

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

DISTRICT No. 22

CO. BILL OF IMMIGRATION

MAR 1 1926

MAILS AND FILES

IN ANSWERING REFER TO
No. 2000/14-A

OFFICE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR
HICKS BUILDING
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

February 26, 1926.

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

With reference to the First Supplement and Amendment to General Order No. 42, of December 11, 1924, which is dated February 7, 1926, and numbered 55423/660-A, the question has been asked as to just what officers the order applies to. This office believes it is intended that both Patrol Inspectors and Patrol Inspectors in Charge shall wear the belt, but in order to settle the question satisfactorily to those who think differently specific information as to just what officers were contemplated is desired.

For the last fifty years Texas has been pictured in the press and magazines as a "wild and woolly" State, where human life was unsafe, and where every man wore firearms and shot his fellow man at the "drop of a hat." Good, law-abiding citizens have had a hard fight to eliminate this impression. In times past all officers dressed in frontier style with from one to three pistols in evidence, and in order that everyone might know they were officers, and killers, a very short coat or jacket was worn. The growth of civilization eradicated this idea and at this time any officer who displays his pistol is considered below the standard, and is soon eliminated from service as such. The custom now in Texas among all peace officers is to keep their pistols out of sight under their coats, but within easy reach. I hope that the Department will

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consider the order complied with if the patrol force continues to wear their pistols concealed under their coats in the customary manner, although it is not seen how they can do so with the belt similar to the so-called Sam Brown Belt. It would be preferable to discontinue carrying firearms but of course we all realize that this can not be done. If they have to wear them on the outside of their coats there will be undesired criticism which will be more injurious than helpful to our Service. Of course it will not make so much difference if pistols are worn in sight while the officer is scouting and watching roads in sparsely settled country, but when it is necessary for him to work on trains and in cities and towns it will create unfavorable comment.

Just as soon as a reply is received to the inquiry of the first paragraph of this letter I will see that the Department's orders in regard to the uniforms are carried out, and the above information is furnished with the thought that the Bureau would be interested to know the trend of opinion, local conditions and the effect in regard to the matter discussed. I hope, however, that we may be allowed to conform in this instance to the demand of public opinion.

Wm. H. C. Hanson

District Director.

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