

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
45 Fremont Street, 32nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105



May 20, 1996

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

**Re: El Monte Slavery Case**

Dear Madame Attorney General:

In Governor Wilson's August 24, 1995 letter to you, he urged you to initiate a full investigation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Attorney's Office for their "apparent indifference" to the illegal activities that were being conducted at the now infamous El Monte sweatshop. The letter cited the well-known fact that the INS had detailed knowledge of the operation for approximately three years, but took no action and closed its file on the matter. This inaction allowed the conditions in the El Monte labor camp to continue until discovered in an enforcement action led by the California Labor Commissioner.

In your August 29, 1995 response to Governor Wilson, you indicated that you had directed U.S. Attorney Nora Manella and INS Commissioner Doris Meissner to conduct a thorough review of the federal law enforcement actions taken in this case since 1992. Recently we were told that the federal report on this matter was completed last December, however to our knowledge the findings of this investigation have not been released. On the other hand, by letter dated October 26, 1995, INS Executive Associate Commissioner William Slattery informed me that no investigation of this matter would take place until completion of the criminal proceedings. (Copies of the referenced letters are attached.)

As you are aware, the sentencing of the perpetrators of these abhorrent acts was only completed last week in Los Angeles. We would strongly urge that the report covering your internal investigation (if it has been completed) be released as expeditiously as possible to bring the issues surrounding the El Monte case to a

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final conclusion for the people of California and the United States. If the investigation has not been conducted, we are ready to cooperate fully to conclude the investigation as quickly as possible.

Very truly yours,

Lloyd W. Aubry, Jr.  
*Director*

Enclosures: