

V.L. Johnston



# PROCEEDINGS

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*of the*

NATIONAL COUNCIL

*on*

AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR

1751 N STREET, N. W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.



## NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR is a voluntary association of religious, farm, labor and civic organizations. The Council focuses its attention on the welfare of individuals and families - migrants, sharecroppers, tenants and family farmers - who earn their living through agricultural pursuits. Because the problems of farm workers and operators are closely related to the welfare of agriculture and the economy in general, the Council is concerned with questions of economic and social import affecting rural areas.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF NCALL provide an occasion when representatives of national and other organizations may consult together on matters of rural welfare and on ways and means of reaching American ideals for agriculture. The conferences are intended to stimulate thought and make exchange of experience possible. In line with the by-laws of NCALL, the conferences do not adopt resolutions nor take positions on matters of policy.

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- |                                            |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth     | General Department of United Church Women,                       |
| × American Friends Service Committee       | National Council of Churches                                     |
| American Humane Association                | Girl Scouts of the USA                                           |
| American Jewish Committee                  | International Association of Machinists, AFL                     |
| American Parents Committee                 | International Union of Electrical, Radio and                     |
| Building and Construction Trades Dept.-AFL | Machine Workers, CIO                                             |
| Catholic Committee of the South            | Jewish Agricultural Society                                      |
| Commission on Christian Social Action,     | National Agricultural Workers Union, AFL                         |
| Evangelical and Reformed Church            | National Board of the Young Women's                              |
| × Congress of Industrial Organizations     | Christian Association                                            |
| Council for Social Action,                 | × National Catholic Rural Life Conference                        |
| Congregational Christian Churches          | National Child Labor Committee                                   |
| Division of American Missions,             | National Congress of American Indians                            |
| National Lutheran Council                  | × National Consumers League                                      |
| × Department of Rural Education,           | National Council of Jewish Women                                 |
| National Education Association             | × National Farmers Union                                         |
| × Division of Home Missions,               | National Housing Conference                                      |
| National Council of Churches               | National Jewish Welfare Board                                    |
| Division of Social Education and Action,   | National Sharecroppers Fund                                      |
| Presbyterian Church, USA                   | United Auto Workers, CIO                                         |
| General Alliance of Unitarian and Other    | United Packing House Workers of America, CIO                     |
| Liberal Christian Women                    | Women's Division of Christian Service of<br>the Methodist Church |

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## ROSTER OF ORGANIZATIONS

Members of the following organizations were present:

Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth  
American Association of Social Workers  
Analgamated Clothing Workers of America  
American Federation of Labor  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Humane Association  
American Public Welfare Association  
Baptist Joint Committee on Public  
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CARE  
Catholic Association for International  
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Committee on Migrant Labor:  
Westminster Foundation; Boston  
Congress of Industrial Organizations  
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CROP  
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Commission on Christian Social Action  
Evangelical and Reformed Theological  
Seminary; Lancaster, Pa.  
Friends Committee on National  
Legislation  
Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.  
Howard University School of Religion,  
Washington, D. C.  
International Union of Electrical, Radio  
and Machine Workers; CIO  
Jewish Agricultural Society  
Jewish Welfare Board  
League of Women Voters  
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Menominee Tribal Council  
Migratory Labor Committee: Women's  
Joint Congressional Committee

The National Council of Churches:  
Division of Home Missions  
The National Council of Churches:  
General Department of United  
Church Women  
National Agricultural Workers' Union AFL  
National Board of the YWCA  
National Catholic Welfare Conference  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Congress of Parents and  
Teachers: Washington Legislative  
Committee  
National Council of Catholic Women  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Farmers' Union  
National Housing Conference  
National Lutheran Council  
National Rural Electric Cooperative  
Association  
National Sharecroppers' Fund  
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council  
Ohio Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Citizens Committee on  
Migrant Labor  
Public Affairs Institute  
Rural Life Council: Tuskegee Institute  
Southern Regional Council  
Spokesmen for Children  
United Auto Workers - CIO  
University of California: Berkeley  
Virginia Council of Churches

The National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor wishes to express its pleasure in the presence and participation of representatives of the Mexican Embassy, the United Kingdom Scientific Mission, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Council is grateful also to the following agencies of government for assistance with some aspect of the conference.

Migration Division, Department of Labor, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Legislative Reference Service: The Library of Congress

The Bureau of Labor Standards and the Farm Placement Service of the U. S. Department of Labor.



THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of the

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR

April 26 and 27, 1954

ALL SOULS CHURCH - UNITARIAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE

The four sessions of the conference were based on four areas of interest.

MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS: OPPORTUNITIES NOW TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITION

In this session activities in behalf of migrants were reviewed and the question of strategy for the future discussed.

THE STATUS OF FARM LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ASPECTS

To understand the details of farm labor problems a general viewpoint is needed as to the total farm labor problem. This session was devoted to trying to get such a picture, weaving together experience with both domestic and foreign labor, migratory and resident.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ON AMERICA'S FARMS

The shift from a Democratic to a Republican federal administration has been accompanied by much discussion of what the federal government should and should not do about local problems. The United States Department of Agriculture contains a variety of agencies, some of which provide "direct action" services to farm families. Great changes in these agencies as well as in other executive departments raise sharp issues as to the nature of federal responsibility. This session was devoted to these issues.

FULL PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBRE ON AMERICA'S FARMS: UNDER WHAT CONDITION CAN IT REACH THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD.

The concept of "surpluses" dominated the discussion of farm policy in the second session of the Eighty-Third Congress. In a world where so many people are hungry and in need is there any such thing as a "surplus"? What are the real points here to which we should address our attention? This session stated some new visions, defined some of the immediate problems and targets for the future.



SESSION ON MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS:  
OPPORTUNITIES NOW TO IMPROVE  
THEIR CONDITION

Welcome to Conference

Howard A. Dawson Conference Chairman  
Department of Rural Education  
National Education Association

Address: Edith E. Lowry  
Division of Home Missions  
National Council of Churches

Panel: Chairman: Ruth A. Morton, American Friends' Service Committee  
Shirley E. Greene, National Farmers Union and NCALL Education  
Research Project  
Beatrice McConnell, Bureau of Labor Standards, United States  
Department of Labor

A REVIEW OF HUMANE EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF MIGRANTS

Miss Edith Lowry gave this review and made suggestions as to what needs to be done cooperatively by interested groups. The picture was encouraging. Government and voluntary groups are working in a wide variety of ways and there are stirrings of interest in hundreds of local communities. (See pages 18-21.)

