

FARM LABOR EXPERIENCE SURVEY
Calif. Migrant Ministry

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Calif.
INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE MATERIAL
FROM
THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
ON MIGRATORY LABOR

During December 1959, the staff of the Migrant Ministry interviewed approximately two hundred families whose main source of livelihood is from seasonal farm labor. We wanted to be able present to this Committee in an objective, first-hand manner just what are the typical problems of seasonal farm laboring families. The families who make up the bulk of those interviewed were not picked by random sample. For the most part they are families who have been known by our staff for some time. They have been selected as being more or less representative of "typical" domestic seasonal farm workers. Most of them are attempting to settle down after having been more itinerant as seasonal farm workers. Most of these workers have families and are attempting to provide a more wholesome life for them.

These surveys were taken in the areas of San Jose, Dos Palos, Mendota, Corcoran, Visalia, Richgrove, Bakersfield, Wasco, and Brawley. A copy of the survey form has been given to Committee Counsel for your record.

Size of families:

Of 34 Anglo families - the average number of children

was 3.4;

Of 120 Spanish-speaking families - the average number of children was 5.48;

Of 22 Negro families - the average number of children was 6.9.

In asking about child labor, of the 881 children involved - 109 of the children worked "sometimes". Among these children were those of three and four years old. 3.9 of the children were reported as working full-time. The ages of these children went as low as seven.

In asking about the level of education attained by the adults, we found that 31% did not go beyond the third grade and 61% did not go beyond the sixth grade. Only 12% have finished the 12th grade.

Most of the families interviewed were renting their present dwelling... 93 out of 180; 34 were purchasing their dwelling; 47 had it provided by a grower free.

Of those interviewed: 121 wintered-over at the place where they were interviewed; 28 planned to move to a different state; and 8 planned to move to a different county within the state. 14 families indicated that no place was "home". The bulk of these families either owned a home or rent a home at their winter base. Only 33 planned to live in grower provided housing.

Of those interviewed: among 237 workers; 199 worked at farm work at the home base; only 6 took jobs in industry; 20 would seek jobs among the service industries. Only 4 indicated that they would not work at all. Of the 180 interviews - only 49 indicated they worked at non-farm work.

Out of 153 questionnaires, 57 families stayed in the same place year around; 24 moved once intrastate, 20 move twice intrastate, and 19 moved three

times interstate.

Of the 49 questionnaires indicating non-farm work was secured -- 3 worked for less than \$40 per week; 10 for \$40-50 per week; 6 for \$50-60 per week; 6 for \$60-70 per week; 6 for \$70-80 per week; 3 for \$80-90 per week; 2 for \$90 - 100 per week; 3 received more than \$100 per week.

Of 228 workers, only 55 make work arrangements in advance through a farmer; 29 through employment service; 8 through a recruiter; 56 through a contractor; and 63 just go looking for jobs.

In asking for information on the highest amount received for a days pay, we found quite a spread -- complicated by the fact that often 2-5 workers contributed to the total days pay. Among single work records, the highest pay received for 9 hours work by 16 people was \$10.50; for 11 hours work by 24 people was \$11.80; for 13 hours work by 19 people was \$14.60.

We found that the lowest days pay was sometimes worked at very low hourly rates indeed - often averaging less than 50¢ per hour. The statistical data given to the Committee bear out this experience.

We found that the vast majority of workers were paid either in cash or by check. Only two persons reported that they were paid by having credit extended to them; four persons were paid in scrip; six with tickets.

In asking about the schooling of children, we found that 5 out of 132 families had school age children who were not enrolled in school. Only 86 indicated that their children were "always" enrolled; 12 answered "most of the time"; 11 "sometimes"; 1 - "never".

Most of these families children (78) attended just one school; 28 attended two schools; 11 attended three schools; two attended 4 schools; 1 attended more than four schools.

Of 119 families asked - 3 enrolled their children only after authorities had requested them to be enrolled.

The vast majority of these families feel that it is extremely important for their children to complete high school; or to receive "all of the education they can." 19 indicated that post high school education is important and desire it for their children.

Asked about the care of preschool youngsters when the mother worked-the most frequent answer was that older children cared for the youngest in the home (or camp) 30; or that the children were taken to the fields - 28; or hired a baby-sitter - 7.

Asked whether the children were ever placed in a nursery or day care center - only two out of 98 answered "yes". There was a general high regard for the need of child care centers.

HEALTH

Childbirth - of 45 births recorded - 7 were at home; 4 had a midwife present; two a doctor or nurse.

In discussing their health needs, these families felt that they needed: better housing; better sanitation; cleaner surroundings; more knowledge of health and sanitation; more money for better food; free clinics; closer clinics; free hospitals and closer hospitals; better clothes; etc.

WELFARE

When asked about their needs, 54 replies indicated that they had no sudden need for money, food, or shelter. Those who replied that they suddenly had needs they could not meet-(121) turned to various agencies for help; borrowed money from friends or family - 37; "saw it thru" -14; secured credit at stores - 8; welfare department - 21; A.N.C. -2; mortgaged house - 3; borrowed from bank - 3; finance company - 5; moved to new area - 6; sold car 1; stole - 1; private agency aid - 15.

In assessing their future, these families want:

Their own house, property, or farm (53)
 Higher wages - better living (32)
 Steady work (34)
 Education for children - NO farm work for them (28)
 Stay in one place - kids in school (25)
 Better housing (23)
 More purchasing power (6)
 Better & more food - and clothing (8)
 Better health (6)
 Nothing much different (12)

How best to improve conditions for farm workers?

