

MIGRANT

An NBC White Paper

Broadcast: Thursday, July 16, 1970
7:30-8:30 PM EST

HUNTLEY (VO)

PARADE FOOTAGE

Parades are as popular down on the farm as they are in the big city. Farmers, food packers, politicians and leading citizens are celebrating the harvest -- the gathering of the spring crop in the heart of Florida's farmland. Even though many farmers consider this year a disaster, they have shared in a harvest that brings Florida agriculture an income of over 1.4 billion dollars each year. For the farm workers who pick the crops -- the migrants -- watching the parade from the sidelines, there is little to celebrate.

MIGRANT #1 (OC)

FIRST SOF SEQUENCE

But the poor people like us, we don't -- we just don't have a chance. We don't get good jobs, we have to pick fruit and different stuff; we have to take what we can get.

MIGRANT #2 (OC)

The only way you can get a job is you have to owe somebody. And if they got anything for you to do, you could work like that 'til you pay them back. And I need something right now.

MIGRANT #3 (OC)

FIRST SOF SEQUENCE
(cont'd)

I wear a pair of shoes for about six months and do without shoes in order for the kids to have something to wear to school. And that's only right.

K. D. EATMON (OC)

American people is -- become so used to easy living that they don't want to work anymore.

HUNTLEY (VO)

RETURN FOR PARADE

With an average annual income of \$891, the migrants can hardly afford the basic necessities of life taken for granted by their fellow Americans. In the richest country in the world, the parade passes them by.

VANN (OC)

SECOND SOF SEQUENCE

They are staying here for longer periods of time because the agricultural season has stretched out. They're here for eight, no, nine months, some of them.

JACKSON BOWERS (OC)

We was up in Texas, and we lived real good up there. We made good money till we came down here and we 'bout starved to death down here in Florida.

SECOND SOF SEQUENCE
(cont'd)

3

MRS. GARZA (OC)

Migrant work, it just isn't worth it.
Some people just come over and over and
over, year after year. I don't know
why. I wish I could go back to Texas.
I'll never come back here to Florida.
Just -- there is no job. It is not
worth it.

SHERIFF HENDRY (OC)

Practically all of them are the
happiest people I've ever seen. They
really enjoy what they're doing. They
go from place to place and from crop
to crop and they really enjoy it.

WORKERS WALKING AWAY
THROUGH ORANGE GROVE (MOS)

HUNTLEY (OC)

HUNTLEY OPEN

The fruit and vegetables that every American eats are gathered by about 2-1/2 million people -- farm workers -- many of them migrant laborers who follow the crops from state to state. Florida, the Sunshine State, is the nation's leading supplier of citrus, its second largest source of fresh vegetables. Florida's farm industry depends on a migrant population of 200,000 men, women and children. Because of its eight month picking season, many of them choose to remain in Florida year 'round, trying to put down roots, trying to live like other Americans. But they do not have the rights guaranteed the rest of us. In Florida and many other states, migrants are not eligible for unemployment insurance; they are not guaranteed workmen's compensation; they are not protected by age requirements in child labor laws; they are excluded from the protection given other workers in their attempts to organize or strike; and,

HUNTLEY OPEN (cont'd)

HUNTLEY (OC) (cont.)

according to the U.S. Department of Labor, they work for an annual wage lower than that of any other income group in the country. And because of residency requirements, they are usually not qualified to vote. Though many of them no longer travel, they're still called migrants. Despite some changes effected by federal and state agencies and local organizations, the migrants live in poverty and despair. This report examines their lives today -- just ten years after Edward R. Murrow first brought the migrant to the attention of the nation on the CBS Reports Documentary, HARVEST OF SHAME.

MURROW (OC)

HARVEST OF SHAME FOOTAGE

These are the forgotten people, the under-protected; the under-educated; the under-clothed; the underfed.

MURROW (VO)

HARVEST OF SHAME
BELLE GLADE FOOTAGE

This is Belle Glade, Florida. This is a shape-up for migrant workers. One farmer looked at this and said, "We used to own our slaves, now we just rent them."

BELLEGLADE TODAY

HUNTLEY (VO)

This is Belle Glade, Florida today. Ten years after HARVEST OF SHAME, farm workers still gather each morning looking for a day's work in the fields. For a migrant, jobs are not always easy to find. Producer Martin Carr talked with migrants during the height of the picking season this past spring, when jobs seemed particularly scarce.

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MIGRANT, MR. JENKINS (OC)

CARR

Have you been looking for work?

JENKINS

Yes.

CARR

What do you do?

JENKINS

Well, I just get out and go look for it.

CARR

Every day?

JENKINS

Yes.

CARR

And you haven't worked in a couple of months?

JENKINS

That's right. I don't like to sit

Broadcast: Thursday, July 16, 1970
7:30-8:30 PM EST

An NBC White Paper

MIGRANT

PARADE FOOTAGE

HUNTLEY (VO)

Parades are as popular down on the farm as they are in the big city. Farmers, food packers, politicians and leading citizens are celebrating the harvest -- the gathering of the spring crop in the heart of Florida's farmland. Even though many farmers consider this year a disaster, they have shared in a harvest that brings Florida agriculture an income of over 1.4 billion dollars each year. For the farm workers who pick the crops -- the migrants -- watching the parade from the sidelines, there is little to celebrate.

MIGRANT #1 (OC)

But the poor people like us, we don't -- we just don't have a chance. We don't get good jobs, we have to pick fruit and different stuff; we have to take what we can get.

MIGRANT #2 (OC)

The only way you can get a job is you have to owe somebody. And if they got anything for you to do, you could work like that 'till you pay them back. And I need something right now.

FIRST SOF SEQUENCE

MIGRANT #3 (OC)

I wear a pair of shoes for about six

months and do without shoes in order for

the kids to have something to wear to

school. And that's only right.

K. D. HAMMON (OC)

American people is -- become so used to

easy living that they don't want to work

anymore.

HUNTLEY (VO)

With an average annual income of \$891,

the migrants can hardly afford the basic

necessities of life taken for granted

by their fellow Americans. In the richest

country in the world, the parade passes

them by.

VANN (OC)

They are staying here for longer periods

of time because the agricultural season

has stretched out. They're here for

eight, no, nine months, some of them.

