

HOSPITAL SEGREGATION CHALLENGED

VISALIA, January 7—Tax-supported hospitals which formerly refused to admit Medi-Cal patients will no longer be allowed to do so, as the result of a January 7 decision of Tulare County Superior Court Judge Leonard Ginsberg.

Farm worker and UFWOC member Eluterio P. Loredo, 59, of Poplar, had filed suit against the Sierra View Hospital District after he was refused admission to the District Hospital in Porterville because the cost of his care was to be paid by the Medi-Cal program.

The hospital had previously announced it would refuse to admit some Medi-Cal patients, and would refuse to perform any but emergency surgery for Medi-Cal patients under 65. The reason: to allow admission to those in need of Medi-Cal because they were poor would create "a flood of patients."

Judge Ginsberg's ruling declared that tax-supported hospitals may not discriminate against any segment of the public in their admission policies.

According to Loredo's physician, Dr. David Brooks of the Salud Clinic in Woodville, the decision may be important in "desegregating" many local hospitals which now discriminate against the poor.

"In the past," Dr. Brooks said, "physicians in many local hospital districts were unable to continue caring for their patients once they were hospitalized."

"While a physician might care for a welfare patient in his office, if a local hospital refused to admit him because of poverty, the doctor had no choice but to send the patient to a county hospital and a different physician," he explained.

Attorney Gary Bellow, who represented Loredo, was hopeful that the case would have far-reaching effects throughout California. "It is public policy," Bellow said, "to admit rich and poor children alike to schools in their own school districts, but it is still common practice to send

poor patients outside their own local hospital districts to distant, overcrowded county hospitals.

"The Loredo decision states clearly that the sick have a right to be treated in their own community hospitals, regardless of whether the patient, the government, or a private insurance carrier will pay the bill," Bellow said.

"It is an important step in the effort to provide equal health care to all citizens."

For years hospitals claimed that they could not admit indigent patients because there was no one to pay for the care.

When Medi-Cal, a Federal-State program, provided medical services for the poor, many local hospitals claimed admitting patients under the program would over-crowd their facilities.

Some observers wondered "Overcrowded the facilities for whom?"

"Obviously for those who could afford to pay from their own funds," was the answer.

The Loredo decision may mean that the well-off can no longer be "protected" from over-crowding by the poor. In the San Joaquin Valley, the "poor" are generally farm workers.



Mrs. Dolores Huerta, the leader of the grape boycott in New York.

New York Boycott Plans Total Victory

NEW YORK, January 10—Only one major supermarket chain continues to sell grapes in New York City, according to Dolores Huerta, UFWOC vice President and director of the boycott in New York since late 1967. "All the chains are clean, except for Gristedes Markets," Mrs. Huerta reported. "At least 22 major chains, involving hundreds of stores, have stopped selling grapes because of the lack of demand or because of pressure from their customers."

Mrs. Huerta said that there is still work to do in Yonkers, Westchester and in New Jersey. Small independent stores and fruit stands are also handling grapes, she noted, but the main work of the boycott committee in New York for the next three months will be to build an interlocking community-based boycott structure in every neighborhood of the huge city, in preparation for the 1969 harvest.

"We are beginning to build neighborhood coalitions in each of the five boroughs, in every major neighborhood," Mrs. Huerta explained. "During January we have been concentrating on building student groups, especially in the high schools and universities. Students here are very militant and socially conscious. We hope that by May, when the first grapes are shipped from Arizona and Coachella, that we will have student 'watchdog' committees checking every store, market, fruit stand and delicatessen in the city."

"In February and March we will be concentrating on political clubs and church groups. We will organize by neighborhoods and will build coalitions of church groups, liberals, students, and labor in every neighborhood. The wonderful work that labor did in supporting our boycott this year will thus be backed up by local boycott committees when the growers try to unload their 1969 harvest. We are talking about a city where more than 8,000,000

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BOYCOTT VICTORIES IN --- GEORGIA!

UFWOC representative Luis Melendrez working in coordination with the Atlanta Committee to Support the Farm workers, The Concerned Clergy and AIO-ClO Region six has succeeded in getting the five major chains in Atlanta to stop selling California grapes. These chains, Colonial, Big Apple, A&P, Kroger, and Winn-Dixie, account for 78% of that city's grape sales. Two of the chains have removed grapes in a four-state area.

This represents a major breakthrough for the grape boycott in the South where the growers have been dumping their grapes in order to avoid the successful UFWOC boycott in northern cities. Active boycott committees are operating in Miami,

New Orleans, Nashville, Louisville and other major southern cities.

The victory is due mainly to pressure brought by individual consumers and by numerous organizations of local stature and prestige who supported the boycott and entered into direct negotiations with top management of the stores. The concerned Clergy is a group of 43 white and black, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Clergymen dedicated to fighting racism and exploitation.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. and Father Mulroy are the leaders of this group.

Rev. King said he undertook the grape boycott as a personal calling because of the mutual admiration that existed between his son

and Cesar Chavez, the non-violent leader of the UFW.

Some of the organizations which comprise the Atlanta Committee to Support the Farm Workers are: the Southern Regional Council, Kennedy Action Group, Southside Atlanta Health Dept., the faculty of Emory University. The Atlanta committee is coordinated by Mrs. Becky Becker, an Atlanta housewife.

In Atlanta and throughout the South people have responded to the call for help on the boycott. Many Southerners know the plight of the migrant worker first hand. To them, active support for the boycott is one way of bringing closer the day when there will be social justice for all farm workers.

Puerto Ricans Fight "Blood Tax"

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, January 3—More than 100 Puerto Ricans who were scheduled to go on trial beginning November 12 for refusing induction into the United States Army, have had their trials indefinitely postponed.

Jose del Carmen Garcia Miranda, the first of the draft resisters to be tried, was acquitted on November 18 in San Juan.

After the acquittal was announced, Federal attorneys filed an appeal with the First Circuit Court in Boston, and the trials of the remaining men who refused induction were postponed pending the outcome of the appeal, according to a report from Thomas Dorney of the Puerto Rican Peace Center.

Citizens of Puerto Rico cannot vote for President, nor do they have representation in the Congress of the United States, but they are subject to the draft.

Dorney said Garcia Miranda was acquitted on a technicality, after defense attorney Michael Standard introduced evidence to show that

Garcia had been issued his induction order out of turn.

Colonel Luis Torres Massa, head of the Selective Service System, in Puerto Rico, later denied that Garcia's local board had violated the rules of procedure, and that "incorrect" information had been presented at the trial, Dorney reported.

argue impressively that the application of the draft law to Puerto Rico is illegal on five distinct counts," Dorney's announcement said.

Some have called the drafting of Puerto Ricans a "blood tax," referring to the fact that the doctrine of no taxation without representation



protects them from paying income taxes to the United States government, but Puerto Ricans still are liable for military service for a country which does not allow them to vote.

"Many Puerto Rican induction resisters are C.O.s primarily for political reasons. They want independence for Puerto Rico, and they