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NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

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HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS
OF THE
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETIETH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION
AND
NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
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NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

PART 5B—FLORIDA—APPENDIX

IMMOKALEE, FLA., MARCH 10 ; FT. MYERS, FLA., MARCH 11, 1969



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APPENDIX

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN, CHAIRMAN, SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

I would like to make a few brief observations about this first field trip of the Committee.

I think we have seen once again that many of our citizens are existing without the barest necessities of life, including the most urgent need of all—a decent daily diet. Some of them have survived on bad diets so long that they do not even know what it is to be free from hunger and malnutrition. They have neither the resources nor the knowledge to feed and shelter their families. We have seen diets and living conditions these past two days that one might expect to find in Asia not in America. Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we have visited in these two counties.

We have seen in Collier County a failure to take advantage of the federal food program for the most deprived citizens of all, the migrant families. We have heard local officials deny that these families are their responsibility. They say they are solely a federal responsibility.

Immokalee is not unique. There are many other counties where local officials disclaim responsibility, including 49 where the Secretary of Agriculture is directly administering food aid.

Our tour today in Fort Myers indicates some other important aspects of these problems. Even in counties receiving federal food commodities, many people are kept from participating by the way regulations are administered. People should not have to prove abject destitution, or starvation before they receive assistance. They should not be burdened with providing all kinds of documents—affidavits of residency, of income, proof of age—before they can be helped. It is possible to tell when a family is poor, hungry and in need simply by visiting their homes just as I and other Senators have done these past few days. In fact, state guidelines in Florida specifically say that a home visit is all that is necessary to determine eligibility. So I would suggest that if local officials are going to err, they do so on the side of humanity, on the side of giving rather than denying assistance.

Finally, I want to reemphasize that this committee has not singled out Fort Myers or Immokalee for criticism. These conditions exist across the land. Yet I do not believe that any American or any official wants his fellow citizens to lack for food or shelter. If we can continue to turn the public spotlight on the special problem of hunger, the American people will demand that we end this needless blight on our land. Certainly, a country that is powerful enough to rocket men to the moon should be able to feed its own hungry people.

FLOOR STATEMENTS AND DEBATE FOLLOWING FLORIDA HEARINGS

REPORT ON THE SENATE NUTRITION COMMITTEE'S FIELD TRIP TO FLORIDA

(Floor statement by Senator George McGovern, chairman)

Mr. President, the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs last week completed its first field inspection trip. Six of our members, three from the majority and three from the minority spent two days in two Southern Florida Counties, Lee and Collier Counties.

We chose Southern Florida for our first field trip not because it is different from other areas of the country; not because there are many or few hungry people

in Collier or Lee Counties. We did not seek to single out these counties or their officials for criticism. But what we found was nothing short of disgraceful—a level of human misery combined with official neglect which none of us expected in a country founded and governed for 200 years on the premise that human dignity is the inalienable right of every citizen.

Our trip was not without controversy. We were charged with seeing only the bad sides of Collier and Lee Counties. Like it or not that is our job—and that is what we did see and hear.

We saw in Southern Florida what others have seen before us, American citizens existing without the barest necessities of life including the most urgent need—a decent daily diet. We saw people who existed on beans and grits and fatback for so long they didn't even know what it is to be free from hunger and malnutrition—people so retarded in mind and spirit they had no conception how desperately poor they were—people who could not even contemplate, much less communicate their needs and desires to have what the rest of us take for granted.

We saw families with 6, 8, or 10 children living in one or two-room shacks, not fit for animals—windowless—rat-infested—without water or plumbing or electricity—shacks for which the landlord collects \$12-\$15 a week rent each.

We saw empty iceboxes and iceboxes that didn't work, with fatbacks, beans and lard the only thing stored in them.

We saw children with the blank, expressionless stare of hunger on their faces—children not yet old enough to go to school who, when asked what they had for breakfast said "grits and coffee"—for lunch, "beans and coffee"—for supper, "beans and coffee." Many could not remember when they'd last had milk.

We saw old people. One in particular I shall never forget. Mrs. Clauder Mae Smith, lucky enough to have a three-room shack for herself and her grandchild. She was almost blind. She wanted to work but couldn't afford glasses. Her income is \$44 a month from Social Security. She pays \$39 a month rent. Her apartment has no running water because when she was in debt to the water company they shut the water off. She has no electricity because she cannot afford to pay the electric bill. Rats and roaches crawl through the house at night. She receives commodities but they last only three weeks. The rest of the month she begs or goes hungry.

Yes, we saw the worst of Immokalee and Fort Myers.

We visited Bookers' Alley, an indescribable development of 24 shacks housing 30 families each paying \$52 rent a month to a landlord who also happens to be Chairman of the Board of the local bank and who grosses \$1560 per month from his tenants who have no hot water or heat. It is there we saw the child whose legs were so bowed from rickets that they almost formed a circle from his hips to his feet. It is there that we talked with Mrs. Katie Dell Murphy who with her husband and eight children live in a two-room shack with no hot water, with three beds and an income of \$125 each month if there's work, \$65 of which is paid in rent to the Chairman of the Board of the bank. Her children never have fresh milk at home and seldom have meat.

We heard that migrants in Collier County often live there 8 months of the year, traveling as far north as Michigan in summer to find work. We heard that if the migrants left Immokalee at harvest-time, Collier County's \$40 million farm economy would collapse.

But these, said the County Commissioners "are Federal people . . . not Immokalee people. They're not Collier people, they're not Florida people." "Federal people" they said were not their's to feed.

"We take care of our own," they said, with \$7500 for food out of their county welfare budget—enough to feed 24 people an adequate diet for a year. Their "own" does not include the 22,000 Collier migrants who harvest Collier's \$40,000,000 farm crops, go to its schools, buy food from its grocery stores and live in its slumlord's wretched shacks.

When we left the reaction was quick. The Chairman of the County Commissioners told the press:

"We knew we had three strikes on us. We had Senator McGovern, an ultra-liberal; Senator Javits, who in my thinking is a Socialist, and Senator Mondale who I understand was handpicked by Hubert Humphrey.

"We can expect what the results of the investigation will be. It could have been written before they came except for a few details. They were evidently trying to justify their existence and their trip to Florida."

In view of the Commissioners' testimony, I can only say that the script could not possibly have been written before we came to Collier County. I wonder if the Commissioner can cite any justification for his own existence in that office when he said publicly in his own County that migrants are "federal people" who do not deserve his help.

Collier County showed us the most backward side of local officialdom. Lee County showed us that happens when the local establishment accepts its responsibility—half-heartedly. Lee County has a Commodity Distribution Program. It provides 21 of the 22 commodities which the Department of Agriculture makes available for a supposedly balanced diet each month. But we found few people participating in this program—450 families—2% of the population while 32% are in poverty.

They are the lucky families. Lucky enough to pass muster at the local welfare office where others are arbitrarily denied assistance and frequently demeaned by the welfare director.

But they still have to pay a taxi \$4 to take them to the warehouse 4½ miles out of town to pick up their commodities. And the commodities they get last less than 3 weeks out of the month.

Thousands of other families in Ft. Myers are excluded from commodity assistance.

We found families who didn't know about the program. We found families who were afraid to go to the welfare office because they said they knew from their neighbors who had been there that they would be insulted and humiliated and denied assistance even though they were in need. And those families with whom we talked who were on commodities said they were hungry the fourth week of every month because the commodities did not last.

These are some of the things we saw and heard. And because we embarrassed some local and state officials we were criticized when we left.

We have been criticized for creating publicity and for exposing through the news media the problems I have just described in Florida. We have been told by the present Administration's Communications Director that we are making hunger "a political cause" by "traipsing around the country with television cameras." We have been told by the Governor of Florida to "stop talking and do something about hunger."

I for one will not stop talking. Our Committee will continue its field trips and we will through every means at our disposal put the problems of hunger before the American people and expose the good and the bad in our food assistance program.

And we will as we travel try to help the people we see and hear about.

In Collier County, where the Commissioners refuse to accept Federal assistance, others are willing to administer a commodity program. The Office of Economic Opportunity, will, I am glad to say, pay the administrative costs and the local Community Action Agency will provide the personnel and space to certify poor migrants and townspeople and see that commodities are distributed. The Department of Agriculture will be asked to supply the commodities to assure that between 4 and 5,000 destitute families in Collier County are fed.

Mr. President, I think our Committee has an obligation to report to the Senate on each of its field trips. That is why I, as Chairman, have presented my personal observations today.

Last Saturday Senator Mondale who was with us in Florida issued a statement summarizing his impressions of our trip.

I ask unanimous consent that his statement be printed in the Record at this point.

I also ask unanimous consent that a number of documents which will provide a more complete record of our hearings be printed in the Record. They include a statement of Mr. T. Michael Foster, our first witness in Immokalee, a memorandum relating the plight of one family evicted when contacted by the Committee staff, and a series of press reports of our activities.

Finally I ask that there also be printed in the RECORD a number of affidavits relating to charges that were made against the Welfare Director of Lee County—charges that were categorically denied by the Director and the Chairman of the Lee County Commission.

[From the Congressional Record, Mar. 24, 1969]

REPORT ON THE FIELD TRIP TO FLORIDA BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I should like to have the opportunity to reply to the Senator from South Dakota who has spoken earlier on the report of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs field trip to Florida.

I want to say to my good friend from South Dakota that I appreciate his courtesy in sending me, last Friday afternoon, a copy of his proposed remarks relative to the recent hearings held in Immokalee, Fla., among other places.

I have had an opportunity to see the speech briefly this morning. I spent the weekend in Florida, too. Even Florida people like to go to Florida in the winter-time, just as my friend from South Dakota and his committee chose to go down there to enjoy a few days.

I noticed two completely inaccurate figures in his statement about his trip to Immokalee that I should like to advise my friend about.

He declares, for instance, in his statement, that Collier County people—speaking about their willingness to take care of their own—include 22,000 Collier migrants who harvest Collier's \$40 million in farm produce.

Twenty-two thousand is just about 10 times too many. I hold in my hand the official report of the Florida State Employment Service, which is a cooperative service of the Federal Government and the State, showing the figures both of intrastate and interstate—which would be the migrants—on farm labor employed last year, 1968—and this year is not greatly different—and I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the Record in full at this time.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

NUMBER OF MIGRATORY WORKERS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURAL REPORTING AREAS COVERING THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, 1968

Reporting date ¹	Lake Okeechobee ²			Lower west coast ³			Central Ridge ⁴		
	Total	Intrastate	Interstate	Total	Intrastate	Interstate	Total	Intrastate	Interstate
January.....	4,200	1,100	3,100	4,225	1,625	2,600	8,858	1,615	7,243
February.....	4,400	1,100	3,300	5,135	2,585	2,550	9,027	1,475	7,552
March.....	4,500	1,100	3,400	5,117	2,517	2,600	6,423	1,455	4,968
April.....	4,000	1,200	2,800	5,355	2,205	3,150	6,693	1,416	5,277
May.....	1,300	400	900	8,550	4,950	3,600	7,906	1,880	6,026
June.....	50	50	0	1,520	1,005	515	5,072	1,530	3,542
July.....	0	0	0	70	50	20	1,378	285	1,093
August.....	0	0	0	90	65	25	300	150	150
September.....	0	0	0	265	95	170	200	100	100
October.....	1,900	500	1,400	1,640	290	1,350	280	100	180
November.....	3,400	900	2,500	4,440	1,340	3,100	2,320	500	1,820
December.....	3,800	500	3,300	4,515	915	3,600	5,428	1,400	4,028

¹ Midmonth employment.

² Includes Broward, Glades, and Palm Beach Counties.

³ Includes Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Hendry (west), Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

⁴ Includes Brevard, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsboro, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia Counties.

Source: In-season farm labor reports, Florida State Employment Service.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, this statement covers not the whole State but does cover in one of its compilation—compilation No. 3—the lower west coast—and does cover Collier County, Charlotte, De Soto, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

Those figures show clearly that the number of migrant laborers in each month of the year, 1968, as computed and as shown, would not even begin to approach for that whole area of nine counties the figure mentioned by my good friend from South Dakota.

For instance, in January of 1968, the total number for those nine counties of migrant laborers was 2,600. That is an official figure compiled by the Federal-State Employment Service.

Surely someone has misled the Senator from South Dakota in stating to him that there were 22,000 Collier migrants who harvested their crops.

Mr. President, the second part of his statement is obviously completely out of accord with the facts, his statement that there are 4,000—if I may have the attention of my distinguished friend, because I am trying to save him from getting into very grave error which I think he will regret later—in trying to state the situation in Collier County, he states that between 4,000 and 5,000 destitute families are in Collier County.

In the first place, there is no such number of destitute families in Collier County. That number of families would very nearly embrace the population of the county, which was 15,600 in 1960 and which is now somewhere between 25,000 and 30,000, of whom the major portion live in Naples, and are anything but destitute people.

The idea of there being 4,000 or 5,000 destitute families in Collier County is an enormity. I know my distinguished friend has been misled by somebody who told him about those figures, when those figures are completely out of accord with the possible facts.

Collier County is a progressive and prosperous county. The actual residents there could not possibly come under the classification of destitute people. I happen to have known it ever since shortly after World I. I have visited there repeatedly. I know well of the quality of the Collier County residents. I am talking about residents there. The idea of there being 4,000 or 5,000 destitute families there, when there may have been merely 2,000 or 3,000 migrants there at one time, many of whom do not bring their families, and those who do are not destitute, is so far from any possible facts that I wanted to call it to the attention of my distinguished friend while he was on the floor.

