

Cruz, 58, who was born in central Mexico and later emigrated to the United States, is a former "coyote" who turned government informant after being threatened with prosecution for his part in an alien smuggling ring which, according to the government, dealt in "slavery" and "peonage". Since then, Cruz has cooperated with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service on at least nine cases.

During testimony Cruz spoke through translators, telling how in March of 1984 he had contacted Sanctuary workers, Father Ramon Dagoberto Quinones and Maria de Socorro Pardo Aguilar, both of Nogales, Mexico, to tell them he "wanted to help" in their ministry to refugees. Father Quinones, longtime parish priest of El Santuario de Guadalupe in Nogales, and Mrs. Aguilar, a widow who has done extensive work for the poor, both accepted Cruz' offer.

Over the next seven months, Cruz assisted Mrs. Aguilar and Father Quinones in their efforts to aid Central American refugees, afterwards reporting to chief investigator of the Sanctuary case, James Rayburn. During those months, Cruz also came into frequent contact with most of the other Sanctuary defendants, including Phil Willis-Conger, Mary K. Espinoza, Jim Corbett, and John Fife. For his efforts, Cruz was paid about \$15,000 by the government--for "expenses".

In a noon press conference, Mrs. Aguilar and Father Quinones told reporters how they felt about Cruz and his testimony. "He has disfigured the truth of works of justice for the poor, for the persecuted. He lied from the start," said Quinones, "He lied about his faith in God, in order to serve the government of the United States."

Mrs. Aguilar added, "It is sad to know people who, for money, are capable of anything...all the bad, the false. It gives me sorrow, much sorrow."

In other action in the trial Thursday, defense attorneys objected to many of Reno's questions on the grounds that they asked only for hearsay statements from Cruz. In cases which involve conspiracy charges, such as the conspiracy charges in the Sanctuary case, some types of hearsay evidence are admissible. However, Judge Carroll upheld most of the Sanctuary attorneys' objections, thereby limiting the prosecution to primarily direct testimony.

Defense attorneys also objected to what Stephen Cooper, counsel for Jim Corbett, characterized as Reno's "practically leading the witness around by the nose." Although Judge Carroll called Cooper's description "hyperbole", he did advise Reno on several occasions to rephrase or provide foundation for questions.

Due to a serious illness in the family of one of the jurors, there will be no testimony from Cruz on Friday, although attorneys will meet with Carroll for a few hours on Friday to further discuss guidelines concerning the admission of hearsay evidence.