Better wages	89
Better housing	36
Stable employment	39
Limit braceros	23
Organize a union	14
Oppose mechanization	10
Eliminate contractors	4
Better sanitation	3
Better working conditions	3
Unemployment Compensation	6

ANEC DOT AL RECORD

GENERAL FINANCIAL ATTITUDES

"The children keep the money they make (on the crops) themselves and use it for school and clothes." (Kings County)

"Husband was put in jail for drunken driving---6 months sentence." The wife and five children are living in a cold cabin. County welfare gave them flour, corn meal, and canned milk. Two children of school age cannot attend school because they have no shoes or coats. Alfonso has an open burn wound on his leg (infection may have set in) and open sores on his neck. A doctor has not been consulted. Mrs. Aleman does not drive and therefore has no way to get to the clinic. (Kings County)

"We don't have automobile, - couldn't keep up payments when I was out of work. Pay someone to take me to store for groceries. Must go to work with someone, and now work is so bad so I won't be able to get another car. I guess I will have to keep depending on relatives and friends for transportation." (Kings Co.)

"Why aren't you in school?" (to 12 year old boy)

"I had to get junk to sell so my mother could have some money. Dad drinks up all of his money and doesn't give her any for us kids. He buys drinks for the others, too."

"Did you find any junk to sell?"

"Yeah, I found some. I got 60 cents for it."

"Does your mother have enough money now?"

"Well -- 60 cents." (Kings County)

In Mississippi, family lived on ranch for eleven years -- "worked cotton" -- house was provided -- farmer brought food, "marked it down in book" -- never got money for picking cotton -- owed all (and more) to farmer. But at Christmas farmer would bring them \$25 or more -- only cash they ever had. (Santa Clara County)

She didn't send the three older girls to high school because someone said it was too expensive. A nurse said she'd help the family to send the girls, but she didn't come back. "Did you go to school?" (asked of the mother)--"No." (Santa Clara County)

"What did you do when you needed money - had none?"

"Borrowed from finance company - borrowed \$50 for a year and they charged \$5.50 for a year. I paid it back \$7 a month - paid back \$70 altogether when it was done. That wasn't bad as my pick-up. I gave \$465 for a pick-up and the finance company charged me \$200 for financing it. I bought a second-hand refrigerator for \$33 and it didn't work so I called up the man I bought it from. He came down and replaced a switch and charged me \$16. I refused to pay and now he's brought suit against me and I've got to go to court and will probably have to pay because he's a big man and I'm only a little guy." (Indio)

"While we can still work we are barely able to support ourselves. Children can't go to school - have to work to help feed the family." (Kings County)

Anecdotal Record
(Financial Attitudes)

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"We are getting the same pay per ton (\$10) for prunes as we were 10 years ago and we are paying three time higher for life. In 1942, I picked string beans around San Jose at 70¢ per 30 pound basket and I had to travel 40 miles to work and leave all my small children in the car while I, my wife, and 4 boys were picking 7 hours to make \$24.00." (Santa Clara County)

"If they'd just pay a little more 'cause groceries are too high. I have to buy clothes for the girls -- I have no dresses at all." (Tulare County)

"It's hard, not having enough money when your children are in school. They need money for so many things for school and they see the other children with things. That's why children get into devilment, steal, and stuff. I've told my kids I share my part with them and that's all I can do. If we ever get an extra two or three dollars I saves it for them instead of getting something for myself or the house. It sure would help to have a little more money." (Indio)

"One year we earned \$5100. That's 5100 hours we had to put in. Think of what guys who work at 8 hours a day get." (Tulare County)

"Went to welfare and they refused to help because father was able to work. Guess they figured I should go break in somewhere and take something. There's no work anywhere. We got no way to find it. [People with cars charge \$1 a ride and that is a lot. They ought to do something about these poor people. They're plenty of people who need things.]" (Kings County)

"Union guys can get enough money to feed their families proper. On our \$1 an hour you can't afford nothin' but beans and potatoes." (Tulare County)

"I don't understand my Social Security. I wanted to know who turned in Social Security for me. I got a list of every person who paid Social Security and [] hasn't turned in any. I told the Social Security people about it. But they haven't done anything. I haven't kept any record of my wages. Social Security is very unfair." (Kern County - Lamont)

"Last year when it was raining and there wasn't no work, I went over to welfare in Hanford (20 miles away) to ask for food for my 7 children and they told me to come back the next day and I did and there were too mny people and they couldn't see me and I went back the next day and it was the same story and so I gave up 'cause it was hard for the people who was takin' me to carry me over to Hanford." (Kings County)

"You work 3-4 days and then you're off a month or so. I'd rather be working than sitting around. We're in danger of losing our farm to finance company because we're in trouble paying the rest of what we owe." (Kings County)

ATTITUDES TOWARD HOUSING

The family lives in a 2 room shack; there are eleven in the family. The shack is one of many in the orchard, with one water spigot coming through the wall into a small sink. There are chemical toilets situated through the orchard. They have tacked up cardboard to keep the wind from blowing through cracks in the wall. Daylight shows through the roof. They would love to rent a house but can't because of uncertain income. (Santa Clara Valley)