I hope he will be more careful in stating the result of his various hearings, both the ones he has already held and the ones in the future, and in stating as facts things that simply cannot be facts.

I am talking about something I know something about, because ever since about 1922 a group of friends in my hometown, who like to hunt and fish, have made Immokalee their headquarters. "Immokalee" means "our home." That is a Seminole Indian word. When we first used to go there, there were few there but Indians. I remember meeting there, at the Episcopal chapel, Deaconess Bedell, who gave such wonderful service to the Indians at Immokalee. I have been there from that time until now. The people who have lived there all these years are very fine people. I know many of the families there.

I am perfectly willing for any facts to appear in the Record which relate accurately to the situation either there or anywhere else in Florida, but I would not like my friend to be misled on the numbers involved. There have never been 22,000 migrants in Collier County or in any other similar county of Florida, unless it was Dade County. There are not 4,000 or 5,000 destitute families in Collier County, because there are no destitute families among the resident part of the population there.

I could go a great deal further into the matter, because I not only know the area; I know the families who have been there a while and others that have moved there since. I was there between Christmas and New Year and had a considerable chance to visit with some of those old families.

I am just giving this word of caution, because I think someone appearing before the Senator's able committee has given figures so extravagant and completely out of line with the facts that I would want him to know that is the case.

I have gone to the trouble this morning of obtaining the latest estimates of the population of Collier County, which goes up to about 30,000 in the census, and half of the population or more lives in the Naples area. There are other towns, if I can give some of them, besides Immokalee—each of which I happen to know, because I am an avid hunter as well as fisherman, and because this is an active area for that. Collier City, Marco, Goodland, Everglades City, and others which I can mention, are in that county, in addition to Immokalee and Naples—Naples, of course, being the metropolis of the whole area.

Without questioning at all either the sincerity or the effort to state the facts of the Senator from South Dakota, I simply want the record to show that someone has misinformed him completely as to the number of migrants there in the first place and as to the possible number of destitute families who are there, because the figures are so thoroughly out of accord with the actual facts in Collier County.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. President, first of all, I want to say to the Senator from Florida—and I know he understands this—that we did not go to Florida to get

a general appraisal of all the virtues and weaknesses of the State, but to look at a specific problem, and that is the problem of hungry people in that State. We started our appearance there with statements to the press and to everyone we could get to listen that we were not singling out Florida on any assumption that it had the worst problem in the country. We had plans to go into every area in the country and go into hearings on hunger there.

The New York Times has an article about a survey in New York City, in which early indications are that problems of very serious malnutrition will be found. We have it in my State, particularly among the Sioux Indians, and we will be going into those areas.

But as to the statistics contained in the report I filed today, there was not a statistic that was not the result of testimony that was taken or official local or State reports. We took the statements of the local people, such as county commissioners, State officials, and others.

I would like to suggest there may be one area of confusion when the Senator speaks of the number of migrant workers. We are using figures representing families as well as workers. We found families with eight or nine or 10 children that might be included in the labor statistics the Senator has referred to as one single person—the father of that family, for example. But the figure of 22,000 for Collier County was the figure—and I think the Senator from New York will verify this, if he recalls the testimony—that was used by persons who came before the committee, indicating that at the peak of the season, that was approximately the migrant population.

The 22,000 figure was cited by our first witness, Mr. T. Michael Foster. He said at page 26 of our transcript that the entire migrant population of Collier County is estimated by the county's migrant health project to be "22,000 persons during fiscal year 1968."

The figure he cited was taken from "Florida Migrant Health Project Report, 1967-1968," by the Florida State Board of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service.

In the Immokalee area alone, the president of the chamber of commerce testified that the peak migrant population was as high as 12,000. That appears at page 152 of our transcript.

He also said that the day the committee was in Immokalee there were approximately 4,000 migrant workers there.

There may be one other area that explains the Senator's somewhat lower figure, and that is that some local officials who testified before the committee said "These people are not residents." One county commissioner, as I remember, said, "They are not Collier people. They are not even Florida people. They are Federal people." That was the statement made. He did not recognize them as residents or citizens or as their having any responsibility at all on the part of the county or his State.

The figure of 4,000 to 5,000 destitute people is the estimate of Mr. E. Lee McCubbin, the commodity distribution director from the State capital, of how many people he thought there were in Collier County, that should be fed by a commodity program in that county.

That being the case, I can only say to the Senator, if these statistics are wrong, it is not because of a lack of effort by our committee to get an accurate picture. We queried witnesses over 2 long days of intensive committee hearings, and we took the word of the local officials on these estimates. They are not guesses on our part. Every one of those statistics appears not once, but several times, in the testimony taken by our committee. Now, if they are wrong, we will certainly correct the record, but they stand, as far as I am concerned, at this point, as a result of the very careful hearings of 2 days.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield.

Mr. HOLLAND. I have already said in my remarks that I did not question either the intentions of the Senator or the fact that he must have been informed of those figures by somebody else. I am just saying that those figures are not right: that they are incorrect; and the Senator might as well start in this period of investigations—which I hope he will continue—with the understanding that the people who are most interested in these causes of discovering malnutrition, and calling it hunger, and discovering perhaps a few hundred people, and calling them many thousand, are not going to give the actual figures.

I have put in the RECORD already the official figures on migrant workers, not

just in Collier County but in the seven counties. I think Collier County had the most of any, but all of them had some.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. President, will the Senator permit me to question him on that point?

Mr. HOLLAND. I shall in a moment. I have put in the figures for January of 1968 and for every month thereafter. The Senator will see that the largest number in any month was 3,600 in the whole seven counties. That is the workers, now, the migrant workers. The statement that this does not include the 22,000 migrants who harvest Collier's farm crops simply cannot help but be grossly exaggerated, regardless of who gave the figures; and it is to that fact that I am calling attention.

I do not question the Senator's objectivity. I do not question his kindness nor his sense of charity. Everyone knows he is an evangelist, and I am glad that we have two or three evangelists in the Senate.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I think we have more than that.

Mr. HOLLAND. But the fact of the matter is that the figures are just unnatural, and I know something about it, because this has been one of my own stamping grounds for many years, and I know all of the old families there and many of the newer ones. The idea of there being 4,00 or 5,000 destitute families there, when, to the contrary, there could not be half that many of migrant workers all told, at that time or in any 1 month, in that particular county, is also not in accord with the facts.

I do not mean by that that the testimony was not given, because I am sure it must have been, or the Senator from South Dakota would not have so reported it. I have never known the Senator to misstate anything on the floor of the Senate, and I do not ever expect him to, and I have made that very clear. I am simply calling his attention to the fact that someone has led him down an alley, here, which does not lead to a sound conclusion, because it does not give the proper facts. I hope the Senator will appreciate that, because that is the point of view from which I have made this statement.

I have not tried to give him any general answer to his hearings, although I have a great deal of material that might be brought into the matter later. But on these two figures, I know the situation well, and since the hearings—as a matter of fact, only over the weekend—I called in to obtain, not from the witnesses the Senator talked to, but from the most credible sources in Collier County and the most credible sources at the capital, the true information, and I have already placed in the RECORD information upon which the Senator can rely as to the number of migrant workers in the three groups of counties.

One of those groups contains Collier County, and the three groups are the counties named in the list; it does not cover the whole State.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. President, would not the Senator agree that there could be a difference based on the criteria that he has used?

When we talk about migrant workers, that is a different matter than talking about the migrant population, which includes the children, the mothers, the boys and girls, and the whole families. I think that may be one discrepancy that exists between the figures the Senator is using and the ones I am using.

When we talk about a hungry person, it does not make any difference whether it is an adult or a 6-month-old infant, though the latter certainly cannot be classified as a worker.

Mr. HOLLAND. The Senator's words, in his statement, are as follows: "... does not include the 22,000 Collier migrants who harvest Collier's \$40 million farm crops."

There never has been any such number of migrants who harvested Collier County's farm crops. To the contrary, the official figures show that in the seven counties of which Collier County is a part, in January of 1968, there was about a tenth that number of actual migrant workers, and that in the maximum month in 1968, the population of migrant workers in those seven counties was 3,600.

So there is a discrepancy, but it is not in what the Senator from Florida has said, it is in the wording of the statement of the Senator from South Dakota; and it is that to which I am calling his attention.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I think the 22,000 figure will have to stand, on the basis of our hearings, but it may be that the Senator has a point, that that ought to be worded so as to make it very clear that it includes the children of migrant workers, the wives, and the elderly who are unable to work.

In other words, it embraces the entire migrant worker population, including those who actually labor in the fields, the children, and those who are unable to work.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield further, the office at Tallahassee has just completed the compilation for January for all counties in the vegetable growing areas of the State. It shows that in January of this year, there were 2,628 in Collier County, in February, there were 2,902, and in March there were 2,799. I believe the hearing was held in late February, was it not?

Mr. MCGOVERN. It was in March.

Mr. HOLLAND. Early March?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes.

Mr. HOLLAND. Well, the number could not have changed greatly.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The 22,000 is a peak figure.

Mr. HOLLAND. So when you come to compare that figure, or rather contrast it, with the 22,000 reported in the Senator's statement, you can see there is gross exaggeration in the figures given to the Senator by somebody who testified before his committee, because I am sure he used figures that were given to him.

SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS ON FLORIDA FIELD HEARING

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, I apologize to my colleague Senator MCGOVERN, the chairman of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. I was attending a luncheon for the Prime Minister of Canada and asked to be excused before his address because I was anxious to come to the floor to discuss this matter.

As the ranking minority member of the committee, and because I was in Collier County with Senator MCGOVERN, I can certainly verify the fact that the witnesses who should have known the facts, the county officials, testified that there were 22,000 migrant workers—not families, but workers—at the peak of the season.

The official indicated that this large migrant population was responsible for county agricultural sales amounting to \$40 million last year. Mr. President, I am sure that we will be able to ascertain how the State arrived at the figures to which the Senator from Florida has referred and I am certain that the Senator from South Dakota, or I, will insert them in the RECORD precisely as they were derived. The same procedure will be followed for the figures reported by the committee's witnesses to whom Senator MCGOVERN referred earlier. By so doing, I am confident that any discrepancy will be clarified. However, and because of the circumstances, I must view the committee's figures as being factual and representative of the situation until such time as there is definite evidence to the contrary.

Mr. President, I think it is most important that we do not defy the evidence as seen through our own eyes. Whatever the number—and committee witnesses stated the figure at 22,000—it is capable of being defined in terms of the production of vegetables, fruits, and other produce. This is what the witnesses were referring to—the labor force and its circumstance of being.

Our visible evidence was of malnutrition amounting to hunger, and the philosophy of the county officials supported that situation, as the Senator from South Dakota has stated. They spoke of "Federal people," and that the Federal Government is not taking care of the people—the migrants—who are responsible in great measure for the agricultural production, sales and wealth of the county.

I challenged the officials on their attitudes and by stating that here I am not repeating anything that was not stated to them in person. But notwithstanding the migratory workers' enormous contribution to the county's economy, the officials said they were "Federal people," and that they—the officials—were really not responsible for them. They further said that if the Federal Government wanted to give the migrants free food stamps, it was someone else's job and not theirs.

They came before the committee with the philosophy that migrants were going to be paid for what they produced, and that the county had no further responsibility to them. This was not all. The county officials further testified that their philosophy was that the only way they were going to get migrants to work in the fields was by operating with a "No work, no eat philosophy." This is what it really amounted to and in those primitive terms.

Mr. President, most important for us, because it has so shocked the conscience of this country, is not how many people are involved, but the extent to which the problem exist at all? I am convinced that it does exist. I am also convinced that it exists not only in Immokalee but throughout the country, including my own State

of New York. For this reason, I organized a statewide committee composed of the deans of the 12 medical schools in the State of New York to investigate the extent of malnutrition and hunger. The New York Times this morning says there are hungry people in the city of New York. I do not dispute this. I do not know. I shall be shocked and saddened if it is so, just as any Senator would.

I can understand perfectly how the Senator from Florida feels. Nevertheless the problem exists. This is something, previously unknown, that has been uncovered by the struggle against poverty.

If anything will spring us to the kind and scale of action that ought to be, it will be this specter: that there is actually such malnutrition in our country as to amount of hunger, not in one place but in many and perhaps even in our biggest cities with the best welfare programs.

Mr. President, I value, of course, whatever any Senator may say about his own State, attempting to clarify the facts and determine the magnitude of the problem. However, I rise today in an effort to point out that whatever our experience may have been, it does not diminish our responsibility nor the impact of the problem upon us.

I have been in this very struggle for a long time as a member of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. I was involved in the matter before this phase began. There is movement, and there will have to be more.

There is nothing sacrosanct about food stamps. They may have to be given free to the poorest of the poor, because food stamps are a very effective way to get food distributed.

We must all resolve—whether it is 2,700 migrants as the Senator from Florida (Mr. HOLLAND) says, or 22,000 as we and the county officials say—that something must be done about it.

We actually saw women with children who had no other means of subsistence except to go out on the farms and work. One woman told us that if she did not work—and she, though unmarried, had several children—she did not know where, using her words, she “could have somebody help” her out.

