

Mexico to Launch

Plan to Prevent Deaths on Border

By Carmen Alicia Fernandez.
Washington, Jun 16 (EFE).- Mexico and the United States announced on Tuesday the first bilateral plan to reduce the deaths of illegal immigrants on the mutual border, which according to immigrant advocate groups exceed 100 each year.

The plan, which has yet to be assigned a budget and special personnel, includes, on one hand, rewards between 2,500 to 5,000 dollars to report alien smugglers, and on the other, first aid kits for border patrol personnel on both sides.

However, according to Mexican Ambassador Jesus Reyes Heróles and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner, the first step to prevent the deaths of those trying to reach the United States illegally, is to make people aware of the crossing dangers.

Amnesty International

said that at least 1,185 people died crossing the border between 1993 and 1996 at crossing points including mountainous and desert areas, as well as the feared Rio Grande.

In a news conference held in Washington to announce the plan, Meissner, Reyes and the director of the U.S. Border Patrol Gus de la Viña said that their goal is to prevent immigrants from dying of dehydration, temperatures changes, exhaustion, drowning or at the hands of criminals.

"We will not stop in our efforts until nobody dies trying to reach the United States," Meissner said.

Immigrant advocates attributed the death toll increase to the INS's Operation Gatekeepers and the Border Patrol, which have created a sort of human wall in the most-traveled areas along the countries' 3,000 kilometer border.



Child Labor Attributed to Poverty

Labor Department officials admitted Thursday they have not been vigilant enough in pursuing and punishing repeat offenders of child labor laws.

But while promising to employ new techniques such as using IRS employer identification numbers to track repeat violators, they suggested some of the worst abuses — those involving field work picking produce — won't decline greatly so long as seasonal farm workers remain so poor.

"Children work in agriculture because of poverty, ... because their parents need their contributions to family income," John R. Fraser, acting director of the Labor Department's wage and hour division, told a Senate subcommittee.

"A majority of farm workers are not covered by the federal minimum wage, (and) farm work wages in this country have been stagnant or declining for 20 years," Fraser said, citing statistics showing the average annual income for those families is only \$6,000, compared to nationwide average of \$28,000.

On behalf of the Clinton administration, Fraser and Gene Sperling, head of the White House's National Economic Council, endorsed proposed legislation by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, to eliminate many exemptions for agriculture in current child labor laws, increase fines and double enforcement spending.

However, Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, who chaired Thursday's hearing before the Senate Education and Labor Committee's employment and training subcommittee, faulted the administration's enforcement of the current law's assessment of fines for many of the abuses.

DeWine cited Labor Department figures showing that of \$4.9 million in fines assessed last year, only \$3.7 million has been collected; for 1996 only \$4.9 million of the \$9.2 million assessed was collected.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said the Labor Department has not been sufficiently aggressive with the Justice Department "to get U.S. attorneys off their duffs" to prosecute and jail repeat violators.

The Clinton administration has requested \$800,000 in its budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 to measure the extent of child labor abuses in agriculture. DeWine asked Thursday for a Labor Department report to determine the scope of abuses in all sectors of the economy and to identify the most hazardous of them.

Certain Immigrant Food Stamps Restored

L.A. Times-The House voted Thursday to restore federal food stamp eligibility to a quarter of a million needy documented immigrants—mostly children, the elderly and disabled—who were dropped from the program last year as part of the sweeping welfare overhaul.

The lawmakers took the food stamp action—restoring an estimated \$818 million in benefits over five years—as part of a \$1.9-billion agricultural bill, which includes funding for farm research, crop insurance and other issues of interest to rural lawmakers.

The Senate has already passed identical legislation, and President Clinton has indicated his intention to sign the bill into law.

Benefiting most from the legislation will be residents of California, where 100,000 documented immigrant noncitizens will probably regain their eligibility for federally funded food vouchers. Eligible families in California receive an average of about \$192 a month in food stamps.

The action marks a second major congressional retreat on 1996's far-reaching overhaul of the federal welfare system, following last year's decision to restore partial eligibility for documented immigrants receiving disability payments and Medicaid health coverage. The welfare law achieved billions of dollars in savings by targeting aid for documented immigrants, but advocates mobilized a successful political campaign to win back a sizable share of the aid.

Thursday's House vote sets the stage for a new series of battles in statehouses from Sacramento to Albany, N.Y., as legislators decide whether to fund food stamp benefits for the many poor documented immigrants still shut out after the congressional action. The bill failed to restore eligibility for most of the 935,000 documented resident noncitizens who lost benefits, mostly adults ages 18 to 64.

"There's still a lot of people going hungry, but states have the opportunity to alleviate that," said Cecilia Munoz of the National Council of La Raza, which was among a number of ethnic groups pushing hard for benefit restoration. "We hope California and other states step up to the plate."

However, Gov. Pete Wilson and other Republicans in California are opposed to legislation sponsored by Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles) that would expand food stamp coverage to eligible noncitizen adults ages 18 to 64, among others.

"We want to keep this narrowly defined to the most vulnerable populations," said Sean Walsh, a spokesman for Wilson. "To have a wholesale state takeover of the federal government's responsibility is unrealistic."

The congressional bill restores food stamp eligibility to children, the elderly and disabled documented immigrant noncitizens who were settled in the United States by Aug. 22, 1996, the day the federal welfare overhaul was signed into law. Immigrants arriving after that date remain ineligible.

Congress also allowed refugees and people who have received political asylum to receive food stamps for seven years after their arrival; that extends the five-year food voucher cutoff to give them more time to become U.S. citizens.

In addition, Congress restored food stamp eligibility for Hmong refugees, who were U.S. allies in Southeast Asia, and to certain Indian groups who cross back and forth along the U.S.-Mexico and Canada borders.

Clinton: Improve Census Methods

President Clinton on Tuesday argued for a controversial new method of counting Americans in the 2000 census, saying "It's not about politics; it's about people." Clinton and the Democrats in Congress favor using statistical sampling in the next census to avoid undercounts of minorities, children and the rural poor. The Census Bureau proposed this new method, but Republicans strongly oppose it, arguing that the Constitution requires a national census done by head count and that previous experience with sampling has shown it to be faulty.

At stake is a redrawing of congressional districts, based on the census data, that could shift seats to states that have many urban — that is, mainly Democratic — areas. Billions in federal and private funds also are linked to census data.

"If we are really going to strengthen our country and prepare for this new century, we have to have a full and accurate picture of who we are as a people and where we live," Clinton said. He noted estimates that the 1990 census missed 8 million people and was the first in history to be less accurate than the previous one.

Clinton contended experts agree that using statistical sampling, along with "quality checks" that involve head counts in certain neighborhoods, can reduce the error rate to 1/10 of 1 percent. A head count done by the traditional method of mailings to households would still be used for 90 percent of the population. The debate is over how to count the remaining 10 percent.

