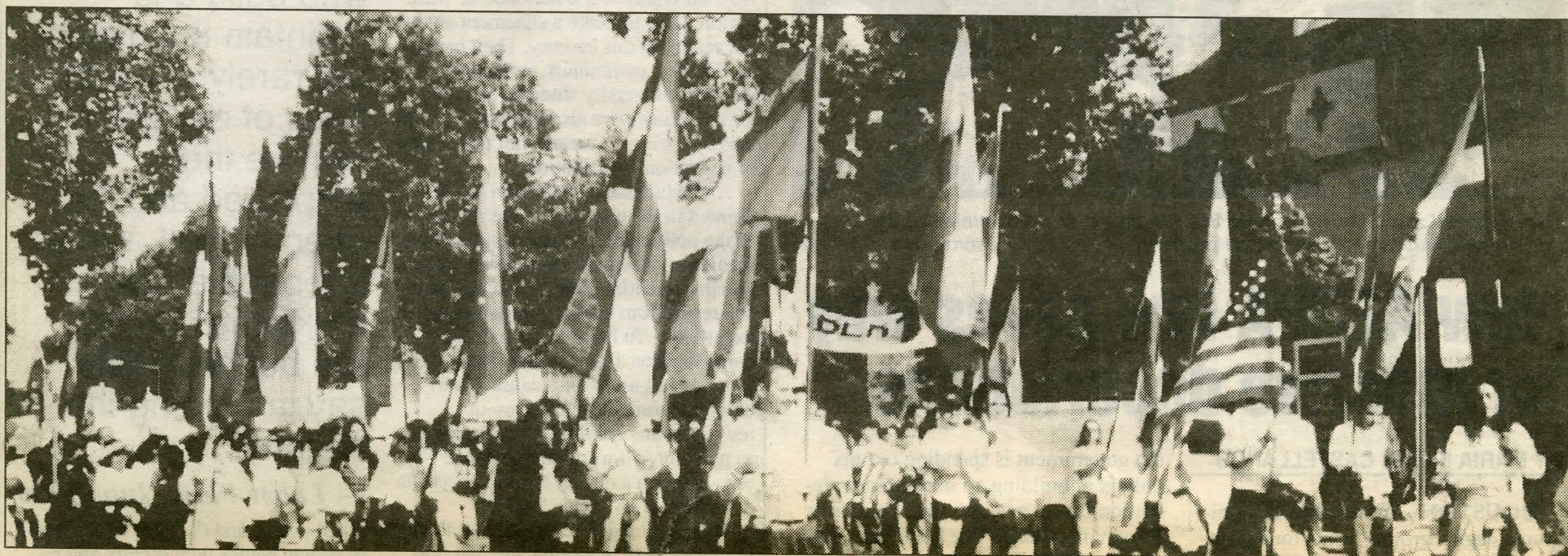




Excitement and pride filled the air as Latinos marched on Washington, D.C. to bring their demands for justice and dignity and to declare to the world they are eager to help shape strategy into the 21st century.

PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

# THOUSANDS MARCH

## Latinos ready to take struggle for rights, dignity to another level

BY LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ

**Celebratory, yet defiant, more than 30,000 people representing Latinos from throughout the United States gathered in Washington D.C. on October 12 to demand justice and their human rights.**

"No human being is illegal," appeared on the T-shirt of a young person from Chicago, summarizing the sentiment of most participants. With banners and flags from countries of the Americas, the Latino gathering became the largest of its kind in the United States.

October 12 is known in Latin America as "Día de la Raza"—Day of the People. The marchers walked several miles to a block from the White House with a seven-point program that included free public education and

health services for all, \$7 per hour minimum wage, and immigrant rights.

While some see the upcoming elections as a place to address these issues, others expressed the need for more grass-roots organizing, particularly among immigrants and low-wage workers, and genuine political independence.

The mostly young contingents also expressed their desire for young people to help shape strategy into the 21st century.

Faced with increased attacks against immigrants such as Proposition 187 in California, English Only laws, and abuse by authorities, speakers and marchers alike raised the need to take the struggle to another level, including educating and galvanizing new leadership for lasting revolutionary

change in this country.

After much applause and cheers, at one point the crowd fell silent at the prompting of the family of Anthony Baez, an unarmed Latino who was killed by New York City police in December of 1994. This young man's death was connected with the countless killings and beatings at the hands of police and immigration officers in the varied communities represented at the march.

Latinos have long demonstrated they are prepared to struggle against great odds for their rights and dignity. This march—with greater diversity than shown in previous events—marked a new stage of the movement: if Latinos are to win their demands, they must unite around the key issues confronting all Latinos, regardless of nationality or region.

Latinos have more to win by combining forces than by fighting in scattered, ineffective battles.

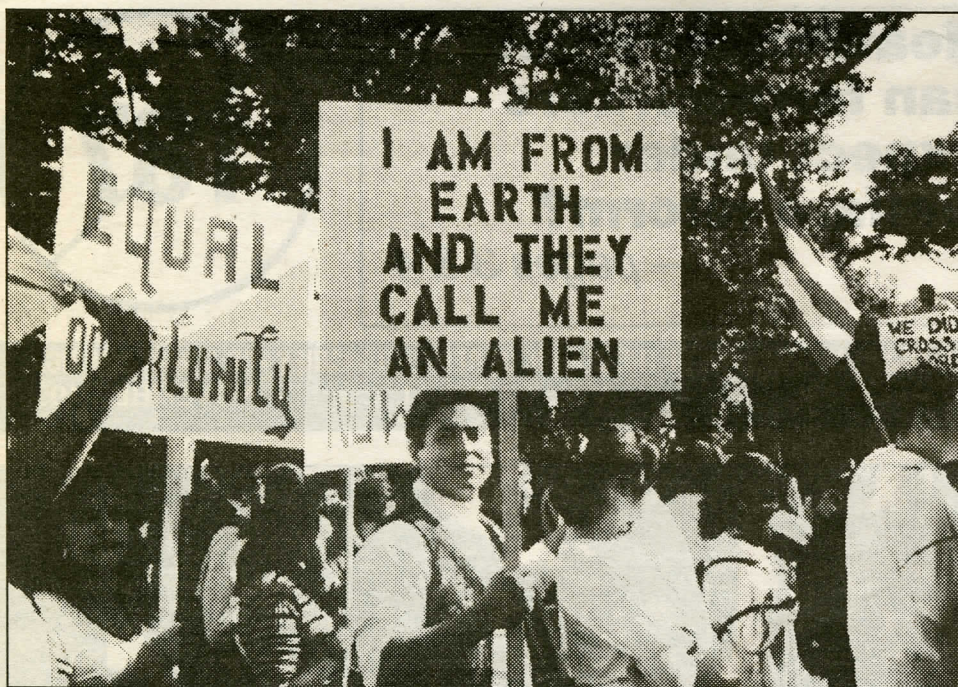
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**For other articles on the Latino March, see pages 2 & 6**





The historic Latino March of over 30,000 people from all walks of life was an empowering experience for all present. PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

## New AEDPA law paves way for massive deportations

BY MARIA ELENA CASTELLANOS

**HOUSTON** — A number of immigrants' rights groups from Houston attended the October 12 march in Washington, D.C. Prevented from going to our nation's capital for financial reasons, some native-born Mexican-American community groups along the Texas-Mexico border organized local rallies in support of "La Marcha" as well. Both immigrant and United States' citizen sectors of the Latino communities are deeply concerned by recent legal reforms which undermine the rights of immigrants, children, elderly and of welfare recipients.

The legislative stage has been set for ongoing simultaneous massive attacks against immigrant and native-born alike. The October 12 march was a key tactic in exposing this "divide and conquer" strategy.

In recent months I have worked full-time as an immigration defense lawyer among one of the country's fastest-growing immigrant populations. And so I have seen up close and personal the tragic effects of the government's recently enacted immigration reforms. *The Democratic and Republican Party leaders joined hands in attacking immigrants by passing a law on April 24, 1996 which, in effect, declares hundreds of thousands of legal, permanent residents "deportable" [as well as undocumented workers] if they have ever been convicted of certain offenses.*

This new law, slipped into the "Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act" (AEDPA), lays the legal basis for the biggest wave of deportations this country has ever seen. Even as I write,

the government is spending our tax dollars in building an immigration detention center near the state prisons in Huntsville, Texas. The horrifying thing about AEDPA is it obliterates basic constitutional principles regarding "double jeopardy," "retroactivity," "due process," and "fair play."

At this very moment, Congress is discussing additional anti-immigrant legislation which would deprive undocumented children of public education, render deportable any immigrant dependent upon government assistance for more than a year, and would deprive immigrants the right of judicial review over deportation orders issued by low-level immigration officials and first-tier immigration judges.