"We like it here because the dirt roads don't get muddy during the rainy season and the children can always get to school. The well doesn't provide enough water. We get our water down the road (5 miles) or in Cantua. Sometimes I get so tired I'd just like to go in and die. The owner wants us to buy groceries at his store or move out. He charges too much. The owner wants us (about 30 families) to pay for drilling the well deeper. Why should we pay? We don't know how long we will stay here." (Fresno County)

"The owner only allows about 5 children in one house. So with my large family I have to rent two cabins. The roof leaks but the owner gets made when we tell him about it so we don't complain. The bathrooms are bad--no rooms, no doors; everything is open." (Indio)

"When it rains hard the roof really leaks. It leaks on our bed and all over the room. At nights when it rains we have to stand up with our child so we don't get wet and catch pneumonia. We asked them to fix it a lot of times. They work on it but they sure don't fix it. You can see light coming through the roof everywhere. The door is broke--holes all around the door -- no lock or door knob on the door. All the cold air comes in. They wouldn't ever put a window in the door. Owner said if he puts new doors or roofs on the cabins they will have to rebuild all of them and they won't do that. There is so much more sickness in the camp than in town. Children are always getting pneumonia because it is cold, damp, and dirty." (Indio)

Feels larger corporation farms pay cheapest wages. Says excuse for lower wages is that they provide housing but says that good housing goes to foremen, mechanics, etc. Ordinary work gets nothing but shacks. (Kings County)

"We asked owner for more beds but he didn't get us one yet. Owner doesn't seem concerned about our problems. He just talked back to us when we asked for beds for children. When we complain he will throw the family out of the camp. The family complained about leaks in the roof and he told us to move out if we don't like it." (Indio)

"I used to migrate a lot--seen the conditions. If I have to leave my house to sleep under a tree, I should get more than \$15 a day. A lot of families live under trees--they become community problems. Some families go to crops (like prunes) so that all the kids can work. Farmers give bonuses to those who stay so they have to stay when crops are poor and pay low. I once stayed in a place where we lived in a barn. It was divided into four rooms by boxes. The farmer told me to tell any inspectors that we were using toilet facilities--we weren't." (Tulare County)

Anecdotal Record
(Attitudes toward Housing)

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"Other years we could stay here to January or so but this year cotton is over and it is still November. Guess we will have to move. The grower can make things bad for the worker because he knows we will accept the housing. We need the money and work too bad to refuse. Last year we had hot water in the showers and this year we have to shower with cold. The drains don't work either. We have to carry all of our water outside. Another thing that isn't good is the houses are too close and with everything so dirty when one child gets sick everyone is sick. (Kings County)

"The house is too little -- they never paint it. If I want hot water I have to put in my own boiler. We have to spend \$10 on butane each month 'cause we have to boil everything. We have to boil water and then take it to the tub to wash clothes. We have to boil water for washing dishes. We used to be able to get hot water from the main tubs in camp but the manager has said that's for single men and we can't have it no more. If you want a bath you have to get in line for half a day--especially in the summer. There's one bath for men and one for women here (for about 30 families). Junior (12 year old) worries about our lack of money. He wants to quit school and go to work and if he don't have school he'll have to work as hard as we do." (Tulare County)

"When our family first came there was no place to live and family was living in the car. The community needs us but in many places there's no place to stay. In San Jose we had to live in a barn and in Modesto, under a walnut tree." (Kings County)

"We're staying here because it's so hard to find a place for a family. We had a good job chopping corn and picking beans and making \$165 a week but we couldn't find a place to live so we had to sleep out under the tamarisk trees. This place here isn't worth it; we built onto it ourselves and it only had a dirt floor. We laid the cement ourselves." (Indio)

"You'd be surprised the people around here who could afford it--would build a nice little home instead of these shacks--they're all they can afford on what they make." (Tulare County)

ATTITUDES TOWARD USE OF MEXICAN NATIONALS

"People right here were out of work when Schenley's had nothing but Nationals. I worked for them and saw it. I don't think that's right. People around here depend on grape pruning and now they don't get that." (Tulare County)

"In the canneries they give more privileges to the Nationals. They left us out. Is that what I fought for? (Korean War) So that the guy from Mexico could get the job? It's not fair." (Kings County)

"The Nationals take a lot of work away from us. We can use the work. I can't be a citizen earning 75¢ an hour. How can you pay tax and keep schools with 75¢ an hour? With the cheap labor in Texas we had to move out and come here. Now the same thing is happening here. People say we earn good money but we need money for a family. Nationals can live on cheap labor but a family can't." (Indio)

"On one ranch they would not let you get water -- only one at a time. They will use Nationals as threat to local labor." (Dos Palos)

"The Nationals which are brought in by United States are taking jobs that migrant families need. Why is preference given to non-American men above American families who need the work?" (Santa Clara County)

"My wife supports me because I can't work. Look at the housing the Nationals live in. They pay no tax. The money they make, our money, they take back to Mexico. What good does this do for our county, people, and children?

"Wife and I were working in carrots. We have about 80 boxes filled with carrots. Then the boss overturned about 71 or 72 of the boxes so he wouldn't have to pay us. He did this so we wouldn't come back the next day and then he could get the Nationals to do cheap labor. He did this to more families than us. I was really mad.

