

- (1) De izquierda a derecha Mauricio Garcia, Maclovio Morales, Merced Ortiz, Fueron sorprendidos por la camara mientras estaban muy entretenidos en una partida de Domino.
- (2) El Sr. Manuel Ortega (Derecha) les cuenta un parrafo de sus experiencias a los los Senores Tanis Flores y Refugio Galindo.
- (3) Francisco (cano) Mendoza, Abilmente demuestra el Arte de "Macrame" Esta es otra de las actividades del Centro Pioneer. El Sr. Mendoza hace unos hermosos Maceteros tejidos de Macate en diferentes disenos. Algunos los regala a sus Amistades Pero vende la mayor parte.



La organizacion de Defensa Inc. de la ciudad de Muleshoe acaba de recibir una concession para porveer servicios a los migrantes de la area. La concession fue hecha por las Iglesias Presbiterianas para dar ayuda a nigrantes cuando se les quebren los carros.

El proposito fue aceptado por las Iglesias porque se expreso que es algo que ocurre con bastante frecuencia. Alberto Daniel director de dicha agencia dijo que el programa empesara dentro de los siguientes dos meses. "Tendremos un garaje grande con heramientas para componer carros que tienen dificultades pequenos. Los migrantes que pasen por Muleshoe tendran el uso de el servicio gratis." Agrego que los directores de la agencia iban a submitir el proposito a las oficinas del estado para engrandeser el programa.

Carter No Designa Hispanos A Pesar De Las Promesas

Varios miembros del Congreso, de ascendencia hispana, se sienten molestos por el hecho de que el Presidente electo James Carter ni los consulta para la seleccion de integrantes del Gabinete, segun fuentes allegadas a los Legisladores. Uno de los informantes, cercana al Representante demócrata Herman Badillo, dijo "hast ahora no se ve nada hispano y ahora es demasiado tarde" comentando que Carter habia terminado de seleccionar a los integrantes de su gabinete. Cuando se realizo la convencion partidaria en Nueva York, donde obtuvo la candidatura, Carter logro el apoyo de los grupos hispanos, que le fueron cruciales en varios estados al realizarse las elecciones, que daria prioridad a las aspiraciones de los hispanos y designaria a personas de esos grupos para importantes funciones. Badillo, nacido en Puerto Rico y primer puertorriqueño miembro del Congreso, junto con el Representante Kika de la Garza, demócrata de Texas, concertaron una entrevista con el vicepresidente electo, Walter Mondale, para el miercoles pasado. Pero ese dia Mondale fue llamado a Plains, Georgia, ya que Carter iba a hacer anuncios sobre designaciones. La entrevista fue corrida para este miercoles, pero otra vez el vicepresidente electo debio viajar a Georgia. En tanto se dijo que Mondale se reunio el lunes con el Alcalde de Miami, Mauricio Ferre quien es puertorriqueño. Tambien se dijo que Carter llamo al Juez Federal Reinaldo Garza, de Texas, para decirle que estaba siendo considerado para la Secretaria de Justicia, pero para este cargo fue seleccionado el Abogado Griffin Bell. Esta pasada semana tambien fue llamado a Plains el Fiscal General de Nuevo Mexico, Cruz Anaya. Segun informes el Gobernador de Nuevo Mexico, Jerry Apodaca y el Sr. Anaya se iban a juntar con Carter para discutir la posibilidad de asignar a Anaya bajo el departamento de Justicia bajo Griffin Bell. Hasta estos momentos no se saben si se abia aprobado.

Trabaja Con COMA

La Senorita Gloria Ingunza, precedente de esta diudad de Lubbock cedente de la ciudad de Long Beach California, donde se encotraba presentando sus estudios de Bachillerato, es la nueva edicion a las oficinas de COMA (Comerciantes Organizados Mexico Americanos).

La Sta. Ingunza, se ha ocupado, a traves de las oficinas de LLANO ESTACADO, como Asistenté al Director. En este puesto, sus deberes principales seran los de asistir en toda forma, especialmente cuando el Director se encuentre ausente, a los quiaseres de dicha organizacion— naturalmente, de acuerdo con los reglamentos y guias es tablecidos por mesa directiva.