Does this sound reminiscent of the massive deportation of Polish Jews to Nazi Death Camps during World War II? Yes! We must demand the repeal of AEDPA! We must demand instantly available naturalization, the elimination of militarized borders and the move toward "open borders!"

At the recent convention of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in Phoenix, leading immigrants' rights advocates called AEDPA the most vicious "anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican" legislation this country has seen in 50 years. This is why I took my nine-year-old daughter Lucha, and my 11-year-old son Juan Carlos to the march in our nation's capital on the "Dia de la Raza" (Day of the People). So that the three of us, as a family, might discover a new sense of "community," "history," truly "indigenous leadership," and "hope," for we are **our own best leaders!**

## Editorial

# Political independence is our future

On October 12, 1996, this country witnessed an historic event. Latinos from all walks of life marched in Washington, D.C. to make a statement about our reality in this country. They included families, community organizations, workers, university students and our youth. Many were also there as individuals by their own means, not tied to any organization or affiliation.

And while some may have felt disappointed in the numbers or the rhetoric of the politicians, we as revolutionaries recognize the significance of the march and the potential of the outcomes that can result from such an empowering experience. To have so many Latinos come together from diverse backgrounds and unite for a cause is a triumph that reflects our legacy of resistance and survival as a peoples, not as passive victims of circumstance — especially on a day as significant as Dia de la Raza (Day of the People).

It can no longer be denied that there is a movement in motion and that our communities are not only ready for change, but are willing to be a part of the process. For those of us who were present, we were able to witness this sentiment. Time and time again, we heard "*necesitamos cambio*" (we need change). The level of consciousness of the people was above and beyond being satisfied with rhetoric. Not only was there a call for change, but a call for political independence.

The stage has been set, but the script is still being written. How are we going to develop our role as revolutionaries? How are we going to meet the challenges set forth by the Million Man March, the Stand for Children March, the Latino March, and the many more marches to come? We know all the issues and what brings us all together: The need for social, economic and po-

**"We are the people who build and maintain the nation but rarely enjoy the fruits of our labor. We are the employed and the unemployed. We are the people who make the country run but have little say in running the country."**

— **Labor Party, June 1996**

litical justice and the right to be treated as human beings with dignity and respect regardless of borders or papers. Therefore, as the League of Revolutionaries for a New America we welcome the newly formed Labor Party as the most advanced expression of political independence in the struggle for justice and true revolutionary change. The *Tribuno del Pueblo* looks forward to running regular articles about the Labor Party and from its members as we Latinos and other Americans make our way towards political independence.

With its founding, the Labor Party brings together many of the revolutionary forces that include not only workers, but also the unemployed, undocumented, homeless, women and children of our society.

**We are the people who make the country run; let's start running the country!**

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The *Tribuno del Pueblo* is a political newspaper of and for the thousands of Latinos in this country struggling for survival and a decent life. It is a paper that shares the aspirations of a people whose history, as immigrants and minorities, has put them face to face with inequality and exploitation; a people who today suffer the impact of a system unable to feed, clothe and house its people.

By sharing their diverse experiences we seek to raise the consciousness of all those people who wish to transform their reality and create a society that will provide a full life for every one.





# HEALTHCARE & FARMWORKERS

## What to expect from welfare reform

BY SALVADOR SANDOVAL, MD

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 makes most legal and illegal immigrants ineligible for welfare assistance. An estimated one million **legal** immigrants are expected to lose an average of \$4,000 in benefits each. 400,000 of these people live in

California, including 14,000 to 15,000 legal immigrants now receiving care in California long-term or nursing facilities. In places such as the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, where 1 out of every 12 to 15 persons is a legal immigrant, the act will have a huge impact.

The immigrant welfare restrictions are expected to increase Hispanic poverty

throughout the country, given the high proportion of Hispanics that are immigrants.

As most of the nation's farm workers are legal immigrants and Hispanic, they will certainly be impacted. However, there are certain considerations to be made as regards farm workers in particular.

Migrant farm workers, whether citizens or legal residents, have had great difficulty qualifying for Medicaid even as things were. This had to do with the lack of reciprocity on Medicaid eligibility between states, and the fact that the migrants often were gone to follow the crops by the time they had qualified in one locale. Now legal resident migrant farm workers will be ineligible totally. And states and counties will have no incentive to qualify even the citizen migrants, given the fact that the states and counties will be receiving less money overall from the federal government for their own Medicaid population.

The largest impact on farm workers however, will likely

**"The largest impact on farm workers will likely be in the area of Food Stamps ... It is a shame on the nation that those that harvest the nation's food should go hungry."**

be in the area of Food Stamps, as more immigrants receive assistance under Food Stamps than any other welfare program. It is a shame on the nation that those that harvest the nation's food should go hungry.

Disabled farm workers are another large category that will be adversely impacted, given the disabling nature of much of farm labor. Inadequate data exist as to the actual numbers of disabled farm workers. However, informal interviews in the Rio Grande Valley have shown that 50 percent of families have at least one disabled member in the

household.

Lastly, the impact of welfare reform on immigrant farm workers will be much more suffering. Family members and relatives will have to shoulder more of the burden. Already strained food pantries and emergency and other charitable services will be swamped. And indigent care services will be burdened even further as counties provide emergency medical care for potentially preventable problems that became emergencies.

*The author is vice chair of the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health (identification purposes only).*



Migrant farmworkers (and their children), whether citizens or legal residents, have had great difficulty qualifying for Medicaid even before welfare reform.

PHOTO/BONNIE BADE



A makeshift eating area. The immigrant welfare restrictions are expected to increase Hispanic poverty throughout the country.

PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

## The challenge we face

BY SALVADOR SANDOVAL, MD

**What can be done? The first thing is to become informed. Then become connected.**

Immigrants in general and farm workers in particular became easy targets to blame for the country's woes because they are isolated and voiceless. They are isolated not only from the general society, but also from urban United States-born Hispanics. The attacks of Proposition 187 and similar

measures are breaking down some of the barriers that divided them from the latter, as discrimination and scapegoating are forcing a more united response to these attacks.

However, breaking the isolation of immigrants and farm workers from the general society will take a more thoughtful response. It is not simply an issue of "all Latinos unite and fight". Here is where the propaganda of demagogues has been targeted to divide and conquer. Some Latinos fall into the trap and play the loyal opposition to

the white racists. However, many are beginning to see that people of all backgrounds are suffering and that the real enemy isn't color but rather whom the race mongers serve.

Examples of this are a recent Washington State Labor Council Resolution opposing the victimization and denial of benefits for immigrants. Also, the Program of the recently formed Labor Party opposes the interests of all the employed and unemployed to the greed of multinational corporate interests. In particular it rejects "every opportunist who plays the race, gender, or immigrant card to keep us from ad-

ressing our real needs, and the needs of our families and communities." The Labor Party held its founding convention recently in Cleveland, Ohio with representatives of more than two million workers, including farm laborers.

What is certain is that farm workers can no longer depend exclusively on the programs

that were set up in the 1960's and 1970's to help them as special categories of the needy. The programs either don't exist anymore, are severely weakened, or can no longer serve them. They also kept the farm worker isolated. **What is needed now is to seek out allies, educate ourselves, and forge alliances.**

**"Breaking the isolation of immigrants and farm workers from the general society will take a thought out response."**



# New battles demand new kind of unity

There is the beginnings of a new spirit growing in America: it is the spirit of mutual respect, of coming together, of a fighting unity. After 20 years of declining wages, spreading hunger and homelessness, and grinding down of millions of Americans, a vision is emerging of what is possible, of what we deserve as human beings.

We will no longer fight among ourselves for the meager crumbs tossed to us by the billionaires that run this country. We deserve it all, and we intend to take it.

The choice is becoming clear: we can remain in our separate, isolated groupings and continue to be driven deeper into poverty and despair, or we can come together and fight for what rightfully belongs to all of us. We have seen what the cruelty and greed of this capitalist economy has done to our country. In the aftermath of the elections we can expect the victors, regardless of party affiliation, to tighten their control over every aspect of life in America. They must do this, because they know that there will never be an economic recovery for the overwhelming majority of the American people.

How can we build on the developing

## From the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

unity? First, it is important to recognize what is actually happening. The Million Man March was not simply an African American demonstration. It became an inspiration to all who are fighting for justice, dignity and a decent life. The Stand For Children March was a testimony to our dedication to fight for the future. And the recent Latino March was a reaffirmation of the historical truth that this country was built by the blood and sweat of immigrants. The massive outrage against the recently passed welfare bill clearly shows that we will not stand for any section of society to be thrown into the streets to starve.

What can be done to firmly cement the kind of unity that the coming battles demand? The founding of the Labor Party and the powerful program it stands for has the potential to become the fighting center for the entire movement. This kind of unity means we will no longer have to fight in isolation but rather will be able to draw on each other's strengths. The Labor Party can become an educating center where we can learn about the different conditions we face in this diverse country and also around the world. Only with this kind of unity, and a clarity about the path forward, can we be confident of victory.