Miss Lowry added that though there are many encouraging developments "The sum total of all that is being done is but a drop in the bucket compared with what still needs to be done".

"As we look at the over-all picture we have come to the place where there should be provision for all the national organizations, public and private to meet from time to time, unofficially, around a conference table,

1. to examine the problems together
2. to pool our experiences
3. to develop to a greater degree the sense that we are all members of a single team.
4. to plan together as to how the work of each group can dovetail and thereby make a greater contribution to the total effort.
5. to evaluate together from time to time, in order to plan together the next steps for each of our organizations.

A beginning has been made through our association in the National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor in examining the problems and in sharing experiences, but can we go further?

Has the time come to find the way to relate in some way the many efforts across the country to some over-all planning, recognizing there is no simple blueprint for all states -- that different organizations function differently.

I believe it has -- I'd like to repeat the words of the County Superintendent of Schools of Fresno County, California. 'We have the tools we need. It is up to us to decide how to use them. We can do what we care enough to do.' "



## THE PANEL DISCUSSION

In the panel discussion which followed, with the audience participating, illustrations were given of projects where excellent cooperation has existed on the part of both government and voluntary agencies.

The Fresno County, California project was mentioned as an illustration of united effort in a local setting. Eighty-seven organizations coordinated their efforts to serve migrants (health, education, a Girl Scout program, etc.) Funds from the Rosenberg Foundation helped.

The question was asked whether there were evidences that migrants were exerting themselves in their own interests. An account was given of a Virginia situation where migrants developed their own code of camp conduct.

Mr. Eulalio Torres of the Migration Division of the Puerto Rican Department of Labor was asked to explain why Puerto Rico had been so successful in maintaining good standards for its migrating farm workers. His reply showed that a government which has standards and is resolute in upholding them can accomplish a great deal.

The pressure upon domestic farm labor which came from unrestricted importation of foreign farm labor came into the discussion. "How can government tell whether there is a residue of domestic labor unless jobs are offered them on the same terms as those offered to contract labor?" This question was not resolved.

### Opportunities to Advance Education of Migrant Children

Mr. Greene made a brief statement on the opportunities which were opening up through the migrant education research project of NCALL. The field studies have been completed and the project is in the demonstration stage in Florida and Virginia. Mr. Greene suggested three ways in which every one could help to advance the cause of migrant education.

1. Circulate the results of the NCALL migrant education study.
2. Support the efforts of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to work with state agencies within a regional framework. (Example: the Atlantic Seaboard)
3. Encourage local communities to make self-studies after the research project pattern; then evaluate and act.

### Opportunities for Increasing Government Action

Miss McConnell discussed "What are we learning about making Government more effective for migrants? What are the trends in this area?"

"First, an increasing and sustained interest on the part of Government agencies, Federal, State, and local.  
Second, a trend toward joint action by Government agencies. We are finding more and more a coming together of the different agencies--- in local committees and on community projects. In State committees--- joint action has been interdepartmental either with or without citizen participation."



"On the Federal level, there is the Interdepartmental Special Committee on Migrants and Their Families. The leaflet, "When the Migrant Families Come Again--A Guide to Communities", has been developed by this Committee.

A conference of the East Coast States has been called by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Another trend that has emerged is in finding ways of applying provisions of existing labor law-- The minimum age of the New York child-labor law had been on the books for years with no attempt to apply it until a few years ago. Then an active and successful program of enforcement was initiated. The administration of the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act has been not only the enforcement of a minimum-age standard but a venture in cooperation with State and local groups, schools, and the public generally. The aim has been to achieve opportunity for schooling of the migrant child.

The Farm Placement Service has been making constructive efforts to get advance planning in determination of need for farm workers, making possible more regularized employment for the seasonal farm worker.

Another trend in Government action is too limited, but in the right direction, i.e., to extend labor laws to include agricultural migrants. Illustrative is recent activity in California and Connecticut in strengthening standards for transportation of workers and the administration of those standards. Another is the control of labor contractors, where States with a large migrant problem have moved to do something on this problem. New York this year passed legislation which should help materially in controlling undesirable practices where they exist, requiring registration and licensing of contractors and giving the State Department of Labor the authority to revoke the license if the contractor engages in any prohibited practice.

There is substantial interest in the States in bringing farm workers under workmen's compensation. Experiments are being made in finding ways that farmers can insure under workmen's compensation without prohibitive premiums when they employ workers for only a short period during the year.

These are all encouraging trends but will be fruitful only if they can be extended and continued. How can we do that? One thought I should like to throw out for discussion is that as the interest of Government, like that of any other group, is prodded, it is the more likely to grow. Government agencies on all levels should be called on for the help that you as a citizen see is needed. You may get the help or you may not, but at the same time the program and activity of the Government agency will be stimulated and broadened."

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Anyone interested in the objectives of the National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor is invited to become a member. Members receive the NCALL bulletin, news letters during sessions of Congress, special memoranda and conference invitations.

NCALL is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. \$5.00 of your gift will be credited to membership if so desired.

Please send your name, address and check to --

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR  
1751 N Street, N. W. Washington 6, D.C.



SESSION ON THE STATUS OF FARM LABOR  
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ASPECTS

Presiding: Dr. Howard A. Dawson, Conference Chairman

Address: The Honorable Eugene J. McCarthy, Representative  
Fourth Congressional District of Minnesota

Panel: Chairman: Serafino Romualdi, American Federation of Labor,  
Inter-American Regional Organization ICFTU  
Katherine P. Ellickson, Congress of Industrial Organizations  
Lewis W. Jones, Rural Life Council, Tuskegee Institute  
Clay L. Cochran, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

At the dinner meeting Congressman McCarthy made the principal address. Mr. McCarthy emphasized that the federal government must and can do something to set and enforce standards for farm labor. The delegates were especially glad to hear this from a Congressman, who from experience knew the difficulties.

Mr. McCarthy spoke of the migrant labor problem as part of the larger problem of farm labor. He pointed out that the present argument that it is impossible to do anything about farm labor standards is the same we used to hear about industrial labor. At the present time, he said, there were standards of farm employment for Mexican nationals and standards could and should be established by law for domestic workers.

