

think maybe blacks have paid their dues in those menial jobs."

Many labor leaders have apparently fallen for Administration pledges to enforce minimum wage and related work provisions more strenuously as a corollary to the anti-illegals program. They should note carefully the Administration's logic in opposing further hikes in the minimum wage in debate this week. The Administration argued that a higher minimum wage will take away jobs in businesses bankrupted by increased labor costs.

Labor leaders should also recognize that behind the illegals question stands a concerted effort by Administration officials and influential pro-Carter press to force through a national work card system which has a chilling precedent in Nazi Germany. Secretary of Labor Marshall is on record as favoring such a work card. White House documents released to back up the Administration's program are not reassuring on this point. They state that "the judgment was that the enormous financial and civil liberties costs of creating such a card outweighed its potential benefits at this time." James Reston of the *New York Times* is in the forefront of the press spokesmen, including the *Washington Post*, which have responded to Carter's program with a call for a universal ID system — an intermediate step toward a national work card.

Most employers are opposed to the Carter program for

obvious reasons: the illegals are among the hardest working and most poorly paid segment of the work force, doing jobs which are generally not easy to fill otherwise. Additionally, the Administration memos have indicated that enforcement of the employer sanctions "would be limited to employers who engage in a 'pattern or practice' of hiring undocumented aliens." Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) chief Leonel Castillo has indicated that his department already has lists of such employers, drawn up as a "by-product" of previous INS raids. The scope for discriminatory use of such a "hit list," especially by an Administration increasingly known for its hounding of political opponents, is significant.

Illegals: Turn Yourselves In

The final question is what is in the program for the illegals themselves? The major East Coast press, largely favorable to the Administration, has bent over backward in its reporting to highlight the so-called amnesty for large classes of illegals and all but ignored the policing features of the proposals. Yet many observers have noted that illegals under the Carter plan will get few if any benefits and would only participate if otherwise faced with massive round-ups and deportation.

The number of illegals who would receive permanent resident status is generally considered to be small — at most 500,000, according to INS director Castillo. The

Washington Post: The Curse Of Machines

In the wake of the announcement of Carter's anti-illegals program, the Mexican government has been forced to consider policies that would absorb increased labor at home without laying claim to the economically depressed country's limited supplies of capital. The answer: exactly the low-skill, labor-intensive work projects urged upon Mexico and other sender countries such as Colombia by the Carter Administration. Following are excerpts from an August 13 Washington Post OpEd by George W. Grayson, a professor at the College of William and Mary which presents the rationale for labor-intensive work projects and de-industrialization in a systematic fashion.

Like so many less-developed countries, Mexico is characterized by a sharp division between its haves and have-nots.

At a time when many Third World nations are narrowing the gap between the rich and poor, this social fissure is deepening in Mexico.

At the heart of the problem is the skill of the haves in protecting their turf. Interwoven with the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) they constantly increase their income through union and association memberships, shield themselves from the worst effect of devaluation by hoarding dollars and sending funds abroad and evade and avoid taxes to the extent that Mexicans have one of the world's lowest payment records.

Worst of all, captains of industry in Mexico have

fashioned a manufacturing sector, protected from foreign competition by quotas and import licenses, that has converted the bribery of bureaucrats from an art form to an exact science to keep the government-set prices at advantageous levels. Not only are domestically produced goods unreasonably dear — a great burden on the poor who can't preserve what little purchasing power they enjoy during current double-digit inflation — but furthermore they are produced by capital intensive methods thanks to cheap credit and a slavish devotion to the latest Western technology.

The upshot is that unemployment or underemployment afflicts two-fifths of Mexico's able workers, many of whom live in the shadows of the machines that deprive them of a livelihood. The last point has more than academic interest for the United States, because the number of unsuccessful job seekers each year is roughly 300,000 a figure equivalent to a significant portion of the illegal emigrants who annually cross the Rio Grande.

Mexico's oil wealth offers unique opportunities. Whether this windfall will simply alleviate a critical balance of payments situation and fatten the bank accounts of the rich or whether it will be used by President Lopez Portillo to bridge the gap between the affluent and the poor — most notably by 1) a realistic credit policy, 2) removal of protection from fully grown firms and 3) the creation of jobs through labor-intensive technology — remains to be seen....