## Our healthcare: A farmworker perspective

**"Our people come here to work. They are not the ones depleting governmental resources like welfare or Medicaid. They already receive very little assistance, if any."**

BY TRINIDAD RODRIGUEZ

*Recently I interviewed Emma Torres, a farm worker rights advocate in Yuma, Arizona, about how the new welfare reform law will affect farm workers' health care in that part of the country. The following are excerpts of her comments.*

I think the new health care reforms will change the way services are traditionally given. But I think that farm workers in particular won't be the most affected by the changes. I say this because our people, the farm workers, come here to work and that's what they concentrate on. They are not the ones depleting governmental resources like welfare or Medicaid. They receive very little assistance, if any.

You'll find that it's mainly emergency services or testing and treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and immunizations that our people use most. This is mainly because of the Outreach Worker or Promotores who go out looking for them, educating them and assisting them to get the services.

Another reason for them not feeling the effect as impacting other people, is because our people have different traditions and customs regarding health care. Most of them don't have regular check-ups or use of preventive health. They see the doctor only when they are very sick with fever or pain. They also don't use health care services for fear of jeopardizing family members who are in the process of getting legal residency.

Here in the Arizona border, rather than wait two to three weeks for medical appointments, people just cross the border to see a Spanish-speaking doctor and pay about \$10 for the visit and \$10 or less for the medication. It is also common for local people who migrate upstream to California, to drive up to 12-14 hours on the weekend just to come and see the doctor, take a look at the family members they left behind, sleep a couple of hours and drive back. Often, when they return up-stream, they take back antibiotics or "flu" medication for themselves or those that could not come to the



**The welfare reform law will make competition among low-skilled people worse with everyone forced to work.**

PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

border to buy it. Therefore, when they get sick they self-medicate. Perhaps the farm workers who will feel the changes most are those who live or migrate to other states and can't easily come to the border.

I understand that the new Responsibility Act will allow for documented as well as undocumented workers to obtain emergency services, and testing and treatment for communicable diseases and immunizations. Therefore, what our people have traditionally used will continue being offered to them.

On the other hand, what does worry me is that many people who would not understand what changes are exactly happening will fear coming to Community Health Centers or county health departments for fear of being deported. I also understand that programs receiving federal monies will not be able to serve people who have not been here and working for at least five years.

I don't know exactly what to expect with all these changes. I just know that our people, even with this new law, will find ways to continue getting ahead by supporting each other through family and community support or whatever is needed. We don't abandon our families in times of need. We are not used to having everything "free" and that is why I know *que seguiremos adelante* (we will continue onward). I also know that this law will prove to many that our people are not who is putting a burden on the government.

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# Latinos in the trade unions

## 'WE CAN SHOW THE WAY'

BY EDDIE DeJESUS,  
Director of Organizing  
in the New Jersey Joint  
Board of UNITE!

Latino workers are a vital segment that will contribute to the reinvigoration of an American labor movement that should redirect the struggle for a better world.

We have and continue to be one of the sectors that is organizing a new generation of workers into unions, creating new leadership and a new dynamic in the labor movement.

This is a challenge for all Latino labor activists and trade unionists, folk who I like to refer to as the "Latino Labor Warriors"!

The year 1998 will be the centennial of the Spanish-American War. A question to us all may be: should we celebrate, or should we organize a great national event or protest on the status of Latin Americans? With more than nine to 10 million Latinos (predominantly Chicano or Mexican American, followed by Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Central and South Americans), there is no doubt that the overwhelming class of this population are working people. And while we may all be of "Latino origin," there are still many national and cultural differences, and a great need to build unity on a "Latino agenda" in the USA.

This does not exist. There is a need for Chicano activists, mostly centered in the West Coast, Southwest, and Midwest, to join with Puerto Rican, Dominican and Cuban activists. There is a need to include the newer generation of Latino immigrants from Central and South America — Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, Peruvians, Ecuadorans, Colombians, etc. — that are dispersed throughout the U.S.

I believe that the Latino labor and trade unionists sector of Latinos are in the best position to organize the challenge to: a) unify the Latino community in the U.S. under a common agenda; b) unify the Latino movement with the rest of the movement for justice and democracy led by the labor, women, African-American, Asian-American, etc.

Latino labor and trade union activists have the ability to bring together via unions, workers of all the nationalities, and show the way forward for unity.

Our "labor issues" like NAFTA, the growth of "sweatshops" in the USA, the anti-immigrant legislations and how it is creating an underclass, semi-slave economy whereby undocumented workers are everyday being treated like a semi-slave class, fearful of deportation and the terror of the INS.

They fear the INS walking into shops on the heels of the Department of Labor investigations of labor violations! Or, the issues of "speaking only English" at a factory of garment workers where "English is not necessary" to conduct the work. Or hemispheric issues like when the Boss says: "you can not get a raise or better benefits because I cannot compete with the imports from Mexico, or Dominican Republic, or Guatemala, etc.," Well, this means that we Latino workers must take the lead in making sure that our unions make it our business to support the unionization and organization of the workers of Mexico, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, etc. In the past, similar complaints were issued about Puerto Rico, the South and Southwest of the U.S. The labor movement has gone to these regions and is organizing. So, Corporations seeking to escape the labor movement now go further South, i.e., the Caribbean, Central and South America! We can bring these issues to labor and the civil rights movement. All of these issues that the labor activists face every day, and every minute in

**"We have and continue to be one of the sectors that is organizing a new generation of workers into unions, creating new leadership and a new dynamic in the labor movement."**



**Labor Day rally in Janesville, Wisconsin: The UNITE (Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile Employees) contingent from Roadmaster and Broadhead received extra applause and recognition because of its make-up of Latino, African American and white workers. This contingent certainly reflected the changes in the labor force in Wisconsin and the growing unity among workers as workers.**

PHOTO/LAURA GARCIA

the course of work, raises the necessity of our bringing the Latino labor movement to the forefront of Latino Civil Rights in the U.S.

Taking on this challenge would very easily lead to the second challenge.

Bringing this Latino movement to join with other sectors in the U.S. fighting for the "dream" that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. challenged humanity with. It can bring to-

gether the challenge that many Boricua's attempted to implement when Don Pedro Albizu Campos said in Puerto Rico, "La Patria es Valor y Sacrificio"! As our Chicano movement and our legendary Cesar Chavez, of the United Farm Workers, have shown, yes it can be done, "Sí Se Puede!" This coming 1998, 100 years after the Spanish-American War, will the dream of Jose Marti be realized, or will Latinos within the U.S. have to enter a new chapter of struggle to realize our dream? I believe "la lucha continúa". I hope we all join together. Sí se puede!

## Roadmaster abandons workers

*Editor's note: Willie Melendez is a member of Unite! negotiating committee who won the union election at Roadmaster in Delavan, Wisconsin 3 to 1. After a year of negotiating and the company trying to decertify the union, the company decided to move the plant to Illinois. There is a plant being built in Ojina-ga, Mexico on the border where it is believed the work will end up.*

BY WILLIE MELENDEZ

Without a doubt December is the month most anticipated by many people. The arrival of

December brings gaiety, happiness, and the idea of goodwill toward men; it is the beginning of the season of giving. In there are 388 families of Roadmaster Corporation who dread the arrival of this December.

The first week of December is the completion of the 60 days advance notice that the company is legally obligated to give the workers, of the plant closing.

It is true that just before Christmas we will be without work. All of our dreams and hopes of a better life have been destroyed with the plant closing.

It was such a surprise to receive this announcement; I personally haven't gotten over it.

A few weeks before, company representatives were demanding ten hours a day, five days a week and eight hours on Saturday. At times, we were even asked to work on Sundays. However, in October 1996, the vice president called a meeting of all the workers to inform us that Roadmaster Delavan plant would close its doors in 60 days.

Why is the company closing? The company's response was too easy: Due to competi-

tion, Roadmaster could not keep production going in this plant and had to lay off all these workers. A good excuse, maybe, but somewhat incomplete. They failed to mention their real plans: The opening of a new plant in Mexico.

In 1997, Roadmaster will become another company that shut down production in the U.S. and moved to new horizons in poor countries where it can exploit workers by paying them miserable wages thereby saving thousands and thousands of dollars. They don't care that families in this country end up in poverty due to their economic decisions.

What can we the workers do to prevent these injustices?

Maybe, we think, nothing can be done. We are wrong. The only way to fight is to be united and organized into labor unions (to protect our livelihood) by people who are ready to help, educate and teach us about our rights as workers and to unite us under a program of demands on a government that daily worsens the conditions for the workers. The laws enacted by the government favor the rich and impoverish the workers. There is no one to blame but the government.