En realidad la Sta. Ingunza no es una extrana a la Cd. de Lubbock, puesto que aunque fue nacida en la Cd. de San Siego, Texas— crecio y es producto del barrio mejicano de esta ciudad. Fue aqui donde ella se ingreso y atenio las escuelas primarias... tambien donde termino su carrera escolastica por algun tiempo... pesto que por algunas razones, relacionadas con la pobreza, y necesidad de hacerle frente a la vida, en su tierna edad, fue necesario dejar los estudios.

Esto no le inpedio, sin embargo, que continuase sus estudios... pues al cabo de algun tiempo, no solamente termino sus estudios preliminares... si no que fue a dar a la Universidad de California. Y si eso no fuese suficiente; piensa ingresar a la escuela de leyes aqui en la Universidad de Texas Tech. Y realmente, siendo sus ambiciones la de ser una Abogada/Licenciada... pues en fin, esat es la razon principal por la cual se encuentra de nuevo en la Cd. de Lubbock.

Sus credenciales son tan impresionantes como sus hazanas. Ha simiembra y oficial de una gran variedad de grupos civicos, estudian tiles... y naturalmente la mayor parte de estos siendo de/y orientados al beneficio y desarrollo de nuestra raza de bronce.

La nueva mesa directiva de la organizacion de los Comerciantes Organizados Mexico Americanos, bajo la direccion de su nuevo futuro presidente el Sr. Roy Montelongo, se reunio en una junta informal el Miercoles pasado por la noche. El proposito de dicha junta, de acuerdo con el Sr. Montelongo, fue para intruducirse uno al otro, y dar a conocer al algunos nuevos puestos. Presentes en la junta estuvieron las siguientes personas: El Sr. y Sra. Raul Sepeda (la Sra. Ester Sepeda fue elejida recientemente como Secretaria), la Sta. Ida Alfaro, tesorera, el Sr. y Sra. Luis Jimenez, miembro de la mesa directiva, el Sr. Mario Perez, mesa directiva, el Sr. Andres Cruz, mesa directiva, el Lic. Tomas Garza, mesa directiva, el Sr. Bidal Agüero, mesa directiva, y el Sr. Neftali de Leon, quien llevo como huésped a el Sr. Tony Flores, sastre de San Angelo. Naturalmente, tambien estubieron presentes el Sr. Vicente Robles, director de Relaciones publicas, asi como Hector de Leon, el director de COMA, y su nueva asistente, la Sta. Gloria Ingunza (lea la columna relacionada con este articulo en la primera pagina).

El nuevo presidente dio a anunciar algunos de los comites encabezados, siendo estos los siguientes: "Membership Committee", "Finance Committee", Tomas Garza, y Special Projects Committee", Neftali DeLeon, y Vicente Robles para "Relaciones Publicas".



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¿Qué Pasa?

The Association of Mexican American Women will sponsor an orientation Workshop of the Women's Continuum of Texas Tech on Monday Jan. 10 at 7:30pm at the Covenant Pres. Church located at 4600 48th St. The workshop is open to the public but especially to women who are interested in enrolling at Tech. Tony Garcia will speak on "Careers and Occupational Outlooks." There also will be discussion on career planning, the returning married woman, how to apply for loans, grants. Every interested person are urged to attend.

The Bilingual Bicultural Committee for Lubbock Media (BBCLM) will have a meeting on Jan 10, 1977 at 7:30 in the Gold Room of Rodgers Community Center. Tomas Garza will officiate.

U.S. Agribusiness Reaps Mexican Harvest of Anger

SINALOA TARGET
These are the conditions that have produced the wage of land occupations.

In Sinaloa alone there have been 76 land invasions in the past year, many of which remain unresolved.

One recent target in Sinaloa was a small section of the 17,000-acre spread owned in partnership by Nogales, Ariz., distributor James K. Wilson and Mexican grower Benjamin Bustamante.

According to the Mexican secretary of agrarian reform the squatters themselves held long-standing rights under Mexican land reform law to this and two million other acres of Sinaloa land, nonetheless controlled by large landowners.

One worker on the ranch explained the squatters' desperation after years of legal litigation: "What is the only road open to us? To take the land by force, work the land. If the *gringos* want to go home, let them go. They can't take the land, and that is what we want."

The Wilson family's holdings date back to the 1920s when the first U.S. growers, including "Santiago" Wilson, began vegetable production in the area. Wilson quickly built a fiefdom centered around a traditional *casa grande*, packing shed and company town called Campo Wilson.

