

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

4.00
3-31-B

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
913-922 MILLS BLDG.

OFFICE OF SUPERVISING INSPECTOR
MEXICAN BORDER DISTRICT
(TEX., N. MEX., ARIZ., AND SO. CAL.)
EL PASO, TEXAS

IN ANSWERING REFER TO
No. P 5002/800/29

November 14, 1918.

Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, D.C.

NOV 15 1918

Supplementing letter of this office of the 4th instant, addressed to the Bureau, concerning the situation in the Southern California district, arising from the attempted punishment of criminal violations of the Passport Law and regulations, and in which the attitude of Judge Bledsoe, and the Assistant United States Attorney was explained, there is inclosed in duplicate, copy of a self-explanatory letter, addressed to this office under date of the 2nd instant by the inspector in charge at Los Angeles, which may prove of interest.

This office does not subscribe to the views expressed in the last paragraph thereof. It has never been considered good policy, in any circumstances to permit arresting officers to exercise their discretion in determining whether prosecutions should be instituted for criminal violations of law. For the sake of uniformity, consistency and successful administration, it has been deemed preferable to have such questions primarily passed upon by this office, and thereafter referred, if it seemed advisable, to the appropriate prosecuting officers, and if any change in the existing procedure, as outlined in the memorandum of the Inter-departmental conference, is considered, it would seem that it would not be wise to vest in individual immigration officers any greater discretionary powers than they now exercise in dealing with criminal violations of the immigration and Chinese exclusion acts.

MWD
Incl 8600

[Signature]
Acting Supervising Inspector.