Even the doctor in the community who operated the local health clinic—although he was only one man and had only one helper—said that even by prescription he could not do very much. He felt that if any county should have had a case of starvation called to its attention that that county would find a way to relieve the situation. He said that Collier County had allocated \$7,500 of the budget for food assistance.

If the figures are remotely correct—2,700, let alone 22,000—that is a very small and sorry figure.

I have explained the philosophy involved. Whatever the right figure may be, this situation should not exist in our country. We must undertake a solemn resolution to deal with the situation in whatever form we have to deal with it, whether by an amendment to the law dealing with food stamps and the distribution of food or money, or some other way. We will do whatever we must do.

Then the work of the committee will have been a blessing. The committee is limited. It must develop these facts all over the country.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, of course the Senator from New York is used to dealing in large numbers. When he talks about malnutrition in his own city, he could easily talk about thousands and maybe many thousands. When we get into a rural county, however, where there is a small vegetable industry and a sizable capital industry, using the figures in the statement, it is so out of proportion that I thought it my duty to call the matter to the attention of the Senator from South Dakota.

My friends who are so dedicated to this committee work are like others who are trying to solve the problem. It is primarily a problem of malnutrition rather than of hunger.

Last November Secretary of Agriculture Freeman came to me and asked to have relief funds from section 32, which is a very dear section to me, to set up a group of 5,000 paid workers to learn something about nutrition and then to circulate in the more poverty stricken areas, both of the cities and of the country.

They are working and have been working on this subject. And I think that the real answer to the problem is going to be one of education as to what is sound nutrition.

Although I did not attend the hearings because I had hearings of my own here, I found in the papers repeated statements as to the fact that some of these

migrants were eating nothing but beans and grits and fatback. There are many thousands of people that have been living on just that kind of food. It may not be a very balanced diet and, as far as I am concerned, I probably would not live very long on it alone. I have probably eaten more grits than any three other Members of the Senate. It has not done me any harm.

The fact is that the people do not know what a balanced diet is. The real job is to let them know what it is.

I make the point that last fall the Department of Agriculture began a program. The testimony is that there were 5,000 of these workers, and quite a number of them were in two counties in South Carolina, where free food stamps were available.

The present Secretary of Agriculture came to me as the chairman of the Agricultural Subcommittee on Appropriations and asked me to help because something needed to be done to make available free food stamps to the very deprived people in those two counties. I did so. Yet I did so reluctantly, because I think that the mere ability to purchase does little good in providing a balanced food diet if the people who are doing the purchasing would rather have something that is not nutritious and is not balanced and insisted on buying that.

The real answer is, of course, in a better dissemination of the information long spread by the domestic science agents in every county in my region, and I assume by the workers in most counties of the Nation as to how family heads can best feed their families.

So far as I am concerned, to talk about malnutrition makes sense to me. But when we talk about hunger in an area where, so far as residents are concerned, there was never any money to exist, and I do not think there ever will be, that is quite a different thing.

The only purpose for my speaking this afternoon is that I do not want the figures placed in the RECORD by the Senator from South Dakota, go unchallenged, of 22,000 migrant workers in Collier County, when there has never been that many there. Collier County has never had that many migrants: Someone has misinformed the Senator. I do not want to have that figure go into the RECORD unchallenged.

Neither are there 4,000 to 5,000 destitute families. That number of destitute families would make up more than half the population of the county; and, incidentally, more than half the population of the county lives in the opulent end, in and around Naples.

I felt that I should communicate these facts to the Senate. I am not ready to discuss the greater issues until I find out in which direction the committee wants to go. But I am not going to support any program that will make the food stamp program a free stamp program or a general welfare program, because that was never the purpose of it.

I agree with Representative SULLIVAN, who has been the head of the movement in the House and who believes that to put the program on that sort of basis would simply wreck it. I have not seen the Senator's bill; he introduced it only today. I hope we can work out good legislation, but I do not want it to be, and I hope and believe will not be, by way of making foods stamps free to any large segment of people, or to place the program in the control of anybody who has no knowledge of what is malnutrition and what is sound diet.

Mr. JAVITS. I am sorry, but I cannot accept the fine words of my colleague, the Senator from Florida, about the fact that this is not a balanced diet. I saw these kids, and so did the other members of the committee, and this was not a matter of their having an unbalanced diet. It was a matter of the larder being empty. In many cases, we actually looked into the larder to find out.

I also point out, that one of the figures in this area which is fascinating is the fact that the post-neo-natal mortality rate per thousand live births—that is, deaths from 1 month to 1 year after birth—in respect to this particular area is approximately three times the national average for the United States. For non-whites, it is 14 per thousand live births. For Collier County it is 40 per thousand live births. These are Federal Government statistics and I would like to ask unanimous consent to have these statistics placed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the figures were ordered to be printed to the RECORD, as follows:

STATISTICAL CHART SUBMITTED BY SENATOR JAVITS

POSTNEONATAL MORTALITY RATE¹ PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS, 1966—COMPARATIVE STATISTICS²

	United States	Florida	Collier County
All persons.....	6.5	8.1	20.3
White.....	5.0	5.1	15.8
Nonwhite.....	14.0	15.6	40.8

¹ Deaths from 1 month to 1 year after birth.² All figures taken from "Vital Statistics of the United States—1966," vol. I (natality), vol. II pts. A and B (mortality), U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics.

Mr. JAVITS. I think it is my duty, as it was the duty of the chairman of the committee, to testify to what we saw and heard; and we saw and heard about conditions which are equivalent to hunger, not just an unbalanced diet, in this particular part of the country.

We have seen it before in South Carolina, where a distinguished Senator, Senator HOLLINGS, testified to it himself. We have seen it—that is, a previous subcommittee on which I served with former Senator Clark, Senator MURPHY, and the late Senator Robert Kennedy—in Mississippi, and I feel we have seen it in Florida.

I said before that we may see it in New York. If we do, I will be the first one on the floor of the Senate to inveigh against anyone who is responsible. I do not care who it is or how high an official he may be. I shall do it. I shall not do my best to defend my State in some superficial way if my State has not done what is right.

That is all anybody asks; that is all anybody has a right to ask; and I should think that the people of any State would be proud of the fact that an effort would be made to correct a situation such as that. Conditions such as those described today can only cause the consciences of the people of any State to be deeply disheartened and sickened, that such conditions could exist in our country.

SENATOR JAVITS' STATEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND HUNGER

I understand that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. MCGOVERN), said before I arrived in the Chamber that we needed a very massive effort to solve these problems and that he was not satisfied that the administration's reported expenditures in this area were sufficient to meet the needs. That is premature. We do not know what the administration will do. However, I do not mind the injunction on one proviso. I do not think any of us would be so arrogant personally as to assume that the President of the United States or any Senator is less concerned about a matter of this kind than we are.

I feel that when the President does come to a conclusion and lays it before us, he has every right to be challenged. I will join with my colleagues in such a challenge if the President's decision does not meet the needs.

We ought to give the President the benefit of the doubt until such time as he lays a program before us. We should not allow hunger, malnutrition, and their related evils to take second place to money. On that point I agree with the Senator from South Dakota.

I think these conditions exist in many places and States, places in which we never dreamed they existed.

It is deeply shocking to the Nation. It may show us what statements about poverty actually mean as they relate to the action of the administration. Secretary of Agriculture Hardin and Secretary of HEW Finch have done their utmost to move bureaucracy in a way that was never done before.

The problem of hunger and malnutrition is entitled to number one priority in this country. If America can do what needs to be done in matters of defense, then it can afford to do what needs to be done in matters involving malnutrition and hunger.

Mr. President, that is all I have to lay before the Senate.

Mr. HOLLAND. The Senator mentioned some vital statistics about the children, their rate of mortality, and so forth.

I was distressed to note, in reading the press accounts of the hearings down there, that this able committee would not even hear the State health officer of the State of Florida.

I want the RECORD to show something about who that officer is, because I brought him to Florida when I was Governor of that State. He was a very highly regarded member of the Public Health Service in Washington. I brought him to Florida because we had as our State health officer a man who was of some age and approaching retirement. Dr. Wilson Sowder became the State health officer of Florida very shortly after that time. He has been a man of great distinction, recognized all over this Nation for what he has done here and for some periods in Latin America, as a matter of fact.

When this committee went down there and declined to hear or allow to be heard the State health officer of Florida, a man of that distinction, on questions which he could have told them the truth, I regretted it exceedingly, and I voice that regret now, because I assume that what this committee wants, and what it should get, is the facts from the best possible sources.

I do not know what their reason was for declining to hear him. The newspaper reports that they did decline to hear him.

I want to make clear that not only do I know Dr. Sowder, but also, I brought him to Florida; and the Public Health Service was very reluctant to let us have him. They let us have him first, as I recall, on a 2- or 3-year-loan basis. Finally, I had to offer to make him the head of our Public Health Service as they would not permit him to stay there longer on a leave basis; and he resigned and came there, to do a magnificent job for our State. I am sorry that my distinguished friends did not see fit to hear him on a subject on which he could have told them more nearly what the fates are in an authoritative way than any of the OEO people and others who appeared before the committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The health officer to whom the Senator has referred did submit a statement to our committee, which was incorporated in the committee hearings, and to that extent the press reports were mistaken.

We suggested to the health officer that since we were not on a general investigation of health conditions but were there to look primarily into the problem of nutrition, he send his nutritionist who is attached to the Office of Public Health. With the consent and cooperation of Dr. Sauder, his nutritionist did appear, he did testify, and he brought with him the statement from Dr. Sauder, which he read into the record; and then, for a period of well over an hour, the State nutritionist attached to Dr. Sauder's office fielded questions from all members of the committee.

I found nothing in Dr. Sauder's statement that was at variance with what his nutritionist had to tell us. As a matter of fact, we pressed the interrogation considerably beyond what could have been expected of the committee. We had only two days there, but we did give the Public Health Office a good chance to make their case on this nutritional problem by calling a man in that department who is an expert in that field.

Mr. HOLLAND. My information is that Dr. Sauder sent the committee a wire before the committee left Washington, requesting the right to be heard before the committee, and he was never given that right. Is that correct or incorrect?

Mr. MCGOVERN. What we suggested to him was that we had his nutritionist scheduled to testify and that he was the man who could best give the committee the information we were seeking. But we did accept the doctor's statement, and it became a part of the hearing record. He filed a full statement.

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs (Mr. MCGOVERN) has delivered an excellent report on the committee's field investigation in Florida on March 10 and 11, 1969. In support of the report, I ask unanimous consent that a statement which I issued to the press in Minnesota on March 16, 1969, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"BACKGROUND STATEMENT BY SENATOR WALTER F. MONDALE

"There are times in the life of a public official when he is brought face to face with the shocking reality of hunger and dire poverty. I have just had such an experience in visiting depressed areas of Lee and Collier Counties in Southwest

Florida as a member of the Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

"We saw many who lived in shacks which were unfit for human habitation. We saw children and old people who regularly missed one or two meals a day and who depended on grits and fatback to survive. And we saw people of all ages who were obviously defeated by these conditions.

"In the evenings I met privately with migrant workers, who constitute a large segment of the population of Southern Florida. They told me a story of unequaled human misery and despair—of seldom having enough to eat, of seldom knowing where or when their next job would be, of seldom being eligible for community services we take for granted. They were often unable to vote, and rejected by the communities they help make prosperous. To put it very simply, they are treated as less than human beings.

"The people I talked with travel the length and breadth of our land in search of jobs. They do not know what it means to have a place to call home, or to have their children enrolled in fewer than 3 or 4 different schools every school year. They are the dispossessed and the disoriented—people who are chasing the American dream, but destroying themselves and their families in the process.

"What I saw during the day and what I heard at night had a profound impact on me. But it is the faces of listless and undersized young children that I cannot get out of my mind—faces which stared straight ahead, indicating no comprehension of the world around them. The condition of these children was the vivid and terrible proof of what nutritionists and pediatricians have been telling our Committee for the past several months, i.e., that children who are malnourished suffer irreversible brain damage, as well as injury to the body's tissues.

"I could see the result of many years of malnutrition and sordid living conditions in the parents of these children. It is not over-dramatic to characterize their existence as a shadow-life—hemmed in by poverty in its most extreme form and yet too weak, too ill, and simply too worn down to press for change.

"As a result of this trip, I now know to be true what I had suspected for some time.

"To begin with, the effects of hunger and malnutrition are even more severe than the testimony of experts would lead one to believe. I am convinced that malnutrition and primitive living conditions have a direct causal relationship with the shadow-life existence of so many of the people we saw.

"I am also convinced that the often heard cries that the poor are lazy and that their sole purpose in life is to obtain welfare benefits are among the great myths of our time.

"Few people in this country work as hard as the migrants living in Collier County; the work is so difficult that many are physically 'washed out' at the age of 45. And in Lee County, representative of the people I talked with was a sixty-three-year-old woman who had only recently stopped picking tomatoes because of failing eyesight, despite the fact that she was afflicted with arthritis and varicose veins.

"As to the notion that the poor are constantly in search of government hand-outs, how does one explain the fact that in Lee County, where there is a commodity food program, many of those eligible and in desperate need of food do not participate in the programs? Their failure to participate in this program as well as their failure to obtain other welfare benefits for which they were obviously eligible, is certainly inconsistent with the myth.