In Mexico, foreigners cannot own land within 50 kilometers of the coast and no one legally own more than 247 acres. The Wilsons got around the law by taking on a *prestanombre* ("name lender") for a partner, Benjamin Bustamante.

A worker explained how Bustamante avoids the 247-acre limit: "Look, a young girl who works in the *casa grande*, at three months of age she finds herself owner of 190 acres of land. A young boy, son of don Fernando Felix, the general manager of the company, is also a land owner. Daughters of foremen, girls studying in high school are the owners of land. There's an agreement signed that each of these people owes so much money to the company — their land is 'mortgaged' to the company."

Today, the James K. Wilson Co. is one of the largest distributors of Mexican produce, shipping over 12 million pounds of vegetables with sales of more than \$5 million annually.

"The impact of the invasions so far has been more psychological than real," Wilson says, adding that he believes the government will eventually be forced to resolve the conflict. "The vegetable deal is just too important to the economy," he says.

GOVERNMENT MOVES
Faced with the prospect of a thousand small rebellions breaking out in the countryside, the Mexican government attempted to calm the angry squatters last year by distributing some land it expropriated from one of the large Sonora growers.

But in December 1975, the landowners of Sonora and Sinaloa organized an industry-wide work stoppage to protest the expropriations. Three thousand growers suddenly moved hundreds of tractors from the fields onto the highways and streets.

"How much longer can we put up with this?" asked one Sonora grower. "Many people are ready to put their finger to the trigger."

James K. Wilson explained: "They (the owners) aren't going to have their lands taken away without making a stand. If they're going to drown, they're going down screaming."

Mexican President Luis Echeverria has now guaranteed the growers that their holdings will be respected and that no legal modifications will be made regarding land tenure — despite the secretary of agrarian reform's declaration that peasants had rights to much of the disputed land. Over 60,000 petitions for lands have piled up at the Agrarian Reform office, waiting for the bureaucracy to act.

"We are tired of promises, leaders and labor bureaucrats," declared the leader of one land occupation in Sonora. "The politicians we only see during the campaign, and later we only know they exist from their photographs... From here we will only be removed to the cemeteries."

"Ed McCaughan and Peter Baird, staff members of the North American Congress on Latin America, have recently completed a 32 pp. study entitled 'Harvest of Anger: Agro-Imperialism in Mexico's Northwest,' Vol. X, No. 6 July-Aug. 1976 of *NACLA's Latin American & Empire Report*. It is available for \$1.25 plus postage at NACLA: Box 226, Berkeley, CA 94701.

CULIACAN, MEXICO (Aug. 19)—The rich coastal valleys of Northwest Mexico — famed by U.S. agribusiness giants in partnership with Mexican landowners to produce half the fresh winter vegetables consumed annually in the U.S. have turned into fever-pitched blood-stained battle grounds.

On one side are thousands of landless farm workers, the dispossessed products of an agricultural revolution, who have occupied more than 60,000 acres of land throughout Mexico that they claim are rightfully theirs.

Their target: the powerful agribusiness interests who control the more than \$100-million-a-year Mexican vegetable export industry.

So far, most of the "invaders," armed only with ancient 30-30s dating from the Mexican revolution, have stubbornly stood their ground despite a mounting death toll. More than 100 have been killed by soldiers, police or ranchers in the past year.

Their desperation is rooted in the ever-increasing centralization of modern agriculture — with small

W. Marvin Watson, former Postmaster General and Special Assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson, will head a state-wide task force to evaluate the Medicaid program in Texas.

Watson, who lives in Daingerfield, will be chairman of the study group that will include representatives of the medical community, business and industry, education, the clergy, and government. Governor Dolph Briscoe, a strong advocate of the study, has named his wife, Janey, as a working member of the committee. Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Bill Clayton will each have a representative on the group.

The study group, officially termed the Task Force for the Evaluation of Medicaid in Texas, was created at the request of the State Board of Public Wel-

farmers being replaced by corporate giants — that now also dominates rural America.

In being modern corporate farming to Mexico, California and Arizona companies have helped transform the states of Sinaloa and Sonora into fertile farmlands much like the Salinas and Imperial valleys of California.

Ford and John Deere tractors plow the earth; crop dusters sweep down covering the fields of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers with Niagra and Dow chemicals.

Just since 1964, vegetable imports from Mexico have jumped from \$36 million to over \$100 million annually.