Restricting Abortions

A proposal to make it harder for pregnant teen-agers to travel out of state for abortions cleared a House panel Thursday.

The bill would make it a crime for a person other than a parent or guardian to evade parental involvement laws by escorting the girl to states that don't impose any such requirements.

An amendment adopted by voice vote exempts legal custodians and anyone standing in for a parent from the penalties prescribed by the bill — fines, a year's imprisonment or both.

Opponents argued that it would force girls who fear telling their parents about their pregnancies to seek dangerous alternatives to the legal, medical procedure.

"This bill is unnecessary," said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. "It makes it a federal crime to exercise one's constitutional right."

EL EDITOR

"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others is Peace"
Lic. Benito Juárez

Vol XX1 No. 38

Week of June 18 to June 24, 1998

Lubbock, Texas

Established 1977 - Texas' Oldest Hispanic Owned Newspapers

Republicanos Quieren Eliminar

Papeleteras Electorales Bilingües

Washington, 16 jun (EFE).- En su constante acoso hacia el bilingüismo, la mayoría republicana de la Cámara de Representantes de EEUU pretende hacer desaparecer las papeleteras electorales que tienen traducción al español, una medida que los demócratas consideran discriminatoria.

Congresistas hispanos y líderes demócratas, al igual que grupos minoritarios, denunciaron que los republicanos comenzarán a debatir, probablemente mañana, una propuesta que elimine todo el material electoral bilingüe, incluso las hojas de inscripción y votación.

Además, la legislación permitirá que al momento de votar a los electores se les pueda requerir presentar alguna prueba e identificación de que son ciudadanos estadounidenses, aunque ya estén registrados debidamente.

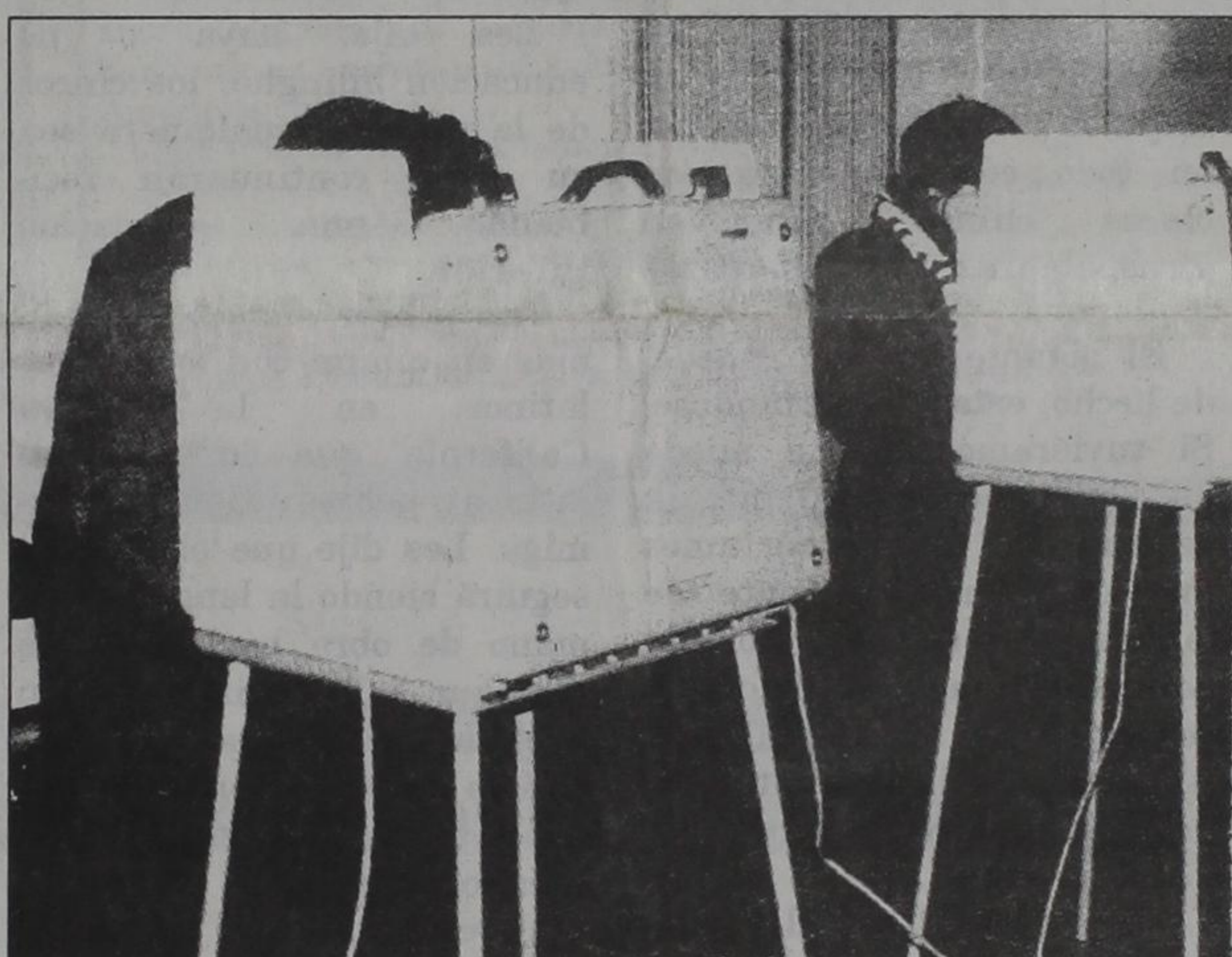
La medida ha sido incorporada a la legislación que reforma el sistema de donativos para las campañas electorales de EEUU, que ha sido cuestionado por demócratas y republicanos.

"Estas enmiendas no tienen nada que ver con reformar la financiación de las campañas electorales. Realmente dan continuidad a los esfuerzos republicanos para aislar el voto de los hispanos y los asiáticos", indicó el congresista demócrata Robert Menéndez, electo por Nueva Jersey y de origen cubano.

Según el congresista, estas enmiendas pueden evitar que millones de hispanos voten en las elecciones de EEUU, pues por un lado muchos no dominan el idioma inglés y por el otro pueden estar sujetos a acoso cuando vayan a votar.

"Nadie le va preguntar a un típico americano, rubio de ojos azules, por una certificación de ciudadanía, se van a dirigir hacia los hispanos y los asiáticos", indicó Menéndez.

Para el presidente del Caucus (grupo legislativo de intereses) Hispano, el congresista demócrata Xavier Becerra, los republicanos reviven la política del presidente Ronald Reagan



(1980-1988). "Son otra vez el partido de Ronald Reagan y van contra nosotros", indicó Becerra.