JACKSON BOWERS (OC)

We was up in Texas, and we lived real

good up there. We made good money till

we came down here and we 'bout starved

to death down here in Florida.

FIRST SOF SEQUENCE

(cont'd)

RETURN FOR PARADE

SECOND SOF SEQUENCE

SECOND SOF SEQUENCE
(cont'd)

MRS. GARZA (OC)

3

Migrant work, it just isn't worth it.
Some people just come over and over and
over, year after year. I don't know
why. I wish I could go back to Texas.
I'll never come back here to Florida.
Just -- there is no job. It is not
worth it.

SHERIFF HENDRY (OC)

Practically all of them are the
happiest people I've ever seen. They
really enjoy what they're doing. They
go from place to place and from crop
to crop and they really enjoy it.

WORKERS WALKING AWAY
THROUGH ORANGE GROVE (MOS)

The fruit and vegetables that every

American eats are gathered by about

2-1/2 million people -- farm workers --

many of them migrant laborers who follow

the crops from state to state. Florida,

the Sunshine State, is the nation's

leading supplier of citrus, its second

largest source of fresh vegetables.

Florida's farm industry depends on a

migrant population of 200,000 men,

women and children. Because of its

eight month picking season, many of

them choose to remain in Florida year

'round, trying to put down roots,

trying to live like other Americans.

But they do not have the rights guaran-

teed the rest of us. In Florida and

many other states, migrants are not

eligible for unemployment insurance;

they are not guaranteed workmen's

compensation; they are not protected

by age requirements in child labor

laws; they are excluded from the pro-

tection given other workers in their

attempts to organize or strike; and,

HUNTLEY (OC)

HUNTLEY OPEN (cont'd)

HUNTLEY (OC) (cont.)

according to the U.S. Department of

Labor, they work for an annual wage lower

than that of any other income group in

the country. And because of residency

requirements, they are usually not quali-

fied to vote. Though many of them no

longer travel, they're still called

migrants. Despite some changes effected

by federal and state agencies and local

organizations, the migrants live in

poverty and despair. This report

examines their lives today -- just ten

years after Edward R. Murrow first

brought the migrant to the attention of

the nation on the CBS Reports Documentary,

HARVEST OF SHAME.

MURROW (OC)

These are the forgotten people, the

under-protected; the under-educated;

the under-clothed; the underfed.

MURROW (VO)

This is Belle Glade, Florida. This is

a shape-up for migrant workers. One

farmer looked at this and said, "We

used to own our slaves, now we just rent

them."

HARVEST OF SHAME
BELLE GLADE FOOTAGE

HARVEST OF SHAME FOOTAGE

HUNTLEY (VO)

This is Belle Glade, Florida today. Ten years after HARVEST OF SHAME, farm

workers still gather each morning looking for a day's work in the fields. For a migrant, jobs are not always easy to find. Producer Martin Carr talked with

migrants during the height of the picking season this past spring, when jobs seemed particularly scarce.

CARR

Have you been looking for work?

JENKINS

Yes.

CARR

What do you do?

JENKINS

Well, I just get out and go look for it.

CARR

Every day?

JENKINS

Yes.

CARR

And you haven't worked in a couple of

months?

JENKINS

That's right. I don't like to sit

Are there weeks when your husband

CARR

Right.

GAY

about \$36 last week?

Twelve dollars. That means you made

CARR

Twelve dollars.

GAY

How much do you make on a day?

CARR

I try to.

GAY

work?

Do you go out every day and look for

CARR

know how many I'll get next week.

Well, I worked 3 days last week. I don't

GAY

now?

How many days a week do you find work

CARR

job, you ain't nowhere.

something for the family. Without a

working, it is something for me and

around. I like to work. I know if I'm

JENKINS (cc) (cont'd)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MIGRANT, MRS. GARZA (cc)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MIGRANT, MR. GAY (cc)

CARR (OC) (cont'd)

can't get work, Mrs. Garza?

GARZA

Yes, sir. Like it has been already

for about five weeks.

CARR

Are there days when you go without food?

GARZA

Sure we do.

CARR

What do you do then?

GARZA

I have to ask for it.

CARR

You have to go around to your neighbors?

GARZA

I have to ask somebody, you know. If

we don't have enough food. I need

some food. And some days, well, I have

to get some food for the kids and my

husband and I just have to wait.

CARR

Do you think you'll be able to get back

to Texas?

GARZA

I hope so. After school is out, and

Now you can't hardly make enough to go
from one season to another, now.

ELLIS LEWIS

and I don't want them to be that.
They'll be a migrant all their lives,
than what we are doing right now.
school, they'll never have a better job
better job. Because if they don't go to
speak good English so they can get a
read and write and talk good English, and
are. Because they need to learn how to
so they won't have to be working like we
the best to education as much as I can,
I want them to finish school. I'll try

GARZA

You want them to finish school?

CARR

No, sir.

GARZA

your husband work in the field?
boys out of school so they could help
Have you ever thought of taking your

CARR

we can make the trip back home.
We might get a couple of dollars and then
the boys will start helping us again.

GARZA (cont'd)

MRS. GARZA INTERVIEW (cont)

CARR

On the average week, how much money

have you been making?

LEWIS

About \$20 a week.

CARR

About \$20 a week. Is this you, yourself?

LEWIS

That's me and my wife.

CARR

You and your wife working.

LEWIS

That's right.

CARR

And you're making \$20 a week.

LEWIS

That's right.

CARR

How much rent do you pay?

LEWIS

Sixteen dollars a week.

CARR

Well, that only leaves you \$4 a week.

LEWIS

That's right. To get groceries with.

And you can't get no groceries with \$4

a week. So we just have to do the best

we can.

You have six children.

LEWIS

Six children and a wife.

CARR

What do you do on a week when you have

only \$4?

LEWIS

Well, I take up. I borrow. I do any-

thing I can, to live you know. Except

steal. I don't steal none. And so

we have to survive, tryin' to get by

until we do go to work and make some-

thing.

CARR

On the weeks when you make nothing, is
it because you don't want to work?

LEWIS

No, it's because I can't work.

CARR

Why can't you work?

