

The Rural Tribune

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Election Marks Fresh Start

By Don Patch

En Español, p. 4

A new Board of Directors has been elected for Centro Cultural. The three women and four men were selected from 24 candidates by approximately 55 voters who cast their ballots Sunday, February 25th. The seven member Board will have the responsibility to draft and adopt by-laws, chartering the future course of Centro Cultural.

Those elected were: Teresa Sanchez, Vangie Sanchez, Hilda Hinojosa, Cipriano Salazar, Hector Guzman, Mike Devine and Carlos Maciel.

Sunday's Board election was the first since 1975, and represents the beginning of a reconstruction period for the Centro Cultural and the Spanish-speaking community involved with it.

Since its beginning in 1972, Centro has been a dream shared by many people. The original founding families, numbering thirteen, together with Father Beezer of St. Alexander's Church were hoping to build a place where people could come to share ideas, gather to talk and maintain their cultural customs -- a place that could be a bridge between the

Spanish and English-speaking communities culturally, politically and spiritually.

In 1972 a major portion of the dream was realized when the building which now houses the Centro was purchased. Money that was used to buy the building came from community donations and from a catering service formed specifically for raising building funds. Also at this time incorporation papers were filed, formally creating Centro Cultural as a non-profit tax exempt corporation.

As a newly-formed non-profit corporation, Centro set about locating ways to produce a regular income. This was accomplished when in 1973 ORMETEX was founded. ORMETEX was a piece-work company doing business with Tektronix. It brought a steady income to Centro and provided jobs.

As the Centro grew and became more secure through its business, ORMETEX, and increasing community memberships, it began to involve itself in more social and political issues. One of the first major social issues getting the attention of Cen-

tro's membership was the need for medical care. Migrant and low income families were forced to travel great distances to get primary medical care at a free or reduced cost.

The need became acute when a young child of a migrant family named Virginia Garcia died because of lack of medical attention. Her unnecessary death initiated a successful effort to bring comprehensive medical care to those who could not afford it. Today the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is still providing that medical care, and stands as a symbol of partnership among those who made it happen—Centro, St. Vincent's Hospital, the community and Virginia Garcia.

The battle to establish the clinic was long and difficult and marked an

active political concern new to the Centro. New political activities began to monopolize staff time. Problems over the management of the Clinic by Oregon Rural Opportunities in Woodburn, as well as negotiations for other social programs all added stress to the Centro's structure.

About this same time CETA was recruiting employment programs from around the county. Special projects designed for one year's operation gave a chance to organizations with limited funding, such as Centro, to initiate programs that they would otherwise be unable to do. CETA paid for salaries and some supplies, while the organization which ran the project was responsible to pay administration costs such as mileage, bookkeeping and office space. For Centro, those costs were to be carried by ORMETEX. However, like so many other non-profit organizations, the increase in

Continued on p. 4

INS Raids Walters

By Annette Bromberg

En Español, p. 6

He is seventeen years old and has been sent back to Mexico four times in the last five years. Each time he is caught, his family lives in fear of what could happen to him. The border town he is deported to is rough and hard to survive in, especially for someone alone and so young.

Each time he is deported he is left practically penniless. The Immigration and Naturalization Service routinely asks employers for their undocumented workers' back wages when the workers are apprehended. His check is forwarded to the workers by INS—but oftentimes after the transportation costs to Mexico have been deducted. INS is supposed to ask the worker to pay the costs out of his or her check. The workers can refuse but it can adversely affect their ability to reenter the U.S. legally at some future date.

The last time the boy was caught the INS didn't even ask permission to deduct these travel expenses, as the law requires. Instead, the INS simply took \$50 out of his \$60 check, leaving him with \$10

Each time the boy is caught, his family has one less person working,

and it is increasingly harder to make ends meet while they wait for him to return.

By now he is learning the ropes. The last time he was deported, it took him only 12 days to return. During the days he spent in the border town, he tried to run the border three times, the fourth with success. During one of those runs, he saw a fellow undocumented worker shot to death by the border patrol.

In the last five years, this boy has paid a total of \$1225 to "coyotes" who guide him across the border and guarantee safe passage to Oregon. Each time he returns to Oregon, the first money he saves is to pay for another coyote in case he is caught by INS again and deported.

According to some sources, a coyote is not always reliable. Often they don't come through with their end of the bargain, and simply disappear with the money, or else they report the illegals to INS after a delivery, with the apparent motive of greasing the wheels of their profitable business.

The realities of being an illegal alien are grim. Since they live outside

Continued on p. 6

Governor's Rep Meets With Hispanics

By Evan Kaeser

En Español, p. 4

Lee Johnson, representing Governor Victor Atiyeh's office, met with board members from the Committee of Spanish Speaking People of Oregon (COSSPO) last Wednesday to discuss the needs of the Hispanic community throughout the state.

During the last Administration COSSPO Board member Luis Alvarez was appointed by Straub to the statewide Assistant Ombudsman position. To date, Governor Atiyeh has not appointed a Hispanic to a major position, although his record on appointing Blacks and women has met with support. Lee Johnson asked that COSSPO send a list of qualified candidates to Salem for consideration.

COSSPO Board members are drawn from the business, social service, and legal areas of the Hispanic community. Funded by CETA, COSSPO has served as a referral agency in the Portland metropolitan area since 1977, handling problems of employment, housing, general welfare, counseling, translation and the elderly.

Executive Director Armando LaGuardia believes that the needs of the estimated 60,000 Hispanics statewide are not being met. LaGuardia proposed a commission to accurately measure the Hispanic population and

assess its needs.

LaGuardia warned, "It is problematic to lump all minorities together. The problems of the Blacks, women and other minority groups are not the same as that of the Hispanic community."

The Bilingual Education bill now in the legislature was discussed. At present there are bilingual programs in Hillsboro and Woodburn. It was felt that Hispanics throughout the state should have these same privileges.

The recognition that the Hispanic community will continue to grow in Oregon, as it has nationally, has convinced the Governor that further meetings are necessary. COSSPO intends to maintain contact with Lee Johnson and the Salem Administration.

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UPDATE: "Farmworkers Caught in Battle over Labor Funds" January 1979

The U.S. District Court hearing scheduled for February 1 was postponed until February 23, regarding ORO's complaint against the Department of Labor and the California Human Development Corporation. ORO charged that the DOL had interfered with ORO's ability to compete for the Department's CETA funds, causing them to lose their \$760,000 grant to provide services to farmworkers. DOL awarded the CETA funds to a California-based agency—CHDC—which sent personnel to Oregon last month to begin a new farmworker's program.

The February 23rd hearing lasted until 6 p.m. and a further hearing had to be scheduled to continue the case. It will be held March 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the federal courthouse in Portland.

Newsriting Workshop

A newsriting workshop that will highlight reporting in and for the Chicano community will be held March 3 at the Portland YWCA.

