

## SENATORS VIEW FLORIDA POVERTY

IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA -- Members of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs looking for evidence of hunger in America found out in Immokalee, Collier County, Florida, that some places have more than their share of it.

The Committee toured two labor camps and two Immokalee apartment complexes built for laborers and talked to 12 migrants who testified.

Rodolfo Juarez, a migrant farm worker, told the committee that crew leaders (contractors) who furnish work forces to the farmers "maintain a slave labor system." "I have worked in the fields since I was five years old through hunger and sickness, and my children will have to do this unless you act," he said.

Juarez, who has seven children, said that when his wife is pregnant, "she also must go to the fields to earn money to pay for the baby."

The senators also found (as is the case in several rural counties in California) that though Collier

County is totally dependent on the migrant to harvest a \$40 million annual truck crop - backbone of its economy - it makes no provision for the migrant's welfare.

County officials said that the migrant is a "federal problem, not a county problem." But the county has also refused to participate in federal programs for the poor, complaining that the cost of food distribution is high (\$45,000 to \$50,000 a year).

Marcela Longoria, who lives in a labor camp at Belle Glade, said her eight children "Sometimes go for weeks with not enough to eat because we had to pay the rent or be evicted."

The five Senators in the Committee had varied reactions towards the economic and social conditions that the migrants live in. Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, chairman of the committee, found people "living on fatback and peas."

Sen. Jacob Javits, a Republican from New York, found people were "living in houses fit for chickens and pigs - but not people."

Sen. Walter Mondale of Minne-

sota said, "We found an eerie apathy, empty people living almost shadow lives. They are people without hope."

(Senator Mondale recently spent several days in Delano and expressed his dismay at conditions here.)

Meanwhile, Florida Governor Claude Kirk attended the sessions and apparently did not like the witness list. He was also angry because the committee had not called Dr. Wilson T. Sowder, head of the State Board of Health to the witness stand. Instead, one of his nutritionists was invited to testify. "I believe we ought to hear from the general, and not from a corporal," Kirk angrily said.

After the two days of hearings, last week, Senator McGovern said that "Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we had visited in Collier and Lee Counties."

"We might so shake the national conscience that something will be done, even for the migrant farm worker," Senator Javits added.

Senators view Migrant Housing in Florida.



## Pittsburgh Judge Forbids Huelga Songs

Grape Boycotter's march in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, March 31 -- A Pittsburgh judge has warned UFWOC grape boycotters here that they face arrest and maximum sentences if they persist in "SINGING" on the picket line! Al Rojas, leader of the UFWOC boycott in Pittsburgh, pledged that the picketing would continue "as long as there is a single scab grape on the store shelves in Pittsburgh" and also promised "We'll be signing 'We Shall Overcome,' in English and Spanish, whether the judge likes it or not!"

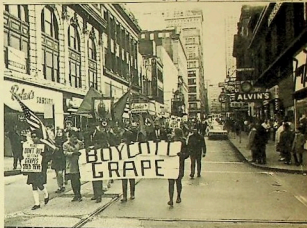
The strange judicial threat came from Judge Rocco Burello after cops arrested Rojas, Bruce Bagin, and James Scarbins for "loitering" and for "disturbing the peace" during the picketing of Indiana Market in the Shadyside district of Pittsburgh last week. The three were soon released on their own recognizance.

The charges were so absurd that the judge was forced to dismiss all of them when the three were brought to trial. But it was after dismissing the cases that the judge issued his threat. Over 150 labor union members, priests and clergymen, and supporters of the grape boycott jammed the courtroom to hear the trial, and all pledged to continue the non-violent tactics, regardless of police harassment and judicial threats.

Meanwhile, Rojas and his beautiful wife Helen and the Pittsburgh boycott crew continue to score victories against stores in Pittsburgh that are still selling grapes. Jay Dana, secretary to UFWOC in Pittsburgh, told EL MALCRIADO that five stores in Market Square which had been selling grapes have agreed to remove them. All signed binding legal agreements with the Poor Peoples Campaign agreeing that they would not carry grapes until the strike is settled.

The Oil, Chemical, and Atomic workers ask you to join them in their boycott of Standard Oil and Chevron

GSA



## HAWAII OFFICIALLY ENDORSES GRAPE BOYCOTT

HONOLULU, March 28: Both houses of the Hawaiian State Legislature endorsed the boycott of California table grapes this week. The resolution passed by both the House and Senate requested that "all public institutions of the State of Hawaii refrain from purchasing California table grapes until such time as the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee is successful in gaining union recognition from the California table grape growers."

Hawaii is the only state in the Union that has such basic labor laws for farm workers as unemployment insurance, collective bargaining rights, and health and sanitation, safety, child labor, and fair labor standards laws which are enforced. Farm workers' wages in Hawaii are the highest in the nation, and workers in the two main crops, pineapples and sugar, are almost all protected by Union contracts with the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. So it is not surprising that Hawaii should once again be the first state to support the right of mainland farmworkers to gain similar benefits.

Predictably, the Birchers and

Farm Bureaucrats began screaming for revenge against Hawaii as soon as they heard of the resolution. Assemblyman Kent Stacey, a reactionary growers' spokesman from Bakersfield, warned that the Hawaiian support for the grape boycott "may jeopardize relations" between California and Hawaii, and also warned of a counter boycott against all Hawaiian products. Growers have already sponsored "counter-boycotts," of dubious impact, against all products made in New York City, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, and dozens of other major cities across the nation whose majors have endorsed the boycott. They have boycotted the Catholic Church and sought unsuccessfully to destroy the Central California Register, the Catholic Archdiocese Newspaper for the San Joaquin Valley, because of the Church's suggestion that growers and farm workers should negotiate their differences. Now the growers are out to get Hawaii. Who will be next?

Everybody is out of step except little Johnny Agribusiness.