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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

November 3, 1953

G.F.  
126-9

Dear Mr. Idar:

Thank you for your recent letter and the enclosed editorial from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As you know, the entire matter covered in this article is receiving very careful scrutiny here.

You may be sure the viewpoint you have expressed will be given every consideration by the appropriate authorities.

Sincerely,

SHERMAN ADAMS

re wetback labor  
#

Mr. Ed Idar, Jr  
Executive Secretary  
American GI Forum of Texas  
310 Halle Building  
Austin, Texas

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marked here

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**AMERICAN GI FORUM OF TEXAS**  
INDEPENDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION

310 NALLE BUILDING  
PHONE: 8-2410  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

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Hon. Sherman Adams  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In the light of President Eisenhower's administration's interest in the wetback problem and the recommendations now being drawn up by Attorney General Brownell on this problem, we are enclosing herewith copy of editorial that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on October 12, 1953.

Since this newspaper is one of the most level-headed in the entire nation and has a distinguished record in the field of journalism, being known particularly as not an advocate of any extreme point of view, we feel sure that the President and his staff will want to consider the editorial.

Needless to say, those of us who are close to the problem in Texas and the Southwest, agree emphatically with the sentiments expressed by this newspaper, particularly in its comments on the one-year visas proposed by the Californians.

We refer you to the Hon. Paul T. Carroll for previous correspondence from this organization on this question.

Most sincerely yours

*Ed Idar, Jr.*  
ED IDAR, JR.  
Executive Secretary

Editorial  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Oct. 12, 1953

### FUGITIVES AS FARMHANDS

California's farm spokesmen unintentionally painted an ugly picture in their defense of Mexican "wetback" labor. They warned Attorney General Brownell it might undermine the nation's economy to deport the wetbacks, so called because many of them swim the Rio Grande in entering this country illegally. The farm spokesmen proposed that instead, the Government legalize their violation of the law by issuing them one-year visas.

Do the Californians who propound these sentiments have any notion how callous, cynical and wanting in ethical sense they sound to others? If they believe the national economy would crash without the support of aliens illegally resident here, they have little faith in it indeed. If their idea of law is that it should be set aside in case it is violated, they have scant respect for it.

Nor is their espousal of what is in effect, in many cases, slave labor, any more palatable. Wetbacks, being fugitives from justice, do not occupy a favorable bargaining position. They take what they can get. Farmers who employ them exploit their wretchedness, are profiteers in misery, and certainly deserve legal punishment as much as the wetbacks.

¶ A presidential commission's study showed that farmers in the United States can get ample labor in their own country if they will pay decent wages and offer decent working conditions. The Attorney General should not let the California farm spokesmen's specious arguments deter him from carrying out his announced intention of drying up the influx of wetbacks. This sorry business is against the law and it is an offense to the American spirit.