

MERRITT COLLEGE CHICANO STUDIES--WHAT IT'S ABOUT

The following is a speech given by Froben Lozada at the Chicano Symposium held on the 13th and 14th of November, 1969 at Cal State Hayward.

Armando Valdez--The next speaker will be Froben Lozada, Chairman of Chicano Studies at Merritt College in Oakland. He is also the S.W.P. candidate for Attorney General in the next election. Froben. . . (applause)

Froben Lozada--At the request of Armando Valdez, I will speak on the relevancy of the Chicano Studies Department at Merritt College to the Chicano Movement; to point out how the Chicano Studies relates to the Chicano Movement. I'll give you a brief run down, I won't take to much of your time. As a rule I'd look at Universities, including Cal State Hayward, as nothing but brothels where people sell their minds instead of their bodies. (applause) We know the complicity of the U. of Cal. at Berkeley which is only one of the many Universities that do intensive research for wars, armaments and defoliants, everything of that sort. They also do intensive research for the growers. . . for the benefit of the growers. . . such as inventing a new grape pickin' machine. They do absolutely nothing, however, for the farm workers. They don't want to and they won't do it. At the Merritt College Chicano Studies Department we have a different situation, there the staff of 12 part time instructors and two full time instructors are all chosen and recommended by the students. Not only that, the courses that are offered there are also determined by the students. We make good use of the campus, producing leaflets, making phone calls, lecture fees for people who are involved in the Chicano Movement so they can come and talk to our classes. We have the use of lecture halls. We had a Chicano Liberation Conference ther recently, tape recorders, films and everything else. Out of the 12 members of the staff, 3 of them were busted during the 3rd World Liberation Strike at Berkeley, 2 of them are present here tonite, Bernardo Garcia-Pandavenes and Antonio Camejo.

In making the courses relevant to Chicanos we have made a very serious effort to let them know what the nature of the ruling class of this country is and, as Antonio Camejo pointed out the 30,000 persons that dictate foreign and domestic policy to the puppets in Washington and Sacramento and elsewhere, each and everyone of the students by the time he gets out of Merritt knows, and is fully aware of the nature of this ruling class. If you need confirmation of this all you have to do is pick up Who Rules America? written by Professor Domhoff, or pick up The Rich and The Super Rich by Lundberg and you will get an idea of how the ruling class works.

How can this 1.6% of the total number of people in this country run the country? They have several tricks. One of them is racism which began after slavery was abolished and this is the way we teach it at Merritt College, not as an attitude. If it is an attitude, it's taught as an attitude that started after slavery was abolished and Jim Crowism sprung and was born then with the aid of myths deliberately created by college professors in the South. Created to justify and rationalize slavery and also to discourage poor whites from alliances with blacks. Divide and rule is the name of the game. They will divide blacks against Mexicans against poor whites. They don't stop there. The ruling class starts out to divide the Mexicans against the Mexicans and the blacks against the blacks and the greater the division the greater the power they can hold. That's the only way they can retain control of the power

them who have none! Another example that happened recently, when this liberal democrat swam across the lake without even getting wet---the Mary Kopechne case---with Ted Kennedy. And we're supposed to preach morality to these guys! Our students at Merritt College know that the only difference that exists between the liberal democrats and the conservative republicans is that the liberals can deceive the people better. Pause. Now very briefly on the staff and how we evaluate teachers who are to teach courses in our department. We had a lady who came up to us and said that she had been formerly on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and I said "You're hired!" (applause) and the students said "You're hired". And then we asked her what her major was, and then we found a course that she could teach, and now she's teaching United States relations with Mexico and Latin America from the point of view of the oppressed which means the left wing point of view. (applause) And Ysidro Macias who is now in Santa Rita set up the course in Mexican-American political Thought which includes the Study of the Denver Crusade for Justice and the Delano Farm Workers Strike and Reis Tijerina and everything else and we invite people from those movements who are actively involved to come over and lecture to our classes so they can pick up some additional money that will help the movement. We have a course in music by Bernardo Garcia-Pandavanes who is one of those busted during the 3rd World Strike. But it's not restricted to music because music has it's protest songs and stories. And so it's all tied in. In the courses in literature, we look at it from the standpoint that this is Northern Mexico and we select the best novels coming out of Mexico and the few that are beginning to come out from here. Novels by Carlos Fuentes, Jose Revueltas. Carlos Fuentes was banned from Puerto Rico by this system. They didn't want him to go into Puerto Rico because he's a left-winger. In spite of the fact that they preach freedom of speech. Jose Revueltas is now in prison in Mexico City, accused of being the one who led the demonstration where 500 students were slaughtered.