But in the process, small independent farmers and peasants who can't afford to invest in modern technology have been forced out of business and off their lands, often leasing them to large growers and hiring themselves out as farm workers.

In Sinaloa, for example, where corporate farming has developed most quickly, 85 families now control nearly one-quarter (298,000 acres) of the irrigated lands; which between 1960 and 1970, the number of landless farm workers doubled to 126,000.

THE UPROOTED
The result has been a mushrooming seasonal migrant work force — now numbering 350,000 — faced with long periods of unemployment and squalid living conditions.

The migrants, some in beat-up cars, most on trains and buses, move north each year up the coast for the

are. Jamie Clements of Temple, chairman of the Welfare Board, said that a dilemma of grave proportions exists within Medicaid, in that health care costs, like other costs, have more than doubled since 1974.

He said the task force will study the program and make recommendations to the Welfare Board as to whether the program can continue to operate at the present elevated cost levels and also remain within the constraints of recently-lowered federal financial participation and apparent Legislative intent to hold the line on State expenditures.

The Medicaid program makes the Texas State Department of Public Welfare the largest provider of health services in the state. The Department has budgeted \$734 million for medical services for the current fiscal year. The program is fund-

vegetable harvest in Sinaloa and Sonora, then on the fall harvest in Sonora and Baja California. Many then continue to winter work in the California asparagus fields.

In Mexico, the migrants either construct their own temporary camps of cardboard, tin and tar-paper or sleep outside in their cotton picking bags or tomato bin. Outhouses are built by the growers on stilts over the open canals — the same canals that supply the workers' drinking and bathing water.

Intestinal diseases and sunstroke are the migrants' most common illnesses. In 1975 alone, 792 people, mostly children, died in Sinaloa from diarrhea and dehydration. But there is neither medical insurance nor a rural health plan covering farm workers.

The average daily wage in the northwest is a little over \$2.50 for those who work part of the year on their own plots of land, and closer to \$5 for the year-round workers.

Growers complain bitterly that the minimum wage is automatically raised every two years, and that recent wage hikes are eating away at their competitive edge over the Florida growers.

But given Mexico's rate of inflation, the workers' buying power is actually lower now than in 1972.

Hundreds of families, unable to find work on the ranches, follow the cotton trucks down the highway, gathering the fiber that blows off the trucks and trying to sell it to middlemen.



Private Antonio Menchaca, hijo del la Sra. Gloria Flores de Wolforth estubo aqui de visita durante las fiestas navidenas. El es graduado de la escuela Lubbock Christian High y tambien asistio la escuela Frenship. El se ingreso al servicio militar el dia 8 de Agosto y acaba de cumplir su entrenamiento de Radar. El salio esta pasada semana con rumbo a Seattle-Washington donde se embarcara con rumbo a Korea

ed under a federal-state arrangement. There are 680,000 Texans eligible for the Medicaid program. They represent the state's aged, blind, and disabled who are needy and low-income, and some are children who are without the support of one parent for whatever reason, and who live under a pre-determined level of income.

Watson, the chairman of the task force, was Johnson's Postmaster General in 1968-69. He is a former petroleum company executive and a graduate of Baylor University where he later taught.

He is a director of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn., and a member of the development councils of both Baylor University and Hardin-Simmons University. He is a member of the advisory council of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and chairman of its program to raise \$8 million in development funds by 1980.

Watson is a trustee of Scott and White Memorial Hospital and its Scott, Sherwood and Brindley Foundation. He formerly was executive assistant to chairman and president of Lone Star Steel.

Born in San Jacinto County, Texas, and a graduate of Huntsville public schools, Watson was granted the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Quachita University at Arkadelphia, Ark. in 1968, and an honorary law degree in 1972 from Hardin-Simmons. He is a Baptist deacon and Sunday School teacher. He served in the U.S. Marines from 1943 to 1946.

Clements said the first meeting of the task force will be held on January 13-14 in Austin.

