

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

Kennedy does it again

Mexico's "best friend" has been spearheading economic and immigration warfare, through the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.

The press here has prominently reported on a speech on the Senate floor by Edward Kennedy on Aug. 20, in which he lashed out at President Reagan's Mexico policy. Reagan had turned his back on economic cooperation with the United States' beleaguered southern neighbor, the Massachusetts Senator charged; it was time to return to policies of support and concern.

Once again Kennedy had made the headlines as a "friend of Mexico."

The Mexican press, however, failed to report one very crucial part of the Kennedy speech. I only found out about it by looking into the *Congressional Record*. Kennedy called for the International Monetary Fund to intervene and run Mexico's economic affairs.

"First, I support the short-term economic measures taken by our governments to deal with this crisis. . . and I trust that they will resolve [Mexico's] urgent need for liquidity and credit," he stated. "Second, I urge the International Monetary Fund to respond rapidly and effectively in aid of Mexico, to put its economy once again on a sure road. . ."

Given the conditionalities on IMF lending, which the Senator is not unaware of, the statement was akin to a call to dispatch the fox to the chicken coop.

This case is minor, however, in comparison to Kennedy's two-faced dealings on the immigration issue. Hardly a day went by in late July and

August that a Kennedy release or statement did not highlight the Senator's opposition to aspects of the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill on the (correct)

not adequately protect the rights of Hispanics. Kennedy went so far as to cast the lone dissenting vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee against reporting out the bill without additional changes.

However, contrary to press reports and his own public utterances, Kennedy is probably the single most important sponsor of this racist piece of legislation, designed to scapegoat Mexican labor for America's economic ills, and set the framework for shutting the border entirely with genocidal consequences.

A Kennedy bill in Congress established the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy in the fall of 1978, which became known as the Hessburgh Commission. Through over two years of hearings, commission-member Kennedy backed the commission's framework, later written up in legislative form by fellow commissioners Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.)

sharp cuts in legal immigration, sanctions against employers who hire undocumented labor, and a special I.D. system to police the entire American labor force.

Kennedy's well-publicized attacks on the bill when it came to the Senate floor in early August were all for show, assert sources in the House

Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Congress. "Kennedy had the power as ranking minority leader on the Senate Judiciary Committee to stop this bill from going through with one phone call and he didn't," said one committee source. "He knew that if he didn't use his powers to stop it, it would pass, and that is what he wanted to happen."

The anti-Mexico bill is now before the House; Kennedy ally Peter Rodino is scheduled to move it through with only minor changes in the course of September.

The indictment of Kennedy's Mexico policy does not stop here, however. Some Mexicans did their homework on who controls ABC-TV in the United States, after the airing of the panic-mongering ABC documentary, "Mexico: Times of Crisis" in late July. It turned out that the Kennedy family played the middleman role in setting up ABC in its current form in the early 1950s, and Kennedy-installed executives run the network to this day.

It is also well-remembered here that the last time Kennedy got interested in Mexico, in 1978-79, it was to stop Mexico's industrialization and convert its oil into a strategic reserve for the United States. Then-Kennedy aide Jerry Brady was dispatched to Mexico in the fall of 1978 with the message that Mexico must stick with backward technologies which "create more jobs" than modern ones. In mid-1979, Kennedy's office ghost-wrote a call in *New Republic* magazine for using Mexican oil as a U.S. weapon in global economic warfare against OPEC. And in early 1980, as he hit the presidential campaign trail, Kennedy insisted the best way to get Mexico to subordinate its oil plans to U.S. diktat was to create what he called a "North American Common Market." Mexico totally rejected the concept.