Recordó que hace una semana, un subcomité de la Cámara de Representantes aprobó también una medida que facilita a las autoridades de inmigración el quitarle la ciudadanía a un inmigrante durante los primeros tres años después de haberla juramentado.

También mencionó que los republicanos impugnaron sin éxito la elección de la congresista demócrata por California Loretta Sánchez, alegando que la legisladora hispana ganó la contienda gracias a electores latinos que no tenían derecho al voto.

"Es un nuevo intento de tratar a los nuevos ciudadanos de EEUU, principalmente a los latinos, como ciudadanos de segunda clase", agregó Becerra, electo por California.

"La democracia puede seguir desarrollándose si la participación de las personas se amplía. Estas enmiendas van en dirección contraria", afirmó, por su parte, el

presidente del Partido Demócrata de EEUU, Roy Romer.

El congresista Melvin Watt, demócrata por California, como miembro del Caucus Negro, dio también su respaldo a la nueva cruzada en defensa de las minorías hispana y asiática.

"Los republicanos tratan de buscar temas que nos puedan dividir, pero las minorías cada vez estamos más unidas", afirmó Watt.

El congresista Menéndez dijo que los republicanos pueden realmente, con estas enmiendas, querer derrotar toda la reforma sobre los donativos electorales y por ello "utilizan el derecho al voto de las minorías como una pelota de fútbol".

Grupos representantes de las minorías, como el Concilio Nacional La Raza, el Consorcio Jurídico Asia/Pacífico de EEUU, la Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Latinos Electos y la Liga de Mujeres Votantes, exhortaron también a los ciudadanos a combatir estas enmiendas.

Lubbock Boxing Club travels to Michigan

North Lubbock Boxing Club's two Junior Olympic State Champions will travel to Marquette, Michigan on Saturday, June 20, 1998 to participate in the National Junior Olympic Championship tournament June 21-28, 1998. Hector Villarreal (100 lbs) and Alex Servin (139 lbs) won the State Junior Olympic Championship in Odessa, Texas on May 8-10, 1998. Winners of the Nationals will advance to the International tournament in Acapulco, Mexico July 4-11.

Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

There is still no word from Republicans or Democrats as to who they will nominate to be on the ballot for Sheriff in November.



Democrats - all 10 of them - say that they can't find a candidate. They should at least nominate Mickey Mouse of Winnie the Pooh in order to keep the Democratic name on the ballot.

Republicans, sources say, are locked up between conservatives and what some people call "liberals" in the Party. Word is that the nomination is between the public's favorite, David Gutiérrez, and Don Webb. Although I'm sure that race has nothing to do with swaying their decision... I can't help but wonder why the most capable person would not be chosen. We all know he can speak English.

On another note, I see that Tech is opening a recruitment center in El Paso in order to get more Chicanos to come to Tech. One would wonder why since many that apply here from Lubbock are refused admission. They claim that they are going to try and recruit the academically advanced student. Again working toward becoming the "Ivy League" University of Texas. One would wonder what they are going to offer them since they claim to not be able to discriminate when giving out scholarships. Maybe they're really after a better baseball team.

LULAC Offers Scholarships

Applications for the General Electric/LULAC Scholarships and for the General Motors/LULAC Scholarships are now available. The scholarships are for engineering and business college students beyond their sophomore year. For information call Jaimer Garcia at 744-1984. Deadline for application is July 1.

Diversidad o Reconciliación El Gigante Dormido Se Despierta En California

NOTA EDITORIAL: Si nos tuviéramos menos miedo los unos a los otros, reconoceríamos que el creciente interés en política entre latinos y asiáticos-evidente en la reciente campaña electoral de California-- es la clave hacia nuestra reconciliación, no un obstáculo.

Por Richard Rodriguez,

Tras las primarias del martes, las lumbreras políticas andan diciendo que los californianos votaron por el pasado - rostros políticos familiares. Pero la gente más importante de las primarias de California no estaba postulando para cargo alguno; ni siquiera votó.

Ellos estaban fuera de escena. "Ellos" son jóvenes, a menudo inmigrantes, pobres. Y en California están por todas partes -- "the future", el futuro.

Escasas semanas atrás, en un debate entre los cuatro principales candidatos a gobernador, las preguntas eran más interesantes que las respuestas. Las respuestas parecían preparadas. Las preguntas se referían a la prometedora mayoría de California: primer grado, asimilación, diversidad.

No por casualidad, fue la proposición 227 -- la iniciativa en contra de la educación bilingüe, la que atrajo mayor atención y acritud en los meses que condujeron a las elecciones primarias. Claramente, los californianos estaban menos preocupados por los candidatos que ocuparían la oficina del gobernador en Sacramento que por los nuevos cambios culturales que nos esperan en la nueva California.

En verdad, no hay nada muy "nuevo" acerca de la California multirracial, multi-lingüe y multicultural de hoy. Como territorio de Estados Unidos, California nació de la colisión de las Américas anglo y latina. Luego, tras el descubrimiento de oro en 1848, hombres desesperados de cadarincón del mundo --de Australia, de China, de Perú, de Escocia-- se precipitaron hacia aquí. California se convirtió en el cruce de caminos del mundo mientras los hombres se abrían paso a empujones en el barro por la posibilidad de hacer girar la rueda de la fortuna.

Hoy, ciento cincuenta años después de que el oro fuera descubierto, los californianos dicen (a menudo como un presagio) que nos hemos convertido "de repente" en una sociedad internacional. Esa noción sería lo

suficientemente inquietante para muchos californianos; peor es comprender que California se ha convertido "de repente" en el estado hispano más grande de la nación, y Los Angeles en un capitolio latinoamericano. Esta temporada, los adolescentes de Hollywood de mediana edad están hilando historias de cometas que se caen y de Godzilla volviéndose loco en New York. Los científicos políticos de California hablan, mientras tanto, del despertar de un "gigante dormido", con lo cual quieren decir que los latinos se están dando cuenta por fin de la consecuencia de sus números -- y finalmente están votando.

El momento más revelador de la carrera por gobernador llegó cuando los cuatro candidatos principales se presentaron ante un grupo de latinos poderosos. Si bien todos en el público hablaban, sin duda alguna, inglés, el teatro político requería un debate "en español". ¿Qué debate? Los candidatos se limitaron simplemente a competir entre ellos con adjetivos elogiando a los inmigrantes; elogiando a los latinos. Y luego, en inglés, cada candidato denunció la Proposición 227 (con traducción simultánea al español).

Tal como resultaron las cosas, el voto a favor de la Proposición 227 --en contra de la educación bilingüe-- fue lo más torcido de las primarias de California. Mientras que grupos de derechos civiles de izquierdas quisieran ahora que usted crea que el voto fue "anti-inmigrante", la votación de salida sugiere que un importante número de hispanos y un número aun mayor de latinos rechazó la educación bilingüe y estaba furioso ante la incompetencia del sistema de escuelas públicas del estado.