LEWIS

Well, you can't -- you can't get a bus

going out or probably a bus going out

and the guy you're riding with ain't

got nothing, or he off for a day or two,

and you just can't work.

The migrant who does find work in the fields is actually earning less in terms of real money than he was ten years ago. While other workers' annual wages have gone up, his have stayed the same and inflation has taken its toll. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average individual migrant last year earned \$891. A family of four earned \$2700, nine hundred dollars below the official poverty level of the United States.

HUNTLEY (VO)

PICKING MONTAGE

I would like to be able to prove to you that they didn't want work by going and trying to pick them up and bring them here and saying, "All right. Let's pick these beans." And see how many of them would really work. They will not work. They make out like they want to work, but they don't want to.

FARMER EATMON (OC)

EATMON IN FIELD

migrants at their word. Farmer K.D. Eatmon claims he has jobs that go begging. He doesn't take the

HUNTLEY (VO)

HUNTLEY EST. EATMON

Migrants are specifically excluded from the minimum wage rate that applies to most of us. For them, the minimum wage is one dollar and thirty cents, less than the hourly wage guaranteed workers im-ported from the West Indies to cut sugar cane in Florida fields. For most farm workers, however, it makes little dif-ference what the minimum wage is, for they are paid, not by the hour, but by the piece; paid for what they pick, not the time it takes them to pick it. Farmers claim that piecework means more money for the worker. For all but the youngest and strongest, however, it means less.

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

PICKING MONTAGE (cont'd)

The day NBC News visited this bean field, the piece rate was a dollar a bushel, paid in cash as each bushel basket was filled. By the end of the eight hour day, most workers had picked just seven or eight bushels, that is, they earned seven or eight dollars, far below the minimum wage. Florida growers claim they cannot afford to pay higher

The Duda family grows 23 varieties of fruit and vegetables, some of which Duda and Sons.

America's largest celery grower, A.

\$22 here at the Belle Glade farm of

hour day. On a good day, he may earn

600 times every hour in the usual 10

supplies the stoop labor, bending over

replaced the mules, but the migrant still

known as a mule train. A tractor has

celery a day, feeding them into a machine

They are expected to cut 6000 stalks of

Celery cutters are paid by the row.

farmer and consumer.

low wage scale, is subsidizing both

celery. Perhaps the migrant, with his

a bunch of radishes, or two pounds of

for a head of lettuce, a dozen oranges,

would pay just one or two pennies more

passed on to the American housewife, she

were doubled, and all of the increase

that if the wages paid to farm workers

the U.S. Department of Labor estimates

higher prices for the consumer. Yet,

wages; that higher wages would mean

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

HUNTLEY EST. ANDREW DUDA

CELERY FIELD

years of red ink -- hand running. Five

There was one while, we had five

lost.

made more money then I did. Because we

organization including the migrant worker

every person on our -- in our -- in the

We lost over \$400,000. Every person,

we paid for the privilege of farming.

We gross about twenty million. Last year

DUDA

you have to take in to break even?

On an annual basis, how much money do

CARR

I think so.

MR. DUDA

Florida?

you as one of the largest growers in

Mr. Duda, would it be fair to describe

CARR

this vast agricultural empire.

Duda spoke about the problems of running

ranch in Australia. President Andrew

in Florida plus a 2 and 3/4 million acre

labels. They farm nearly 100,000 acres

they can and market under their own

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
ANDREW DUDA (OC)

years. One year we lost a million dollars. And that's when -- the farmers were going broke, particularly celery growers. And that's when we finally stopped being rugged individualists and decided we better get together because the chain stores had a tremendous buying power and we as unorganized growers were just being hurt.

So this was the condition we were faced with. We formed, got a marketing order -- got a state marketing order first and a celery exchange, and then we had to go to a federal marketing order in order to have enough -- as much bargaining power as the chain stores got buying power and once we did this, it works beautifully.

CARR

In other words, the growers got together to agree on what price to sell to the supermarkets.

DUDA

That's right.

CARR

Mr. Duda, do you think it would be a

DUDA INTERVIEW (cont'd)

CARR (cont'd)

Good idea if farm labor were to organize as well?

DUDA

No. Because in perishables, a week -- say a farmer, particularly various crops, the farmers go on strike, they ruin a farmer real fast.

CARR

You say that the big threat to you would be the strike. You deal in perishables and if a strike occurred, you would be at the mercy of the --

DUDA

That's right.

CARR

-- people working. Where farm labor has been organized, the unions have agreed to a "no strike" clause. Wouldn't that solve the problem?

DUDA

If anyone would say that the people would guarantee they won't strike, I don't think it's worth the paper it's written on. Years ago when we -- our "darkies" as we used to call them in

RACE MONTAGE

those days, we pointed out to them, here's the situation, here's what we're doing, here's what we're paying you. Here's what we're getting. Here's what it cost us. We're losing money on what you're harvesting. And when you pointed this out to them, they would continue to work. But you take the same people now. The young people, you tell them the same thing and they'll laugh at you. And the Negro in particular. The Negro are a fine people, but they -- you -- they have to respect you. You get down to their level and they have no respect for you. I mean if you want to be down and act like a Negro and be dirty and what-not, they're not going to respect you.

DUDA (cont)

Florida depends on the labor of the migrant, 55% of whom are Negroes, driven there when machines replaced them in the cotton fields of the Old South. Another 35% are Mexican-Americans who migrated from Texas. Unlike the tourists

RACE MONTAGE (cont'd)

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

visiting Florida's Gold Coast, these
new arrivals are often unwelcome guests.
And racism must be added to the list of
problems the migrant faces, everywhere
he turns in the state.

END OF ACT I

To most Americans, Florida is Miami, or

the more exclusive Palm Beach, the

richest township not only in Florida,

but in the entire United States. Its

main street is certainly the most ele-

gant and possibly the most expensive

shopping center in America. Palm Beach

homes are modern day palaces occupied

a few months a year by migrants of a

different sort, the affluent who fly

here to escape the cold, probably

unaware that less than 10 miles away

live the poorest people in America,

crowded into homes that are not required

to meet the legal standards applied to

Florida's urban slums.

