

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE  
DISTRICT No. 25

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

NO. 5046/78

OFFICE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
EL PASO, TEX.

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Chief Patrol Inspectors,  
U. S. Immigration Service,  
Tucson, Arizona,  
El Paso, Texas,  
Marfa, Texas.

The writer has learned with surprise that some of the patrol inspectors continue to stop passenger traffic at interior points by means of "STOP" signs. This is not only dangerous, but is considered, generally speaking, to be illegal, and is strongly discountenanced by the Bureau and Department. If it is necessary to use the "STOP" signs at all, such use must be limited to the Border, either at the point of crossing on the international line or on the roads and trails closely adjacent thereto and leading therefrom. Even then promiscuous halting of traffic is not permissible; the stopping of conveyances on public highways adjacent to the Border and leading therefrom must be upon advance information; the officers must be in uniform when working on the public highways, and they must take all the precautions possible to make their identity as officers immediately known to the travelers stopped for questioning.

If it seems necessary to stop an automobile some distance from the Border, on information that contraband aliens probably are being conveyed therein, the officers will exercise their ingenuity, and if possible examine the occupants of the car at a point where the car must stop, as at a filling station or a federal or state agricultural checking station, etc.

The Chief Patrol Inspectors must realize that it is incumbent upon them to afford legal protection to the officers working under their direction. Travelers may use force to resist illegal restraint and search and if they do so and the officers persist and wound or kill a person not shown to be engaged in an unlawful enterprise, the officer is without a legal defense, and manifestly his superior officer should not--and must not--place him in that untenable position.

G. C. WILMOTH,  
District Director.

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OFFICIAL COPY furnished Commissioner-General of Immigration, Washington, D. C., for his information and for approval, if such is deemed necessary.

*G. C. Wilmoth*  
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District Director.

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