

El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER

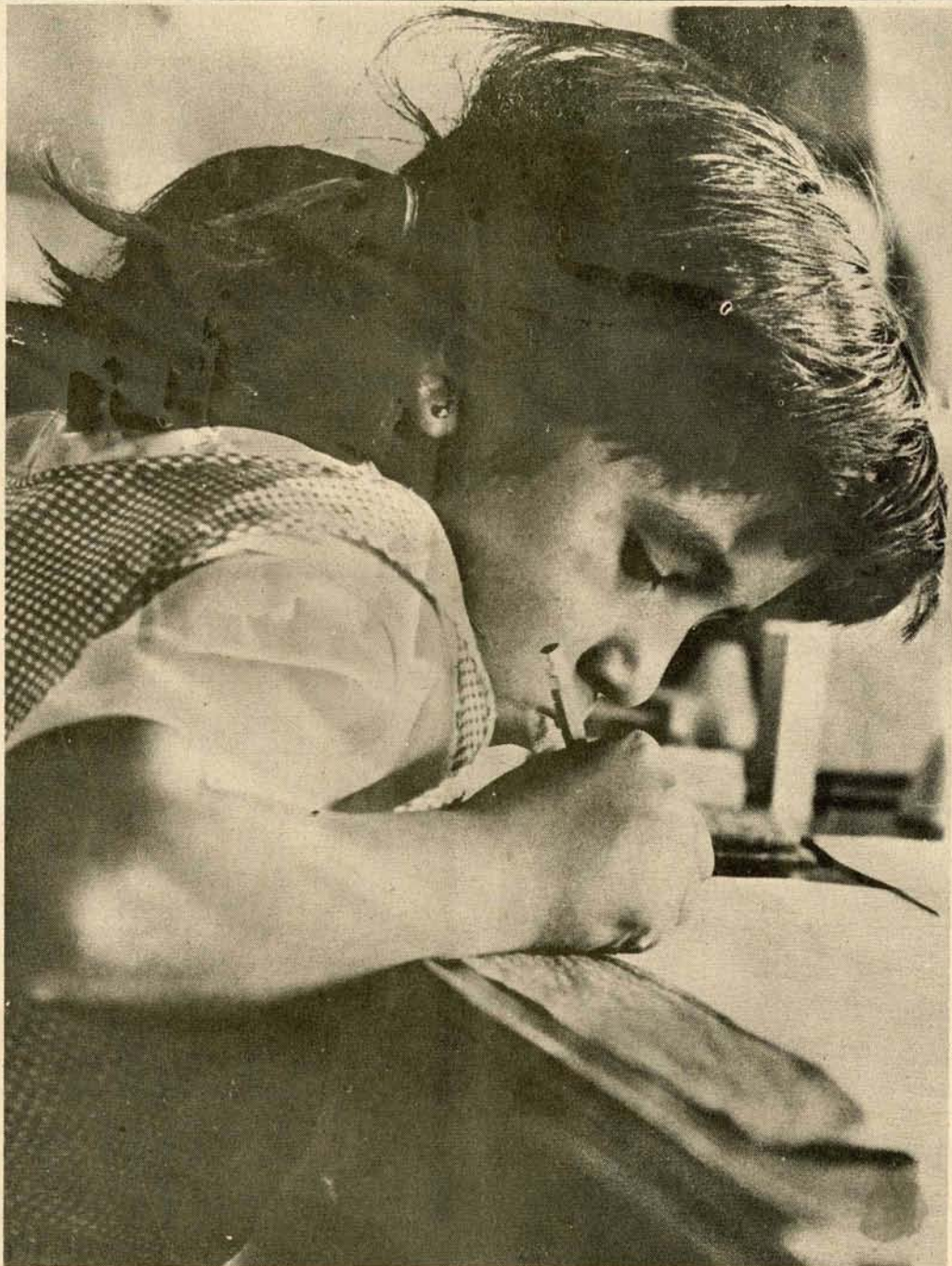
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in English

VOLUME III, #20,

DELANO, CALIFORNIA

February 1-28, 1970



EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

See Pages 6-11

Credit Union Loans Top



ABOVE: Over 600 people packed Filipino Hall on January 25 for the Fourth Annual Farm Workers Credit Union Meeting.

BELOW: Credit Union Manager Helen Chavez enters a deposit.

OPPOSITE: Credit Union Treasurer Cesar Chavez addresses the members.

Photos by Chris Sanchez.



DELANO, January 25--The Farm Workers Credit Union made 307 loans totaling \$98,374.41 during 1969, showing its biggest growth and expansion since founding, according to Credit Union Treasurer Cesar Chavez. In the five years that the Credit Union has been in operation, it has loaned out a total of \$281,308.10 to 1264 individuals, Chavez reported.

The Main purpose of the Credit Union is not to make a "profit", but to provide a source of low interest loans for members. Even so, the treasurer's report indicated net earnings for 1969 at \$3675.02, the largest "profit" the Credit Union has ever shown. Twenty per cent of net earnings are by law reinvested into the regular reserve to cover delinquent loans. Members voted to retain the undivided earnings, \$2940.02, in the reserve fund to further strengthen the economic base of the Credit Union. The Credit Union membership voted to continue the policy of no dividends for individual members for an additional year, after Board Director Manuel Chavez called on members to forego dividends for the sake of more economic power. "After the strike is won, we'll be the strongest, richest credit union in the Valley. Then we can begin to pay dividends," he said.

