

La Migra (INS) Raid Report



A Socio-Economic Impact Study
Lane County, Oregon
December 1998



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A community based group



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U.S. \$10.00

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	
Portrait of Injustice.....	i
Social Impact.....	ii
Economic Impact.....	iii
Summary of Findings.....	iv
Recommendations.....	v

Introduction.....	1,2
-------------------	-----

Human Rights and INS Abuse.....	Section A
---------------------------------	-----------

Testimonies and Documented Cases.....	Section B
---------------------------------------	-----------

Statements of Impact and Concern from Community.....	Section C
--	-----------

Costs to Taxpayers of INS Raids.....	Section D
--------------------------------------	-----------

Newspaper Articles.....	Section E
-------------------------	-----------

Conclusion.....	Section F
-----------------	-----------

Acknowledgments

Executive Summary

The personal testimonies, letters and economic costs contained in this report clearly illustrate a need for improvement in the treatment of immigrants by immigration authorities. The recent deportations and unlawful detentions of workers, who were not a threat to the community, are a signal of gross negligence, unsound immigration laws and lack of accountability by INS agents who consider themselves above the law. This behavior by immigration authorities is a signal that the war-like mentality of current enforcement measures is reaping casualties not just among the first generation immigrant population, but among the second and third generations as well. The perception of the immigrant as "the enemy" and not as a human being has and will lead to increased levels of violence against future generations – immigrant or native born. For example, despite the INS' continued assurance of proper behavior and due process by INS agents, much evidence of injustice remains. The evaluation and assessment of the Migra raid events in Lane County from April 1997 to the present demonstrate many striking variances in the information provided by INS officials regarding their behavior during raids in contrast to claims made by detainees of abuses by INS agents. While the committee that put this report together lacks an investigative apparatus or authority, it nevertheless seeks to verify information by checking the versions of independent witnesses as well as by speaking directly to top INS officials. Whenever there are doubts as to the validity of an allegation, the case is not entered into our information bank.

Portrait of injustice

There is clear evidence that the INS and its agents attempt to break the spirit of detained workers. All workers, documented or undocumented, suffered a trauma at the hands of INS officers in collaboration with other Local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies. The following is a short list of the abuses immigrant workers suffered while in the custody of INS agents in Lane County:

- 1). While being detained, many workers were forced to sign Voluntary Deportation forms (not all of which are written in Spanish).
- 2). Some workers refused to sign voluntary deportation papers regardless of the intimidation tactics (constant yelling, long wait for bathroom use and handcuffs on tight) employed by INS agents to convince workers to voluntarily vacate the country.
- 3). While statements made by INS officials said that official manual procedures were followed, the workers who stood up for their rights while requesting a hearing were not released as they should have been. In fact, the workers claimed that the more one stood up for his/her rights the more severe the abuse from INS agents.
- 4). Detained workers, both men and women, reported being accused of selling drugs while being searched by INS agents.

The INS raid of May 13, 1998, was extremely swift and occurred during the early evening hours, continuing all through the night. The workers were kept in constant movement, while shackled on a bus, from one location to another with the heater on high causing nausea to many of the workers. Most men were not allowed to call family or friends. Many workers did not speak to family members until 33 hours later, when they made long distance calls from Juarez, Mexico, where they were left stranded without any resources.

In 1996, the government ratified immigration laws that perpetuate xenophobia and give sweeping power to those agencies enforcing immigration laws. The media assists in the process of xenophobia by distorting this extremely complex issue, inappropriately focusing on two main issues: narco-trafficking and undocumented workers.

Social Impact:

Social service agencies in Lane County were impacted by the INS raids. The following list of examples was obtained from the Commission on Children and Families, Centro LatinoAmericano, Adult and Family Services, Youth Intervention Network, Parent Partnership, Latino Organizations, and members of the clergy.

- Increased caseloads
- Increased need for emergency funds for housing, food, utilities, transportation
- Increased need for emotional support for families and their children
- Increased need to contact families that were separated from family members
- Increased need for emergency rental assistance in order to prevent families from becoming homeless, due to loss of family income
- Increased need for counseling for children and families that were traumatized by the INS raid
- Increased emotional support to Latino families that dealt with fear for their own family's safety, and grief over the loss of relatives endured by families who were directly affected by the INS raid

Economic Impact:

Business owners, managers, and co-workers were witness to the handcuffing of their friends and long-time employees, as INS agents worked through places of business. Many of those workers removed had been employed by those companies from three to eight years. One business reported that its loss included a particular group of individuals who had an outstanding work ethic and some of the best attendance records. Some businesses were requested by INS agents to give them access to all areas and employees immediately upon their arrival. If owners or managers hesitated, agents advised that warrants could be obtained and that all exits would remain surrounded until the warrants arrived. Employers, feeling intimidated, allowed access to the premises. They became shocked and outraged when they saw the manner in which the INS treated their employees. The loss of workers had a costly economic effect on these businesses.

In addition to the economic burden to the businesses of Lane County, the raids had direct and immediate costs to the taxpayers. The following list includes low end estimated costs to taxpayers for only the May 13, 1998, INS raids in Lane County:

• Administrative 38 agents at GS-09 rating for 33 hours	\$25,080
• Lodging 20 rooms at \$110.00 per day x 2 days at Rodeway Inn	\$4,400
• Per Diem 38 agents x \$36.00 per day for 3 days	\$4,104
• Armory Rental for 2 days	\$750
• Food cost for immigrants 78 immigrants x 2 meals at \$4.00 meal (according to INS)	\$624
• Flight cost for immigrants 66 immigrants flown from Eugene to El Paso, Texas 12 immigrants flown from Eugene to Arizona	\$31,800
Total Estimated Cost	\$66,758

ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INS RAIDS OF LANE COUNTY

- ◆ **General Administration and Overhead Expenses**
- ◆ **Advance Surveillance**
- ◆ **Use of Local, State and other Federal law enforcement agencies**
- ◆ **Cost of Flights for Agents flown in from Seattle, WA**
- ◆ **Travel Expenses for Agents used from Medford and Portland, OR**
- ◆ **Costs of Phone Usage**
- ◆ **Costs of Six to Eight Vans used to pick up Immigrants**
- ◆ **Costs of Two INS Owned Buses used to Hold and Transport Detainees**
- ◆ **Cost of Other Personnel at Armory (Security etc.)**
- ◆ **Transportation of Detainees by INS from El Paso, TX to Juarez, Mexico**
- ◆ **Transportation of Detainees by INS from Eloy, AZ to local bus stop**
- ◆ **Costs of Personnel at Detention Center in Eloy, AZ**
- ◆ **Costs of Hearings for those detained at Detention Center in Eloy, AZ
(including costs of Immigration Judges)**

Summary of findings

1. The occurrence of significant and serious human rights abuses and civil rights abuses during enforcement of immigration law has increased significantly in Lane County since April 1997. These abuses include:

- ♣ Psychological and verbal abuse (use of racial or ethnic insults, rude or abusive language, sexual harassment, threats or coercion, and prolonged or aggressive interrogation techniques, surrounding the airplane with riflemen and unnecessary display of firearms);
- ♣ Physical abuse (hitting, pushing, punching, inappropriate use of force including threats, injury during arrest, handcuffs applied too tight and kept on for several hours at a time, reckless treatment during transport);
- ♣ Denial of due process (denial of access to legal counsel, denial of access to telephone, failure to advise of legal rights, fabrication of evidence);
- ♣ Illegal or inappropriate seizure of person (illegal law enforcement raid; questioning based solely on ethnic appearance; arrest made without cause; unlawful deportation; deprivation of food; water and medical attention);
- ♣ Illegal or inappropriate searches (entry without warrant or consent, search without "reasonable suspicion");
- ♣ Seizure of personal belongings, money, or documents;
- ♣ Unlawful cooperation with local law enforcement agencies.

2. A key factor underlying recurrent abuse by immigration law enforcement officers is the absence of an effective system to review complaints and hold abusive officers accountable. There are numerous eyewitness reports by detainees which indicate FBI officers participated in INS raids in Lane County. The FBI is the Justice Department branch that investigates complaints filed against INS officers. This relationship does not provide confidence in accountability when complaints are filed.

3. New proposals in Congress may strip the INS of enforcement powers. Legislation may create a new bureau that will also function within the Justice Department. These proposed changes do not ensure that abuses will stop simply with a change in jurisdiction. It appears government officials only desire to expand the size, power, and scope of authority of immigration law enforcement. This could result in continuing violations of human and civil rights of Mexican or Latin American immigrants.

4. While effective and trustworthy accountability mechanisms are of extreme importance, no amount of regulatory activity will protect the integrity of immigrants without major changes in immigration policies and the laws that define international migration as a law enforcement issue and the international migrant as an intruder or threat to national security.

Above information obtained from tape recorded testimonies of detained workers and information from Congress obtained from Internet.

Recommendations

The information gathered during these investigations indicates the importance of taking stock of the socio-economic impact of INS raids in the communities of Lane County. It is important to bring information about this impact to individuals who have the ability to change the course of human experience within our communities. Community leaders and law makers need to address the issue of immigration policy and help change the present laws which are unsound, inhumane and harming our communities. It is imperative that U.S. Immigration policy improve to reflect established federal civil rights law and U.S. obligations under international human rights norms. The criminal sting operation tactics of immigration enforcement have led to gross violations of the rights of innocent human beings. We must work together to better the condition of communities and of our human experience in Lane County.

The following recommendations were generated by members of the Latino community and their allies during assemblies in Lane County:

- 1). Grant amnesty to undocumented workers in agricultural, private industrial and services based companies and/or corporations. Allow amnestied workers to begin the process of seeking permanent resident status.
- 2). Conduct Congressional Hearings on the socio-economic impact of raids throughout the nation.
- 3). Take the profit and danger out of cross border smuggling (workers currently pay "coyotes" \$1000-\$1,500 to cross the border) by making it easier for workers to obtain visas. Guarantee minimum wage coverage, workers' compensation, and other protections available under US labor law. Work visas should not be tied to a particular employer but controlled by the federal government for accurate census taking and accountability in treatment of workers by employers.
- 4). Redirect a major proportion of resources away from enforcement and toward immigration services, in order to reduce the waiting time currently endured by applicants for adjustments of status or citizenship.
- 5). End collusion of all law enforcement agencies at all levels with the INS in enforcement operations.
- 6). Mandate that the INS maintain and release public statistics on its enforcement operations, including demographic information and costs.
- 7). Investigate conduct of all officers involved in Lane County, Oregon raids and issue reprimands or other consequences as appropriate. Initiate education and sensitivity training for INS agents as well as local law enforcement officers who were involved in raids in Lane County and elsewhere.
- 8). **End the practice of immigrations raids.**

Introduction

The intent of this report is to reveal the socio-economic impact on communities in Lane County from raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), hereafter known as the "Migra." On April 27, 1997 at the Fircrest chicken factory in Creswell, Lane County experienced the first large Migra raid which detained 34 immigrant workers. These workers were not allowed to change from their bloodied work clothes and work boots when they were taken and left stranded in Juarez, Mexico without resources, food, or money. The second large Migra raid took place on March 12, 1998 in Eugene, Oregon at the Aramark Company. This Migra raid detained 23 workers. Most of the detained workers were women and mothers who were separated from children. The third and largest Migra raid in the history of Lane County took place on May 13, 1998.

The May 1998 Migra raid targeted businesses in Eugene, Santa Clara and Springfield, small Latino-owned businesses in Eugene/Springfield. The Migra detained workers during peak hours, as well as customers patronizing the small businesses. Homes were also raided with the aid of local police officers. This last Migra raid detained more than 78 immigrant workers. The May 13, 1998 raid was deeply felt throughout Lane County and was the most abusive as reported by both male and female immigrant workers. It is important to note that numerous law enforcement agencies (INS agents, FBI agents, State Police, Eugene and Springfield Police, and US Marshals) apparently were involved in the raids in Lane County. There appear to be no adequate guidelines in the use of proper force or proper procedures, or accountability for INS agents as to how detained workers are to be treated. Guidelines for the proper use of force and proper procedure do not appear to be followed, and INS agents do not seem to be held accountable for how detained workers are treated. State law prohibiting collaboration with the INS by State and local law enforcement agencies when the only crime is a status crime has been violated as well. Although each raid demonstrated different operational methods by the INS the detained workers in each raid reported similar, serious abuses during the deportation process.

Social Impact:

The social impact of the Migra raids reaches far beyond those detained and their families. It affects the entire community of Lane County. Many of the workers detained are fathers and mothers who have children born in the United States and currently enrolled in schools. The majority of the workers had an average of 3 to 8 years working at the companies where they were detained. The social impact is deeply felt not only by people in the Latino community but also by many businesses, concerned Anglo social service workers, activists, and Latino professionals dealing with the aftermath of these Migra raids. Many Latino workers who are documented or undocumented in Lane County do not work for several days after a Migra raid. The reason Latino workers are absent from work is due to the fear brought into the community by the extremely abusive and irrational raids. On several occasions many workers with legal documentation have been treated by INS agents as if they were undocumented workers. There is evidence, for example, that documented workers on occasion were detained, and then released after they were transported hours away from their homes and left without assistance or return transportation. Recreational activities were also affected in Lane County. The Latino soccer leagues were cancelled and did not have games for over two weeks.

Mental Health Impact:

Children are pulled from school out of fear by their parents and the presence of the INS in the community. This fear is internalized by the families and their children. This, in turn, creates mental health problems. For example, some women required immediate medical attention after the May 1998 raid. There was a need for counseling for women and children in trauma who had to readjust and cope with the loss of a loved one and/or a main financial supporter. Many documented and undocumented workers when hearing rumors of the Migra raids develop emotional and mental health problems. They are often fearful of leaving their homes. Social service workers spend hours visiting families, providing food, counseling and addressing the immediate emergencies of families that did not require services from concerned individuals or social service agencies prior to the Migra raids. All of these services cost money that must be born by both the victims of the Migra raids and by the organizations that provide the services. The impact of Migra raids hurts the communities both socially and economically. Recreational activities (Latino soccer league games) were canceled, thus jeopardizing the mental well being of legal residents in Lane County.

Economic Impact:

The economic impact of the Migra raids is severe both to taxpayers and to the local businesses affected. The workers own automobiles, homes and have bank accounts. The workers contribute to the economy in various ways, paying State and Federal taxes, and rent, and buying clothes and food. Many of the undocumented workers also contribute to the Social Security trust fund during their stay. However, undocumented workers do not collect any of those monies. The workers who were detained lost their salaries and purchasing power, while their families were placed in extreme financial hardship.

Estimates of the direct costs to conduct such raids also are included in this report, as is the economic impact in other areas of our communities. The average costs listed in this report are computed using conservative cost estimates. It is important to be aware of the high costs of these Migra raids. The economic impact not only affects the detained workers and families who are deported but also affects documented workers as well since they become fearful of going to work – knowing they might be subject to such abuse. The businesses are affected by: 1) loss of income; 2) loss of workers, and costs of retaining new workers; 3) absentee workers. When children do not go to school the schools in turn lose state funds due to pupil absence. Social service workers who are aware of the social and economic impact do their best to provide services to affected families who were managing with limited resources, and who prior to loss of family members had not been seeking social services. These affected family members are forced to seek help from agencies once the detained workers are no longer able to provide for their families. Latino workers in professions other than social service find themselves swept into providing assistance while becoming overwhelmed with work outside the scope of their employment.

The INS' historical concentration of enforcement measures disproportionately affects people of Mexican origin or descent. Mexicans or those assumed to be Mexican clearly are targeted in Migra raids of Lane County.