Mr. McCarthy said there were three things that must be done: i.e.  
Establish standards by law and enforce those standards.  
Prevent a flood of illegal immigration of farm labor while cooperating with Mexico on her rural problems.  
Establish a Federal Committee on Migratory Labor and work for coordination of everybody's efforts to establish order and justice in the field of agricultural labor.

THE PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel members approached the farm labor question, domestic and foreign, as essentially one problem.

Mr. Serafino Romualdi in introducing the panel spoke of the serious effect on domestic farm labor of employers' desire for the cheap labor available over the border. He emphasized that organized labor in the United States and Mexico is approaching the problem in a fraternal spirit. The Joint U.S.-Mexico Trade Union Committee, which includes the major labor organizations of both countries is working on constructive solutions.

Mr. Romualdi introduced Mr. Lewis W. Jones as a speaker who could present the farm labor facts of the South, the region in which farm labor is a larger factor than in any other. Mr. Jones gave an analysis of the changes in the status of southern farm labor. The number of farm workers has decreased of late years by one third through mechanization and migration, but the two thirds who remain are relatively worse off than in 1940. The Negro farm worker in the South is in an unstable and unhappy situation because it is harder for him than for a white laborer to find a job in industry and now he has to compete with foreign labor for the job traditionally his.



Mrs. Ellickson continued the discussion by giving illustrations of how the potential as well as actual volume of foreign labor keeps the status of American farm labor depressed. Because employers know the surplus of labor is there, they do not raise wage rates in order to invite domestic labor.

The International Agreement with Mexico makes some attempt to do something about standards but Mrs. Ellickson pointed out some of the ironies connected with the Agreement. The Congress passed and the President signed Mexican farm labor legislation which says that we will join in an International Agreement -- But it also says that if the Agreement should terminate the United States will go it alone in importing Mexican labor. Since the Agreement can be terminated by either nation on thirty days notice, this means that Mexico has no real bargaining power with us. If we do not like something we can just terminate the Agreement. Mexico cannot be very firm in asking for farm labor standards under such conditions. Mexico's request for a minimum wage is a case in point.

Mrs. Ellickson also pointed out that there is too little compliance supervision of the workers' rights defined in the contract. The number has been cut from 85 to 40. There is a breakdown in procedure between the Department of Labor and the Immigration Service.

#### Farm Workers in General

Mr. Clay Cochran described the general dilemma of farm labor in the United States. "The key to decent living for hired farm laborers is an increase in income". Why are they poor, asked Mr. Cochran, and what can be done about it? What are the factors which weaken the bargaining power of farm laborers? Mr. Cochran listed the following:

- Modern agricultural technology constantly reduces the number of workers required.
- Fertility of rural women results in farm labor surplus.
- Industry does not expand rapidly enough to absorb this surplus.
- Employer groups and the Government flood the country with foreign workers.

Mr. Cochran then made proposals as to what to do.

- How farm workers will live is up to the community.
- Permit them to have labor unions.
- Include them in social legislation.
- Have a federal program which deals with problems of interstate migration.

In the discussion which followed, President H. L. Mitchell of the National Agricultural Workers Union AFL reported that a delegation of labor, church and civic groups had called upon Attorney-General Brownell and spoken in behalf of a four point program --

- Strengthen the Immigration Service.
- Penalize Employers Hiring Wetbacks.
- Confiscate vehicles used in transporting wetbacks.
- Strengthen the Border Patrol.

Mr. Gardner Jackson of the IUE-CIO underlined the need for greatly expanded publicity so that support would be built up for doing something about farm labor and about the wetback problem. Various suggestions were given of ways of getting the facts into public consciousness.



SESSION ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ON AMERICA'S FARMS

PANEL: Chairman - Paul Sifton, United Automobile Workers, CIO  
Benton Stong, Public Affairs Institute  
Clyde T. Ellis, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

In his introductory statement, Mr. Sifton described the trends in the Congress and in the Administration which made the morning's subject timely. Budget cuts, for example, had been proposed in most of the Federal programs which were of direct service to working farm families. Vocational education, health, the Farmers Home Administration, soil conservation, housing, rural electrification and other federal activities designed to aid farmers were being reduced in both quantity and kind. "Creeping localism" rather than federal responsibility were the order of the day. The situation was similar to that in 1898 when William Jennings Bryan exclaimed in a famous speech; "God help the independent farmer".

"The question for discussion this morning" said Mr. Sifton, "reminds me that a year ago Secretary Hobby, at her first public meeting tried to amend the Constitution. She implied that the American people had been laboring under an illusion. "The Constitution", she said, "does not say to 'provide' for the general welfare but to 'promote' it." The trouble was that Mrs. Hobby did not read beyond the preamble. Down a few lines it says 'provide'. Any lawyer can tell you that the body of an agreement is more binding than the preamble."

Mr. Sifton traced the history of the need for assumption of responsibility by the federal government for rural welfare. Because of the lack of it rural life was in a bad way by the beginning of the twentieth century. "Something had to be done at the beginning of this century about the farmers. The policies of the banks and the railroads and the rape of natural resources meant that the federal government had a salvage job. Farmers were frustrated when they tried to get help in state capitals and went to Washington because they had to."

"The greatest unfinished work in fulfilling federal responsibility is in agriculture. There are great gaps in provision for farm needs. What is morally right there will turn out to be expedient. Both will contribute to national security."

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO DIRECT FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO AID FARMERS ?

Mr. Benton Stong discussed this question with special reference to the programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

"One of the first statements of federal responsibility" said Mr. Stong, "came from the Iowa boatman who organized the homesteaders of southwest Iowa to defend their land rights from speculators. The speculators set the day when the homesteaders would "legally" be sold out. The farmers went to the courthouse with rifles and one bid and the statement "The government of the United States is of, by and for the people and we are the people."

Mr. Stong summarized the various programs to relieve and remove rural poverty since 1930. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration began in the 1930's with direct grants and food stuffs and then the government moved into the greatest effort to improve the welfare of farm people that has ever been made.



