

February 1, 1941.

55883/173

District Director of
Immigration and Naturalization,
El Paso, Texas.

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Reference is made to your letter of January 16, file 2316/I, transmitting a memorandum prepared by the District Supervisor regarding proposed border patrol headquarters buildings at El Paso.

There was included in the budget for 1942, an item in the amount of \$145,000 for the erection of border patrol subdistrict headquarters at El Paso. The breakdown of this amount is given below:

Building, Plan No. 150	\$75,000
Garage, " " "	21,500
Approaches and fence	4,000
Public utilities and septic tank	4,500
Fuel tanks, garage equipment	2,500
Contingencies	10,000
Furniture and radio equipment	7,000
Plans and specifications	4,800
Superintendence	3,600
Office expense	3,600
Land	5,000
Stable	3,500
	<u>\$145,000</u>

This estimate was based on the unit cost of 50¢ per cubic foot for the office building and 20¢ per cubic foot for the garage. The Federal Works Administration now states that costs have increased and new estimates should be at 55¢ per cubic foot for the building and 25¢ per cubic foot for the garage. With these unit costs you should be able to arrive at a fairly accurate estimate of the cost of any rearrangement of your plans.

It is noted that you now propose to house the subdistrict headquarters, training school, and gymnasium in separate buildings instead of one building as was originally planned. This office has no objection to this, in fact, such an arrangement may provide a more flexible arrangements and eliminate confusion between school activities and normal administration activities.

It is noted that the size of the garage building has been reduced to

provide for storage of 16 cars and 2 trucks, and that you propose to include carpenter and radio shops in this building. This arrangement will be satisfactory. Your revised plan to provide space for 75 students in the school building and space for 60 in the gymnasium is also satisfactory.

It is believed that the buildings should be on a level tract of land not less than 10 acres in an area located so as to be accessible to electric power, telephone, and other public utilities, and in a location where water for irrigation purposes is available. It is understood that it would be impracticable to secure irrigation water in the vicinity of the North Mesa road, and it is believed that the performance of radio equipment in this location would be poor.

It is understood that several years ago the International Boundary Commission had some land available for transfer in the vicinity of the international boundary southeast of Cordova Island, but it is probable that this land is no longer available. It is believed that a site in this vicinity would be desirable unless you consider the distance to the district office too great. It is assumed that the settlement of the Cordova Island controversy is not probable in the near future which might make a portion of this tract available to the U. S. Government. Another factor to be considered in the selecting of a site in this area is the proposed relocation of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks which this office understands has been under consideration for a number of years.

It is believed that the rearrangement you have suggested will be satisfactory and there appears to be no reason for your further reducing the size of the buildings unless it is necessary to do so to keep within the amount requested. The miscellaneous items listed in the estimates should be kept in mind as they represent a considerable portion of the total estimate. The figures quoted were furnished by the Federal Works Administration, Public Buildings Branch, and it contemplates that the plans will be drawn by that office and the work done under their supervision. It is very unlikely that funds for these buildings would be made available directly to this Service. The funds, if appropriated, will probably be included as an item in the Federal Works appropriation for public buildings.

LEMUEL B. SCHOFIELD,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General

By

W. F. KELLY,
Chief Supervisor
of Border Patrol.

(Signed)

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