Even with standards this low, more

than 100 migrant camps operated without

licenses last year. This year the

Florida State Board of Health did not

collect statistics on unlicensed camps.

Davis Camp, just outside Pahokee,

is owned by a local house mover. The

homes in Davis Camp do not meet the

minimum standards. They have been

PALM BEACH FOOTAGE

MIGRANT HOUSING FOOTAGE

DAVIS CAMP
HUNTLEY (VO) WITH TRACK
UP FOR CONFRONTATION
WITH MR. DAVIS

DAVIS CAMP CONFRONTATION

condemned for a year. These are some
of Mr. Davis' houses. We could not
film them all for on the day NBC News
visited the camp, guaranteed free access
by Florida law, landlord Davis ordered
us off his property at the point of a
gun.

DAVIS

You don't have no business at this site.

CARR

Why don't you want me to see inside?

DAVIS

Just because I told you no and that
means no.

CARR

Are these your own?

DAVIS

Yep. These are mine. I've lived in
this house for years.

CARR

Is there anybody I could talk to
to make arrangements --

DAVIS

(OFF MIKE)

CARR

Is there anybody I can talk to make
arrangements to come out here?

DAVIS CAMP (cont'd)

OFF MIKE FADES UP

CARR

Why?

DAVIS

Because you didn't contact me first.

HUNTLEY (VO)

Most other camp owners did not desire to

let NBC document conditions in their

camps and our production crew found

itself repeatedly harassed.

CARR

Why don't you want me to see inside?

DAVIS

Just because I told you so and you know

very well --- (VEHICLE MOTOR)

HUNTLEY (VO)

Conditions in the migrant housing camps

in Florida, owned and rented by public

agencies, are often no better.

HUNTLEY (OC)

Everglades Camp here in Pahokee was

built more than 30 years ago as temporary

housing for farm workers. Eight years

ago this camp along with two others

operated by the Public Housing

Authority was condemned by the Palm

CHEF HUNTLEY AT
EVERGLADES CAMP

Some 12,000 units of low cost housing

HUNTLEY (VO)

units.

at this time on Fremd Village, also 200 units. And we are starting construction referred to as Paget Island Homes, 200 on a new housing project here which is

And we are, as you see, in construction

VANN (VO)

better than the great outdoors.

and a roof regardless of how poor are

simply to this, sir, that -- four walls

condition in this area. It boils down

on the stringency of the general housing

for the people to go. It's a commentary

Well, because there was no place else

VANN (OC)

occupied.

why condemned public housing remains

Pahokee Housing Authority, James W. Vann,

Producer Carr asked the head of the

HUNTLEY (VO)

densation, it is still here, still open.

years later, eight years after the con-

Beach County Health officials, but eight

HUNTLEY (OC) (cont'd)

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
FOOTAGE

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
FOOTAGE

JAMES W. VANN

HUNTLEY EST.
JAMES VANN

migrant agricultural worker, you'd --

of the year within the reach of your
and keep the rents for the remaining 75%
any rental income for 25% of the year
probably 90 days. Now if you eliminate
closed at least 60 days of the year, and
population, I would figure on keeping it
strictly for the migrant segment of the
If I were going to build housing

country.

matter of a housing program in this
my opinion, sadly neglected in the
is one of the areas which has been, in
to the needs of the migrant. And this
We do not have a program that is geared

JAMES W. VANN

VANN (OC)

is a serious flaw in the program.
But as Director Vann acknowledges, there
to the families lucky enough to move in.
tenants. The new projects will be a boon
rents adjusted to meet the income of the
Authority will operate 515 units with
are concentrated. The Pahokee Housing
areas throughout Florida where migrants
are now open or getting under way in

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

the days of slavery.
"quarters", probably a holdover from

These houses are commonly called
often paying as much as \$80.00 a month.
continue to rent from private landlords,
begin to meet existing needs. Migrants
The number of new housing units doesn't

HUNTLEY (VO)

ARMSTRONG QUARTERS

totem pole when it comes to housing.
of the situation, the low man on the
tinue to be, just by the sheer economics
always been, and undoubtedly will con-
for a migrant. The migrant is -- has
group in order to hold this housing
permanent residents in the low income
of this kind. We cannot turn away
on one of the bad points with a program
Unfortunately, you've put your finger

VANN

in a project like this?
Would a migrant family be able to live

CARR INTERVIEWS
VANN (OC)

CARR

just simply economically impossible.
for enough money to operate it. It is
you come up empty when you start looking

VANN (OC) (cont'd)

HUNTER (VO) (cont'd)

Armstrong Quarters, in the center of Pahokee's slum, is owned and operated by Dr. L.W. Armstrong, a retired dentist, and his wife.

CARR

Mrs. Armstrong, are these your homes here?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Yes, they are.

CARR

How did you come to own them?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Oh, we've had them many years, 20 or so.

CARR

You had them 20 or 30 years.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Ummmm.

CARR

Why did you buy them to begin with?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Well, as an investment.

CARR

Mrs. Brown, you live in Armstrong Quarters, don't you?

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. BROWN (OC)

MARTIN CARR
INTERVIEWS MRS.
ARMSTRONG (OC)

INTERIOR OF MRS. BROWN'S HOUSE

just shakes and it just ain't no good.

It's raggy and -- when you walk, it

MRS. BROWN

What are the problems?

CARR

No, sir. It ain't in good condition.

MRS. BROWN

Is the house in good condition?

CARR

outdoors for everything.

Outside. Everything. We got to go

MRS. BROWN

Does it have any running water inside?

CARR

It's in the corner behind the bathtub.

Yes, sir. That old wooden house that

MRS. BROWN

What kind of a house do you rent?

CARR

I pay \$42.50 for the rent.

MRS. BROWN

How much is your monthly rent?

CARR

Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

MRS. BROWN

CARR

Is there anybody who ever comes over

and inspects your house?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

The state - well - health and the

welfare and the city. Comes.

CARR

And have all your houses, the frame

houses included, passed inspection?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Yes, they have.

CARR

What are the standards for housing here?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Well, for -- a standard house you have

to have running water inside and a

sink and toilet and bath.

CARR

And do all your frame houses have this?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

No, they don't. They're sub-standard

CARR

They're sub-standard.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Yes.