Mr. Stong made the following points:

The first federal relief people in the 1930's recognized that credit, cows, fruit trees and pressure cookers were a better solution to rural poverty than cash relief. The credit policy provided both farm and home advisory service which helped the farm family rise to a different level. The Agricultural Extension Service was not prepared to give this supervision. Extension agents had worked with more prosperous farm families. They had had little to do with the poorer families who had not participated in Extension activities.

A Farm Security program was developed which tried to find out why some farm families did not do well. The FSA conducted a series of studies of the health of low income farmers. They found that 60% of the key members of the farm families examined had disabling health problems. The FSA then developed the first group health plans organized in rural areas. To make these possible the FSA included \$25.00 a year in its credit allowance to farm families so that they could join.

Each family was helped by farm and home supervisors to work out a "farm and home plan". It was recognized that to raise farm living standards and insure the economic success of a farm it was necessary to enlist both farmers and their wives. Beside farm operations, the plan included improvement of sanitation and living conditions. An effort was made to get these families low cost life insurance. The actual cost of life insurance policies for these farmers who were not considered good risks by life insurance companies was 5.32 per 1000 at age 39. It was demonstrated that life insurance could be provided at very low cost.

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In appraising what is happening to services to farmers now, it is only fair to say that they began to deteriorate some years back. Attacks on the Farm Security Administration began in the early 1940's. The Eightieth Congress denied funds for any home supervisors. The Senate restored some but the total dropped from 1700 to 200. In this Congress the Republicans are determined to abolish the last home supervisors. \*

The Republican Administration prefers to have agricultural services channeled through the Agricultural Extension Service which is state rather than federally controlled. In many states the Agricultural Extension Service is under dominantly Republican influence. This has its effect on the county farm and home agents of the Extension Service. The county agents must look for advancement to farmers with this point of view.

The recent budget submitted by the United States Department of Agriculture favored the Agricultural Extension Service and Research. It cut severely direct services to farmers such as the Farmers' Home Administration, farm housing, etc.

The House Appropriations Committee rebuked the Administration for freezing funds of the Farmers Home Administration and transferring the money to pay the excess mail costs of the Extension Service. The Committee objected to the severity of proposed cuts for the FHA, saying that the Department was trying to take away the right of Congress to determine what farm programs should exist.

\* The Farmers Home Administration - the successor of the Farm Security Administration.



The Committee objected specifically to the Administration's transfer of Farmers' Home Administration home supervisors to the Agricultural Extension Service. This they felt was not practicable because the objectives of the two programs were not the same.

The Committee restored three million dollars to the FHA but more than that would have been needed to restore what had been taken away. Along with this program of attrition for FHA by the partisans of the Extension Service was a similar attack on the Soil Conservation Service.

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While the Administration was economizing on action programs of such great service to farmers, the United States Department of Agriculture forced the county farmers' committees to employ office managers at from \$1800 to \$3900 as compared with \$4700 for the county agent.

It is also interesting that while all the action agencies were cut in the interest of economy, the Extension Service funds were increased by several million. The House Appropriations Committee did not agree and restored the action programs. The Senate compromised by leaving the action programs but restoring the Agricultural Extension increase.

The drift of the Administration is clearly away from those agencies that have been administering programs of direct service to farmers and toward Extension education and research programs.

The irony is that without the action programs farmers are discouraged from using what has been taught and what has been learned.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE FARMERS' ELECTRICITY ?

Mr. Clyde T. Ellis of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association spoke of the peril confronting the rural electric cooperatives which have meant so much to the standard of living of farm families.

Mr. Ellis expressed the appreciation of the R.E.A. Co-ops for the interest of many national groups in trying to save the farmers' electric power for them. He reported that the ELECTRIC CONSUMERS INFORMATION COMMITTEE has been meeting regularly. The Committee includes a good many groups and organizations who believe that an abundant supply of low cost electricity is one of the keys to an abundant economy.

Mr. Ellis said:

"Abraham Lincoln said the legitimate object of government is to do for the people what they need to have done but cannot do at all or cannot do so well for themselves in their separate and individual capacities. The federal power program in this country I believe follows the Lincoln concept. I think those in control seem to be adopting another philosophy. 'We will not abolish any of the programs but we will just starve them to death'.

The federal power program is more than forty years old. It began in the Teddy Roosevelt Administration. It was an effort to capture rivers and put them to work; to replace the power of man's arm and the horse. Basic in the



very beginning of that program was a philosophy that the country's resources belong to the people. This had been spelled out in the earlier Homestead Acts. These Acts said that the big land companies shall not have the right to take up the land; that the land itself shall not be owned until it is taken up by the people in blocks small enough so that people could live on it and use it.

We cannot "homestead" power but we can sell it with preference to people who can come and get it by some means. The "preference" clause in the power laws lets the people; i.e., municipalities, cooperatives and other non-profit groups of people get first chance at the power from the federal power projects.

One of the outstanding achievements of the western world which dwarfs anything else known is the harnessing of great rivers. Yet wherever in this world you have an abundance of low cost electricity you have a shortage. 27% of rural electric co-operative systems serving four million farm families do not have enough electricity and can't get it.

The Administration is not starting new projects and is stopping transmission lines. The policy is to promote "local interests". When Assistant Secretary Aandahl of the Department of the Interior was forced to define "local interests" he said, "The Idaho Power Company". The truth is that there is no such thing as a local power company any more. I have seen a statement supplied by the Federal Power Commission that private utilities are all owned by the big financial interests in the East. The headquarters of the Idaho Power Company is in Maine and the stock is owned by nine or ten big financial houses. Individuals own no controlling blocks of stock in power companies.

There is a drive to wipe out the REA co-operatives. The Idaho Power Company has already been successful in several instances.

The federal government only develops power wholesale and then sells it. This is following the Lincoln theory of helping the farmers to help themselves.

The president of the Ohio Edison Power Company said recently that their rural electric lines are a liability. If they can get the REA out of existence they will pull up the electric lines. They will cut them off because they will not pay. Just as surely as the REA coops are wiped out the farmers will have to do without electricity. If this seems too strong a statement remember what happened to farmers' telephone systems. The independent companies in America helped to wipe out the mutuals. Today less farmers have telephones than in 1920.

It is said that the state power commissions will make the power companies take care of the farmers. But most state commissions are owned by the power companies.

Herbert Hoover, of the Hoover Commission, outlined his power policy by saying that the government ought to get out of the power business. The



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has been fighting to get open hearings of the Hoover Commission on power. We are going to get the open hearings and get something on the record.