"And finally, I realized the grave harm which results from the Federal Government's failure or inability to provide sufficient food for people when the local government has abdicated its responsibility to do so. Collier County officials have repeatedly refused to participate in the Commodity Program, ignoring their citizens' pleas for participation and ignoring the overwhelming need for such a program. In a county where there are often as many as 22,000 migrants in residence, the attitude of these local officials was best expressed by one Commissioner's assertion that the county had no responsibility for these individuals since they were 'federal people.'

"And even in Lee County, the harsh and restrictive administration of the Commodity Program by the county welfare director has led to a situation where less than 2% of the County's population receive commodity foods, while 32% of the population earn less than \$3,000 per year. The officials in this county have repeatedly refused to hire outreach workers or to set up food distribution centers nearer to the depressed areas of the county.

"But it would be a mistake to assume that extreme poverty and malnutrition exist only where there are indifferent and disdainful local officials. I am sure that equally intolerable conditions can be found anywhere in the country. I know, for example, that similar conditions exist in Minnesota on some of our Indian reservations and in the ghettos of our cities.

"The truth is that we have all failed the poor and hungry in this country, and those of us who are public officials must accept a large share of the blame for this failure. What is even worse is that it is impossible to calculate the damage which has occurred as a result of this failure. For example, while we know that in Collier County 41 out of every 1000 infants die before they are one year old, there is no way to estimate the amount of irreversible brain damage in the children who survive.

"As to the federal government's role in eliminating hunger in the United States, I think the following actions must be taken immediately:

"1. Free food stamps must be made available to those under the poverty level, as well as to those whose income prevents them from attaining a fully adequate and nutritious diet.

"2. A county should be able to participate simultaneously in the food stamp program and the direct food distribution program.

"3. The Federal Government should distribute *all* commodities, whether or not in surplus, to supplement the food stamp program.

"4. An applicant should be eligible for these programs after submitting an affidavit, with no onerous red tape.

"These measures and others are contained in the Domestic Food Assistance Act of 1969, which I re-introduced in this session of Congress. I hope that there will be sufficient public pressure as a result of the Select Committee's investigations to insure passage of this legislation.

"In addition, the school lunch program must be expanded to provide every needy child with a free lunch; at the present time the school lunch program reaches less than half of the nation's school children. Even more importantly, the school breakfast program, which has only been established on a pilot basis, must be expanded to reach all children from poor families. Our committee has repeatedly been told that a child's ability to learn is greatly enhanced after he has had a decent breakfast.

"And finally, we must devise a food distribution system which will enable pregnant mothers and pre-school age children to have an adequate and nutritious diet. Such a system is absolutely essential, for it is from the pre-natal period to age five that hunger and malnutrition are most devastating to the mental and physical condition of a young child."

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

MARCH 27, 1969.

HON. CLIFFORD M. HARDIN,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs recently completed two days of hearings in Collier and Lee Counties, Florida. This was the Committee's first trip into the field. Some of the findings are disturbing and need immediate attention.

We found serious problems of hunger and testimony of a variety of witnesses left no doubt that malnutrition afflicted the poor in these areas to a grave degree. Yet, in Collier County, we encountered some local officials who denied responsibility for a large segment of the poor, primarily the migrants. They took the position that migrants should be taken care of by the Federal Government. Despite repeated urgings by their own county health and welfare officials and the Florida State Director of Commodities Distribution, the Commissioners, moreover, refuse to accept administrative responsibility for a commodity program.

We now have an opportunity to rectify this situation. As a result of discussions with officials of the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Migrant Division of OEO is committed to providing the administrative costs of a commodity program in Collier County. We enclose correspondence confirming that commitment. The County's Action Migrant Program will accept responsibility for ad-

ministering the program, certifying recipients and storing and distributing the commodities.

We understand that representatives of OEO's Migrant Division have been meeting regularly with staff members of your Department for more than a year to discuss what might be done to bring the benefits of federal food programs to migrants. These staff members have expressed a desire to participate in the administration of a program in Collier County as a demonstration of how this might be done.

We sincerely hope that everything will be done to speed these negotiations along and that USDA will quickly agree to make commodities available and on other necessary steps to implement a program in Collier County.

In Lee County, we found local officials who could not even accurately say how many people were receiving the commodities or how many might be potentially eligible. Several witnesses testified that the local welfare director displayed a hostile attitude toward the poor and a rigid and unrealistic interpretation of guidelines governing eligibility which might have resulted in the denial of food to many who were entitled to it. The locale of the distribution center, 4½ miles from the residential area served by the program, moreover, causes serious transportation difficulties for recipients who have to pay from \$2 to as much as \$4 taxi fare to pick up their commodities.

We urge you to investigate the administration of this program immediately. We believe steps should be taken to assure that commodity programs in both these South Florida counties are administered effectively to help those most in need of food assistance.

To this end we suggest USDA undertake the following:

1. Assure that persons are treated respectfully and courteously at the Welfare Office when they apply for certification.

2. Simplify methods of certification and police local welfare offices to assure that they abide by their own, their state's and USDA's regulations and guidelines. We found in Lee County, for example, that despite a state regulation providing automatic eligibility for public assistance recipients, the local administrator applied income criteria in determining eligibility. Moreover, despite a state guideline providing that a home visit and personal statement of household income are sufficient to certify a non-public assistance family, the local administrator insisted upon employer certification of income from migrants whose employers may change monthly or weekly, if not daily.

3. Commodity delivery should be designed to lessen the cost of transportation to the recipients, and should include distribution subcenters in areas with large numbers of poor families.

4. There should be a serious attempt made to give information, particularly to needy families, of the availability of food for them. Family after family in Lee County, obviously in need of food assistance, told us that they had never heard of the commodity program.

These are some of the administrative reforms which we believe, as a result of our experience in Southern Florida, are essential for the administration of an effective commodity distribution program.

We cannot urge too strongly that these steps be taken now and that negotiations be completed to establish a commodity distribution program in Collier County.

Sincerely yours,

ALLEN J. ELLENDER.
WALTER F. MONDALE.
GEORGE MCGOVERN,
Chairman.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., April 16, 1969.

HON. GEORGE MCGOVERN,
Chairman, Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your most constructive letter of March 27, dealing with recent findings in Collier and Lee Counties, Florida, by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

We share your views on the urgent need for food assistance in Collier County, particularly among large numbers of migrants. The problems of potential cost

and responsibility of local operation of a food distribution program have been under review for over a year by the Florida Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Agriculture.

The State Director of Commodity Distribution in Florida has estimated potential participation in Collier County at 4,000 to 5,000 persons, and annual cost at \$40,000 to \$45,000. We appreciate the offer by the Office of Economic Opportunity to participate in the funding of a local program to the extent of \$20,000 to \$30,000 (on a matching basis with the Department of Agriculture).

Through cooperative efforts of responsible agencies (local, state and federal), we trust that a program may get under way in Collier County without too much delay. Inasmuch as we are giving this matter priority attention at the present time, we will report to you again on our progress as soon as we can.

We are greatly disturbed by our findings on current operation and administration of the food distribution program in Lee County. As you suggested, this matter will be investigated at once. We will also send you a report on these problems when appropriate authorities have an opportunity to look into them.

Sincerely

CLIFFORD M. HARDIN, *Secretary of Agriculture*

MARCH 17, 1969.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSON,
*Project Director, Community Action Fund, Inc.,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.*

DEAR MR. JOHNSON: The Migrant Division of OEO has talked with you and your staff on several occasions over the last few weeks concerning the possibility of Community Action Migrant Program operation of a comprehensive food program for impoverished farm workers in Collier County, Florida. We understand that you have taken this matter to members of the Board of CAMP and that your agency is definitely interested in administering such a program.

This is to notify you that the OEO Migrant Division is prepared to support the CAMP in a demonstration food distribution in Collier County to the extent that our limited resources will permit. Our office has, in addition, held preliminary conversations with the Consumer Food Program officials in the Department of Agriculture. There is every reason to believe that they, too, will wish to participate in such a demonstration. We hope that in addition both the State of Florida and the officials of Collier County would wish to associate themselves with this effort.

To that end, you should begin immediately to explore with state and local officials the problems and possibilities of setting up a countywide commodity distribution program. While OEO is willing to assist your agency in undertaking this distribution program on a demonstration basis, ultimately the objective should be to turn the program over to the appropriate local authorities for continued operation. For this reason it is imperative to have their cooperation at the outset.

We understand that the cost to CAMP for administering this program will be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. OEO is willing to provide that amount on a matching basis with the Department of Agriculture for the administrative expense in establishing and operating the food program. Our office is also willing, of course, to provide such technical assistance as you may need to establish the program.

The Migrant Division is attempting to set up a meeting here in Washington within the next few days to explore with U.S.D.A. and other involved agencies a method for achieving the kind of comprehensive food distribution program necessary in Collier County. We would appreciate your participation in that meeting, for we feel the kind of local information which you can provide is essential in planning the program.

The above outlines our understanding of the desires of your agency in regard to the food distribution program and the points agreed to in conversations between your office and ours. Please contact either Ruth Graves or Jon Linfield at your earliest convenience to confirm this understanding and to let us know your availability to attend the exploratory meetings here in Washington.

Sincerely,

NOEL H. KLORES,

Director, Office of Special Field Programs, Community Action Program.

MATERIALS RELATING TO THE MIGRANT POPULATION OF COLLIER COUNTY

SOUTH FLORIDA MIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM, INC.,
Ft. Myers, Fla., March 24, 1969.

WILLIAM C. SMITH,
General Counsel, U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs,
Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR BILL: Enclosed are several copies of the cover sheet and selected pages from the *Florida Migrant Health Project Fifth Annual Progress Report, 1967-1968* (the Florida State Board of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service) relating to the migrant population in Collier County.

Note that the term "resident population," as used on the Collier County Health Department cover sheet refers to migrants in Collier during the season, and not the true resident population of the county. See particularly 5b of the second sheet attached, and the supporting exhibits.

I hope this information will be helpful to you. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

T. MICHAEL FOSTER, *Assistant Director.*

COLLIER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Naples, Fla., April 4, 1969.

WILLIAM C. SMITH, Esq.,
General Consultant, Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs,
Old Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SMITH: Enclosed are Exhibits III, IV, V and VII from the Florida Migrant Health Report—Fifth Annual Progress Report 1967-1968. (Information from School records.)

The Preliminary Report of the Florida Migrant Child Survey Project—University of Miami—E. John Kleinert, Director has information on page 26 of 2,215 migrant school children as compared to 2,446 children recorded by the Collier County School System.

We also find on page 70 of the 1966-1967 Florida Migrant Health Report the following information:

Type	Number of persons	Number of camps
Single men.....	946	27
Single women.....	40	1
Families (adults).....	6,376	92
Children (3 to family).....	9,564	-----
Total, last season.....	16,926	120

We also estimated 2,000 migrants living outside County in 1966-1967 season. The increase in the number of migrants is related to the increase of acreage in agricultural production in the county.

	Acres
1961.....	15,000
1965-66 season.....	30,000
1966-67 season.....	35,000
1967-68 season (estimated).....	40,000+

We hope this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES F. BRADLEY, M.D., *Director.*
By: ROBERT R. WHEELER, R.S., *Director,*
Environmental Health Section.

COLLIER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT—CHARLES F. BRADLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

Area of County: 2,032 square miles.

Resident Population: 22,000.

Migrant Health Project Staff: 3 Public Health Nurses, 1 Senior Sanitarian, 1 Sanitarian, 1 Motor Vehicle Operator, 1 Clinic Aide, 1 Clerk-Typist.

HEW-PHS
Wash., D.C.PRETEST DRAMA
1967

MIGRANT HEALTH PROJECT - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

For May 1, 1967 through April 30, 1968
Date submitted May 14, 1968

COLLIER COUNTY

PART I GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title A project to develop a Statewide Program of Health Services for Migrant Farm Workers and their Dependents in Florida	2. Grant Number (use number shown on approved application) MG-18E (68)
3. Name and Address of Applicant Organization Collier County Health Department County Government Center P. O. Box 477 Naples, Florida 33940	4. Project Director Charles F. Bradley, M.D.

5. Population Data - Number of Migrants (workers and dependents) for Collier County:

a. Number of migrants during season:				b. Number of migrants by month:			
	Total	Male	Female	Month	Total	Month	Total
1. Out-migrants				Jan	22,000	Jul	6,000
Total	8100	4050	4050	Feb	22,000	Aug	10,000
Under 1 year	200	100	100	Mar	20,000	Sep	14,000
1 - 4 years	1000	500	500	Apr	18,000	Oct	16,000
5 - 14 years	1600	800	800	May	16,926	Nov	18,000
15 - 44 years	2600	1300	1300	Jun	6,000	Dec	22,000
45 - 64 years	1000	500	500				
65 and older	200	100	100				
2. In-migrants							
Total	8100	4050	4050	c. Average stay of migrants in county:			
Under 1 year	200	100	100	Out-migrants: <u>38</u> weeks			
1 - 4 years	1000	500	500	from <u>Sept.</u> (mo.) through <u>May</u> (mo.)			
5 - 14 years	1600	800	800	In-migrants: <u>30</u> weeks			
15 - 44 years	2600	1300	1300	from <u>Oct.</u> (mo.) through <u>May</u> (mo.)			
45 - 64 years	1000	500	500	d. Source of information and/or basis of estimates:			
65 and older	200	100	100	SEE EXHIBITS III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X			

6. Housing accommodations for Collier County:

a. Camps			b. Other housing accommodations		
Maximum Capacity	Number	Occupancy(peak)	Type	Number	Occupancy(peak)
Less than 10 persons			Farms	70	2200
10 - 25 persons	28	587	Other locations ²	1570	14747
26 - 50 persons	37	1353			
51 - 100 persons	24	1572			
More than 100 persons	10	1541			
	¹ 99	5053			

c. Append map showing location of camps, roads, clinics, and other places important to project.

