

June 26, 1961

A FATE WORSE

THAN DEATH!!!!

PUBLIC LAW #78 PERMITTING THE IMPORTATION OF MEXICAN FARMWORKERS HAS CREATED A TYPE OF PUNISHMENT WHICH THE BIG FARM CORPORATIONS JOKINGLY CALL "A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH"!!!!!!!

THE FARM PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA NEVER HAS FOUND ANY VIOLATION OF U.S. PUBLIC LAW #78!!!!

THE U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR VERY RARELY FINDS ANY VIOLATION OF PUBLIC LAW #78. One of the reasons is that U.S. Dept of Labor employees are located in the offices of the California Farm Placement Service. When a complaint against a grower comes in, a tipster in the Farm Placement Service warns the grower so that when the U.S. Dept. of Labor man shows up at the farm, HE CAN NOT FIND ANY VIOLATION.

But at least the U.S. Dept. of Labor find some violations DESPITE THE FACT THAT IN AN AREA LIKE IMPERIAL VALLEY, THE VIOLATIONS ARE OCCURRING BY THE HUNDREDS DAILY!!!

There is a Robert C. Goodwin, Chief of the Labor Dept. Bureau of Employment Security in Washington, D.C. It is his job to have the final word on the punishment.

There are many instances where the grower HAS KEPT false work records on the imported Mexican workers. The grower has worked the Mexican for 12 hours a day and only paid him for 7 hours.

DOES ROBERT GOODWIN SEE TO IT THAT THE EMPLOYER IS CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED AND SENT TO JAIL??? HE DOES NOT!!! DOES MR. GOODWIN SEE TO IT THAT THE SWINDLED MONEY IS TAKEN FROM THE GROWER (IT OFTEN AMOUNTS TO MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS) AND RETURNED TO THE CHEATED MEXICANS??? HE DOES NOT!!!

In an other actual instance where the Mexican was working 90 hours per week, driving tractors and working farm machinery, the pay was only \$45.00 per week. This Mexican was being cheated in two ways; he was being cheated by being paid for a lesser number of hours than he actually worked and he was being cheated by being paid wages for unskilled work when he was actually doing skilled work like driving tractors and working farm machinery. Over a period of 6 years, this Mexican had been cheated out of \$15,000.00 !!!!!

Did Robert Goodwin see to it that the swindled money was returned to the Mexican ??? HE DID NOT!!!

THE ONLY PUNISHMENT GIVEN WAS THAT THE GROWER WAS NOT PERMITTED TO USE IMPORTED MEXICANS ANY MORE. THE PUNISHMENT REALLY MEANT THAT THE GROWER HAD TO USE DOMESTIC FARMWORKERS!!!!

SINCE WHEN IS "EMPLOYING DOMESTIC WORKERS" A PUNISHMENT???????

A recent example REALLY SHOWS WHAT A FAR CE THIS ALL IS!!! In February 1961, there was a lettuce picking strike by the domestic farmworkers. PUBLIC LAW #78 STATES THAT IMPORTED MEXICAN FARMWORKERS MUST NOT BE USED AS STRIKEBREAKERS. Mr. Mike Schultz, President of the lettuce growers brought in 300 imported Mexicans as strikebreakers in the struck Bruce Church field. The punishment for Mr. Schultz was NO IMPORTED MEXICANS. Mr. Goodwin did not make him pay strikebreaker wages to the naive Mexicans!! After 6 months, Mr. Schultz got his Mexicans back!!! "A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH"----WHAT A FARCE!!!!