The members also elected three new members of the Board of Directors, a new member of the Credit Committee, and a new member of the Supervisory Committee. Directors Andy Imutan and Richard

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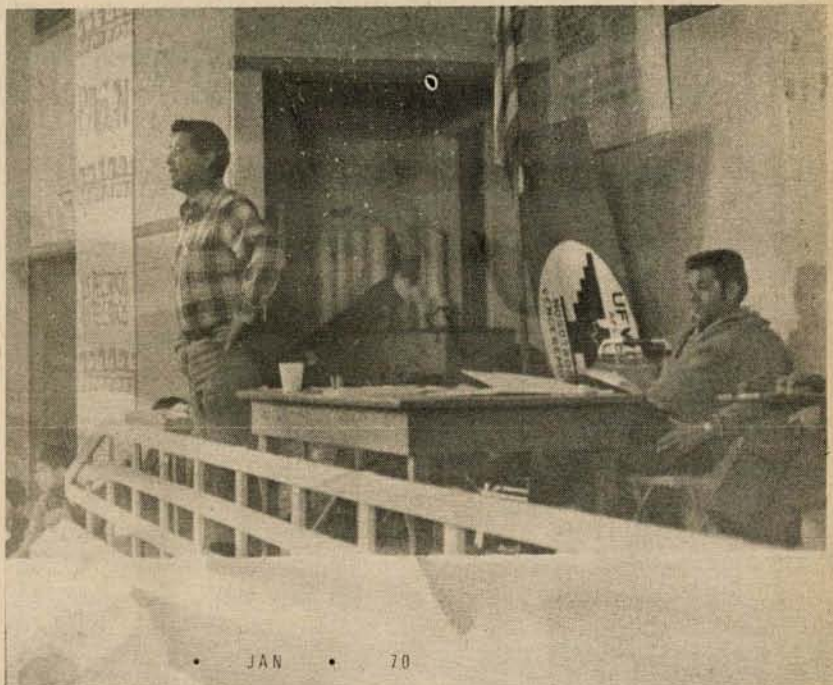
\$98,000 in 1969

Chavez were re-elected, with 101 and 170 votes, and former DiGiorgio Ranch Committee Chairman and chief UFWOC negotiator Mack Lyons was elected, with 104 votes. Lyons replaces Julio Hernandez, and is the first Black worker to be elected to the Credit Union board. Rudy Ahumada, with 90, and Lupe Murguia, with 52 votes, were the runners up.

Gloria Soto, who works in the Farm Workers Service Center, was elected to the Credit Committee, receiving 131 votes to 68 for runner-up Tony Lopez.

Sal Santos of Delano edged out Guadalupe Olivares of Porterville, 98 to 91 for the Supervisory Committee post.

The afternoon session was enlivened by the Enrique Renteria Mariachi of Fresno and by singing and music, ending with a baile. Helen Chavez and Susan Drake, Credit Union manager and assistant



manager, supervised the serving of a delicious turkey dinner to over 600 members and their families and guests, and deserve a big applause

for the fine job they did in organizing the annual meeting.

Surely the biggest and best Credit Union meeting ever!

SUIT CHARGES CONSPIRACY; ASKS FOR \$115 MILLION DAMAGES

UFWOC SUES GROWERS

DELANO, January 14--The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee took the offensive against the Central California Farmers' Association today and filed a counter-claim against it and 90 other growers for \$115 million damages, alleging anti-trust violations on the part of the growers. The Union claims that grape pickers have lost \$37 million in wages during the strike because of the conspiracy by the growers to block the negotiation of union contracts. The Union asks for triple damages plus punitive damages.

The same growers are currently suing UFWOC for the \$25 million loss which the growers claim to have suffered because of the boycott against table grapes. The growers have asked Judge M. D. Crocker

of the Federal District Court in Fresno to award its members treble damages of \$75 million, and to enjoin UFWOC's boycott of table grapes.

The Union denies that the boycott is illegal and, in the counter-claim filed today, alleges that the table grape growers have themselves violated federal anti-trust laws by conspiring together to hold grapes off the market and to divide up the market, enabling several growers to dominate a given geographical area and thus regulate the price. The counter-claim further alleges that the growers have conspired to destroy UFWOC by agreeing among themselves not to negotiate with the Union. In several important legal cases, the Federal Courts have decided that such a conspiracy is in

restraint of trade, which is an anti-trust violation.

"We are also arguing that the growers MUST negotiate with the UFWOC before asking the Federal Court for an injunction against the boycott," explains UFWOC General Counsel Jerry Cohen. "This claim is based on our understanding of the Norris La Guardia Act which was passed in 1933 to ensure that management could not destroy a union by winning injunctions against the activities necessary to organize a union."

"We know that the growers' attempt to destroy our boycott is part of their attempt to destroy UFWOC. They will have to negotiate with us before the boycott is stopped."

IMUTAN TO NEW YORK

NEW YORK, January 31 -- UFWOC Vice President Andy Imutan and his family moved to New York this week to take charge of the New York City grape boycott. Imutan, who is coordinator for the Boycott for the whole Eastern Seaboard, was formerly based in Baltimore.

The Baltimore grape boycott, under Imutan's leadership, was the most effective of any major city in the nation. Taking Imutan's place in Baltimore is John Hawking of the organizing staff of the AFL-CIO Regional Office. "It is to organized labor that we owe our greatest debt of thanks for the success of our boycott here in Baltimore," said Imutan. "I am confident John Hawkins and our other friends here will continue the struggle and make the boycott even more effective."

Also scheduled to go to New York are Manuel Vasquez, formerly of the Washington, DC boycott, and Farther Victor Salandini, who had been working on the boycott in Montreal.

