

## NEWSletter



1300 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE · CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

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PAPAL VIEW ON AGRICULTURE

At an audience for priests His Holiness urged priests who work with agricultural organizations to do everything to improve the living standards of farm workers. The Pope noted that some of the problems affecting agriculture have to be solved in terms of agreement between different countries and even continents. He encouraged his listeners to perform their priestly ministry with ever increasing zeal and to do everything to encourage the landworkers to remain on the land. (Taken from "Social Action Notes for Priests - January, 1962")

A.W.O.C.

In December, 1961, at its annual convention in Miami, Mr. Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, introduced a resolution which was unanimously accepted to give more financial assistance to the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in California so that it could resume its activities to continue its efforts to organize agricultural workers. This resolution reversed an earlier decision of the AFL-CIO's Executive Council.

ILLINOIS HOUSING

In the last session of the state legislature, the State of Illinois adopted a licensing law for migrant housing. It is to be administered by the State Department of Public Health, and conformity to the law must be completed within a period of three years from January 1, 1962. The law was worked out in a series of meetings in which growers and canners cooperated with labor, education and social welfare groups. Perhaps more significant than the law itself are the cooperative efforts of interested parties. Apparently this was similar to the Ohio experience of a year ago.

PUBLIC LAW NO. 78

As all of you well know, Public Law No. 78 was extended for another two years. The Senate liberal group under Senators McCarthy, Keating, and Javits, et al, won important reforms which were swept away by a House-Senate Conference Committee. However, the opinion of the Senate seems in support of reform; the House of Representatives will be the battleground in the next session of the Congress.

About a year ago, the U.S.-Mexico joint trade union committee strongly protested against any secret agreements to extend Public Law No. 78. During a January-1962 meeting of this committee, the fact that a demand exists for needed reform in the administration of Public Law No. 78 was reaffirmed.



MIGRANT LABOR LEGISLATION ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY

In response to a letter from Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg, Chairman of the President's Committee on Migratory Labor, the President indicated wholehearted support of the Committee's statement of policy and endorsed "the Committee view that a united policy is necessary if improvements are to be made in this important field."

The Committee, which includes Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, Secretary of HEW Abraham Ribicoff, Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, and Robert Weaver, Administrator of HHFA, at a meeting of January 17, which was also attended by Senator Harrison A. Williams and Congressman Herbert Zelenko, drew up a statement of policy, recommendations and directives, in which it specifically endorsed the five Williams' bills passed by the Senate. Secretary Freeman's endorsement is regarded as significant in view of the stand some farm organizations have taken. The Committee recommended that Congress give serious consideration to the following proposals:

1. Domestic Worker Stabilization -- urged prompt passage of the "National Farm Labor Stabilization Act."
2. Minimum Wage -- supported in principle the extension of minimum wage to agriculture, and directed the Secretariat to review legislation in this field.
3. Day-Care -- supported legislation providing grants in aid to the States on a matching basis to provide day-care centers for children of migratory workers.
4. Housing -- supported, in principle, legislation to aid farm wage earners in improving housing; recommended that Congress seriously consider bills providing direct loans to associations of farmers and other non-profit organizations for improvement of off farm housing; directed the Secretariat to further study adjustments in the Housing Act of 1961 to make it easier for farm employers to provide adequate housing.
5. Labor Management Relations -- Secretariat directed to initiate a study into ways and means of extending collective bargaining rights to agricultural workers, and to forward recommendations as soon as possible.
6. Unemployment Insurance -- specific recommendations to be made following completion of studies now underway by Department of Labor in cooperation with several state employment agencies.
7. Residence Requirements -- recommended that federal and state authorities make serious study with view to eliminating or reducing hardships caused by present residence requirements which exclude migrants from public assistance.

With respect to administration of legislation passed last year the PCML (1) recommends that growers using foreign labor begin now to seek ways and means of recruiting and training available domestic labor, (2) asserts that temporary admissions of aliens under P.L. 414 can be no substitute for the kind of bi-lateral agreement existing under P.L. 78, (3) directs the Secretariat to study provisions of the Area Redevelopment Act and Rural Area Development Programs, and to make recommendations within 90 days on how to extend the benefits of these programs to migrants and their families, (4) directs the Secretariat to explore ways of achieving



greater use of the National School Lunch and Special Milk programs by migratory workers and their families, and (5) directs the Secretariat to work closely with state migratory labor committees in the development and carrying out of programs to aid migrants.

#### COMING EVENT

On May 8-9-10, 1962, the Eleventh National Conference of Catholic Councils for the Spanish Speaking will meet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Conference is sponsored by the Bishops' Committee for the Spanish Speaking of San Antonio, Texas. Anyone desiring further information about the Conference should contact Rev. John A. Wagner, Executive Secretary, Bishops' Committee for the Spanish Speaking, 828 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, Texas.