"Writing for Newspapers," taught by Oregonian reporter Roberto Olmos, is sponsored by Colegio César Chávez.

Olmos will discuss reporting in and for the Chicano community, as well as how to choose a story subject, interviewing, and organization and writing the story. A discussion of alternative newspapers, their purpose and how to write for them, will be led by Don Patch, director of *The Rural Tribune*.

Participants will have an opportunity to write an article and receive comments on their writing.

Registration is \$12 for non-students and \$7 for students. A buffet lunch will be provided for \$2.50. To register call Caren Caldwell at 648-3141 in Hillsboro, or Peter de Garmo, 845-2234 in Mt. Angel. Or, write Newsriting Workshop, Colegio César Chávez, 1000 S. Main, Mt. Angel, Ore. 97362.

"Writing for Newspapers" will begin at 9 a.m. at the YWCA, 1111 S.W. 10th Ave., Portland.

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FACTS & DATES

Police Harassment

The Washington County Legal Aid Advisory Council is sponsoring a workshop on Police Harassment at 7 p.m. on March 7 at their regular meeting place in the basement of the First Congregational Church, 5th and Main in Hillsboro. The session will include instruction on what you may do if you experience police harassment. The Council plans to have an attorney on hand to answer questions and hold an open discussion on problems of this nature experienced in this community.

The Advisory Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Church. This is the first of a series of workshops open to the public without charge.

Persecucion Policiaca

El Concilio Consejero de Ayuda Legal del Condado de Washington está protagonizando un curso o entrenamiento de persecución policiaca el 7 de marzo a las 7 de la noche en el sótano de la First Congregational Church, situada en las calles 5 y Main en Hillsboro. La sesión estará abierta para todo el público en general e incluirá instrucciones en lo que Usted debe hacer si Usted le toca pasar por esa experiencia. El concilio planea traer un abogado allí para contestar preguntas y dirigir una discusión abierta de los problemas de esta clase tan experimentada en nuestra comunidad. No se le cobrará a nadie de los que asistan a esta reunión. El Concilio Consejero regularmente se reúne el primer miércoles de cada mes en el sótano de la citada iglesia. Este es el principio de una serie de entrenamientos o consejos al público, en general todos serán bienvenidos. Refrescos serán servidos a los asistentes.

Community Action Worker Needed

CETA-eligible worker wanted to counsel low income people in crisis. Some math and filing skills necessary. Bilingual (Spanish-English) preferred. Applicants must live in Washington county or Multnomah county, outside Portland city limits.

Call 640-1781 for more information by March 8, 1979. Salary is \$740.00 per month. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Empleo con WCCAO

Washington County Community Action necesita un trabajador como consejero a personas de ingresos bajos en crisis. Tiene que ser eligible para CETA, y vivir en el condado de Washington o el condado de Multnomah afuera de la ciudad de Portland. Algunas habilidades matematicas son necesarias. Prefiere persona bilingue.

Para más información llame a 640-1781 hasta March 8. Salario mensual es \$740.00. Empleo de Oportunidad Igual.

Fair Share to Meet in Hillsboro

If you think your voice no longer can be heard or that your opinion no longer matters, think again! Oregon Fair Share has been the vehicle for many individual people in neighborhoods throughout Oregon to bring about needed changes.

Fair Share is in the process of organizing neighborhood groups in Washington County right now. So, if it's a stop sign at a busy intersection that's needed or a fairer utility rate structure, come to the next Fair Share meeting to be held March 13, Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 5th and Main, Hillsboro.

Fair Share A Reunirse en Hillsboro

Si usted piensa que su voz ya no puede ser escuchada o que a su opinión ya no se le da importancia, ¡piense de nuevo! Fair Share de Oregon ha sido un vehículo para mucha gente individual en las vecindades por todo Oregon para efectuar cambios necesarios. Fair Share ahora está en el proceso de organizar grupos de vecindades en el condado de Washington. Así que, si es una señal de alto en una intersección activa la que es necesaria para una estructura de rédito más justa de utilidades, venga a la próxima junta de Fair Share que será llevada a cabo el 13 de marzo, martes, a las 7:30 p.m. en la Iglesia First Congregational Church, 5 y Main en Hillsboro.

Spanish Movies

Movies in Spanish are shown each Saturday at the Aloha Theater, 18295 S.W. Tualatin Valley Highway from 1 to 5 p.m. Each Saturday two movies are shown. Each Sunday the movies shown 8 days earlier in Aloha are again shown at the Clinton Street Theater, S.E. 26th and Clinton in Portland. For more information on prices or titles, call 648-3665.

Peliculas en Español

Se exhiben películas en español cada sábado en el teatro de Aloha, 18295 S.W. Tualatin Valley Highway, de 1 a 5 p.m. Cada sábado hay dos películas. Cada domingo, las películas exhibidas 8 días antes en Aloha son exhibidas de nuevo en el teatro de la calle Clinton (Clinton Street Theater), S.E. 26th y Clinton, Portland, Para información sobre los precios o títulos, llame al 648-3665.

Planning Starts for Market

Would you like to see a Farmer's Market in Washington County? On Thursday, March 8, people will be meeting to form a steering committee to get plans underway for a Market this summer. All interested people are invited to come and share their ideas. The meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. at Hope Co-op, 2017 21st Avenue, Forest Grove.

Teatro Group to Perform for Cultural Night

A highly acclaimed theatrical and mime group from Mexico City—Teatro Nandyelli—will be featured in two performances in the Portland area this month. "Noche Cultural e Solidaridad con el Trabajador Mexicano" (Cultural Night in Solidarity with the Mexican Worker) will be held in Woodburn, Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Woodburn Community Center, 3rd and Hayes.

Presented by the Oregon Committee for the Humanities and the Willamette Valley Immigration Project, the mime troupe will perform two works—"La Mima del Oprimido" ("The Mime of the Oppressed") and "Trabajos Forzados" ("Forced Labor"). Following the performance two speakers will be featured: José Pepe Medina, president of the International Brotherhood of General Workers Local 301 from Los Angeles, and Mario Vasquez, representing the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, also from Los Angeles. There will be no admission charge for the evening of entertainment.

Teatro Nandyelli will hold second performance in Portland Sunday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Circus Theater Studio, 221 S.E. 11th. This will be a benefit performance for the Immigration Project and admission will be \$2.50. Child care is available at both events. Further information can be obtained by calling 222-3906 or 982-0243.

Gas, Oil "Hot Line" Complaints Total 714 in Three Days

The Department of Energy's new "hot line," which is being run by the Economic Regulatory Administration, received 714 consumer complaints on gasoline and heating oil supplies and prices in its first three days of operation.

The hot line is manned from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday. It is manned nights and weekends by a recording device. ERA Administrator David J. Bardin said the hot line was established to give consumers a direct contact with the U.S. Government to report any problems which may develop in obtaining supplies of home heating oil or any price increases which appear to be unwarranted.