El debate sobre la educación bilingüe está destinado a convertirse en algo nacional. En los próximos meses, los estadounidenses discutirán públicamente sobre pedagogía: ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de enseñar a un niño inmigrante? De un modo más privado, resonarán chillidos provenientes de los extremos en ambas partes -- neonacionalismo chillón desde un rincón, xenofobia desde el otro.

La mejor palabra, la palabra cortés que usamos

para hablar de lo que está pasando hoy en California, es "diversidad" -- una palabra con embalaje de psicólogo, una palabra sin sentido, un tópico canadiense. En Canadá, el mult-culturalismo es política-oficial del gobierno. El "mosaico" se ha convertido en la metáfora favorita (muchos colores, todos distintos, unidos para formar una hermosa nación). Diversidad es la bandera que flamea sobre todos ellos.

¿California se está volviendo canadiense? Nuestros aca-démicos y políticos, ciertamente, tocan el himno canadiense con su elogio de la diversidad. Mi sospecha, sin embargo, es que México, no Canadá, tiene la llave del futuro de California.

México no tiene noción alguna de multiculturalismo. México es una nación formada por el mestizaje. Desde su nacimiento, a pesar de la violencia y la muerte, México fue creada a partir de una mezcla literal de sangre.

Indígenas casándose con europeos casándose con africanos casándose con asiáticos. Los mexicanos en la actualidad hablan de ellos mismos como "la raza cósmica": esto es su mayor orgullo.

¿California mexicana? Algunas semanas atrás, los editores de la revista "New Yorker" ilustraron la cubierta de su "especial de California" con surfers rubios. Lo que cualquiera viviendo al oeste del río Hudson sabe, es que una California diferente, más compleja, se está formando. Es tan probable que los surfers de hoy en Huntington Beach sean filipinos como rubios, y están, en todo caso, saliendo con chicas chinas. Son, en otras palabras, mestizos modernos.

El gigante dormido puede, de hecho, estar despertándose. Si tuviéramos menos miedo de los monstruos en la oscuridad, reconoceríamos que el interés creciente de latinos y asiáticos por la política es la llave hacia la reconciliación de California, no un obstáculo. Los latinos y asiáticos ya no quieren ser dejados fuera.

La política de la identidad racial y étnica puede, de hecho, sonar divisiva, pero su propósito es la movilidad social. Y el resultado de esa movilidad será la inclusión y la mezcla. Así

como los irlandeses usaron la política de la identidad en el siglo XIX para entrar del lado de adentro, los latinos de hoy usarán su distintivo étnico para hacerse notar en Sacramento y en Washington.

La paradoja es que los latinos como fuerza política disminuirán a medida que Estados Unidos se hace culturalmente más latinoamericano.

Precisamente mientras California se hace más mexicana (más mestiza), una marcada agenda política latina se hará imposible de sostener porque nosotros los californianos estaremos demasiado mezclados, demasiado "entre-casados" como para mantener categorías raciales/étnicas diferentes.

Lo que quede, finalmente, será la clase económica. Ese es el tema del cual nunca nadie habla, a pesar de todo el parloteo sobre la diversidad.

En el debate de California sobre la educación bilingüe, por ejemplo, nadie se molestó en ningún momento en distinguir entre el bilingüismo de la clase media y el dilema de los pobres que necesitan aprender como usar la lengua pública.

En las últimas semanas previas a las elecciones, periodistas de todo el mundo llegaron a casa con micrófonos y libretas de apuntes. Venían a preguntarme sobre la nueva California. La televisión alemana. La radio australiana. Canadá tele-foneó para preguntar si el sur de California se estaba convirtiendo en "el nuevo Quebec".

Les dije: haya o no educación bilingüe, los chicos de la pobreza, cualquiera sea su raza, continuarán recibiendo una educación inferior.

Los pobres blancos tendrán más en común con los pobres latinos en la nueva California que lo que los latinos pobres tienen conmigo. Les dije que el español seguirá siendo la lengua de la mano de obra barata. Y les dije que mi sobrino, con su apellido escocés, asiste a una selecta escuela preparatoria donde aprende tres idiomas, español entre ellos.

Parece italiano, sale con rubias, y se denomina a sí mismo (¡y verdaderamente lo es!) un latino en la nueva California.

than local levels or as power brokers on more than "minority" issues.

But no matter the heights they achieve, they will ultimately have to stake out positions on the issues that have polarized their core constituencies: immigration, bilingual education, affirmative action. Is there a Latina politician of consequence who has publicly stated that she is against affirmative action and who faced other than derision and contempt from *la gente*? Does there exist a cubano who can propose lifting the Cuban embargo and not be hounded from office? Can a Chicano say he favors limits on Mexican immigration?

It could be we are more politically sophisticated than I know, sitting in a cell and dodging the bigotry and unreasoning demands to remain pure from *mis hermanos*, who have little patience with persuasion.

But if Latinos are ever to make a political impact, if we are ever to be desired for our opinions and leadership and not just our numbers, then we need to shed our deeply held convictions that we must march in lock step. We have to allow *la Raza* to have different opinions and still be *la Raza*, not outcasts.

(Jorge Antonio Renaud is serving a 60-year sentence as a three-time offender in Texas State Prison in Huntsville.)

Sittin' Here Thinkin'

The No Frontier

by Ira Cutler

Throughout history when people got fed up and angry, when they saw no opportunities available to them to live a better life, when they just got bored and wanted to break out, then they could head out over the next hill or the next ocean and start all over. This is how human culture spread, how America came to be, and to a large extent how society could deal with the people who just did not fit in. The story of the American West, of Australia, of a lot of places at some time in their history, is one of misfits designing a society that fit their temperaments and points of view. Pulling up stakes was also the way that groups escaped from brutal persecution and so the Jews left Egypt, the Pilgrims left England and the Mormons left what was then the United States.

Part of our problem today is that the globe is so crowded that there is no place to go. In times past the Branch Davidians could have gone a lot further than Waco to escape the government. The people who are so nuts as to blow up trains might have gone on down the road and created their own country. The unemployed young men in our cities who are angry and estranged from our society would have, in previous times, gotten on a covered wagon and headed west. The existence of a frontier provided a way, for individuals and for society, to relieve pent-up frustrations before they reached a boiling point.

Today the world's population is growing exponentially and no one is creating any more land. We have figured out agricultural methods to feed more and more people but cannot figure out how to give people more room to breathe, to think, to be different. Lack of physical space inevitably creates a need for enforced uniformity -- you cannot dance in a crowded elevator without disrupting the other passengers. We will never again have the sheer space available to be nomads or colonists or explorers, as long as we stay on Earth.

And so this is a column about Space and its exploration and the relationship between Space and social policy and Presidential politics.

