

Hiring Hall NOTICE

DELANO, January 1--Both Schenley Industries and Perelli-Minetti will be hiring workers over the next two weeks, for the pruning operations, according to Manuel Sanchez, director of the Union Hiring Hall in Delano. Both ranches are under Union contract and all interested in working at these ranches should register immediately at the Hiring Hall at 102 Albany St. in Delano. Sanchez noted that wages at Schenley are \$2.25 for pruning by machine and \$2.10 for pruning by hand. Wages at Perelli-Minetti are based on piece-rates.

Di Giorgio Ranch in Arvin-Lamont is also hiring a few workers, according to the Union's Lamont office. Though Di Giorgio is in the process of selling its land, the Union has demanded that until the sale is complete, all work done on the land must be under the Union contract. There is still some hope that the major buyer of the land, S. A. Camp, will honor the contract and thus avoid precipitating a major labor struggle in the fields this winter.

Prison Group Commits Itself to La Causa

SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA--Inmates at the California Conservation Center in Susanville, California have organized a Latin American Cultural Group and have begun publication of a small newspaper, "El Aguilá."

A statement of aims and objectives in the first issue of the paper said that the purpose of the group is to set up a program for the study of Mexican and American histories, heritages, and languages.

The guiding concept of the program, El Aguilá stated, is that Mexican-American inmates can change their way of thinking as a group. Mexican-Americans who are in prison will be asked to go out and get involved, not in crime, but in Mexican-American activities.

An interesting paragraph in another article of the paper reads: "We know that as ex-felons we will not have the right to vote nor will we be able to hold any public office, but as concerned Mexican-Americans we are determined to come out of prison and get politically involved at all levels."

SLAVERY IN TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, December 13--Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University and a member of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights said recently that farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas lived in a situation close to "peonage."

Father Hesburgh made the statement after listening to testimony indicating that Mexican-Americans in South Texas earn about \$1,500 per year and were unable to better themselves because of the opposition of rich growers and government officials.

"This sounds to me like peonage," he said. "This is as close as you can come to slavery."

The Texas Rio Grande Valley is one of the worst economic situations in the nation, he added.

Press reports said Texas attorney Arnulfo Guerra compared the border situation in the Valley with what would occur if Canadian workers were permitted to work in U. S. automobile factories at half the going wages.

"That 'wouldn't be permitted,' Guerra said, "but it is allowed along the Mexican border."

BOOK REVIEW

PROFITING FROM POVERTY WITH HIRE EDUCATION

The Dirt on California: Agribusiness and the University, by Ann and Hal Draper, ISC Press, 32 pages, 35 cents.

A newly published study by Hal and Ann Draper of Berkeley describes a fantastic pattern of pro-grower, anti-labor activity on the part of the University of California and its Division of Agriculture and Agricultural Extension Services.

The University has consistently worked toward limiting the organization of farm labor unions, preventing farm workers from organizing, holding down farm wages, preventing the passage of any legislation aimed at improving working conditions and providing propaganda for various causes supported by the growers to keep farm workers in near serfdom.

These anti-labor policies cover a 50-year span, according to the Drapers, and are as blatant today as they were in the 20s and 30s. The policies have been consistently against the worker, under both the Republican and Democratic administrations, the authors assert.

At the same time, the report reveals, the University has supported growers with billions of dollars' worth of subsidies, direct and indirect.

While the Division of Agriculture is one of the most lavishly financed and politically powerful departments in the University system, there is no service, no department, no institute or foundation in the entire University system which is concerned with serving farm workers or deals even peripherally with the problems faced by California's half million farm workers and their families, according to the report.

In addition to describing what the Wall Street Journal once termed "a tax-paid clinic for a major industry" the Drapers outline the firmly entrenched political power of the growers in the State Univer-

sity system.

While other departments lost as much as 25 percent of their budgets in Reagan's "austerity" program, Agriculture lost only 4 percent. The University of California spearheads the growers' "crash program" to mechanize agriculture, the Drapers report, and the program went into high gear after the braero program was terminated in 1965.

Unlimited slave labor at starvation wages was no longer available, and growers demanded that the taxpayers provide them with machines to harvest crops... anything to avoid paying higher wages in order to recruit domestic workers. "No machine ever joined a Union," the Drapers note.

In short, the evidence presented in carefully documented and annotated prose by the authors, both longtime friends of the United Farm Workers, shows the University has prostituted itself time and again for the growers, issuing false and misleading reports filled with outright lies in its efforts to convince the public of California and the United States that agriculture in this State could not survive without a miserable and poverty-stricken mass of unorganized workers to provide slave labor.

The University's research, studies, reports and statements on agriculture are so conorted that they are little more than a gigantic whitewash for a "super-exploitive industry whose main crop is poverty," the Drapers charge.

Of the \$25 million spent by the University's State Experiment Station in 1967, the State contributed \$17 million, the Federal Government, \$7 million, and "less than \$1.5 million was from the industry."

The incredible story of the non-competitive licensing of patents held by UC on agricultural machinery is also detailed.

Some of the recipients of UC's

largesse will be surprising to most readers of the report.

Copies of "The Dirt on California" are available from ISC Press, P.O. Box 910, Berkeley, California, 94701 at 35 cents plus 15 cents for postage and handling.



NEW LAWS FOR BORDER PASSES

WASHINGTON, November 28--The Federal Government has issued new regulations for visitors crossing the border from Mexico into the United States. The new entry permit will be dated and will be good for 15 days for Mexican citizens coming to the U.S. to visit, shop, or do business. It is valid only within 25 miles of the border.

The new regulations replace the "72-hour pass" which could be used within 150 miles of the border. The "72-hour pass" regulations were widely abused by people who used the pass to gain entrance to the U.S. and then got a job and remained in the country illegally. The new regulations are designed to curb this practice.

Union spokesmen were doubtful, however, that the new regulations would be any more adequately enforced than the old ones. And the new regulations avoid the much more serious problem of regulating the "Green Card" program. Since growers, Congressmen, Senators, Department of Justice officials, and Immigration Department officials all seem determined that the existing regulations will not be enforced, the passing of new regulations does not represent any improvement of the situation.

NON-VIOLENCE AND THE DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO, December 30--Pat Bryan, a young organizer for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee received a sentence of six months to four years in the federal penitentiary today for refusal to register for the draft.

Bryan had a hearing during a two hour trial on November 14, in which UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez testified in his behalf, saying, "I believe he is sincere and conscientious."

Bryan had stated in May of 1967, when refusing to register for the draft, "my conscience guides me

to not cooperate with any compulsory system which advocates killing as a method of settling disputes."

Bryan was an organizer for the Union in Delano and then on the boycott in Los Angeles and later St. Louis.

Another young organizer, Mark Silverman, has also refused to cooperate with the draft, and refused induction in November. "I am trying to help farm workers in this country. I will not go to kill farm workers in Viet Nam," he told EL MALCRIADO.

Silverman worked with the Union in Bakersfield and now works with the boycott committee in New York.

One young leader in the Union, Frank Diaz of Bakersfield, a former Guimarra worker who headed the boycott in Philadelphia until last month, was recently granted conscientious objector status. Several other organizers for the Union, firm in their conviction of non-violence, have applied for C O status.

EL MALCRIADO salutes these young men who are defending their belief in non-violence.