Section A:

Patterns of Abuse by La Migra in Lane County

The major findings about immigration law enforcement in Lane County come from information obtained by community groups and through tape recorded interviews. The information contained in this report undoubtedly represents only a fraction of the actual number of violations. Obstacles that impede more thorough reporting of abuses are the following:

- ♣ Fear of retaliation in the form of deportation, denial of immigration benefits, or criminal charges;
- ♣ Lack of awareness of one's rights;
- ♣ Complicated, seemingly futile complaint process;
- ♣ Concern for even more urgent issues of survival;
- ♣ A feeling among victims that they "lack status" in relation to INS agents;
- ♣ Embarrassment or humiliation over becoming a victim of abuse. The undocumented workers feel the victimization was provoked by themselves and they deserved the mistreatment they received because of their illegal status;
- ♣ Increased fear and misinformation in the community regarding Migra operations and the significance of the ever changing immigration laws. Rumors run rampant in Lane County that INS agents are pulling people out of their homes and deporting them even if they are here legally. This climate of fear drives people, including abuse victims, further underground for months following Migra operations.

Due to the aforementioned problems, this report perhaps understates the magnitude and scope of the problem of abuse in the enforcement of immigration law. It does, however, clearly demonstrate its seriousness. The INS agents use fear as a tool to intimidate business owners by threatening to enforce the law to the maximum against the business owners if agents are not granted verbal permission necessary to enter and search the work site. The INS is successfully using intimidation while accompanied by police or other law enforcement agencies that participate in these hostile operations and enter businesses or homes without warrants. The INS detains undocumented workers once they are granted verbal permission by business owners who are misinformed about having the right to deny entry without a search warrant.

While the committee that put this report together lacks an investigative apparatus or authority, it nevertheless seeks to verify information by checking the versions of independent witnesses as well as by speaking directly to top INS officials. Whenever there are doubts as to the validity of an allegation, the case is not entered into our information bank.

- **Information obtained from tape recorded interviews of detained workers.**

What are Rights?

Rights are our powers to freely determine how we live. International human rights law and the U.S. Constitution should protect all of us, no matter our immigration status, from those who wish to deny us our freedom through deprivation, exploitation, oppression, persecution, or mistreatment.

Excerpts of Universal Human Rights Articles

Article # 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article # 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article # 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article # 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his/her rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him/her.

Article # 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article # 13

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Above information taken from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

What is abuse of authority?

Abuse of authority is any action by a law enforcement officer that, without regard to motive, threatens personal safety, trespasses on human dignity, or violates an inherent legal right. Abuse of authority occurs when an officer of any law enforcement agency violates our rights while enforcing the law. Abuse of authority is a crime.

Examples of abuses in Lane County:

Psychological or verbal abuse:

- ♣ Use of racial or ethnic insults (calling someone a “wetback”);
- ♣ Use of rude or abusive language (yelling or swearing);
- ♣ Use of threats or coercion;
- ♣ Sexual harassment;

Physical abuse:

- ♣ Use of excessive force (hitting, kicking, pushing);
- ♣ Inappropriate use of firearm (drawing weapon or firing in non-life threatening situations);
- ♣ Injury in pursuit or arrest situation (tackling or throwing an individual to the ground, applying handcuffs extremely tight);
- ♣ Reckless or dangerous treatment in transportation;

Denial of due process rights:

- ♣ Denial of access to telephone;
- ♣ Denial of access to legal counsel;
- ♣ Failure to provide accurate list of legal service providers;
- ♣ Failure to advise of legal rights;
- ♣ Denial of right to hearing before immigration judge;

Examples of abuse continued

Illegal or inappropriate seizure of person:

- ♣ Questioning solely based on ethnic appearance;
- ♣ False arrest (an arrest made without cause);
- ♣ Unlawful detention of person;
- ♣ Unlawful deportation;
- ♣ Deprivation of food, water, or medical attention;

Illegal or inappropriate searches:

- ♣ Illegal law enforcement raid (a raid in which all exits in a building are sealed or blocked off);
- ♣ Entry without warrant or consent;
- ♣ Overzealous execution of search warrant;

Unlawful seizure or destruction of property:

- ♣ Unlawful seizure of documents, personal items, or vehicle;
- ♣ Intentional destruction of property.

- **Some information obtained and format followed from the Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project of Rio Grande Valley.**
- **Information of worker abuses was obtained from taped interviews of detained workers in Lane County.**

Section B:

Testimonies

Testimony of six men detained by La Migra (INS) in Eugene, Oregon, May 13, 1998. One Latino initially detained at the work site had legal documentation and was later released. Two other Latinos who requested a court hearing were detained and transported to Eloi, Arizona. Three Latinos signed voluntary deportation papers but initially made a request for a hearing. The workers said they were intimidated by the INS agents. The workers were told by agents they would be detained for several months before having a hearing and by signing the voluntary deportation papers they would be free the next day. The workers who signed deportation papers signed out of fear of being held in jail indefinitely and eventually were deported to Juarez, Mexico. These men had families living and working in the community for an average mean of 4 to 10 years and were not a threat to the community.

What happened on May 13, 1998 at 4:30 p.m. while you were working? First, two men dressed in civilian clothes entered the work site and went to the manager's office. When the two men in civilian clothes

came out of the office we began to see more men dressed in long black jackets enter the building very quickly from outside. The men in black jackets had guns and the jackets had bold letters on the back. Some

from INS Employee Handbook (M-68, Rev.1981N):

***RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALIENS: "An arrogant or unpleasant manner in official relationships will not be tolerated. Aliens are entitled to certain rights, among which is the right to courteous, considerate treatment by officers of this Service. No remarks of a sarcastic or 'kidding' nature should ever be made to an alien about his name, his nationality, his race, his religion, his economic condition, his dress, etc. Such remarks may result in disciplinary action against the employee involved. A pleasant conversational tone of voice should be used."* (pp. 6-7)**

jackets read FBI, INS Border Patrol and POLICE. The two men along with the manager approached a worker and requested his identification and green card. The worker said it was in the car. Another

"The agents always yelled at us like they were very mad and would not allow us or the women to go to the bathroom. We sat on the floor for hours and many were suffering from not being able to go to the bathroom."

worker yelled to everyone it was La Migra (INS). It was at this point that we realized what we were in for and why the men with guns were there. The agents took the

worker to his vehicle and once he presented the documents to the agents they released him.

What happened after being released? What did you do? I went back inside the company and started to give other workers their jackets and get their car keys from them. The INS agents then stopped me and told me to go home. I left the building and went home. I then made calls to my co-workers' family members to tell them what happened.

Did the INS agents mistreat the workers in front of the manager? The only thing that was painful for us was being handcuffed at work and the agents putting the handcuffs on very tight. The agents told us to shut up and not say anything. The agents took us to white vans parked outside the building and pushed us in along with the women. The women had a hard time getting in the high vans since our feet were chained and it was hard to walk. There were police cars surrounding the building and police officers standing around looking at us and smiling.

During this event at the company did any of the agents mistreat the workers in any manner? The only thing that we thought was abusive inside the company was telling us to shut up and that

from a section captioned

“HUMANIZING IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAWS”:

“Deportation should be effected with as much consideration and humane treatment as possible. In such cases, under proper safeguards, the deportee should be permitted to say goodbye to his relatives and to collect the wages due him, and should be given any other reasonable assistance. He should be permitted to collect his personal belongings and to take them with him... Adequate care must always be taken to insure that property held in custody of this Service is properly safeguarded against loss, theft, etc., and that it is delivered to the alien when he is deported from the United States, or released from custody.” (p. 8)

we had no rights. The other thing that was abusive was putting the handcuffs on tight on our wrists and ankles. When we were getting in the white vans the agents rushed us in and some women hurt themselves. Some agents also mocked and ridiculed the workers who had legal documents, were released and instructed

to go home. All workers were searched for drugs and agents accused many of us of selling drugs. One woman stood up to the agents who were mocking workers who were released and driving out of the parking lot. She said very angrily to stop making fun of the workers, since one of the workers was her husband.

When the white vans left the company parking lot the abusive behavior began. The agent driving was a white male and he said,

“If they need to take us, why do they abuse us? They should let us call our home or change our clothes when they pick us up. We are not criminals wanting to hurt anybody, we just want to work and help our families. The agents do not have to treat us like animals, verbally abuse us and call us drug dealers.”

“It’s time to check the brakes.” The agent drove very fast and then slammed on the brakes. The workers sitting in the front seat by the metal screen that separates the driver from the workers smashed their faces against it. The driver did this abusive speeding and stopping several times. The painful thing about this abuse was the handcuffs getting tighter and tighter every time we slammed back and forth. One worker yelled at the driver to stop treating us like animals and the driver laughed and said, “Shut up, you people have no rights.”

When you arrived at the Armory what happened? The agents took us to the Armory around 5:00 p.m. They made us sit down in a big room on the floor. Some workers remained handcuffed and others had their handcuffs released. Everyone was complaining about the handcuffs being

on too tight. The agents always yelled at us like they were very mad and would not allow us or the women to go to the bathroom. We sat on the floor for hours and many were suffering from not being able to go to the bathroom. The agents finally allowed the workers to go to the bathroom but it was done by handcuffing three people at one time. The same was done with the women. The embarrassing thing was trying to go to the toilet with two other people and the middle person could not clean himself. The women were not allowed to close the bathroom door and the agents could see inside.

What else did you see at the Armory? What do you think was abusive? Well, we do not know why we had to be detained for

so many hours sitting on a hard floor while some workers were handcuffed and others were not. All the workers who were handcuffed complained a lot about the handcuffs being on

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PUBLIC:

“Every member of the public is entitled, as an absolute right, to courteous, fair, impartial, and sympathetic treatment from every employee of this Service.” (p.11)

too tight. The agents also yelled at us every time they spoke to us. The workers were not allowed to speak to each other. If we talked the agents would approach us, make us stand, yell at us and separate us. The agents constantly told us we had no rights and to shut up. We were forced to sit on the hard wood floor until 10:00 p.m. During this time from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. agents would come

“The agents finally allowed the workers to go to the bathroom, but it was done by handcuffing three people at one time. The same was done with the women. The embarrassing thing was trying to go to the toilet with two other people and the middle person could not clean himself. The women were not allowed to close the bathroom door, and the agents could see inside.”

in and take workers one by one for questioning. At one point the agents had everyone take off their belts, shoelaces, wallets, jewelry, keys and watches. The agents later returned

and gave the workers only their wallets back only. Many workers complained that money was missing from their wallet when it was returned. One elderly man became furious because he had \$300 in his wallet. The agents came in and after a while produced the \$300 for the worker.

What did the agents say when they took each worker away one by one for questioning?

When they took us one by one the agents would ask many questions. They questioned us in a loud and angry tone. The agents wanted our phone number and address. The agents would say they wanted to notify our family and that if we wanted they could pick them up. The agents gave us a paper to sign immediately but many of us questioned the agents about this paper and refused to sign it. The agents would tell us that we could be released sooner if we signed it and they would take us across the border. Two of us requested a court hearing and the agents tried to intimidate us and yell louder saying we had no rights and that we would be locked up in jail from 4 to 5 months if we wanted a court hearing. The agents insisted we sign the voluntary deportation papers. Two workers signed out of fear and did not know what they were signing. The agents also told us we could be released if we gave them \$5,000. We insisted the agents let us call our home but we were never allowed a call. The agents kept saying they would call for us. Two workers made a request for court hearings but finally signed the voluntary deportation papers because they did not want to

be put in a jail for 4 to 5 months. Both these workers had wives and children and could not afford to be in jail for so many months. We signed voluntary deportation papers to be released sooner and not suffer abuses. Two other workers did not sign voluntary deportations and were adamant about getting a court hearing. Both these workers also had families and many years working for the company. We did not want to leave our families and did want to know our rights about a court

section captioned "USE OF FORCE AND 'THIRD DEGREE METHODS'":
"The use of physical force or violence in handling detained aliens or other persons with whom official business is being conducted is permissible only in self-defense, in defense of another person, or to such an extent as is absolutely necessary... Abuse of aliens is not permitted." (p.11)

hearing. We were subjected to a lot of verbal abuse and intimidation for making this request for a court hearing. We were then

taken on a plane from Eugene, Oregon and jailed in Eloi, Arizona. We were very concerned because we had requested a court hearing and were taken to another state. We wanted to stay in Oregon near our families.

What happened at 10:00 p.m. when the agents put all the workers on a bus? The agents had us stand up from the floor and we were then handcuffed and shackled. We were then taken to a white bus and the handcuffs were removed inside. The workers that had the handcuffs on inside the Armory were not released in the bus like most of us. We stopped in Albany around 11:30 p.m. and many work-

ers began complaining of hunger. Many had not eaten anything since noon during lunch. The bus driver pulled into a parking lot and we were given half a

"The agent driving was a white male and he said, 'It's time to check the brakes.' The agent drove very fast and then slammed on the brakes. The workers sitting in front by the metal screen that separates the driver from the workers smashed their faces against it. The driver did this abusive speeding and stopping several times. The painful thing about this abuse was the handcuffs getting tighter and tighter every time we slammed back and forth. One worker yelled at the driver to stop treating us like animals and the driver laughed and said, 'Shut up, you people have no rights.'"

sandwich and a glass of water. The women fed the workers that were handcuffed. The agents told us that we each would get only half a sandwich and if anyone took more than one piece, other workers with us would not eat. When we finished eating the bus driver drove on the freeway again and we thought we were going to Portland. When the bus stopped we found out we were back in Eugene in front of the Armory. We were kept in the bus all night long and not allowed to get off. It was very hot inside the bus and the heater was on.

The bus came back to Eugene from Albany and they kept you in the bus from 10:00 p.m. until what time? Well, the bus came back to Eugene around 2:00 a.m. The workers that were handcuffed were complaining a lot about pain and were handcuffed since 5:00 p.m. the day before. We were not allowed off the bus and there was a bathroom on the back of the bus but no paper to clean ourselves with. We felt very bad for the women. Some of them were crying all night long. One lady was on her cycle and was having a very difficult time. The agents kept us on the bus until 9:00 a.m. Then they took us to the Eugene airport.

What happened when you got to the airport? We arrived at the airport at 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, May 14, 1998. The agents put the handcuffs on and shackles on our feet. It was a very difficult night being in the bus all those hours and especially for those workers who were handcuffed since being picked up at work. When we came out of the bus to board the plane the airplane was

surrounded with agents carrying rifles and shot-

“The needless display of firearms is not authorized and may serve as a basis for disciplinary action against the officer.” (p.5)

guns. We felt like it was a movie or a dream because we were being treated like dangerous criminals wanting to escape. The INS agents outside the airplane told us that the officers inside the airplane were US Marshalls and they were more severe in punishing if we did not do exactly what the US Marshalls would tell us to do. All workers were kept in the airplane with the handcuffs on and shackles on our feet. We were not released even to go to the bathroom. The women still crying had children that were US citizens being deported. We felt bad to hear the children ask their mothers why they were doing this to us.