The toll-free number for consumer complaints outside the Washington, D.C. metro area is (800) 424-9246.

Mesa de la Directiva de WCCAO

La Mesa de la Directiva de Washington County Community Action se juntará miércoles, 14 de marzo a las 5:30 p.m. Para informarse acerca del lugar de esta junta, llame al 648-6646.

WCCAO Board to Meet

Washington County Community Action's Board of Directors will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m. For location call 648-6646.

Municipalities Cooperating In Grant Process

By Cindy Schenkenberger

The social and economic outlook for Washington County's low and moderate income residents will be brighter in the future if a historic effort underway in the county goes according to plan.

Representatives from 12 county municipalities are currently working toward the common goal of obtaining \$1.9 million in U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development block grant funds for programs to benefit low and moderate income citizens.

"This is a real landmark for the county in the sense that we have these municipalities cooperatively working for the betterment of Washington County as a whole," said Hank March, a county administrative assistant who is coordinating the effort.

The county, with 215,000 residents, qualifies for the federal funds as a result of its new "urban county" status assigned by HUD to counties or cities with a population of at least 200,000. The funds are guaranteed to the county upon grant application acceptance by HUD. Approval

depends on how well the county meets HUD's rigid rules relating to legislative intent and community development strategy.

March explained that the county got into the block grant business with virtually no staff to coordinate "a very complex process within HUD's tight time frame. Time has been our real problem from the very onset of this project." He continued, "I am extremely pleased with the caliber of people that we assembled on such short notice, and the interest they have displayed in the types of projects proposed."

Lending support in the effort is the administrative staff including Neal Griebing, on loan from Washington County Community Action; two part-time consultants, Gil Mallory and Sharon Evans; and clerk/typist Ann Culbertson.

Other principals include the 14-member policy advisory board, and the 27-member citizens advisory committee. March credits Kathy Redwine, policy board chair, and Yvonne Addington, vice-chair, with "showing enthusiasm from the very

start of the project." Of Dick Stolte, citizens committee chair, March said, "He's done a great job in directing the citizen input phase. The citizens pulled off a very difficult task with a great deal of resourcefulness and dedication. We are on schedule despite the fact we had such a short time to get the required degree of citizen input outlined by HUD. They had two weeks to get it—and they did it." He noted that the citizens spent many long hours reviewing the proposals.

Projects proposed by the citizens committee included requests for senior citizen centers, housing rehabilitation, and community centers. A multi-purpose community center to serve the western county's Head Start program was proposed as a project for Cornelius. Day care for children of migrant workers, a language lab for the area's Spanish-speaking residents, and arts and crafts for seniors were outlined as possible programs in this proposal.

"We want to provide services for as many county residents as possible," says March. "We're looking at our present situation in the county and how we can best serve the

neighborhoods which exist now. I like to think of the funding as a way for county taxpayers to get a portion of their federal dollars back. By giving our citizens a say in how that money should be spent, we're saying 'we want the decision to be made in Washington County rather than in Washington, D.C.'"

The administrative staff presented its project recommendations to the policy advisory board Feb. 15. The actual prioritizing will be done by that board. "Although the citizens committee is currently in a 'holding pattern,'" according to March, "the strategy formulated by the policy advisory board will go back to the citizens on March 6."

A hearing set for March 22 will allow the public-at-large to comment on the strategy. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room in the County Administration Building in Hillsboro.

In late March, the application will go to the Metropolitan Service District for review and coordination. The application is due in HUD's office April 30. The agency will announce its decision in June.

Additional information on the block grant program is available from the Office of Community Development in the Washington County Branch Office in Hillsboro. Their telephone number is 648-8814.

Los Municipios Cooperan en el Proceso de Solicitar Fondos

Por Cindy Schenkenberger

La situación social y económica para los residentes del Condado de Washington que tiene entradas de dinero bajas o moderadas será mejor en el futuro si un esfuerzo histórico que se está efectuando en el condado se lleva a cabo según los planes.

Los representantes de 12 municipios del condado están actualmente trabajando en la meta común de obtener 1.9 millones en fondos concedidos globales en el Departamento de Habitación y Desarrollo Urbano de los E.U. para programas en beneficio de los ciudadanos que tienen ingresos económicos bajas o moderadas.

"Esto es un hecho histórico para el condado en el sentido de que tenemos estos municipios trabajando cooperativamente para el mejoramiento del condado como una totalidad," dijo Hank March, un asistente administrativo del condado que está coordinando este esfuerzo.

El condado, con 215,000 residentes, califica para recibir estos fondos federales como resultado de su nuevo estado "condado urbano" que le ha otorgado HUD a aquellos condados o ciudades que tienen una población de al menos 200,000 habitantes. Los fondos son garantizados al condado conforme la solicitud de donación sea aceptada

por HUD. La aprobación depende de lo bien que el condado resuelva las reglas rígidas de HUD en relación a la estrategia del intento legislativo y del desarrollo de la comunidad.

March explicó que el condado entró al negocio de las donaciones en masa casi virtualmente sin personal para coordinar "un proceso muy complejo dentro del marco de tiempo limitado de HUD. El tiempo ha sido nuestro verdadero problema desde el principio de este proyecto. "Estoy extremadamente contento con el calibre de la gente que hemos juntado en tan corto plazo, y con el interés que ellos han demostrado en los tipos de proyectos propuestos," dice March.

Están prestando apoyo en este esfuerzo el personal administrativo, incluyendo a Neal Griebing, prestado por el programa de Washington County Community Action; dos consultores a medio tiempo, Gil Mallory y Sharon Evans; y Ann Culbertson, recepcionista y secretaria.

Otros principales incluyen los 14 miembros de la Mesa Consejera, y los 27 miembros del comité consejero de ciudadanos. March da crédito a Kathy Redwine, encargada de la política en la mesa, e Yvonne Addington, vice-encargada, por "mostrar entusiasmo desde el prin-

cipio del proyecto." Respecto a Dick Stolte, encargado del comité de ciudadanos, March dijo, "El ha hecho un gran trabajo dirigiendo la fase contributiva de los ciudadanos. Los ciudadanos consiguieron una tarea muy difícil con mucha decisión y dedicación. Estamos en buen tiempo a pesar del hecho de que tuvimos tan corto plazo para adquirir el grado de participación de los ciudadanos pedido y delineado por HUD. Ellos tuvieron dos semanas para lograrlo—y lo lograron." El hizo notar que los ciudadanos pasaron largas horas revisando las proposiciones.

Los proyectos propuestos por el comité de ciudadanos incluyeron peticiones para centros de ancianos, para rehabilitación de habitaciones, y para centros de la comunidad. Un centro comunitario de servicio múltiple en donde establecer el programa de Head Start del oeste del condado se propuso como un proyecto para Cornelius. Cuidado para niños de trabajadores migrantes, un laboratorio de lenguas para los residentes del área que hablan español, y artesanías para ancianos quedaron como posibles programas en este proyecto.