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COURSE	DAY	TIME	LENGTH OF COURSE	TUITION	BOOKS
*SHORTHAND I	Thursday	7:00-9:30 P.M.	12 weeks	\$7.50	\$8.75
SHORTHAND I	Tues/Thurs	1:00-3:30 P.M.	6 weeks	7.50	8.75
*SHORTHAND II	Tuesday	7:00-9:30 P.M.	12 weeks	7.50	8.75
TYPING, (BEGIN.)	Tues/Thurs	7:00-9:30 P.M.	12 weeks	18.00	-
TYPING, (ADV.)	Mon/Wed	7:00-9:30 P.M.	12 weeks	18.00	-
SEWING	Tues/Thurs	6:30-9:30 P.M.	24 hrs. of instruction	12.00	-
SPANISH, (BEGIN) (Conversational)	Tuesday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	12 weeks	7.50	3.20
SPANISH, (INTER) (Conversational)	Tuesday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	12 weeks	7.50	3.20
SPANISH, (ADV.) (Conversational)	Thursday	7:00-9:00 P.M.	12 weeks	7.50	3.20

Those people wishing to take a course in Defensive Driving are invited to call the Adult Learning Center and place their names on a list. When sufficient people have called, a class will be organized.

If any further information is needed, please call the Adult Learning Center, 765-9338.

CONTRACTORS' NOTICE OF TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sealed proposals for constructing 6.143 miles of Gr., Strs., Salvage Bs., Flex. Bs., Prime Coat & 2 CST from W. of FM 2130 To Spur 309 on Highway No. SH 116, covered by F 1137(1) in Hockley & Lubbock County, will be received at the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, until 9:00 A.M., January 27, 1977, and then publicly opened and read.

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252) and the Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (15 C.F.R., Part 8), issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that the contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder without discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin, and further that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterpri-

ses will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications including minimum wage rates as provided by Law are available at the office of Jack N. Moore, Resident Engineer, Lubbock, Texas, and State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin Usual rights reserved.

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Sealed proposals for constructing 1.767 miles of Gr., Flex. Bs., 3 CST, C&G And Median Loc. In Lubbock on Quirt Ave. From: Regis St. South To Loop 289 on Highway No. MH 53, covered by M D022(1) in Lubbock County, will be received at the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, until 9:00 A.M., January 26, 1977, and then publicly opened and read.

The State Department of Highways and P Public Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1964 (78 Stat. 252) and the Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (15 C.F.R., Part 8), issued pursuant to such Act hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that the contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder without discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin, and further that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national ori-



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The Consumer Alert

by John L. Hill
Attorney General

AUSTIN—If someone offers you a "London option" he's not putting together a charter flight to the British Isles. He's offering you a chance to invest in the commodity futures market.

But be wary if he's a stranger, say lawyers in our Consumer Protection and Insurance, Banking, and Securities Divisions. A new batch of questionable promoters of commodity and London options are again at work, as in 1974, when there was an outbreak of such fraudulent operations in Texas. Joint enforcement action taken by our office and the State Securities Commissioner squelched those 1974 operations, and alertness now can help to prevent similar deceptions.

What are commodity and London options and how do they work? They are a recognized high-risk, speculative investment field. While these options themselves are not fraudulent, problems can arise when the usual high risks are coupled with actions of deceptive dealers. The purchase of a commodity option gives an investor the right to buy or sell the "option" in a commodity such as coffee, sugar, cocoa, etc. within a stated period and at a stated price. For an option to turn a profit, you must have the following, say our attorneys: (1) an honest option dealer; (2) the price of the commodity you hold an option on must move significantly in the desired direction from the price at the time the option contract was in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications including minimum wage rates as provided by Law are available at the office of Jack N. Moore, Resident Engineer, Lubbock, Texas, and State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin. Usual Rights Reserved.

bought; and (3) you must then exercise your option within the stated time.

At best, commodity options can be a risky investment proposition even for sophisticated investors. If you're an average investor you should take the following precautions before committing funds to commodity futures trading: -Make a rule never to invest money you cannot afford to lose.

-Be suspicious if contacted by a stranger who tries to interest you in investing with an unfamiliar company engaged in commodity futures trading—especially if you are solicited by mail or telephone.

-Take claims of fantastic profits to be made in the commodities market with a grain of salt—fortunes have indeed been made in commodities, but many more fortunes have been lost!

-Realize that this is a speculative form of investing, and never believe it if a dealer tells you that commodity options are "one of the safest investments you can make."

-Always investigate before investing with an unfamiliar company. Consult an estab-

lished and respected local commodities broker, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in Washington, D.C., or the State Securities Board. While this won't guarantee that you will avoid unscrupulous dealers, it will help you learn how long the company has been in business, if it has followed necessary registration requirements, and if complaints have been filed against it.