I want to tell you Ben Stong's story of something that happened in the early days of Christianity: the story of Crassus. He lived in the time of Caesar Augustus and he organized a fire department which was a bucket brigade. When there was a fire his men lined up with their buckets. As the fire burned, Crassus would ask the owner how much he would take for his property. The owner would say it was not for sale. He said that after he had asked for the third time he would let it burn down. Crassus became a very rich man. People got very irritable about it and demanded a city owned fire department. Crassus had them labeled "creeping Christians", jailed and thrown to the lions-- all because they wanted a fire department with a preference clause."

### DISCUSSION

In the discussion which followed the statements made by the panel speakers, several speakers gave comparable data in other fields.

Mr. Lee Johnson of the National Housing Conference reported that the Farm Housing Program had been left out of the President's Budget Message. He also spoke of the need for doing something about migrant housing on an interstate basis, and for rural non-farm housing.

Dr. Paul S. Taylor of the University of California reported the numerous attacks upon the Excess Lands provision of the Reclamation Act.

He said:

"In 1902 Congress passed and President Theodore Roosevelt signed the National Reclamation Law to help develop the Nation's water resources. The Act includes the famous excess lands provision intended to control speculation and prevent water monopoly. No individual may receive more water than he needs to irrigate 160 acres. If he wants more, he must agree to sell the excess above 160 acres at a fair appraised price. Reclamation enriches all landowners, including excess landowners. No one is deprived of anything without his consent.

Excess landowners have been unremitting in their efforts to remove controls over speculation and to get more water than the law allows. The backbone of these attacks comes from powerful landholders with holdings from 5,000 to 65,000 or more acres. When they have sought outright exemption, and public hearings have been held on the bill, they have been defeated, and the law upheld. Congress has approved the excess lands provision at least 14 times since 1902. So the enemies of controls over speculation and monopoly have turned to other methods, such as removing administrators who adhere staunchly to the law from the federal payroll on spurious grounds, securing favorable administrative rulings that open loop holes for evasion, and endeavoring to bypass the law in one way after another. Their economic interest in destroying the excess lands provision is concentrated and substantial.

The public interest, too, is substantial, but it is diffused broadly and is not concentrated. It is on the side of widespread benefits, not monopoly and speculation for the few."



"At this very time the excess lands provision is in extreme peril at several points, yet neither the fact nor the nature of the attack are known to the public. It is in danger, not only in the West, but in every State of the Union, East and West, where dams are built for irrigation. Successful defense of the law requires widespread diffusion of knowledge of the attacks against the law.

THE EXCESS LANDS LAW IS THE EPITOME OF THE AMERICAN TRADITION. IT REAFFIRMS THE PURPOSES OF THE HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1862. IT PROMOTES THE FAMILY FARM. IT IS A SHIELD AGAINST EVILS ASSOCIATED TOO OFTEN WITH GREAT LANDHOLDINGS, VIZ., STRATIFIED COMMUNITIES, LANDLESSNESS, MIGRATORY LABOR, WETBACKS, LABOR CONFLICT. THE EXCESS LANDS LAW IS THE ESSENCE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S GREAT CONSERVATION MOVEMENT FOR USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE GREATEST GOOD OF THE GREATEST NUMBER FOR THE LONGEST POSSIBLE TIME.

Today the law stands in the shadow of defeat, not by open challenge, but by flank attack in Congress and by weak administration. It can be saved, but only with an alert, organized defense by those who place the public interest of the many above the special interest of the few."

Mrs. Ruth M. Bronson of the National Congress of American Indians told of the great legislative threat to the security of Indian Farmers.

"The Indian 'withdrawal' or termination bills have been very much on the hearts and minds of the members of this organization and Indians everywhere. Indians have repeatedly stated that these so-called 'emancipation' bills do not give Indians any freedoms they do not already have, but actually will result in 'emancipating Indians from their land'. Much Indian land is still in tribal ownership and these bills, Indians feel, are designed to destroy not only tribal ownership of land but tribal existence as well.

There are 'emancipation' bills affecting some 200 groups, bands, and tribes of Indians or approximately 66,000 Indians. Indians believe that some of the pressures to pass these bills come from mineral, power, and timber interests.

For example, it is a well known fact that oil has been discovered in Montana, North Dakota, and Utah -- where sudden interest has developed in 'emancipating' the Indians. The printed hearings on the withdrawal bill covering the Utah Tribes include a letter from Mr. Charles Harrington of The Triumph Uranium and Oil Company to Senator Watkins in which Mr. Harrington says that he met with the Indians, that 'a better understanding of the withdrawal bill was had after the meeting, and that they (the Indians) are more enthusiastic than ever and their wish is that the bill be passed as soon as possible.' Later in the report of the hearing, the Superintendent of the Indian Agency states that Mr. Harrington had tried to lease Indian lands without going through the usual procedure of advertising and bidding.

One of the tribes affected by the withdrawal bills is the Flathead Tribe of Montana. Probably the greatest single source of wealth of the Flathead tribe is a power site on which the Montana Power Company has a fifty year lease at \$200,000 per year. At the end of fifty years, (which will be in 1986) the dam which the Montana Power Company has built on the site reverts to the tribe.



"I feel sure the Power Company would rather own the site and would find it easier to negotiate to buy the site if the tribe were out from under Federal supervision and trust status. Also, members of this tribe report that the Area Director, a high official of the Department of Interior, has stated publicly that the total value of assets of the tribe is approximately \$70 million which if sold and distributed on a per capita basis would result in a payment of some \$17,000 to each member of the tribe. Many Indians regard this in the nature of a bribe but in spite of it, the tribe voted, as a tribe, to oppose the termination bill.

The National Congress of American Indians called an Emergency Conference of American Indians on legislation in Washington February 25-28 to discuss the legislation affecting Indians. Some 200 delegates came from 43 tribes in 21 states and Alaska. These delegates officially represented more than a third of the nation's Indian population. At the conference and in Congressional hearings on the bills the official delegates of tribes vigorously opposed the termination and other 'liquidation' bills pending in the Congress.