The current state of Space exploration is appalling. In the past it was within the means of individuals or small groups to strike out across the frontier. One could buy a wagon or a boat or could even just walk. The exploration of Space is too complex and expensive for individual or even corporate effort and so requires the involvement of national governments. Today the United States is the only nation in a position to do much in space and, like most other issues which fall prey to American politics, the Space program lacks vision and creativity and a sense of long term purpose.

The politicians currently in charge see Space through two very narrow windows: military and commercial. The military window is about the Star Wars missile defense system which Republicans swear to as a Ronald Reagan tribute even though it is considered by most experts to be impractical and wasteful. The commercial window to date is about more cost effective ways to broadcast increasing amounts of bad television.

But no one is looking at or talking about space in terms of the health, well-being and survival of the species. Our politics is about a candidate's promises to do small things in the first hundred days in office or during their two or four year term. The really big issues, the important ones, defy hundred day or four year attention and require much longer term vision and attention.

Our next President will leave office, incredibly, in the next millennium. Thousand year markers do not come up very often and we should use this next one to challenge ourselves and our political candidates to think about what kind of world we hope and expect to see in the year 2100 and in the year 3000.

In my mind there are two 1000 year issues of importance: the environment and Space and they are interrelated in very practical ways. The environmental issues are by themselves hopeless in the long term. We will, sooner or later, use up this planet and make it unlivable. But by being environmentally more disciplined and intelligent we may be able to delay the date on which the planet becomes a disposable throw-away. We can delay our departure date but, when that date comes up, we had better have the means already in place to go elsewhere.

Looking at the thousand year issues has two practical short term values as well. I believe that the best and most important role for the United Nations is not peace keeping but rather is Space exploration. An all-nations project towards Space might have the ability to bridge nations and create a sense of humanity that would far outstrip the Olympics and any cultural exchange programs.

The second near term value is a little more difficult to express. I read, as you might have guessed, a good deal of science fiction and I enjoy it greatly. The writing, at its best, can be enormously creative. Part of the reason that this genre is so appealing is that the boundaries within which the writer must work are so elastic. In science fiction you can invent a new species, you can have characters that live forever, you can design a society that best illustrates the point you want to make or that accommodates the story you want to tell.

In a similar way committing to a world goal of colonizing Space would open our minds to an enormous number of related possibilities for community structures, economic systems, human relationships and all the rest of what makes up our lives. Going to another planet, after all, is starting over in spades and we would not want to carry along all our sad, tired baggage of intolerance, fear and injustice. We could talk, at least, about leaving it all behind with the pollution and about how we would do things differently.

Ira Cutler, HN4072, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irreverent, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Numerous persons have spoken against the proposed rules to restrict the method by which a councilperson can place an item on a council agenda. They have argued that this proposed rule is the very antithesis of our democratic/representative form of government, it undermines the concept of single-member districts, it is divisive, it is contrary to open government, it is anti-government of the people, by the people and for the people, it appears to be directed personally at one councilperson, it is narrow-minded and short-sighted in that it does not allow new or "different" ideas to be presented and discussed in a forum from which many good things might result for the benefit of the citizens of Lubbock, it is unfair and un-American, etc.
Councilman Cook and Councilman Patterson think that we have misunderstood the intent of the rule. Would they or any other Councilperson please come forward and explain to the citizens openly, honestly, and logically what is the intent of this rule? Please explain also how have we "misunderstood" the rule. Further, please state what positive benefits the citizens of Lubbock would derive from such a restrictive rule. Exactly how is this form of governing our city better than an open, democratic and representative form of government?

Sincerely,
Emilio E. Abeyta

The Cost of Racial Solidarity

By Jorge Antonio Renaud

In the early 1990s, court-ordered reforms forced the Texas prison system to adopt a policy of mandatory integration of its cells. Prior to this, unless two convicts had specifically requested to be celled together, Texas convicts were paired by race.

Many correctional administrators predicted a blood bath as long-time convicts with proven racial enmity were thrown together in 9-by-12 cages. And there were scattered bloody outbursts. But prison officials were prepared. Their response was to order convicts to a particular cell and systematically strip privileges and good-time credits from those who refused to integrate. This hit convicts where it hurt most -- their parole eligibility.

What few expected was that one race would turn on its own, expending its fears and fury on those who submitted to integration. There were many Chicanos who were close to parole, or to discharge, and the scent of freedom convinced them that integration, even if it meant living with blacks, was not so terrible a thing.

(La Raza erupted. They had demanded solidarity. The

Chicanos who refused to give up their chance for parole and accepted black cell partners were beaten savagely, a task delegated to their homeboys. Many were killed.

All in the name of racial solidarity.

The violent conduct of convicts cannot be easily extrapolated to the free world. But the scenario can. A few self-appointed leaders set an agenda. They demand compliance for "the good of us all." Disagreement is termed disloyalty. Dissenting members of the group are ostracized, then punished or expelled.

Subtract most of the blood, and you have the traditional template of minority politics. In a world where a monolithic majority controls all routes to power, this "close the ranks" mentality may be necessary for other groups seeking toehold. In such an atmosphere -- where reactionary members of the status quo use money and the media to cripple fledgling groups -- the worthiness of the goal sometimes justifies an unblinking adherence to methods and philosophy. When our aim was simply to get one seat in the legislature, one voice on the city council,

one sympathetic ear sitting on the benches of justice, we could get away with demanding allegiance to skin color or surname.

Not any longer. From Illinois, where Miriam Santos is attempting to win the attorney general position, to California, where iconoclastic Antonio Villa-raigosa has taken over for Cruz Bustamante as speaker for the state assembly, Latino candidates dot the landscape. In their climb up the political ladder, they have forged coalitions whose reach extends far beyond the barrio.

For decades, we've complained that our voices have been ignored when so-called "minority issues" were being addressed. When Latinos finally arrived in office, we were given what we'd wanted -- a voice on those issues, and little credence elsewhere. While Latinos in public office are now more than mere curiosities, we are still counting firsts: the first Latino elected to statewide office here, the first Latino serving there.

And our politicians have learned they must address tax reform and health care and Social Security to be perceived as serious candidates on more

Black Voters Crossing Racial Lines:

A Sign of Weakness Or Political Maturity?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Are blacks in Oakland, California being edged out of power, or are they exhibiting a new maturity by voting for a white politician? The question has resonance for the entire state, as blacks are a declining percentage of the new majority of ethnic groups increasingly setting their imprint on the political landscape. PNS commentator David Gaither is an Oakland based journalist who writes regularly for the black press.

BY DAVID GAITHER, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA -- This city of some 300,000 across the Bay from San Francisco has joined the growing list of major US cities -- including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Los Angeles -- voting to replace a black mayor with a white one.