CARR

In other words, if you fall below the

building code, it doesn't make any

difference you can still rent the house.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Well, you -- you couldn't rent something

that was just newly built that way, but

something that has long been in opera-

tion, why you can. But when one of our

houses gets like burned or something,

why we do put a standard house in.

CARR

You put a standard house in ...

CARR (OC)

What is it like living here in Arm-

strong Quarters?

RESIDENT #1

Well, it is kind of rough, but it is

the best we can do.

CARR

Do you have water inside?

RESIDENT #2

No. We have to walk down the stairs

and get it.

CARR

The pump, huh?

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
RESIDENTS OF ARMSTRONG
QUARTERS (OC)

How do you manage to do that?

CARR

around and keep their toilet scrubbed.

to see that they keep cleaned up

to -- that's our biggest problem is

They're kind of slack. You just have

MRS. ARMSTRONG

A whole gang of 'em.

RESIDENT #2

Roaches?

CARR

of roaches. (LAUGHTER)

Not so many rats, but a whole gang

RESIDENT #2

Any rats?

CARR

time, but she charge us for the water.

running. They be running over all the

and that's where all the water be

Yes. And they be nasty all the time,

RESIDENT #2

outside too?

What about the toilet -- the toilet's

CARR

It's a spigot.

RESIDENT #2

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. ARMSTRONG (OC)

morning when I was out there washing.

Dr. Armstrong come over here this

MRS. BROWN

going to be that way.

and I think for some time to come it's

No, there is not. There hasn't been

MRS. ARMSTRONG

move really.

wanted to move, there is no place to

much choice for a family. If they

So in other words, there is really not

CARR

Yes, there has been. Uh huh.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Is there a housing shortage in Pahokee?

CARR

that,

quarters, then she'll come in then like

coming in and -- coming in to check the

when she hear tell of some of you all

Only way she comes through the quarters,

MRS. BROWN

personally.

Well, we have inspection. I do that

MRS. ARMSTRONG

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. BROWN (OC)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. ARMSTRONG (OC)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. BROWN (OC)

END ACT II

I ain't got nowhere to go,
get me somewhere to go. That's all,
I'm just going to stay there until I

MRS. BROWN

What are you going to do, Mrs. Brown?

CARR

Move."

ain't no good, you just move out.
yourself." And he said, "If the house
can tell the house ain't no good
"You can look up there now and you
him, "yeah." I said, "Yeah," I said,
yesterday. Meant you all. And I told
You. Y'all. Said y'all was out here

MRS. BROWN

What folks did he mean?

CARR

house ain't no good?"
tell them folks yesterday that my
And he come at me and said, "Didn't you

MRS. BROWN (cont'd)

VOICE

In this lesson you will learn how

reading the labels on the products you

buy can save you time, money and

trouble. Now look at the new words

you will see in this lesson. Say the

words to yourself as I read them.

Antidote.

HUNTLEY (VO)

These high school students struggling to read are exceptions. Most migrant children never get this far. 80% of migrant children never enter a high school classroom. More than half don't even get to the 7th grade. The few who do are pitifully far behind. Despite streamlined remedial reading programs, and dedicated teachers like Sally Carey of Belle Glade High School.

MRS. CAREY

That's a name, not more.

STUDENT

Morely. Muller

MRS. CAREY

Say it again.

STUDENT

Muller.

CLASSROOM FOOTAGE.
HUNTLEY (VO) WITH
TRACK UP FOR STUDENTS
READING LABORIOUSLY

MRS. CAREY AND
STUDENT READING

Oh, yes. In fact most of them, in fact

MRS. CAREY

that travel?

sons and daughters of migrant families

Are many of these boys and girls the

CARR

haven't been able to learn to read.

tion that they need in a lab, so they

they haven't had the individual atten-

so they have to learn. And the classes,

Yes, but they've never learned it before

MRS. CAREY

learning to read?

Isn't 19 or 20 a little bit old to be

CARR

12 to around 19 or 20.

MRS. CAREY

How old are these students?

CARR

continue to fall.

Mrs. Carey explained why her students

HUNTLEY (VO)

Morley

STUDENT

No.

MRS. CAREY

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
SALLY CAREY (OC)

HUNTLEY EST. MRS. CAREY

Why is that?

CARR

don't --

their families work in the fields. They

They don't like you to ask them if

They don't like to be known as migrants.

They just don't want to talk about it.

MRS. CAREY

these problems?

Do any of them ever talk to you about

CARR

more difficult to adjust.

stable home, to come home to. It's

out the year, and without any, you know

they have to do this off and on through-

the teacher and what she wants, and

a classroom situation, to get to know

It takes a child a while to adjust to

MRS. CAREY

How does this affect their schooling?

CARR

Jersey part of the year,

they will be up in New York and New

go up the road this year, but next year

road with their family. They may not

there is a great many of them go up the

MRS. CAREY (cont'd)

CARR INTERVIEWS LADY
IN BEANFIELD (OC)

Five.

LADY

Do you have any children, Miss?

CARR

and 13.

half of them between the ages of 10
Farm hands across the nation, almost
100,000 children under 16 work as hired
on Migratory Labor estimates that
check. The United States Subcommittee
during school hours, but few people
Children are supposed to be in school
age for young farm workers in Florida.
week. No child labor law sets a minimum
do the job, if only for a few days a
from the time they were old enough to
They have been working in the fields

HUNTLEY (VO)

Work in the fields.

MRS. CAREY

students after they leave school?
What do you think will become of these

CARR

a field worker.

There's some stigma attached to being
Well, they're embarrassed about it.

MRS. CAREY

MONTEGE OF CHILDREN
WORKING IN FIELDS

And you keep them out of school to

CARR

the baby's five.

One's eight, one's seven, six, and

LADY

How old are the other boys?

CARR

My oldest boy is nine.

LADY

How old are they?

CARR

along.

help us pick beans, you know, help us

Yes. Sometime we takes them out to

LADY

You try.

CARR

Well, we try.

LADY

of the year?

school, do you think, till the end

will you be able to keep them in

CARR

uh-huh.

LADY

You have five children.

CARR

DR. STONE WORKING WITH
CHILDREN IN CLASSROOM

you have inside there.