¹ PERMITTED CAMPS ONLY² PRIVATE HOMES PLUS NON-PERMITTED

[EXHIBIT III]

PART I. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

5. Population data

d. We estimate in computing the migrant population that for every student we have in school (approximately 2,465) we have seven people who are either pre-school or post-school age who either work in the fields or stay home to watch children. Therefore, we project our total figure of this group to 19,720.

As we know there are also many migrant adults in this county who have no school ties or connections (single men and women or married couples whose families are either pre- or post-school age) we assume this group would constitute an addition of 20 per cent of our total migrant population. On this basis, the population will equal 19,720 plus 4,930 to give us a total of 24,650. Assuming a 10 per cent error, an adjustment to 22,000 would be a fairly accurate estimate of the migrant population in the county as defined by Florida law.

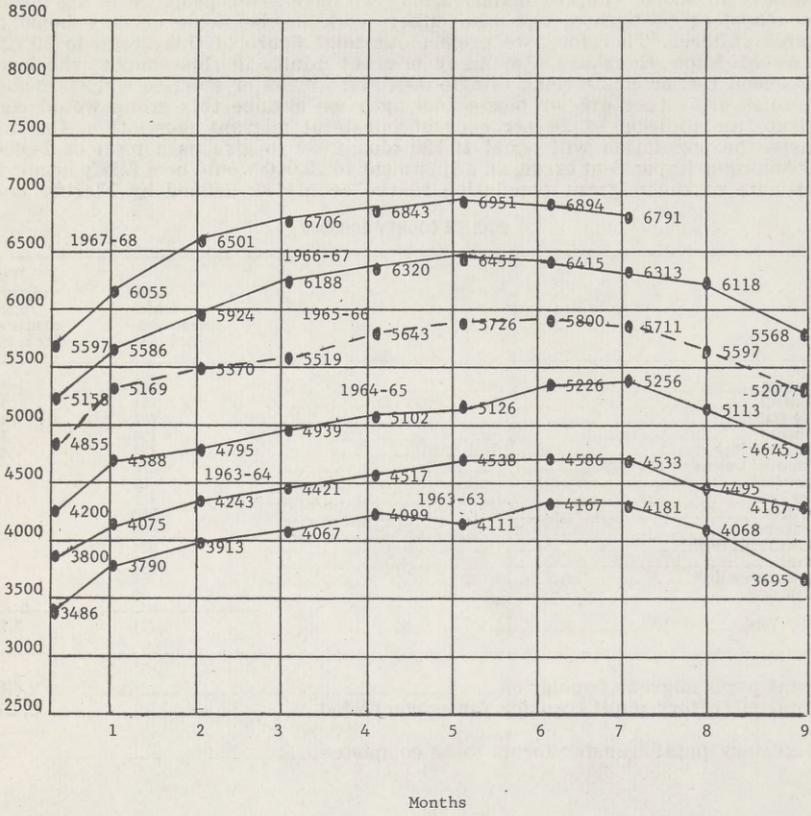
COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOLS

School	Total school membership, April 1968	Total migratory records completed, May 5, 1968
Pinecrest.....	217	246
Highlands.....	651	594
Lake Trafford.....	457	415
Bethune.....	158	132
Immokalee High.....	742	480
Everglades Elementary and High.....	376	85
T. Barfield.....	59	0
Lake Park.....	721	37
Sea Gate.....	580	45
Shadowlawn.....	909	45
Naples Junior High.....	984	44
Carver.....	117	54
Naples Senior High.....	761	38
Exceptional.....	59	0
Total.....	6,791	2,215
Total pupil migrant population.....		2,465
Total migratory pupil transfer forms completed.....		2,215
Migratory pupil transfer forms to be completed.....		250

[EXHIBIT V]

COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

PUPILS



(Exhibit V)

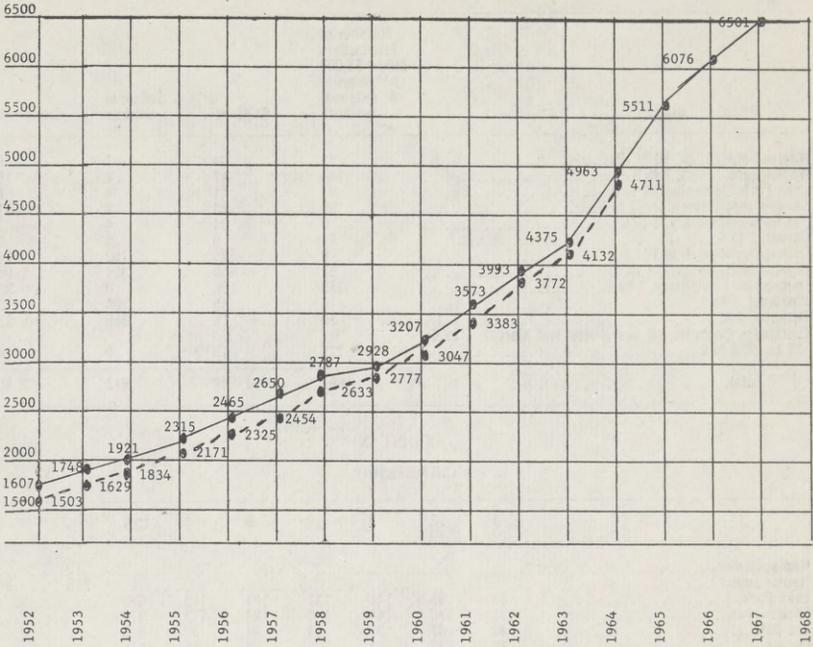
COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOLS
ATTENDANCE DATA 1952-1968

PUPILS

Membership

Attendance

(Exhibit VI)



IMMOKALEE AREA
MEMBERSHIP GRADES 1-12
1964-65 1965-66 1966-67 1967-68

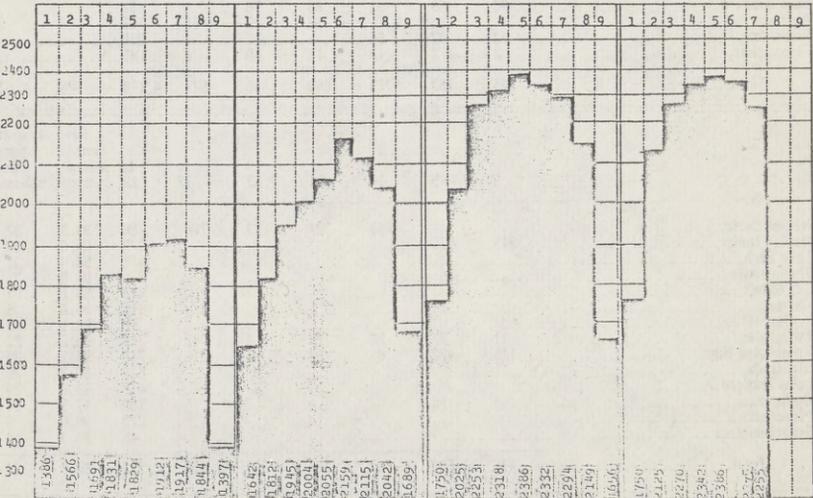


EXHIBIT VIII—STUDENT ENROLLMENT SURVEY EFFECTIVE APR. 1, 1967

COLLIER COUNTY (LOW INCOME)

School and grade	Number of low-income below \$3,000 (not migrant or seasonal worker)	Migrant	Seasonal worker	Grand total
Naples Senior High, 10 to 12	15	34	7	56
Naples Junior High, 7 to 9	140	17	0	157
Lake Park Elementary, 1 to 6	41	41	4	86
Shadowlawn Elementary, 1 to 6	35	73	8	116
Sea Gate Elementary, 1 to 6	0	34	4	38
Carver, 1 to 6	47	0	16	63
Immokalee High, 6 to 12	0	145	102	247
Highlands Elementary, 1 to 5	91	658	301	1,050
Immokalee Elementary, 1 to 5	155	182	0	337
Pinecrest, 1 to 3	4	85	104	193
Bethune, 4 to 9	36	16	266	318
Everglades (includes all Everglades and Marco), 1 to 6, 1 to 12, 1 to 6	128	13	0	141
Total	692	1,298	812	2,802

EXHIBIT IX

MEMBERSHIP

	1	2	3	4	5	6	1 to 6	7	8
Naples Senior									
Naples Junior								312	345
Lake Park			141	131	101	119	681		
Shadowlawn	191	170	144	130	123	117	875		
Sea Gate	99	87	99	99	97	92	573		
Carver	32	29	12	20	8	14	115		
T. Barfield	6	8	14	6	10	15	59		
Everglades	48	43	29	32	35	28	215	24	17
Immokalee High						154	154	169	138
Highlands	134	144	119	136	107		640		
Lake Trafford	93	93	93	83	76		438		
Bethune				38	29	35	102	23	24
Pinecrest	72	82	66				220		
Exceptional	2	2	16	13	10	3	46		
Total	765	753	733	693	596	577	4,118	528,	524

	9	7 to 9	10	11	12	10 to 12	1 to 12	Per cent of attendance	Instructional personnel
Naples Senior			269	294	223	786	786	93.3	37
Naples Junior	313	970					970	95.0	43
Lake Park							681	96.0	31
Shadowlawn							875	94.8	35½
Sea Gate							573	96.2	27
Carver							115	96.8	6
T. Barfield							59	96.1	3
Everglades	31	72	26	22	14	62	349	95.2	22
Immokalee High	115	422	85	68	57	210	786	94.2	30
Highlands							640	93.2	29
Lake Trafford							438	93.6	25
Bethune	19	66					168	97.5	14
Pinecrest							220	95.0	8
Exceptional							46	93.3	4
Total	478	1,530	380	384	294	1,058	6,706	94.6	314

Exceptional	1	2	3	4	5	6	1 to 6	1 to 12
Lake Park.....			5	2	4	3	14	14
Shadowlawn.....	1		9	3	1		14	14
Highlands-Lake Trafford.....	1	2	2	8	5		18	18
Total.....	2	2	16	13	10	3	46	46

¹ Includes principals, librarians, counselors, and special area teachers such as art, reading, Spanish, music, physical education, and exceptional children. Countywide instructional personnel are not included.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED FOR THE RECORD

AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS IN IMMOKALEE SCHOOLS, DECEMBER 1967

School (and number of pupils)	Breakfast			Lunch			Special milk	
	Price (cents)	Number	Percent free	Price (cents)	Number	Percent free	Number	Percent free
Highlands Elementary School (990).....	10	140	44	20	990	17	259	45
Pinecrest Elementary School (202).....	10	104	54	20	202	30	22	
Bethune Junior High School (354).....	10	55	50	20	311	23	6	0
Immokalee High School (730).....			(¹)	35	534	12		

¹ Not available.

WELFARE CASELOAD FOR DECEMBER 1968—CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE

	Number of persons	Total amount	Federal contribution	State contributions
1. Aid to families of dependent children:				
State (Florida).....	43,583	\$3,834,820	\$3,034,923	\$799,896
Lee County.....	(¹)	37,839		
Collier County.....	(²)	12,294		
2. Aid to the disabled:				
State.....	20,610	1,258,663	942,117	316,545
Lee County.....	157	9,984		
Collier County.....	90	5,760		
3. Old-age assistance:				
State.....	68,734	3,438,853	2,691,445	747,402
Lee County.....	637	28,902		
Collier County.....	193	9,830		
4. Aid to the blind:				
State.....	2,390	153,314	113,772	39,541
Lee County.....	24	1,536		
Collier County.....	11	681		

¹ 420 cases covering 1,395 children.

² 141 cases covering 415 children.

Immokalee housing figures, February 28, 1969

People in need of adequate housing.....	10,000
Present substandard units.....	1,500
Self-help houses completed.....	32
Self-help houses under construction.....	30

COLLIER COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

Account	Item	Actual		Current budget, 1968-69
		1966-67	1967-68	
55925	Indigent medical and surgical.....	12,616.27	14,986.53	12,500.00
55926	Indigent medicines and drugs.....	7,338.25	7,342.78	6,000.00
55933	Hospital, inpatients.....	26,640.85	28,277.84	32,500.00
55934	Hospital, outpatients.....	258.18	146.25	500.00
66935	Indigent food orders.....	3,906.40	6,681.96	7,500.00
55944	Transportation of indigents.....	(1)	2,566.08	2,750.00
55945	Foster home care and burials.....	16,134.64	23,313.14	22,500.00
55991	Miscellaneous expenses.....	2,794.60	724.50	750.00
55992	Payments to Naples Welfare Association.....	4,563.24	4,969.23	5,000.00
56115	Clothing, tubercular patients.....	311.40	704.64	500.00
56144	Transportation.....	340.60	738.55	600.00
56145	Payments to State hospitals (TB).....	7,476.85	6,266.75	6,000.00
56233	Hospital service, indigent.....	15,110.60	18,744.86	19,699.00
	(State matching funds, hospital service, indigent).....	(3,767.00)	(4,655.38)	(4,749.00)
	Total welfare expenditures.....	97,491.88	115,463.11	116,799.00
	Administrative costs.....	13,848.99	14,506.22	19,782.00
	Personnel increase (percent).....	14.20	12.56	16.93

¹ See account 55991.

