

May 7, 1959

FURTHER METHODS BY WHICH THE CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO. EXPLOITS
THE MEXICAN BRACEROS

Brawley In all the major cities of the U.S. like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, there is one doctor for every 450 population. This ratio is considered adequate medical care. Even the Tables of Organization of the U.S. Army calls for 3 doctors for a regiment. Since a regiment consists of about 1200 men, here again there is a ratio of one doctor to 400 men. However, in county districts like Imperial Valley, the ratio is about one doctor to 1000 population. This being so, since the local inhabitants have this ratio, and since the Mexican braceros pay for group health and accident insurance, they should also have the same ratio. The workers are paying for first class adequate medical care.

Now when the ratio of one doctor to 1000 population is given, this means on a 24 hour basis. That is what is referred to as adequate medical care. In civilian medical care, of course certain doctors are not available at certain times, so the sick person gets someone else. Practically speaking, therefore, the average civilian by being able to choose which doctor to go to, can have 24 hour medical service.

Here is the record of Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago, with their doctors in Imperial Valley.

Dr. Balboni in a poorly equipped office in a store room of the Dunlack Hotel, Brawley, Calif. in 1952. Office open from 9a.m. to 4 p.m. 9,000 workers were supposed to go to him. The ranchers were told to take the men to him. The other doctors were told they were not authorized to handle them. Many of these men had illnesses that required office treatment. They were taken out to the fields to work at 5 a.m. and had their lunch in the fields and brought back after 4p.m. They could not get to the doctor. Many went to the office of Dr. Yellen who is a half block away. Dr. Yellen told them, they would have to pay him cash as he could not handle them for the insurance company. Many of these men offered 25 cents for medical service. Only acute emergencies landed in the local hospitals and got into the hands of other doctors.

Dr. Carter- in 1952 and 1953. Up at Brawley, in the same location as Dr. Balboni but Dr. Carter only showed up between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and many times, he did not show up. No service ~~max~~ on Saturdays and Sunday at all. The reason for all this is that Dr. Carter was supposed to take care of another office in El Centro, Calif. about 14 miles South. There he was supposed to handle another 9,000 men but even there he was not present at the office when he was supposed to be there. So Dr. Carter was supposed to take care of 18,000 men. Only emergencies, brought to hospitals got into the hands of other doctors.

Dr. Foster- 1954 to 1956. Dr. Foster is a local private physician who has been in practice here for 30 years. Was paid \$15,000 by Continental Casualty Co. per year to take care of 9,000 men. He has a well equipped office. His private practice is tremendous and was tremendous prior to assuming the additional care of 9,000 men. Dr. Foster delivers in his office 20 to 30 women per month so that you can see how big his private practice is and he is a general practitioner. Dr. Foster works long hours and it was possible for workers to see him after 4 p.m. It is estimated that between his private practice and the laborers, Dr. Foster handled 12,000 people. In 1955, Dr. Foster telephoned Dr. Yellen, and asked him to see some

May 7, 1959

2.

some of the workers, telling him that there were just too many to take care of. Dr. Yellen said "But the insurance company will not pay me, you have to be authorized". Dr. Foster said he would notify Continental Casualty Co. and that Dr. Yellen should write a letter to Continental Casualty Co. in Los Angeles. (When the name Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago is used, it should be understood that the Pan American Underwriters is meant, as this outfit is the agents for Continental Casualty Co. For a long time and to this day most people including doctors, think Pan American Underwriters is the insurance company. All checks and letters are in the name of Pan American Underwriters and by means of this confusion created by them, it actually can be said that the doctors, the Mexican laborers, the hospitals and the ranchers, and the general population, don't actually know that the Continental Casualty Co. is behind this whole thing.) Dr. Yellen wrote Continental Casualty Co, and he was authorized to handle the workers. (there is nothing in the master policy that gives the Continental Casualty Co. the right to authorize any doctor.) Dr. Yellen, the writer of these releases for the first time was able to treat these workers and from then on began to investigate the problem and found out about the exploitation. Therefore, because of ignorance, created by the Continental Casualty Co., Dr. Yellen for about 4-5 years was deprived of the right to handle those workers that desired to come to him.

In 1956, the Imperial Valley Farmers Association got rid of the Continental Casualty Co. because the workers were quitting in great numbers and could not get quick medical service. This was occurring chiefly in the El Centro area.

In 1956, a competing farmers association came into being to compete with the Imperial Valley Farmers Association. This new outfit is called the Desert Growers, Inc. 1551 East Main St. Brawley, Calif. Desert Growers Inc. has received advice and financial support from Continental Casualty Co. Continental Casualty Co. now became the carrier of the group health and accident insurance of the workers of the Desert Growers. At first Desert Growers, had an amount of men below 1000 and between 1956 and March 1, 1958, the workers went to any doctor they chose. Since 1958, March 1, Desert Growers began to have 3,000 workers and Continental Casualty Co. set ~~an~~ up a small office at the Desert Growers camp which is in town. They hired a new doctor in town who has a small practice. He only goes to the Desert Growers camp for one hour at 8am. and one hour at 1 p.m. So again we have a situation of one doctor trying to take care of 3,000 men by giving only 2 hours service on weekdays, one hour on Saturday, none on Sunday. There is no one to see them after 4 p.m. and Continental Casualty Co. is trying to prevent them seeing doctors in town.

Basically speaking, in country practice here, one doctor should have on his panel about 1000 people. If circumstances are such that there has to be more people per doctor, then if the surplus is divided up amongst all the doctors, then the most adequate medical service possible will be rendered to the Mexican braceros. No formal steps have to be taken to do this. Just natural choice of physicians by the Mexican workers will automatically spread them around. It is to be reiterated that Dr. Lopez and Dr. Alejandro Wallace, two physicians whose mother tongue is Spanish have been so harassed by Continental Casualty, that they can not see and treat these Mexican workers.