All of the workers must unite into one mighty voice that transcends borders so the presidents of the United States and Mexico can hear our cry.



# MARCHERS PRAISE UNITY, URGE MORE PLANS

## Reflections on the Latino March

BY TRINIDAD RODRIGUEZ

*Many of us met each other for the first time on Friday afternoon, October 11 as we converged at an Indiana University, Northwest parking lot. Most were from East Chicago and Gary, Indiana; others came from Muncie and Hammond, Indiana; and two of us came from Chicago. Most of the young people were students, quite a few were artists, some of us were also parents. All 18 of us, from varied experiences, piled into two vans to make the 15-hour trip to the first-ever Latino March in Washington, D.C. On Sunday's trip back from the March, I asked for their thoughts on the March. What follows are excerpts of comments made by some of the people interviewed. Upcoming issues will carry the remaining interviews.*

**TRAZ JUAREZ:** I felt really glad that we as a Latino nation can follow one common ground for the *lucha*. What I feel can be done next is through grassroots communication, we can build a whole source of communication so that we can grow as one whole nation. We are all descendants of the indigenous peoples of this land, from Alaska to Argentina. At the root of it all, we have the love and respect of who we are. We should not let geographical boundary lines divide us, because united we stand and divided we shall fall.

**TRINO CAVAZOS:** I was very very pleased with the turn out. I would

have liked to have seen the seven demands or goals presented a bit more thoroughly. Maybe someone who had researched these a little better could have stated the problems, the causes and what the solutions are. We needed to hear some really clear objectives on how are we going to accomplish this.

The other positive thing I saw was the unity of the Latino people. I saw people opening up to the socialists, to the communists, to the revolutionists that were there. I saw brothers from the Nation of Islam, I saw Haitian immigrants, brothers from El Salvador, from Paraguay, from Guatemala, from all over—all demanding the same things. The unity was great. Now we have the Puertorriqueños behind the Chicanos out East; we have the Chicanos behind the Puertorriqueños out West. If we can get that coalition to think on the same page, we don't have to wait to the year 2040 to be a positive force. We could be a force this year!

**RAQUEL CAVAZOS:** The feel I got from the March, from everyone, was radiant. It gives me hope that these many people were willing to sacrifice and do whatever they had to do to be heard. The next step for me personally, is to go back and share this experience with other people and further educate myself on what needs to be done, so that I can further educate other people on what needs to be done. I hope that's what other people continue to do too. That way, the next



¡Adelante! This group traveled to D.C. together from the Midwest, learning alot from the March and each other in the process. Two *Tribuno del Pueblo* editors were fortunate to be among this fine group of people

PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

time we get together it's not just a celebration; the numbers will be more massive and people will be more demanding.

**MAYELA GARZA:** I think that all Latinos should be very proud of where they came from. Being Hispanic, being Latin doesn't just mean if you can speak the language, or if you have the right culture. I think it comes from the heart. I was born here in the U.S., but I say I'm from Zacatecas, Mexico because that's where my heart is. I think I'm very blessed to be who I am. We should all be proud that we are who

we are because of our ancestors. I think the March might help Latinos open up their eyes and see they can stand up for what they believe in.

**YOLANDA CORRAL:** I think we have to look at local unity now that we know we can do it nationally.

**KAREN REID:** I think it was a great effort of my Latino brothers and sisters to get together and unite and show a collective voice. Not only that, but people of all ethnicities to also show their support and their concern. I think it was a great march!

## Young people: ¡Presente!

**Ana Maria Vera, student, MEChA Merced, California**

"The biggest problem we face as Latinos is that we do not fight as we should for our human rights, nor do we get involved in the political process as we should. We need to educate our people and show them that with education and involvement in the political process, we will all come out together, all united, all the races, all the classes, so that we may survive in this country."

**Frank, Luis, Carlos, Steve, Noemi, youth, Barrios Unidos: Washington, D.C. and Santa Monica, California**

"Here we find the young people from the streets in this process and they are the fundamental part of the power of our people."

"This is a great event but they need to have more youth involved in different aspects. There haven't been young people up there speaking yet about our issues that we face, like the violence on the streets and the education we are getting."

"We have to keep in mind that the youth is the future and yet no one has addressed us or taken us into account."

"I want to tell the youth to take a good path because we are the future of tomorrow."

**Edgar Rama, youth, Toledo, Ohio**

"I feel honored being here today. Feels good being around so many different races coming together for one cause. Let's do it again next year and make it bigger."

**Victor Perez, youth, Toledo, Ohio**

"I feel happy. If there is discrimina-



tion and prejudice, don't let that keep you down. Keep trying for whatever you want. I think we'll (youth) have a better future if we don't let discrimina-

tion and prejudice keep us from doing what we have to do."

— The above interviews were contributed by Liz Monge



# Participantes elogian unidad, quieren hacer más planes Reflecciones sobre la March Latina

POR TRINIDAD RODRIGUEZ

*Muchos de nosotros nos conocimos por primera vez el viernes por la tarde, 11 de octubre, cuando nos juntamos en un lote de estacionamiento de la Universidad de Indiana, Noroeste. La mayoría eran de East Chicago y Gary, Indiana; otros de Muncie y Hammond, Indiana; y dos de nosotros venimos de Chicago. Casi todos los jóvenes eran estudiantes, varios de ellos eran artistas, y algunos de nosotros también eramos padres. En total eramos 18 personas, de experiencias variadas, que nos metimos a dos vans para viajar 15 horas para llegar a la Marcha Latina en Washington, D.C. De regreso, les pedí que compartieran sus pensamientos sobre la Marcha. Lo que sigue son extractos de los comentarios de algunas de las personas entrevistadas. Próximas ediciones del Tribuno tendrán las demás entrevistas.*

**TRAZ JUAREZ:** Me alegro que nosotros como nación Latina podemos tomar un camino común por la lucha. Creo que lo que podemos hacer ahora es construir todo un fuente de comunicación de

base para que podamos crecer como una nación entera. Todos somos descendientes de las gentes indígenas de esta tierra, desde Alaska a Argentina. A raíz de todo, tenemos el amor y respeto de quienes somos. No debemos permitir que límites geográficos nos dividan, porque unidos triunfamos y divididos fracasamos.

**TRINO CAVAZOS:** Estuve muy muy contento con el número de gente presente. Quiciera haber visto las siete demandas o metas presentadas un poco más a fondo. Quizá alguien que hubiera investigado los asuntos mejor pudiera haber expuesto los problemas, las causas y las soluciones. Necesitabamos oír objetivos muy claros sobre cómo vamos a lograr nuestras metas.

Otra cosa positiva que ví fue la unidad de la gente Latina. Ví a gente escuchando a socialistas, a comunistas, y a revolucionarios que estaban ahí. Ví a hermanos de la Nación de Islam, ví a inmigrantes haitianos, hermanos de El Salvador, de Paraguay, de Guatemala, de todos lados—todos exigiendo las mismas cosas. ¡La unidad fue estupendo! Ahora tenemos a los Puertorriqueños apoyando a los Chicanos desde el Este;

tenemos a los Chicanos apoyando a los Puertorriqueños desde el Oeste. Si pudieramos lograr que esa coalición estuviera de acuerdo a toda hora, no tuvieramos que esperar hasta el año 2040 para ser una fuerza positiva. ¡Pudieramos ser una fuerza este año!

**RAQUEL CAVAZOS:** La Marcha me dió esperanzas ya que hubo tanta gente que estaba dispuesta a sacrificar y hacer todo lo que tuvieron que hacer para que se les escuchara. El próximo paso para mí personalmente, es regresar y compartir esta experiencia con otra gente. Luego informarme más sobre lo que hay que hacer, para que entonces pueda informar a más gente sobre lo que se necesita hacer. Espero que esto sea lo que la demás gente va seguir haciendo también. De esa manera, la próxima vez que nos juntemos no sólo será una celebración; los números serán más masivos y la gente será más exigente.

**MAYELA GARZA:** Yo creo que todos los Latinos deben sentirse muy orgullosos de dónde vinieron. Siendo Hispano, siendo Latino no sólo se trata de si uno habla el idioma, o si uno tiene cierta



¡Adelante! Este grupo viajó a C.C. desde el Mediooeste, aprendiendo mucho en el proceso. Dos editores del Tribuno del Pueblo tuvieron la buena suerte de estar entre esta gente.

FOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

cultura. Creo que es algo que viene del corazón. Yo nací aquí en los Estados Unidos, pero yo siempre digo que soy de Zacatecas, México porque ahí está mi corazón. Creo que soy muy afortunada ser quien soy. Todos debemos estar orgullosos de que somos quienes somos debido a nuestros antepasados. Yo creo que la Marcha quizá ayude que los Latinos abran sus ojos y vean que ellos se pueden levantar por lo que creen.

