

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'a
John Okada
and so
on.

Old Karl
has intimidated
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.