

Farm Union Maps 1952 Fight For Workers, Small Farmer

Memphis, Tenn.—The AFL National Farm Labor Union mapped an intensive new fight in 1952 to win federal and state laws to improve the conditions of all American farm workers and protect the interests of the small farmer.

The union's 17th national convention approved the report of President H. L. Mitchell and the executive board which promised a determined effort to improve the conditions of farm workers and small farmers.

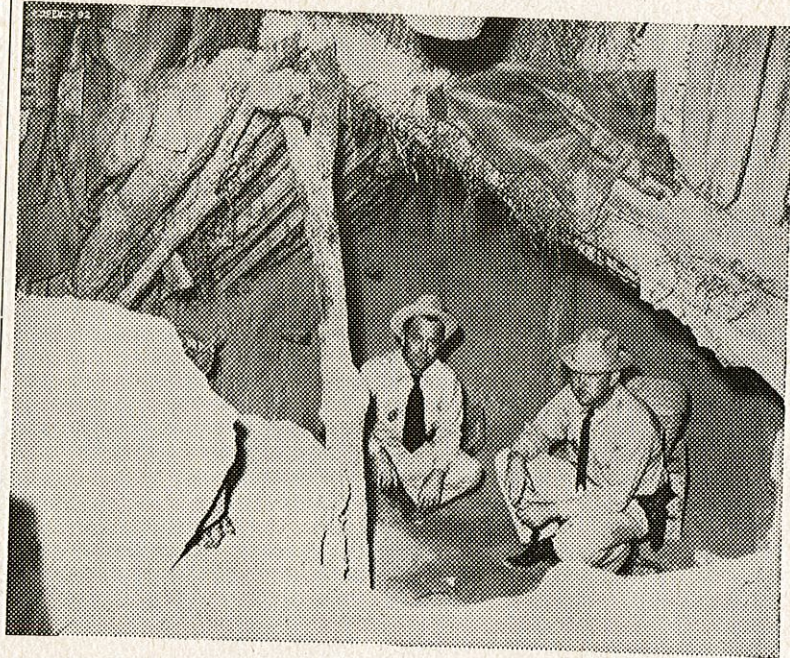
Officers called upon members and their families to register and vote in 1952 to elect their friends to Congress.

They proposed a broad organizing campaign, with the help of bigger and older AFL unions, and a collective bargaining program calling for wage scales comparable to those paid industrial workers, time and one-half after 8 hours a day, a guaranteed work week the year around of 16 hours minimum, insurance and pension system.

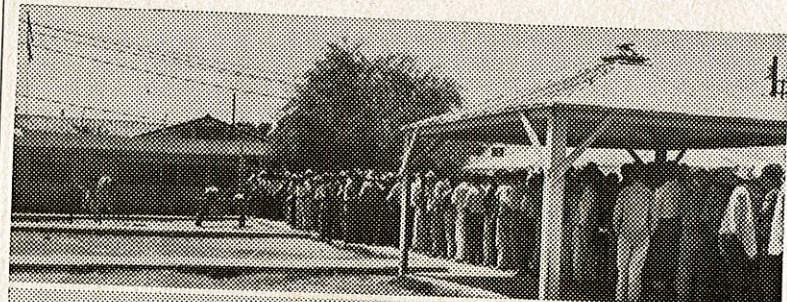
The union program was designed to deal with the competition from cheap foreign labor imported from Mexico, West Indies and elsewhere; the industrialization of the farms, and the failure of Congress to provide the unemployment compensation, social security and minimum wage-hour protections enjoyed by other workers.

Wages of farm workers are now only 39 percent of the average earnings of industrial workers, a drop from the 48 percent of 1946. More than one million agricultural workers employed in the huge factory-in-the-field type of farm earn an average \$500 per year and work less than 100 days annually.

"So long as the United States Government permits the importation, legally or illegally, of a half-million or more Mexican nationals each year, the earnings of farm workers cannot rise much higher than the present level."



WETBACKS LIVED IN THIS CAVE.—U. S. border guards found a family of 5 Mexicans illegally in this country living in this cave in California. The cave was part of a camp where 300 other aliens were apprehended. They swam or waded the Rio Grande to take farm, building construction, highway and other jobs at sub-standard wages. The cave-dwellers used boxes for furniture and cooked on a fire outside.

