

## Applying for Citizenship

- by Rube'n Medina

Here  
my fellow citizens  
are my conditions:

English-only speakers  
should pay higher taxes.

The welfare system  
should be abolished  
for big corporations.

America  
should be dropped  
from the name  
of this country.

Absentee ballots  
should be allowed  
for undocumented  
workers  
only.

The Statue of Liberty  
should be moved  
to LA airport  
San Ysidro Boulevard  
or someplace in Oklahoma.

The White House  
should be moved  
to Puerto Rico  
the Congress to Harlem  
the United Nations  
to Wounded Knee.

Half of the billboards  
in the country  
should be given  
to poets  
or anyone who wants  
to imagine  
the nation.

The other half  
to children.

People who say  
this is the greatest country  
in the world  
should do volunteer work  
for the homeless,  
sing the national anthem  
backwards,  
or attend every  
death sentence  
carried out  
in the nation.

Bibles  
should be  
in hotels  
just one day a month.

Every other day  
authors and books  
should include:  
El Aleph  
Salman Rushdie  
Popol Vuh  
Maria Luisa Puga  
Karl Marx  
Langston Hughes  
Joy Harjo  
Gloria Anzaldú  
John Okada  
and so  
on.

Old Karl  
has intimated  
that he prefers Mondays.

Commercials on TV  
should be limited  
to one minute every hour.

The Cuban national baseball  
team  
should play in the major  
leagues.

Brooklyn  
should be the official language  
of Brooklyn  
Mi mami  
the official language  
of Miami  
Pocho the official  
language  
of the East  
Los  
Angeles.

All military forces  
in foreign lands  
should return  
within 30 days.

They have the option  
of staying in those countries  
and blending in.

People  
who do not use cars  
should be given  
free monthly tickets  
on an airline.

More petitions  
when I become  
a citizen of this  
my  
nation  
of others.