"We are doing some reorganizing and hope to send a new wave of workers out on the boycott in February," said international grape boycott coordinator Larry Itliong. "Hard work has to be done in February, March and April to get ready for those first grapes coming into the markets in May and June. We have to stop the sale of Thompson seedless grapes, since that is the variety where most grape growers make their biggest profits. Injunctions and phoney negotiations will not be allowed to deny us victory this year."

Hope Springs Eternal

PHILADELPHIA, January 15 -- Hope Lopez, leader of the grape boycott in Philadelphia, recovered from a recent operation and is now back on the job and pushing for a grapeless Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"We have been concentrating on Acme Stores," writes Hope. "Joe Guevara, leading the boycott in South Jersey, got the grapes out of 14 Acme stores in one day."

The Puerto Rican and Black communities have been especially active in supporting the grape boycott in this area. Many of the farm workers in South Jersey and Pennsylvania are Blacks or Puerto Ricans, suffering from the same lousy wages, lousy housing, and lousy conditions as we have in California, Mrs. Lopez explained.

Canadians Boycott in -35 Weather

Picketing in Northern Ontario, Canada.




KIRKLAND LAKE, ONTARIO, CANADA, January 15 -- Supporters of the California grape strike braved -35 degree below zero weather in late December and January to picket stores selling scab grapes in this Northern Ontario town of 17,000 people. Led by miners, members of the United Steel Workers, and local clergy, the townspeople convinced the last store, Mike's Market, to remove the grapes. Kirkland Lake, 400 miles north of Toronto and 200 miles south of St. James Bay, is now clean of the scab grapes.

"The boycott is gaining momentum in other Northern Ontario mining communities such as Timmins and Sudbury," writes Linda Hunter of the Toronto Boycott. "We hope to be reporting the same successes there very shortly."

EL MALCRIADO salutes our brothers in Canada who are doing such a tremendous job in helping us in our struggles. A group of Canadians visited the Coachella strike in June and seemed impressed by our stamina in the 110 degree heat. Now we are even more impressed by their stamina in the -35 degree cold.

VIVA LA HUELGA!



INSURANCE COMPANY DOCTOR'S REPORT

All Farm Workers Endangered by Pesticides

DELANO, January 20 -- A doctor for a grower's insurance company stated in a letter received today by the UFWOC legal department that the health of many farm workers is seriously endangered by continual exposure to organic phosphate pesticides.

Dr. J. L. Hines wrote the letter to inform UFWOC attorneys that their client, Abel Ojeda, a 16 year old farmworker from Woodville, did indeed deserve three weeks workmen's compensation from Strathmore Farms. Ojeda had filed for the compensation last August, after an examination of his blood by Dr. Lee Mizrahi of the Salud Clinic in Woodville revealed serious blood poisoning as a result of pesticide exposure. Ojeda's cholinesterase level was dangerously low, and Dr. Mizrahi recommended that he stay out of the fields for at least three weeks. Cholinesterase is an enzyme necessary for the proper functioning of the nervous system.

Ojeda followed Dr. Mizrahi's recommendation and asked UFWOC attorney Paul Driscoll to file a workman's compensation claim on his behalf against Strathmore Farms' insurance company. The insurance company then demanded that Ojeda submit to an examination by its own physician, Dr. Hines.

Dr. Hines agreed with Mizrahi's diagnosis and with his recommendation that Ojeda not work for three weeks. In his letter to UFWOC attorneys, Hines added that all farm workers should have periodic blood tests to check their cholinesterase level.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Growers claim that UFWOC's concern over pesticides is phoney, that the whole issue is a scare tactic. On the

contrary, we in the Union are learning that the problem is much greater than we had originally understood. Public officials and official investigations, private doctors, even insurance company doctors, are now beginning to explore the problem and are coming to the conclusion that pesticide poisoning among farm workers is of epidemic proportions.

And though the growers spend far less time in the fields than do the workers, this is something that is endangering them and their families, as well as the workers. It is strange indeed that they chose this problem on which to refuse negotiations and break off talks with the union.

NEW MOVE IN COURT:

UFWOC Demands Ban on Dangerous Pesticides

LOS ANGELES, January 19 -- The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has asked the Federal District Court in Los Angeles to outlaw the use of DDT and 10 pesticides even more dangerous than DDT.

The amended complaint was filed on January 19th on behalf of Coachella UFWOC member Vincente Ponce, representing the class of all consumers and farm workers, against Jerry Fielder, Director of the California Department of Agriculture. Ponce's complaint asks the court to enjoin Fielder from issuing licences and permits to growers and commercial pesticide applicators for the use of the following economic poisons: DDT, dieldrin, aldrin, heptachlor, parathion, endrin, lindane, benzene, hexachloride, TEPP, phosdrin, and systox.

The Federal Government and the State of California have restricted but have not prohibited the use of DDT. Officials have completely ignored other, more persistent and more toxic pesticides. Parathion,

phosdrin, systox, and TEPP, for example, have caused serious blood poisoning and even death to farm workers. Dieldrin, endrin, lindane, heptachlor and Aldrin, which, like DDT, are chlorinated hydrocarbons, are more persistent than DDT and cause liver damage, cancer, and diminished reproductive fertility, according to recent laboratory tests with mice.

"The government would like the public to believe that the pesticide problem has been solved by restricting the use of DDT," commented UFWOC attorney Chuck Farnsworth in an interview. "This is a deceptive move to protect the chemical companies and the growers, and we will not let them get away with it. The union has already moved to protect farm workers from dangerous pesticides by banning them from use on some ranches where a contract has been negotiated. Now we are taking our concern for the use of these pesticides on table grapes into the federal courts."