SOUTH FLORIDA MIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM, INC.,
Ft. Myers, Fla., March 5, 1969.

WILLIAM C. SMITH, Esq.,
General Counsel, Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SMITH: Just a brief note to enclose copies of the county welfare budgets for Collier and Lee Counties. If you don't receive this before leaving Washington, we will have copies here for you.

Another set of statistics that could most likely be obtained by you more promptly than by us is the complete list of farms that received ASCS price supports during the past year. We have the list for \$100,000 and over that Hon. Ray J. Madden (U.S. Rep.-Ind.) placed in the Congressional Record July 18 & 20, 1968 [E6642, E6967]. I feel certain that Congressman Madden's office would have the complete list (which is broken down county-by-county according to each state) and that might be a faster route than calling USDA.

Looking forward to a very informative and productive visit from your Committee,

Very truly yours,

VALERIE KANTOR.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
BUREAU OF STATE SERVICES (COMMUNITY HEALTH)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DATE RECEIVED
PROJECT ACCOUNT NUMBER
GRANT NUMBER

APPLICATION FOR HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT GRANT

1. GRANT PROGRAM

- CANCER CONTROL
 COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
 MIGRANT HEALTH SERVICES
- MENTAL RETARDATION
 NEUROLOGICAL AND SENSORY DISEASE SERVICES
 TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL
- VACCINATION ASSISTANCE
 VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL
 OTHER (Specify) _____

2. PROJECT TITLE

A Program to Develop a Statewide Program of Health Services for Migrant Farm Workers and their Dependents in Florida

3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Lee County Health Department
Post Office Box 1226
Fort Myers
Florida 33902

6. NAME, TITLE, AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT DIRECTOR

Joseph W. Lawrence, M. D., Director
Lee County Health Department
Post Office Box 1226
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

TELEPHONE NO.: 1-813-334-1151 Ext: 333

4. NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Wilson T. Sowder, M. D.
State Health Officer

7. TYPE OF APPLICATION

- INITIAL
 RENEWAL
 CONTINUATION
 REVISION

8. PROJECT PERIOD REQUESTED OR APPROVED FROM THROUGH

March 1, 1967 December 31, 1969

TELEPHONE NO.: 354-3961 Ext: 205

9. PAYEE (Name, Title, and Address)

Fred B. Ragland, Director
Bureau of Finance and Accounts
Florida State Board of Health
Jacksonville, Florida 32201

9. GENERAL LEVEL OF SUPPORT REQUESTED

PORTION OF PROJECT PERIOD			
	FROM	THROUGH	AMOUNT
01			\$ 54,610
02	Jan. 1, 1968	Dec. 31, 1968	59,732
03			
04			
05			54,610
TOTAL			\$ 59,732

TELEPHONE NO.: 354-3961 Ext: 211

10. APPLICANTS' CERTIFICATION: The undersigned accept, as to any grant awarded, the obligation to comply with the terms and conditions in the Health Services Project Grants Manual; the undersigned agree to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and the Regulation issued pursuant thereto and state that the Assurance of Compliance with such Regulation (Form HEW-441) which has previously been filed by the applicant, or is attached, applies to this project; the undersigned also certify that they have no commitments or obligations, including those with respect to inventions inconsistent with Department regulations. (42 CFR, Part 8)

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL	DATE	SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR	DATE
11. STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION I recommend this application be: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED		SIGNATURE	DATE
12. REGIONAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION I recommend this application be: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED		SIGNATURE	DATE

13. BUDGET FOR 12-MONTH PORTION OF PROJECT PERIOD			NO. OF POS.	ANNUAL SALARY	% TIME OR EFFORT	TOTAL ANNUAL AMOUNT REQUIR.	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
FROM	THROUGH	APPLICANT OR OTHER					REQUESTED FROM PHS	
02	Jan. 1, 1968	Dec. 31, 1968	a	b	c	1	2	3
A. PERSONNEL								
				\$		\$	\$	\$
			1	6,450	100	6,450		6,450 57 60
			1	6,450	100	6,450		6,450 57 60
			3	20,160		2,772	2,772	
			1	6,940	100	6,940		6,940 55 52
			3	21,670	5	1,083	1,083	
			1	3,690	100	3,690		3,690 29 52
			1	20,800	5	1,040	1,040	
						6,840		6,840 54 72
						1,200		1,200 9 60
						7,260	7,260	
						960		960 7 68
						400		400 3 20
			1	7,800	5	390	390	
						192		192 1 54
						1,977		1,977 15 82
								<i>K 27,077</i>
			SUB-TOTAL			\$ 47,644	\$ 12,545	\$ 35,099
B. SUPPLIES								
						100	50	50
						25		25
						15		15
						1,500	300	1,200
						325	125	200
						2,500	700	1,800
			SUB-TOTAL			\$ 4,465	\$ 1,175	\$ 3,290
C. TRAVEL								
						3,400		3,400 27 20
						400	40	360 2 88
						350	350	
			SUB-TOTAL			\$ 4,150	\$ 390	\$ 3,760
			SUB-TOTAL THIS PAGE (carried forward to page 3)			\$ 56,259	\$ 14,110	\$ 42,149

	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED	SOURCE OF FUNDS	
		APPLICANT OR OTHER	REQUESTED FROM PHS
	1	2	3
D. EQUIPMENT			
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (CLINIC)			
1 Refrigerator @ \$100	100	100	100
3 H.B. Meters @ \$60	180	180	180
1 Ophthalmoscope @ \$60	60	60	60
2 Heaters @ \$50	100	100	100
1 Sphygmomanometer @ \$40	40	40	40
4 Fans @ \$25	100	100	100
2 Exam. Lites @ \$15	30	30	30
		\$ 610	\$ 610

E. OTHER

Hospital Care (Outpatient)	1,900	550	1,350
Hospital Care (Inpatient)	57,028	43,528	13,500
TOTAL FOR OTHER	\$ 63,531	\$ 46,608	\$ 16,923

SOURCES OF OTHER FUNDS
Supplemental

A. Health Department Funds	2,772
Health Department Funds	1,083
Health Department Funds	1,040
Unpaid Surgery and Hospital Visits	7,260
Health Department Funds	390
B. Health Department Funds	50
Health Department Funds and Physicians donations	300
Health Department Funds	125
Physicians and Drug Company donations	700
C. Physicians' own expenses	40
Health Department Funds	350
D. Health Department Funds	700
E. Health Department Funds	10
Migrant Mission and Lee County School Board donations	1,920
Migrant Mission and Lee County School Board donations	220
Health Department Funds	80
Health Department Funds plus two private Dentists time (donated)	300
Hospital losses due to difference between the amount needed and the amount requested:	
Outpatient	550
Inpatient	43,528
	<u>61,418</u>

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LEE COUNTY, FLA., REPORT OF BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND BALANCES,
 FISCAL YEAR 1968-69

Account number	Account name	Total annual budget	Expended this period	Expended to date	Out-standing encumbrances	5/12 appropriation	Unenumbered balance over or under (credit)
556-000-45	Foster home care services.....	\$4,000.00	\$399.00	\$1,647.00	0	\$1,666.69	\$2,353.00
557-000-02	Federal commodities operating salaries.....	5,765.60	347.97	2,324.49	0	2,402.38	3,441.11
557-000-44	Federal commodities freight.....	2,500.00	40.85	1,359.15	\$45.16	1,041.69	1,095.69
558-000-02	Welfare administration:						
	Salaries.....	18,860.00	1,460.28	6,584.66	0	7,858.38	12,275.34
558-000-04	Office travel.....	2,800.00	200.00	800.00	0	1,166.69	2,000.00
558-000-11	Telephone and telegraph.....	200.00	16.45	56.40	0	83.38	143.60
558-000-13	Office supplies.....	800.00	58.02	495.17	0	333.38	304.83
559-029-35	Welfare services:						
	Clothing.....	2,000.00	19.96	454.61	0	833.38	1,545.39
559-030-35	Doctors.....	25,000.00	2,497.50	7,528.97	0	10,416.69	17,471.03
559-031-35	Medicine.....	12,000.00	896.24	5,017.13	0	5,000.00	6,982.87
559-032-35	Fccoc.....	2,000.00	61.00	463.00	0	833.38	1,537.00
559-033-35	Burials.....	2,500.00	400.00	700.00	0	1,041.69	1,800.00
559-034-35	Travel.....	2,500.00	132.20	345.40	0	1,041.69	2,154.60
560-000-45	Mental health, insanity inquiries.....	2,000.00	0	630.00	0	833.38	1,370.00
561-000-45	Tubercular care, county TB patients.....	5,000.00	310.00	1,310.00	0	2,083.38	3,690.00
	Hospital services:						
562-000-33	Indigenous hospitalization.....	65,000.00	7,150.28	28,680.08	0	27,083.38	36,319.92
562-000-34	Indigenous outpatient care.....	1,500.00	108.50	2,005.50	0	625.00	1,505.50
562-035-45	Nursing home care.....	16,000.00	1,214.13	4,357.36	0	6,666.69	11,642.64
	Homes for infirm:						
566-024-02	SH. R. salaries.....	233,626.88	11,915.62	83,739.17	0	97,344.58	149,887.71
566-024-04	SH. R. travel.....	750.00	50.00	200.00	0	312.50	550.00
566-024-11	SH. R. telephones.....	200.00	19.30	69.10	0	83.38	130.90
566-024-13	SH. R. office supplies.....	250.00	16.50	89.68	0	104.19	160.32
566-024-18	SH. R. food.....	42,000.00	3,983.78	16,753.68	1,770.00	17,500.00	23,476.32
566-024-20	SH. R. house and kitchen supplies.....	1,921.60	766.32	2,133.77	482.80	800.69	1,694.97
566-024-21	SH. R. laundry and cleaning.....	14,500.00	1,087.13	4,529.91	600.00	6,041.69	9,370.09
566-024-22	SH. R. building maintenance.....	10,000.00	212.10	705.94	71.82	4,166.69	9,222.24
566-024-23	SH. R. equipment maintenance.....	2,000.00	150.33	288.55	192.31	833.38	1,519.14
566-024-24	SH. R. grounds maintenance.....	500.00	6.15	44.18	0	208.38	455.82
566-024-25	SH. R. medical supplies.....	7,000.00	675.53	2,795.46	246.00	2,916.69	3,958.54
566-024-29	SH. R. utilities.....	9,000.00	565.27	2,411.55	250.00	3,750.00	6,338.45
566-024-91	SH. R. miscellaneous expenses.....	4,800.00	4.00	36.50	0	2,000.00	4,763.50
566-026-20	R. HA. house and kitchen supplies.....	1,722.70	831.78	831.78	97.35	717.85	793.57
566-026-22	R. HA. building maintenance.....	1,600.00	63.91	101.36	61.25	666.69	1,437.39
566-026-29	R. HA. utilities.....	1,200.00	71.97	336.97	0	500.00	863.03
566-026-35	R. HA. patient maintenance.....	16,000.00	1,384.75	6,074.45	0	6,666.69	9,925.55
567-000-02	Children's home:						
	Salaries.....	19,282.76	1,300.35	7,858.75	0	8,034.53	11,424.01
567-000-04	Travel.....	480.00	40.00	160.00	0	200.00	320.00
567-000-11	Telephone.....	110.00	63.35	118.60	0	45.88	18.60
567-000-18	Food.....	8,500.00	834.53	4,243.98	575.00	3,541.69	3,681.02
567-000-20	House and kitchen supplies.....	1,018.00	0	1.21	0	424.19	1,016.79
567-000-21	Laundry.....	500.00	0	0	0	208.38	500.00
567-000-22	Building maintenance.....	1,000.00	8.50	85.20	23.26	416.69	891.54
567-000-23	Equipment maintenance.....	1,000.00	44.90	60.35	10.00	416.69	929.65
567-000-27	Personal care supplies.....	800.00	0	0	0	333.38	800.00
567-000-29	Utilities.....	1,600.00	156.25	616.67	92.12	666.69	891.21
567-000-91	Miscellaneous expenses.....	250.00	78.75	317.00	0	104.19	1,670.00
567-025-22	Transfer to correct account.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
567-025-29	do.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Detention home:						
568-000-02	Salaries.....	29,796.88	2,675.79	14,562.94	0	12,415.39	15,233.94
568-000-04	Travel.....	480.00	40.00	160.00	0	200.00	320.00

1 Credit.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LEE COUNTY, FLA., REPORT OF BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND BALANCES,
FISCAL YEAR 1968-69—(Continued)

Account number	Account name	Total annual budget	Expended this period	Expended to date	Out-standing encumbrances	5/12 appropriation	Un-numbered balance over or under (credit)
	Detention home—Continued						
568-000-11	Telephone.....	\$100.00	0	\$26.70	0	\$41.69	\$73.30
568-000-15	Clothing.....	250.00	\$145.12	156.07	0	104.19	93.93
568-000-18	Food.....	6,000.00	697.36	2,708.75	\$500.00	2,500.00	2,791.25
568-000-20	House and kitchen supplies.....	600.00	179.48	415.22	117.38	250.00	67.40
568-000-21	Laundry.....	500.00	46.41	153.61	150.00	208.38	196.39
568-000-22	Building maintenance..	1,000.00	613.53	922.82	141.40	416.69	164.22
568-000-23	Equipment maintenance.....	200.00	20.70	107.70	0	83.38	92.30
568-000-27	Personal care supplies..	100.00	0	17.39	0	41.69	82.61
568-000-29	Utilities.....	1,800.00	235.07	725.96	28.40	750.00	1,045.64
	Total.....	592,864.42	44,296.91	219,319.89	5,454.25	247,028.37	368,090.28

¹ Credit.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS AND STATEMENTS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., April 17, 1969.