What happened during the flight? Where did you go? The agents did not tell us where we were going. We thought we were flying to Portland. We figured it was Portland since many on the plane had requested a court hearing. During the flight we were not released. We were handcuffed by our waist and with foot shackles. We were told to put on our seatbelts and had trouble doing this handcuffed. We were served another half sandwich and a glass of water. A woman brought the tray down to eat and a U.S. Marshall slammed the tray up and yelled at the woman and everyone else not to bring the tray down. The workers had trouble eating. The sandwich was placed on our lap and a cup of water between our knees. We all ate as best we could. Some requested to go to the bathroom and had a lot of difficulty with the handcuffs by our waist. Some workers were not able to go and nearly soiled themselves. Many workers were handcuffed since being picked up at work Wednesday, May 13, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. These workers and the rest of us were not released

“We arrived at the airport at 9:30 or 10:00 am on Thursday morning, May 14, 1998. The agents put the handcuffs on and shackles on our feet... When we came out of the bus to board the plane, the airplane was surrounded with agents carrying rifles and shotguns. We felt like it was a movie or a dream because we were being treated like dangerous criminals wanting to escape.”

from our handcuffs until arriving at Juarez, Mexico. The whole experience took over 20 hours. We felt really bad for the women and the children. The worst part was seeing the women crying and the children asking where

we were going. Seeing ourselves under these conditions was very painful and a lasting trauma. We did not deserve to be treated this way.

What would you like to say to the INS agents if you had the opportunity? We think that it is the Mexican American INS agents who are the most abusive. Why do they mistreat us? We know we are working without a legal document but what can we do? All we want to do is work. If they need to take us away why do they abuse us and treat us like animals? They should let us call our home or change our clothes when they pick us up. We are not criminals wanting to hurt anybody, we just want to work and help our families. The agents do not have to treat us like animals, verbally abuse us and call us drug dealers. We should be treated with more respect. We are only working and work really hard. The companies want us.

CASE NO. 1

Country of Origin: Mexico

The husband of this woman is a legal resident since 1990. She applied for an I-130. Priority date: October 14, 1993.

Woman reported that while working immigration agents arrived Wednesday, May 13, at 4:30 p.m. We were working, suddenly the whole business was surrounded. There were 15 immigration officers. They came and handcuffed us. Also they handcuffed a legal resident woman and did not give

From the INS Employee Handbook, section captioned "APPROVED TECHNIQUES FOR QUESTIONING ALIENS": "Avoid questioning of women on personal matters in the presence of others when it is likely to cause embarrassment, either to her or to anyone else present." (p. 10)

her an opportunity to show her papers. One of the migra women checked us really good. Then she grabbed my bra, "You have something there," and I said, No, I do not have anything. This is my

bra, stop touching." I told the agents, "Do you want me to take my bra off?" Then they said several things in English and started laughing.

My sister was also handcuffed. When she was going into the car, she tried to grab on with her hands but could not and bumped her head really hard on the door. They saw this happen and they pushed her in anyway. They were really mad with me especially because I was outspoken by telling them that we were not animals. My sister had a Mandil (apron) on and it was very dirty. I told her to take it off. They did not want for her to take it off. I told them that we were not animals, do not treat us bad. They told us we were violating the law. I don't know how to read so I don't know the names on the tags. The agents who treated us this way were the female officer and a Mexican

American agent. They told us to shut up, because we were violating the law, we were illegal and we did not have the right to speak. They took us to the armory and they told us to sit down on the floor. Several of us

"One of the migra women checked us really good. Then she grabbed my bra, 'You have something there,' and I said, 'No, I do not have anything, this is my bra, stop touching.' I told them, 'Do you want me to take my bra off?' Then they said several things in English and started laughing."

were all wet. They said, "I do not care, you sit down." Some of the employees were planting and the other were regando (watering). They made us sit on the floor. Some wanted to go to the bathroom. So they took us. A girl wanted to go to the bathroom and they took her but did not let her close the door. She just sat there and the agents stared.

I told them I had my application with the INS in process. "I am using my real name, I am not lying," I told him. "Please help me. I want to fight my case." The agent said, "Let us see if we can do this." Another migra agent checked my papers. He said, "The only you have a right to do is to go to jail." He said I needed to pay \$5000. immediately. Another migra agent told me, "If you have \$5000. cash tell your husband to bring it today, and we will let you go." I said, "I don't have anything." They said, "Then you will go to jail." The agent again said, "Call your husband and tell him to bring the

money, and we will let you go." I told him that I did not know how to read or write so I gave him my phone number. The agent made the call but my husband was not there. My friend and I had a similar case and the INS agents decided to separate us from the group.

Then later they sent us back with the group. They took us one by one on the bus, I do not know where we were. They gave us a sandwich, and a small juice. They were on their way to Medford, Oregon, filled the bus with gas and then came back to Eugene.

Both my friend and I had the same case, a filed I-130 with the INS. Another female INS agent checked our papers and finally made us sign pa-

pers for a court hearing. She then said we were going to be released. The migra agent who was really mean with us processed our papers. He said in a very sarcastic tone, "This one you won."

COURTESY: "The Service takes the realistic view that courtesy is necessary in our activities and is almost as much a job requirement as any other. It is your duty to be considerate and polite to the public at all times." (p.12)

A detained worker said: "Ya ves senora, no deben de contestar, no deben de decir nada, ya ves ya salio libre." ("You see, you shouldn't be answering them back, you shouldn't be saying anything. You see, she's been released.") We called our friend to come and pick us up. They said that we were going to receive a date to go to court.

I saw many other things:

There were several children. One woman was crying and crying. They would not give her anything. She cried herself to sleep. A migra man searched us and put all our belongings, purses and

"I told them that we were not animals, do not treat us bad. They told us we were violating the law (the woman and one Tejano man)...They told us to shut up, because we were violating the law, we were illegal, and we did not have the right to speak."

wallets in a bag. They took everything out and put it in a bag. In the bus a man complained to the female INS officer that he had more money in his wallet. He told them, "Where is my money? Why do you only return a portion of my money?" The migra officer

told him, "You shut up and sit down and don't say anything." The man later told us that the INS agents stole some money from him. There were two men that were handcuffed together. When they went to the bathroom they did not take their handcuffs off. They had to go together to the bathroom. It was sad to see how embarrassed they were.

CASE NO. 4

Country of origin: Mexico

This man had just arrived to work and was apprehended.

When I went to work I did not know the INS was there, I did not run, they came from behind and they handcuffed me. Later I told the agent that I had been working in the U.S. for 10 years. He said the laws had changed. I told him I had a family. He said if I wanted they could bring my girls over here. I told him no, because my girls were born here in the U.S. The agents said, "If you have

From the INS Employee Handbook:

- Workers are given the option of requesting a hearing or a voluntary deportation.***
 - We do not and are not allowed by law to request any money during the operation.***
-

\$5000. you can go now." I told him I did not have that kind of money, that I wanted to speak to a lawyer. They said that they could give me a lawyer, but that I would be in prison first for 3 to 5

months or until the judge will see you. They said, it is really not to your convenience. I got really scared, so I signed my voluntary deportation. I did not like that they handcuffed us. They also went into the homes and took children out of the apartment building. There were several children. The migra agents were Mexican Americans and were discriminating. We were on the bus since 3:00 am and the bus went round and round. They took us on the bus to the Eugene airport. It was really hot, the TV cameras were there, but the INS did not allow them to tape. The agents had weapons, they were threatening us, what could we do? We were not going to hurt them. I think they were police, but were not using the uniform. The shirts said POLICE, it did not say MIGRA.

We spent the night on the bus, they only took us to the Armory, just for a little bit. They just took our information. I tried to tell a migra agent that I wanted to phone my

"There were several that did not sign voluntary deportation, but they (the Migra agents) were really threatening. They said they needed \$5,000 for a bond. They do not give you time to think about the options that you have as a migrant

family, they did not allow me. There were cars even from Washington State. There were about 28 people, there was a worker that really got hurt, he was bleeding. There were several workers that did not sign voluntary deportation papers. The agents were really angry and threatening toward these workers for not signing. They said they needed \$5000. for a bond. They do not give you time to think about the options that you have as a migrant worker. What shocked me was the treatment they gave the children. People wanted to go to the bathroom, they would not let them go when the people wanted, they took them when the Migra wanted. I did not go to the bathroom because they just stood there and looked at me when I requested to go. There were about 5 people who were very sick. There was woman crying because she had to take her daughter who was 6 years old and had to experience these events. The lady told me they were pushing her really hard, she told them that they should not treat her like that. The agent said, "I don't care, just sit down." When we got to the border, the agents said, "Garbage, go back were you belong." They pushed me and I said, "Why are you doing this?" At the armory they had a map of all the doors of the business we worked at, they had everything planned. I saw and I think the police knew what was happening.

CASE NO. 6
A Springfield Family Deported

My husband and I were just arriving from our jobs. My husband got out of the car, then we saw several people running. I did not see the man, then the people started screaming, "The Migra, they are after us, run, the Migra is after us." I then saw this young man running towards us. I grabbed my daughter and we ran to our apartment. We went inside and closed the door. We were afraid, then with the commotion, I looked, turned around, and there was the man in our apartment. I asked him, "Who are you?" He said, "I am the man the migra was following." I told him, "You are going to cause us a lot of trouble, you just gave us all in." He said, "I just want to save myself." I told him, "I

Statement by INS officials:

"Workers are treated with respect and are not yelled at."

do understand that but you just gave us all in. I saw the white car that was following you." My husband said, "I saw it, too." We had been waiting for 15 minutes, we did not hear anything, Then he said, "Let's go," so I opened the door. One of them was spying on us, they were in the front house. I told them, "They are still here, they are in the car, they are sitting in the white car." Another car came, it was so quick, they had white cars, they were normal, more came. I told him they are going to take us. Then they knocked at the door, they said they were the police. Then they knocked again and said they were the police. We were so afraid, then we all went into the room. My husband said, "I will turn myself in." I told him, "Don't, they are going to take us all, don't go, please don't go." Then they went to get the manager. The manager opened the door and then they came in. The migra asked, "Who is Mrs.Gonzales?" so I came out. I told them, " I am Mrs.Gonzales." Then they grabbed the young man, and took him and pushed him out of the apartment. They took him immediately, they did not ask for any explanation. Then they were really mad, and started screaming at us, "Why didn't you open the door, didn't you hear that we are the police?" My husband told them, "Why should we open the door for you, you do not have a police uniform." [The migra said] "You were hearing us tell you that we are the police , you should have opened the door." The guy was speaking to us in Spanish, they were Mexicans just like us. Dark

"They took them (the children) to the bathroom, with the door open, they would pull the pants down. Then we arrived at Ciudad Juarez, and they treated us very bad, telling us horrible things. They told us to kneel down, dogs."

skin, all of them. I told them we could not open the door. [They said] "Well, I told you to open." They told the young man, "A ti te tenemos coraje"

("We're angry at you). Take him away. We are the migra, do you have papers?" I said no. "Does the little girl?" I told them she was a U.S. citizen. Then they told us, "Let's see what I can do for you." But I don't know if they really called. "All of you are going to go." They escorted us downstairs and put us in the van. They took us to the armory, 5:30 to 11:00 p.m. we were there. They took our fingerprints and information. They sat us down on the floor, they were pushing us down, "You sit here, and don't get up!" They would push us down, then all that time. Then they put us in the bus. It was really hot. There was my little girl, sleeping on the floor. We put a coat under her so she would be more comfortable. All night, we could not sleep. They did not put handcuffs on me because of my little girl. But everyone in the bus had handcuffs on. There was a lady who was crying, she would tell them, "Please take them off, the one on my ankle is hurting." They did not

listen. She was crying so much. The next day about 10:00 or 11:00 we were there a long time. Then there were police with guns, all over—we were very scared. They sat me and my daughter in front. My daughter was crying and crying, because she wanted to sit with her dad, she was missing her dad. They said, "We cannot sit her with her father." I told them, "Please, she just needs to see her father." They let her cry, she cried for 40 minutes. Then they told me, "Shut her up, she is going to die of a heart attack, woman, control your child." Then they moved her, and she felt better. Then they took them to the bathroom, with the door open, they would pull the pants down. Then we arrived at Ciudad Juarez, and they treated us very bad, telling us horrible things. They told us to kneel down, dogs. Then, in Ciudad Juarez, we stayed there, we stayed in a hotel. We slept, then the following day, we were there waiting for my brother to send me some money. We went to Nogales, my poor child was suffering. A family member came to pick up our child. We had to separate for three days.

Statements/Contradictions

La Migra

- I. Workers are treated with respect and are not yelled at.
- II. Workers are given the option of requesting a hearing or a voluntary deportation.
- III. We do not raid homes. We must have search warrants of all homes we enter to detain undocumented aliens.
- IV. We allow the detained workers to telephone throughout the operation.
- V. We do not and are not allowed by law to request any money during the operation.
- VI. All INS officers are highly trained and treat everyone with respect. We interview every individual to get information from them to see how long they have lived in the USA and if they have any economic interests that would allow them to have a hearing for reviewing their case.
- VII. All detained workers are transported with respect and safety.

Workers

- I. *We were yelled at throughout the whole experience and when standing up for our rights we were yelled at even more.*
- II. *We requested a hearing. This caused agents anger, and they began yelling at us more, saying we had no rights. They repeatedly told us it was better to sign voluntary deportation papers and make it easier on us and them.*
- III. *They banged on our doors really hard and yelled in a very angry tone, "Open the door! We are the police!" We never saw any warrants.*
- IV. *We were not allowed to call our families. We were only told to give agents our phone number and address.*
- V. *We were told we could get a hearing if we paid a \$5000 bond immediately.*
- VI. *The agents would ask us questions always with very loud, angry, impatient voices. They would write false statements on documents. The agents wrote wrong information on the documents. We would say we lived in the USA for eight yers and they would write two years.*
- VII. *We were treated like animals. The driver would speed up and slam on the brakes. The workers sitting in front hit their faces on the wire mesh.*

* INS information from a meeting with INS officials in Eugene, Oregon on July 27, 1998.
Worker information from direct testimonies.

Section C:

The Impact of INS Raids on Lane County Schools

The following information was collected through interviews with school staff who work closely with Latino families in four different school districts in the area: Eugene 4J, Springfield, Bethel, and South Lane.

After the INS raid, there was a 50-75% drop in school attendance by Latino children. Some staff ended up making phone calls to find out where the students were. They learned that families were keeping their children at home because they were afraid that the INS would take them from the schools. This included families that were documented. School staff had to call families and reassure them that the "Migra" would not come and take the kids and that they would be safe.

After a week or so the families began to send their children back to school. Then staff found out from the kids and families more about what had happened. They learned that everyone was very scared and no one had wanted to go out, even to go to the market. Staff said that getting information from children who had been directly affected was at times difficult, because the children had been told not to say anything about what had happened and who had been taken.

One school that had community donations available for family emergencies used those funds to help with rent, groceries, and other supplies for families affected by their loss of work.

The School staff also talked about how deeply the raid had affected the children emotionally. This affected the children's school performance. It took awhile for them to finally settle down and feel better. It was hard for them to concentrate and not be afraid and worried about their families at home and at work, or -- in many cases -- about a parent who had been taken away by the "Migra".

Excerpts of Meeting Minutes on May 20, 1998 Lane County Commission on Children and Families

Maria Damaris: Spoke about a very sensitive issue - the INS raids on May 13th, Maria has worked in this community with CCF Healthy Start and Centro LatinoAmericano and is currently working for Catholic Community Services. While working as a teacher, she has tried to educate people about diversity and the Latino culture. Immigrants come to this country to work hard and make a living. In exchange for their work, they are raided, deported and treated like scapegoats. Maria stated that people in the community think that immigrants come to take away jobs while the reality is that they are employed in positions that American citizens will not work.

Maria Damaris: Reminded the Commission members of the May 1997 INS raid of the Fircrest Chicken Factory. Forty people were deported and families were torn apart. Children were left in school waiting for their parents and those who were left without money or coats in the middle of nowhere in Mexico.