Following our office's joint efforts with the State Securities Commissioner to control deceptive commodity futures trading in Texas, the U.S. Congress passed federal legislation creating the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. This commission is now formulating policies to regulate trading and prevent or eliminate deception in this field.

If you have a complaint about a commodity futures dealer, or suspect deception, contact the State Securities Board, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division or Insurance, Banking, and Securities Division, or your local district attorney.

Briscoe No Quiere Aparecer En TV Con J.A. Gutierrez

AUSTIN, TEXAS. (Especial)— El Gobernador

Dolph Briscoe anunció que había declinado aparecer en un programa nacional de televisión que presentaba a José Angel Gutierrez, fundador del Partido Raza Unida.

"Nunca he participado a sabiendas en un programa junto a un miembro del Partido La Raza Unida y no intento hacerlo", señaló Briscoe al productor del programa de la CBS, Dan Rather.

Briscoe ha estado atacando continuamente al partido Raza Unida y denunció públicamente que se oponía a un aporte federal para un proyecto patrocinado por ese partido en Crystal City. Señaló que con ese dinero quería implantarse "Una pequeña Cuba" en el sur de Texas.

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POLITICAL ASYLUM NOW

José Jacques Medina is an "undocumented" person whom the U.S. government is seeking to deport to Mexico.

José Jacques Medina is an attorney with a long history of struggle against Mexican reactionaries who plot to turn that country into another Chile. From his law student days (1968) when he participated in the largest student-worker movement in Mexican history, through years as an organizer of workers and peasants struggling for a better life, then as defender of prisoners suffering from torture and the inequities of the Mexican prison system, up until the day in 1973 when had to flee the country to avoid assassination by right wing groups such as "Los Panchos Villas" and "Los Halcones" that operate under the protection of the government, José Jacques Medina has served the people.

Since his entry into the United States, José Jacques Medina has given his time to the organization of workers and to teaching labor and immigration law to workers and students, participating actively in CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers in defending the undocumented people. On March 29, 1976 he was arrested and after hours of interrogation by the FBI, the INS charged him with illegal entry. The intent of the U.S. government is to deport him to Mexico where he faces torture and probable death.

While denying the charges of illegal entry, and while challenging the right of the U.S. government to restrict the movement of workers seeking jobs, José Jacques Medina is petitioning the government for his right to political asylum.

Unfortunately, in our time, political asylum as a "right" is limited to the political right, to fascists and nazis rather than to those who support democratic movements. Cuban mafiosi are granted citizenship, Hungarian supporters of the old dictatorship are granted special privileges, South Vietnamese charged with horrendous crimes such as the use of tiger cages for prisoners are adopted by entire U.S. communities. All these are undocumented. As supporters of right wing causes they are granted political asylum. And Soviet defectors like Belenko are granted asylum, before they actually request it.

But José Jacques Medina will require an organized movement, an outcry from many people, if his life is to be saved through the granting of asylum.

The José Jacques Medina case is complicated by

the insistence of the defendant that his defense include a defense of all undocumented workers, an attack upon the racism of the courts in general and the Immigration Service in particular, and challenge to the very boundary lines that separate Mexico from that portion of the Southwestern U.S.A. illegally seized by the U.S. government after the Mexican-U.S. war of 1848-49. Even under extreme duress, José Jacques Medina fights the good fight.

One of the myths accepted as fact throughout the so-called "Free World" is the concept of Mexico as a progressive, even socialistic nation. While it is true in matters of foreign that Mexico has a proud record of opposing Franco's Spain, Pinochet's Chile and other fascist dictatorships, while seeking friendship with modern Cuba, on the domestic front Mexico has a long history of repression against those who sought to build movements independent of the one-party system. The jailing of David Alfaro Siqueiros is one example. Another is the blatant assassination of workers and peasants that Medina denounced. The harassment of José Jacques Medina is a case in point.

The Mexican government will not forget that after the "Massacre of Tlatelolco" where 400 workers and students were killed by government gangs coming onto the campus, José Jacques Medina, who was present at the massacre, and had been active in the student strike that led up to it, organized the defense of those workers and students arrested and jailed. He was forced to leave Mexico and seek refuge in Central America where he continued active organizational work until he was able to return to Mexico in 1973.