I.Q. TESTING IN ENGLISH: SPANISH-SPEAKING

SOLEDAD, January 8 -- Intelligence tests conducted in English are channeling a large number of bright Spanish-speaking youngsters into "mentally retarded" classes in the California public school system, parents of a group of 9 Mexican-American children charged here today. Assisted by the California Rural Legal Assistance, the parents filed suit against the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Soledad School District, seeking to

get the children out of the classes for the mentally retarded and put them into a regular school program.

According to a CRLA study, 26 per cent of the children in California's "EMR" (Educable Mentally Retarded) classes were Spanish-surnamed, while such students comprise only 13 percent of the total school population.

The suit demands that all Spanish-speaking children currently placed in EMR classes be retested by a qualified bi-lingual tester.

The CRLA suit alleges that the current practice of testing Spanish-speaking children in English forces them to spend an average of 3 years in classes with mental retards. It further alleges: "Placement in one of these classes is tantamount to a life sentence of illiteracy and public dependency. The stigma that attaches from such placement causes ridicule from other children and produces a profound sense of shame in the child. It is therefore of paramount importance that

Teaching Fantasy:

Every 4th

Not true

Debra Rojas, 9, displays picture of nattily dressed grape picker in her social studies textbook at St. Joseph School, Manchester. The account of grape picking in California is an unrealistic, rosy account of what is really a hard life, say her parents, former migrant workers.



CHILDREN CONSIDERED RETARDED

no child be placed in such a class unless it is clear beyond reasonable doubt that he suffers from an impairment of ability to learn."

At the request of the children's parents, the nine children bringing the suit were retested by a bilingual accredited psychologist using tests in Spanish, as well as English. Seven of the nine children scored higher than the maximum score used by the school district as the ceiling for mental retards. These seven ranged from 2 to 19

points above the maximum with an average of 8 1/2 points over the cut-off. One of the other two scored right on the line, and the ninth was three points below. The IQ scores of these children were raised an average of 15 points over those of the English tests, with one score improving 49 points. These results were presented to the local school superintendent, but all the children still are forced to remain in the class for mental retards.

In addition to the complete unre-

liability of English IQ tests when administered to children whose primary language is Spanish, the complaint alleges that the tests are culturally biased against rural Mexican-American children. The test includes such questions as "Who wrote Romeo and Juliet?" "What is the color of rubies?" and "Why is it better to pay bills by check than by cash?" (a difficult question for a child whose parents have never had a bank account.)

Grader Should Know-- Farm Work Is Fun

By BILL McCLINTON

Debra Rojas is only nine years old, but she knows something about the migrant worker's life.

Her parents are migrants, and as a tot she was taken into California's crop fields while her mother spent the day picking.

So when Debra read about grape picking in her fourth-grade social studies book at St. Joseph School in Manchester, she could compare. And it didn't sound like the life she knew.

Debra brought the book home where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rojas, examined it. The Rojas are the leaders of the grape boycott movement in Pittsburgh, coming here from California. They found the account of grape picking "absurd."

"What is written in that book is so ridiculous it's not even funny," Mrs. Rojas said this week. "I've worked all my life in the fields, starting when I was about five or six, picking cotton, grapes, prunes, apricots. What that book describes is horribly untrue."

The book is *At Home Around the World*, published by Ginn and Co. and copyrighted in 1958. This most recent edition came out in 1965.

The chapter describing grape pick-

ing tells of a California rancher's children, Jim and Jane, who live in a big white ranch house at the end of a tree-shaded driveway. They visit a neighboring ranch where grape picking is described this way:

"There was something exciting about seeing people picking grapes. Men and women in blue jeans, bright-colored shirts, and big hats moved up and down the long rows. Sometimes the pickers called back and forth to each other. Now and then one of them sang part of a song . . ."

And on Jim and Jane's own ranch: "Sometimes all the pickers seemed to be doing the same thing at the same time. It was like watching a machine do the same thing over and over. Pick, bend, rise. Pick, bend, rise. Jane said the words to herself. It was like doing gym exercises together."

Migrant workers are described briefly as "people who move from place to place to work at different seasons. The cars in which they travel from one job to another were parked nearby. The children go from one school to another as their parents follow the crop harvests. . . ."

"Why don't they tell about all the kids working in those fields under the summer sun?" Mrs. Rojas said. "I used to be out in the fields at 6 a.m. and picked all day. There were no breaks, no water, no bathrooms. I

wish it was like the book says."

After a carefree summer watching crops being harvested, Jim and Jane go back to school. "But they looked forward to long Saturdays of fun on the ranch," the book says.

Sister Janet Brink, a Benedictine who teaches Debra's social studies class, agreed the story is unrealistic. "Everything is made to seem nice and gay and carefree. It's not reality. The work is glorified like it's a game."

This is nothing uncommon for social studies texts, she indicated; too often what is depicted is not reality.

"It's not what people are going through. And social studies teachers tend to take the books at their face value. They aren't acquainted with the facts," she said, adding:

"Debbie asked to stand up and tell our class about the migrant's life. She taught them a lesson I never could have."

Sister Mary Judith, a Vincentian nun who is chairman of the school office's board of supervisors, said there has been no previous complaint about the book. It is one of two social studies books approved for fourth grade use in diocesan schools.

The above story is taken from the "Pittsburgh Catholic," of November 14, 1969.