"One time I picked and packed tomato plants for a farmer. Mexicans were working for him, too. The Mexicans ran from the rows to the truck and back. The boss told me I would have to get my plants on the truck as fast as the Mexicans. I told him I wasn't going to run so he fired me." (Indio)

ATTITUDES TOWARD LABOR CONDITIONS

- 1) At place of present employment contractor deducts 10¢ hourly from employees earnings. Allegedly, the company will not employ a contract worker directly until the employee has not worked for the labor contractor for a period of 90 days. (Kings County)
- 2) One contractor deducted a considerable amount of every worker's pay, because the lettuce (already in crates and on the truck) was "no good". Ranches named in connection with too many deductions. (Santa Clara County)
- 3) "Get those cotton pickers out (machines). They're taking work away from the poor people. They think so long as it's not raining there are jobs around, but they are far away now and it's mostly scratch. They charge you so much to get there and you eam \$2 - \$3. It ain't hardly worth it." (Kings County)
- 4) "Get rid of those machines. Cotton's gone and we don't know howwe're going to eat and feed our kids." (Kings County)
- 5) "The grower should not take advantage of our lack of understanding by giving us the higher mountains (?) for picking prunes or by paying a white boy who worked with us in walnuts \$1.25 an hour while we received \$1.00. If at Easter the wife goes to work elsewhere the Mr. will charge \$50 a month rent for the family." When workers are let out of canneries and other industries they draw Unemployment Compensation and yet go out to the farms and get odd jobs for less wages, so the employer won't report him. (Santa Clara County)
- 6) "They've been paying \$3.00 a hundred for cotton about 12 years. Look at the plumber and how his wages have gone up. Sure, he knows something or he could not do it. If we strike, they say, 'Go ahead, we'll get Nationals.' It doesn't do any good to strike. With machines taking over, if people don't learn a trade, they'll have to settle down in small towns and live off welfare. This work's no good, work and live from day to day, can't make anything, just a tramp's life. After so many years, we've come to the conclusion there's no future in it. People will always have to climb ladders and pick fruit and they deserve better wages. That's hard work! You've got to learn speed without bruising the fruit, how to place the ladder, how to come down with a full box of fruit. Maybe they'll get real smart and invent a machine that can pick fruit. Look at the cotton picker machine. It's not fair that they pay for a poor orchard is so much less than a good one. You work the same length of time but paid by piece work. What a mess when someone will work for less than standard pay - do a worse job too. But we've quit a job, even when we needed one, rather than put up with that. These farmers, they form associations and they tell the farmer what to pay. It's the farmer's fault, he never should have done that. It's all true, what we said This has been a poor year, yet they claim there's been 18-20% more fruit. We've been in a lot of poor places this year and seen good places nearby, but they already had their hands, that's made it rough. This has been a bad year for us." (Kings County)

Anecdotal Record
(Attitudes toward Labor Conditions)

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- 8) "I hate to live on the ranch, they tell you to hurry all the time. I'm getting old, working all the time not having rest, sometimes Saturday and Sunday. During grapes have to work from 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. except for one hour for lunch. Everyboyd does hard work only for \$1.00, afraid to tell the boss; he'd "fire us"." (Tulare County - by a 15 year old boy)
- 9) "Have traveled over 25 miles to find work. The community ought to stick together and the tell the grower what's what." (Dos Palos)
- 10) Family is very dissatisfied with farm labor work as a way of life. Says, - farm laborers can earn a decent wage nine months of the year if they are free to travel and know where to go. Because of their relatively higher amount of education and their understanding of the problem the family will return to San Jose and work for the Naval Air Base. (Kings County)
- 11) Man had experience about six years ago with the National Agricultural Farm Workers Union. Organizer Galarza asked the man to organize group around here. The growers boycotted anyone who went to his house and they were automatically fired. This successfully stopped activity. Filipinos stayed on and now have good pay, \$1.25 per hour plus 10¢ a box. (Tulare County)
- 12) Husband tried to do non-farm work, but "we move around so and couldn't wait for the applications, all we get to do is farm work. They want a job done extra neat for the same pay and it isn't worth it." (Kings County)

ATTITUDES TOWARD HEALTH CONDITIONS

1) "All babies in this camp have diarrhea. My grandchild is up in the hospital at Riverside now. I boil the water in everything and the hospital is so far we can't get up there. No screens on the door, no way to keep the flies out; it's too hot to keep the door shut. They won't take these babies with infectious diarrhea into the local hospital unless they're dying. The main problem here is health. I think this is the worst place - healthwise, morally, and physically that I've seen. No privacy in the bathroom. No shut doors on stalls. Little girls with women and little boys with grown men. It could really be improved." (Indio)

2) Child born this year in hospital. Had to give \$90 before wife was admitted to hospital. (treatment good) (Indio)

3) "All need dental care especially mother." Been sick for a week, does not know how to get in touch with the nurse." (Santa Clara County)

4) Husband sick several years ago, couldn't work much, went to a private doctor, took medicine awhile. "Guess he's better but he doesn't seem to work as hard any more. Maybe he should go to doctor again - but he doesn't go." (Santa Clara County)

5) Wife has trouble with gallstones, needs operation but can't afford it. (Kern County)

6) Linda in Hospital for pneumonia for two days. \$72 deposit required before they would work on her. (treated well) (Riverside County)

7) One family's illness report for one year:

Laurie had diarrhea

Gloria had extra bone removed from both feet

Diana is under examination for possible psychiatric help.

Jerry has liver trouble and out of school until end of December or January. (about two month from interview)

Whole family has hay fever

Many symptoms of ulcers in the husband

Wife had operation in hospital free during the year.

Mike in hospital for throat trouble.