**YOLANDA CORRAL:** Creo que tenemos que mirar

hacia lograr la unidad a nivel local ahora que sabemos que podemos lograrlo nacionalmente.

**KAREN REID:** Yo creo que fue un gran esfuerzo por mis hermanas y hermanos Latinos el haberse juntado y unido para mostrar una voz colectiva. No solamente eso, sino que gente de todas nacionalidades también mostraron su apoyo e interés. ¡Creo que fue una gran Marcha!

## Los jóvenes: ¡Presente!

POR LIZ MONGE

**Ana Maria Vera, student, MEChA, Merced, California**

“El problema más grande que enfrentamos los Latinos es que no luchamos por nuestros derechos suficientemente y no nos metemos en el proceso político como lo debemos hacer. Tenemos que educar a nuestra gente y enseñarles de que sólo con educación y involucrándonos en el sistema político vamos a salir como una gente todos unidos, todas las razas, todas las clases, todos unidos para sobrevivir en este país.”

**Frank, Luis, Carlos, Steve, Noemi, jóvenes, Barrios Unidos: Washington, D.C. & Santa Monica, California**

“Aquí se encuentran los chavalos de la calle, aquí en este proceso y ellos son una parte fundamental para el poder de nuestra Raza.”

“Este es un gran evento pero necesitan envolver más a la juventud en diferentes aspectos. No han tenido a gente joven hablando sobre los temas que enfrentamos como la violencia de las calles y la educación que recibimos.”

“Tenemos que tener en cuenta que la juventud es el futuro y sin embargo no creo

que nos han mencionado y ni siquiera nos han tomado en cuenta.”

“Yo le quiero decir a los jóvenes que tomen buen camino porque somos el futuro de mañana.”

**Edgar Rama, joven, Toledo, Ohio**

“Siento mucho orgullo estar aquí hoy día. Se siente bien estar dentro de tantas diferentes razas unidas por una causa. Volvamos a hacerlo el año que entra y más grande.”

**Victor Perez, joven, Toledo, Ohio**

“Me siento contento. Si ex-



isten prejuicios y discriminación, no dejes que eso te rebaje. Lucha por lo que quieres.

Yo pienso que nosotros (la

juventud) tendremos un mejor futuro si no dejamos que los prejuicios y la discriminación sean obstáculos en lo que tenemos que hacer.”



# LATINOS Y EL MOVIMIENTO LABORAL

## 'Podemos enseñar el camino'

**POR EDDIE DeJESUS,**  
Director de Organización en  
el Junta en Común de New  
Jersey

Obreros Latinos son un segmento vital quienes contribuirán al reinvigoramiento de un movimiento laboral americano que debe redirigir la lucha para un mundo mejor. Hemos sido y seguimos siendo uno de los sectores que está organizando una nueva generación de trabajadores dentro de los sindicatos, creando liderazgo nuevo y una nueva dinámica en el movimiento laboral.

Esto es un desafío particular para todo activista laboral y sindicalista Latino, gente a quien me gusta referir como los "¡Guerreros Laborales Latinos!"

El 1998 será año del centenario de la guerra española-americana. Una pregunta que todos nos debemos hacer es ¿debemos celebrar, o debemos organizar un gran evento nacional o protesta sobre el estado de los Latinos Americanos?

Con millones de Latinos en los EE.UU. (mayormente Chicanos o México-Americanos, seguidos por los Puertorriqueños, Cubanos, Dominicanos, Centro y Sud-americanos), no cabe duda que la mayoría de esta población son personas trabajadoras. Y aunque somos todos

de "origen Latino", todavía existen muchas diferencias nacionales como culturales, y una necesidad grande para construir la unidad sobre una "agenda Latina" en los EE.UU.

Existe una necesidad que los activistas Chicanos se unan con activistas Puertorriqueños, Dominicanos y Cubanos. Hay necesidad de incluir a la generación más nueva de inmigrantes Latinos de América Central y Sudamérica — Salvadoreños, Nicarangüenses, Guatemaltecos, Peruanos, Ecuatorianos, Colombianos, etc., quienes están dispersados a través de los EE.UU.

Yo creo que los activistas laborales Latinos están en la mejor posición para responder al desafío de: 1) unificar a la comunidad Latina en los EE.UU. bajo una agenda común; 2) unificar al movimiento Latino con el resto del movimiento para la justicia y democracia dirigido por los sindicatos, las mujeres, Africano-Americanos, Asiáticos-Americanos, etc.

Los activistas laborales Latinos así como los sindicalistas tienen la habilidad de unificar, por medio de los sindicatos, obreros de toda nacionalidad, y enseñar el camino hacia adelante para la unidad. Nuestros "temas laborales" como el Tratado de Libre Comercio

(TLC), el crecimiento de "sweatshops" en los EE.UU., las legislaciones anti-inmigrantes y como éstas están creando una "subclase", una economía semi-esclavista donde los obreros indocumentados son tratados diariamente como una clase semi-esclavista, temerosos de la deportación y el terror de "la migra".

¡Temen a "la migra" haciendo sus redadas tras los pasos del Departamento de Trabajo después de que hagan sus investigaciones de violaciones laborales! O, el punto de que son forzados a hablar "Sólo Inglés" en una fábrica de trabajadores de prenda donde "no es necesario el inglés" para conducir el trabajo. O temas hemisféricos cuando el patrón dice, "yo no puedo dar aumentos o mejores beneficios porque no puedo competir con los productos importados de México, o la República Dominicana, o Guatemala, etc." Entonces esto significa que nosotros, los obreros Latinos, tenemos que tomar el liderazgo en asegurar que nuestros sindicatos lo hacen nuestro negocio apoyar la sindicalización y la organización de México, o la República Dominicana, o Guatemala, etc." En el pasado, también se escuchaban quejas similares sobre Puerto Rico, el sur y el sudoeste de los



**"El movimiento laboral ha seguido a estas regiones y los estan organizando. Entonces, ¡las empresas que quieran escapar del movimiento laboral, ahora van todavía más al sur, es decir, al Caribe, América Central y Sur!"** FOTO/LAURA GARCIA

EE.UU. El movimiento laboral ha seguido a estas regiones y los estan organizando. Entonces, ¡las empresas que quieran escapar del movimiento laboral, ahora van todavía más al sur, es decir, al Caribe, América Central y Sur!

Tomando este desafío fácilmente nos llevará al segundo desafío. De llevar a este movimiento Latino a unirse con otros sectores en los EE.UU. quienes están luchando para el "sueño" que Martin Luther King le desafió a la humanidad. Este puede agrupar el desafío que muchos Boricuas trataron de implementar cuando Don Pe-

dro Albizu Campos dijo en Puerto Rico, "La Patria es Valor y Sacrificio!" Como nuestro movimiento Chicano y nuestro legendario César Chávez, de la unión de campesinos, han mostrado, "Sí Se Puede!"

Este venidero 1998, 100 años después de la guerra española-americana, ¿será realizado el sueño de Jose Martí, o tendrán los Latinos de EE.UU. que entrar a un capítulo nuevo de lucha para realizar nuestro sueño? Yo creo que la "lucha continúa." Yo espero que todos nos unemos.

¡Sí se puede!

## Roadmaster abandona a obreros

*Nota editorial: Willie Melendez es miembro del comité negociador de Unite! que ganó la elección sindical por un voto de 3 a 1 en la planta Roadmaster en Delavan, Wisconsin. Después de un año de negociaciones y de esfuerzos de la compañía por decertificar al sindicato, la compañía decidió mudar la planta a Illinois. Se está construyendo una planta en Ojinaga, México en la frontera donde se cree que el trabajo llegará a quedar.*

**POR WILLIE MELENDEZ**

Diciembre. Sin duda alguna, el mes más esperado para mucha gente. Pues con la llegada de este mes, llega con el la alegría, la felicidad, la esperanza y dada una serie de buenos

sentimientos que enmarcan las festividades de la Navidad. Pero este diciembre del '96 para las 388 familias trabajadoras de la Roadmaster en Delavan, Wisconsin no quicieramos que este mes llegara. Pues al entrar diciembre se cumple el plazo de 60 días que la compañía nos dió como aviso oficial del cierre de esta.

Aunque parezca increíble para todos nosotros los trabajadores de este lugar, ¡efectivamente para escasos días de la Navidad nos habremos quedado sin trabajo! Todas nuestras ilusiones, nuestros sueños y las esperanzas de un buen porvenir han sido quebrados con la noticia del cierre. Y fue tan espontánea que de un día para otro nos dieran esta noticia que todavía yo en lo personal no sal-

go de mi asombro, ya que apenas unas cuantas semanas atrás los patrones nos exigían trabajar diez horas, cinco días a la semana, sábado 8 horas, y si faltara poco, a veces exigían trabajar domingo.

