

Border cities need special assistance, group says

United Press International
 EL PASO — Spokesmen for a Washington-based Hispanic group said massive federal aid is needed to cure lingering economic problems along the U.S.-Mexico border, not cosmetic remedies used by the Reagan administration.

In a 31-page analysis released Thursday to the El Paso Herald-Post, the National Council of La Raza said U.S.

border cities should be given special assistance like that granted to the depressed Appalachian region in the East. "We need to look at the border area much as we look at Appalachia," said La Raza President Raul Yzaguirre. "It has continuing, chronic, endemic socio-economic problems, and needs the same kind of infrastructure" as the Appalachian relief programs. The administration's use of

existing grants and aid to help the border region has not worked, he said. Without the Appalachian approach, the Raza spokesman said, conditions in the border area will continue to worsen. La Raza recommended a huge public works program for the border with long-term public investment. The program not only should include construction and renovation of sewers and

streets, transportation funding and similar projects, but also comprehensive educational programs, the report said. La Raza also recommended:
 • Development and careful, equitable management of border region water resources required for a dependable, clean, disease-free water supply for personal, agricultural and industrial use.
 • Policies ensuring that concerns of workers are given the same priorities as those of businesses.
 • A greater U.S. interest in helping the Mexican economy,

which is closely tied with that of American border cities. La Raza officials said President Reagan's Southwest Border Action Group, which has attempted to bolster the border economy by expediting various types of federal grants and assistance, had failed. "Whatever the effectiveness of the present federal efforts, most agree that even the best disaster aid, whether for the long drawn-out disaster of the peso devaluations or the recent freeze (in the Rio Grande Val-

ley), can provide temporary relief at best," Yzaguirre said. The council's report stated the 1982 peso devaluations graphically illustrated the border economy's over reliance on retail trade. "Local businesses were thriving on the brisk sales to Mexicans who, confident of a strong peso supported by oil revenues, made regular shopping excursions to the United States for groceries and other consumer goods, which were often of a higher quality than those to be

found in Mexico," the Raza report stated. "After three devaluations between February and December 1982, the peso's value was from less than 25 per dollar to about 147 per dollar, making American goods up to five times more expensive to Mexican buyers." At the same time, the report said, groceries and goods on the Mexican side of the border became five times cheaper for Americans.

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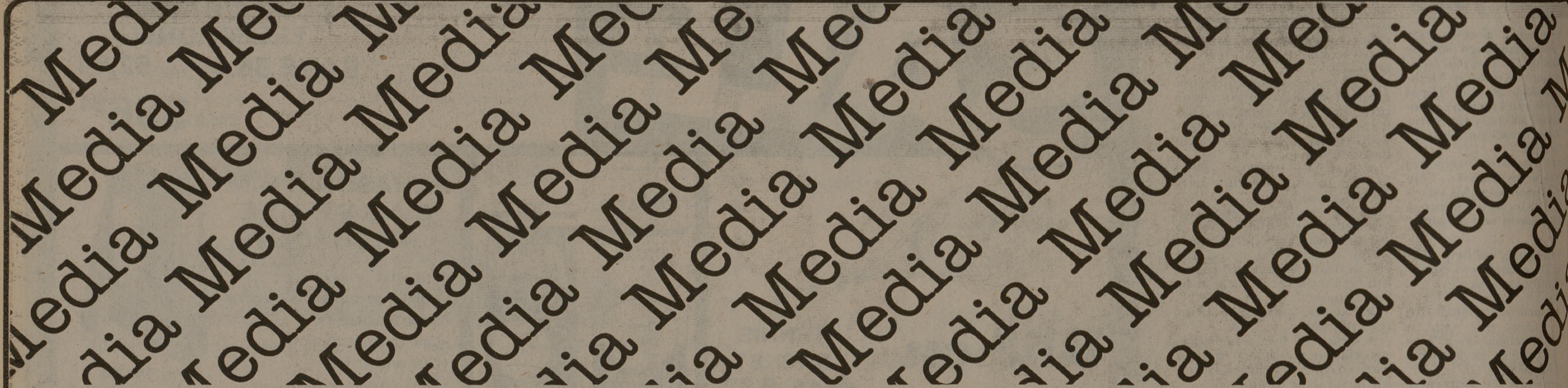
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Surgeon sentenced in tax fraud

United Press International
 AUSTIN — A surgeon who the government claims owes the U.S. Treasury more than \$1 million was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison and fined \$10,000 for tax fraud. U.S. District Court Judge James Nowlin imposed the sentence on Dr. John A. Garcia, 47, of Austin, who was convicted in January of two counts of false income tax returns in 1975 and 1976. Garcia, who still faces Internal Revenue Service civil penalties, said he would appeal the conviction and sentence. He was released on bond. Travis County records showed that between 1967 and 1978, the federal government filed liens against Garcia totaling more than \$970,000. Penalties and interest have pushed the total to more than \$1 million. During his four-day trial on income tax evasion, prosecutors said Garcia overstated his deductions by more than \$130,000. Testimony showed Garcia claimed deductions for cars leased to his former wife and children as well as for European vacations. Garcia said he owed the IRS nothing because all of his expenditures were business related and that many of his deductions were based on transactions for which there were no records.



SCONA 29 Feb. 15-18

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15		
2:00 p.m.	The News Media In American Society — Fred Friendly, Professor Emeritus of Broadcast Journalism, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism; former CBS network President	— Reed Irvine, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Accuracy in Media (AIM)
5:00 p.m.	The Media As Business — Donald Kummerfeld, President, News America Publishing, Inc.; Director, News Corporation; former First Deputy Mayor, New York City	2:00 p.m. Media versus Privacy — Arthur Miller, Professor of Law, Harvard Law School; television host, "Miller's Court"
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16		FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
9:00 a.m.	Domestic News Reporting	9:00 a.m. International News Reporting — Frank Manitzas, Producer, Latin American Bureau, ABC News
PANEL		12:45 p.m. Grenada in Retrospect — A Panel Discussion, Mediator: Frank Manitzas
— Michael I. Burch, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs — Victor Gold, National Correspondent, Washington magazine		— David Gergen, former Director, White House Office of Communications — Thomas DeFrank, Chief White House Correspondent, Newsweek magazine
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18		
10:00 a.m.	Behind The Headlines — Arnaud de Borchgrave, Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University; former Senior Editor, Newsweek magazine	

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