Wife's remark, "There's a lot of difference between the doctor at the clinic and a doctor you're paying---he examines you." (Kings County)

Anecdotal Record

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(Attitudes toward Health Conditions)

- 8) The school gave glasses to one of the girls last year and Mrs. "C" told the nurse they would pay for them, but they haven't been able to -- "I'm ashamed." (Fresno County)
- 9) "When I was in the hospital I had to pay \$200.00 before they would do any surgery. I just had to lay on a stretcher and wait until they collected money from my mother. I could have died. The doctor in charge of the hospital is being brought before the court for refusing to help mother deliver baby because she had no money. The baby died." (Indio)
- 10) No rest rooms for ladies and complaints from employers if women spend too much time going to toilets. You can only get drinking water one at a time on ranch. At home the water is filthy or gold color. We have to haul drinking water. (Merced County)
- 11) "Everybody's got diarrhea now and a man over there died from it a week ago and a baby over there is up at the County Hospital because of it now. I hate to raise a fuss 'cause I can't afford to get tossed out. We got no place else to go. We boil the baby's milk and water and he's still got it - had it for over two weeks." (Indio)
- 12) Family health case history:
Husband - heart operation in 1958 in veterans hospital
Daughter - simultaneously in Imperial County hospital with pneumonia
Son - continual poor health since birth
Wife - childbirth in '59 - premature in incubatorrecord of three children born premature and one stillborn. Mother working in prunes while carrying children. (Santa Clara County)

FARM WORKER EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Taken: December 1959
Collation of Personal
Surveys Only

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

A N G L O S		M E X I C A N S		N E G R O E S	
No. Families	34	No. Families	120	No. Families	22
Total People	167	Total People	869	Total People	138
No. Children	# Families Having	No. Children	# Families Having	No. Children	# Families Having
1	7	1	6	1	1
2	5	2	13	2	2
3	8	3	16	3	0
4	4	4	9	4	3
5	2	5	17	5	2
6	3	6	12	6	2
7	2	7	10	7	1
8	1	8	14	8	2
9	1	9	9	9	2
10	0	10	7	10	2
10	0	10	2	10	2
0	6	0	5	0	3
TOTAL	34		120		22

CHILDREN UNDER 16 WORKING PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME & AGES

AGES	TOTAL	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Part-time	109	11	8	16	15	10	11	11	4	9	5	5	3	1
Full-time	39	4	7	8	4	3	6	4	2	1				

AMOUNT OF EDUCATION OF ADULTS (Parents) (Total Questioned 305)

Beyond High School	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	None
1	10	10	17	19	40	23	35	25	31	32	14	15	33

31% have no education beyond the third grade

61% have had only an elementary education (6th grade)

12% (only) have had a high school education

FARM WORKER SURVEY

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PLACE WORKER LIVING WHEN INTERVIEWED

Total Responses	OWN	RENT	Furnished by Grower	OTHER
180	34	93	47	6

HOME IN WINTER

Same as Present Address	121	Own	32		
		Rent	57		
		Grower	28		
		Other	4		
Different Country than Present Address	0				
Different State Than Present Address	28	New Mexico	1	Arkansas	2
		Texas	11	Oklahoma	4
		Arizona	6	New York	1
		Oregon	2	Illinois	1
Different County Than Present Address	8				
None	14				

WHERE PERSON LIVES AT WINTER ADDRESS

Total Responses	Camp or Grower Housing	Own Home	Rent a House	Share House w/others	Live w/Relatives	Trailer	??
177	33	38	79	1	10	0	16

FARM WORKER SURVEY

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WORK AT HOME BASE

	Total Response	Farm	Industry	Services	None	Other
Head of Family	186	160	5	13	3	5
Others	51	39	1	7	1	3

MOVEMENT OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS DURING THE YEAR

Total Response	Stayed @ same spot		Moved once	Moved twice	Moved 3 times or more
153	57	Intra-State	24	20	19
		*Inter-State	4	8	21

* Means at least one, but not necessarily every move was interstate

NUMBER OUT OF 180 QUESTIONNAIRES WHO DID OTHER THAN FARM WORK DURING THE YEAR--49.

NO. WEEKS WORKED IN OTHER THAN FARM WORK

NO. WEEKS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	More than 15
*Total Workers	1	3	2	4	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	19

* Individuals, or Heads of Households

(It is the feeling of those taking the census that quite likely those working 15 weeks or more in other than farm work do not rely on farm work for their major income. Therefore, the small number of workers able to work only a relatively short time in other than farm work may be quite significant.)

WAGES OF THOSE WHO DID OTHER THAN FARM WORK: DURING YEAR

Wages Per Wk.	Less than \$40	\$40-50	\$50-60	\$60-70	\$70-80	\$80-90	\$90-100	More than \$100
*Total Workers	3	10	6	6	6	3	2	3

*Includes all members of family worker: though usually only head of household.

WAYS WORKERS OBTAINED JOBS IN MOST INSTANCES

Total Responses	Made arrangements with Farmer in advance	From Recruiter in advance	From Employment Service	From Contractor	** Just looked as they travelled	*** OTHER
* 228	55	8	29	56	63	17

*Some persons questioned gave more than one answer

**Some person went looking for jobs from permanent homes --did not just drift from place to place.

*** OTHER: Word of mouth, through a friends, wrote in advance, asked by Boss, Boss of camp.

HOURLY WAGE SCALE SHOWN ON FOLLOWING PAGES.