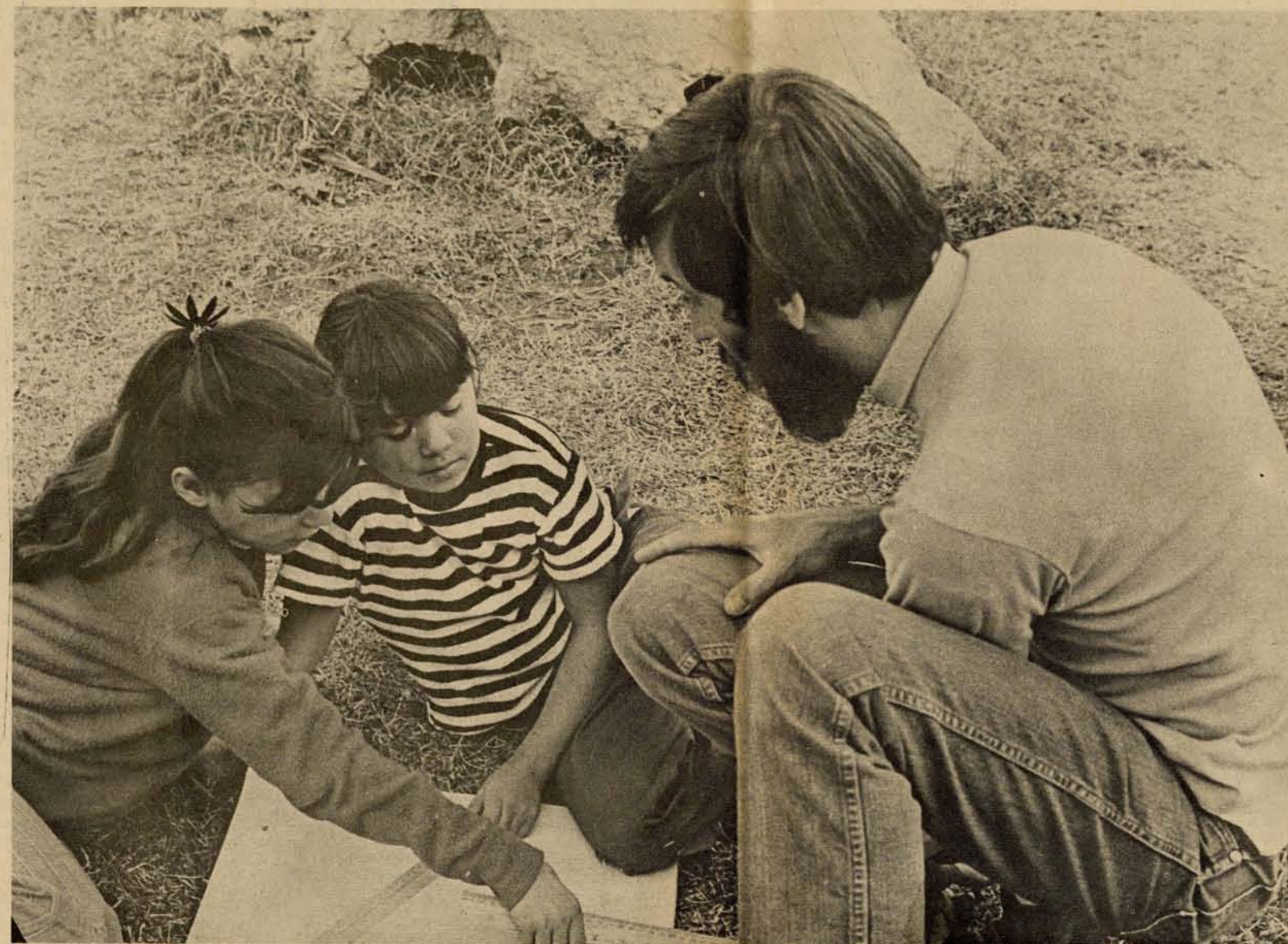
"Huelga School" Tries New Techniques

DELANO, January 31--UFWOC's Huelga School is now a permanent part of the farm workers' movement for social justice. Formed in September, 1969, the school attracts 35 huelguistas between the ages of 5 and 13 to its tutorial sessions. Formerly held afternoons in a local church and evenings at the Schenley Camp, the Huelga School now meets at the Pink House, which was recently vacated when the legal and boycott departments moved to Reuther Hall at the Union's 40 Acres headquarters.

Gordon and Felicia Williamson used funds from the Migrant Ministry to organize the Huelga School as a learning center for children involved in the strike. Although the school presently operates only as a supplement to the students' regular day in public school, the Williamsons, the other tutors, and many students hope that it will soon develop into a full-time school.

"We need our own school," states Dolores Padilla, mother of seven. "Many teachers around here are prejudiced against Mexican-Americans. Just the other day a teacher asked me not to speak Spanish at home with my kids. And teachers opposed to the union are often openly hostile to children of strikers."

The Williamsons and other tutors agree with Mrs. Padilla but go further in their denunciation of the public schools. According to Gordon Williamson, "most enlightened educators today agree that the teaching that occurs in the conventional American classroom fails to interest most children in the process we call 'learning.' Instead of encouraging a child to explore the world at his own speed, teachers in public schools often feel they must teach each child certain things within a certain amount of time. The child that isn't receptive to those things is called a 'slow learner,' or even a failure. Now I believe that those children who don't fit into teachers'



timetables are not slow, but that their experience in school throughout the years has convinced them that they have nothing to gain from learning. So they have stopped trying."

Huelga School embodies the Williamsons' and the other tutors' ideas of the right way to interest children in learning. At the sessions, no one appears to be "teaching" anyone anything. Rather, the students are engaged in independent activity, often involving the educational experiments and objects brought by the Williamsons. A visitor to the younger huelguistas'

sessions, held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school might find Jeanette Terronez, age 8, measuring her friends' height with a ruler; Richard Bustos, age 7, working with magnets; and Sharon Padilla, age 5, playing letter dominoes with tutor Liz Farnsworth.