"Queremos proveer servicios para todos los residentes del condado que nos sea posible," dice March. "Estamos viendo nuestra situación

presente en el condado y cómo podremos servir mejor la población que existe ahora. Me gusta pensar del dinero como una forma de que los pagadores de impuestos del condado reciban una porción de sus dólares federales. Dando a nuestro ciudadanos la oportunidad de decirnos como se debe gastar ese dinero, estamos diciendo que queremos una decisión que sea hecha en el condado de Washington y no en Washington, D.C."

El personal administrativo presentó sus recomendaciones del proyecto a la mesa consejera encargada de la política el día 15 de febrero. En realidad la prioridad será hecha por la misma mesa.

Se tendrá una audiencia el día 22 de marzo que dará la oportunidad a todo el público en general el poder comentar la estrategia. Se tendrá a las 7:30 p.m. en el auditorio del Comisionado en el edificio de Administración del Condado en Hillsboro.

A fines de marzo, la solicitud será dirigida al Distrito de Servicio Metropolitano para ser revisada y coordinada. La solicitud se tiene que entregar a las oficinas de HUD para el 30 de abril. La agencia anunciará su decisión en el mes de junio.

Más información sobre el programa de donaciones en masa está a la disposición en la Oficina de Desarrollo de la Comunidad en el Condado de Washington con oficinas en Hillsboro. Su número de teléfono es el 648-8814.

COSSPO Juntó con Oficina del Gobernador

Por Evan Kaeser

Lee Johnson, representando la oficina del gobernador Victor Atieyh, se unió con los miembros de la Mesa Directiva del Comité de Gente de Habla Española de Oregon (COSSPO) el miércoles pasado, para discutir las necesidades de la comunidad española dentro del estado.

Durante la última administración Luis Alvarez, miembro de la Mesa de COSSPO, fue apuntado por Straub a la posición estatal como asistente al Ombudsman. A esta fecha, Gobernador Atieyh no ha apuntado un Hispano a una posición mayor, aunque su record en apuntar negros y mujeres ha tenido apoyo.

Johnson pidió a COSSPO que mande una lista de candidatos calificados a Salem para considerarlos.

Miembros de la Mesa de COSSPO representan negocios, servicios sociales, y áreas legales de la comunidad hispana. Con fondos de CETA, la agencia ha servido en áreas metropolitanas de Portland desde 1977, manejando problemas de empleo, vivienda, bienestar general, consejo,

traducción y de ancianos.

Director ejecutivo Armando LaGuardia cree que las necesidades de los 60,000 Hispanos en Oregon no han sido satisfechas. LaGuardia propuso que se forme una comisión para hacer un censo de la población hispana y decidir sus necesidades.

LaGuardia advirtió. "Es problemático de considerar todas las minorías juntas. Los problemas de los negros, mujeres y otros grupos de minorías no son los mismos que los de la comunidad hispana.

La ley de Educación Bilingüe, ahora en el legislativo ha sido discutida. Al presente hay programas bilingües solo en Hillsboro y Woodburn. Se siente que los Hispanos en el estado entero deben tener estos mismos privilegios.

El reconocer que la comunidad hispana en Oregon continuará creciendo—como en todo el país—ha convencido al Gobernador que más juntas son necesarias. COSSPO tiene la intención de mantener contacto con Lee Johnson y la Administración en Salem.



Elecciones Reabren Centro

Por Don Patch

El Centro Cultural eligió una nueva Mesa Directiva. Las 3 mujeres y los 4 hombres fueron seleccionadas de entre los 24 candidatos por aproximadamente 55 votantes que dieron sus votos el domingo 25 de febrero. Los 7 miembros de la mesa tendrán la responsabilidad de escribir y adoptar leyes (bylaws), trazando así el futuro curso del Centro.

Quedaron elegidos: Teresa

Sánchez, Vangie Sánchez, Hilda Hinojosa, Cipriano Salazar, Hector Guzmán, Mike Devine y Carlos Maciel.

La elección de la mesa el domingo fue la primera desde 1975, y representa el principio de un periodo de reconstrucción para el Centro y la comunidad hispana interesada.

Desde sus principios en 1972, el Centro ha sido un sueño compartido

de la gente. Las familias fundadoras originales que eran 13, junto con el Padre Beezer de la Iglesia de San Alejandro esperaban construir un lugar donde la gente pudiera reunirse y compartir ideas, venir a hablar y mantener sus costumbres culturales—un lugar que fuera como un puente cultural, político, y espiritualmente entre las comunidades hispana y anglosajona.

En 1972 gran parte del sueño se hizo realidad cuando compraron el edificio donde se encuentra ahora el Centro. El dinero con el que compraron el edificio vino de donaciones de la comunidad y del servicio voluntario formado específicamente para recaudar fondos de construcción. También durante este tiempo solicitaron los papeles de incorporación, formalmente creando así el Centro Cultural como una corporación no lucrativa y exenta de impuestos.

Como una corporación no lucrativa recientemente formada, el Centro empezó a buscar maneras de producir entradas de dinero regulares consiguieron esto en 1973 cuando formaron Ormetex. Ormetex era una compañía que hacía trabajo por Tektronix. Producía una entrada regular de dinero para el Centro y daba empleo. Conforme el Centro crecía y se sentía más seguro con su negocio, Ormetex, y con el crecimiento de su membresía en la comunidad se empezó a envolver en asuntos soci-

ales y políticos. Uno de los asuntos sociales de mayor importancia al principio que ocupó la atención de los miembros del Centro fue la necesidad de atención médica. Los emigrantes y familias de bajos ingresos eran forzadas a viajar grandes distancias para conseguir atención médica sin costo alguno o a precio reducido.

Esta necesidad se volvió más aguda cuando una niña de una familia migrante llamada Virginia García murió por falta de atención médica. Su muerte innecesaria empezó un esfuerzo que tuvo éxito al proveer atención médica completa para aquellos que no podían pagar. Al presente la clínica Virginia García sigue proveyendo la atención médica y es un símbolo de asociación entre aquellos que lo hicieron una realidad—Centro Cultural, el Hospital San Vicente, la comunidad, Virginia García.

La batalla para establecer la clínica fue larga y difícil y marco un interés activo político nuevo para el Centro. Las nuevas actividades políticas comenzaron a monopolizar el tiempo del personal. Los problemas del manejo de la clínica Virginia García a través de ORO en Woodburn lo mismo que las negociaciones para otros programas sociales aumentaron la tensión en la estructura del Centro.