HOW PAY WAS MADE ON HIGH AND LOW DAYS

Total Response		CASH	CHECK	CREDIT	SCRIP	OTHER
187	HIGH DAY	55	121	1	4	Tickets 4 Bank 1 ? 1
165	LOW DAYS	58	92	2	4	Tickets 6 S & H 1 Bank 1 ? 1

Here again some people offered more than one answer to one or both parts of the question; usually because they were not sure whether they were paid by check or cash.

WHO DID THE PAYING ON THE HIGH AND LOW DAYS

TOTAL RESPONSE		GROWER	CONTRACTOR	FIELD BOSS	OTHER	
173	HIGH DAY	57	63	42	11	
155	LOW DAY	48	58	38	11	

Here again there may have been more than one answer to the two parts of this question.

CHART I

HIGHEST DAY'S PAY FOR WHOLE FAMILY

ONE WORKER

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than \$8	8.- 9.99	10.- 11.99	12.- 13.99	14.- 15.99	16.- 17.99	18.- 19.99	20.- 21.99	More than 22.
Less than 8	1								
8-9.59		10	5	1					
10-11.59		5	12	2	4			1	4
12-13.59			6	5	2	2	1	3	1
14-15.59							2		
16-17.59						1			1
Over 18									1

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 14	14.- 15.99	16.- 17.99	18.- 19.99	20.- 21.99	22.- 23.99	24.- 25.99	26.- 27.99	28.- 29.99	30.- 31.99	More than 32
Less than 14	1										
14-15.59											
16-17.59			3	2	1				1	1	2
18-19.59	1			2	1	1				1	1
20-21.59		1			3		1			1	1
22-23.59	2						1		1		1

TWO WORKERS

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 12	12.- 13.99	14.- 15.99	16.- 17.99	18.- 19.99	20.- 21.99	22.- 23.99	24.- 25.99	26.- 27.99	28.- 29.99	30.- 31.99	More than 32
Less than 18	1											
18-19.59												
20-21.59												
22-23.59												
24-25.59		1			1	1		1				1
26-27.59										1		1
28-29.59												
30-31.59										1		1
32-33.59												
34-35.59												
36-37.59												1
Over 40												

THREE WORKERS

FOUR WORKERS: On a wage scale of less than \$16 earned by four workers in less than 24 hours to a maximum of \$52 earned by four workers in 42 hours the results show the following:

Two days earned less than \$16 in 32 hours; one day \$20 in 40 hours;
Two days \$25 in 42 hours; One day \$50 in 37 hours;
Two days \$52 in 42 hours.

CHART I (continued - 2)

Question: Highest Day's Pay for Whole Family

FIVE WORKERS

HOURS → DOLLARS ↓	Less than 30	30.- 31.59'	32 33.59'	34 35.59'	36 37.59'	38 39.59'	40 41.59'	42 43.59'	44 45.59'	46 47.59'	48 49.59'	50 51.59'	52 53.59'	54 55.59'	56 or more
Less than 24	1						2	2	1		1				5
24.-25.99	1							1			1				
26.-27.99														1	
28.-29.99															
30.-31.99															1
32.-33.99							1								
34.-35.99											1				1
36.-37.99															
38.-39.99															
40.-41.99							1	1				2			
42.-43.99															
44.-45.99							2							3	
46.-47.99															
48.-49.99															
50.-51.99															2
52.-53.99															1
54.-55.99 or over					1							1			6

CHART II

LOWEST DAY'S PAY FOR WHOLE FAMILY

Dollars → Hours ↓	2.- 2.99	\$3.- 3.99	4.- 4.99	5.- 5.99	6.- 6.99	7.- 7.99	8.- 8.99	Over 9
Less than 3	9	1		1				
3-3.59'	3	6	1					
4-4.59'	1	3	2	2				
5-5.59'		3		8	2			
6-6.59'	1	2			5		1	
7-7.59'			1			1		
8-8.59'	1	2	1	3	2	1	6	5
9-9.59'	1	2			1		1	1
10-10.59'			2	1	1		1	1
Over 11	2				2	1	1	2

ONE WORKER

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 3	3.- 3.99	4.- 4.99	5.- 5.99	6.- 6.99	7.- 7.99	8.- 8.99	9.- 9.99	10.- 10.99	Over 11
Less than 4										
4-5.59'										
6-6.59'										
7-7.59'		1			1					
8-8.59'										
9-9.59'	1	1								
10-11.59'	2			1	1					
12-12.59'										
13-13.59'				1	1					
14-14.59'				1					1	
15-16.59'										
17-19.59'					1				1	2
Over 20										1

TWO WORKERS

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 6	6.- 6.99	7.- 7.99	8.- 8.99	9.- 9.99	10.- 10.99	11.- 11.99	12.- 12.99	13.- 13.99	14.- 14.99	15.- or more
Less than 10											
10-11.59'											
12-13.59'											
14-15.59'					1						1
16-17.59'											
18-19.59'	1	1									
Over 20											

THREE WORKERS

CHART II (continued - 2)

Question: Lowest Day's Pay for Whole Family

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 6	6.- 6.99	7.- 7.99	8.- 8.99	9.- 9.99	10.- 10.99	11.- 11.99	12.- 12.99	13.- 13.99	14.- 14.99	15.- &over
12-13.59'											
14-15.59'											
16-17.59'	1										
18-19.59'											1
20-21.59'				1							
22-23.59'											
24-25.59'											
26-27.59'											
28-29.59'											1
Over 30											1

