

THE HELL THAT IS

TEXAS

They Govern Only to Rob the POOR



NASARIO TREVINO, 73, OF RIO GRANDE CITY, HOLDS HUELGA SIGN. HE WALKED AT LEAST 100 MILES OF THE 500-MILE MARCH FROM THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY TO AUSTIN. (PHOTO BY SAM COOMBS)

The scabs of La Casita carry their own drinking water all the way from Mexico to the fields. They bring the good city water of Ciudad Aleman across the bridge in old soda and wine bottles to the United States and wait in the pre-dawn cold for the scab bus of La Casita.

They carry the water onto the bus, each with his own little supply. Then they travel twenty miles down the river to La Casita Farms. For the new ones who don't know, or for the ones that drink too much water and find their bottles empty, La Casita Farms provides for them. They provide their workers with buckets of filthy drinking water taken directly from

the Rio Grande.

La Casita Farms is an "island" of cultivated land on the Rio Grande River in Starr County. The rest of Starr County is just sagebrush and prickly pear. Its human resources are limited to 15,000 impoverished Mexican-Americans, and a few dozen infinitely corrupt political bosses who live off them. The only town, Rio Grande City, sits uncomfortably at the edge of the United States. Its unkempt streets and parks, its brutish police and officials, its dusty atmosphere of stagnant poverty and ignorance, are always there to remind the visitor that this is the poorest county in Texas.