

FARM LABOR SCENE

FROM A FARM LABOR STUDY

The biggest problem in farm labor today is the problem of inadequate wages and low income. If the farm worker were to receive \$1.40 an hour, which is considered good wages for farm labor, and if he were to work 50 weeks a year, every day and 40 hours a week, he would make only \$2,800 a year. This is still below the poverty level.

In 1964 the average farm worker was making \$1.08 an hour. The average factory worker made \$2.54 an hour. The average farm worker wage increased in 1965 to \$1.19 an hour partly because of the termination of the bracero program. In California during 1965 the average farm worker was getting \$1.42 an hour as opposed to 65c an hour in

South Carolina. Both the worker in California and the one in South Carolina are living below the poverty level.

The difference between agriculture today and other industries lies in an unequal distribution of profits and ineffective use of the existing farm labor supply.

The farm laborer must have the right to better wages. The California Democratic council states that the minimum wage for farm workers should be at least \$2.00 per hour. This would give the farm workers the potential of earning close to \$4,000 a year.

To gain this wage, there must be a more equal distribution of profits. Until 1963, a ton of tomatoes brought the grower only \$23. This same ton of tomatoes sold in 2-lb.

cans in the supermarket yields more than \$250.

The problem is how to redistribute the tremendous profit so that the distributor, grower and worker all get fair but not excessive shares.

If the farm workers' wages were doubled, the market price on a 2-lb. can of tomatoes would go up only 1c. — Excerpts from "Papers on Farm Labor" by Bradley R. Pearson,

St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California.

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"Virtually all the fruits and vegetables which pass our lips are stained with this message: 'You are being subsidized by someone who is paid less than he knows he is worth.'" — Farm Labor Magazine, "Equal Rights for Agriculture Workers."

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM PUBLIC WELFARE

By Mrs. Barbara Seymour
State Public Welfare Commission
Salem, Oregon

IS IT TRUE THAT WELFARE PAYS ADULTS TO GO TO SCHOOL?

If the person who receives welfare does not have enough education or skill to get a job, public welfare may be able to provide job training and continue the welfare grant during the training period. In this way the recipient and his family have a means of living until they can earn for themselves.

DOES THE WELFARE RECIPIENT HAVE TO TAKE ANY JOB THAT IS OFFERED TO HIM?

A welfare recipient cannot refuse a job without good cause. If the job is bad for his health or beyond his strength, or if there are other good reasons for refusing, he may still go on receiving assistance.

ALGUNAS PREGUNTAS Y CONTESTACIONES DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASISTENCIA PUBLICA

por Mrs. Barbara Seymour
Comisión del Departamento de Asistencia Pública del Estado,
Salem, Oregon

¿ES VERDAD QUE EL DEPARTAMENTO LE PAGA A LOS ADULTOS POR IR A LA ESCUELA?

Si la persona que recibe ayuda del Departamento no tiene educación suficiente u oficio para tener un trabajo, El Departamento de Asistencia Pública puede darle preparación en un oficio, y continuar la ayuda durante el período de entrenamiento. De esta manera el interesado y su familia pueden contar con ayuda hasta lo que puedan hacer por si mismos.

¿EL QUE RECIBE AYUDA TIENE QUE TOMAR CUALQUIER TRABAJO QUE SE OFRESCA?

El interesado que recibe ayuda no puede rehusar un trabajo sin una buena razón. Si el es malo por su salud o muy pesado para sus fuerzas, o si hay otras razones buenas de rehusarlo, quizá pueda continuar recibiendo ayuda.

HUGHES - McBRIDE

John Hughes, assistant area supervisor in Hillsboro, and Ann McBride were married October 29th. John and his lovely bride were wed in a nuptial mass at Immaculate Heart Catholic church in Portland. We wish this fine couple a long and happy life together.

John Hughes, asistente supervisor del área de Hillsboro y Ann McBride se casaron el 29 de octubre. John y novia se casaron en una misa nupcial en la Iglesia Católica del Imaculado Corazón de Portland. Felicitamos a este matrimonio y le deseamos una vida larga feliz.



VML DAY CARE OPERATION IMPRESSES CHRISTIE CORBETT

San Granato, Director of Children's Programs for the Valley Millant League, has given the Opportunity News the benefit of some of the Day Care reports written by his staff. The following is an excerpt from a report by Christie Corbett:

This... was one of the most effective centers. Community groups contributed much needed supplies and "kept in touch." Parents came and talked proudly about changes in their children's behavior... She isn't a cry baby any more."

"He doesn't make me hold him so much."

The Opportunity Center Director and Staff lent assistance that was much needed: A VISTA worker to help with early morning registration, visits in the camps to promote attendance, and above all, the babies that were full and clean and comfortable, the toddlers that hopped and skipped and sang and laughed, serene and secure and happy as children ought to be. This was the success of the Center.



Welfare tries to bring skills to the poor through their training programs.