

Migratory Worker Discussed At Human Rights Meeting

Asland - Dunbar Carpenter of the Jackson County Fruit Growers League discussed the migratory worker at a meeting of the Asland Human Rights Council last week.

He also presented the case for the fruit grower, who he said is at the mercy of an unpredictable and inadequate labor force in harvesting a perishable crop.

The Rev. Ed Wulfekuehler, program chairman, introduced Carpenter, who began by saying the problem of the migratory worker is one that evokes sympathy and is involved. There are between 1 1/2 and 2 million migrant workers in the United States living under substandard conditions, enduring hardships and are seldom well treated by employers or the public.

Sociological Problem
According to Carpenter, the predicament of the migrant workers is more a sociological problem than an economic one. He contended that migrant workers, for the most part, are the people who are not adequately equipped mentally, emotionally and sometimes physically to cope with life's problems.

He said the orchardist never knows when the migrant worker will walk off in the middle of harvest, and leave the fruit on the trees.

Fundamental Principle
Carpenter asserted that the basic problem of the migratory worker would not be helped too much if the farmer were to pay higher wages, although it would be the humane approach. He admitted that the growers brought many of the problems on themselves, but stated that the solution will have to come from sociologists, social workers, psychiatrists and the church, rather than the farmer.

The speaker pointed out that the farmer is faced with



USIA HEAD-Edward R. Murrow (shown in UPI file photo) of the Columbia Broadcasting System is almost certain to become head of the United States Information Agency, administration sources reported Friday. The USIA is the government's chief public relations arm abroad. Murrow has been a leading radio and television figure for 20 years. (UPI Telephoto)

Science Class Tours Weather Bureau

Fifty-two eighth grade science pupils from Hedrick Junior High school visited the U.S. weather bureau station at the Medford Municipal airport recently.

Robert Church, meteorologist in charge, conducted the two classes of Mrs. Vida McCarty and Miss Madri Meyers on a tour outside the station. Stanley Laey, principal assistant to Church, explained the instruments to the group inside.

Later Harold Smith, meteorologist, allowed the pupils to help launch the balloon carrying the radio-sonde.

Richard Smith conducted the group through the airport control tower before the school bus returned for the group.

three fundamental principles of farm economics: (1) all farm products are sold on an auction basis; (2) there is no relation between cost and selling price; and (3) there is no way to pass increased costs on.

In this area, fruit does not sell for any more than it did in 1950, and it is a constant battle to hold costs down, including wages, he said. Although wages are well below what industry pays, he said that northwest wages are higher than anywhere else.

Carpenter pointed out that this valley has brought in Mexican nationals to help with the pear harvest every season since early in World War II. The Mexicans, who amount to less than 10 per cent of the total harvest labor force, are not migrant workers.

He said there has not been a single year which would not have had a serious economic loss if it had not been for Mexican nationals.

Costs More Money
It costs the farmer more money to employ the Mexicans than it does domestic labor because of transportation costs from Mexico, housing, and administrative personnel. According to Carpenter, the orchardists would use only domestic labor if they could be depended upon to get the crop harvested.

Last year, the Jackson County Fruit Growers League employed 348 Mexican nationals, he said, who worked a total of 93,136 hours for an average of \$1.43 per hour. At the same time, the fruit growers had asked for 2,378 pickers from the farm employment office. The latter was able to refer only 1,915 workers, of whom 1,805 turned up for work.

Carpenter said that in his operation, Mexican nationals constituted 7 per cent of the labor hired, but they picked 36 per cent of the crop. Many domestic workers worked just one day, while 78 per cent stayed less than a week. The Mexicans remained for the five weeks on contract.

Carpenter said that in this area there is not the regular flow of migratory workers there is elsewhere.

He assured the Council that the living quarters here for migratory workers, while not plush, are clean and comfortable with inside plumbing, hot and cold water, and facilities have to pass a state standard of inspection.

Small Worlds Around Us



By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

With Tremendous Effort Porpoise 'Walks on Its Tail'
An airplane maintains its position in the air only by the expenditure of tremendous power. But regardless of its ability to fly, it is chained to the earth, because once the thrust of power fails, it falls.

The power of gravity, ever present, is always exerting its force. It sits on the ground with ease; a man walks upon the ground with equal ease. Walking or running takes effort. Anything out of the regular pattern becomes hard work.

The ocean-going porpoise is chained to the water, but it can get partly out of its natural element for short intervals of time with tremendous effort when it "walks on its tail." To accomplish this it must expend all the muscular power it possesses in order to remain in an upright position. It is only the exceptional few porpoises that figure the effort is worth the advantages gained.

By Themselves
Some porpoises, being a shade more intelligent than their fellows—or perhaps a little more curious—develop the trick by themselves.

Wild porpoises have been observed many times coming up out of the water and "standing on their tails" in order to see what, if anything, is going on.

Captive porpoises are taught the stunt. Usually it is advertised as a dancing porpoise or as a "porpoise that walks on its tail." To accomplish this the animal must wave the tail violently back and forth with powerful thrusts, until the water actually "boils" with the fury of the effort.

Some of the captive animals who have mastered the technique can remain suspended in the air for several seconds, and have only about a foot of

the tail in actual contact with the water. Usually the animal makes a short run under water, but instead of leaping into the air, stops when only the

body is above the surface, and maintains this position until gravity or fatigue pulls it back into the water again.

Tiring Effort
After the exhibition, the porpoise is reluctant to attempt it again for some little time. It's a tiring stunt and he wants to rest. Like a faithful dog the intelligent porpoise will gladly exert itself, even to "standing on its tail" to please its audience or to enjoy for a brief moment the extended horizon a higher elevation affords.

Legislator Seeks End To Purchases Abroad

Washington—Rep. John Baldwin (R-Calif.) has asked President Kennedy to forbid the armed forces to buy foreign goods.

Baldwin said he saw no justification for asking military dependents in order to reduce dollar outflow when the defense department itself is making purchases from foreign sources.

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