Although House Concurrent Resolution 108 ordered the Department of Interior to draw up certain bills which would facilitate the withdrawal of the Federal Government from responsibility to Indian tribes, the resolution did not direct the Department to write bills which would wreck Indian property rights and lead to the disbanding of Indian tribes. Indians believe the bills which the Department have brought back to the Congress would, in effect, do a 'wrecking job' on the tribes covered. I am sure that many members of Congress do not wish knowingly to be party to a 'wrecking job' on Indian tribes.

In addition to the drive by some few members of the Congress to force passage of the 'withdrawal bills', the intent of the Department of Interior may be inferred from the last Annual Report of the Department of the Interior, as if they considered it an achievement, wherein they state that about 2% of Indian land had passed out of Indian ownership during the year just ended.

Whether they be Congressmen, Federal officials, or private interests, the exponents of the 'withdrawal' bills which would withdraw Federal protection and deny Federal responsibility to Indian tribes, clothe their arguments in fine moral phrases about 'freeing' the Indians but the exploiters who want Indian property are only using holy phrases for an unholy purpose. The results of these bills, if not their real intent, is plain. Why anyone could feel that an Indian will achieve true freedom and true citizenship responsibility only if he is dispossessed of his resources, I do not know. The bills should be defeated unless the Indian tribe concerned specifically asks for this kind of legislation."





SESSION ON FULL PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBRE  
ON  
AMERICA'S FARMS

THE QUESTION: Under What Conditions Can It Reach the People Who Need It  
in the United States and Abroad?

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Presiding -- Howard A. Dawson, Conference Chairman

Address -- James G. Patton, President, National Farmers' Union

Panel -- Theodore Norman, Jewish Agricultural Society, Chairman  
Walter W. Wilcox, Legislative Reference Service  
The Library of Congress  
Wallace J. Campbell, Cooperative League of the USA

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE DELEGATES

While the NCALL conference was meeting, the Congress was debating the subject of what to do about "surpluses". Since most of the world is hungry and in need the word "surplus" seems a strange concept. Mr. James G. Patton, President of the National Farmers Union was asked to state for the conference his thoughts on a more positive point of view as to what Americans could and should do with the fruits of the kindly earth.

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT PATTON'S STATEMENT

"Farm policy must always be understood within the framework of the general public interest. To violate the public interest is, in the long run, to violate the true interests of farmers. This is increasingly true as we enter into the era of abundance. All human history, up to the very recent past, has been a history of scarcity and the struggle of men over a supply of physical resources which was insufficient to meet mankind's minimum needs. There are some gloomy prophets who hold with Malthus of old that this is still the situation and will always be so.

I do not belong to that school of thought. I am convinced that mankind has sufficient technical know-how, and the earth has sufficient resources so that if the two are brought together with intelligence and good-will, we can now emerge finally and permanently from the era of poverty into an era of abundance. This can be done if men have the will to do it.

Therefore, to adopt a farm policy today which is geared to a philosophy of scarcity is to turn back the clock. It is true that we still find much of the philosophy of scarcity governing the plans, decisions and actions of business and industry in this country. This makes it doubly difficult for agriculture to operate in an economy of abundance. Nevertheless, our policy and our goal in agriculture should be aimed at abundance in production and equity in distribution.

The philosophy of scarcity is indicative of a lack of faith in democracy. It reflects a fear that a free people cannot handle and control abundance. If we understand that in a democracy we are the government, then we will no longer be afraid of using the instrumentalities of democratic government to guide the production and distribution of abundance and to protect the producer from undue price drops because of his productive skill and efficiency. Peace with abundance should be our national goal in the days ahead.



In the past our economy required 85 people in agriculture to feed 100. Today 15 farmers can feed 100 of our population. This is a measure of our increased ability to produce. The vast labor potential thus released from farm work has been the key to the tremendous industrial expansion of our nation and our rising standard of living. Farm price supports have contributed notably to this process by stabilizing and undergirding the farmer's ability to purchase the products of industry.

Another failure of our imagination to cope with the significance of abundance is reflected in our lack of understanding of the profound influence of food and fibre in the world-wide battle for men's minds. There have been promising beginnings in this direction such as FAO, IFAP, CROP, CARE, etc. Thus far we have been afraid to touch such imaginative plans as the proposed World Food Board or the International Commodity Reserve. Instead of a bold use of abundance to meet human need and serve the cause of world peace, we are rather being urged by our present governmental leadership to adopt price policies in agriculture designed to reduce stockpiles, to reduce production, to restore the old familiar scarcity.

Consider the irony! We spent a billion dollars on the Korean War. Can you imagine how much food a billion dollars would put in the stomachs of hungry Asians? If we really undertook seriously to meet even the most crying of human need in the hungry parts of the world, we would quickly face shortages rather than surpluses in our food situation. Regrettably, instead of such imaginative planning, the present administration seems bent on pulling down the purchasing power of farmers. To this end it has been willing to pit farmers against other farmers by commodity groups; and to pit consumers against farmers. This is the way of group and class division, conflict, chaos. I want none of it.

It is as if mankind were standing at the mouth of a cave. Behind is the familiar darkness of the era of scarcity. Before us dawns the light of a new and glorious, but strange and unfamiliar, era of abundance. It would be easy to go back. There are forces urging us and calling us back to the familiar darkness. For my part, and I believe for the part of all the organizations represented in NCALL, the challenge is to go forward with faith in ourselves, -- with faith in our power to produce abundantly, with faith in our power to distribute fairly and wisely, with faith in the ability of democratic government to provide such guides and controls as will bring us out into the full light of the new day."

#### THE PANEL DISCUSSION

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Theodore Norman, chairman of the panel, pointed out that if food and fibre is to be consumed by those who need it some facts must be recognized.

He said:

"The surplus problem has been with us for the 35 years since World War I. It will certainly be with us another 35. During the last 20 years agricultural production has increased 50%. The probability is that it will increase another 50% during the next 20 years; while the population will increase only 25%.

Any alleviation of surplus problems that has taken place during recent years has been due to luck and not brains; -- Drought and war have taken care of the surpluses."