In March 1998, there was another raid in which fifteen women were deported and their children left behind. During the INS raids on May 13th, people were picked up in the street and restaurants. Members of the community are terrified. Maria stated that she realizes that working without "papers" is breaking the law, but asked the Commission members to think about the families. Maria asked the Commission members to request that the INS discontinue the raids or if they do raids allow the parents to provide for their children prior to deportation. In addition, Maria requested that the Commission ask the INS to see immigrants as human beings with families, needs and feelings. Maria thanked the Commission members for allowing her to speak.

Maria Damaris: Translated for Andres and Arturo. Andres expressed the great pain he felt when members of his family were deported. Andres stated that he hopes this problem will be resolved since it is destroying families. In addition, he is afraid and cannot work or leave his home out of fear of the INS. Andres stated that he knows the INS has the right to kick people out of this country when they are doing something wrong, but many of the men and women he has seen deported were just working. Arturo also stated he came he came to talk about the INS raids and what they are doing to families. Arturo apologizes to the Commission members and stated that he could not continue his comment.

Sergio Romero: A graduate student at the University of Oregon, read a prepared statement. First he shared three important facts to understand when considering immigration (especially documented immigration). The first fact was that annually the United States receives 1% of the migration population. Secondly, the majority of that immigration population was European. Finally, the majority of that immigration population considered "undocumented illegal" come here legally on a visa and overstay it. Sergio Romero read the following statement: "The recent raids by the immigration and Naturalization Service in Lane County are frightening. We should be concerned when families are disrupted and children are torn apart from their parents. Many of the 78 people detained were women who were forced to leave their children behind. In one particular case, INS 's action resulted in the making of an orphan - no mother - no parent, because the baby was not picked up at the day care provider by the mother who was detained. These actions are egregious and should not be unnoticed. In light of the break up of several families, spouses and children, I implore the Lane County Commission on Children and Families to send a statement to the INS condemning their actions. Public bodies such as the Commission have a fiduciary responsibility to defend families, especially when children, the most vulnerable in our society, are left to fend for themselves. Anything short of a statement deploring these actions is akin to saying: "No to the union of families, no to promoting a healthy environment, and no to the unity of mother and child." Sergio thanked the Commission for their time.

Patsy Raney: Spoke about the INS raids. Workers are arrested as common criminals and deported immediately leaving children, spouses and other dependants behind. Some of these families are without money and in a state of terror. The INS typically arrests people the day before payday so often the families are left behind without economic resources. Family members are also often unable to make contact before deportation takes place. Patsy stated that she is assuming that this Commission is inclusive in its' dedication to advocating for the wellbeing of all children and families living and working in Lane County. She encourages the Commission to make these concern known to the INS regarding destructive impact of their recent actions on working families. Pasty stated that treating working people as common criminals, and their children and families as invisible or expendable, is nothing less than deplorable. The INS needs to hear this from influential community groups such as the Commission. Patsy thanked the Commission for their time.

Julia Fox: Stated that the INS raids are deplorable and that this is an extremely important issue. The INS is the nations largest enforcement agency, which is now larger than then FBI. Julia spoke about the issue of legality and reminded the Commission that slavery was legal and tore families apart. Julia distributed a letter to the Commission members and proposed that the Commission send a letter to the INS.

Bobby Green: Reiterated the recommendation that the Commission on Children and Families write a letter to the INS deploring this action.

Lynn Burditt: Stated that she would be concerned if the Commission did not send a letter to the INS. Lynn stated that the methods utilized by the INS are intentional and designed to terrorize. In addition, Lynn proposed that a letter should be sent to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. The OCCF letter should ask the State to be aware of the issue of the INS raids.

Kitty Piercy: Expressed her support of a letter to the INS. In addition, she would like the Commission to join with others to take action on the issue. Kitty also recommended that the Commission communicate with other groups working on this issue and agree about recommendations for changes in practice. DUANE WRIGHT concurred with Kitty's statement and encouraged collaboration with other groups.

Jenny Carrick: Stated her support for a letter to the INS. Yet, she would like the letter to clearly state that the Commission is opposed to the methods utilized and not necessarily the legality of immigration. Jenny does not believe that it is the Commission's role to address the legality of immigration.



Commission on Children and Families

May 21, 1998

David V. Beebe, District Director
Immigration and Naturalization Service
511 NW Broadway
Portland, Oregon 97209

Dear Mr. Beebe:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service conducted several raids in the Eugene and Springfield area on March 12, 1998, May 14, 1998 and the Creswell Fircrest Farms raid in 1997. The Lane County Commission on Children and Families is writing to protest the apparent insensitive INS policies and subsequent treatment of children and families when a raid is conducted on illegal immigrants.

When these raids occur the impact on families and children is often traumatic, disruptive and very frightening especially for the children. The issue for the Lane County Commission on Children and Families is not questioning your right to conduct raids, but we are very concerned about the treatment of children when parents are picked up in a raid. As a result of the two raids in our county, children were left in day care centers and in schools unaware that their parents wouldn't be coming to pick them up as usual. This action is totally unacceptable. Children and youth are our most vulnerable and important human beings in our community and the failure of an agency such as the Immigration and Naturalization Service to recognize your responsibility in acting responsibly regarding children when a raid is planned is intolerable.

We implore you to seriously review your policies and implement changes that will reflect a sensitive, realistic and appropriate way to deal with families and children when raids are anticipated. There are many community agencies that would be willing to work with you so that children will never be left alone, scared, and frightened not knowing if they will ever see their parents or relatives. The Lane County Commission on Children and Families is certainly interested in working with you to reach a solution that will promote and enhance a community environment that protects, nurtures, and supports healthy children and families.

Thank you for your serious consideration to this very important issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in the Interest of Children,

Patricia J. Rogers
Director

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Lane County Youth Intervention Network

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To The Migra Raid Report Group,

August 29, 1998

This statement is to document the effects in the Youth Intervention Network (YIN) from Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) raids in Lane County. As Service Coordinator of the YIN, I have observed new cases youth charged for crimes of false documentation.

The youth assessed were released. The youths were determined a non threat to the community and released to family members that provided documentation. There have been no further crimes or re-offense of any kind were made by these youth. The YIN Service Coordinators conduct in home family meetings. Families were observed in a state of emergency by the Service Coordinator, thus requiring a referral to other social service agencies. These families did not require services before the INS raids.

Once the families and youth were assessed, other families were brought to my immediate attention. Several affected families required counseling for mental distress after the INS raid deported the husbands/fathers of these families. Many complained that the husbands disappeared for a few days without a trace until making long distance collect calls were made from Juarez, Mexico. Women were referred to the hospital emergency room for a nervous breakdowns. Other women attempted suicide. The mental health of families were placed in jeopardy and young children were observed living in extreme fear and held back from going to school.

As a social service worker and conscientious taxpayer, I find these INS raids extremely deplorable, unproductive, abusive, costly to the economy and a burden to the social services of Lane County who in turn struggle for resources. Destroying families is not the solution and targeting the families regardless of legal status creates more economic problems, and as well as short and long term mental health concerns for families in the community. The amount of abuse reported and experienced by the detained youths at the hands of INS agents is without a doubt unwarranted, incomprehensible, insensitive and must stop immediately.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernardino De La Torre Guerrero III'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a double underline at the end.

Bernardino De La Torre Guerrero III
Service Coordinator for the Youth Intervention Network



944 West 5th Avenue • Eugene, Oregon 97402 • 541-687-2667 • Fax 541-687-7841

November 13, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

Centro LatinoAmericano is a social service agency in Lane County. The Centro operates eight programs, including a homeless shelter for single Latinos, Alcohol and Drug counseling, DUII services and Crisis, Access and Referral services for Latino families with children. We serve an average of 1,300 Latino clients a month, 95% being monolingual Spanish speaking only. These programs and the relationship that we have with our clients provide a unique insight into the specific impact that INS raids have in our community.

Our community has been through 3 major raids in the past three years. The last raid in May, 78 people that INS defined their status as UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, but in reality we see and define as hard working, honest; mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and children. They were taken from their workplace, homes, restaurants and streets. Most of them were the main source of income for their families.

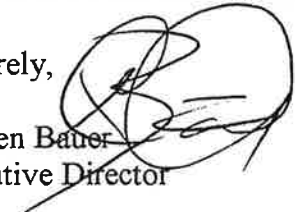
After the raid, we started receiving calls from families that are Legal Permanent Residents and Naturalized Citizens that were afraid of going to the Supermarkets or taking their children to school. People stopped going to churches, shopping, and stopped going to any other activity.

Four families were evicted from their homes because they had family ties with an "Undocumented Immigrant". We had 65 families that could not pay the rent and were on the verge of becoming homeless because one of the sources of income from that household was taken overnight.

Two young women that were in the process of becoming Legal Permanent Residents were so overwhelmed with grief and fear that they tried to commit suicide.

An INS raid has a negative lasting impact on the community and individuals. It threatens the livelihood, trust and safety of everyone. We understand that INS officers follow rules and regulations mandated by our government, but we condemn the violation of human rights and the violation of human dignity that our community has to go through.

Sincerely,


Carmen Bauer
Executive Director



A United Way Agency

BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL SERVICES

General & Educational Social Services • Los Niños Program • Los Unidos Shelter
Youth Program • Alcohol & Drug Counseling • Interpretation & Translations • DUII Diversion

Socio-Cultural Organization El Bracero

459 Willamette Street #206
Eugene, Oregon
97401

The Migra Raid Task Force
PO Box #3093
Eugene, Oregon
97403

November 13, 1998

Dear Community Group members,

This is a statement to document the effects of the recent Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) Raids in Lane County. As an organization we are responding to these deplorable actions by the INS. Given that the history of US immigration policy has been exclusive – favoring Western European immigrants – it is not surprising that the recent INS raids in Eugene have targeted Latinos. The devastating effects of the racist ideology used to justify the brutal attacks by the INS on Brown men, women, and children is a mere indication of a society that appears to be quickly approaching its fascist potential. As members and spokesmen of the Organization we also work in the social service field. Many of the families we serve were functional families that were left in extreme emergency need after the INS raids.

The following are statements by an organization member:

As case manager for Adult and Family Services (AFS) in Lane County, I observed several things that affected the Latino community during Immigration raids. During this time period significant number of Latino families were referred to AFS by Centro Latino Americano for welfare assistance as a result of INS raids. Families who did request benefits ranged from emergency assistance to welfare grants. It is in my professional opinion that if families had not been assisted, severe hardship would have been the result. As an active Latino member, Lane County resident and State of Oregon worker, I am concerned as to how the community is affected by Immigration raids. One could argue that an assessment of the social economic impact of the INS raids needs to be re-evaluated, in order to determine exact negative impact in our communities by immigration laws. I do not question the fact that INS agents have rules to adhere to, but object to the methods that might violate basic individual human rights.

Finally, we as a Socio-Cultural Organization request that the United States Congress change the current inhumane immigration laws. Stop the INS from violating human rights of workers (that in reality are not criminals) and adhere to the calling for a complete amnesty for workers that contribute to our communities, and to this government in a positive economic manner. No human is illegal!

Sincerely,



Jose Landin: Oregon State Worker

Bernardino De La Torre Guerrero: Lane County Worker

cc: El Nuevo Aztlan
La Expresion Lane County Newspaper



Latino Coalition

P.O. Box 41298 • Eugene OR 97404-0330 • (541) 688-7376

November 18, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit organization that came together in August of 1989 in order to address the needs and concerns of the Latino/Chicano community in Lane County. Our principle mission and purpose has been to advocate for changes that promote the dignity, diversity and self-determination of the Latino/Chicano community.

We have come together with many other civil rights and human rights organizations to voice our deep concerns and outrage at the anti-immigrant activities that have been taking place in our community and across this nation.

Of great concern are the increased INS raids, which we believe target the Latino/Chicano community. Families have been shattered and separated, workers rights have been undermined and businesses have been disrupted. In our community a climate of fear and intimidation has been created.

INS raids have led to significant abuses of civil and human rights. We have heard of many stories of the mistreatment of our people at the hands of INS agents.

We call for a stop to all INS raids and urge Congress and the Department of Justice to address the abusive practices currently being carried out by the INS.

Paz y Justicia,

Guadalupe Quinn
President

The principle mission and purpose of the Latino Coalition, a non-profit organization, shall be to advocate for systemic changes which promote the dignity, diversity, and self determination of the Chicano, Latino community.

La misión y el propósito principal de la Coalición Latina, una organización sin fines lucrativos, es el abogar por cambios sistémicos que promuevan la dignidad, diversidad, y autodeterminación de la comunidad Chicana y Latina.

CALC

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF LANE COUNTY
FORMERLY CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED
P.O. Box 10837, Eugene, OR 97440
Telephone (541) 485-1755 Fax (541) 485-0257

November 21, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

Fifty years ago, the nations of the world adopted the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That document proclaims that all human beings are entitled to rights and freedoms, "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." Under the Declaration and the Conventions and Covenants which implement it and carry the authority of international law, immigrants have inalienable rights, whether or not they have legal documents.

Certain provisions of U.S. immigration need to change to afford immigrants all the rights to which they are entitled. In the meantime, however, a major improvement would be achieved if officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service complied with the directives in their own handbook (Officers' Handbook: A Guide for Proper Conduct and Relationships with Aliens and the General Public, M-68 Rev.1981N). When we met with INS officers on July 27, 1998, we were assured that INS officers always followed all agency directives and always treated immigrants respectfully.

Unfortunately, we know beyond a doubt that immigrants detained in recent raids in Lane County suffered abuses of their human rights and human dignity.

I personally have listened to the testimony of immigrants detained by the INS. They suffered verbal and physical abuse, received misinformation, were denied their right to communicate with family members, and were threatened and intimidated. The stories I heard left me ashamed and outraged as a U.S. citizen. I know other immigrants, including immigrants with documents, who were too afraid even to leave their homes to buy groceries.

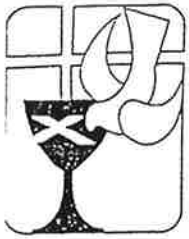
Let me mention one fine young man I knew. This young man worked hard, struggled to learn English, and contributed volunteer energy to his church and community. He also knew his rights. When he was detained, he asked for a hearing. As a result of insisting on his rights, he was singled out for particularly abusive treatment. He was reviled, insulted, and shoved around. His handcuffs were applied tightly enough to inflict pain. When he supplied information to an agent filling out his papers, he watched while the agent recorded details about where he was from and how long he had been here different from those he provided. He was taken to a detention center in Arizona. When he returned to Eugene, he was denied the right to work while waiting for a hearing. He was forced to sell his car and his possessions and finally had to return to Mexico without the hearing to which he was entitled, because he had no way to survive in this country. His departure was a loss to this community and to this nation.

Community Alliance of Lane County has worked for human rights in this area since 1968, and the rights of immigrants have long been a concern. The INS raids in our county have intensified our resolve to continue and increase our work for immigrant rights. We will seek changes in U.S. policy and we will do everything we can to hold the Immigration and Naturalization Service accountable to the highest standards of human rights.

Sincerely yours,

marion malcolm

Marion Malcolm
Immigrant Rights Coordinator



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

418 North "A" Street
Springfield, Oregon 97477

747-4251

May 20, 1998

To: Chief Bill DeForrest, Springfield Police
344 A Street
Springfield, Oregon 97477

Dear Chief DeForrest,

I am writing to express my disgust and concern over the involvement of Springfield Police officers in the recent INS raid which took place in our community. I understand that actions taken by both INS officers AND Springfield Police officers during that raid were just short of what would be considered to be police brutality. The raid targeted undocumented Hispanic residents of Lane County -- a large number from Springfield. I have been informed that persons were arrested in a demeaning manner, and detained in abusive ways. I am extremely concerned that Springfield Police were involved in such activities!

