

REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF MEXICAN FARM LABOR PROGRAM

MADE PURSUANT TO CONFERENCE REPORT NO. 1449

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

84TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1959

U. S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Employment Security  
Farm Labor Service

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Report of Operations of Mexican Farm Labor Program  
Made Pursuant to Conference Report No. 1449, July 1 -  
December 31, 1959

Report on Operations of Mexican Farm Labor Program  
Made Pursuant to Conference Report No. 1149,  
House of Representatives, 84th Congress, First Session

July 1 - December 31, 1959

Summary

During the period July 1 - December 31, 1959, 186 ceilings were established authorizing employment of Mexican nationals in 88 areas of 27 States. Peak employment reached 291,500 in September, about 21,000 more than the 1958 period.

In this same period the Bureau of Employment Security made 927 wage determinations in 20 States.

There were 315,486 Mexican nationals contracted during this period.

Skip assessments resulted in the collection of \$8,945.86.

Cash available in the revolving fund on December 31, 1959 for future operations amounted to \$2,975,185.

During the last six months of 1959 there were 940 inspections made of central restaurant facilities.

Foreign Labor Service Representatives conducted 3,038 investigations of complaints involving various provisions of the Migrant Labor Agreement and Standard Work Contract. As a result of investigations, violations were found in 1,443 cases.

### Skip Assessments

Section 502(3) of Public Law 78, as amended, provides that employers of Mexican National workers shall pay to the United States in any case in which a worker is not returned to the Reception Center in accordance with the contract entered into under Section 501(5), an amount determined by the Secretary of Labor to be equivalent to the normal cost to the employer of returning other workers from the area of employment to such Reception Center, less any portion thereof required to be paid by other employers. Pursuant thereto, a total of 3 "skip" assessments were processed by the Reception Centers totaling \$245.89. After resolving documented exceptions, a total of \$8,945.86 was collected in this period as a result of prior assessments.

### Revolving Fund

For Fiscal Year 1960, Congress authorized the transfer of \$1,336,700 from the Farm Labor Supply Revolving Fund to cover the administrative costs of the program. The Congress also appropriated \$873,000 for Compliance activities.

The following table shows the status of the Farm Labor Supply Revolving Fund as of December 31, 1959.

Cash Balance		\$ 3,802,088
Less: Unearned advances by employers	163,476	
Accounts payable	376,519	
Reserve to return workers to Mexico	<u>286,908</u>	<u>826,903</u>
Estimated balance available for future operations		\$ 2,975,185

### Compliance

During the last six months of 1959 there were 940 inspections made of central restaurant facilities. Eight-hundred and forty (840) of these inspections were made in Region X where approximately 90% of central food services facilities are located. Inspections disclosed deficiencies in 30% of the cases.

Twenty-eight (28) employers were declared ineligible to use Mexican workers because of serious violation of the Agreement or Contract. Violations which most frequently resulted in ineligibility includes: physical mistreatment of workers or employment in unauthorized activities; failure to keep adequate records and/or pay wages due workers; and failure to furnish adequate subsistence.

Total payments made by the United States as guarantor under the Agreement to date is \$62,619.08. The total collected on this amount is \$32,865.49. An indebtedness of \$7,149.46 has been closed as uncollectible.

There are 31 cases pending litigation involving the collection of \$20,944.21; three cases pending final demand of \$1,659.92.

#### Migratory Labor Agreement Extended

Through an exchange of notes October 23, 1959 between the United States and Mexico the Migratory Labor Agreement of 1951, with perfecting amendments, was extended to June 30, 1961.

#### Operations

##### 1. Reduction in the Cost of Contracting to Employers

The size of the revolving fund was sufficient during this period that the Farm Labor Service was able to announce that effective January 1, 1960 the cost to employers for contracting Mexican workers under Public Law 78 would be reduced from \$12.00 to \$10.00 per man and the recontract cost per man would be reduced from \$6.00 to \$5.00, after consultation with the Mexican Subcommittee on Farm Labor, representing employers. Furthermore, it was mutually agreed that the fees for contracting could be adjusted upwards or downwards if deemed necessary to maintain an adequate working balance in the revolving fund.

##### 2. Social Security Provided Workers by Mexican Institute of Social Security

As a part of the negotiations for the continuation of the Migrant Labor Agreement of 1951, as amended, the United States and Mexico agreed to drop from the non-occupational insurance program the life insurance coverage heretofore provided Mexican national workers. In lieu of this coverage the Mexican Social Security Institute is to provide social security benefits, beginning February 1, 1960. All other items of non-occupational insurance carried on the lives of Mexican workers under

July 1 - December 31, 1959

MIGRATORY AND BORDER STATIONS

<u>Migratory Stations</u>	<u>Workers Selected</u>	<u>Workers Rejected</u>	<u>Workers Transported</u>
Monterrey	166,811	8,748	165,981
Chihuahua	54,050	846	47,356
Guaymas	95,772	4,256	95,772
Sub-totals	316,633	13,850	309,109
<u>Border Stations</u>			
Reynosa	-	-	718
Piedras Negras	-	-	1,921
Juarez	-	-	260
Zaragoza	-	-	276
Nogales, Sonora	-	-	59
Agua Prieta	-	-	0
Mexicali	-	-	1,321
Sub-totals			4,555
Total Workers Transported			313,664

RECEPTION CENTERS

<u>Center</u>	<u>Workers Received</u>	<u>Workers Contracted</u>	<u>Workers Recontracted</u>	<u>Workers Rejected</u>	<u>Workers Returned to Mexico</u>
Hidalgo	98,637	96,309	23,503	2,319	107,287
Eagle Pass	70,851	70,211	6,059	648	76,420
El Paso	54,807	54,098	2,357	614	62,295
Nogales	10,545	10,483	43	60	7,595
El Centro	85,528	84,385	4,799	1,143	106,361
Totals	320,368 <sup>1/</sup>	315,486	36,761	4,784	359,958

A total of 2,116,174 meals, including box lunches, were provided to Mexican agricultural workers by the United States Government. Meals were provided to workers after they were selected at the Migratory Stations in Mexico, enroute to and during their processing for contracting at Reception Centers and from the time they were subsequently received at the Reception Centers until they were returned to the appropriate Migratory Station in Mexico.