"The first requisite of successful distribution of the products of agriculture is that the rest of the economy function at a high level. American non-farmers have to be able to buy the major part of what our farmers produce at fair prices if farmers are to prosper at all. However, even with high non-agricultural buying power there may be large stocks of food which cannot be sold domestically at fair prices nor exported through the regular channels. In this case consideration should be given to a plan for exporting this surplus in such a manner as not to interfere with the regular export trade, for just giving surpluses away may interfere with either our ordinary markets or the ordinary markets of friendly countries. We should therefore look into the possibilities of a World Food Stamp Plan along the lines of the domestic stamp plan that was very successfully operated by the Department of Agriculture in the late 1930's. The essence of such a plan is that a family receiving assistance under it must make its ordinary purchases of food and then receive in addition a certain quantity of free food. Thus ordinary consumption is maintained and yet total consumption is increased. Such a plan on an international basis will not be easy to work out, but our experience with it in this country was so successful that it certainly merits a most thorough study by all people interested in the welfare of agriculture."

#### THE DISCUSSION

The chairman asked Dr. Wilcox to mention some of the obstacles to proposals frequently made for food distribution. Dr. Wilcox replied in substance: "For example, one proposal is to use more surplus food in the school lunch program. Much surplus food is used that way but community factors stand in the way. Success in getting such food consumed depends upon local initiative and overcoming shortages of kitchen equipment. Emphasis needs to be put there as well as upon school lunch appropriations."

Direct distribution of food is another alternative. About one half million persons are now receiving food through direct distribution programs. The United States Department of Agriculture stands ready to make food available to welfare and other needy groups if they certify. The difficulties are two-fold. Local welfare agencies do not have enough staff to handle certification. Also not many kinds of surplus food are immediately ready for distribution.

Another proposal is the domestic food stamp plan. Whether there is much interest in that will depend upon the nature of the economic situation. If the recession is short it is not likely there will be much interest.

As to foreign distribution, it is a problem to try to maintain prices and move surpluses at the same time. We can move some. Why do we not give away more? To get food to people means to follow through to people. That means funds to administer distribution."

Mr. Wallace Campbell was asked to describe some distribution projects which are working. As a preface to his comments he pointed out that we should not let our economic imaginations be hobbled by fear of change. "A free and dynamic economy can change a great deal while staying free and dynamic."

Mr. Campbell made the following points:

"We get tied up in words. The thing we are discussing is a matter of 'plenty' rather than 'surplus'. Shall we hide it in caves or think of it as insurance of full supplies?"



"Words again. Over the last 20 years the price support program has cost 35¢ per year per person (not much cost for an insurance policy for full production). It's a matter of bookkeeping. Who is to be charged with what cost for maintaining national security? It is not just a subsidy to farmers. Again words. Take administrative costs. One way to think of it is; it costs \$500,000 to store foods held back from the market. How about using some of that money to distribute food?

What steps can we take? The School Lunch Program can take some.

How about the Food Stamp Plan? Must we wait until we have six or seven million unemployed?

Foreign distribution? If we give food away we must not destroy the normal channels of trade and the agricultural economies of other countries. Also we must control distribution right down to consumption. Government cannot do this because it interferes with the sovereignty of the other nation. A voluntary agency with the permission of the other nation can.

Example: when the near famine occurred in Jugo-Slavia, CARE distributed 50 million dollars worth of food to one out of every four families and supervised the distribution. The government of Jugo-Slavia had two secret police thrown into jail for following CARE trucks. This program brought more good will than the bigger distribution of the Marshall Plan.

We must plan ahead. We know we are going to grow more than we sell. We must plan in advance. If we are going to have adequate production we are bound to have something over. The biggest problem is to convince Congress and take the psychological hurdle."

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#### COMMENTS IN GENERAL DISCUSSION

The opportunity of voluntary agencies was underlined by the Rev. Clyde Rogers of Ohio. CROP, representing five church agencies, has fed three million Korean orphans and has distributed food to two million individuals in the Eastern Zone.

The need for government effort too was stressed. Mr. Paul Sifton of the UAW-CIO pointed out that a combination of government and private effort was needed. "The American flag was on the CARE jeep in Jugo-Slavia." President Patton spoke of the need for some kind of international agency to bring constructive order into the distribution of the world's production.

The need to separate food and politics was mentioned. Mr. Paul Miller of the Friends Committee on National Legislation said "Don't let people think that food should go only to friends."

The real problem is with our ideas was the burden of many statements made in the discussion. "We need creative imagination about food. We don't have to destroy capitalism to get food to people." "An adequate policy depends upon both attitudes and information." "A dynamic plan which captures people's imagination is needed." "There is no reason for working on the surplus question as if we were trying to stabilize a depression instead of building an economy of abundance." "Many people still think we can sell the surplus. We need to kindle the people back home to a humanitarian view point. We lack a widespread feeling as to the humanitarian face of this problem."



M I G R A T O R Y   L A B O R   P R O B L E M S  
A   R E V I E W   O F   P R O G R E S S   M A D E

Excerpts from address given by Edith E. Lowry, Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches. (See page 2)

"Today we can see the cumulative results of all our efforts, past and present. Let us cite a few of the different fronts on which the problem is being attacked.

1. Inclusion by the President in his Budget Message of recommendations for an appropriation to the U. S. Department of Labor 'to enable the Department of Labor to provide leadership in establishing a co-operative Federal-State program in the fiscal year 1955' -- and for an appropriation to the U.S. Office of Education stating that 'One problem to which particular attention will be given is the meager education received by children of migrant agricultural workers.'
2. The assignment to Florida and to other states by the Children's Bureau of a field worker who will give special attention to the health problems of migrant children.
3. The special attention being given by the U.S. Public Health Service to the problem of tuberculosis and other communicable disease in migrant camps.
4. The special program of the Farm Placement Service of the Bureau of Employment Security urging their field representatives to encourage community agencies to extend their community service to include migrants.
5. The Regional Conferences held in 1953 by U.S. Office of Education.
6. The East Coast Migrant Conference to be held in Washington, May 17, 18, 19, called by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Office of Education, U. S. Public Health Service to stimulate and work out a coordinate approach by state agencies and private groups working with migrants in East Coast states.
7. The studies made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics -- the most recent -- 'Labor Use in the Eastern Shore Crop Harvest' (Maryland) made jointly by Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Maryland.

Also at the national level are non-governmental organizations. The list of member organizations of the National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor includes most of those working on the migrant problem. Add the Boy Scouts of America who like the Girl Scouts have recently decided to give special attention to getting the Boy Scout program into the migrant camps. I would also mention the comic strip 'Welcome Amigo' emphasizing the idea of better integration of migrant children into the life of a resident community. This is published as a public service in cooperation with the National Social Welfare Assembly. This page appears in more than 10,000,000 magazines of the National Comics Group (Superman-DC Publications).

