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Analysis of the actions of B.A. Harrigan, manager of the
Imperial Valley Farmers Association, El Centro, Calif.

Some of the terrific abuses of the importation of Mexican farm workers can be understood by analyzing the actions of the manager of the Imperial Valley Farmers Association.

Although in theory, the individual farmers should be in control of this Association, in practice, they live in dread of being not permitted to have workers by the Association. U.S. Dept. of Labor regulations should be changed so that each farmer makes his own application to the U.S. Dept. of Labor for the workers he needs. Then the Association will be the instrumentality by means of which the Mexican workers are imported to the United States. The Association will not then have the power to with hold the number of workers that the individual farmer desires.

Individual farmers are in dread of B.A. Harrigan who has the power of economic life or death over the farmers. If Harrigan refuses to give them workers, the farmer is ruined. Farmers have spoken to the Committee for the Protection of Mexican Workers and have expressed their fears and say they hope that this Committee will be able to take Harrigan off his high horse.

Individual camp operators whose only source of workers is from Harrigan and his Imperial Valley Farmers Assoc. also express their fear of him. If they do not get workers, their camps are out of business. These camp owners are illegally feeding workers and charging them more than the costs of the feeding, make \$1.00 per man per day profit. Since many of these camps have more than 200 men, this means a profit of \$200.00 a day or more depending on the size. In addition large sums are made in contracting workers which is also illegal.

The stage is then set for many abuses. The camp operators in order not to offend Mr. Harrigan and to be able to get laborers from him, buy their supplies like groceries etc. from Mr. Harrigan's wholesale concern. Mr. Harrigan has a paper organization. He has no warehouse and he has no trucks. He just has big wholesalers in Los Angeles and San Diego send trucks down with the supplies and unload the stuff at the various camps. Mr. Harrigan makes wholesaler's profits without any of the risks of being a wholesaler. Nice work if you can get it.

Mr. Harrigan orders this camp or that camp to buy their bread from this baking company or that baking company. Why is Mr. Harrigan interfering with the camps as to where they buy their bread? And the camps do it or else. Recently, Mr. Harrigan has gone about offering contracting to farmers at slightly lower rates than other camp operators. Mr. Harrigan's Imperial Valley Farmers Association is supposed to be just an importing outfit for Mexican workers and is supposed to just try to keep things on an even keel. Instead, we find him competing with his own members over whom he has the power of economic life and death.

Mr. Harrigan forced the Housing Authority of Imperial County to give the Imperial Farmers Association a lease for \$4,000.00 a year when others had bid higher than \$12,000.00 per year. This involved a campsite on North Imperial Ave, Brawley, Calif. At the time the lease was made, the firm of Miranda and Carrillo was paying \$1,000.00 per month rent for the camp. Mr. Harrigan has too much power and should be curbed.