At the other sessions, students and tutors work together on many types of projects. Joaquin Murguia, age 11, assembled a plastic model of a human body during several weeks' meetings. Robert Terronez, age 12, compiled a history of his family, and Johnny Perez, age 12, learned to use the cuisenaire

rods, which introduced him to a new way of looking at arithmetic.

A visitor to these sessions is impressed with the students' deep involvement in their projects. No teacher tells them when to open and shut their books; seldom does anyone even tell them to be quiet. They are learning because they need and want to learn in order to do the projects they choose to do. Roger Terronez, age 14, sums up many of the students' feelings when he says, "Viva la Huelga School."

ABOVE: Huelga School Director Gordon Williamson discusses a project with students Jeanette Terronez and Jenny Padilla.

RIGHT: OFF TO WORK WE GO

CHILD LABOR:

THE SUBTLE VIOLENCE

THAT ROBS US
OF A LIFETIME
OF OPPORTUNITY

A federal investigation into illegal employment of children during the 1969 fiscal year found 11,273 children illegally employed, many of them in hazardous occupations with high accident rates. The investigations, which reached only a small portion of establishments covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, showed about 10% of the violations are in farm labor, in spite of the fact that agriculture has lower standards than industry.

The investigations showed that 47 percent of the children working on farms during school hours were in the 10-13 age bracket, 38 percent were 14 or 15 years old, and 15 percent were under the age of ten.

A majority of the children illegally employed on farms, about 59 percent, were enrolled in school grades below normal for their age. Children of migrant workers who were illegally working, and who were below their grade level in school, was a tragic 72 percent.

How do you keep 'em down on the farm?

By getting 'em out of school and into the fields as early as possible!



RICHGROVE PONDERES SCHOOL

RICHGROVE, January 12 -- Over 300 townspeople packed a school board meeting here tonight to discuss the education of their children, only to watch the school board chairman, a grower named Nielson, adjourn the meeting after allowing only one person to speak. But the little town of Richgrove, California (population 886) is in the midst of a soul-searching crisis over its educational system, and before the dust settles, the little town may up-set a hundred years of traditional education and completely reshape the directions and goals of its school system.

The school board in Richgrove is composed of three Anglos, and one Filipino, the only Mexican-American, Mrs. Herminia Lara, having resigned during the crisis. Board members Neilsen and Steve Pavich are both ranchers and Mrs. Melton is a clerk for a rancher. The Filipino, Mr. Fernandez, runs a grocery store, and rarely speaks at board meetings.

Not only are there no Chicanos on the school board, there are no Chicano teachers in the school. Richgrove's population is about 80 per cent Chicano and perhaps 12 per cent Filipino.

Parents of Richgrove held two special meetings in December to which school board members were invited, but only Mrs. Lara attended. Between 100 and 200 citizens attended the meetings, showing the level of concern. The parents brought out the fact that school board meetings were held entirely in English and in the past had frequently been scheduled at times and places where working people could not attend.

They criticized the school for its lack of special programs designed to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking children. And they zeroed in on what they felt were patronizing and racist attitudes by the school principal, Mr. Blansett, and the Anglo majority of the school board.

The immediate problem of concern was the school board's de-

cision, without consulting the parents or community, to fire a group of Vista-Teacher Corps college students, most of them Chicanos, who had been assigned to work and live in the community and eventually become "Teacher-trainees," assisting the class room teachers. The ten Teacher-Corps members are all students at the University of Southern California and attend classes, usually with other Tulare County Teacher Corps students in near-by Visalia. During the first year of the program the students are expected to "Work" in the community, get to know the conditions, get to know the families, parents and children personally. During the second year they are expected to work in the class room. The program was presumably to aid the students in their education, and would also benefit the community.

The outpouring of support from the community (petitions signed by over 200 parents requesting that the school board retain the program)



NEEDS

did not sway the board members or the Poverty Program bosses who direct the program. While their "crimes" were never brought out in the open, the Teacher Corps students were accused of publically wearing UFWOC buttons, attending union meetings, and discussing the union and La Causa with farm workers in Richgrove (most of whom are already union members). They were accused of putting out a newspaper which discusses educational problems of Chicanos and farm workers, problems of racism and discrimination in a dominant Anglo society. They are also accused of helping the group of poor Richgrove kids accused of setting fires, pointing out that the kids were innocent until proven guilty and needed legal and financial help. They were accused of being "controversial". In short, the Anglo majority on the Board saw them as a threat to the status quo.

The Corps' well-paid boss, Frank Alderete, attended one packed community meeting, saw the overwhelming community support for the Teacher Corps, and then refused to back up the Teacher Corps students in the face of the School Board's attacks. His superiors, Mrs. Pat Hefferman in Los Angeles and National Teacher Corps Director Dick Graham, and National Vista Director Jack Ramsey, all seem eager to scuttle the program and come up with a "new program" which will keep the Teacher Corps students from getting too involved in the Communities.

Alderete even sought to have two of the students suspended from USC because they became "too involved in the community." The Poverty Bosses are now moving to remove Teacher Corps students from Earlmar for basically the same reasons.

Parents in Richgrove are moving to register voters and may launch a recall election. Such action may

be too late to save the Teacher Corps, but it might well be the beginning of a new era in Richgrove schools.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: As is so often the case, the Poverty Program officials have used the good intentions, energy, and skill of young people to create a "program." The program naturally involves highly paid administrative positions, but the people doing the work, the students, are paid next to nothing. If the program gives the first hint of upsetting or endangering the status quo, the Poverty Bosses pull back, abandon the students and the community. But hopefully this experience has taught the people of Richgrove a lesson, and made them



Our children are trapped by the education they are presently receiving. In these few pages we have tried to raise a few of the problems we face in providing a relevant education for our children. At present the Union simply cannot tackle this problem. But in the long run, in building a new society based on brotherhood and justice, this is where it all begins.

more aware of the importance of the type of education their children get. If so, Richgrove will never be the same again.