FOUR WORKERS

Dollars → Hours ↓	Less than 8	8.- 9.99	10.- 11.99	12.- 13.99	14.- 15.99	16.- 17.99	18.- 19.99	20.- 21.99	22.- 23.99	24.- 25.99	26.- &over
Less than 18											
18-19.59'											
20-21.59'	1						1		1		
22-23.59'											
24-25.59'											
26-27.59'											
28-29.59'											
30-31.59'	1		1			1					
32-33.59'											
34-35.59'	1										
36-37.59'		1									
38-39.59'											
40 & over	4	1	3	2	2					1	2

FIVE WORKERS OR MORE

FARM WORKER SURVEY

- 5 -

WERE YOU UNABLE TO FIND WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR?

	Yes	No
Heads House- holds	145	36

MONTHS OF THE YEAR HEAD OF THE FAMILY UNABLE TO FIND WORK ?

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Heads House- holds	79	78	63	22	11	10	14	15	10	12	31	53

NOTE: Though these figures point to much greater amount of unemployment particularly from December - March; they are influenced by the unemployment figures which vary from area to area--and from these figures one cannot tell when unemployment is most serious in the areas surveyed.

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE UNABLE TO FIND WORK?

STATE	Calif.	Texas	Okla.	Arkansas	Arizona	Oregon
No. of Heads of households	115	6	2	1	2	1

FARM WORKER SURVEY

- 6 -

ARE YOUR CHILDREN ENROLLED AND ATTENDING SCHOOL HERE? YES - 128
 (Question applies only where families had children of school age.) NO - 5

DID YOUR CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL IN THE PLACES YOU WORKED DURING THE PAST YEAR?

	NEVER	SOME-TIMES	MOST OF THE TIME	ALWAYS
#Families Answered	1	11	12	86

ABOUT HOW MANY SCHOOLS DID YOUR CHILDREN ATTEND DURING THE PAST YEAR?

No. Schools	0	1	2	3	4	More than 4
# Families answered	1	78	28	11	2	1

AMOUNT OF TIME (in months) CHILDREN WERE IN A PARTICULAR SCHOOL?

Number Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Whole School Year
#Families Answered	12	19	8	3	13	8	9	2	77

WHERE YOU ARE--DID YOU ENROLL YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL OF YOUR OWN VOLITION OR WERE YOU ASKED TO DO SO BY THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES?

	Voluntarily	Asked by Authorities
#Families Answered	116	3

* One woman replied that she had not put her children in school because the school authorities had not asked her to do so -- the implication being she understood the initiative lay with the school authorities.

HOW ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE ELSEWHERE?

	NEVER	SOME-TIMES	MOSTLY	ALWAYS
Voluntarily		1	1	67
Asked by Authorities	62			

FARM WORKER SURVEY

- 7 -

DURING THE PAST YEAR, DID YOU EVER DISCUSS YOUR CHILDREN WITH ANY OF THE SCHOOL PEOPLE?

YES	NO	DID NOT ANSWER
57	54	56

WHERE THEY DID --- DETAILS

Child's progress in school	4	Teachers visit homes --(took family to dinner)	5
Attendance (Why not in school)	5	Visited school once a semester when requested	1
Disciplinary	2	Every three months talked with principal about child's work	1
Health of children-concern of school	11	Mother went to school when children were picking on her daughter	1
Visited schools voluntarily to see how children were doing	8	When mother asked principal for children to have week off to work for clothes for school	1
Tried to get child to return to school who quit	1	For nurse to arrange home lessons for crippled daughter	1
About school lunches for children when family had no money	2	Parents go regularly -- had trouble with one daughter	1
PTA Conference or other school conference	9	Truant officer came after kids "ditched"	1
Probation officer took special interest in families' needs (Kern Co.)	2		

DO YOU FEEL YOUR CHILDREN ARE MADE WELCOME IN SCHOOL HERE?

YES	NO	DID NOT ANSWER
101	3	51

IN OTHER PLACES YOU WORKED THIS YEAR?

YES	NO	DID NOT ANSWER
26	2	113

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SCHOOLING FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

Finish high school	18
Finish high school--can't even think about college-- because of money	2
"Want them to get all the education they can"	11
As long as they can: we don't want them to have to leave to go to work in the fields	3
High school and college or other post graduate training	19
Parents wanted children to finish school but they quit (own volition)	2
Want them to finish; but they had to quit to go to work	1
As important as religion	1
Feels children should attend school	20
Necessary--must learn how to read and write	3
As far as they can go--if they can get to the 9th or 10th grade they can do pretty well	1
Finish school; not have to quit to go to work-like parents	2
If we could we'd send them--but we can't because they have no clothes	4
Important	22
Children should go-but in Brawley, Calif., Mexicans & American treated differently	1
O.K.	3
Necessary so can learn and get a good job	1
In high school-kids don't have money to keep up with city kids	1
School is good - transportation (bus) irregular	1
Thinks schooling could be improved (?)	1
Schools are not difficult enough	1
Difficult for child to make new friends	1
The best things for them	1
Hard for them with the moving we have done (but we help them)	1
Can't afford to go to high school	1
Mother wants them to finish school; but father says they are not learning anything (told by 14 year old boy in 7th grade)	1

FARM WORKER SURVEY

- 9 -

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH PRE-SCHOOLERS WHEN WORKING?