Tell me about it. Tell me about what

DR. STONE (OC)

with his mother. What's wrong with it?

child is in the open, fresh air. It's

ask: What's the matter with it? The

picture of perfect health. And we

And the mother and child were a

beautified. Look how terrible this is.

they're natives -- and a child in the

worker -- they call them migrants;

Look. This is a picture of a migrant

DUDA (OC)

Well, they do their best, you know.

LADY

field?

Are they good when they pick in the

CARR

Yeah.

LADY

more money?

That's so you can make a little bit

CARR

Yeah.

LADY

help you in the field.

CARR (cont'd)

CUT TO DUDA

CLASSROOM FOOTAGE WITH
TRACK UP FOR CHILDREN
AND DR. STONE TALKING

HUNTLEY (VO)

This year, Florida received over

\$7,000,000 in federal funds to educate
migrant children. But the parents of

most of these students dropped out

before the seventh grade, and their

children, according to a Florida sur-

vey, will do exactly the same.

DR. STONE

You don't work when you go to Texas?

What do you do when you go to Texas?

HUNTLEY (VO)

Dr. Donald Stone, Director of the

Collier County Migrant Education

Program, explains why education alone

cannot break the cycle.

CARR

About what period of time -- how

many months does a migrant child

attend school here in Collier County?

DR. STONE

I would say somewhere between four to

seven months, out of the ten month

program. For the most part, these

children do not attend school other

than that. This is all they get in

a year, and in some years they do not

HUNTLEY EST.
DR. STONE

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
DR. STONE (OC)

What chances do you think a student has

CARR

family circle.

this problem of breaking into that

to the family, fine. But we're having

And if we can communicate this notion

better job much further down the road.

point, for what he hopes will be a

job if he were to quit school at any

in terms of money that he can get on a

sense, postponing an immediate reward

an ambition to go to college is, in a

instantly. A person, for example, with

thing right he must be rewarded

with the notion that if he does some-

consequently, grows up and enters school

at the end of the week. And the child,

is paid daily for what it does; not

for example, when it works in a field,

the nature of their life. The family,

must live day to day, because that is

income that the child can produce. They

vest the crop. The family wants the

season, because they're needed to har-

the winter time for the winter crop

attend our school when they're here in

DR. STONE (cont'd)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
JACKSON BOWERS (OC)

Frankly, I think it would take three to four generations. The migrant child, for the most part, has a rather negative self-concept of himself and his own abilities and doesn't have too great an expectation that he can ever be anything other than what his family, his mother and father, are -- or than what he's doing.

DR. STONE

tion?
now to escape from the migrant situa--

CARR (cont'd)

If you were working in the orange grove, you weren't able to go to school, were you?

BOWERS

No. I quit school.

CARR

You quit school. How come?

BOWERS

Oh. I don't like school.

CARR

Why?

BOWERS

Get into too many fights, get in too

on? Bare feet?
the clothes to put on and shoes to put
Ever been a time when you haven't had

CARR

Yeah. Been a problem lots of times.

BOWERS

problem for you?
to school -- has that ever been a
enough clothes or even shoes to get
that sometimes it was a problem having
Before, your mother was telling me

CARR

uh-huh.

BOWERS

You were in the eighth grade.

CARR

I was in the eighth.

BOWERS

What class were you in?

CARR

uh-huh.

BOWERS

You're fifteen years old now, right?

CARR

much trouble when you go to school.

BOWERS (cont'd)

I just don't like school.

BOWERS

Why?

CARR

neither.

Uh-huh. Won't go back for nothing,

BOWERS

Is that why you left school?

CARR

all.

Just makes you feel different, that's

BOWERS

are making fun of you?

And what does it feel like, when you
aren't wearing shoes or aren't wearing
the right clothes, and the other kids
are making fun of you?

CARR

Uh-huh.

BOWERS

They make fun of you?

CARR

Yeah. They make fun of you.

BOWERS

The other kids ever say anything?

CARR

Uh-huh.

BOWERS

You think you're a bum?

CARR

guess that what I am anyhow.

and it makes you feel like a bum. I

They've got something better than you,

BOWERS

What does that feel like?

CARR

Yeah. Did that a lot of times, too.

BOWERS

the other kids eat?

Did you ever have to not eat and watch

CARR

No. Sometimes we'd have to charge it.

BOWERS

for it?

Did you always have the money to pay

CARR

Yeah.

BOWERS

Do you have to buy them?

CARR

Uh-huh.

BOWERS

Lunch at school?

How about lunches at school? Do you get

CARR

Florida orange pickers, like other migrants, are usually paid a piece rate based on how many boxes they fill. This past season, the going piece rate was 35 cents a box. Even during the

HUNTLEY (VO)

hand.

virtually every one of them picked by than 25 billion oranges each year, growers. That translates into more worth \$400 million dollars to the workers each year harvest a citrus crop

belong to Minute Maid. Florida farm groves like this one, which happens to United States are Florida oranges, from Two-thirds of the oranges grown in the

HUNTLEY (OC)

Palm Beach and Miami, it is oranges. If Florida's famous for anything beyond

HUNTLEY (VO)

other people have. I don't have -- I don't have the things

BOWERS

Why? Why, Jackson?

CARR

Yeah.

BOWERS

CITRUS MONTAGE

HUNTLEY IN ORANGE GROVE

CITRUS MONTAGE

HUNTLEY (VO) (cont'd)

height of the season, there are days when there is no work. The weather is bad, the fruit isn't ready, or the processing plants are overloaded. A worker who might have been making \$35 on a good day finds himself with days at a time, or weeks at a time, when he can't make a dime. That is why, when work is available, entire families go into the groves.

CARR

Mrs. Farmer, how many children do you have?

MRS. FARMER

Five.

CARR

How about when you were pregnant, did you have to work then?

MRS. FARMER

Sure.

CARR

While you were pregnant. About how far along?

MRS. FARMER

Uh -- until 'bout I guess two weeks

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MR. AND MRS. FARMER (CC)

No, sir. We might be told today to be

MR. FARMER

work you're going to have?

Do you ever know in advance how much

CARR

one that you can't make nothing out of.

that has good fruit, then you may get

to say because you may get in a grove

Approximately ten dollars; it's hard

MR. FARMER

there, in a day? How much money?