#### "HARVEST OF SHAME" REPORTS

The CBS Documentary "Harvest of Shame" continues to be in high demand, and our requests are running three months beyond available dates. Some of the groups have had unusually large showings, as is reported by Lino Lopez of the Commission on Community Relations of Denver, Colorado; Rev. Joseph O'Donnell of the Glenmary Home Missioners of Glendale, Ohio; Harry Olston of the United Packinghouse Workers of America in Chicago.

If you are interested in booking the film, we can supply it to you sometime in June or thereafter, and if you are desirous of using it sooner, write to us for a list of film libraries and organizations which have prints of the "Harvest of Shame" available, and in most cases are closer to your home area than we are.

#### PROGRAM ACTIVITY FOR MIGRANTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

LANSING, MICHIGAN: His Excellency, Bishop Joseph H. Albers opened the First Training Institute for the Migrant Program in the Diocese of Lansing with Mass on Saturday, August 5, 1961, at the Church of the Resurrection. Mr. Frederic S. Abood, President of the Bishops' Committee for the Spanish Speaking, presided at the breakfast meeting, and pointed out the layman's role in behalf of the migrants. Bishops Albers pointed out the numerous problems of the migrants, with particular emphasis on the language problem. He spoke of the new program to educate seminarians in the language of their parents or in Spanish. He also indicated that approximately 76,000 migrants pass through the State of Michigan alone.

Mrs. Wilbur Quick of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women opened the first conference of the institute by advising all interested and willing people that the first step towards helping migrants in their area is by finding out where the migrant camps are located, calling on them, and telling them about the Church facilities available to them. Mrs. Quick also pointed out the health services available to migrants.

Mrs. Larry Klotz suggested in the second conference a camp night project for migrants. This could be done by calling on the farm owners and explaining how you would like to help the migrants. Then make arrangements to designate a night to visit the camp, and arrange to have a priest or seminarian present, if possible, and also some Spanish-speaking residents to lead the Rosary in Spanish, if a priest is not available. Refreshments



### LEGISLATION

On January 10th, 1962, the second session of the 87th Congress reconvened in the Capitol. Proposed House legislation includes the five bills listed below on behalf of migrants. These bills passed the Senate unanimously late in September, 1961. Now is the time to write again to your Congressman, urging him to vote in favor of these five bills, and encouraging your friends, relatives, and neighbors to do likewise. Use this also as an opportunity for your organization, various civic groups, fraternal groups, adult education groups, and others to make an important contribution by writing to their Congressman. Many people fail to realize that unfavorable bills pass the Senate and House because their elected representatives did not hear from their constituents regarding these issues. Your efforts to write to your representatives can be an effective means toward favorable legislation for migrants. If we can be of any help regarding information and guidance in approaching your representatives, we would be glad to do so. Just let us know. The migrants need your support! They need it now!

**S. 1123 - CHILD LABOR:** This bill would extend the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act with certain exceptions, to children under 14 years of age employed in agriculture outside of school hours. Under existing federal law, children of any age may be hired on farms except during school hours. The provisions would not apply to children working on their parents' farms or employed on farms within a 25-mile radius of their permanent residence with the written consent of parents.

**S. 1124 - MIGRANT EDUCATION:** This bill would establish a four-part, five year program of federal assistance to states and local communities seriously affected by the seasonal influx of migratory families. Funds would help pay costs of (1) enrolling migrant children in regular school sessions; (2) providing special summer schools for migrant children; (3) state and interstate planning and coordination in this field; and (4) operating pilot projects of fundamental and practical education for adult migrants.

**S. 1130 - MIGRANT HEALTH:** This would authorize federal grants up to \$3 million annually to stimulate and support local health programs in areas employing large numbers of migrant farm workers. Grants would be to public or non-profit agencies to help pay the cost of (1) setting up and operating family clinics, and (2) special projects to improve health services for and health conditions for migratory farm families.

**S. 1126 - REGISTRATION OF FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS:** This bill would require the registration with the Secretary of Labor of any person who, for a fee, recruits 10 or more migrant workers at any one time during the calendar year for interstate employment. Their license may be revoked for, among other things, (1) knowingly misrepresenting to workers wage and conditions of employment; (2) failing without justification to perform agreements entered into with farm employers; (3) failing to comply with



the safe transportation requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The bill requires contractors to give workers at the time of recruiting information as to the area of employment; crops and work operations; transportation, housing and insurance provided; and wage rates to be paid. If the contractor himself pays the workers, he must keep detailed payroll records for each worker.

S. 1132 - PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL: This bill would establish a National Advisory Council on Migratory Labor, composed of 15 members appointed by the President for a period of five years. Four of the members would represent the workers, four the farmers. The remainder would be public officials and private citizens with experience and knowledge of the problems of migrants.

#### FROM THE BOOK BIN

"THE HARVESTERS: THE STORY OF THE MIGRANT PEOPLE" by Louisa R. Shotwell shows the continuing human degradation of the migrants, and why the small and sporadic gains in migrant living and working conditions have been so slow -- not in Russia, not in Asia, but in Long Island, Delaware, Arizona, Michigan, and Texas. THE HARVESTERS is anecdotal, informed, absorbing, and deeply moving.