Doesn't apply (either no preschool children or mother doesn't work)	107
Leaves them home	1
"They take care of themselves at home" (older children take care of younger ones)	9
Oldest daughter took care of youngest and others went to the field	3
Took to the field (either to wait or work)	23
Another adult took care of them (relatives, friends)	15
Women in church takes care of them	1
Baby-sitter	7
To field - in car	5
Pay someone to keep them in camp	3
Didn't answer but had children	8

EVER SENT CHILDREN TO NURSERY OR CHILD CARE CENTER?

YES	NO	DID NOT ANSWER
2	96	75

WHAT DID (or do) YOU THINK ABOUT IT?

Tule Lake Nursery "good"	1
Vineland Nursery "good"	1
Wishes had had one "then, I wouldn't have had to leave them alone"	1
"good" "fine" etc.	8
Would give mothers a chance to work	2
Would like to use one (now or before	10
Badly needed in summer (Crystal Heights, Bakersfield)	3
"Can't afford it" Transportation difficult	1
Would rather have baby-sitter	1
Don't believe in them	4
"When I was sick-children were sent to an orphanage"	1

WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF YOUR FAMILY?

Need clinic in area for examinations, shots, etc.	14
Need knowledge of clinic schedule	4
Better home (free from drafts, heat, water, larger home, better sanitary facilities)	38
Practice .. general good health habits (sleep, food, exercise, etc.)	8
Closer hospital	4
Closer doctor	7
Steady income	8
No health problem	30
Not travel so much	2
Money can't afford medicine, treatment, etc.	5
Better clothes	4
More food or better food	8
"If we didn't have to work so hard - wife could stay at home & cook proper foods. Average family can't afford meats & stuff you need."	1
Medical bills less expensive	2
Cleaner camps - better toilet facilities	1
Toilet in fields	1
Low cost health insurance	2
Free medical treatment	1
Wants dental care	4
Camps messy - too close together, glass and nails around	5
More education for children	2
Camp unhealthy (water, toilets, etc.)	4
Did not answer	32
Did not know	22

DURING THE PAST YEAR, HAVE YOU SUDDENLY NEEDED MONEY, FOOD, OR SHELTER FOR YOUR FAMILY? WHAT DID YOU DO ABOUT IT?

M O N E Y

HELP NOT NEEDED

54

"Saw it through"	14
Credit at store	8
Aid from Social Security	4
Borrowed from friend or family	37
Welfare	4
Veteran's Pension	1
Worked extra hard	3
Welfare - refused help	7
A N C	2
Mortgaged house	3
Moved to a new job	5
Borrowed from bank	3
Child sent to work	1
Borrowed from Finance Company	5
Turned in car	1
Stole	1

F O O D

Credit at store	3
Welfare	12
From School for the children at noon	1
Live on inadequate diet	1

S H E L T E R

Stayed in t ruck or car	4
Grower gave house	1
In a barn; and under a tree	2

DID YOUR FAMILY HAVE ANY OTHER DIFFICULTIES DURING THE YEAR?

NO	DID NOT ANSWER	
108	37	
OTHER:		
Not enough money		5
Husband left home (sends money occasionally)		1
Received clothing from welfare		1
No work		4
Sickness		7
Looked for better housing		2
Auto accident		3
Traffic ticket		2
Arrested for drunkenness		5
No car or car troubles		2
Difficult to travel from job to job		1
Too many kids		1
Neighbors		2
Boat accident		1
Husband jailed on assault charge		1

INTERESTING NOTES ON THE TWO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS:

"When we first came...husband did not have a job for three months, but we made out-eating on what we've saved...he made only 60¢ an hour, or \$10 to \$15 a week, so it was hard, but we didn't get any money from the state or anything."

"If we had some money - we wouldn't be living here like dogs."

"Went to welfare department. Cliff was sick and he didn't want to go in. I was kind of depressed. We did not have anything. They wouldn't help us because we didn't have any children. They implied we should have had more sense than to get in such a predicament."

"Floors never get warm because of the holes."

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILY?

DID NOT ANSWER	15
DID NOT KNOW	12
Higher wages - better living	32
Own own house - property - farm	53
Better health	6
Own own business	1
Kids get education - not farm work - good job	28
Stay in same place so that the children can go to school	25
Steady work	34
Good medical care	1
Better transportation to work	1
Nothing much different	12
Better house	23
Retire	1
Democratic President ("Humphrey")	1
More purchasing power	6
Live in better neighborhood	2
Parents want education for selves	2
Playgrounds for children	2
Get out of debt	1
Food and clothing for children	8
Son to go to college	2
Mother wants job as nurses' aid	1

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE CONDITIONS BETTER FOR FARM WORKERS?

Better wages	89
Stable employment	39
Limit braceros	23
Organize a union	14
Better housing	36
Better working conditions	3
Better sanitary facilities	3
Oppose mechanization	10
Method to assure Social Security payments	3
Socialized medicine	2
Eliminate movement and travelling	3
Eliminate contractor	5
Put women in packing sheds	1
Treated well by grower	1
Better roads	1
Have contractors report Social Security	1
No response	10
No answer or solution	15
Give farmers more money	1
Annex their fringe district	1
Share in money made by grower	1
Unemployment Compensation	6
Better cooperation between worker and grower	2
More industry in area to make growers' wages higher	1
Take huge control away from growers	1
Better sources of employment needs	1
Know more English	1