

Brawley, Calif.

Nov. 16, 1960

THE BIG FARMERS AND THEIR SWEDISH HOUSEMAIDS

Constantly in the El Centro Post-Press and Brawley News, the big farmers put in propaganda about how the crops will rot on the ground if they could not import the foreign workers--the braceros from Mexico.

Jack Knudsen of the Post-Press and Ole Nordland of the Indio Daily News, both Pinkley newspapers, play the big farmers' tune. They write propaganda saying that American and Mexican-American workers do not want to do farmwork.

NOW MANY BIG FARMERS IN IMPERIAL VALLEY HAVE IMPORTED HOUSEMAIDS FROM SWEDEN.

DO THE BIG FARMERS CLAIM THAT THE DIRTY DISHES WILL ROT IN THE SINK IF THEY COULD NOT IMPORT SWEDISH HOUSEMAIDS?????

OR DO THE BIG FARMERS CLAIM THAT THEIR WIVES HANDS WILL ROT FROM THE DISHWASHING IF THEY COULD NOT IMPORT SWEDISH HOUSEMAIDS????

The wealthy farmers import the Swedish housemaids because the foreigners will work for lower wages than American women who ask \$1.00 per hour. There is no shortage of American women to do housework in Imperial Valley if they are paid decent wages.

HERE IS HOW THE SWEDISH HOUSEMAID DEAL IS CHEAPER. The girl is brought over and the passage money is deducted from her wages.

The Swedish girl has only one day off each week. The other six days she washes, cleans and does baby sitting. She stays at the big farmers home 24 hours a day. Therefore for six days a week of 24 hours each, she puts in 144 hours a week. For this she gets \$25.00 per week or 17 cents an hour.

You may object by saying that the Swedish girl does not work at night. Well, how about a night watchman? He dozes during the night while putting in the time. How about the firemen who sleep during the night? The wealthy farmer and his wife stay out late at nights. They also take trips to San Diego, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The Swedish maid has to take care of the children.

THIS TRICK OF BRINGING IN FOREIGNERS TO WORK AT LOWER WAGES IS AN OLD STUNT. In the 1860's, one hundred years ago, the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific RRs. imported thousands of Chinese to work on the transcontinental railroad to San Francisco.

The coal mine owners in Pennsylvania imported thousands of workers from Poland because the Americans wanted higher wages. Descendants of these imported workers were on the football teams of Notre Dame.

So it is with the Mexican braceros. THEY WERE BROUGHT IN BECAUSE AMERICAN AND MEXICAN-AMERICAN WORKERS WANTED DECENT WAGES.

The Calif. Depts. of Agriculture and Employment issued a joint report recently which said that the pear harvest was very successful. The union scale of \$1.25 per hour was paid. There were plenty of American workers. Only 30 braceros were used in the 1960 pear harvest. In 1959, 3000 braceros were used in the pear harvest because wages were too low.