Así se llegó octubre del '96 cuando el vice-presidente llamó a junta a todos los trabajadores para informarnos que dentro de 60 días la Roadmaster de Delavan, Wisconsin cerraría sus puertas.

¿Por qué el cierre de la compañía? La respuesta por parte de la compañía fue muy simple: Porque a causa de la competencia, la Roadmaster no podría mantener en producción esta fábrica y se veía con la necesidad de despedir a toda esta gente. Muy buena excusa quizás, pero qué poca e incom-

pleta respuesta por parte de los empresarios de la Roadmaster. Pues, nunca nos mencionaron nada acerca de sus planes verdaderos. Y estos eran la apertura de su nueva fábrica en México.

A partir del año del '97 la Roadmaster se convertirá en otra de las empresas que cierran su producción en los E.U. para buscar y explotar nuevos horizontes en países pobres donde puedan explotar a los trabajadores de esos países pagándoles una miseria. Y así ellos tener ahorros de miles y miles de dólares, sin importarle que las familias de este país queden en la miseria por causa de esas decisiones económicas.

¿Qué podemos hacer nosotros los trabajadores para evitar todas estas injusticias? Quizás pensaríamos que no hay nada que podamos hacer, pero qué equivocados estamos, pues

la única manera de poder combatir todo esto es estar unidos, organizarnos todos con sindicatos laborales donde nuestra productividad esté protegida por personas preparadas para ayudar, educar, y enseñar acerca de nuestros derechos que como trabajadores tenemos.

Unirnos en propagandas de reclamos en contra del gobierno que cada día más y más hunde a la clase trabajadora. El gobierno en realidad es el único culpable de tanta pérdida de empleo con todo sus cambios de reformas que sólo beneficiaban al rico y empobrecen al trabajador.

Todos los trabajadores deberíamos juntar nuestra voz. Que se formara en una sola voz para que pudiera traspasar las fronteras y pueda ser escuchada por nuestros presidentes.



# Nuevas batallas exigen nuevo tipo de unidad

## Por la liga de Revolucionarios por una Nueva América

Existe el comienzo de un espíritu nuevo creciendo en América: Este es el espíritu de respeto mutuo, de una unificación, de una unidad luchadora.

Después de veinte años de salarios disminuyentes, de cada vez más hambre y desalojamiento, y la opresión de millones de Americanos, una visión está emergiendo de lo que es posible, de lo que merecemos como ser humanos.

Ya no vamos a pelear entre nosotros para las migajas escasas que nos avientan los billonarios que controlan este país. Lo merecemos todo, y proponemos tomarlo.

La decisión se está clarificando: o podemos seguir en nuestras agrupaciones separadas y aisladas y seguir siendo empujados más profundamente hacia la pobreza y desesperación, o nos podemos agrupar y luchar por lo que justamente nos pertenece a todos. Hemos visto lo que la crueldad y la avaricia de esta economía capitalista ha hecho a nuestro país.

A secuelas de las elecciones podemos esperar que los victoriosos, sin importar su afiliación partidaria, apretaran su control sobre todo aspecto de la vida en América. Esto lo tienen que hacer, porque ellos saben que jamás habrá un recuperación económica para la gran mayoría del pueblo Americano.

¿Cómo podemos labrar sobre la unidad desarrollante? Primero, es importante reconocer lo que verdaderamente está sucediendo. La Marcha de un Millón de Hombres no fue simplemente

una manifestación Africana-Americana. Llegó a ser una inspiración a todos quienes luchan por la justicia, la dignidad y una vida decente. La Marcha Levantémonos Por Los Niños fue un testimonio de nuestra dedicación de luchar para el futuro. Y la recién Marcha Latina fue una reafirmación de la verdad histórica que este país fue construido por la sangre y el sudor de los inmigrantes. El coraje masivo en contra de la recién aprobada ley de *welfare* (servicios sociales) claramente muestra que no soportaremos que ningún sector de la sociedad sea botada a las calles para morir de hambre.

¿Qué se puede hacer para cimentar la clase de unidad que se exige en las batallas venideras? La fundación del Partido Laboral y el programa potente que representa tiene la potencia de hacerse el centro luchador para el movimiento entero. Este tipo de unidad significa que jamás tendremos que luchar aislados pero más bien podremos aprovecharnos de las fuerzas de cada uno. El Partido Laboral puede ser un centro educativo donde podemos aprender sobre las diferentes condiciones que enfrentamos en este país diverso y también através del mundo. Sólo con este tipo de unidad, y con una claridad sobre el camino hacia adelante, podemos tener confianza de la victoria.

## Nuestro cuidado de salud:

# Una perspectiva campesina

POR TRINIDAD RODRIGUEZ

*Recientemente yo entrevisté a Emma Torres, defensora de los derechos de campesinos en Yuma, Arizona, sobre cómo la nueva ley de reforma de la ayuda pública welfare afectará al cuidado de salud de los trabajadores agrícolas en esa parte del país. A continuación publicamos algunos de sus comentarios.*

Yo pienso que las nuevas reformas de cuidado de salud cambiarán la manera en que los servicios se ofrecen tradicionalmente. Pero creo que los campesinos en particular no serán los más afectados por los cambios. Digo esto porque nuestra gente, los trabajadores agrícolas, vienen aquí para trabajar y en eso se concentran. Ellos no son los que están agotando los recursos gubernamentales como la ayuda pública *welfare* o Medicaid. Ellos reciben muy poca ayuda, si acaso reciben ayuda alguna.

Por lo general, los servicios de emergencia o los exámenes y tratamientos de enfermedades transmisibles tal como el tuberculosis, enfermedades transmitidas sexualmente y las inmunizaciones son lo que nuestra gente usa más que nada. Esto se debe principalmente a los Promotores quienes salen a buscarlos, educándolos y ayudándolos a conseguir los servicios.

Otra razón por la cual no sienten el efecto igual a otra gente es porque nuestra gente tiene diferentes tradiciones y costumbres respecto al cuidado de salud. La mayoría no tienen exámenes regulares ni acuden a la salud preventiva. Ellos ven al doctor sólo cuando están muy enfermos con fiebre o dolor. Tampoco usan servicios de cuidado de salud por temor a perjudicar a familiares quienes están en proceso de conseguir la residencia legal.

Aquí en la frontera de Arizona, en vez de esperar unas dos o tres semanas para una cita médica, la gente mejor cruza la frontera para ver a un doctor que habla español, y pagan alrededor de \$10 por visita y \$10 o menos por la medicina. También es muy común que personas locales, quienes migran rumbo norte hacia California, manejen hasta 12 o 14 horas los fines de semana sólo para ver a un doctor, paren a visitar a familiares que dejaron atrás, duerman un par de horas y luego manejen de regreso. A menudo cuando regresan hacia el norte, llevan consigo antibioticos o medicina para la "gripa" para ellos mismos o para aquellos quienes no pudieron viajar a la frontera a comprar esto. Por lo tanto, cuando se enferman ellos mismos se curan con medicamentos. Quizás los campesinos quienes más van a sentir los cambios son las personaas quienes viven o migran a otros estados y no pueden llegar a la frontera facilmente.

Entiendo que bajo la nueva Ley de Responsabilidad se permitirá que trabajadores documentados e indocumentados tengan acceso a servicios de emergencia, así como exámenes y tratamiento para

enfermedades transmisibles e inmunizaciones. Así que lo que nuestra gente ha usado tradicionalmente se les continuará ofreciendo.

Por el otro lado, lo que sí me preocupa es que mucha gente, que no necesariamente entenderá exactamente cuales cambios se han hecho, tendrá miedo ir a los centros comunitarios de salud o a los departamentos de salud del condado por temor a ser deportados. También entiendo que programas que reciben dinero federal no podrán servir a gente que no han estado aquí y trabajado por lo menos por cinco años.

No sé exactamente qué esperar con todos estos cambios. Sólo sé que nuestra gente, aun con esta nueva ley, encontrará las formas de seguir avanzando, apoyándose unos a otros, ya sea por medio de apoyo familiar o comunitario o de cualquier otra manera necesaria. Nosotros no abandonamos a nuestras familias en tiempos de necesidad. No estamos acostumbrados a que se no dé todo "gratis" y es por eso que yo sé que seguiremos adelante. También sé que esta ley comprobará que nuestra gente no es una carga para el gobierno.

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# TRABAJADORES AGRÍCOLAS Y LA SALUD

## ¿Qué deben esperar los campesinos de la Reforma de Welfare?

POR SALVADOR SANDOVAL, MD

La Nueva ley "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" les niega la asistencia de bienestar (*welfare*) a la gran mayoría de inmigrantes legales e indocumentados. Un millón de inmigrantes legales perderán un promedio de \$4,000 en beneficios cada uno. 400,000 de ellos radican en California, incluyendo entre 14,000 y 15,000 inmigrantes legales quienes reciben atención en hospitales convalescentes u otros sitios de cuidado a largo plazo. En algunos lugares tales como el Valle del Río Grande de Texas, uno de cada 12 a 15 personas son inmigrantes legales, tal que la nueva ley tendrá un gran impacto. Las restricciones nuevas causarán un aumento en la pobreza de hispanos a través del país, dado el alto porcentaje de hispanos que son inmigrantes.