As you look down the list there are some who major in legislation, some on labor organization, some on creating an informed public opinion, some on research, some on service programs in the migrant camps, and some include a combination of several of these emphases."



"The stimulation by these various national organizations has resulted in much activity state-wise and locally.

Let us list a few:

Wisconsin. A conference of physicians, representatives of employees, welfare groups and the Governor's Commission on Human Rights met early in the year to discuss medical problems of migrant workers.

In Waupun, a summer school for migrant children was operated, designed to develop a teaching unit to put into hands of teachers in those areas of Wisconsin where there are migrant workers. It was known as the Curriculum Development Project.

Florida In a town of 1200 in the Everglades that has an influx of 3000 - 4000 migrants, seven women organized themselves into a committee to do something about the health problem - - the nearest doctor was 35 miles away - - and the desperate need for child care. The county doctor is helping and provided a fund for emergencies. A Child Care Center is operating.

In one large camp in Florida where there is a full time trained community worker and where migrants stay for a longer season, community organizations have developed, such as Service Clubs, Archery Tournaments, P.T.A. They are working to raise money for a movie projector to be used in the school.

New York A pilot adult education project in a migrant camp was made possible by the cooperation of the State Department of Education and the New York State Council of Churches - - each providing one-half of the salary of a teacher who lived in the camp - - fixed her cabin up as a model - - counselled the families as they stopped by - - had classes in reading and writing. One woman said she wanted to learn to read so she could help her husband get his driver's license and read the road maps. State funds are available for similar projects in other communities.

A work shop was held in Steuben County. Growers, church leaders, representatives of community organizations participated. They discussed methods of identifying the various problems, possible solutions and how to proceed.

The bulletins published by Cornell University and other state groups on Housing for Migrant Farm Workers.

A project carried on by the School of Journalism of Syracuse University and the Migrant Committee of State Council of Churches in developing reading materials for new literates, geared to needs and experience of migrants.

New Jersey The summer school for children of migrant potato pickers continues as an outstanding project of the State Migrant Labor Bureau

An in-service project was carried on by a library expert to train field staff in teaching Puerto Rican migrants English.



Pennsylvania A conference held by the Migrant Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches gave attention to programs and plans of state agencies that cooperate through the State Interdepartmental Committee on Seasonal Farm Labor -- another step in teamwork between public and private agencies.

Texas In Lubbock, where a reception center was established to route migrants to jobs, a group of women saw the conditions in the twenty open stalls without sanitary provisions -- the overnight lodging for migrant families while they awaited job assignments. They sowed the seed for action. The State Employment Commission, The City and County Commissions and the Ministerial Alliance together worked out a plan for improvement. \$20,000 was voted by city and county officials to increase the number of stalls, enclose them, add flush toilets and showers, laundry facilities and a rest and recreation center. In two months 40,000 migrants went through the center. 7000 men, women and children found welcome and friendly help in the room for rest and recreation.

North Carolina In Tyrrell County, three volunteer Negro school teachers conducted school from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for the crop season.

Maryland The summer school at St. Michael's, for resident and migrant children, continued with cooperation of local school board and community leaders.

Some children are having piano lessons and gave a recital for their parents.

They participate in Red Cross and the March of Dimes drives. They are on the way out of migrancy.

California In Fresno County, a conference was held March 1 by the Fresno County Project on the Educational Program for Migrant Children, sponsored by the Rosenberg Foundation. The schools of the West Side of the County from Dos Palos to Coalinga, from child care centers to high schools, were represented, with many schools bringing entire faculties. P.T.A. leaders, businessmen's clubs, government agencies, church groups participated.

The County Superintendent of Schools said, "We have the tools we need to improve community living. It is up to us to decide how we will use them. We can do what we care enough to do."

This is a sampling of things that are being done by communities and organizations, governmental and non-governmental, state-wise and nationally. To measure progress made, one has but to look back a decade and compare that picture with today's picture. It is well to note also that the significance of many of these projects, especially those at the local level does not end with help brought to those reached by the individual project, but often that the project is stimulus that starts a public agency to planning for the incorporation of this type of service to migrants in its on-going program. An example of this is the well established child care program for the children of farm migrants in New York State which was initiated by the churches in 1931 and taken over by the state in 1946 with greatly increased resources available for an expanded service.



As encouraging as all these developments are, the sum total of all that is being done is but a drop in the bucket compared with what still needs to be done.

Experience shows that public agencies are quicker to respond in those states where there is a state migrant labor bureau -- New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin all give evidence of this. Of course this means, as we have long known, that the establishment of State Migrant Labor Bureaus in all states is one of the most important jobs ahead and we are encouraged by the work the U. S. Department of Labor does along this line. (See page 2 for Miss Lowry's recommendations.)

A V A I L A B L E

Additional copies of the PROCEEDINGS may be secured by writing to the NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR, 1751 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Single copy 25¢. Quantity rate on request.

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NCALL MEMORANDA (Quantity rates on request)

Rural Electrification: Some of the Issues in the Present Controversy.  
6 pp. 1953. Revised in 1954. 10¢

Wetbacks: Illegal Immigration of Farm Workers from Mexico.  
6 pp. 1953. Revised in 1954. 10¢

The Facts About the Farmers' Home Administration: What is at Stake?  
6 pp. 1954 (Ready Dec. 1st) 10¢

What Has Happened to the "Excess Lands" Family Farm Policy of the Reclamation Act? The meaning for present day "homesteaders" and migratory labor.  
6 pp. 1954 (Ready Dec. 1st) 10¢

"Status of Agricultural Workers under State and Federal Labor Laws" prepared by the Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor.  
4 pp. Revised to July 1, 1954. 10¢

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"EDUCATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN" by Shirley E. Greene. A full report of the field studies undertaken by the Migrant Education Research Project Board of NCALL.  
180 pp. 1954. Paper -- \$2.50 Cloth -- \$3.00

Orders should be sent to the Department of Rural Education, National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

(Please do not send orders for this book to NCALL.)

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Resource Entry ID#6814

Migratory Farm Workers In The  
Atlantic Coast Stream