Por ese tiempo CETA reclutaba programas de empleo en el condado. Los proyectos especiales designados para operar durante un año dieron la

Cont'd. from page 1

Election Marks Fresh Start

staff and their needs began to overburden the structure and the financial abilities of the parent organization to operate the programs.

For the Centro this meant an erosion in the relationships between itself and the new CETA programs it sponsored. As the differences grew among program staff, ORMETEX, and Centro Board members, so did the problems for the Centro. In April of 1978 those problems came to a head when program staff members presented the Board with a petition requesting the resignation of the Centro director. ORMETEX also drafted a similar petition. Unfortunately, no compromises could be worked out to relieve the differences and in May ORMETEX left Centro, which stranded the CETA projects relying on it to pay for administrative costs. Shortly after ORMETEX left, the Centro cancelled its CETA programs and shut its doors.

celled its CETA programs and shut its doors.

The Centro remained closed since that time, and not until the recent elections has the community begun to reconstruct its dream.

In many ways the Centro is a symbol of the spirit of the Spanish-speaking community. It is a growing organization with broad community interests and a capability to affect major social and political changes. It is alive with trust, patience and intelligence as well as a resilience to adverse conditions. Like the community which supports and is the Centro, it is coming back from a brief respite of introspection.

The recent elections prove that the Centro and the Spanish-speaking community are growing stronger, for the new Board is a blend of new and old. The elections were a statement of support by the community for the old Board and a realization of the need for new ideas and skills for the future.



Elections of Centros Board of Directors was held Sunday February 25th. Polling opened at 3:00 PM and closed at 5:00. Assisting in the election process was the Oregon Legal Services Corporation from Hillsboro. Seen here are voters who were required to register prior to voting. The registration was necessary to insure that only one ballot was cast per voter and also to begin a membership list for the Centro.

oportunidad a organizaciones con fondos limitados como el Centro, de iniciar programas que de otra manera sería imposible llevar a cabo. CETA pagaba los salarios y otros gastos, mientras que la organización corría el proyecto era responsable de pagar los gastos de administración como transporte, contaduría y espacio para oficina. Para el Centro esos gastos los iba a cubrir Ormetex. Sin embargo, al igual que muchas otras organizaciones no lucrativas, el aumento del personal y sus necesidades empezaron a sobrecargar la estructura y la capacidad financiera de la organización responsable de operar los programas.

Para el Centro esto significó una erosión en las relaciones entre el mismo Centro y los nuevos programas que apadrinaba. Conforme a las diferencias crecieron entre el personal, Ormetex, y los miembros de la Mesa del Centro también aumentaron los problemas para el Centro.

En abril de 1978 estos problemas llegaron a un punto cuando algunos del personal presentaron a la Mesa una petición requiriendo la renuncia del director del Centro. Ormetex también redactó una petición semejante. Desafortunadamente, no se pudo llegar a un acuerdo para quitar las diferencias y en mayo Ormetex abandonó el Centro, lo cual estancó los proyectos de CETA que se respaldaban en Ormetex para pagar los costos administrativos. Poco después de que Ormetex se fué, el Centro canceló los programas de

CETA y cerro sus puertas.

El Centro ha estado cerrado desde entonces, y es hasta que se efectuaron las recientes elecciones como el sueño empieza a reconstruirse.

En muchas maneras el Centro es un símbolo del espíritu que tiene la comunidad hispana. Es una organización que esta creciendo con muchos intereses para la comunidad y con una capacidad para realizar grandes cambios sociales y políticos. Se mantiene adelante con la confianza, la paciencia y la inteligencia lo mismo que con la capacidad de reaccionar ante las condiciones adversas. Como la comunidad que apoya y es el Centro, esta volviendo nuevamente en si después de un período de respiro e introspección.

Las recientes elecciones prueban que el Centro y la comunidad hispana estan creciendo más fuertemente, porque la nueva mesa es una mezcla de lo nuevo y de lo antiguo. Las elecciones fueron una declaración de apoyo por parte de la comunidad a la antigua mesa y darse cuenta de la necesidad que hay de nuevas ideas y habilidades para el futuro.

Anyone interested in reviewing the results of the election should call the Oregon Legal Services Corporation at 648 - 7163. If you wish to be added to the membership list please call the Centro Cultural.

Dept. of Labor to Cut Housing Funds

By Annette Bromberg

The U.S. Department of Labor has notified Rural America that it intends to cut its farmworkers housing development programs as of June 30.

Rural America is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. which supports issues beneficial to rural communities and acts as an advocate for their interests through publications and legislation. Rural America has emerged as one of the strongest supporters of farmworkers interests throughout the U.S.

Rural America receives DOL funding, and delegates those funds to fifty programs in thirty states—most of which are concerned with farmworker housing. The move to cut these funds will all but shut Rural America down.

Oregon Rural Housing is one of the programs delegated by Rural America which expects to lose funding. Based in Salem, ORH provides technical assistance of many kinds, such as grantwriting assistance, to groups wishing to develop farmworker housing programs in the state.

DOL's argument is that it should not be in the housing business. However, so far no other agency is stepping in to fill the gap, and DOL has the only authority and funding for it at this point. The danger is that if the funding is discontinued through DOL, and Rural America, and no other agency takes over the programs, it would aggravate an already difficult situation for farmworkers, who are experiencing a serious housing problem. Although farmworkers are low income, they are so transient that they cannot avail themselves of public housing. Because of this, often there is simply nowhere they can find safe, decent housing.

Congressman Les Aucoin expressed concern for the fate of farmworker housing in a letter to Department of Labor Secretary Ray Marshall on February 26. In the letter AuCoin urged the DOL to make the necessary arrangements for transferring the funds, rather than leaving it up to Congress, or just letting the programs die slowly in the bureaucratic tangle.

Continued from p. 1

the law, they are not really protected by it. They are easy prey for many—including border outlaws who run in gangs called "cholos." The cholos beat and rob the men and rape the women running the border. They are feared more than the INS.

Undocumented workers regularly risk facing the dangers of the cholos and the border patrol, and put up with the lowest paying jobs this country has to offer. It all seems worth it if they can only escape the grinding poverty of their lives in Mexico.

But what seems like big money from the Mexican side of the border often translates as only subsistence in the U.S. If the worker has to support a family, \$3.00 an hour doesn't go far. And when a worker is deported who is the sole means of support for the family, no one can say how these people survive.

Acting on a tip from an unnamed source, the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided the Glenn Walters Nursery near Hillsboro on February 7. They succeeded in apprehending thirty-one undocumented Mexican workers in the raid, and transported them back to Mexico.

According to Mr. Walters this was the second raid on the nursery so far this year, the first one occurring in January. In the January raid, eight workers were apprehended, and a foreman was arrested when he tried to keep the INS officials on the premises in order to check their credentials. Said Walters, "The first time they came here, they didn't wear uniforms, and drove old beat-up cars. We thought it was all a phony raid." According to Mr. Houseman, deputy director of the INS in Portland, INS officers are not required by any law to be in uniform or to drive marked cars, and, in fact, it is standard procedure for them to conduct raids in this way. They are required only to carry identification papers to present to the people they arrest during the operation.