Ya que la gran mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas en la nación son inmigrantes legales e hispanos, los trabajadores

agrícolas sufrirán. Pero existen ciertas consideraciones acerca de la nueva ley en tanto a la forma que afectará a trabajadores agrícolas en particular.

Campesinos migrantes, sean ciudadanos o residentes legales, siempre han tenido gran dificultad en calificar para el Medicaid, aún antes de la nueva ley. Tenía que ver con los diferentes requisitos para la elegibilidad entre estados, y el hecho de que los migrantes no se quedan en un lugar lo suficiente para calificar o ben-

de su propia población de personas elegibles para Medicaid.

El impacto más grande de la nueva ley muy probablemente será en el área de cupones para comida, ya que campesinos inmigrantes reciben más asistencia bajo este programa que cualquier otro programa de *welfare*. ¡Es una vergüenza para este país que los que cosechan la comida de la nación padezcan de hambre!

Campesinos incapacitados componen otra categoría grande de los que serán afectados por las exclusiones, dado el trabajo pesado y la frecuencia de lastimaduras que suceden. Existen datos inadecuados acerca de los números actuales de los incapacitados. Pero en entrevistas informales en el Valle del Río Grande se ha demostrado que el 50 por ciento de familias tienen por lo menos un miembro del hogar quien está permanentemente incapacitado.

Finalmente, el impacto de la reforma de *welfare* sobre los inmigrantes campesinos será devastador. Miembros de familia y otros parientes tendrán que pagar de su bolsa, si pueden. Albergues de comida

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eficiarse. Ahora los migrantes que son residentes legales serán excuados totalmente. Aún más, los estados y condados no tendrán ningún incentivo para calificar ni a los migrantes que son ciudadanos, ya que los estados y los condados recibirán menos dinero del gobierno federal para la ayuda



Campesinos migrantes, y sus hijos, sean ciudadanos o residentes legales, siempre han tenido gran dificultad en calificar para el Medicaid, aún antes de la nueva ley.

FOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

y servicios de caridad y otros servicios de emergencia no podrán tratar adecuadamente con toda la gente necesitada. Y servicios de último recurso en los condados se verán en la situación de tener que proveer atención médica de emergen-

cia para problemas que se pudiesen haber solucionado con atención a tiempo.

El autor es Vice Presidente del Concilio Nacional Asesor de Salud para Trabajadores Migrantes (por propósito de identificación solamente).

## El reto que encaramos

POR SALVADOR SANDOVAL, MD

**¿Qué se puede hacer? Primeramente, uno hay que informarse y comprender la situación. Luego hay que conectarnos con otros.**

Inmigrantes por lo general y campesinos en particular son fáciles de culpar por todos los males del país, ya que están aislados y sin voz. No sólo están aislados de la sociedad en general, sino que también de hispanos nacidos en los EU y que radican en las ciudades. Los ataques de la Proposición 187 y semejantes propuestas están rompiendo con algunas de las barreras que dividen a

los inmigrantes de los hispanos nacidos en los EU, ya que la discriminación afecta a todos. Ejemplos de esta unidad se ven en la reciente marcha de Latinos en Washington D.C. y en varias conferencias y foros que se llevan a cabo a través de la nación.

Pero, el aislamiento de los inmigrantes y los campesinos de la sociedad en general tomará más esfuerzo para romperse. Aquí principalmente

es donde los políticos sin escrúpulos o oportunistas lanzan su propaganda para dividir y conquistar. Algunos Latinos caen en la trampa y juegan el papel de la oposición leal a los racistas blancos. Pero, existen muchos que comienzan a ver que gente de todo color e idioma sufren y que el verdadero enemigo es quien sirve a los racistas y oportunistas.

Ejemplos de unidad a través de barreras de color e idioma

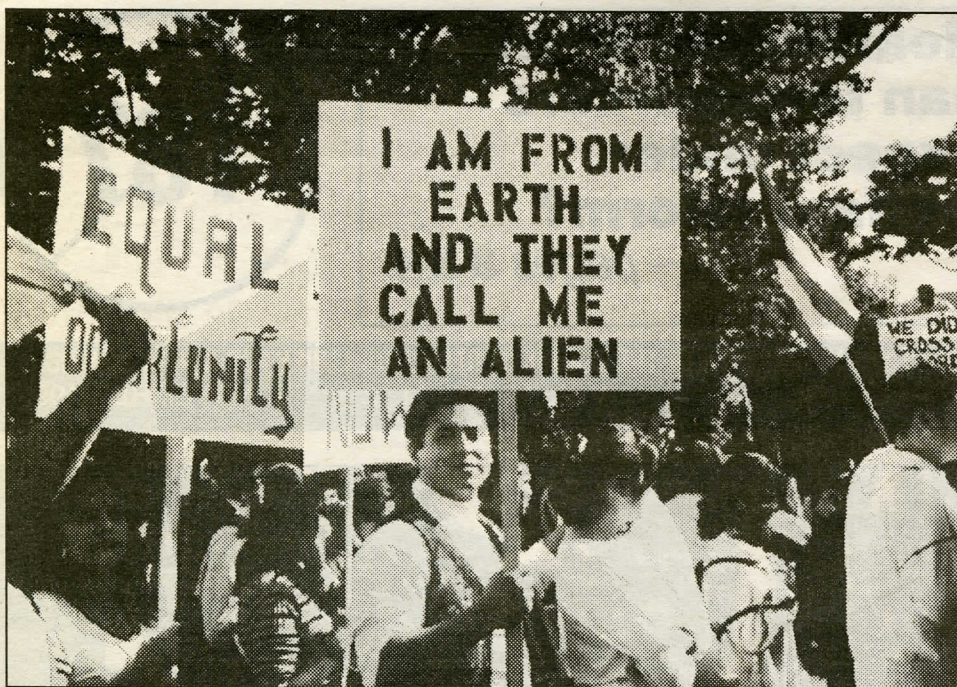
**"El aislamiento de los inmigrantes y los campesinos de la sociedad en general tomará más esfuerzo para romperse."**

incluyen una Resolución reciente del Concilio Laboral del Estado de Washington cual se opone al culpar a los inmigrantes y se opone a negarles beneficios. También el Programa del recientemente formado Partido Laboral se opone a la avaricia de las corporaciones multinacionales. Particularmente rechaza "todo oportunista que juega la carta de raza, sexo, o inmigrante con tal de prevenir que tratemos con nuestras verdaderas necesidades, y las necesidades de nuestras familias y comunidades." El Partido Laboral, cual convocó su convención fundadora recientemente en Cleveland, Ohio, tuvo representantes presentes de arriba de dos millones de trabajadores, incluyendo a representantes de campesinos.

Lo seguro es que los campesinos ya no pueden confiarse en programas que se establecieron en los 1960's y 1970's para ellos como categoría especial de personas necesitadas. Tampoco podrán confiarse exclusivamente en los políticos que en aquella época anterior promulgaron estos programas. O ya no existen estos programas, o están severamente debilitados, o ya no pueden servir a la mayoría de los campesinos. Estos programas también mantuvieron a los campesinos aislados, ya que se consideraban como categoría distinta a otros pobres, por ejemplo los desalojados.

Lo que se necesita ahora es buscar aliados, educarnos, y forjar alianzas con otros en las mismas circunstancias y con los mismos intereses.





The historic Latino March of over 30,000 people from all walks of life was an empowering experience for all present. PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

## New AEDPA law paves way for massive deportations

BY MARIA ELENA CASTELLANOS

**HOUSTON** — A number of immigrants' rights groups from Houston attended the October 12 march in Washington, D.C. Prevented from going to our nation's capital for financial reasons, some native-born Mexican-American community groups along the Texas-Mexico border organized local rallies in support of "La Marcha" as well. Both immigrant and United States' citizen sectors of the Latino communities are deeply concerned by recent legal reforms which undermine the rights of immigrants, children, elderly and of welfare recipients.

The legislative stage has been set for ongoing simultaneous massive attacks against immigrant and native-born alike. The October 12 march was a key tactic in exposing this "divide and conquer" strategy.

In recent months I have worked full-time as an immigration defense lawyer among one of the country's fastest-growing immigrant populations. And so I have seen up close and personal the tragic effects of the government's recently enacted immigration reforms. *The Democratic and Republican Party leaders joined hands in attacking immigrants by passing a law on April 24, 1996 which, in effect, declares hundreds of thousands of legal, permanent residents "deportable" [as well as undocumented workers] if they have ever been convicted of certain offenses.*

This new law, slipped into the "Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act" (AEDPA), lays the legal basis for the biggest wave of deportations this country has ever seen. Even as I write,

the government is spending our tax dollars in building an immigration detention center near the state prisons in Huntsville, Texas. The horrifying thing about AEDPA is it obliterates basic constitutional principles regarding "double jeopardy," "retroactivity," "due process," and "fair play."