As Senior Pastor of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) I have been an active member of the Springfield community for the past five years. Recently I have served on the Centennial Elementary School Site Counsel, the Community Development Advisory Committee, AND the Springfield Human Rights Commission.

As an American Citizen I am concerned about illegal immigration and believe that laws protecting our borders should be enforced. I also believe that there are ways of enforcing these laws without violating human rights. Particularly disturbing to me is the appearance that only dark skinned, Spanish speaking (i.e. Mexican) persons were targeted for these recent raids in Eugene and Springfield. Equally alarming is the accusation that some of those targeted for arrest were abducted in a violent manner -- I have received word that some were abducted from their places of residence by Springfield officers who obtained keys to their apartment from the managers! Others were apparently patrons of a Mexican establishment (and not workers as we had been led to believe by news reports). While such behavior may be perfectly acceptable in a totalitarian regime such as Nazi Germany, is intolerable in a free country.

I would be glad to discuss this issue further with you.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Sean P. Harry
First Christian Church

cc - Bill Morrisette, Jeff Nell, Marian Malcolm



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

November 13, 1998
El Bracero Socio-Cultural Organization

Dear El Bracero Socio-Cultural Organization :

I'm aware of this organizations efforts on immigration issues and the policies/tactics of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I want you to know that I'm supportive of your efforts at every level, including your attempts to deal with the displaced families as a consequence of INS policies. I want El Bracero to know that I would like to provide any assistance to your organization in your endeavors to contest these anti-immigration policies and the brutal policies of the INS.

As a sociologist and member of the community, I'm concerned about the recent (March 12, 1998; May 14, 1998 and the 1997 Creswell Fircrest Farms) Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raids in the Eugene and Springfield area. As a member of the Lane County Commission on Families and Children, I heard testimony from members of the community on how the INS raids caused harm to families and children. Members of the community came forward to attest to the brutal and terrorist methods of the INS. Witnesses of these raids testified that "children were on the streets" and "the deportation has caused families to be torn apart" and in fact "many children were left behind in Oregon to fend for themselves." During the March 12th raid, "thirteen of the women taken during the INS sweep had children who were left alone in Eugene." Witnesses reported that "mothers cried out desperately begging" others to "find their children and explain that their mothers had been taken away."

I deplore the actions of the INS and believe that rise of anti-immigration policies must be understood in a historical and political context. The virulent racial nationalism and ascent of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization (INS) as the "largest armed law enforcement agency," an agency whose agents now outnumber the FBI and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, must be understood as part of a broader systematic pattern of the emergence of nascent fascism. Given the financial backing, the access to media sources and the effective political organization of the hard right, this political force has not only managed to shift the political spectrum to the right, it has normalized the use of systematic violence against immigrants. Hard right organizations like the American Immigration Control Foundation, Americans Against Illegal Immigration, Federation for American Immigration Reform, English First and the Pioneer Fund have funded reactionary think tanks, foundations and scholars. Many of the right-wing extremist think tanks and foundations have provided extensive funding for these organizations. This reactionary political framework is represented by a segment of the New Right, the paleoconservatives.

The effective political organization and financial backing of the most reactionary segment of the New Right, paleoconservatives, have been strategic factors in intensifying

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

1291 University of Oregon · Eugene OR 97403-1291 · Telephone (541) 346-5002 · Fax (541) 346-5026

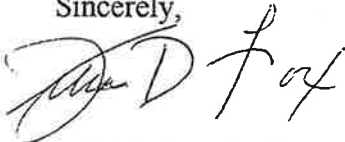
the reactionary political reactions to immigrant reform. Historically the hard right has been major force behind the systematic cycles of anti-immigration policy. These historic waves include the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the 1924 Quota Law which favored Western European immigrants while barring Asians, the 1986 Immigration and Reform and Control Act which sought to limit illegal immigration from Latin America and the current Immigration and Financial Responsibility Act of 1996 which doubled the size of the border patrol and increased the funding of the 14 mile U.S.-Mexico border to \$45.2 billion. What is unique about the recent anti-immigrant legislation and policy has been the ability of the right to launch political stealth campaigns and create an effective organizational and ideological strategy to shift the political mainstream to the right on immigration reform. In addition, the hard right has been able to launch an effective ideological campaign that has normalized the use of systematic terror against dark-skinned immigrants. We must understand the rise of INS as the largest armed law enforcement agency and the INS's use of repressive and terrorist strategies in this context.

The paleoconservatives have articulated one of the most reactionary political frameworks in which the anti-democratic, anti-immigrant, racial nationalism, vitriolic scapegoating and anti-communist militarism sound bites are reiterated over and over again as a political mantra. As a consequence, the public has been "numbed to racism and injustice" until the use of systematic violence selectively directed at dark-skinned immigrants has become normalized and acceptable. As Edward Herman points out, in the "Banality of Evil" "doing terrible things in an organized way rests on normalization...this is a process by which the ugly, degrading and murderous and unspeakable acts become routine and are acceptable as the way things are done."

I propose that we stop the normalization of this brutality and put an end the terrorists tactics of the INS. Some may propose the legality of the INS and the legality of terrorism and brutality, but we should be reminded that slavery was a perfectly legal system and Jim Crow was perfectly legal.

Please let me know how I may assist in any capacity. I support your organization and your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julia D. Fox'.

Julia D. Fox, Ph.D.

cc: El Nuevo Aztlan
La Expresion

December 07, 1998

RE: INS Raids in Lane County

To All Concerned,

I am writing to express my deep concern with the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) abusive interpretation of immigration laws in conducting arrest and detention of workers in Lane County in May, 1998.

The United States Congress, with plenary power to regulate immigration in this country [Fiallo v. Bell (Sup. Ct. 1977)], has determined that in order for officers of the INS to detain or arrest, there must be a reasonable suspicion that the person is present illegally in the United States. "Foreign appearance" alone does not provide for a reasonable suspicion. The INS must have a warrant to enter premises, one which explicitly permits a search for specific persons, and not property [Blackie's House of Beef, Inc. v. Castillo (D.D.C. 1978)]. All persons, legally present in the United States or not, are guaranteed due process under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Testimony of detained individuals indicates extreme disregard of these laws and of the enumerated rights of immigrant peoples. Immigrants arrested in the raids describe a process in which Immigration agents separated white from non-white workers, and then interrogated non-white workers regarding their immigration status. Considering a great proportion of illegal immigration in this country derives from Canada, and that Oregon is a convenient location for Canadian immigration, it is clear that INS agents were seeking to arrest immigrants based on their racial appearance and not solely on their immigration status. In fact, there are eyewitness accounts detailed in the testimony of Lawful Permanent Residents and U.S. Citizens, who are non-white, detained and not permitted to present proof of legal status. This race-based discrimination is prohibited by the U.S. Constitution as well as by U.S. Immigration law and regulations.

Testimony indicates lack of proper search warrants, leading to improper detention of latino workers. Once detained, workers report physical abuses, humiliation, and the repeated erroneous assertion of the INS officers, "You people have no rights." The fact is, these workers do have rights, stemming from our government's recognition of the inherent dignity of each human being, and in the dignity of our legal processes. Our legal system seeks to observe this human dignity and elevate our community to one of civility and equality before the law. Our laws are not to be used as tools of harrassment, abuse and discrimination against members of our community, but rather are to be applied objectively and rationally. May the INS be held accountable for these abuses, and be compelled to apply our laws as Congress intended, not as an independent squad of racial vigilantes.

Sincerely,



Marcy Miranda Janes, J.D.
Labor Education and Research Center
University of Oregon

A RESOLUTION

DRAFT

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

- A. The United States is primarily a nation of immigrants. Immigrants are a fundamental part of the nation's community and have enriched Eugene's community with their diverse cultural perspectives.
- B. Immigrants are often parents or grandparents, or both, of United States citizens, and contribute to the nation's economy as consumers, owners of small businesses, laborers and investors. Immigrants, whatever their legal status in this country, deserve full protection of basic human rights.
- C. The United States voted to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirming the fundamental human rights of all people, which include:¹
1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
 2. No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
 3. All are equal before the law and are entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and any incitement to such discrimination.
- D. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is subject in all its activities to the United States Constitution and treaties ratified by the United States Congress including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- E. The City of Eugene has pledged its adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and affirmed its commitment to insuring that protection of

DRAFT

¹ Numbered items following are directly quoted from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

human rights is a central part of our community.

DRAFT

Now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a
Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:**

Section 1. The City of Eugene will act to insure that the rights of all community members, including immigrants whatever their legal status, will be protected.

Section 2. The City of Eugene will obey Oregon Revised Statutes 181.850 (1) stating that "no law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon...shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship residing in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws."

Section 3. The City of Eugene will be actively engaged in ascertaining the fair and humane treatment of any individual subject to any interaction with city, county, state or federal agency, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Section 4. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Attorney General, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Dated this ____ day of November, 1998.

DRAFT

City Recorder

Section D:

Costs to Taxpayers of INS Raids

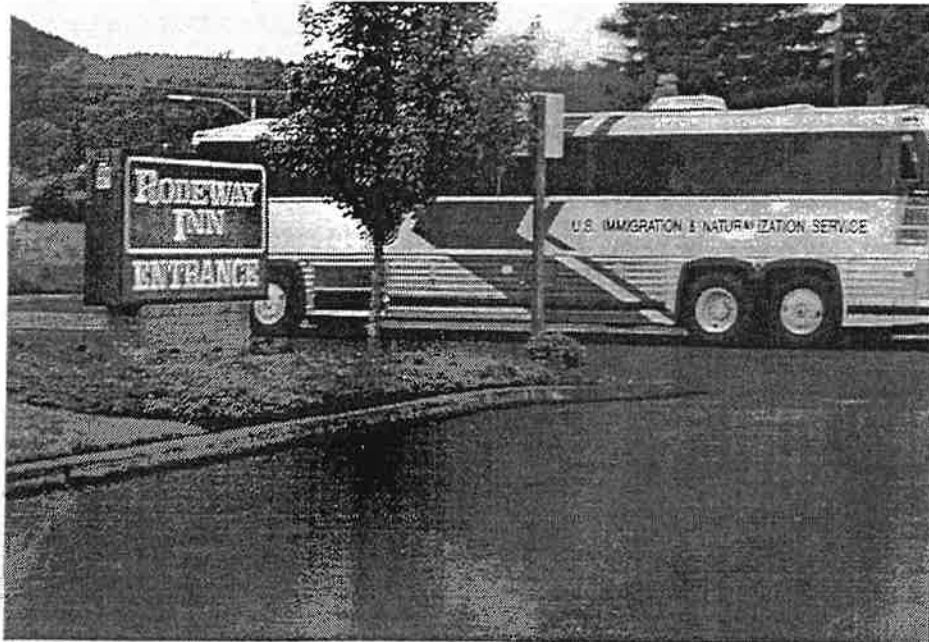
“This year the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service published their request of \$4.2 billion for the Fiscal Year 1999 budget. The budget would add a total of 2,609 new staff positions, which, if approved by Congress, would allow INS to grow to almost 31,600 positions.”

United States Immigration & Naturalization Service.

“Strengthening the Nation’s Immigration System FY 99 Budget.”

Public Affairs. 1 Feb. 1998. 1 par. Online. Internet. 22 May 1998

Available http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/public_affairs/index.html



The Economic Impact of Raids in Lane County

By the end of the day on Wednesday, May 13, 1998, INS agents had taken into custody seventy-eight immigrants. Of the seventy-eight, seventy-three had been taken directly from their places of work. Business owners, managers, and co-workers were witness to the handcuffing of their friends and long time employees as INS agents worked their way through places of business. Many of those removed had been employed by those companies from three to eight years. One business reported that their loss contained a particular group of individuals who had an outstanding work ethic and some of the best attendance records. This loss of workers would have costly economic effects on these businesses. Productivity was down, during and after the raids for months. Seeking replacements and training new hires was both time consuming and costly. One business reported that local employment agencies could not provide new employees due to the shortage of workers in the area. Another business reported that some of their new hires quit after working only one week and that fifty percent of their new hires quit after working less than one month. After spending that one week or one month training new employees, employers had to start the training cycle all over again with someone new. The lives of the remaining employees were stretched by added hours to their workday and the added task of helping to train the newly hired.

Businesses, whose sales depended on perishable commodities, faced severe losses when those items could not be processed before spoiling. Of those companies reporting actual cost figures on total loss of income directly relating to the raids, productivity was listed as their highest expense. Also, included on their lists were costs of continuing insurance for the families left behind. Of the several small business raided by La Migra that day in Lane County, three reported Loss of Income as: \$ 10,000.00, \$ 36,499.00 and \$ 40,900.00.

There is also another disturbing effect to be considered. How were the actions of INS agents internalized by the other employees who had not been handcuffed or removed? Not everyone knew what was taking place. As many as twelve agents were reported to be at any one location. Some employees reported their fear that a robbery or terrorist attack was in progress. Strange intruders had taken command of the workplace and were opening every door, searching rooms, questioning people, pulling workers aside, searching them, handcuffing them and leading them away.

That human beings could be treated so disrespectfully by any agency, representing the United States Department of Justice, was an affront to those in Lane County who were witnesses to the sub-human treatment of workers.

Feeling powerless to intercede on behalf of the workers, other employees and supervisors stood by as immigrants, with and without the proper documents, were rounded up and handcuffed. Fear and intimidation kept fellow employees from insisting that agents respond to their simple questions. Where were they taking them? Could they give them money? Could they get their car keys to give to their wives later? What about the wages not yet paid? Can bonds be posted? Can they call a lawyer? Will they be allowed to call their families?

Agents did advise employers to wait for paperwork (to be signed by immigrants prior to their removal from Oregon to Mexico) which would advise where final paychecks could be mailed. But some of the above mentioned questions and the many others, which were brought up in the days to follow, would not be answered until months later - when representatives of the INS would meet with the citizens of Lane County at the offices of Congressman, Peter DeFazio. (For details of the information recorded at this meeting, please submit your request to the committee listed on the front page of this report.)

