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Mexican-Americans Can't Wait For Manana Either

SANTA FE, N.M. - (NPI)--Mexican-Americans are developing their own version of the civil rights movement in the mountains and desert areas of the Southwest.

The Spanish-Americans' leader, Reies Tijerina, is in jail, but he is not forgotten. The armed assault on the Rio Arriba County courthouse at Tierra Amarillo last June 5--in which Tijerina was identified--has become a subject of ballads and calypso ditties.

That attack has been called the Mexican-Americans' version of the "long hot summer." Yet, Tijerina says he does subscribe to the violence which has occurred. His assertion is reminiscent of the "nonviolence" preached by some civil rights leaders amid mounting threats of interracial strife.

Tijerina is being held without bond in the courthouse case, which he is appealing. He already has been convicted in Federal Court of having participated in the seizure of a northern New Mexico national forest campground in October, 1966.

Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Tijerina has become a legend among his people. But Dr. King's "dream" of interracial harmony contrasts with Tijerina's efforts to claim hundreds of thousands of acres in private or government land and to try to establish his own independent nation on the land.

In this respect, the quixotic organizer of the "Federal Alliance of Free-City State" is more like the black nationalists. Offering dazzling promises, Tijerina is similar to the nationalists in another way: He has helped bolster Mexican-American self-pride.

Thanks to Tijerina, his followers, who formerly kept out of politics and public life out of a feeling of inferiority, have developed a new sense of assertiveness and a desire for independence.

NAACP Banquet Keynote Speaker Reviews "Problem"



Denver, Colorado Attorney Irvin P. Andrews, keynote speaker at the Freedom Awards Banquet of the Las Vegas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held Friday night at the Frontier Hotel, is pictured as he addressed a capacity house in the Hotel's plush Convention Center on the agonizingly long struggle of the Negro to attain first class citizenship. Attentive listeners at the head table shown are Mrs. Bernice Moten (left) local school teacher who served as Mistress of Ceremonies and Mrs. Andrews.

Attorney Andrews' denouncement of "job tokenism" to Negroes was of particular local significance later in the program, during the annual awards presentation, when there was no "Employment Award" bestowed at this year's event although honorable mention was given to the Nevada Power Company and the Mint Hotel. (See page 8 for award recipients' photos)

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Jo Mackey Council Meeting Monday

The Jo Mackey Neighborhood Council will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Aloha Trailer Office, 500 W. Miller Road.

Charles Jones is President of the Jo Mackey Council and Mrs. Sarah Ray is Council Service Worker. Anyone in need of transportation to the meeting should call Mrs. Sarah Ray at 629-2616.

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