

People came to North Plains to talk, to question, and to listen

By Don Wilcox

Photos by Peter Reich

The public meeting in North Plains last Saturday night was a clearing house for ideas about the anti-poverty programs in Washington County.

The meeting was presented by the Poor Peoples Club of Washington County. Kenneth Glover, chairman of the club, conducted the meeting in a way that gave everyone an opportunity to express his ideas.

Some persons expressed complaints, some asked questions, some looked for better relationships among the agencies and individuals who are working for the same purpose--to end poverty. Gary Lansing, assistant director of the Valley Migrant League, said, "This meeting is an open public hearing for us to find out what you think."

Is the Valley Migrant League working effectively in Washington County? This was a central question throughout the meeting.

The answer was not simple yes or no. Some persons were confused over what to expect from the VML. Others could not forget personal grievances. There were many complaints against the leadership of the Valley Migrant League in Washington County and against the VML itself. Some persons expressed their attitude because the direction of their lives had been changed by contact with the Valley Migrant League.

Mrs. Ruby Ely, supervisor of the VML opportunity center in Washington County, said, after the meeting was over, "you know, I was rather proud of them and the way they've learned to talk in meetings."

SUGGESTIONS FROM A REPORTER'S NOTES ON THE NORTH PLAINS MEETING

"Progress of people is to have the right to get up and speak."

"I don't want to

La reunion publica en North Plains el sabado pasado fue un centro para muchas ideas sobre los programas de contra la pobreza en el Condado de Washington.

El Club de Gente Pobre del Condado de Washington presento la reunion. Kenneth Glover, presidente del club, dirigió la reunion en una manera que permitio a todos expresar sus ideas.

Unas personas quejaron, unos buscaron mejores relaciones entre las entidades y individuos quienes buscan el mismo fin.. terminar la pobreza. Gary Lansing, subdirector del Valley Migrant League, dijo, "Esta reunion es abierta y publico para que nosotras podemos saber lo que Uds. piensan."

Es efectivo el Valley Migrant League en el Condado de Washington? Este fue el tema de la reunion.

La respuesta no fue sencillamente si o no. Unas personas eran confusas sobre lo que pudieron esperar del Valley Migrant League. Otras no pudieron olvidar ofensas personales. Hubo muchas quejas sobre el papel del V.M.L. en el condado de Washington y contra el V.M.L. si mismo.

La Sra. Ruby Ely, supervisor del Centro de Oportunidad del Condado de Washington, dijo, "Sabe que, me dio orgullo a verles y la manera que han aprendido a hablar en reuniones."

ever leave Oregon or Hillsboro, because I want to help everyone."

"I've been in a lot of meetings, asking and praying and crying. Lets keep on going ahead."

"The trouble is, you go into the opportunity center and everything is Spanish and you don't know what the hell is going on."

"If any weakness is evident here, it is



in lack of communication."

"Poor people are not poor because they are shiftless, but because they are caught in a trap."

"The services of one agency are often expected from another."

"Washington (OEO) holds up the qualifications that the VML staff must meet."

"Working together is the only way you're going to solve this problem."

"The Valley Migrant League has tried to be all things to all people."

"If VML can't pro-

vide the needed services it works as a liaison between persons and the agency that can provide it."

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Are there evaluations of these VML programs?

Yes.

Can we find out what is achieved?

This information will be available.

When do we get the chance to show that we can come self-dependent?

(A related answer) It doesn't happen in three months.