HON. GEORGE S. MCGOVERN,
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am forwarding the attached communication from Mr. William G. Crone, Administrator, Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Florida, for your interest and information.

Kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL G. ROGERS, *Member of Congress.*

NAPLES COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, INC.,
Naples, Fla., April 2, 1969.

HON. PAUL G. ROGERS,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ROGERS: In view of recent activities regarding the Migrant question, the Board of Trustees of Naples Community Hospital has requested that the following information concerning the medical care of migrant farm workers be made known to you.

During the year 1968, 242 migrant farm workers were treated as inpatients at Naples Community Hospital. Under present programs a migrant, certified by the Health Department, is eligible for partial payments for these services. The present formula is 62% of our Medicare Reimbursement formula. During 1968 our experience was as follows:

Hospital charges.....	\$80,363.79
Paid-migrant program.....	—46,641.52
Subtotal.....	33,722.27
Paid-patients.....	—5,071.88
Unrecovered balance.....	28,650.39

Treated (Inpatient only), 242.

The losses on inpatient services, which must be borne by voluntary efforts, ran over 36% of charges. In addition, outpatient services to this group are also furnished locally; including Emergency Room care.

These figures have not been tabulated formally for this report, but could be secured by individual check of those records for the year should the information be of special interest to you.

Your very truly,

For: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
NAPLES COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, INC.
By: WILLIAM G. CRONE, *Administrator.*

[Telegram]

HOLLYWOOD, FLA.
March 10, 1969.

Senator MCGOVERN,
The Senate Select Committee,
Bethune School,
Immokalee, Fla.:

I beg you and the Commission to look long and hard at the stench, hunger, and poverty you have witnessed this a.m., then help us to help them help themselves. You have seen the displaced persons of America stateless citizens and the most begotten and neglected people in our land. Most consider themselves outcasts and unwelcomed in society. No one can ignore that children are truly innocent of any environment which they have been subjected to therefore education is the only answer. In the meantime we must not deny food to the hungry neither can we deny ones dignity. Law must be updated to protect the farm labor. Think about this when you gentlemen sit down to your table tonight to eat. I'm a volunteer. Mr. Rogers I'm sure, remembers me. So far legal aid to the migrants has been our only spokesman. This took many hours of our work for it to become a reality. Also gentlemen remember no one likes poverty above all the ones that live it.

Mrs. STEVE FAZEKAS,
Chairman,
Farm Labors for Broward Council of Catholic Women.

ORGANIZACION LATINA DE IMMOKALEE

(Immokalee Latin Organization)

Makes a statement for the Spanish Speaking people and also for the entire Community of Immokalee.

1. Immokalee needs a Medical Center for the Migrant people, but not only for the Migrants, also for the residents of Immokalee.

2. We also need a Recreation Center.

3. For the last four years Immokalee has been improving it's town, thus we need a Federal Savings Loan program.

4. We the Migrant people of Immokalee realize that our local farmer is paying the field hands the minimum wage, which is \$1.30 per hour.

5. We the Migrants of Immokalee would be proud and pleased to work with any government body or agency for the betterment of the Community.

6. We Migrants realize that some of our people suffer from hunger.

7. We would like to bring up a point in defense of the "Crew Leader" and those that do try to give us a fair deal.

And so fellow Representatives here I have presented our major problems of our Migrant Community, in hopes that something will be done about the problems mentioned here, and our many, many more problems that the Migrants have, and need.

I wish to thank you all in behalf of all the Migrants in the Immokalee Area for allowing me to speak for them.

SARASOTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Sarasota, Fla., April 3, 1969.

Hon. Senator GEORGE MCGOVERN,
Chairman, Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MCGOVERN: I was unable to be present or to participate in the hearings your committee recently held in South Florida. I am, however, quite familiar with the problems of domestic migratory agricultural laborers in Florida. You have now seen their plight at first hand, and you are aware that these folk need a decent wage, decent housing, a basic education, full citizenship status, adequate food, and access to community services now often denied due to residency requirements. I have observed and worked for these same items during more than 16 years of public health service in Florida. Having also served for more than five years in U.S. Government Foreign Aid programs which dealt in my special field of public health, with many of these same problems, as they related to foreign nationals, I have often been struck by the similarities between the migrant in America and these population groups elsewhere. It is obvious that we have a great deal to do, right here at home, before we can look our own people squarely in the eye!

Despite what you saw, the migrant agricultural worker is far better off than he was fifteen years ago! What has been done for and to him has been largely the result of funds made available through the Migrant Health Service Programs of the U.S. Public Health Service and a few volunteer groups. However, the funds were never enough to do a really adequate job, in any of the major areas of need, so that the migrant has always received only half-a-loaf (at best)! I trust that your evaluation of the problems, in the field, has led to the incontestable conclusion that half-a-loaf is not near enough, literally or figuratively speaking! I hope that your visit and experience will lead to even greater efforts in behalf of these most harshly used citizens!

One specific idea that occurred to me may be worthy of consideration. There are now being trained and/or utilized a corps of poor who are to serve the poor as nutrition aides. This is a good program—but limited. A little more time and effort could produce a general health and welfare aide who could assist the poor—migrant or non-migrant—with a broad spectrum of health and welfare problems including nutrition, infant care, household management, referral to community services for specific help such as health care, legal aid, etc. Such workers, under the auspices of local health departments, would be most helpful in the immediate crisis but could also serve in the coming years as the basic health and welfare helpers at the grass roots level. This kind of worker is going to be badly needed as comprehensive health and welfare planning progresses and as competition increases for the few trained professionals we are now able to employ. This shortage of professionals will not be overcome in the immediate future—if ever—and some logical intermediary level helpers are going to be required to serve as the arms, legs, eyes, and hands of the professionals who are available! With proper training, these aides could fulfill that need and be ever more valuable and more in demand as time goes by.

I trust that you and your entire committee will give this and many other ideas, which you will surely receive, full consideration as you proceed with efforts to overcome the serious problems of the migrant and his dependents.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID L. CRANE, M.D., *Director.*

THE FLORIDA CHRISTIAN MIGRANT MINISTRY,
Miami, Fla., March 12, 1969.

Sen. GEORGE MCGOVERN,
U.S. Senate,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MCGOVERN: This is to personally thank you for bringing your Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs to Florida for the past few days. As was accomplished in S.C. and I feel assured will be done in its future work, the Committee brings to the entire nation the tremendous gap between the affluent and the poor in our society. It is more important than can be imagined by

most of the people of our nation that these facts be presented and that all of us work together to provide the base for remedial programs. I compliment you on the effectiveness of your hearings here in Florida. If there is any way in which we of the Migrant Ministry can be of help to your committee we shall be glad to be of assistance.

While it was impossible to bring up the refunding of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services, Inc., during the hearings, I should like to offer my witness on their behalf if you could support such refunding. I believe that you became perfectly aware of the ability of this group to function with and on behalf of the migrant population during your meetings. There just is no other group which has become such a healthy advocate in the entire state. It would be a single tragedy if there is not some way found to keep this group of young attorneys and other staff workers in the field. I don't know how I can say it strongly enough that most of the political representation of Florida in Washington would stifle any worthwhile advocacy if they can influence a withdrawal of funds.

I wish that I had had the opportunity to give testimony during the hearings about my personal concerns and experiences with human need in Florida. I am nearly overwhelmed with the degree of deprivation and the callous attitudes of the power order in our state toward such conditions. While you and your committee observed first hand some rather deplorable conditions, I want you to know that there are equally bad conditions in most other parts of the state and the area across the northern boundary of the state from Jacksonville to Pensacola is considerably worse. It has been apparent already that your turning the national spotlight on the state will have many beneficial results.

Very sincerely yours,

AUGUST H. VANDEN BOSCHE.

To: Senator McGovern.

From: Peace Section, Washington Office, Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, Pa.

Date: March 6, 1969.

Subject: Invitation to Select Committee on Hunger to visit migrant child care center.

Our attention has been called to your March 10 visit to the migrant camps of the Immokalee, Florida area.

Our Washington Office has been contacted by the Voluntary Service Office of the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, calling attention to the continuing work of our Child Care Center and Voluntary Service Unit, located at: Mennonite Service Unit, 219 First Street, North, Immokalee, Florida.

If the Senate Investigating Committee should be interested in becoming acquainted with the nature of this volunteer work for children of migrant workers, as represented by one Protestant service agency, *you would be most welcome* to pay a visit at the Child Care Center operated under the program of the Mennonite Church.

(Location: Drive south into Immokalee on Route 29. Turn left at First Street. Go north to Route 219 on the left).

DETTON FRANZ,

Peace Section, Washington Office Mennonite Central Committee, Washington, D.C.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE,
Fort Myers, Fla., March 8, 1969.

Senator GEORGE MCGOVERN,
Chairman, Select Committee on Hunger,
Fort Myers, Fla.

MY DEAR SENATOR: Reference is had to your two hearings in this area, in Collier County at Immokalee on Monday and here in Lee County on Tuesday. As chairman of the Collier County USDA's Technical Action Panel please be advised that we stand ready to assist your committee in any way possible.

Attached is copy of letter recently received from the Commodity Distribution Division of USDA-C&MS that may be of interest.

Also attached is Farmers Home Administration pamphlet on the Technical

Action Panels, which normally they head up, however in Collier County I serve as chairman.

This letter is serving two purposes, the above, and as information I have a daily television program, six days a week here in Fort Meyers, and on Wednesday afternoon March 5 I received a telephone call from Mr. Robert M. Koch of Washington who serves as executive secretary of the Committee on the World Food Crisis and also as president of the National Limestone Institute. The call concerned my TV program and that he was in contact with your office on the possibility of your appearing in a special telecast with me and that I would in turn hear from your office on Thursday March 6th, however we found out late that day that our phone was apparently out of order so we missed any call that may have been made with regard to this special television program.

I will appreciate any consideration that you will be able to give me with regard to the broadcast.

Respectfully yours,

JUDSON FRANCIS, *Office Manager.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CONSUMER AND MARKETING SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., February 3, 1969.

Mr. JUDSON FRANCIS,
*Chairman, Collier County Technical Action Program,
Immokalee, Fla.*

DEAR MR. FRANCIS: The Secretary has asked us to thank you for your letter of December 11, 1968, dealing with the need for food assistance in Collier County. We share your concern and agree with you that something should be done about it, especially with regard to the migrant workers. In fact, studies are even now being conducted here in an effort to resolve these problems.

You may recall that, last spring, representatives of both our Southeast District Office, and the State Department of Public Welfare made an unsuccessful attempt to convince the Collier County Board of Commissioners of the need for a food assistance program.

In an effort to assist you in your meetings with county officials, we recommend that you enlist the aid of local civic and fraternal organizations. To further help you in this endeavor, we are enclosing material which we hope will be of assistance to you. This material will give you a comprehensive look at the overall efforts of the Department in its continuing struggle to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

It may interest you, as well as the Commissioners, to know that of Florida's 67 counties, 48—or about 71%—are actively participating in the Commodity Distribution Program.

We certainly commend you for your efforts in behalf of the needy of Collier County, and encourage you to pursue with redoubled efforts your goal of convincing the County Board of Commissioners concerning the dire need which exists in their county.

Sincerely,

J. R. IDOL,
Acting Director, Commodity Distribution Division.

TECHNICAL ACTION PANELS—RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH
FUNCTIONS

(U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration)

1. *What Is a Technical Action Panel (TAP)?*

A Technical Action Panel is composed of representatives of agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture and of other Federal and State agencies

whose programs benefit rural people and are available in the State, area or county served by the Technical Action Panel.

2. What Are State Technical Action Panels?

State Technical Action Panels are composed of the heads of USDA agencies and of other Federal and State agencies responsible for the operation of their respective programs in each State. The State Director of Farmers Home Administration, the State Conservationist of Soil Conservation Service and the State Executive Director of Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service are on every State Technical Action Panel. Other members include the State Director of the State Cooperative Extension Service, OEO representatives, and heads of other Federal and State agencies whose programs benefit rural people.

3. What Are District or Area Technical Action Panels?

These are Technical Action Panels composed of representatives of various Federal and State agencies that provide technical support for multi-county rural areas development committees or special program areas, such as a resource conservation and development project, rural renewal areas, or other multi-county project areas.