#### LITERATURE ABOUT MIGRANTS

"A PROGRAM FOR MIGRATORY FARM LABOR" is a joint policy statement of the principle, national Catholic agencies who are vitally concerned with a program for migratory farm labor. This informative pamphlet tells of the problems confronting the migrant today, what has and is being done on his behalf. Quantities of this pamphlet are available from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 3801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines 12, Iowa, at .50 per copy.

"THE MIGRATORY FARM LABOR PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES: is a report together with individual views to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the U.S. Senate made by its Subcommittee on Migratory Labor. (Published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. available at no charge.)

"THE MIGRANT FARM WORKER IN AMERICA" is a report of background data on the migrant worker situation in the United States today by Daniel H. Pollitt, Associate Professor of Law, University of North Carolina, and Miss Selma M. Levine, a member of the District of Columbia Bar. (Published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. available at no charge.)

"THEY COME WITH THE DUST" by Arthur C. Barry, M.M. A report of his experiences as a "migrant worker for a day." (Reprinted from Maryknoll Magazine, November-1961 issue, Maryknoll Seminary, Maryknoll, New York.)

"BLIGHT IN OUR FIELDS" by Lawrence T. King. A report of the attempts of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of Stockton, California. (Reprinted from The Commonweal, 232 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York; November 24, 1961 issue. Available at .25 per copy.)



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"THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT FARM LABORERS" by Dr. Melvin S. Brooks, Sociologist at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. A survey of migrants regarding their family composition, education, work, income, mobility, health, living conditions while working in a specific area, aspirations, plans, and attitudes. (Reprinted from "THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF MIGRANT FARM LABORERS" - available at no charge from Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers only.)

"TOWARD A NATIONAL POLICY FOR MIGRANT LABOR" by Ed Marciniak. A report on the National Conference to Stabilize Migrant Labor. (Quantities available at Catholic Council on Working Life, 21 West Superior Street, Chicago 10, Illinois. Prices: 1-99 copies, 25 cents each; 100 or more, 20 cents. Council pays shipping charges if payment accompanies order.)

"FOOD FOR A NATION" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A statistical report of farm programs, and how taxpayers, consumers, labor and industry play an important part. (Available at no charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

"FARMING IN THE U.S." by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A report of regional differences, farm people, major services and problems, and some summary facts and observations. (Available at 20 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.)

"HIRED FARM WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES" by the U.S. Department of Labor. A statistical report of the numbers, characteristics, employment patterns, wage rates and earnings of hired farm workers in the United States. (Available at no charge from Mr. Robert C. Goodwin, Director, Bureau of Employment Security, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D.C.)

"THE HARVEST OF SHAME" by Sue Keisker. Background data on the 16 MM CBS Documentary. Running time: 45 minutes. (Reprinted from the Commonweal. (Available at no charge from the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers.)

The above literature is available either from the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers, 1300 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois, or the source where indicated. Limited quantities of aforementioned literature available.

P.S. Let us know what is happening in your area and what groups are doing in your area. We would like to put it in our Newsletter. We get continual requests from around the country regarding information on program activity for migrants, and we would like to be able to share your experiences with others.



could be served afterwards, and a distribution of used toys and clothing could be made to the migrants.

Rev. Donald McDonnell from the Diocese of San Francisco opened the third conference, and emphasized the importance of necessary legislation which he feels is the only answer to the problems of the Spanish-speaking. The Institute was closed with Benediction by Rev. Kenneth Faiver of Jackson, Michigan.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: The Cincinnati Chapter of Kappa Gamma Pi has made a great deal of progress in setting up a migrant worker program to educate the local people about the plight of migrants. Used toys, clothing, and publication drives are being made for distribution to the migrants. Also, an orientation program has been set-up for those interested in Catechetical, recreational, nursing, or tutoring work with migrants. All interested volunteers should contact Miss Ruth Stechsulte at AV 1-2708, or Miss Betty Zins at PO 1-2036.

DENVER, COLORADO: Bill and Pat Linton, CFM President Couple of Denver, had wonderful success with their program for migrants in Fort Lupton, Colorado. Distributions of clothing and canned goods were made to the migrants.

The Most Reverend Urban J. Vehr, Archbishop of Denver and a member of the Bishops' Committee for Migrant Workers, reports for the year 1961 that great strides were also made by missionary sisters, seminarians, priests, various church organizations, and the laity to help migrants in Colorado. Among their program endeavors instructions to adults and children were given, food and clothing drives were sponsored, school buses were obtained for transporting children to the instruction classes, and special activities, such as Communion breakfasts, picnics, pinata parties, circus, and health demonstrations were held.

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Bishops' Committee For Migrant Workers Newsletter

BISHOPS' COMMITTEE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS  
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