What do you do when you're by yourself

CARR

money.

I can't make it. I don't make enough

of us are working, and uh -- by myself

Well, we can make it better when both

MR. FARMER

The two of you go out and work.

CARR

If you didn't have them.

automatically do what you wouldn't do

got to have a place to live, so -- you

you've got kids they have to eat, and

before the baby was born. But then if

MRS. FARMER (cont'd)

MR. FARMER (cont'd)

ready in the morning, and in the morning they may tell us forget it. We have it rough. We do have it rough, but we work. And fruit-picking is the hardest work -- I mean it's harder than construction work or any work that I know.

CARR

But do you think you'll get caught in it? Do you want to get out of it?

MR. FARMER

Uh, yes, I want to get out of it, but I don't know how.

CARR

Why is it that you're not working right now?

MRS. BOWERS

Well, the trees are too tall, and I can't handle a ladder by myself.

CARR

Well why do you have to handle the ladder by yourself? Can't your husband help you?

MRS. BOWERS

He's not here.

CARR

Who is working to support the family?

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. BOWERS (OC)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
MRS. BRIDGES (OC)

here out of that?

And how many people are you supporting

CARR

Uh huh, that's a good week for me.

MRS. BRIDGES

On a good week.

CARR

Well, sometime I may have \$50, maybe \$60.

MRS. BRIDGES

On a good week, what do you make?

CARR

uh huh.

MRS. BOWERS

You made \$32 for the two days.

CARR

worked with me too, and we made \$32.

Well my son and me made -- well my son

MRS. BOWERS

you make?

In those two days, how much money did

CARR

couldn't do it by myself.

the ladder, and I didn't do it --

trees good because I had to go up on

They said that I couldn't clean the

Well, I work two days, but that's all.

MRS. BOWERS

That's right.

MRS. BRIDGES

You have 8 people in this house?

CARR

many.

people in the house, it's just too

round to maybe 7 or 8 or maybe 10

a husband and wife, but when it come

small. It's all right for maybe just

family. And these houses just too

not enough work to do, for a large

well I just think it's terrible, it's

MRS. BRIDGES

What do you think of the house?

CARR

No, never get ahead.

MRS. BRIDGES

Can't get ahead.

CARR

don't ever save anything.

nothing but hard work and I mean I

I sure am . . . I don't see no future,

MRS. BRIDGES

Are you worried about the future?

CARR

Well, just I and my daughter, four kids.

MRS. BRIDGES

MR. LASSITER
INTERVIEW

CARR

You lived here for a long time?

MRS. BRIDGES

Uh huh.

CARR

How long?

MRS. BRIDGES

12 years.

CARR

12 years. Who owns these houses?

CARR (VO)

These homes, I was told, are owned by the Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola is at work on a major plan, which, it claims, will correct the failings it has found in its citrus operation

LASSITER

Are you in charge?

CARR

Yes, sir.

LASSITER

And who'd you say give you permission?

CARR

Are we trespassing?

LASSITER

Yes.

see?
over, till we know what they're doing,
people just dropping in, and taking
after and all. But we don't just have
tell us what you want and what you're
...we'd be glad to have you, if you

IASSITER

The only reason I'm asking is ...

CARR

They'd like to know about it...
best you leave till you get permission.
If you don't have permission, I sug-

IASSITER

to the lady ...
Right; in other words we can't talk

CARR

our department.
you got to make it okay with one of
You got business here, it's fine. But

IASSITER

uh huh.

CARR

property.
Because this is a Coca-Cola Foods

IASSITER

Why?

CARR

CARR

Well, how -- let me ask you, how do you

visit somebody at their home? I mean

this is their home, right?

LASSITER

Ain't no argument, I'll call Joe and

see what he says.

CARR

I'm just trying to finish an interview--

LASSITER

All right, let me see if he wants you

to move or not, now.

CARR

I think that we should leave. I don't

want you to feel that you're going to

get into trouble, okay?

MRS. BRIDGES

Ask me a question, and I know all I can

do is tell you this ... that's all. I

mean so far as --

CARR

Well, we did beautifully and we talked.

MRS. BRIDGES

So --

CARR

Thank you.

CARR/LASSITER/BRIDGES
(cont'd)

LASSITER WALKING AWAY

Coca-Cola provides 89 individual housing units rent-free to families who work in its groves. In its three labor camps, Coke has dormitories for four hundred single men who migrate to Florida for the citrus season. Coca-Cola foods, using the brand names Minute Maid, Snow Crop and Hi-C, is the largest single grower and processor of oranges in the world. The oranges they don't grow themselves, they have to buy. A total of about 350,000,000 a year. Giants like Coca-Cola and other large corporations such as Tropicana, Lykes-Pasco and Donald Duck, support the citrus Industrial Council, an agency to advise them on labor and harvesting practices. Its executive director, Clark M. Ghiselin, explained how citrus workers are paid.

HUNTLEY (VO)

MINUTE MAID PLANT -
CUT TO CITRUS MUTUAL
BUILDING TO ESTABLISH
CLARK GHISELIN

MINUTE MAID CAMP
AND PLANT

We keep hearing, Mr. Ghtselin, that the

HUNTLEY

In and day out.

a bag, just the hard, arduous work day
citrus -- climbing a ladder and handling

who are just not adaptable to picking
recruitment, that there are many people

in quite a bit of frequency in our
well be, and we do find this in some --

-- the cases involved, but it could very
I would have to examine the particular

GHTSELIN

of his wife and sometimes his children,
cannot make a living without the help

husband working in the groves alone,
Mr. Ghtselin, is it true that a

HUNTLEY

farm labor average.

cents an hour higher than the national
dollar -- approximately a dollar 20

now of \$2.50 an hour, which is a
We have an average wage in the industry

GHTSELIN

industry?

system be impossible, in this citrus
Well Mr. Ghtselin, would a weekly wage

HUNTLEY

CHEF HUNTLEY
INTERVIEWS MR.
GHTSELIN (OC)

ORANGE GROVE

HUNTLEY (VO)

There are a certain percentage of pickers in the industry who will work at every opportunity that's offered to them, -- we offer generally, as an average, between 40 and 48 hours of work a week. The average -- the average number of days that the picker works, is about three and a half. His hours per day run about 6.1. Now, this is all averages. This means the worker who goes out there and doesn't pick a box, as opposed to the worker who will pick 100 boxes in a day.