We let the students know why there must be unemployment under this system, because it's profitable, everything has to do with money. As long as you keep a large number of people un-employed you can always say "If you don't want to work for \$2.40 an hour, don't worry because some black or Mexican will." It's very profitable and keeps the wages down. We point out the nature of wars and the causes of wars. The fact that Chicanos have to die in outrageous numbers in Vietnam, and not only do they have to give up their lives, but before they die, they have to eat 6 lbs of grapes. (applause) So these guys are not satisfied with injury, they have to add insult to injury. This course on economic development of the 3rd World also will be presenting the point of view of the oppressed. This is very important to the students.

Each and everyone of the students at Merritt College will be taking part in the anti-war march where Corky will be one of the speakers along with Dolores Huerta because we're tired of being in the front lines in Vietnam. The only front lines that we should be in are the front lines of the anti-war demonstrations. (applause) And we look at the barrio too, not as something confined by arbitrary city limits determined by corrupt politicians who want you to think in no broader terms than your own barrio, so that you won't bother to think of the people of the Third World as brothers elsewhere. We look at our barrio as one not restricted or confined to the city limits arbitrarily determined by some corrupt politicians. Our barrio goes beyond these fictitious

since they only constitute 1.6% of the population. They can come into Oakland and bring in a million dollars O.E.O. pie and set it down there for the blacks and Mexicans to fight it out. And when there is no enmity and animosity between the two, after the million dollars are brought in by O.E.O. so the Mexican will end up fighting with the blacks and say "We should get \$300,000" and the blacks will say "We should get \$800,000" and instead of fighting, the man who brought the pie in they'll end up fighting against each other. Very subtle trick. (applause)

Instead of fighting the man to get 2,000,000 dollars they end up fighting to get crumbs; the million dollars that was brought in. And this is what the ruling class wants and this is where they want you to be. They're also very sneaky in diverting the struggle or issues that might arise. For instance, if the Mexican in South Texas and Southern California or anywhere in the south-west is bent or inclined to fight against the war, to oppose the Viet Nam intervention, they can very subtly come on in and divert the struggle into trying to get more into the draft boards, which does completely nothing to change the intervention that's going on in Viet Nam. They get all these liberal Mexicans fighting and shadow boxing with the Frito Bandido, and they do claim to be radical and they claim to be very courageous because they are struggling and fighting against the Frito Bandido because it's an offensive advertisement, but in the meantime, they fail to examine the causes of racism and the roots of racism which are strictly a product of the system. And this is the way the students at Merritt College find out what racism is all about in the course that has to do with racism which incidentally will become an inter-disciplinary course with Melvin Newton, brother of Huey Newton, also teaching part of the time. They come up with other issues in order to divert you from the true reason and the true causes and the true nature of the system. They can come up to San Francisco with a very ridiculous petition, you know, that you're supposed to sign the petition telling Nixon that he can use any force necessary to free Lt. Alvarez from being a prisoner of the Vietnamese and that Nixon is supposed to use any force and we very stupidly go and sign the thing to give Nixon the free hand in everything. The only thing you have to do is place yourself in the position of the Vietnamese. Now, I, what would I do if somebody came around napalming my neighbors and my family? Would I go around signing a petition to free the guy? If there were someone coming around napalming my neighbors, dropping tons and tons of bombs around my house, the first thing I would do is shoot him! (applause)

It doesn't matter whether it's Lt. Alvarez or Lt. Smith. Another trick that the ruling class uses is to always make the victim look like a criminal. When the Indian first rose up to resist and struggle against being enslaved, because they were bent on making the Indians slaves too, but the Indians resisted and the Indians fought against it. The minute the Indians fought against being enslaved and put in chains like the black brothers, and the minute they rose up against it they were called savages! And this trick is used time and time again. If the blacks rise up to fight against the racism that they face, they are quickly labeled "violent". The ruling class very subtly turns the tables on people. If Los Siete de La Raza, in self-defense knock-off some policeman they are quickly labeled "Latin type hoodlums". Well we know the nature of the majority of the policeman. We know that most of them are racist. We know damn well that they don't give a god-damned hoot about killing. The only thing the police care about is saving or preventing looting of a measly 30 or 150 dollars. You know what they did in San Francisco recently. They shot a man in the back for suspicion of passing a 150 dollar check. This is what life is worth to the police!