Almost immediately José Jacques Medina came under government surveillance when he began exposing the continued use of torture and the rampant sexism in the treatment of women prisoners. Eventually José had to flee again, though the "Ha Vi Si Popular Law Office" that he founded continues to function. (The name derives from the slogan, "Hasta la Victoria Siempre as per Che Guevara.") In 1973 he entered the United States.

Instead of "laying low" as a prudent man might, José Jacques Medina continued his humanist activities, helping to organize workers on this side of the border participating actively in strikes and unionizing campaigns throughout the nation while



teaching and lecturing on the rights of undocumented workers.

On March 29, 1976 José Jacques Medina was picked up by FBI agents, who had no warrant for his arrest, and gave him no details at the time of his arrest. He was held incommunicado at the Federal Building in Los Angeles where they attempted to frighten him with charges that he was trafficking in drugs while conspiring to overthrow the government of the United States.

Eventually the government did produce a warrant issued, strangely enough, one whole year less a day before, on March 30, 1975. Quite obviously the government had José under surveillance all that time in hopes they might catch him in an illegal act.

Failing to shake the defendants fighting spirit, the FBI turned him over to the Immigration and Naturalization Services that promptly jailed him and scheduled him for immediate deportation as "an undocumented revolutionary."

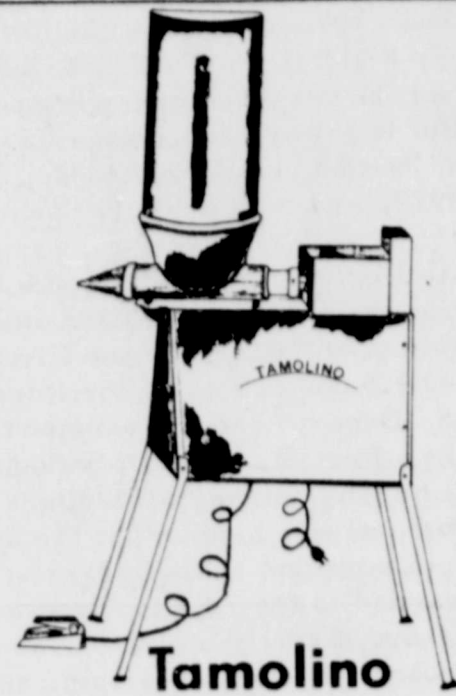
When José Jacques Medina demanded his day in court, bail was set at the unprecedented sum of \$5,000 as compared to an average \$500 for Immigration hearings.

Through the efforts of such organizations as C.A.S.A. and the Los Angeles Committee for the Defense of the Bill of Rights, bail was raised and a defense committee organized. But government harassment continued. Although there is sound precedent for an indigent defendant's right to free counsel (Douglas vs. California, and In Re Fresquez), the Immigration Service insisted the case was "administrative" not "criminal" and therefore there were no provisions to aid the defendant with free counsel. Judge Myron upheld that ruling, then turned down requests by José Jacques Medina for a continuance while he could prepare his case. The judge refused to accept José Jacques Medina as an attorney in his own right.

According to one of the attorneys representing Jacques Medina "Judge Myron has personally contributed to the abuse of Mr. Jacques' rights, clearly reflecting his bias and prejudice in the case. He has refused to translate parts of the hearing into Spanish for Mr. Jacques who is not familiar with the terminology being used, he has interrupted Mr. Jacques on numerous occasions and has told him not to speak unless spoken to. Thus an atmosphere of repression and intimidation has been created by these dictatorial rulings and Judge Myron's refusal to even listen to many of Mr. Jacques' arguments. Consequently we have moved to disqualify Judge Myron under 8 CFR

242.8 The Federal regulations allow the judge who is the subject of this motion to rule on it. Judge Myron denied the motion. This will certainly be an issue on appeal if Mr. Jacques (Medina) is found deportable."

The case of José Jacques Medina will continue on January, 1977 pending a decision by the Department of state as to his petition for political asylum.



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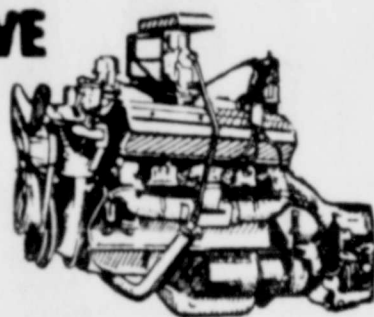
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