At this very moment, Congress is discussing additional anti-immigrant legislation which would deprive undocumented children of public education, render deportable any immigrant dependent upon government assistance for more than a year, and would deprive immigrants the right of judicial review over deportation orders issued by low-level immigration officials and first-tier immigration judges.

Does this sound reminiscent of the massive deportation of Polish Jews to Nazi Death Camps during World War II? Yes! We must demand the repeal of AEDPA! We must demand instantly available naturalization, the elimination of militarized borders and the move toward "open borders!"

At the recent convention of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in Phoenix, leading immigrants' rights advocates called AEDPA the most vicious "anti-immigrant, anti-Mexican" legislation this country has seen in 50 years. This is why I took my nine-year-old daughter Lucha, and my 11-year-old son Juan Carlos to the march in our nation's capital on the "Día de la Raza" (Day of the People). So that the three of us, as a family, might discover a new sense of "community," "history," truly "indigenous leadership," and "hope," for we are our own best leaders!

## Editorial

# Political independence is our future

On October 12, 1996, this country witnessed an historic event. Latinos from all walks of life marched in Washington, D.C. to make a statement about our reality in this country. They included families, community organizations, workers, university students and our youth. Many were also there as individuals by their own means, not tied to any organization or affiliation.

And while some may have felt disappointed in the numbers or the rhetoric of the politicians, we as revolutionaries recognize the significance of the march and the potential of the outcomes that can result from such an empowering experience. To have so many Latinos come together from diverse backgrounds and unite for a cause is a triumph that reflects our legacy of resistance and survival as a peoples, not as passive victims of circumstance — especially on a day as significant as Día de la Raza (Day of the People).

It can no longer be denied that there is a movement in motion and that our communities are not only ready for change, but are willing to be a part of the process. For those of us who were present, we were able to witness this sentiment. Time and time again, we heard "*necesitamos cambio*" (we need change). The level of consciousness of the people was above and beyond being satisfied with rhetoric. Not only was there a call for change, but a call for political independence.

The stage has been set, but the script is still being written. How are we going to develop our role as revolutionaries? How are we going to meet the challenges set forth by the Million Man March, the Stand for Children March, the Latino March, and the many more marches to come? We know all the issues and what brings us all together: The need for social, economic and po-

**"We are the people who build and maintain the nation but rarely enjoy the fruits of our labor. We are the employed and the unemployed. We are the people who make the country run but have little say in running the country."**

— **Labor Party, June 1996**

litical justice and the right to be treated as human beings with dignity and respect regardless of borders or papers. Therefore, as the League of Revolutionaries for a New America we welcome the newly formed Labor Party as the most advanced expression of political independence in the struggle for justice and true revolutionary change. The Tribuno del Pueblo looks forward to running regular articles about the Labor Party and from its members as we Latinos and other Americans make our way towards political independence.

With its founding, the Labor Party brings together many of the revolutionary forces that include not only workers, but also the unemployed, undocumented, homeless, women and children of our society.

**We are the people who make the country run; let's start running the country!**

## TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

### Editorial Board

Richard Monje, Trinidad Rodríguez, Carlos Rodríguez, Liz Monge.

■ Send your electronic mail for the Tribuno del Pueblo to: [tp@noc.org](mailto:tp@noc.org).

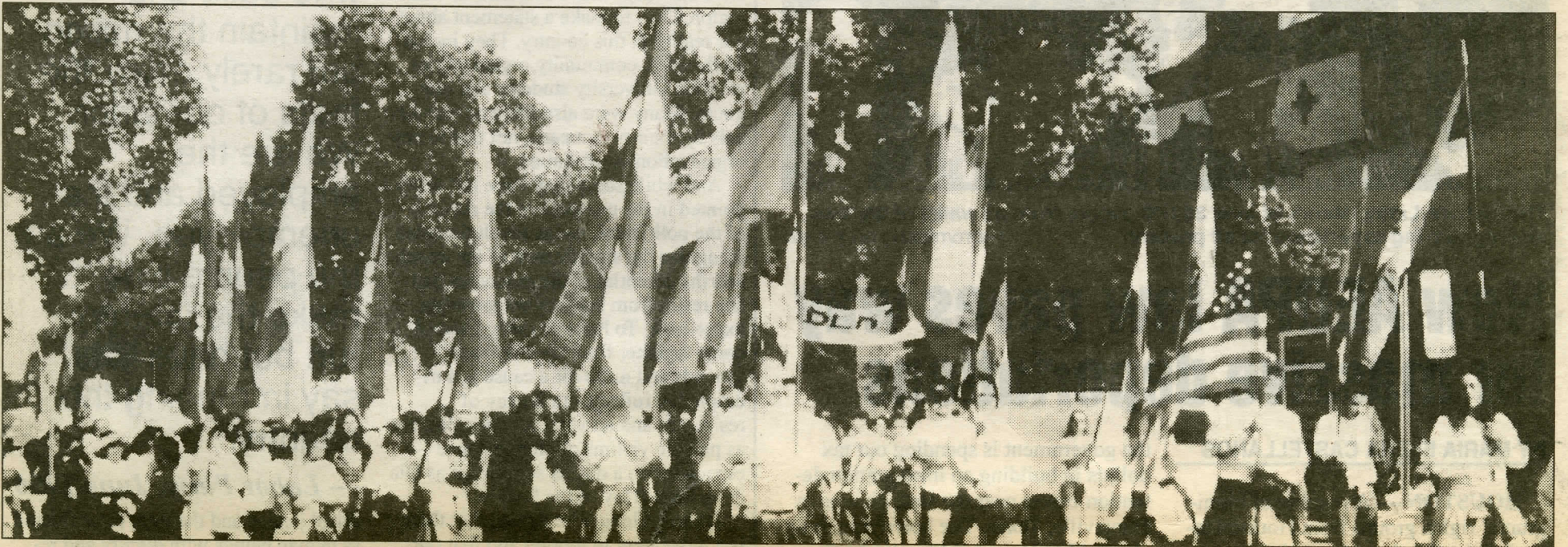
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The Tribuno del Pueblo is a political newspaper of and for the thousands of Latinos in this country struggling for survival and a decent life. It is a paper that shares the aspirations of a people whose history, as immigrants and minorities, has put them face to face with inequality and exploitation; a people who today suffer the impact of a system unable to feed, clothe and house its people.

By sharing their diverse experiences we seek to raise the consciousness of all those people who wish to transform their reality and create a society that will provide a full life for everyone.







Excitement and pride filled the air as Latinos marched on Washington, D.C. to bring their demands for justice and dignity and to declare to the world they are eager to help shape strategy into the 21st century.

PHOTO/TRIBUNO DEL PUEBLO

# THOUSANDS MARCH

## Latinos ready to take struggle for rights, dignity to another level

BY LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ

**Celebratory, yet defiant, more than 30,000 people representing Latinos from throughout the United States gathered in Washington D.C. on October 12 to demand justice and their human rights.**

"No human being is illegal," appeared on the T-shirt of a young person from Chicago, summarizing the sentiment of most participants. With banners and flags from countries of the Americas, the Latino gathering became the largest of its kind in the United States.

October 12 is known in Latin America as "Día de la Raza"—Day of the People. The marchers walked several miles to a block from the White House with a seven-point program that included free public education and

health services for all, \$7 per hour minimum wage, and immigrant rights.

While some see the upcoming elections as a place to address these issues, others expressed the need for more grass-roots organizing, particularly among immigrants and low-wage workers, and genuine political independence.

The mostly young contingents also expressed their desire for young people to help shape strategy into the 21st century.

Faced with increased attacks against immigrants such as Proposition 187 in California, English Only laws, and abuse by authorities, speakers and marchers alike raised the need to take the struggle to another level, including educating and galvanizing new leadership for lasting revolutionary

change in this country.

After much applause and cheers, at one point the crowd fell silent at the prompting of the family of Anthony Baez, an unarmed Latino who was killed by New York City police in December of 1994. This young man's death was connected with the countless killings and beatings at the hands of police and immigration officers in the varied communities represented at the march.

Latinos have long demonstrated they are prepared to struggle against great odds for their rights and dignity. This march—with greater diversity than shown in previous events—marked a new stage of the movement: if Latinos are to win their demands, they must unite around the key issues confronting all Latinos, regardless of nationality or region.

Latinos have more to win by combining forces than by fighting in scattered, ineffective battles.

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**For other articles on the Latino March, see pages 2 & 6**