GHSIELIN

of time.
citrus picker really has no desire to work 6 or 7 days a week over a period

HUNTLEY (cont'd)

According to these figures, the average worker earns a yearly salary well below \$2,000. Unless he has help from his wife and children, he is earning less than half of what the United States Government defines as the poverty level. And the Citrus Industrial Council tells us 80% of the migrants working in the

I owe money. I owe my landlord money and I owe my boss man money. I ain't been able to pay my boss man for the last four weeks, which that he -- for the little work I do, he lets me keep the money, to pay my board bill and stuff like that, and he says when we

JARVIS

You owe money.

CARR

No, there's mighty few times I find myself coming out ahead. That's the reason I'm here now. If I was ahead, I wouldn't -- I'm behind --

JARVIS

Do you ever manage to save any money? Do you ever find yourself coming out ahead?

CARR

groves, explains. as Ernest Jarvis who works in the orange groves, explains. but fall farther and farther behind, beings, who work when work is available, which must be translated into human These are just the statistics, numbers groves earn even less than this.

HUNTLEY (cont'd)

MARTIN CARR INTERVIEWS
ERNEST JARVIS (OC)

HUNTLEY EST.
ERNEST JARVIS

JARVIS (cont'd)

Get to working good, then you can pay

me some.

CARR

Since you're not able to save any money,

do you ever worry about say ten years

from now or 15 years from now?

JARVIS

All the time. Not only then, I worry

about the present, now.

CARR

What do you think?

JARVIS

I think that I need more work or better

something -- I need more of something.

To have something to go on.

CARR

Do you have any money coming to you

when you're say 60 or 65?

JARVIS

Well, accordingly, they say they would

pay, they say pay Social Security some-

thing like that. Get 65, I could

probably be able to draw it. But I

don't know whether that would be enough.

Probably be living about the same then

as now.

Ernest Jarvis may never be faced with the problem of collecting Social Security. The United States Public Health Service estimates that while you and I may live until the age of 70, the life expectancy for a migrant worker in America is 49 years. All of us, even newsmen, dislike facing the unpleasant. We want to turn away, avoid looking and asking those painful questions. And getting the even more painful answers. But after careful consideration, the seriousness of this subject compelled us to intrude upon the privacy of some of these people. We felt it necessary to include these interviews in our broadcast, so we would all be forced to face the sad

HUNTLEY EST. MR. & MRS. GAY

FOOTAGE OF OLD PEOPLE

How old are you now, Mr. Jarvis?

CARR

JARVIS

Me, I am 39.

CARR

You're 39 years old

JARVIS

39 years old.

HUNTLEY (VO)

HUNTLEY (cont'd)

reality of these people's lives. We talked to Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Gay. It was painful for us, it will probably be painful for you.

CARR

Mr. Gay, do you stay here during the summer?

MR. GAY

Yes.

CARR

Why is that?

MR. GAY

Well, ... if you go near to Michigan, you up there and work, trying to get back you still don't accomplish anything. You spend what you make going, and spend what you make coming back.

CARR

Mrs. Gay, what do you think will happen to your children when they grow up?

MRS. GAY

I don't know.

CARR

Do you think they'll work in the fields like you?

Well, I -- if I didn't have the money

MRS. GAY

What kind of help?

CARR

Yes.

MRS. GAY

relatives for help?

anybody, ask any of your friends or

Do you ever have to go around and ask

CARR

Yes.

MRS. GAY

They all have shoes?

CARR

can make out with.

Not all of them, they got enough they

MRS. GAY

clothes?

Do all of your children have enough?

CARR

No.

MRS. GAY

Is that what you'd like for them to do?

CARR

Will.

If they're still farming, they probably

MRS. GAY

MRS. GAY (cont'd)

and had to have milk and borrow money,

stuff like that.

CARR

What does it feel like, as a mother,

not to be able to give your children

the food that you think they should

have?

MRS. GAY

It feels pretty bad.

CARR

When they go off to school, do they

get a free meal in school?

MRS. GAY

Two of 'em does. (WEeping) (SAYS

SOMETHING INDISTINCT)

CARR

Okay.

CHEF HUNTLEY CLOSE (OC)

HUNTLEY (OC)

We concentrated on conditions in

Florida, which officially describes

the migrants as, quote "the most

economically and socially deprived seg-

ment of population in the United

States." end quote. We could have made

this film in any number of other states.

ten years from now.

needed to make a film about migrants of Shame." We hope that no one will since Edward R. Murrow made "Harvest granted. It has now been ten years of life that the rest of us take for no American is deprived of the quality stability of all Americans to see that It should be the respon-

ditions of their lives. little substantial effect on the con- tion that recent reforms have had

would be misleading. It is our observa- have been instituted to help the migrants To say that no programs

federal agencies. big business, organized labor, and migrant -- beyond even larger farmers, and other states that depend on the

The responsibility goes beyond Florida but unfortunately Governor Kirk declined. Kirk, to discuss these problems with us, invited the Governor of Florida, Claude of them, Florida is now home. NBC News on the migrants. And for more and more But we chose Florida because it depends

HUNTLEY (cont'd)

MIGRANT

An NBC White Paper

with NBC News Correspondent

CHEF HUNNLEY

Produced and Directed by MARTIN CARR

Written by MARILYN NISSENSON and MARTIN CARR

Correspondent CHEF HUNNLEY

Associate Producer MARILYN NISSENSON

Film Editors DAROLD MURRAY and MARY ANN MARTIN

Camerman RICHARD NORLING

Unit Manager PAUL SHENFIELD

Production Coordinator PETER FREEDBERGER

Sound AL HOAGLAND

We wish to express

our appreciation to

CBS News

for a segment of

CBS REPORTS: HARVEST OF SHAME

Produced by DAVID LOWE

Narrated by EDWARD R. MURROW

MIGRANT: An NBC White Paper

Copyright © The National Broadcasting Company, 1970
All Rights Reserved.