and may hold another day of hearings on Mr. Garcia, whose nomination has been endorsed by officials of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

He said that if confirmed by the full Senate he would take office immediately. However, in response to a question, he said he would step aside if Ronald Reagan, the Republican nominee, won the Presidential election and wanted someone else to head the agency.

Asked if he favored identification cards for workers, Mr. Garcia said, "Assuming that all of the privacy matters, all of the constitutional rights, assuming that they could all be addressed, recognized and safeguarded, I would have no problem."

## Identification for All

The proposal developed for the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy envisions some type of identification for United States citizens and for aliens authorized to work in this country.

Mr. Garcia said he favored an amnesty