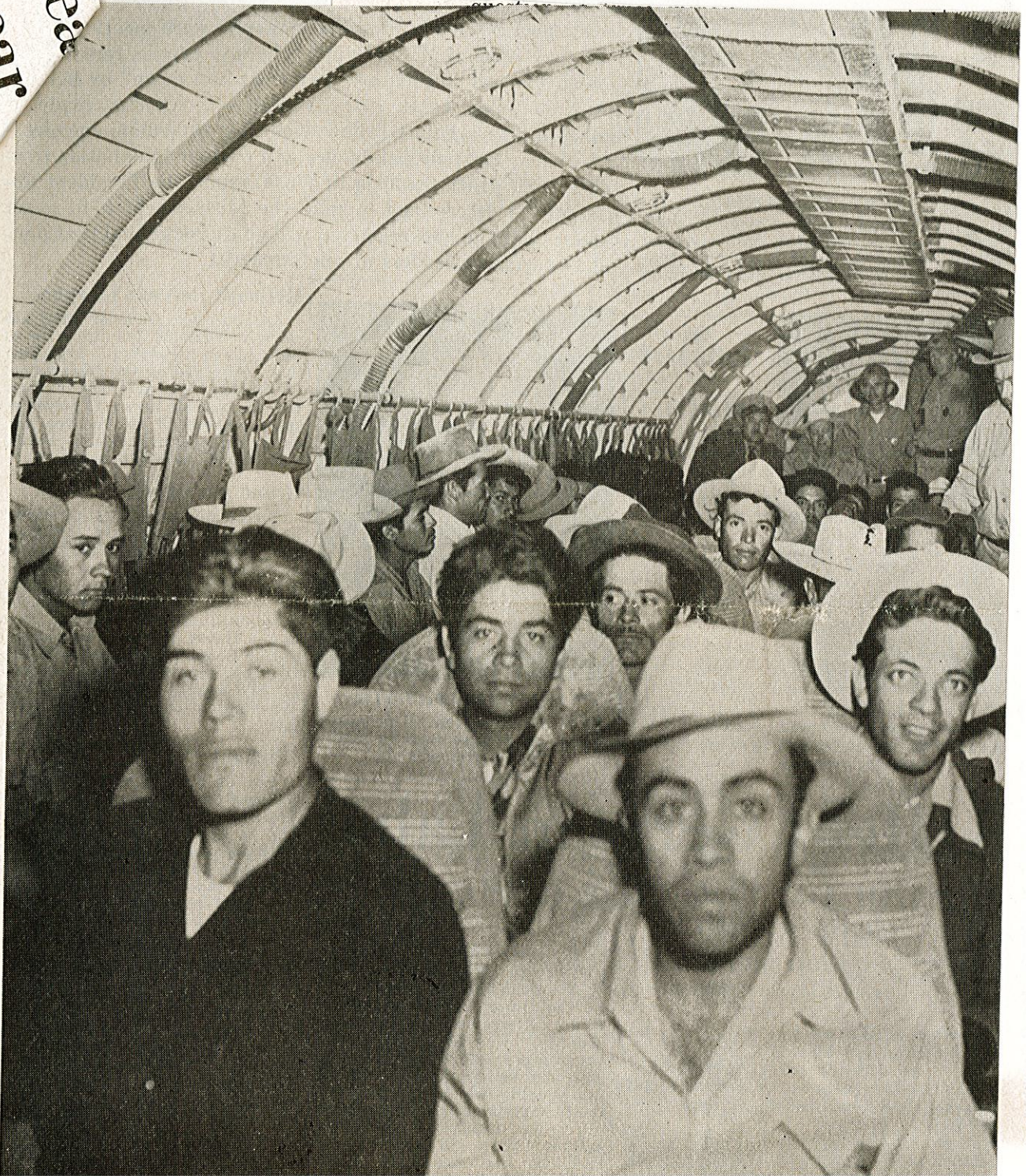


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Bewildered Mexican Wetbacks Illegally in U. S. Are Flown Home on Airlift in Charge of Rio Grande Guards