

H. Res. 244

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

October 1 (legislative day, September 30), 1997.

Whereas the contested election case of Dornan v. Sanchez is pending before the Committee;

Whereas the Federal Contested Elections Act (2 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the “Act”) provides for the issuance of subpoenas, and on March 17, 1997, United States District Court Judge Gary L. Taylor issued such a subpoena at the request of the Contestant for the deposition and records of Hermandad Mexicana Nacional;

Whereas on April 16, 1997, the Committee voted to modify the subpoena by limiting production of documents to the 46th Congressional District (among other modifications), and as perfected by the Committee, the subpoena required Hermandad Mexicana Nacional to produce documents and appear for a deposition no later than May 1, 1997;

Whereas Hermandad Mexicana Nacional failed to produce documents or appear for the deposition by May 1, 1997, and still has not complied with the subpoena;

Whereas Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, by willfully failing to comply with the lawfully issued subpoena, is in viola-

tion of section 11 of the Act (2 U.S.C. 390), which provides for criminal penalties;

Whereas on May 13, 1997, the Contestant wrote to the United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Nora M. Manella, requesting that action be taken to enforce the law with respect to Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, and on June 23, 1997, the Committee wrote to the Department of Justice inquiring as to the status of this request for criminal prosecution, and the Department responded on July 25, 1997, that the criminal referral remained “under review”;

Whereas the United States Attorney’s failure to enforce criminal penalties for the violation of the Act encourages disrespect for the law and hinders the constitutionally mandated process of determining the facts in the contested election case, including the discovery of any election fraud that may have influenced the outcome of the election; and

Whereas on September 23, 1997, the United States District Court for the Central District of California ruled that the deposition subpoena provisions of the Act are constitutional: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives demands that the Office of the United States Attorney for the Central District of California carry out its responsibility by filing, pursuant to its determination that it is appropriate according to the law and the facts, criminal charges against

Hermandad Mexicana Nacional for failure to comply with a valid subpoena issued under the Act.

Attest:

Clerk.