

# PATIENTS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

Mrs. Jessie Diaz is a tubercular patient at Ward F, Kern General Hospital, Bakersfield California. About two months ago Jessie began to hear rumors that Kern Hospital had received a grant for a mental health facility, and that tubercular patients would be removed from Ward F and be deposited in an unknown place without assurance that they would enjoy the few liberties they now have. Jessie began to ask a lot of questions. She sent a petition, signed by all the tubercular patients, to Mr. Hatley, the administrator of Kern General Hospital, and subsequently to other civic and political leaders. Hatley never answered Jessie's letter, and even denied that the patients had ever contacted him. Unfortunately for him, Jessie had a copy of the letter. The organizing Jessie did from her hospital bed eventually resulted in a three hour "hot session" at the weekly meeting of the K.G. Board of Supervisors. The patients received guarantees that

they would not lose their privileges.

The following are excerpts from Jessie's letter to the Bakersfield, California: Dear sirs, at the present time the Board of Supervisors wants to move tubercular patients to the main hospital. They plan to move the long-term patients to Fresno. The patients do not want this move and are justified for feeling the way they do. We are the shining American citizens. If we are guilty of any transgressions, it is not we have contacted a contagious disease. We even accept the need for a certain amount of confinement, but we must continue to have the physical freedom, therapeutic exercise, library, and family visits so necessary to help us live decent lives and speed up our recovery. The Kern County Supervisors, in making this move, has swept the tubercular patient and his welfare under the rug of "financial justification." Is it not sad that human beings will be loaded on gurneys and wheel chairs and deposited where

they will do the least harm? We need the help of all those concerned citizens who will protest our removal from this building. Sincerely yours, Jessie Diaz, Kern General Hospital, F. Ward.

Among those who want to bat for Jessie at the Supervisors' weekly meeting were Marion Moses, head of NFWOC's Rodrigo Terrazas Memorial Clinic in Delano, and Mr. Jess Alcalá of the Community Service Organization in Bakersfield. Alcalá insisted that the Board guarantee that the patients continue to enjoy the privileges which they now have. The Supervisors evaded charges that the hospital discriminated on the basis of race and that it gave inferior health care to the poor. Members of the Chicano and black community of Bakersfield are now more determined than ever to make Kern General live up to its promise of good health care to all residents of Kern County. LONG LIVE THE COURAGEOUS JESSIE DIAZ!

# COACHELLA STRIKE

workers union jobs under our new contract. If they will come out and join us. One man comes to the edge of the vines to talk to us. He plans



A friendly creature

to leave within the hour.

We picket until three in the afternoon. More workers are coming out and will be at the office tonight to sign for work under a union contract.

We willingly accept the hardship of the picket line for we have suffered for many years as campesinos, and we know that victory is now within our grasp. We go now to eat and rest. We will go to bed early for we must be awake at 3:30 to start again.

Late at night a solitary light dimly illuminates a sign in front of our office. It reads: Que viva la causal! Victory in Coachella-- 1970!



A worker listens to strikers' views on the Union. He decides to leave the fields and join us.

# PESTICIDE VICTORY!

As a result of a complaint filed by UFWOC attorney Charles Farnsworth, Judge Locke of the Visalia Superior Court has issued an injunction against ELAMCO, one of the largest grape growers in Tulare County. This injunction will force ELAMCO to extend the present state-required 14 day period to 21 days before farm workers may be permitted to return to the fields after parathion has been sprayed on the crops. The judge agreed to the extension after testimony had been heard from a number of experts who described the harmful effects of the pesticide.

According to the Farnsworth, laboratory tests had shown that a number of farm workers had suf-



ered serious injuries (symptoms of which included loss of hearing and taste, partial blindness, severe rashes and burns, and nausea) after parathion had been used. In several instances, doctors reported that

exposure may have affected the cholinesterase level in the blood. Cholinesterase is a blood enzyme—a low reading can affect the nervous system. When this occurs, doctors usually recommend that the patient not return to work until the level returns to normal.

"This opens the door to numerous appeals on the part of farm workers in California who are continually exposed to harmful pesticides," said Farnsworth. He added that the state must be forced to expand the restrictions on the use of pesticides which have proven so hazardous.

## boycott scab grapes

Howard Neilson (who is named in a recall petition filed last week by Richgrove school board candidate George Gallardo), is also rumored to be named in a breach of contract suit.

The suit arose after the New Horizon Club Service Center of McFarland was promised the Richgrove Memorial Building for the 28th of March and later denied the use. The promise in writing was for a dance the New Horizon Club had planned on having that day.

Mrs. Edna Velez, community worker and backer of the center, consulted with both Mr. Jack Roland, the custodian and Howard Neilson, President of the memorial district.

The agreement made almost two months before the scheduled dance was then cancelled by Neilson two days before the date without any prior notice. The hall was rented for \$129.00 plus \$25 deposit. Everything was set when the breach was made.

The New Horizon Club Service, whose membership includes union campesinos, is located at 657 3rd street in the city of McFarland.

# VETERANS' MEMORIAL BUILDING SUED

The club is composed, right now, of 28 low income families dedicated to help others help themselves. Their activities include adult education programs, assistance in obtaining work, information on youth opportunity programs, emergency food and clothing dispensing and in general assistance with any community problems.

Mr. Frank Villanueva, president of the organization and Mrs. Velez, understandably, feel that if Neilson does not want any outsiders to use the Memorial Building, that it should not be promised to begin with, rather than cost tremendous hardship later. The money lost could have contributed greatly to the Child Care Center the low income farm community is trying to build. Their only recourse now



Frank Villanueva and Edna Velez

is to file suit for breach of contract.

EL MALCRIADO is appalled at this incident and is aware of other such cases not only in the past, but presently occurring with other organizations. Perhaps Mr. Neilson and comrades should be reminded that he acts as a member of the Veterans District to serve the public in a responsible manner. If not, he might be hearing "RECALL MEMORIAL DISTRICT PRESIDENT"