Oakland's mayoral race gained national attention when former California

governor Jerry Brown entered the race. Brown -- the only white candidate -- swept the field, outdrawing all 10 of his opponents with 60 percent of the vote and will become Oakland's first white mayor in 20 years.

"The people have spoken," says Shannon Reeves, local NAACP president, himself a mayoral candidate. "He received as many black votes as he did white votes."

Reeves, 30, who ran third on a platform calling for self-help, feels black and white voters were tired of black candidates who never delivered the changes they promised.

"White folks voted for Brown because they were tired of black leadership and many

black voters voted for Brown because he is white too," Reeves says.

Others point to lack of unity in the only major city in the state with a predominantly black population -- a city long viewed as a center of black political power.

A single black candidate backed by the black political establishment and endorsed by black leaders could have posed a threat to Brown despite his celebrity status, according to Geoffery Pete, community activist and owner of a popular night club.

"One of the worst things in the world is not to lose, but to give up power," says Pete, adding "No one was willing to subordinate their own individual interest for the sake of the community."

To some black critics like Chauncey Bailey, however, black support of Brown underscores a vacuum in leadership. Bailey, a reporter for the Oakland Tribune and news director of the nation's only 100 percent black-owned television station, says blacks went for the "great white hope."

Other activists see the black vote for Brown as a sign of new political maturity. "We

can't vote based on skin color, but based on what's in our self-interest," said David Hilliard, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who worked early on in the Brown campaign. "If black leadership hasn't delivered, why not try something different?"

Cobie Kwasi Harris, a political scientist who chairs the Black Studies Department at San Jose State University, says black voters made calculated and informed decisions based on which candidate could deliver most to the public sector. After all, Harris asks rhetorically, what have blacks ever gotten out of the private sector but lynching?

"The public sector is where most blacks have found paths out of poverty and that's where most want to see a mayor play a strong role."

To Harris, the black political role has long transcended special interest or identity politics -- blacks' vision of a just, non-racialist society inspired the civil rights movement that has benefited all other ethnic minority groups. Last year, blacks on the Oakland School Board selected a Chinese

school superintendent on the understanding that Asians had been most successful at negotiating their way through the public school system.

Over the last decade, despite competition for jobs and housing from newcomer populations, blacks have continued to vote for "justice" issues -- over half voted against the anti-immigrant

ballot proposition 187, for example. In the Bay Area, they voted against ending bilingual education.

"We are fair players in the public arena," says Harris. "We don't single out particular parties we have a grievance with -- we look to the broader picture."

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First Lady Urges Child Care Bill

The Clinton administration wants to "reinstill a sense of urgency" in the quest for quality child care, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday. She urged Congress to pass child care legislation.

"Child care should not be a partisan issue," Mrs. Clinton said. "We are not talking about taking care of Democratic or Republican or Independent children, we are talking about taking care of America's children."

In his State of the Union address, President Clinton advocated spending \$21.7 billion for a child care initiative, doubling to 2 million the number of kids eligible for child care subsidies.

The first lady spoke at an event celebrating Redbook Magazine's "Mothers and Shakers of 1998." She pointed to the eight honorees as examples of women who are making a difference in American child care.

The women Redbook honored were:

- Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who has co-sponsored major child care legislation in the past six years.
- Harriett Trangucci, who established an emergency child care fund at the Summit Child Care Centers in Summit, N.J.
- Elaine Ferish, who founded Parents United for Child Care, a group that lobbies for after-school programs in Boston.

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Los 17 miembros del Grupo Salvaje compraron sus boletos como grupo. Después del sorteo se reunieron en casa de Jimmy para revisar todos los boletos. Al revisarlos, descubrieron que habían igualado tres de seis números en algunos boletos. Para asegurarse, Nora y Jean decidieron volver a revisar. Fue entonces cuando descubrieron que no sólo habían igualado tres números, ellos habían igualado los seis números.

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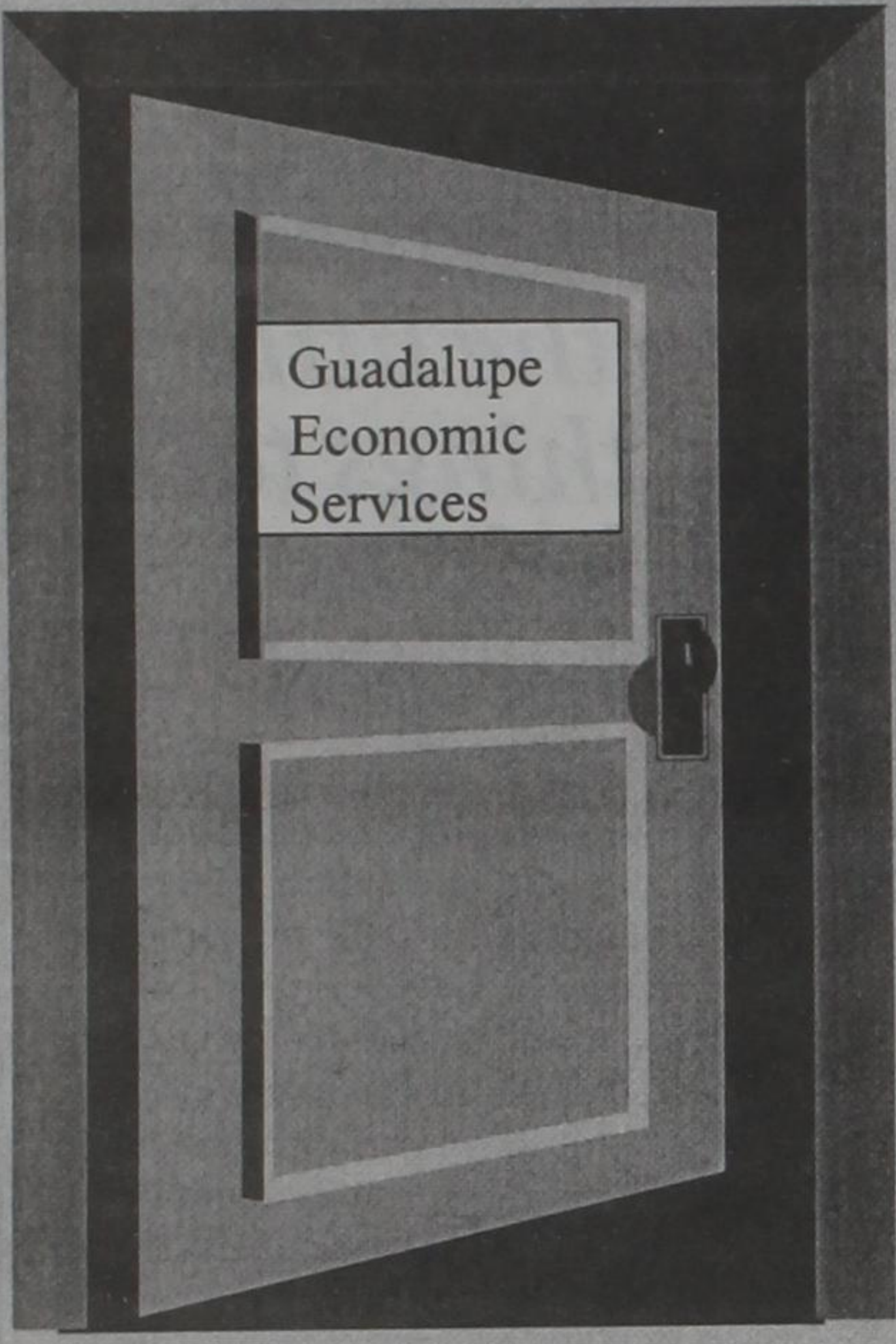
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De La Hoya's Place In History Already a Topic

EL PASO, Texas -- They were just beginning to clean up the Sun Bowl, and Oscar De La Hoya already was in his custom bus, heading down the highway toward his Los Angeles home.

