

July 17, 1970

Page 9

Cuban Exiles welfare fraud

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"The goal of this program is to insure that Cuban exiles have a standard of living comparable to that of the American citizen." The above statement is but a small part of the Cuban Aid Program formulated by J. F. Kennedy and carried to new dimensions by Richard M. Nixon. Since the 1930's when the various welfare programs were initiated, politicians, bigots, and other uninformed people have used aid to the poor as a rationalization for the immense shortcomings of the United States Government. However, this is not the case with the Cuban Aid Program. In fact, Cuban exiles are paid to leave their country and remain anti-communist. It must be realized that a tremendous backlash has developed against Cuban exiles (Gusanos) because of their terrorist activities against the different organizations with which they believe to be pro-Castro. Hopefully, this article will not augment the existing bad-feeling towards all Cubans, but instead bring to light some of the *benefits* of being anti-communist.

It is about time that those of us who are the recipients of this organized terror become aware of those *partially* responsible. The federal government is directly reinforcing these activities through the Cuban Aid Program. I am not saying this for the sake of news sensationalism, but to make it apparent that the money appropriated for this program is being filtered into Gusano activities. In Los Angeles, as in other parts of the US, the connection between the aid received by Cubans and terrorist activity is no further than the local welfare office. For example, the Cuban exiles apprehended for the Ash Grove burning were all receiving aid from the federal govern-

ment. While they were receiving aid they were also working. Was the money obtained from the government used to buy the mace and machine guns that were found on their person when arrested? In the recent dope busts by the Justice department in June 1970, 126 of those arrested were Cuban exiles, and 97 of the 126 of receiving federal money. Is it possible that the money was used to buy the dope?

It is not possible for anyone to know the scope of this program because the Feds have been smart enough to transplant Cubans to almost every community in this country. However, when one compares the differences between the Cuban Aid Program and the programs available to other groups such as the blacks and chicanos, it can readily be seen that Cuban exiles are more valuable than our oppressed minorities. First of all the *political asylum*. All other groups, whether citizen, refugee, alien, or whatever, either receive local general relief or are fit into various categorical aids, such as:

Aid To the Blind (AB)

Aid To the Disabled (ATD)

Aid To the Aged (OAS)

Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC).

For the first three programs (AB, ATD, OAS) State determination of blindness, disability, and verification of age, are needed to establish eligibility. However, for Cuban exiles all these eligibility requirements have been waived. This means that Cuban exiles are receiving monies from programs for which they are not eligible. Many exiles receive this money even though they are not blind, disabled, or over 65 years old. The documentation for these charges can be obtained from any local welfare office. All that needs to be done is to go to the office and demand to see administrative directive 1373. You may receive some static but these directives are public documents and anyone is entitled to have them. This directive explains the whole program. The discrimination against non-Cubans is becoming intolerable to those of us forced to administer such a program. Within the welfare department there is growing resistance among the social workers against this program.

The following differences between the Cuban program and the programs available to other non-Cuban groups will show the involvement of the federal government.

1) When a non-Cuban recipient requests additional aid for food they are given (if they beg for it) paper vouchers to take to their local markets. These vouchers not only identify the person as a public assistance recipient, but also leave the person open to further exploitation by the local business establishments. For Cuban exiles all aid requests are strictly given in cash.

2) When a non-Cuban recipient is employed more than 152 hours per month his case is automatically terminated. Along with this termination other benefits such as Medi-Cal are also terminated. For the Cuban exile not only is he able to keep his Medi-Cal coverage when his case is terminated—a new policy has just been introduced to give Cuban exiles aid even if they are fully employed.

3) When a non-Cuban recipient has been found receiving money illegally he is charged with fraud and many times prosecuted by the district attorney for grand theft. In the AFDC program, the recipient does not even have the chance to pay back the money, he automatically has to be brought to court. Not only does the Cuban exile not get brought up on fraud, but he is not asked to pay back the money. If anyone doubts this they should check to see if the Cubans responsible for the Ash Grove burning are still receiving aid and if they will also be prosecuted for welfare fraud (in view of the fact that they were working while receiving aid).

The above discriminatory policies only serve to keep black and brown minorities in positions of servitude and oppression. Social workers are being forced to help prosecute people who many times do not even know that they are breaking the law, and protect Cuban exiles who are receiving monies to finance terrorism and other anti-democratic activities.