Zapata, Pancho Villa are made to look, in our eyes, as if they were criminals and they keep pulling that trick on us, making the victim look like the criminal. It's brought up to date. They make Che Guevara look like a criminal or bandido, the same thing they did to Zapata. They don't restrict it to individuals, they make even nations look like criminals when indeed they are the victims. Cuba, a little country of 8-10 million people was made to look like it was about to take over the United States. (applause) Simply because they decided to have missiles on their own land! Cuba happens to "export revolution." The people in Washington and elsewhere quickly point the finger of accusation and say "Fidel is trying to export revolution", in the meantime this country continues to export counterrevolution. So they turn the tables on everything in order to continue to deceive the people. They will say "The Communists want to use you, the Socialists want to use you, they want to use the Third World People". These are the people who are using us! The people who are using us by paying us the lowest wages possible, by keeping us oppressed and miseducated and they have the gumption to say that the Communists and the Socialists are trying to use us! They talk about the "free World" when half of Latin America is under military dictatorship and they call those countries part of the "free world" but they truly don't give a damn who runs them as long as they satisfy the needs of the people in Washington. What we're trying to do, is to tell the students at Merritt College, that we should be sick and tired of these liberals coming in from Washington and Sacramento, coming over and embracing our respected leaders like Cesar Chavez and slobbering all over him and kissing him and saying "I'm going to quit eating grapes today." (applause) Then they get on the United Airlines plane which is the same airline which kept that black sister from working because she was wearing a natural. They get back on that plane and start munching on grapes. They go back to Washington and defend the same system, the very same system, whose defense department has made Viet Nam the 3rd greatest grape consuming country in the world! (applause) But it is nothing new, because if you look back to Woodrow Wilson and other liberals, he didn't want any blacks in the white house. And another man with a magic name in Liberal Democratic circles came up and opposed a federal anti-lynch law, and that man's name was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Then we have another figure who said that "Asian wars should be fought by Asian boys"—another liberal. This liberal also said that the intervention in Cuba was a mistake—but it was no mistake. He only admitted that it was a mistake after it failed. (applause) Not only that, but this liberal democrat is the same one who originated the green berets and the same one who started counter-insurgency forces to go and vamp and oppress brothers in the 3rd world in Latin America and that was John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Then came up another liberal democrat with his scare tactics, trying to scare the people into voting for the lesser of the two evils, see, we're not supposed to question, were not supposed to ask, "Why the hell do I have to choose an evil?" (applause) We're not supposed to say that evil is evil and there are no degrees to it. Anyway this liberal scared us into choosing him as a lesser evil over Goldwater. That was L.B.J. After he gets out of the picture, another liberal democrat comes running up who when there were 249,999 GI's in Vietnam, he thought the war was perfectly moral. The minute there were 250,000 GI's in Vietnam, all of a sudden, over night, the war became immoral and that was Mr. Eugene McCarthy. (applause) And we are supposed to look up to these scums with respect for their morals. And they have the guts to tell us to be non-violent! (applause) And the pacifists want us to preach morality to

city limits and extends into the Plaza de La Tres Culturas in Mexico City, our barrio is projected onto the favelas in Brazil. Our barrio extends into the jungles of Bolivia and the jungles of Vietnam. And that's what our Barrio is! Our barrio, in fact, is the whole world, wherever the oppressed might be. We furnish speakers everywhere. Tomorrow most of our members of the staff will fan out to take part in the pre-march demonstrations (14 Nov.) and our students will also be taken with us so that they in turn can start espousing our views before audiences. So that what we, the Merritt College Chicanos, go out to let the people know that WE REMEMBER THE ALAMO, for the right reasons. (applause) And that we have to create two, three, four, many Alamos! (cheers and applause) And to those Birchers and Sons of Birchers (laughter) . . . And those Birchers and Sons of Birchers who go around saying "America: Love It Or Leave It!" to them we say---"America: Change It Or Lose It!" (cheers-Appraise)

Thank you, thank you.