

Friday, Jan. 18, 1985

The Register

# General News

## Undocumented workers arrested in sweeps

By Pam Steinriede  
The Register

About 60 undocumented agricultural workers were arrested in Orange County fields Thursday, federal officials said.

The raids were conducted throughout the day by six U.S. Border Patrol agents at fields in Seal Beach, Anaheim, Cypress, Stanton, Huntington Beach and Garden Grove, said A.R. Francis, a supervisor at the patrol's Chula Vista office.

Most of the workers — all adults and mostly Hispanic men — surrendered without protest, Francis said. "Only a few ran from us."

The undocumented workers were taken to the San Clemente

patrol station for processing, he said.

"They have the choice of going through a deportation hearing or voluntarily returning to Mexico," Francis said.

Orange County Human Relations Commission officials expressed concern about the sweep and said they were investigating the legality of the arrests.

Members of the commission are scheduled to announce their preliminary findings at a 10:30 a.m. news conference today.

Amin David, chairman of Los Amigos of Orange County, a Hispanic advocacy organization, also will attend the conference along with a woman who said she witnessed some of the arrests in Anaheim on Thursday afternoon, ac-

cording to an official from the commission.

In September, 267 federal immigration agents were added to the San Diego and Chula Vista region staff.

Alan Eliason, chief patrol agent for the Chula Vista sector, said at the time that patrol agents capture about half the illegal aliens who enter the United States. With the increase in staff he said he expected to reach an 85 percent to 90 percent apprehension rate in the Southern California area.

In 1984, 530,502 suspected aliens were apprehended in California.

Francis refused to speculate on the connection between the increased number of patrol agents and any projected increase in raids.