**Cost of INS Raids
To Taxpayers
Week of May 13, 1998**

<u>Source</u>		<u>Activity</u>	<u>Approximate Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Additional Costs</u>
		Forty (38) Agents		
		Gen'l Administration and Overhead Expense		5,000.00
		Advance Surveillance		2,000.00
		Use of Local, State, and other Federal law enforcement agencies		2,000.00
GS-09 Rating	20.00 / hr.	Payroll for 38 agents (33 hours)	25,080.00	
Room Rate	110.00 / day	Motel (20 rooms / 2 evenings)	4,400.00	
Rodeway Inn				
		Flights of agents flown in from Seattle		2,000.00
		Travel expenses of agents from Medford, Portland		3,000.00
Gov't Standard	36.00 / day	Food Per Diem / 38 agents, 3 days	4,104.00	
by Geographic area.		Phone Bills		250.00
		Six to eight Vans used to pick up immigrants		600.00
		Two (2) buses used to transport immigrants to Armory		600.00
per Armory	325.00 / day	Cost for use of Armory 2 dys	650.00	
per Armory	50.00 / day	Cost for use of kitchen 2 dys	100.00	
		Cost of personnel at Armory (Security etc.)		1,500.00
		Seventy-eight (78) Immigrants		
		Sub	34,334.00	16,950.00
per INS	4.00	Food while at Armory and on Bus (two meals) (78)	624.00	
per INS	400.00	Cost of flight from Eugene to El Paso, Texas (66)	26,400.00	
per Airline	450.00	Cost of flights to AZ (12)	5,400.00	
		Transportation by INS from El Paso to Juarez, Mexico (66)		660.00
		Transportation by INS from Eloy, AZ to local bus stop (12)		240.00
per INS	50.00 / day	Food, housing while at AZ (two released after one week)		700.00
per INS	50.00 / day	Food, housing while at AZ (10 waiting for hearings/approx 2 mos.)		3,000.00
		Personnel costs in AZ		5,000.00
		Hearing costs in AZ (including cost of Immigration Judges)		5,000.00
		Combining the approximate and estimated costs (incurred by the INS and passed on to taxpayers) for this one group of raids on May 13, 1998 in Lane County , puts total low end total at: \$ 98,308.00.	66,758.00	31,550.00
		Totals		

SOME COSTS OF LANE COUNTY INS RAIDS TO TAXPAYERS

◆ ADMINISTRATIVE	25,080.00
38 agents @ GS-09 rating / 33 hours	
◆ LODGING	4,400.00
20 rooms/110.00 x 2 days @ Rodeway Inn	
◆ PER DIEM	4,104.00
38 Agents x 36.00 per day @ 3 days	
◆ ARMORY	750.00
Rental for 2 days	
◆ FOOD COSTS FOR IMMIGRANTS	624.00
78 immigrants x 2 meals @ 4.00 meal per INS	
◆ FLIGHT COST FOR IMMIGRANTS	31,800.00
66 immigrants flown from Eugene to El Paso Texas	
12 immigrants flown from Eugene to Arizona	

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS 66,758.00

(See spreadsheet for additional details of estimated costs.)

**ADDITIONAL COSTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE INS RAIDS
OF LANE COUNTY**

- ◆ **General Administration and Overhead Expenses**
- ◆ **Advance Surveillance**
- ◆ **Use of Local, State and other Federal law enforcement agencies**
- ◆ **Cost of Flights for Agents flown in from Seattle, WA**
- ◆ **Travel Expenses for Agents used from Medford and Portland, OR**
- ◆ **Costs of Phone Usage**
- ◆ **Costs of Six to Eight Vans used to pick up Immigrants**
- ◆ **Costs of Two INS Owned Buses used to Hold and Transport Detainees**
- ◆ **Cost of Other Personnel at Armory (Security etc.)**
- ◆ **Transportation of Detainees by INS from El Paso, TX to Juarez, Mexico**
- ◆ **Transportation of Detainees by INS from Eloy, AZ to local bus stop**
- ◆ **Costs of Personnel at Detention Center in Eloy, AZ**
- ◆ **Costs of Hearings for those detained at Detention Center in Eloy, AZ
(including costs of Immigration Judges)**



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the District Director
511 NW Broadway Street
Portland, Oregon 97209

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress
151 West 7th Avenue, Suite 400
Eugene, Oregon 97401

JUL 30 1998

RECEIVED

JUL 31 1998

EUGENE, OR 97401

Attn: Ms. Debcráh Farrington

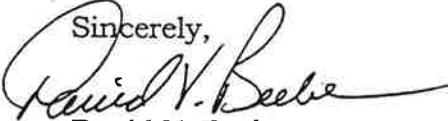
Dear Ms. Farrington:

Pursuant to your request, I have enclosed copies of all the forms used by the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) to process an alien for removal from the United States. These forms are computer-generated. Data input is specific to individual aliens. The primary vehicle used for noncriminal aliens who request a hearing before an immigration judge is the Notice To Appear (Form I-862). Also included are forms that are used for criminal aliens who have either no relief from an order of removal or have illegally reentered the United States after formal removal. These vehicles are Forms I-851, Notice and Intent To Issue a Final Administrative Removal Order and Form I-871, Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Removal Order.

The average cost for detaining an alien depends upon the length of time he/she is held and the mode of transportation used to effect his removal. INS utilizes county jails throughout the State of Oregon to incarcerate those aliens that cannot be expeditiously transferred to Service detention facilities. Detention costs range from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per day. Incarceration in Service detention facilities average about \$45.00 per day. Removal costs by Service bus to the Southern border are estimated at \$100.00 per alien. Actual costs for removal by Service aircraft from the State of Oregon are not available; however, the national average for removal by air to the Mexican border is approximately \$400.00. Aliens who are citizens of countries from other than Mexico are removed by commercial airlines at the prevailing rate.

Thirty-eight officers of the Immigration & Naturalization Service participated in the worksite enforcement operation in Springfield and Eugene area in May 1998. Five of those officers were female. Estimated costs for the operation, excluding salaries, is \$22,500.00.

I hope this information is useful to those present at our meeting on July 27, 1998.

Sincerely,

David V. Beebe
District Director

Section E:

THE REGISTER-GUARD • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1998

NEWS DIGEST

Pope seeks immigrant amnesty

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II on Friday urged a world amnesty for illegal immigrants in the year 2000, denouncing what he said was growing xenophobia. “Almost everywhere today there is a tendency to close the frontiers and return to rigorous controls,” he told participants at a world congress on the issue at the Vatican. “Migration is spoken of more than before and always in more alarmist tones.” He urged nations of the world to pay attention to the factors pushing migration, including internal conflicts, war, unequal distribution of resources, “incoherent” farm policy and “irrational” industrialization.

RAID!

When INS makes its sweeps through this area, arresting and deporting undocumented workers, it separates families, disrupts businesses and damages the community.

BY ALICE TALLMADGE

It was just about a month ago, around dinner time, remembers Lorena Perez. Wordlessly, six men — four who appeared to be of Latino descent and two Anglos — walked through the door of the La Fiesta store and restaurant she owns with her husband on Main Street in Springfield. The agents positioned themselves along the counter and at the back of the shop, which adjoins the restaurant kitchen. "At first, I thought it was a robbery," she says. It was only when the men were all in place that they identified themselves as agents of the Immigration and Nationalization Service, known to Latinos as La Migra.



The six agents asked La Fiesta's two cooks for documentation proving they had permission to live and work in the U.S. They did not, and they were arrested. Then, the agents walked from the kitchen into the small eating area, asking to see customers' legal documentation, and arresting those without any.

By the time the agents left, she says, the only evidence of their presence was six plates of half-eaten dinners, a restaurant without cooks and a heavy, disquieting chill that spread quickly through west Springfield's Latino community. Its effects are still very real, she says.

"I thought the fear would go away after a week or so, but it hasn't. Sales are still really, really low. People call me. They say they don't want to come here anymore. They are still afraid," says Perez.

As agents questioned cooks and customers at La Fiesta that May evening, a similar INS net was falling on six other area businesses and even a few homes. The result of the largest INS raid in Lane County would see

the arrests of 78 individuals for alleged immigration violations. Except for the six restaurant patrons and a few Springfield residents, all were workers. Many have lived in this community for several years; most have families they are supporting.

To assure accurate documentation of what occurred during the raid, local individuals have interviewed many of the people arrested. The interviewers agreed to share with EW the testimonies of six men who were detained, with the stipulation that no names or other identifying factors would be used. Another young man, who is awaiting a court immigration hearing, also agreed to share his story.

"We were handcuffed. They put them on very tight and they hurt a lot. They put us in white vans. There were police cars all around the building. One woman was shackled on her feet. They told her to get up in the van. She had to get on her knees and crawl to get up. They pushed her, and she hit her head on the step.

"We were in the van. The agents were drinking and laughing. Then they said, 'It's time

to check our brakes.' They drove fast, then slammed on the brakes. We went flying forward. The three men in the front seats, they smashed their faces up against the wire mesh. The agents did this several times. Every time we went forward and back, the handcuffs got tighter and tighter. Someone finally said, 'We're just workers. You're not taking animals in.' The agent said, 'Shut up you have no rights.'"

The detained workers were taken to the National Guard Armory on Centennial Boulevard in Eugene. There, some were able to make phone calls to family members. Five children — all U.S. citizens, the oldest of whom was 5 years old — were brought to the armory to be with their mothers, who were among those being detained.

"The agents spoke to us as if they were extremely angry. They would not let us go to the bathroom. We had to wait a very long time. Then they would take us handcuffed three at a time. It was very embarrassing for

some. We could see the women were suffering. They wouldn't let them go to the bathroom alone. One woman agent was extremely abusive. She searched one woman and asked her to take her clothes off. There were five officers surrounding her. The woman refused. She stood up to them. Then she began taking off her clothes. Then they told her it wasn't necessary.

"We kept sitting on the floor. They took the handcuffs off some of us. We weren't allowed to stand or talk to other workers. They took everyone's wallet, shoelaces, belt, keys and watches. They gave the wallets back. Some people said they did not get all their money back. One elderly man requested that his money be given back. He said \$300 had disappeared. The agents became concerned. After a while, the \$300 was produced.

"They told us not to talk to each other. If we did, they would make us stand and would yell at us. They took the workers one-by-one to ask questions. They asked us to sign a declaration of voluntary deportation. Some of the workers asked for a court hearing.



the most. They threatened to lock me up. Their aggression was constant and observable. I was treated worse than a criminal. At one point they said, "Shut up, stupid. You are illegal, and you have to pay for that."

According to testimonies, at 10 pm the 78 individuals — plus the five children — were put on a white bus and transported to Albany. They arrived at 11:30 pm. None of the workers had eaten since lunchtime. In Albany, they were each given a half sandwich and a glass of water. When the trip resumed, the workers thought they were on their way to Portland, but then realized they were heading south, back toward Eugene. They arrived back in Eugene at 2 am and remained on the bus until morning.

"The hardest thing was being on a bus all night long. Some of the children were crying. Some people slept on the floor. There was no paper in the bathroom of the bus. It got very hot. Some people were still handcuffed. They still would not release handcuffs when these people had to go to the bathroom. I felt very bad for the women. One was on her cycle and she was having a very hard time."

At 10 am the following day, the workers were driven to the Eugene airport. Those who had had their handcuffs removed were re-cuffed. This time, the handcuffs were attached to a chain that circled each person's waist. Shackles were also fastened on all the workers' ankles.

By the time the agents left, she says, the only evidence of their presence was six plates of half-eaten dinners, a restaurant without cooks and a heavy, disquieting chill that spread quickly through west Springfield's Latino community.

"When we got on the plane, the whole plane was surrounded with agents with rifles. We couldn't believe it. They were treating us as if we were extremely dangerous criminals and were trying to escape. I don't know how they thought we could escape. We were handcuffed by the feet and by the hands. On the plane, we weren't allowed to pull the tray down. They put the cup of water between our legs and a sandwich in our laps, but because we were handcuffed, it was difficult to eat. Our hands couldn't reach our mouths."

The plane stopped first in Phoenix, Ariz., where six men who asked for court hearings were taken to the state's detention center in Eloi, located about 100 miles from the border. Another group of Latinos, who were also being deported, boarded the plane. The next stop was El Paso. From there, the workers were taken by bus across the border to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. At 3 pm — about 20 hours since the raid began in Eugene and Springfield, the workers were let out in the middle of the sprawling, dusty border city, known most recently for its growing list of unsolved cases of murder and sexual abuse of women and girls.

"Some of the men helped buy food for the women and children. Some people just disappeared into the horizon. Some people pooled their money and took the bus from Juarez to Mexicali, so they could return again to be with their families."

These recent testimonies echo those of countless immigrants who, because of the color of their skin, the cadence of their speech, their economic status or religious beliefs — such as African Americans since the 1700s, the Chinese in the 1880s, the Irish and Italians in the early 1900s, Filipinos in the 1930s, the Japanese in the 1940s, Mexicans in the 1990s — have encountered legislated resistance from the American government and populace.

Then the agents became really angry. They said, "You don't have any rights," and that it would be best to sign the declaration. They said that if we asked for a court hearing we could be in jail for four or five months. Or they said, "If you give us \$5,000 now, we will let you go."

Another young man, who has lived and worked in the area for nine years, says he had studied what to do if he was confronted by the INS. So, when first confronted by agents, he asked for his rights — to call a lawyer and to have a court hearing.

"When I requested my rights, all they did was offend and push me. They used vulgarity — they called me 'you asshole' — and threw me up against the door. Twice. They insulted me and called me names. Later, at the armory, they yanked off a gold bracelet of mine. They said they were in a hurry, and that's why they couldn't take it off the right way."

They pressured me to sign the declaration of deportation. I didn't want to. When I asked for my rights, that's when they offended me

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is the agency responsible for dealing with both legal and illegal immigrants. Originally formalized in 1864 with the expressed purpose, according to the agency's website, of "encouraging immigration," the INS enforcement mandate today is "to prevent aliens from entering the country illegally and to find and remove those who are living and working here illegally." To carry out its mission, which includes processing legal immigrants, the agency has a staff of 29,000; 33 districts; 21 border patrol sectors; and an annual budget of \$3.8 billion.

According to David Beebe, District Director of the INS Portland office, the INS is deporting more illegal aliens "than ever before." And, he says, it's what the American public should expect. "Congress is investing ever-increasing amounts of tax dollars into the INS, so the agency can carry out the totality of the Congressional mandate, which is a reflection of the will of the nation," he says.

Nationally, about 19,000 immigrants were arrested at U.S. worksite raids in 1997, up from 13,500 in 1996. In Oregon that same year, about 800 workers — double the 1996 number — were taken off job sites. According to Beebe, 2,400 illegal immigrants were also deported from Oregon in 1997 because of illegal activity, mostly involving drugs.

WILLING TO WORK

Following the May raid, Beebe told *The Register-Guard* that the deportation of the scores of workers would be good for the local economy. "The INS looks at this as an opportunity to re-create 78 jobs for citizens and legal aliens," he said.

But according to many immigration activists and labor specialists, that mission is counter to a pressing economic reality. The U.S. desperately needs — some say depends on — the labor of illegal immigrants. Their labor is essential because they are willing to do low-paying jobs that most Americans don't want, such as labor-intensive work in agriculture and food processing, or in the hotel service industry, or at repetitive manufacturing jobs. Immigrants have also developed a reputation for being dependable workers who don't join unions and make few demands.

"If it were true — that undocumented workers are taking away jobs other workers want — then why are employers in this state right now saying we have got to increase immigration quotas, because they can't get enough people to work in their fields, greenhouses, restaurants and other businesses?" asks local Teamster area coordinator Ron Tininty.

Guadalupe Quinn, a member of the local Latino Coalition, says that throughout U.S. history, immigrant labor — whether it be the sweat of Chinese and Irish railroad workers in the 1800s or of Mexican farm workers following both World Wars — has been used to fill needs of the domestic labor market. "The laws have been manipulated to get workers here, exploit them and then reject them when they've done what we needed them to do," she says.

Today, the same pattern is manifesting again, Quinn says, with Congress now considering a "guest worker" bill that would allow a temporary army of strictly regulated, low-paid workers into the U.S. The "guest workers" would not only replace workers (many who are undocumented) already here, she says, but farm worker unions would be unable to organize them for collective bargaining purposes or to call for decent working and living conditions.

"What Congress really wants is a cheap labor force that can be exploited, then sent back," she says. "It's the same thing from the 1800s until now."

Carmen Bauer, executive director of CentroLatino Americano, a social services center in Eugene, says Beebe's statement about immigrants taking jobs away from local people is "a lie."

"They are not taking jobs away from anyone," she insists. They are doing jobs — very hard jobs — other people don't want to do. Employers involved in previous raids, such as the one in Fircrest one year ago or the March raid at Aramark Uniform Services in Eugene, have had a difficult time replacing the deported workers, she says. "They can't find people able to do these jobs."