La Hoya had done his cleaning up against France's Patrick Charpentier, to the surprise of no one and to the delight of the crowd of 45,368 that had come for a night of fights and hero worship.

With the ease of a fighter becoming increasingly confident in his tremendous skills, De La Hoya knocked Charpentier down three times in the third round to retain his WBC welterweight title against the top challenger. It looked so easy that some of the post-fight talk centered not only on Julio Cesar Chavez, the next opponent, but De La Hoya's place in boxing history.

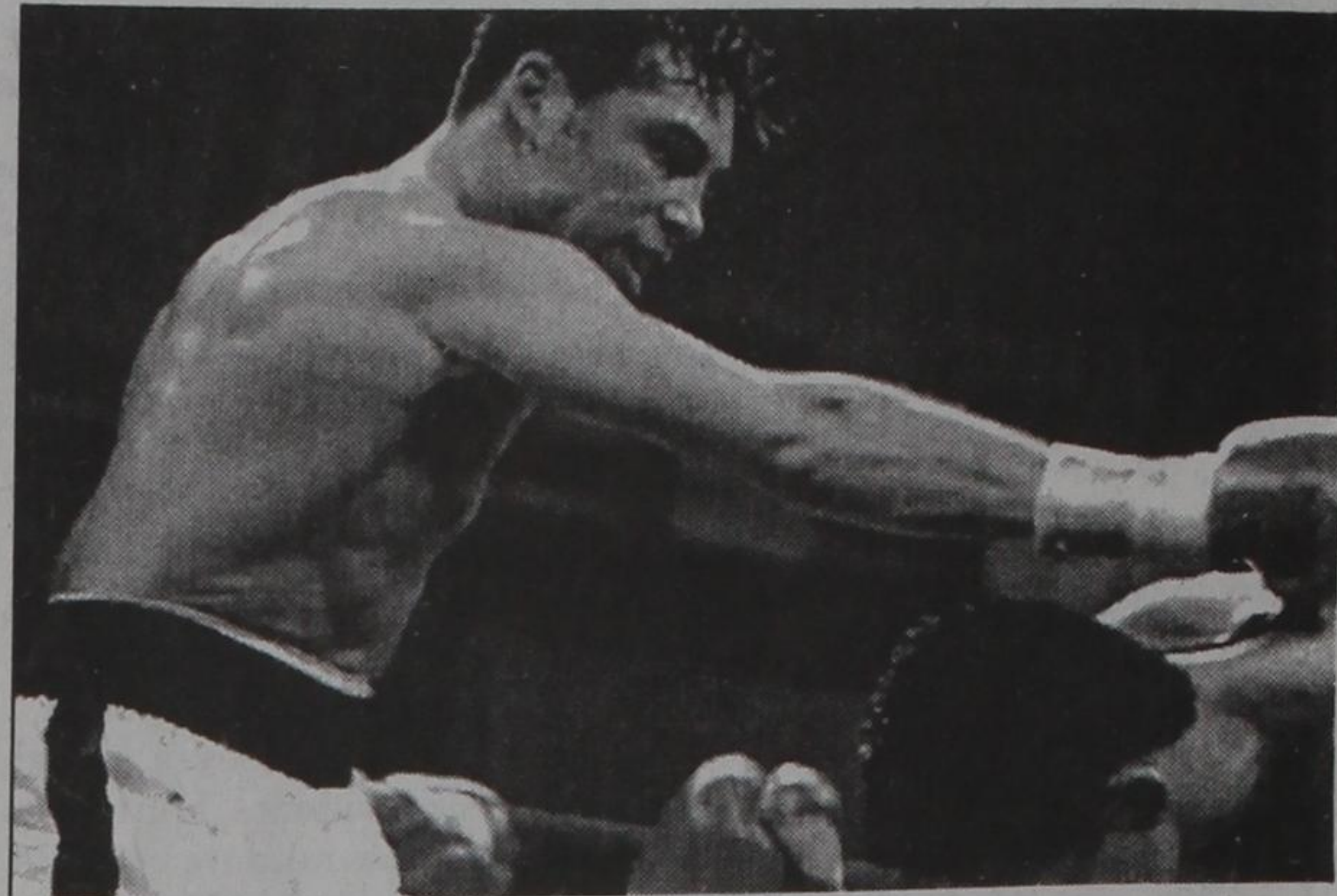
"He could end his career in most people's eyes as the best fighter who ever lived," said Gil Clancy, the trainer-turned-broadcaster who was brought in to help De La Hoya train for the fight. "What I see in Oscar is almost a perfect fighter. There has never been a perfect fighter, but Oscar has so much potential."

AFTER ONLY 28 FIGHTS, IT'S PROBABLY too early to be speculating on how De La Hoya eventually will be regarded. And, against an opponent who basically stood in front of him to hit, it's hard to judge just how good De La Hoya was in the ring Saturday night.

Proclamations of greatness will have to wait until De La Hoya fights the likes of fellow welterweight champions Felix Trinidad and Ike Quartey, or finishes his career with what he sees as an unprecedented seven titles in different weight classes.

But for one night, at least, even De La Hoya was almost giddy with his performance.

"I thought I was better than ever," De La Hoya said. "I had no problems out there. After I hurt him I knew the knockdown was coming."



The wrist injury that kept him out of the ring for six months was no problem as De La Hoya showed an array of punches in pummeling the hapless challenger almost at will.

From the opening bell, De La Hoya snapped Charpentier's head with jabs and dug into his body with left hooks. He used a left hook for the first knockdown, followed seconds later with a perfect uppercut that put Charpentier back on the canvas, then finished him with a right hand at 1:56 of the third round.

The befuddled Charpentier barely landed a punch.

"He didn't catch me with any solid punches whatsoever," De La Hoya said. "He caught me, I guess, with a few grazing left jabs that didn't do any damage."