LIBERATED TIERRA!

All Union offices are now located at UFWOC's FORTY ACRES, on Garces Highway and Mettler Ave., one mile west of Delano. The new phone number for all Union offices is Delano (area code 805) 725-9703.

Traveling north on Hwy. #99, take the second Delano exit (1st St.), and proceed north to Garces Hwy, the first stop sign. Turn left on Garces and proceed west out of town one mile to the Forty Acres.

Traveling South on Hwy #99, take the first Delano exit (Business Hwy. #99, High St), to the first stop sign and stop light (Cecil Ave.). Continue on High St one mile south through town to Garces Hwy. Turn right and proceed west one mile past town.

Welcome to our liberated tierra!

Zone Changes Threaten Forty Acres

BAKERSFIELD, February 1--Richard Chavez, Director of the National Farm Workers Service Center, is scheduled to meet with the Kern County Planning Commission today to straighten out an inexplicable zone change on the Forty Acres where UFWOC rents its headquarters.

Originally zoned as "interum agriculture," the land was suddenly rezoned on September 15, the day after the farm workers' new headquarters building was dedicated. The new zoning designation, "E-8" calls for "single family dwellings on not less than 20 acres, with accompanying servants quarters, stables, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc., plus small animals, poultry and rabbits, as long as there are not

more than 12 of each variety," according to the attorney for the Service Center, which owns the land.

The zoning change applies only to the Forty Acres, and a small part of the adjoining property. Land to the east and west remains "General Agriculture." To the north is the city dump and to the south is the Voice of America.

"It appears that the farm workers have been victimized by incredible bureaucratic bungling," said attorney Charles Farnsworth, acting in behalf of the Service Center on the case. Farnsworth said that he was hopeful that the appearance before the Planning Commission would settle the matter so that the Forty Acres could be developed according to plan.

THREE CHEERS FOR "PROGRESS"

Progress for farm workers seems so slow at times that we want to cry out in despair. The little tiny steps forward surprise us, not because they are not welcome, but because they bring home and remind us of how unprotected we are in this lawless society.

The California Highway Patrol has announced that as of the new year, pesticides, explosives, and many other dangerous articles may not be carried in the passenger or driver's compartment of farm labor vehicles.

Other "progressive" regulations passed by the Highway Patrol state that seats in farm labor busses must be securely fastened to the floor, and that chains, cables, or bars used in farm labor trucks and busses in place of doors must not be less than 46 inches nor more than 52 inches from the floor of the vehicle.

The growers consistently opposed

such "government interference" and regulations. Undoubtedly now that the regulations are in effect, the growers will brag about this as another example of how progressive California is in protecting its farm workers. Such laws and regulations are rarely, if ever, enforced anyway. But the growers will tell you that it used to be worse, that things

are still worse in other states, that "California leads the nation in protective legislation for farm workers." The hollowness of that claim makes one want to cry.

Union contracts are the only way to end, once and for all, the thousands of dangerous and unsafe practices which are part of the daily lives of most farm workers.



HOW PROGRESSIVE WE ARE... SEE, OUR CHAIN IS BETWEEN 46" and 52" OFF THE FLOOR!

CAR ADS INSULT FARM WORKERS

The efforts of the growers' public relations firms and the Chamber of Commerce to mobilize big business on the side of the grape growers seems to be paying off.

A case in point is recent ads by General Motors Corporation, largest and richest corporation in the world. The ads, run in "Parade," "Time," and other slick magazines, show happy, affluent Americans "touring the Southwest" in their new GM cars. The cars just happen to be cruising through vineyards of you-know-what, where happy, contented, well-fed, prosperous-looking workers are seen waving, holding up bunches of yummy scab products. The scenes look more like a grape promotional than car ads.

Union members and supporters are encouraged to write to GM to protest this false portrayal of farm work, and this anti-strike

advertisement. Perhaps you could suggest they run a follow-up ad of the happy tourists driving their new GM cars through the slums and barrios and ghettos of South Texas, South Phoenix, the valleys and valley towns of California, waving at the hungry children and dilapidated housing... Or passing a farm labor truck with workers crammed into it like cattle... They could title that one, "Wouldn't you rather have a Buick?"...

Farm workers too would like to be able to buy new cars. Farm workers too would like to be able to go on vacations. At present such benefits of American prosperity are denied to farm workers.

But of course we wouldn't want truth or reality or honesty to interfere with G.M.'s advertising campaign or car sales, now would we?



Climbing into a typical farm labor bus... And Wouldn't YOU rather have a Buick?

UFWOC MEMBERS DONATE TO GE STRIKERS FUND

DELANO, January 10 - - After a description of the General Electric workers strike and boycott by AFL-CIO Organization Director, William Kircher, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO voted in its general meeting last night to make a contribution to aid the GE strikers.

The floor collection and pledges totalled \$987.92.

Cesar Chavez, UFWOC Director, who presided at the meeting, told farm workers and grape strikers attending the meeting, "It's funny but maybe this is the best experience we have ever had. You know, we have been receiving and receiving from the labor movement, and here we have a chance to give for a change. Why, we almost forget that other working people have troubles. But the GE strikers are up against it, and here is a chance for us to help, and at the same time, in a small way, say thank you to all who have given us so much"



CHICANO CONFERENCE

DENVER, January 15--The Second Annual Chicano Youth Liberation Conference of Aztlan has been scheduled for March 25-29, 1970, in Denver, Colorado, according to the Denver-based newspaper, "El Gallo."