In the most recent raid on Walters' Nursery, the INS had secured a search warrant enabling them to enter buildings on the land; they were also accompanied by a local sheriff, for assistance—also "standard procedure," according to Houseman.

Glenn Walters expressed his dislike of the INS' methods of operating, calling them "gestapo tactics." He stated, "The INS has no regard for property. They just trample over the neighbors' land and over my land. The officers don't seem to care what anyone's feelings are. They come in without uniforms or marked cars and take anyone with brown skin, regardless of whether they have work papers or not. Then they take everyone downtown and sort out the illegal aliens there. It amounts to harassment."

He further said that during the

February raid, the INS officers put everyone in handcuffs and made them stand outside in the freezing weather. "Since the workers had been indoors when the INS came after them, some of them had bare feet, and few were dressed warmly enough for being outside. Yet, for a significant part of the time the investigators were there, probably about two and one half to three hours, the workers were standing in the cold, without being allowed to get warm clothes on, or shoes."

Mr. Walters also expressed concern because the raid had so debilitated his business operations. "It

is very upsetting to everyone, even those people who work in the office. People can't work to their full capacity when they are living under the constant fear of another raid. We never know when or if the INS will come back again."

Mr. Houseman, Deputy Director of INS in Portland, stated that undocumented workers were taking jobs away from US citizens, and taking US dollars out of the country. Deportation, while admittedly not very effective, was, in his opinion, worthwhile for these reasons.

Walters had a different point of view. In his experience as an em-

ployer in the nursery business, he said that he felt the alien work force was necessary in this country. "You must have it in the U.S. People are no longer willing to work for \$2.90 an hour. It is even hard for me to find workers at \$4.00 an hour." He pointed out that the very morning the *Rural Tribune* talked to him, three people he had previously hired to work for \$4.00 an hour had never showed up to work. "Why should the INS bother them? These undocumented workers are only asking for the opportunity to do an honest day's work for an honest day's wages—they aren't criminals."

INS Invadieron Walters

Por Annette Bromberg

Tiene 17 años, y ha sido enviado a Mexico cuatro veces en los últimos cinco años. Cada vez que lo aprehenden, su familia vive en miedo constante de lo que podría pasarle. La ciudad fronteriza a donde es deportado es un lugar difícil y duro para sobrevivir, especialmente para alguien quien está solo y tan joven.

Cada vez que lo deportan se queda prácticamente sin dinero. El Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) rutinariamente pide a los dueños de los empleos los pagos retrasados de los trabajadores cuando son aprehendidos. Se supone que el INS pide al trabajador que pague su propia transportación de regreso a Mexico. Los trabajadores pueden rehusar esto, nos explica INS, pero en algunos casos el rehusar puede causar el efecto adverso para poder reentrar a los E.U. legalmente en algún futuro próximo.

Cada vez que el joven es aprehendido, su familia tiene un trabajador menos, y se les hace más difícil mantenerse con sus gastos mientras esperan el regreso del joven.

Ya para estos momentos el joven está aprendiendo modos. La última vez que fue deportado solamente duró 12 días en regresar. Durante los días que pasó en la ciudad fronteriza, trató de cruzar la frontera tres veces, y a la cuarta tuvo éxito. Durante uno de esos intentos, vió a un compañero ilegal que fue asesinado por la policía patrullera.

En los últimos cinco años, este joven ha pagado un total de \$1,225 a los "coyotes" que lo guían por la frontera y le garantizan un pasaje a salvo hasta regresar a Oregon. Cada vez que regresa, el primer dinero que ahorra es para pagarle al coyote en caso de que lo vuelva a aprehender el INS otra vez y lo deporta. La última vez que el joven volvió, su padre personalmente tuvo que llevar al coyote los \$350.—el pago requerido para transportarlo hasta Oregon.

Conforme a algunas fuentes, un coyote no es siempre de confiar. Con frecuencia no cumplen con la parte de su trato, y se desaparecen con el dinero, o de otra manera reportan a los ilegales con el INS después de

haberlos traído, con el motivo aparente en engrasar las ruedas de su buen negocio.

Las realidades de ser ilegal son horribles. Como viven fuera de la ley, no son protegidos por la ley. Caen fácilmente víctimas para muchos—incluso rebeldes de la frontera quienes forman pandillas llamadas "cholos." Los cholos golpean y roban los hombres y raptan a las mujeres que manejan la frontera. Se les teme más que al INS.

Trabajadores indocumentados regularmente arriesgan los cholos y la inmigración, toleran los trabajos con sueldos más bajos que este país ofrece. Todo parece valer la pena si tan solo pudieran escapar de la quebrantante pobreza de sus vidas en Mexico.

Pero lo que parece como buen dinero desde el lado mexicano de la frontera a menudo se traduce a solo subsistencia en el standard de vida en los E.U. Si el trabajador tiene que mantener la familia, \$3. por hora no llega lejos. Y cuando el trabajador es deportado siendo el único medio para mantener la familia, nadie puede decir como esta gente sobrevivirá.

Actuando en respuesta a un informe de origen inominado, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) invadió el plantío de Glenn Walters cerca de Hillsboro el 7 de febrero. Tuvieron éxito en aprehender a 31 trabajadores indocumentados de México en la invasión y los transportaron a México.

Según el Sr. Walters esta fue la segunda invasión en el plantío este año, la primera habido ocurrido en enero. En la invasión de enero, 8 trabajadores fueron aprehendidos, y un mayordomo fue detenido cuando trató de mantener a los oficiales del INS en el terreno con intención de verificar sus credenciales. Dijo Walters, "La primera vez que vinieron aquí, no llevaban uniforme y conducían carros viejos. Creíamos que era una invasión falsa." Según el Sr. Houseman, director deputivo del departamento del INS en Portland, ninguna ley requiere que los oficiales lleven uniforme y conduzcan carros

marcados y, además, es procedimiento regular que ellos conduzcan invasiones de esta manera. Se les requiere que lleven papeles de identificación y que se les presenten a la gente que detengan durante la operación.

En las invasiones más recientes del plantío de Walters, el INS ha obtenido una orden de investigación permitiéndoles entrada a los edificios, también venían acompañados del comandante de policía local para asistencia, que también es "proceso regular" según Houseman.

Glenn Walters expresó su disgusto de los métodos de operación del INS, llamándolos "tácticos de gestapo." Declaró que el "INS no tiene ningún respeto por la propiedad. Ellos sólo pisotean la tierra vecina y sobre mi tierra. A los oficiales no parece importarles las opiniones de nadie. Entran aquí sin uniforme en carros particulares y se llevan a cualquiera de piel morena, sin importarles que sean ciudadanos o no. Luego se los llevan a todos a la comandancia y los clasifican año. Esto llega a ser persecución."