THE WIN ADDED ANOTHER \$4 MILLION to a bankroll already swollen by \$33 million in earnings in 1997 alone. It also set up a Sept. 18

rematch with Chavez, who has irritated De La Hoya with his view of why he was stopped in the fourth round the first time the two fought two years ago.

In that fight, Chavez was cut over his eye and was taking a beating when the bout was finally stopped because he could not see.

"This time around with Chavez, it's something personal," De La Hoya said.

Still to come are possible fights with Trinidad, the IBF champion, and Quartey, who holds the WBA belt. At least some in boxing think De La Hoya has fought too many opponents past their prime and hasn't had to fight someone as strong as he is.

De La Hoya wants no part of that, claiming it is Trinidad and Quartey who are ducking him.

"I'm trying to create history by fighting the best champions in the world," he said. "I'm just waiting for them to sign a contract."



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Holyfield Plays Waiting Game After Akinwande Withdraws

NEW YORK -- Evander Holyfield just can't seem to keep his career plans on track.

Just when the heavyweight champion was about to dispose of Henry Akinwande and move on to the real business of fighting the likes of Lennox Lewis or even Mike Tyson, Holyfield finds himself all trained but with nowhere to go.

With Akinwande out with hepatitis B, Holyfield must now wait while he and his advisers put together another title defense, perhaps against lightly regarded Vaughn Bean, the IBF's No. 1 contender.

BUT, WITH THE CLOCK TICKING on his boxing career, Holyfield will waste valuable months while a new fight is made, promoted and finally held.

"Evander fights title fights and title fights need time to promote," said Holyfield's attorney Jim Thomas. "There's no option to putting something together quickly."

Holyfield hadn't wanted to fight Akinwande in the first place. But the challenger was the WBA's No. 1-ranked contender, and Holyfield took the fight to avoid the risk of being stripped of the belt he won from Tyson.



Evander Holyfield is looking for a new opponent now that Henry Akinwande is out of the picture.

He doesn't much want to fight Bean either, but that may be his next option as negotiations with WBC champion Lewis for a title unification fight have gone nowhere.

"The problem is Lewis is making himself unavailable," Thomas said.

BEFORE AKINWANDE WAS FORCED OUT of the fight Friday after the positive test to hepatitis B came out, Thomas had talked of Holyfield fighting Bean in November, possibly in his hometown of Atlanta, with a Lewis title unification fight in the spring.

"Nothing can derail the plan (to unify the title before retiring)," the 35-year-old Holyfield said. "It can only prolong it."

There still remains the slight possibility -- and experts say it is very remote -- that a second set of tests done on Akinwande on Friday will prove the first tests wrong. If that happens, promoters say they could scramble to hold the fight again within several weeks.

Assuming that doesn't happen, however, Holyfield figures to lose his 13 weeks of training for the fight and will

have to go back through the cycle again if a new fight is made.

THAT HAPPENED TO HOLYFIELD BEFORE, when he resumed training after Tyson pulled out of a 1991 bout with an injury, only to nearly get stopped by Bert Cooper in a hastily pulled together fight.

"I'm already in shape," said Holyfield, who was to earn \$10 million to fight Akinwande.

Holyfield, though, seemed relatively unfazed about the latest turn in events in a career that has seen its share of bizarre happenings.

He lost a chance at the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics when he was disqualified for knocking the silver medalist out with a late punch and had a fight interrupted when a paraglider came sailing into the ring ropes when he was fighting Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas.

AND, OF COURSE, HE WILL ALWAYS be remembered for losing part of his ear when Tyson bit him during their title rematch last year.

"I guess I'm the guy that things happen to," Holyfield said. "You just have to roll with the punches."

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NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING

RE: City of Lubbock/Citibus Section 5307 Capital, Technical Studies, and Operating Assistance Grant Application.

Notice is hereby given that an opportunity for a public hearing will be afforded, in the Citibus Conference Room, 801 Texas Avenue, on June 30, 1998 at 12:00 noon for the purpose of considering projects for which financial assistance is being sought from the Federal Transit Act of 1964, as amended. The financial assistance is as follows:

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT Program of Projects: this project will consist of the following: the purchase of 2 expansion vans and 1 replacement van for the Demand Response Service, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); the purchase of 8 replacement buses for the fixed route service: spare parts and preventive capital maintenance items which include engines, transmissions, tires, and other main components; various pieces of maintenance, administration, and operations equipment which include tools and computers; and the construction, purchase and procurement of bus pullouts and shelters.

This project is estimated at \$3,165,500. Of this, \$2,532,400 will be provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds, \$633,100 will be provided by local funds. This project is proposed to begin October 1, 1998 and be completed by March 31, 2000.

TECHNICAL STUDY GRANT Program of Projects: this project will consist of the following: training and travel for professional development; development of a five-year capital plan and five-year marketing plan; conducting short-range planning; and the purchase of office equipment, including computers.

This grant is estimated at \$80,000. Of this amount, \$64,000 will be provided by FTA Section 5307 funds and \$16,000 will be provided by the City of Lubbock. This project is proposed to begin October 1, 1998.

OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT Program of Projects: this project will consist of providing the transportation services in the Lubbock urbanized area, which are provided by City Transit Management, Inc., d/b/a Citibus and includes the following:

1) Providing the transportation services beginning October 1, 1998. This portion of the grant is estimated at \$3,700,000, of which \$1,700,000 will be provided by FTA Section 5307 funds, \$260,100 by the City of Lubbock, \$1,000,000 by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and \$739,900 by non-farebox revenues.

Interested persons or agencies may submit, orally or in writing, evidence and recommendations with respect before 11:00 a.m. June 30, 1998. The preliminary Program of Projects is available to the public at the Citibus offices, located at 801 Texas Avenue. The final projects will also be available to the public at the Citibus offices.

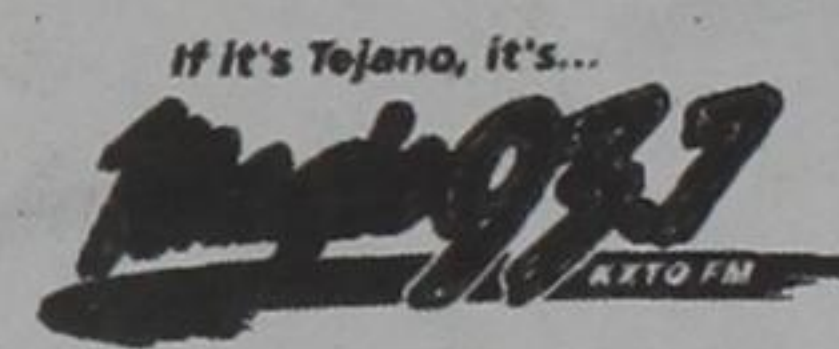
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