

Guatemala, C. A.
December 23, 1954

Mr. Henry Hazlitt
NEWSWEEK
152 West 42 Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hazlitt:

Please accept a word of appreciation for your expressed views on our foreign aid handouts. I fervently wish that Mr. Dulles, Mr. Stassen, and Mr. Eisenhower shared your views.

Let me tell you of my experience here in Guatemala:- I have been here since July 1948 as Chemical Engineer for the Novella Cement Company which is wholly Guatemalan owned and operated. Production is just enough to meet the demand at present but a shortage is seen for the very near future. Therefore, all out production is needed, however this plant will shut down for the Christmas Holidays. This will cause a loss of one week of sorely needed production because of the of the time needed to fire up the kilns and get them into full production again after being shut down. I tried to get enough of the workers to volunteer to work during the holidays in order to keep the plant in operation but only five volunteered. I asked one of the workers why he refused to work and he replied, "The triple pay doesn't interest me. I wouldn't work for any amount of money. I am going to celebrate drinking and shooting fireworks", which seems to be the usual manner of celebrating here. Now, on the other hand, the cement plants in the U. S. A. will be operating during the holidays and a large portion of the overtime pay which the workers there receive will go into tax money which now is being handed out by the U. S. Government to Guatemalans here in Guatemala. Should the workers in the U. S. A. work during Christmas in order to help support the Guatemalan workers in their celebrations?

Another aspect of the aid program is the Roosevelt Hospital here which was begun ten years ago but to date has not been opened for the sick. The U. S. A. furnished more than \$2,000,000 in money and technical aid. You would be amazed to know what the building has been used for, not the sick I am sure. And so it goes in this little corner of the world.

Yours truly,

G. F. Thomson
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Guatemala, C. A.