Además añadió que durante la invasión de febrero, los oficiales del INS esposaron a todo mundo y los hicieron que permanecieran de pie afuera en el frío. "Como los trabajadores habían estado adentro cuando el INS llegó por ellos, algunos andaban descalzos, y pocos llevaban ropa suficiente para permanecer afuera. Aún así, por una parte significativa del tiempo que los oficiales duraron, probablemente 2 1/2 - 3 horas, los trabajadores permanecieron en el frío, sin permitirseles que se ponieran ropa para el frío en zapatos."

El Sr. Walters también expresó preocupación porque la invasión había debilitado su operación de negocio. "Es muy desconcertante para todos, también para los que trabajan en la oficina. La gente puede trabajar a su capacidad completa cuando viven con miedo constante de otra invasión. Nunca sabemos cuando o si acaso el INS volverá."

Continuado en la p. 7

Law Office Supports Legislation By Steve Rembecki

En Español, p. 7

Oregon Farmworkers Legal Services is actively supporting legislation this session which deals with issues affecting farmworkers.

Four bills have been introduced to amend already existing laws by proposing to add civil penalties to them. The existing laws are said to be routinely violated and, it is hoped, that by adding the proposed penalties the non-compliance of the laws will be deterred. At present, there is no effective deterrent in existence.

The first bill of the four is the

only one which deals exclusively with farmworkers. It proposes to amend the Farm Labor Contractors Act. Specifically, this bill concerns itself with penalizing any contractor who: operates without a license; fails to post notice of his bond for the benefit of his workers; fails to disclose the conditions of employment; and who retaliates against an employee who makes a claim. Statutory damages would range anywhere between \$250 and \$1000 for each of the laws violated.

The second bill is based upon

wage payment and wage collection. This bill would penalize an employer who failed to pay wages to a worker as previously agreed upon, or deliberately withheld wages.

The third bill being amended is the Oregon Fair Employment Practices Act. Simply, it states that an employer can be liable for damages filed for by any worker whom the employer has recruited. These can involve charges of broken promises in wages, work conditions, etc. Specific damages are left negotiable for white collar workers. For low income workers, the penalty would

be \$500 plus the appropriate damage.

The final bill deals with blackballing or blacklisting by employers. It also proposes civil penalties upon conviction.

In effect, these are self-help laws which represent the rights of the individual worker. Without knowledge and understanding their rights, workers may easily be taken advantage of. And without laws that demand financial penalties, workers' rights advocates feel there will be little to prevent violations of existing labor laws.



... Represents Farmworkers By Judy Schilling

"Every time a lawsuit is filed, it's bound to have a ripple effect," explains Dick Ginsburg of Oregon Farmworkers Legal Services. "Anywhere farmworkers exercise their rights, it has an impact." Ginsburg directs the program which handles legal cases for farmworkers throughout the state.

Why do farmworkers need a separate legal project to assist them? Ginsburg can point out several reasons. For one, a language barrier generally exists that has in the past prevented farmworkers from seeking legal remedies. Most farmworkers in this area are Spanish-speaking; Gins-

burg could think of only two private attorneys in the area who are bilingual. And because of the nature of their work—down to dusk labor in the fields—farmworkers aren't able to secure legal help when they need it. The farmworker office offers outreach services, going out to the fields, canneries, nurseries or other job sites as needed.

Another reason farmworkers need a project that serves only them is due to the manner in which legal services corporations are funded nationally. These corporations receive funds based on census figures, in which migrant workers are gener-

ally not counted. Legal services offices receive funds to serve a specific number of people, which has not included the large number of farmworkers who travel from state to state. By appropriating money to fund separate legal projects, farmworkers can be helped.

And, too, the type of legal help needed by farmworkers is usually a very specialized area of the law, i.e., labor law. Most cases involve employment-related issues: minimum wage guidelines, farm labor contractor laws, health and safety regulations, and employment practices regarding recruitment and advertising. The Farmworkers Legal Services attorneys are trained and experienced in this area of the law.

All farmworkers who meet the established income guidelines are eligible for legal services, whether or not they are documented workers. And groups, as well as individuals, have been receiving legal help since the office's first year of operation.

The number of cases is growing, says Ginsburg, as farmworkers become more and more aware of the service. An attorney is being added to legal services offices in Pendleton and in Marion County. In addition, one paralegal and one attorney are stationed in Ontario. The Hillsboro office houses three attorneys and two paralegals who also offer support services to Legal Services attorneys throughout the state.

Nationally, legal services for farmworkers have been expanding. In Oregon alone, says Ginsburg, the number of workers served last year is in "the hundreds." Still pending are the office's cases against No. 1 Plains farmers Ron and Frank Tankersley and their labor contractors, instituted last summer by farmworkers charging violations of state and federal farm labor laws governing health, safety, wages and recruitment.

Ginsburg measures the success of the past year by the number of cases they have handled and, as he notes, that number is "growing."

Food Stamp Changes Affect County Residents By Evan Kaeser

The new federal guidelines for the Food Stamp Program require a review of the status of all recipients in Washington County.

Changes are the result of a national effort by the Carter administration to streamline the delivery of services while trimming program costs by tightening qualification requirements on income levels and lowering deduction standards.

Statewide this will affect 67,000 households with 140,000 persons; in Washington County some 1270 persons will have their status re-evaluated.

The net income level has been lowered in order to remove persons with high incomes within the low income range from the payroll. A family of three now qualifies if it earns less than \$480 monthly; on April 1, the maximum income level will drop to \$454 monthly.

On March 15, the Hillsboro Food Stamp office will send a letter to all food stamp recipients announcing changes to be effective as of April 1. Important points are as follows:

1) You no longer qualify for

food stamps through any other program. This means that Welfare enrollees who are also receiving food stamp benefits must register a new claim through the food stamp office.

2) A standard deduction of \$65 will be given for all living expenses. A maximum deduction of \$80 will be given if expenses for child care, rent or utilities exceed 50 per cent of monthly income.

3) All those receiving benefits between ages of 18 and 60 must register with the unemployment office. Previously, those between 18 and 65 were required to register.

4) Total assets allowable for food stamps are up from \$1500 to \$1750. Included in this category are savings and checking resources, recreation equipment and house.

5) All students must register with the employment office for a minimum of 20 hours a week unless they can prove over 50 per cent of their income supports dependents, or are participating in a federal work/study program.

State officials have established the goal of processing all applicants

within five days of application. Peter Rice, director of the Washington County Food Stamp Program, intends to keep abreast of the new round of changes. Every newcomer and most previous cases will require a personal interview. The only cases in which the personal interview requirement must be waived are for those over 65, disabled persons, and households without an authorized adult. A plea to waive the requirement can be made in extreme cases of illness or transportation difficulty, but final decision is left to the individual caseworker.

