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Report of Operations of Mexican Farm Labor Program
Made Pursuant to Conference Report No. 1449

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, 1959

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, 1959

Summary

During the period January 1 - June 30, 1959, 105 ceilings were established authorizing employment of 208,384 Mexican Nationals in 58 areas of 26 States.

In the same period the Secretary of Labor made 629 wage determinations in 18 States.

There were 122,157 Mexican Nationals contracted during this period.

Skip assessments resulted in the collection of \$31,000.

Cash available in the revolving fund for future operations amounted to \$1,797,143 on June 30, 1959.

A survey of restaurant facilities in labor camps conducted by California growers was submitted to the Department for comparison with a Government survey made earlier. Details are to be discussed with the advisory committee.

Foreign Labor Service Representatives conducted 1,947 investigations of complaints. Of these, 335 involved wages which resulted in payments by employers of \$26,585.44 in back wages and prevailing wage adjustments. Another \$39,650.68 in wages were paid by employers as a result of routine payroll investigations made pursuant to specific complaints.

Operations for the period included negotiations with the Mexican Government for the extension of the Migrant Labor Agreement, a Managers' meeting at El Paso, Texas, and a conference with Mexican railroad officials to improve the movement of workers in Mexico. In addition, the following improvements were made at Reception Centers and Migratory Stations: construction of permanent serology facilities at two more Reception Centers, adoption of plans by the Mexican Government for the improvement of physical plant at Migratory Stations, and the installation of accrual accounting system at both centers

Skip Assessments

Pursuant to the stipulations of Section 502 (3), Public Law 78, as amended, a total of 1,099 "skip" assessments have been processed by the Reception Centers totaling \$56,974.74. After resolving documented exceptions, a total of \$31,268.51 was collected in this period as a result of prior assessments.

Revolving Fund

In fiscal year 1959, Congress authorized a transfer of \$1,550,000 from the Farm Labor Revolving Fund to finance administrative costs (salaries and expenses) of the program. In addition, \$123,000 was transferred to cover the pay increase resulting in a total of \$1,673,500 expended from the revolving fund during the fiscal year 1959. Of this total, \$350,000 was expended for salaries and related costs of employees primarily engaged in compliance activities. In addition, Congress made a direct appropriation of \$517,700 for compliance activities.

Cash Balance (estimated as of June 30, 1959)	\$2,379,747
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Less:

Reserve for return of workers in U.S.	\$433,358	
Advances by employers for future contracting of workers	<u>149,246</u>	<u>582,604</u>

Estimated available balance for future operations as of June 30, 1959	\$1,797,143 ^{2/}
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Compliance

During the first six months of 1959, inspections for compliance with the general standards of restaurant facilities in Mexican National farm labor camps continued.^{3/} Inspections of approximately 675, 45% of the restaurants in operation, disclosed deficiencies of some kind in approximately 30% of cases. This is approximately 50% less deficiencies per unit inspected than for previous period.

The study conducted by the Department to determine the operating cost of restaurant facilities in Mexican National farm labor camps was criticised by the advisory committee of the Department on the grounds that the sample was inadequate. As a result, the California Growers requested an opportunity to conduct their own cost survey. Their survey results were compiled from 273 responses from growers with restaurant facilities in California and Arizona. The summary of results was submitted to the Department in May. The California Growers survey, when compared with the figures of the Department, showed a total average restaurant cost per worker of \$1.7369 compared to the Department's figures of \$1.5754. The difference of .1625 cents was in labor and other operating expenses. Food

^{2/} Transfers for first quarter Fiscal 1960; Salaries and Expenses Public Law 78 \$334,175, and Public Health Service \$225,000. These transfers amounting to

2. Installation of Serology Program

Permanent facilities for the administration of blood syphilis tests to Mexican agricultural workers have been installed at the Hidalgo and Eagle Pass Reception Centers. This, together with facilities installed earlier at the El Centro and El Paso Reception Centers, completes construction in connection with the serology program.

3. Accrual Accounting

Installation of an Accrual Accounting system for Reception Centers and Migratory Stations has been completed by the Division of Budgets and Fiscal Operations. As a result, management has available more detailed cost information in regard to Reception Center and Migratory Station activities.

4. Improvement of Physical Plant at Reception Centers and Migratory Stations

The Mexican Government has advised that funds are now available for use in the improvement of facilities in Mexico. Detailed plans have been adopted for the construction of a new Migratory Station at a point outside of Monterrey, Nueve Leon, Mexico, to replace facilities now operating in that city.

5. U. S. - Mexican Negotiations

Meetings of U. S. and Mexican official delegations for the purpose of extending the Migrant Labor Agreement are still in progress. A temporary extension of the present Agreement to July 31st may be lengthened to August 31st before final settlement is reached.

6. Conference with Mexican Railroad Officials

Recent meeting with Mexican railroad officials has resulted in improved services and allocation of additional equipment for movement of workers between the Monterrey Migratory Station and the Hidalgo Reception Center.

SUMMARY OF RECEPTION CENTER AND REGIONAL OFFICE ACTIVITIES

January 1 through June 30, 1959

<u>States</u>	<u>Reception Centers</u>		<u>Regional Recontracts</u>	<u>Combined Center and Regional Recontracts</u>
	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Recontracts</u>		
Arizona	7,166	150	3,255	3,405
Arkansas	4,938	399	0	399
California	58,813	4,137	3,030	7,217
Colorado	6,202	30	18	48
Illinois	179	0	0	0
Indiana	0	60	0	60
Kansas	25	0	0	0
Kentucky	80	0	0	0
Michigan	3,479	174	0	174
Minnesota	40	0	0	0
Missouri	97	0	0	0
Montana	2,210	0	0	0
Nebraska	2,112	0	0	0
Nevada	127	0	0	0
New Mexico	2,936	273	0	273
South Dakota	217	0	0	0
Tennessee	428	0	0	0
Texas	31,509	3,533	67	3,600
Utah	333	6	4	10
Wisconsin	126	0	0	0
Wyoming	<u>1,140</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	122,157	8,812	6,374	15,186