The Latino workers deported in the May raid — 68 of whom were from Mexico and three from Guatemala — were working in the following area businesses: Emerald Forest Products, Eugene (35), Spring Creek Gardens (13), American Bowling Corp., Springfield (11), La Fiesta Market, Springfield (2), Centennial Steak House, Springfield (3), Playa Azul Restaurant, Springfield (1) and L.J. Howard Furniture Co., Junction City (1).

Businesses involved in the recent raid refused to speak with *EW*. However, the general manager of Aramark Uniform Services, the target of a raid this past March, says that minority workers — whether undocumented or not — have been instrumental in stabilizing his company's workforce.

"When I came here in 1994, we had a terrible turnover problem," says Jack Stevenson. To remedy the situation, the company decided to seek out minority workers, people "who would stick to a job longer, who need the work, who would appreciate making \$7 an hour," he says. Word spread through the community that Aramark was a good place to work, and the company ended up with a work force made up mostly of Hispanics, but also Asians, African Americans and some whites.

"Our turnover was dramatically decreased," he says. Then came the March raid, in which 23 workers — 15 women and eight men — were arrested.

The company has "gone through a lot of people to replace those we lost," Stevenson says. "People come in with the best intentions. But we're not a high-tech place. A lot of our positions are hard work, repetitive kinds of jobs — hanging garments on hangers, running a press, folding towels. After a few days they decide, 'I really don't like this.'"

But Beebe remains adamant, saying he is tired of hearing that undocumented workers take jobs most American citizens don't want. "That stereotype has to be buried once and for all," he says.

"I am a father," he explains. "I sent a son to college, but he also had to work. His hourly earnings were less than those of many of the people we recently took away from Eugene and Springfield. Eugene is a college town. The student population there must be about 20,000, and many of those students are interested in the kind of jobs encumbered by many of [the deported]. These are jobs that would offset the cost of tuition and books and living expenses."

ALIEN RIGHTS

Carmen Bauer says the sum total of an INS raid is much more than simply the loss of jobs. A raid invariably sends a shudder of fear throughout the Latino community, shattering the people's sense of security and plunging individuals and families into fear for deported partners, mothers, siblings, spouses and friends. Bauer says that in the recent raid, husbands had to leave their pregnant wives. Single moms were separated from their children — Bauer says the youngest left behind was 3 years old.

The raid also left scores of people wondering, "Will I be next?"

"After a raid, it is like a major tragedy," says Bauer, who emphasizes that she speaks for CentroLatino clients and not the overall Latino community. "Children stop going to school. Their parents stop taking them to the doctor. People stop shopping, stop going to church or to any activity. Smaller businesses suffer. Even people who are citizens or legal residents are afraid to go out. 'I look Latino. What will keep them from targeting me?' they ask," she says. "I get tons of calls like that."

Besides the familial disruption, another pain that etches itself deeply into the Latino community following a raid, she says, is the unnecessarily disrespectful and allegedly abusive treatment some people report receiving from INS agents.

The general manager of Aramark Uniform Services, the target of a raid this past March, says that minority workers — whether undocumented or not — have been instrumental in stabilizing his company's workforce.

"We don't like the INS, but we know they are mandated to do their job," says Bauer. "We just question who they target and how they do it."

The verbal harassment that the detained workers endured in the May raid — and in past raids — is inexcusable, Bauer says. "Nobody should be treated that way. These

are families, hard working people, whose only dream is to have better lives for their families. They are not doing anything bad in this community. They go to church. They love their children. They are paying their bills. They are paying taxes. They are taking nothing away from this community."

Bauer relates one especially disturbing testimony, in which one agent reportedly asked one of the children — who is a U.S. citizen — whether she would like to eat something from McDonald's or Taco Bell. The girl responded that she wanted something from Taco Bell. "And the agent said to her, 'You eat the same thing as my dog,'" Bauer says. "Do you believe that?"

Another testimony describes a scene in which a worker was reportedly asked by an INS agent if he remembered his first Holy Communion, a sacred rite in which Catholics participate when they are 7 or 8 years old. When the worker said yes, the agents ordered him to kneel down and position his hands as if he were praying. The testimony relates that an agent then asked the man if he prayed throughout his Holy Communion. "And then the agent asked, 'And are you praying now?' and started to laugh. The other workers watching this started to weep," the testimony states.

Some of the 35 workers detained in last

Watching the INS

Local activists Ramon Ramirez and Guadalupe Quinn are among 400 immigration rights activists nationwide who say they intend to be among those closely scrutinizing the INS. Quinn and Ramirez both attended a recent conference in Los Angeles focusing on immigrant rights. Ramirez, president of the farm workers union PCUN, was one of the conference organizers.

Quinn says participants agreed that the frequency and severity of INS raids across the country is increasing. So, she says, is a growing commitment by activists to take a stand against INS abuses.

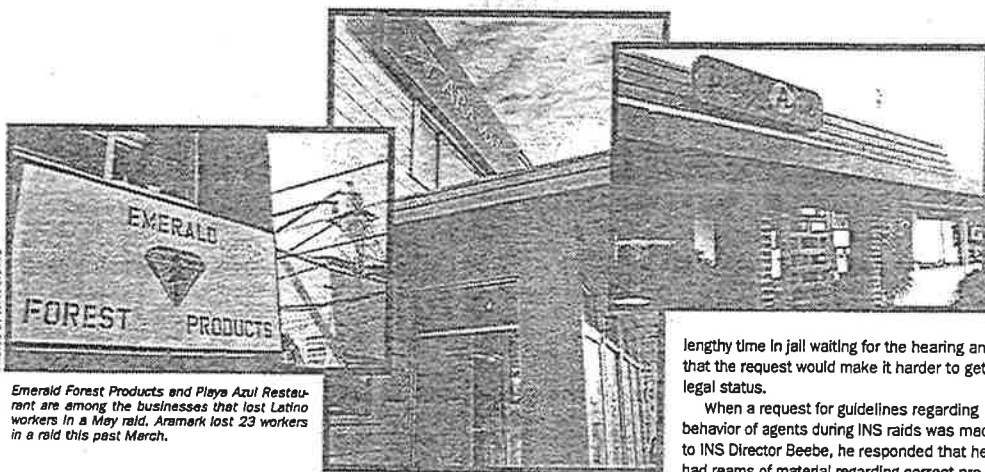
"The recent charge to start dealing with more undocumented folks has created some really awful behavior by the INS," says Quinn. "But there is also a strong movement to counter it and reframe this as a human rights issue."

To prevent the Latino community nationwide from becoming targets of unwarranted abuse, Ramirez says that more visible and written evidence of what happens during a raid is necessary.

As an example, Ramirez points to an April raid in Miami, where activists were able to call a videographer to document the incident. During the raid, according to press reports, INS agents stormed a warehouse, did not identify themselves and proceeded to shove and shout orders at workers. One woman was grabbed by the hair, thrown to the ground and kicked. Another pregnant woman was shoved to the floor. It turned out that of 23 workers sent to an INS detention center, 11 were legal.

The resulting public outcry and media furor led the INS to issue new guidelines governing raids in that Florida district. Under the new rules, INS offices must issue warnings before raiding employers, must obtain formal approval for raids from INS headquarters and have a "community liaison officer" in attendance during the raid. The instructions also say agents should avoid "contentious circumstances," such as raiding restaurants at lunch or dinner.

The reason so much action was taken in Miami, Ramirez says, is that the incident was documented. People in Oregon need to be ready to do likewise. "We have to expose what happens and not let what happens go unchecked," he says. —AT



Emerald Forest Products and Playa Azul Restaurant are among the businesses that lost Latino workers in a May raid. Aramark lost 23 workers in a raid this past March.

year's raid at Fircrest Farms, a chicken processing facility in Creswell, reported that agents refused to let workers who were wearing aprons covered in blood change their clothes. Many workers testified they were wearing bloody aprons when, hours later, they finally crossed the border into Mexico.

The Fircrest workers also reported that

they were not allowed to retrieve money and possessions from the workplace, were not informed about their rights, were not allowed reasonable access to bathroom facilities and were separated from other workers at the plant simply according to skin color. Those who did request a court hearing were told that they would probably have to spend a

lengthy time in jail waiting for the hearing and that the request would make it harder to get legal status.

When a request for guidelines regarding behavior of agents during INS raids was made to INS Director Beebe, he responded that he had reams of material regarding correct procedures, but had no one document available to send. However, a segment of an INS directive on treatment of people apprehended during a raid was reprinted in a February story by *Register-Guard* reporter Paul Neville. It contains these guidelines:

"Aliens are entitled to certain rights, among them the right to courteous, considerate treatment by officers of this service. No

remarks of a sarcastic or kidding nature should ever be made to an alien about his name, his nationality, his race, his religion, his economic condition, his dress, etc." The directive also states that aliens are entitled to a final meeting with family members, to collect any due wages, to be given any other reasonable assistance and to be informed of their legal right to a court hearing.

GERM OF TRUTH

District Director Beebe says he believes complaints regarding the behavior of agents during the most recent raid are the stuff of rumor, half-truths that have mushroomed out of proportion to the original incident.

"When you remove 78 people from job sites, you are affecting the lives of at least that many families," he says. "People hear about these things from another person, then pass it along to their friend. In the end, not much is left as a germ of truth."

In addition, Beebe says, such complaints can only be expected after a raid of that magnitude. "We are always accused of civil rights abuses, abuses of authority. People are upset because we do our job, and they will say anything to discredit the job we do," he says.

As far as the perceptions of wrongdoing, he says, "the only way people can have their complaint fairly considered — and the INS fairly exonerated — is to submit a complaint." The complaint must be made in writing, and must include a name, address and phone number. "We do not address anonymous complaints," he says.

Beebe says all alleged civil rights violation complaints made concerning the INS are investigated by the FBI. "And our office has had many, many investigations," he says. "We are delighted to do that. And we have always been exonerated."

With a staff of more than 28,000, some problems will inevitably arise in agency operations, Beebe says. "But when we identify abuse, we have a zero tolerance for it. We do not hesitate to take corrective action."

Asked whether an undocumented individual might have hesitations about submitting a complaint that has to include a name, address and phone number, Beebe says the agency can offer no assurances. "If a person is in the U.S. illegally, they are subject to [the consequences of] immigration violation."

David Fidanque, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Oregon, says the group has "a lot of concerns" about alleged civil rights abuses by INS agents. However, he says, the illegal status of many of those who allege the abuse makes it difficult to investigate the claims or to get support and attention from the public.

The political climate being what it is, he says, "there's not a lot of sympathy for undocumented workers who are mistreated.

Most members of the public think they shouldn't be here to begin with and deserve to get whatever they got. The bottom line right now is that Congress is screaming for [immigrant] blood and by all accounts, the administration is willing to help them get it."

Fidanque says historically the nation's courts have left the INS alone. The prevailing belief is that the agency provides an essential core function in protecting the country's borders. "The courts have been very deferential," he says. "They haven't required warrants. The agency hasn't had, to a large extent, to comply with due process protection that other arms of the government have to follow."

Unfortunately, he says, "it will take the INS blowing it really badly at some point, before any major changes occur." ■

INS arrests 78 in huge sweep

■ **Raids:** In the largest such effort in Lane County, 40 federal agents target seven Eugene-Springfield area businesses.

By PAUL NEVILLE
The Register-Guard

In a nine-hour series of raids that extended into early morning Thursday, federal immigration agents arrested 78 allegedly illegal workers at seven businesses in the Eugene-Springfield area.

The raids by 40 officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service were the

largest regional enforcement effort so far this year in Oregon and the largest in Lane County history.

To put the size of the INS sweep in perspective, the number of people arrested equals nearly one-tenth of the total number of undocumented workers arrested and deported in Oregon during all of 1997.

The carefully orchestrated sequence of

raids began in midafternoon Wednesday with agents in INS vans arriving with no warning at a local nursery, restaurants and factories.

It ended near midnight with the largest single action — the arrest of 35 employees at the Emerald Forest Products plywood mill in west Eugene.

Because of the scope of the raids, the INS held detainees overnight in the National Guard Armory in Eugene instead of following the normal practice of transporting them directly to the INS district headquarters in Portland.

INSIDE

■ **U.S. gives states and local governments \$492 million for jailing criminal aliens / 4A**

The latest Lane County raids are part of an intensive crackdown on illegal immigration at both the regional and national levels.

Last year, INS agents deported more than 800 undocumented workers in

Turn to INS RAIDS, Page 9A

THE REGISTER-GUARD • FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

INS RAIDS

Continued from Page One

Oregon, an 82 percent increase over 1996. The largest single raid in Lane County last year resulted in the deportation of 30 workers from the Fircrest Farms poultry processing plant in Creswell.

So far this year, federal agents have arrested and deported more than 600 undocumented workers in Oregon.

David Beebe, director of the Portland District office of the INS, called the latest Lane County raids "very significant" and added that they were coordinated "to maximize the return on investment of officer time and taxpayer dollars."

Beebe said the raids were prompted by tips from sources he declined to identify.

The raids sent shock waves through the local Latino community Thursday, with some normally outspoken groups and leaders declining comment until the scope and impact of the raid are more apparent.

"What people are focusing on right now is helping the many families that have been broken apart," said Jose Landin, a local Latino activist.

The unprecedented raids are likely to revive the ongoing debate over illegal workers and their role in the local and state economies.

Beebe estimated Thursday that the arrested workers at the seven businesses collectively earned more than \$1 million a year.

"Most of that money ends up

BUSINESSES RAIDED

Here are the locations raided by the INS and the agency's estimate of arrests made during a nine-hour period that ended early Thursday morning.

■ **Emerald Forest Products:** 35 arrested

■ **Spring Creek Gardens:** 13

■ **American Bowling Corp.:** 11

■ **La Fiesta Market:** Nine

■ **Centennial Steak House:**

Three

■ **Playa Azul Restaurant:** One

■ **L.J. Howard Furniture Co.:**

One

■ **Homes of detainees:** Five

—INS

money orders sent to moms, dads, spouses and kids in Mexico," Beebe said. "It doesn't do your community a darned bit of good."

In addition to enforcing the nation's immigration laws, Beebe said such raids are intended to stimulate the economy. "The INS looks at this as an opportunity to re-create 78 jobs for citizens and legal aliens," he said.

Immigrant advocates responded by questioning why the INS is working so hard to deport illegal immigrants they say benefit the

often dirty jobs that most non-immigrants refuse to do.

"The people who were arrested in these raids are hard-working people who are just trying to lead their lives, who pay their taxes just like everyone else," Landin said.

Of the 78 undocumented workers taken into custody, 66 agreed to leave the United States voluntarily in lieu of formal deportation, Beebe said. The remaining 12 requested hearings before a judge.

INS officials said that 75 of the detainees were of Mexican nationality and three were from Guatemala.

Beebe declined comment on either the timing of the voluntary deportations or the whereabouts of the detainees, citing "reasons that involve officer and alien safety."

Managers and owners of businesses hit by the INS described the raids as swift and well organized.

All the employers interviewed said the arrested employees had provided documents identifying them as legal immigrants eligible to work in the United States.

"When we do our hiring, we do it to the letter of the law," said Ron Vickers, vice president of Emerald Forest Products. "But the reality is there are lots of forged documents out there."

Vickers said agents arrived at the west Eugene plywood mill about 11 p.m., just as workers were changing shifts.