Appointments for interviews can be set up over the phone and applications may be picked up and filled out the day of the interview. If, for some reason you are unable to arrange an interview, it is important to fill out the back page of the application form as soon as possible. Upon certification food stamp allotments are retroactive to the date of application.

If you need more information you may call the Welfare Hotline in Hillsboro at 648-0513.

Oficina de Ley Apoya Legislacion Por Steven Rembecki

Cuatro proyectos de ley han sido introducidos dentro de la legislación para compensar o recompensar las leyes existentes en proponer agregar penalidades civiles. La existencia de leyes están hechas a ser violadas por una, y se espera que agregando las penalidades propuestas lo no-completo de la leyes sea disuadidas. El primero de los cuatro proyectos de ley, es el único que trata exclusivamente con trabajadores del campo o campesinos. Propone enmendar la ya existente ley contra-

tista del campo. Específicamente este proyecto de ley se trata a lo siguiente: Cualquier contratista que opere sin licencia; cualquier contratista que no anuncie lo referente a bonos para beneficio de los trabajadores; cualquier contratista que no revele las condiciones de trabajo y la última que cualquier contratista que se revele o venga de un trabajador que hace una queja o denuncia. Los daños establecidos en cualquier situación sean desde \$250 y \$1,000 por cada uno de las leyes violadas.

El segundo proyecto de ley está basado en salarios y colección de pagos. Un ejemplo sería si el sueldo hubiera sido detenido. Este proyecto de ley deberá, otra vez, agregar penalidades civiles.

La siguiente es la de Empleos Justos en Oregon (Oregon Fair Employment). Simplemente, establece que el patrón es responsable por daños a cualquier trabajador que el patrón ha empleado, como faltar a la promesa de pago, condiciones de trabajo, etc. Perjuicios o daños

exactos están pendientes para las trabajadores de oficina. Para los trabajadores con el sueldo mínimo, la penalidad sería de \$500 más los daños apropiados.

El último proyecto de ley se trata con listas negras, otra vez proponiendo penalidades civiles.

En efecto, estos son proyectos de ley para ayuda personal. Ellos representan los derechos de los trabajadores individuales. Los trabajadores deberán entender y saber estos derechos para que no se aprovechen de ellos.

...Ayuda Campesinos Por Judy Schilling

"Cada vez que un pleito judicial es entablado, es destinado a efectuar demandas," explica Dick Ginsburg de los Servicios Legales de Trabajadores del Estado de Oregon. "Donde quiera que los trabajadores del campo ejercen sus derechos, habrá impacto." Ginsburg dirige el programa que decide casos legales para los trabajadores por todo el estado.

Porque necesitan los trabajadores un proyecto legal separado para asistirlos? Ginsburg señala muchas razones. Primera, una barrera de lenguaje generalmente existe que en el pasado ha prevenido que los trabajadores busquen remedios legales. La mayoría de los trabajadores son de habla hispana. Ginsburg solo sabe de dos abogados privados que son bilingües. Segunda, debido a la naturaleza de su trabajo—mañana a tarde—los trabajadores no pueden obtener ayuda cuando la necesitan. La oficina de Trabajadores ofrece servicios de alcance, sale a los campos, las fabricas de conservas, plantíos o otros trabajos como necesario.

Otra razón por la cual trabajadores necesitan un proyecto útil es debido a la manera que las corporaciones de servicios legales son nacionalmente fundados. Estas corporaciones reciben fondos basados en las figuras del censo en cual los trabajadores generalmente no son incluidos. Las oficinas reciben fondos para servir a un número específico de gente, que no incluye el número de

trabajadores que a menudo viajan de estado a estado. Apropiando dinero para fondar proyectos legales separados ayudará a los trabajadores.

Y, también, el tipo de ayuda legal que los trabajadores necesita es en un area muy especializada tal como ley de labor. La mayoría de los casos conciernen temas relacionados con empleo, guias de sueldo mínimo, leyes de contratistas de labor, regulaciones de salud y seguridad, y procesos con referencia al reclutamiento y anuncio. Los abogados de Servicios Legales de Trabajadores son entrenados y tiene experiencia en esta area de la ley.

Todo trabajador que cumpla las guias de sueldos establecidas son elegibles para servicios legales, ya sean trabajadores documentados o no. Y grupos, como también individuos, han estado recibiendo ayuda legal durante este primer año de operación de la oficina.

El número de casos está aumentando, dice Ginsburg, debido a que los trabajadores están más y más conscientes del servicio. Están anadiendo un abogado en Pendleton y otro en el condado de Marion. Además, un paralegal y un abogado están estacionados en Ontario. La oficina de Hillsboro aloja a 3 abogados y 2 paralegales que también respaldan a los abogados por todo el estado.

Nacionalmente, los servicios legales para trabajadores se están

extendiendo. En Oregon solo dice Ginsburg, el número de trabajadores serviciados es en los "cientos." Aun pendientes son los casos de oficina contra Ron y Frank Tankersley y sus contratistas de labor, instituido el verano pasado por trabajadores acusandoles de violaciones de leyes federales y estatales de trabajadores que gobiernan salud, seguridad, sueldo, y reclutamiento.

Ginsburg mide el éxito del año pasado por el número de casos que han resuelto y, el dice, que el número está "creciendo."

INS Continuado desde p. 6

El Sr. Houseman declaró que trabajadores indocumentados les estaban quitando empleo a los ciudadanos y llevándose dólares fuera del país. La deportación, que reconocidamente no es muy efectiva, en su opinión, valió la pena por estas razones.

Walters tiene otra punta de vista. En su experiencia como patrón en el negocio del plantío, él dijo que piensa que la fuerza de labor extranjera es necesaria en este país. "Es necesaria en los Estados Unidos. La gente ya no quiere trabajar por \$2.90 por hora. Es difícil para mi encontrar trabajadores por \$4.00 la hora." Indicó que la misma mañana que el Rural Tribune habló con él, tres personas que habían recientemente empleadas para trabajar por \$4.00 la hora no habían presentadose a trabajar. "¿Porque los molesta el INS? Estos trabajadores indocumentados sólo piden la oportunidad para ganar un día honesto de sueldo—no son criminales," dijo.

Family Farm Coalition

Farm, consumer, religious and environmental groups are rapidly joining in a new National Family Farm Coalition formed last fall to push for the Family Farm Development Act this Congressional session. Last year, Congress passed one title of the measure—the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978—which provides for low interest loans to low income farmers and farm production co-operatives.

The Coalition is lobbying for the remaining eight titles of the bill. These cover matters ranging from reform of the support payment system to redirection of agricultural research and extension programs, such as those sponsored by Oregon State University through Extension offices throughout the state.

For more information contact the Coalition at 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, phone (202) 483-1116.

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