Hosting the Conference will be the Crusade for Justice, led by Rudolfo "Corky" Gonzalez.

For further information, write to "El Gallo," 1567 Downing St., Denver, Colorado 80218.

FARM BUREAU CHIEF ENDORSES HUNGER AS INCENTIVE TO WORK

Charles Shuman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, charged recently that campaigns to eliminate hunger may worsen the problem by reducing the incentive to work.

Going by the theory that hungry people will work harder for lower wages, Shuman opposed the food stamp program, saying, "Many people will be encouraged to reduce their efforts to help themselves and thus become eligible for food stamps."

Of course those sentiments don't apply to the billions of dollars in payments to farmers for not growing cotton, the billions paid in subsidies, price supports, soil bank, reclamation, and irrigation schemes, government financed research, marketing aid, government guaranteed loans and purchases. That money the rich growers receive only whets their appetite for more.

**DON'T
BUY
GE**



ITLIONG ELECTED TO LEAD FILIPINO COALITION

SACRAMENTO, January 26 -- Leaders from dozens of Filipino organizations from throughout the state of California met here today and elected UFWOC Assistant Director Larry Itliong as temporary chairman of what they hope will be a broad coalition of all Filipino organizations. Itliong, who is also state chairman of the Filipino-American Political Association, noted that there is a need for a state-wide coalition of all Filipino organizations, whether they be political, social, economic, cultural, or professional, to meet the pressing needs of the Filipino community.

"We in the Union are trying to deal with the needs of the older Filipino farm workers, those retired and those almost ready to retire, who have no homes, no families, no place to go," said Itliong. "But this is a tremendous problem and we should mobilize the entire Filipino community to try to reach a solution. There are other problems unique to our community that none of our organizations, individually, can cope with. Perhaps if we can mobilize the whole community, doctors, lawyers, professional people, our younger people especially, we can make more progress."

Itliong noted that there is a rising political and social awareness among the Filipino community. "FAPA chapters in Vallejo, Oakland, and San Diego are helping us on the boycott," he said. "And I'm hopeful we are getting young Filipinos, especially those in college, interested in our struggle here. Of course we hope that the Filipino community will be doing more

to aid us in the future, after we get better organized. But I think we are making a start."



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WORKERS FROM

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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT'S RACIST POLICIES EXPOSED

SAN FRANCISCO, January 16--- Representatives of the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) met with the California State Fair Employment Practices Commission today and demanded that the FEPC launch a full scale investigation of the California State Department of Employment.

"The California State Department of Employment has been engaging in racially and ethnically discriminatory referral policies," charged CRLA attorney Robert Gnaizda. Gnaizda further charged that the state FEPC had deliberately closed its eyes to these racist policies and even tried to shield the Department of Employment from criticism. Previous FEPC reports on the Department of Employment have either been suppressed or have excused the reported racist policies because the studies were "inconclusive". Under Governor Ronald Reagan, the FEPC has been more concerned with protecting and shielding the racist Department of Employment from criticism than in trying to protect the minorities who are its victims.

"Mexican-Americans, without regard to their skill level, employment experience, aspirations, or education, have been compelled by the Department of Employment to accept farm labor while similarly situated "Anglos" are not so required," charged Gnaizda. "We had a case two years ago of a cook, Rudolfo Lara, who was referred to farm labor for the sole reason that he was a Mexican-American. He refused the job, pointing out that the rancher to whom he was referred had been cited for criminal violations of the California Labor Code on fifteen separate occasions. When he refused the job, the state denied him the unemployment insurance to which he was entitled. Had he been an Anglo cook, he probably never would have been referred to a farm labor job."

The CRLA won Lara's case,

and obtained unemployment benefits for him. But Lara wanted to take the case to the FEPC to end these racist referral policies. The FEPC took a year and a half to "investigate" the case and at first refused to make public its investigations. Under pressure from a law suit from Lara and CRLA, the FEPC finally issued its report, agreeing with Lara's claim of discrimination, but claiming it could draw no conclusions about Department of Employment practices in general, because the investigation had looked into only a few cases. At this point, the CRLA demanded a complete investigation of the Department of Employment and its referral policies.

"Our own investigations show that the State Department of Employment is violating the employment rights of at least 12,000 Mexican-Americans yearly," said Gnaizda. "Mr. Lara's case was not an isolated one. It's time we put an end to these practices."

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has been complaining about these racist practices for years. It is especially disgusting to see the state FEPC, in charge of protecting job opportunities for minorities, dragging its feet and refusing to publically condemn the biggest and worst example of racial

discrimination in California's entire labor market. The Department of Employment considers Mexican-Americans as second-class citizens with second-class rights, -- short, built close to the ground, especially suited to "stoop labor" -- to paraphrase the famous words of Senator George Murphy.

The Union would also like to see a check on ranches, to guarantee that Employers are meeting all the health, safety, sanitation, wage, and labor laws before referring workers to any given employers. The Department should be forbidden to recruit and refer strikebreakers to ranches where there is a strike.

In fact, the State Department of Employment is so immersed in racist and discriminatory practices, so much a part of the exploitation of farm workers, of subverting and suppressing the few rights and protections the workers have, it would probably serve the workers best if the entire Farm Labor Recruitment Service of the Department of Employment were abolished. This is just one more subsidy that the taxpayer provides for the rich growers, that contributes to the misery of the farm workers. If growers need workers, let them sign a union contract and pay decent wages, and they will have all the workers they need.



NEXT ISSUE:

POLITICS, RACISM, IN U.S. LABOR DEPT.

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