He said the detained workers, who represented 10 percent of the plant's total work force, were employed in low-level positions. The plant's operations were unaffected

At the La Fiesta Market on Main Street in Springfield, owner Lorena Favela said six agents arrived in two vans shortly before 5 p.m.

She said agents arrested both of her cooks and then entered the dining area, where they confronted seven diners.

"An agent asked if anyone had any documents — and when no one answered they started putting handcuffs on everyone," she said.

Brent Skiles, owner of Spring Creek Gardens on River Road north of Eugene, said INS employees arrived at 4 p.m. Wednesday and left with 13 workers — two-thirds of his work force — bound in handcuffs and chains.

Skiles said the raid, which occurred midway through the critical spring growing season, could prove devastating to his business.

"I've got all the office help out there today pulling orders, and there's absolutely no way they can keep up," he said.

"I called the unemployment office and told them we needed help — and two people showed up."

Skiles said he is concerned for both the deported workers and the family members they left behind.

"I was here in the office until 11 p.m. last night trying to find out what happened to all these people," he said. "It's a terrible situation."

CITY/REGION

FOR THE RECORD / 2B • OBITUARIES / 2B • BUSINESS / 5B

SECTION B
SATURDAY
MAY 3, 1997

34 arrested in INS raid on plant

■ **Illegal workers:** Nearly all those charged in the raid at a Fircrest Farms processing site agree to return to Mexico.

By CHRISTIAN WIHTOL
Register-Guard Business Editor

CRESWELL — A federal raid that arrested 34 allegedly illegal workers at the Fircrest Farms chicken processing plant this week followed an investigation last August that found that nearly half of the factory's 400 workers were illegal immigrants, a federal official said Friday.

Nearly all the workers arrested Wednesday have agreed to return home to Mexico, said David Beebe, director of

the Immigration and Naturalization Service office in Portland.

The INS staged the raid as part of an effort to see whether Fircrest complied with a directive last year to fire all the illegal workers, Beebe said.

The agency is continuing to investigate Fircrest, he said. Companies that hire illegal workers may face fines or other sanctions, he added.

Fircrest, Creswell's largest employer, remained largely silent on the issue

Friday. Fircrest's controller said he was unaware of the INS directive that Fircrest terminate illegal immigrants on its payroll.

Fircrest "has a history of quality employment practices" and "fully cooperates" with INS inspections, Bob Hansen said. Fircrest is owned by Foster Farms of Livingston, Calif.

Wednesday's sweep was of average scope for an INS raid in Oregon, but the finding in August that nearly half the plant's workers were illegal was unusual, Beebe said.

The raid rekindled local debate about the role illegal immigrants — people who

have sneaked into the country and who lack documentation allowing them to accept jobs — play in the U.S. economy. Fircrest's illegal workers are taking jobs away from U.S. citizens and from legally admitted foreigners, Beebe argued.

Also, they're hurting the Lane County economy by sending much of their pay to family members in Mexico, he said. Beebe estimated that workers at the Creswell plant send a half-million dollars a year to Mexico.

"At the end of every payday, they go to the post office and take out money orders and send it back to mom and dad and the

Turn to ILLEGAL WORKERS, Page 4B

ILLEGAL WORKERS

Sat. May 3, 1997
Continued from Page 1B

kids in Mexico," Beebe said. "That contributes to the imbalance of payments (in U.S. trade with foreign countries). It's a form of unauthorized foreign aid."

But an advocate for Lane County's Latino community said illegal immigrants help the U.S. economy by taking jobs that no one else wants.

"Killing and dismembering animals all day long, by hand, for \$5.25 an hour — I don't expect that there are many people who want to do that kind of work," said Jayme Vasconcellos, executive director of Centro LatinoAmericano, a social service agency in Eugene.

The region's poultry, nursery and agriculture businesses rely heavily on Latino workers, Vasconcellos added. "That labor is undocumented, by and large, and everybody knows that, including the

INS," he said. If Fircrest had to compete with Sony Corp., Hyundai and other area employers that pay \$9 or so per hour for shop-floor workers, the chicken plant's payroll would soar, and so would chicken prices for consumers, Vasconcellos added.

In addition to the 34 undocumented workers arrested in Creswell, the INS on Wednesday arrested one undocumented worker at the Fircrest plant in Corvallis, Beebe said.

Of the 35, 22 were men and 13 were women, he said. All 22 men agreed to be voluntarily transported to Mexico in lieu of formal deportation, he said.

Two of the women were released after they established that they were Nicaraguan and had pending claims for political asylum in the United States, he said. Eight other

women agreed to be returned to Mexico. Another was released because she was on medical treatment, another because she had a 4-week-old infant, and a third is contesting the arrest, he said.

The INS learned of the illegal workers from tips, Beebe said. The agency will take two months to complete the case, he said.

The arrests have torn families apart, Vasconcellos said. One worker arrested at the Creswell plant agreed to return to Mexico but chose to leave her 3-month-old daughter here with friends who are illegal immigrants, he said. If she had opted to fetch her daughter for the trip back to Mexico, she would have in effect led INS officials to her home, where other illegal immigrants were living, Vasconcellos said.

Probe by INS leads to 23 arrests

■ **Immigration:** Agents nab illegal workers, all of them from Mexico, at a uniform service company.

By SUZANNE HURT
The Register-Guard

Federal agents apprehended nearly two dozen people Thursday for allegedly working illegally at a west Eugene uniform service company.

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agents arrested 23 workers during an ongoing investigation at Aramark

INS

Continued from Page 1B

misguided."

Gonzalez agreed that many of those arrested were likely to have families here. "Some may not claim families for fear we may go to their houses and take them," he said.

Thursday's operation pointed out how difficult it can be for companies to meet federal immigration rules.

Gonzalez said company officials are "not document experts," leading them to accept false papers.

Matt McConaughy, director of marketing for Burbank, Calif.-based Aramark, said not only does the company review documents when people apply for jobs, it also hires an outside agency to offer assistance.

Aramark, which operates in 150 locations throughout the country, repairs and washes uniforms, as well as makes uniforms, mats and towels.

Uniform Services, 1850 W. Sixth Ave., said Frank Gonzalez, an INS special agent in charge of the operation.

The INS began investigating Aramark after receiving several complaints, Gonzalez said. The agency audited Aramark's employment verification records Jan. 30 and found 35 unauthorized people were working at the company. Two weeks ago, the INS gained the company's approval to enter the workplace, rather than stage a surprise raid.

Plainclothes agents arrived at the business at 9 a.m. Thursday.

Within an hour, agents arrested 15 women and eight men, aged 20 to 42, who were operating laundry machines. It

of the workers — all of whom were from Mexico — had used false "alien registration numbers" on job forms, and some had provided false documents, Gonzalez said.

Three people — two of them women with children — requested deportation hearings. The rest were bused to Portland, where they will be processed and deported to the California border.

The number of people arrested is considered large for an INS operation in Eugene, said Carmen Bauer, executive director of Centro LatinoAmericano. In the last major Eugene operation, a raid nearly a year ago, agents apprehended a record-setting 33 people.

"It's separating families," she said. Marion Malcolm, who coordinates the immigrant rights program for the Community Alliance of Lane County, agreed.

"My understanding is most of the people deported were women. Most had children, and in some of those cases ... those children are U.S. citizens," Malcolm said. "And in some of those cases also, the person deported is a single parent and the sole provider. So what happens to those kids?"

"(It's) just the human suffering that comes in the wake of laws and policies that I think are really terribly unfair and

Turn to INS, Page 2B

The Register-Guard

SECTION B

FRIDAY,

MARCH 13, 1998

"Aramark takes this very seriously. We do everything in our power to ensure the authenticity of the documentation submitted to us," said McConaughy.

Many people apprehended in raids are not aware that they have a right to request a deportation hearing, said Malcolm, of Community Alliance of Lane County.

Those with a parent, spouse or child who is a U.S. resident or citizen may have grounds to stay if they can prove that leaving would create a hardship for those left behind and that they have good moral character, Malcolm said.

People who have filed forms to gain permanent residency, which can take years, also don't know they should ask for a hearing, she said.

"Who is there to help them understand the system and how it works?" she asked.

Fund to help families of deported Fircrest staff

By Jason Jones

Since the April 30 arrest of 34 undocumented workers from Fircrest Farms, the Hispanic community in Creswell has been worried about what will happen next and how the families affected will get by.

As a result of the arrests, 22 men and eight women were deported to Mexico.

Creswell resident Ausencia Alexander is the aunt of one of the women deported, Maria Elena Orendorff. Although Orendorff married a U.S. citizen from Harrisburg last April, she had not yet filled out citizenship papers and so she was forced to leave.

Alexander said they should have fought the deportation, but because it all happened in one day they weren't aware of Orendorff's rights.

"We just didn't know what to do," Alexander said.

When Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) agents raided Fircrest, Alexander was at the hospital with a woman who was about to give birth. When she returned, her niece and the woman's husband had already been transported to Portland.

According to Alexander, INS officials assured Orendorff that she would be able to return to the U.S. within six months if she left voluntarily, whereas if she stayed it could take four or five years to sort out.

Later, they found out that was a lie, according to Alexander, but it was too late. INS couldn't be reached for comment.

Now Orendorff's husband, Jeff, plans to live in San Diego while she lives in Tijuana. Alexander hopes her niece will be able to return soon. She said the deportations affected many families in the area, adding that churches and shopping areas that Hispanics generally frequent have been much emptier.

"I don't think there was a Cinco de Mayo without Hispanic people," Alexander said.

Having lived in Creswell for 20 years, Alexander said she has never seen anything like this before. In the past, she said the INS had said it would be coming beforehand, so everyone who was working illegally just left Fircrest. She said this time was much different.

"There were police at every exit with their guns already un-snapped," she said. "It was just awful."

Alexander thinks that since families have been pulled apart, it will be difficult to bring them back together. Those deported weren't allowed to contact anyone before they left, she said.

"I don't know what those people will do in families that have been split," Alexander said.

The INS used tactics that were unnecessary, given the circumstances, she thinks.

The people should have had more time to make preparations before being deported, she said, and there was no need to take them away in handcuffs and shackles.

"They're working people. They're not robbing a bank or killing people," Alexander said. "I'm not really against what immigration is doing. I'm just against the way they're doing it."

A Hispanic Assistance Fund has been started at Siuslaw Valley Bank to help the families of those deported.

To contribute, stop by the bank or call Father James Dowd of Creswell's St. Philip Benizi Catholic Mission Church at 942-3420.

Page 3 - The Chronicle, Wednesday, May 14, 1997

Creswell, OR

Section F:

CONCLUSION

There are reports that new US citizens and permanent legal immigrants on occasion have been detained and transported miles away from home and left with no transportation or resources to return home. The INS officials claim detainees are freely given options and can seek a court hearing, and that detainees are held in detention centers only when they are a threat to the community. In the Migra raid of May 13, 1998 workers who made a request for a hearing reported being intimidated and verbally abused throughout the experience of the INS raid. INS agents made requests for bail bonds of \$5,000 at the time of the May 13, 1998 raid/interrogation process in Eugene.

The workers were instructed to sign voluntary deportation papers or face months of incarceration before a hearing could occur. The workers who were detained spent an average between 2 to 3 weeks in a detention center in Eloi, Arizona. The workers who were transported to Arizona, paid bail bonds (with the help of employers) of \$5,000 to be released. All 78 workers originally detained by the INS were not a threat to the community. The INS officials stated that requesting \$5000 is a violation of policy and that no INS agents at any time made any request for money. INS officials claim all detainees are treated with utmost respect, especially the women. Officials also claim their agents always act in a professional manner and do not falsely accuse undocumented workers.

Detained workers described obvious human rights and civil rights violations as mentioned in section "A" in this report. The workers who were courageous enough to stand up to the abusive tactics by INS agents, were sent to Elio, Arizona for no apparent reason. These workers will need to return to Arizona for a deportation hearing. One detained worker reported extreme intimidation – both verbal and physical abuse – directed at him when he stood up for his rights. A complete history is in our information bank. The inhumane and illegal tactics perpetuated by INS agents, were reported by workers who themselves were subjected to various degrees of abuse by La Migra from the initial raid in Lane County until the final hour of release near the border in Juarez, Mexico. The INS officers claim detainees are allowed to call anytime during the process of the operation.

A majority of workers claim they were not given an opportunity to call and they were kept in a bus with the heater on high in constant movement. The bus at one point went from Eugene to Albany and back to Eugene. Furthermore, they were kept shackled in the bus overnight, workers made complaints to agents that the heater made workers nauseous. The workers who were detained at the Eugene Armory from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM were not allowed to talk to their relatives who were standing outside the Armory, attempting to speak to the detained in order to give them money and get car keys for vehicles left at the work sites.

INS officials claim that workers were not instructed to go to Portland to seek work permits after being released from detention. All workers that made a request for a hearing and who were detained claim they were instructed after being released to go to Portland to acquire a work permit. Workers took the time and spent money to make this extra, and ultimately futile,

journey to Portland. The actions and contradictory statements by INS agents is clear evidence that the INS attempt to break the spirit of detained workers and make the process more costly and complicated, given the fact that many workers do not understand the language or the complex judicial process. There is no logical explanation or reason to the run around provided to the workers who were detained and transported to Eloi, Arizona – especially since they were not a threat to the community. These Migra operations and inhumane actions are even more costly to taxpayers, businesses and to the detained workers who travel across several states to rejoin their families and later make a journey across several states again for a hearing that is likely to deport the individual.

The economic crises that contribute to the immigration problem in this country are not unique, but are observable throughout the world. Most of the immigrant workers in the US come from Mexico and other Latin American countries. These workers are the peasantry of Latin America. The living conditions in Latin America are exacerbated due to the oppression experienced in many of these neighboring countries, which force the most needy and less or non educated to migrate north and seek better lives. The desire for a cheap and strong labor force in America contributes to the social and economic condition in our communities. The US government, in turn, has taken a less humane approach when dealing with the immigration issues while the Mexican government turns a blind eye to the Immigration issue. Human rights and civil rights are undermined by the decisions made by politicians who have a fundamental misunderstanding of immigration issues, and who have no ability to conceptualize what it is like to migrate to a foreign country.

The average citizen when questioned in the street believes that Latin American people come to this country not only for the sole purpose of taking away jobs from Americans, but to use social services and become US citizens. This erroneous perception has evolved with the help of the media throughout the last few decades and has helped instigate the passage of laws that allow not only the revoking of US citizenship from newly made citizens, but to limit education and social services to both legal and undocumented immigrants. The focus of these immigration laws are, without a doubt, fear based and perpetuate xenophobia. However, many laws appear to be implemented out of pure hate. Educating the public about the plight of the new immigrants and a more human political approach to the immigration issue will certainly improve all our communities and improve the socio-economic condition of Lane county.

Acknowledgments

The Migra Raid Report Task Force is a community-based group whose participants include representatives from the following organizations:

**Latino Coalition - El Nuevo Aztlán - Centro LatinoAmericano
Socio-Cultural Organization El Bracero - Network for Immigrant Justice
Community Alliance of Lane County - Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network**

The Task Force expresses its sincere appreciation for the contributions of the many individuals and organizations from our community and beyond who have helped in countless ways to make this report possible. We especially wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following:

- **The immigrants who gave testimonies about their experiences**
- **Representative Peter DeFazio and members of his staff**
- **Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project - Harlingen, Texas**
- **McKenzie River Gathering Foundation**
- **Presbytery of the Cascades - Peacemaking Unit**
- **National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights**
- **Eugene Water and Electric Board**

Responsibility for accuracy of this report rest solely with the members of the task force.



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