

**REPORT OF OPERATIONS OF MEXICAN FARM LABOR PROGRAM
MADE PURSUANT TO CONFERENCE REPORT NO. 1449**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
84TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION**

January 1 - June 30, 1960

Resource ID # 8364
Report of Operations of Mexican Farm Labor
Program Made Pursuant to Conference Report
No. 1449, January 1 - June 30, 1960

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

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

January 1 - June 30, 1960

Summary

During the period January 1 through June 30, 1960, 111,867 Mexican nationals were contracted as compared to 122,157 for the same period in 1959. They were authorized for assignment to 80 areas in 28 States.

In the same period the Secretary of Labor made 525 wage determinations.

Skip assessments resulted in the collection of \$29,212.01.

Cash available in the revolving fund for future operations amounted to \$2,776,227.91 on June 30, 1960.

A total of 5,128 housing inspections were made during the period as compared to 3,987 made during the last six months of 1959.

There were 12,826 payroll inspections made of which there were 2,961 cases of violation, or 23 percent of the cases inspected. Total wages collected as a result of payroll inspections amounted to \$92,662.28.

Foreign Labor Service Representatives made 2,253 investigations of complaints involving various provisions of the Migrant Labor Agreement and the Standard Work Contract. There were 1,144 cases of violation found, or 51 percent of those investigated.

total wages collected as a result of payroll inspections were \$92,662.28. As a result of both payroll inspections and wage investigations, workers received a total of \$130,955.39 in wage adjustments.

A total of 5,128 housing inspections were made during the period as compared to 3,987 made during the last 6 months of 1959. Inspections made during the period disclosed deficiencies in 75 percent of the cases; a 12 percent increase over the previous 6 months. This increase of 1,141 housing inspections was the result of continued emphasis on the Minimum Acceptable Housing Standards, housing drives in southern California, and the failure of some employers in Region VIII to meet standards when converting housing intended only for summer use to year-round facilities. Some new housing was constructed and much of the older housing, no longer suited for housing Mexican nationals, was rebuilt during the period.

The building and reconstruction program was particularly emphasized in the Texas Rio Grande Valley. The removal of 2,681 Mexican national workers from 232 housing facilities was primarily caused by failure to provide the required heating facilities, unsanitary conditions, and buildings no longer safe for occupancy.

Surveys to determine food service costs for providing meals to Mexican national workers were conducted separately by a committee representing California growers and the Department of Labor. The growers' committee arrived at a substantially higher cost figure than that reached by the Department of Labor. A comparison of the surveys revealed that the higher figure was the result of including several items not properly chargeable. The committee, at the request of the Department, made a second survey using only those items which had been determined to be properly chargeable to food service. The figure arrived at in this latter survey came within one cent of the cost reached by the Department of Labor in its initial survey, and was accepted as representative of food service costs.

On January 20, 1960, a meeting was held with a subcommittee of the Special Farm Labor Committee to discuss methods of bringing the charge to workers in line with food service costs as determined by the surveys. Instructions implementing the agreement reached at this meeting were prepared and distributed by the Bureau of Employment Security on June 30, 1960. Under the new procedures employers are required to maintain a cost and menu file and to submit financial reports periodically to regional directors of the Bureau of Employment Security. When an overcharge for meals is made, the amount of the charge shall be refunded in cash or free meals to the workers.

Forty employers were declared ineligible to use Mexican workers because of serious violation of the Agreement or Contract. As the guarantor of a Mexican worker's contract wages, the United States has been obliged to pay \$1,512.00 in this period. \$1,435.26 was collected from employers and applied to the outstanding balance under the guarantee; \$130.63 has been written off as bad debts; 30 cases involving \$20,890.32 are pending litigation. On June 30, 1960 three cases involving a total of \$1,659.92 were awaiting ac-

Summary of Activities
January 1 - June 30, 1960

Migratory and Border Stations				
	Workers interviewed	Workers rejected	Workers selected	Workers transported
<u>Migratory stations:</u>				
Monterrey	30,349	1,133	29,216	28,799
Chihuahua	21,712	536	21,176	18,198
Guaymas	57,269	1,968	55,301	54,079
Sub-totals	109,330	3,637	105,693	101,076
<u>Border stations:</u>				
Reynosa	(Hidalgo)	-	-	1,590
Piedras Negras	(Eagle Pass)	-	-	3,232
Juarez	(El Paso)	-	-	694
Nogales, Sonora	(Nogales)	-	-	106
Mexicali	(El Centro)	-	-	1,768
Sub-total				7,390
Total workers transported				108,466

Reception Centers					
Center	Workers received	Workers contracted	Workers recontracted	Workers rejected	Workers returned to Mexico
Hidalgo	23,511	23,013	3,143	494	6,978
Eagle Pass	10,288	10,115	851	126	3,824
El Paso	21,794	21,534	883	254	6,824
Nogales	3,596	3,581	5	15	6,028
El Centro	54,400	53,624	3,522	777	36,424
Totals	113,589 ^{1/}	111,867	8,404	1,666	60,078

A total of 635,912 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.

^{1/} This figure includes approximately 5,123 workers who furnished their own transportation from migratory stations to the Border.