4. What Are County Technical Action Panels?

County Technical Action Panels are panels of USDA agency representatives and representatives of other Federal, State and local agencies responsible for the administration of their respective programs in each county. The County FHA Supervisor, SCS Work Unit Conservationist, and County Office Manager of ASCS are on County Technical Action Panels. The County Agent of the Cooperative Extension Service is also invited to be a member of the panel, as are Community Action Program Directors, Vocational Agricultural teachers, Home Economists, Social Security representatives, Employment Security officials, and other representatives of Federal, State and local agencies who serve rural people in the county.

5. Who Has the Responsibility for Technical Action Panels?

All agencies of the Department of Agriculture that have field offices are responsible for the effective operation of Technical Action Panels.

6. Who Serves as Chairmen of Technical Action Panels?

The State FHA Directors serve as chairmen of State Technical Action Panels in States where a State FHA Director's headquarters are located. In other States a representative of another agency is designated to serve as State Technical Action Panel chairman. County FHA Supervisors serve as chairmen of County Technical Action Panels in those counties where a county FHA office is located. In other counties, the Work Unit Conservationist of SCS serves as chairman in a county where there is an SCS office. In counties where there is neither an FHA office nor an SCS office headquartered, the County Office Manager of ASCS serves as chairman of the County Technical Action Panel.

7. What Types of Duties Do the Panels Perform?

The panels assist rural people and rural communities identify the services they need for economic, social, and cultural growth and locate and secure the needed services. They also assist individuals and groups with economic development plans, community development projects, inventories, and surveys.

8. What Is Outreach?

Executive Order No. 11307 required that the facilities of the USDA field agencies be made available when necessary, to assist other agencies of the Federal Government in extending their programs into rural areas. The carrying out of this directive is called Outreach. This same Executive Order requires that other agencies of the Federal Government when necessary, take steps to make their services more effective in rural areas.

9. How Is Outreach Carried Out?

The Rural Community Development Service of the USDA works with Departments and agencies of the Federal Government outside USDA and develops methods whereby the Technical Action Panels can assist in the extension of non-USDA programs into rural areas. The agreed upon methods are implemented through the State Technical Action Panels and more than 3,000 Area and County Technical Action Panels.

The Farmers Home Administration has been assigned leadership responsibility for implementation of the Outreach function in the field. State, Area and County Technical Action Panels continually search for ways and means of using the facilities and services of all Federal, State and local agency programs to benefit rural areas.

10. What Are Some Examples of Outreach?

Technical Action Panels help small businessmen in rural areas contact the Small Business Administration. The panels help rural youths in search of training contact the Job Corps. The panels help elderly rural people enroll in the Medicare Program. The panels also help local rural development groups bring up to date their overall economic development programs and take other steps needed to qualify for assistance from the Economic Development Administration.

11. Who May Make Inquiries to Technical Action Panels for Assistance?

Any organization, group, or individual in the rural area may request assistance from the Technical Action Panel.

12. What Kind of Development Groups Can Get Outreach Assistance From Technical Action Panels?

Technical Action Panels provide needed assistance to all kinds of organized development groups including public bodies, private nonprofit associations and rural area development committees who are interested in the development of the area.

13. Who Are Inquiries for Panel Assistance Made?

Inquiries for assistance are generally made to the chairman of the Technical Action Panel; however, they may be made to any representative of any Technical Action Panel agency. Problems of community or countywide nature are normally referred to the County Technical Action Panel. Those of two or more counties may be referred to the Area or District panel. Those of statewide interest should be referred to the State Technical Action Panel.

14. What Type of Assistance Can Be Requested From Technical Action Panels?

Any kind of assistance available from government agencies. Technical Action Panels never say "no" to inquiries received for assistance in developing rural America. If the assistance requested is not available, Panels suggest alternative measures.

To locate members of Technical Action Panels look in the telephone book under the heading:

THE FLORIDA SENATE,
Tallahassee, March 28, 1969.

HON. GEORGE MCGOVERN,
U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MCGOVERN: I would like to thank you for the courtesy extended me by the Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs during the recent hearings in Immokalee and Ft. Myers.

There has been very good response in Dade County to the plight focused on by your committee. I, for one, believe that the publicity generated by the hearings will make our task of getting legislation through the Florida Legislature much easier.

Please be assured that legislation will be introduced in this state to guarantee a food program in every county, workmen's compensation for migrants, the extension of welfare benefits to migrants, the extension of voting rights to migrants, day-care centers for migrant children, and training in labor to encourage them to become year-round residents. The only way to get to the root of this problem is to encourage migrants to become, and treat them as, permanent residents.

I hope your next visit to South Florida will highlight the brighter side of our life, and you may be assured that your efforts here will go a long way to making life much brighter for those on the lowest rung of our society.

Sincerely,

LEE WEISSENORN, *State Senator.*

APRIL 9, 1969.

HON. LEE WEISSENORN,
Florida State Senate,
Tallahassee, Fla.

DEAR LEE: Many thanks for your letter of March 28. I hope our Committee's trip will succeed in changing conditions among migrant and other farm workers in Florida, and I am delighted to know that you plan to introduce legislation to guarantee a food program in every county.

Please let me know if there is anything that I or the other members of the Committee can do for you at this end at any time.

Again, thanks for your support and your help at our hearings.

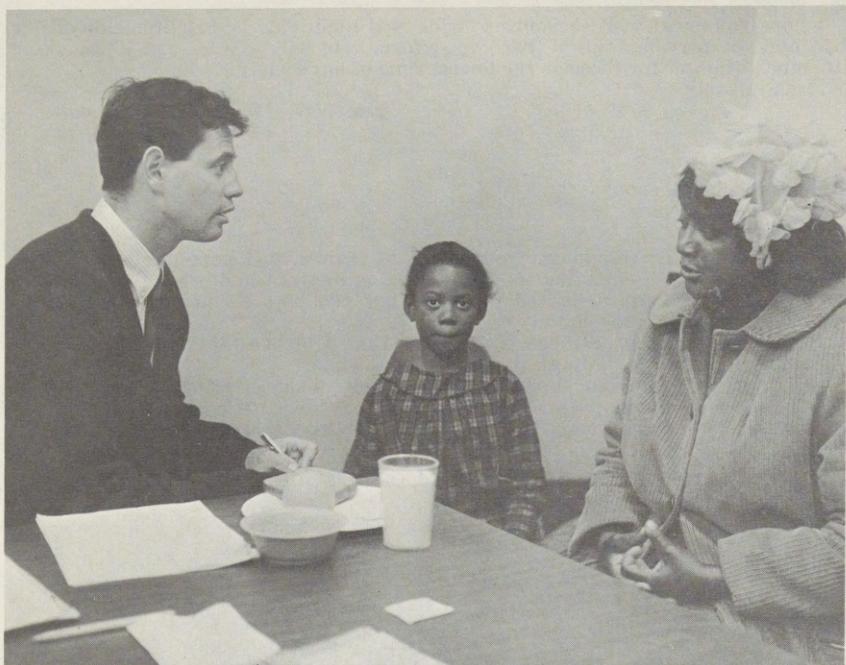
Sincerely yours,

GEORGE McGOVERN, *Chairman.*

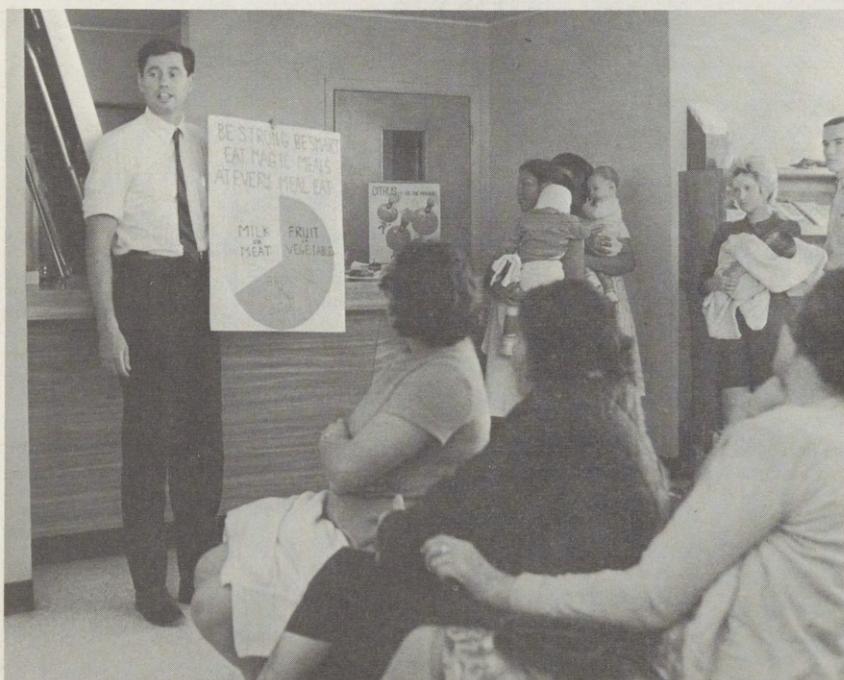
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY COLLIER COUNTY OFFICIALS



FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH pediatrician, Dr. Ben A. Johnson, examines one of the 23 Immokalee children mentioned in the publication, *Hunger, U.S.A.* February 26, 1969

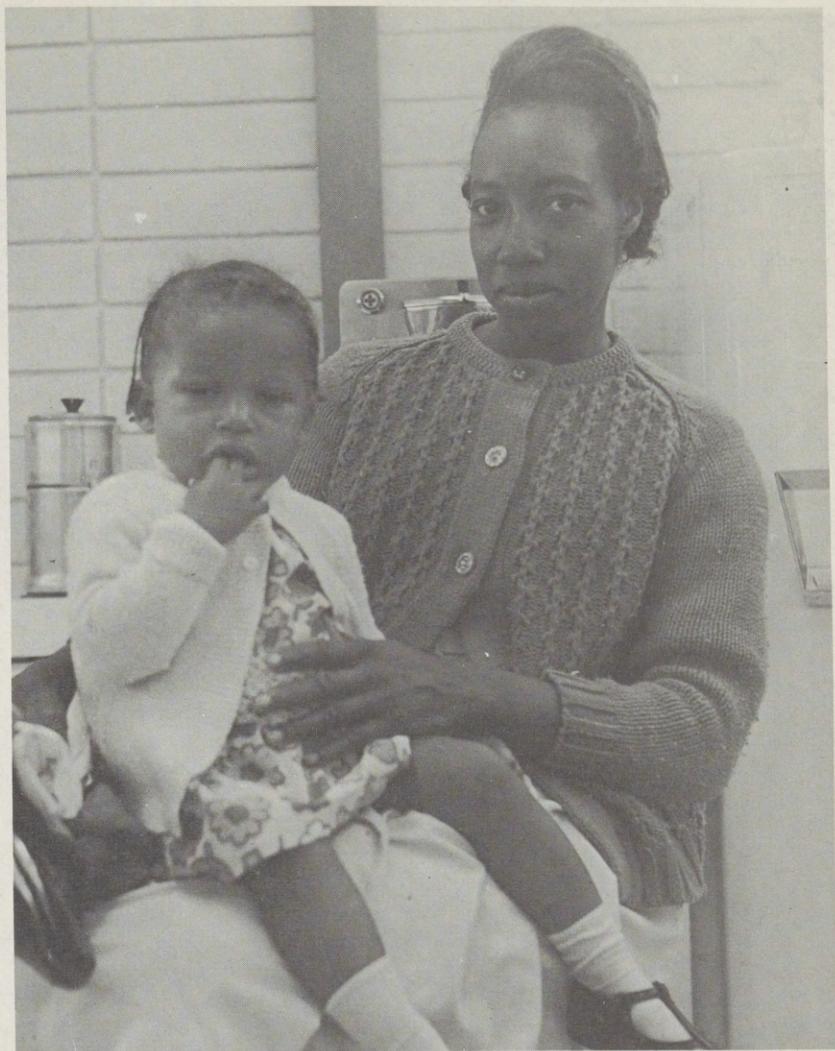


FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH nutritionist, Terry Williams, discusses with the mother the eating habits and food intake of one of the 23 Immokalee children mentioned in the publication *Hunger, U.S.A.* February 26, 1969



FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH nutritionist, Terry Williams, conducts a class in nutrition in the Immokalee's health center's waiting room.

February 26, 1969



ONE OF 23 CHILDREN—This is one of the 23 Immokalee children mentioned in *Hunger, U.S.A.* Her mother brought her in for an examination by Florida State Board of Health pediatrician, Dr. Ben A. Johnson. February 26, 1969



IMMOKALEE HEALTH CENTER—A child is measured and weighed by one of the volunteers in the clinic. This volunteer is a migrant and a former crew leader.
February 26, 1969



MIGRANT VOLUNTEER—A Spanish-American migrant laborer puts in some time as a volunteer in the Immokalee health clinic. This woman is a former crew leader and the daughter of a crew leader. She has been in the migrant stream for many years.

February 27, 1969



IMMOKALEE HEALTH CENTER—A volunteer gives lessons in sewing to migrant women while they want to see the clinic's physician.

February 26, 1969



IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL—The students at the high school are served nutritious lunches. The nutritionist from the Florida State Board of Health works with the lunchroom staff in meal planning.

February 27, 1969



IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL—The students at the high school are served nutritious lunches. The nutritionist from the Florida State Board of Health works with the lunchroom staff in meal planning.

February 27, 1969



IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL—Youngsters at the high school are served lunches that are nutritious. Many of the children are from migrant families.

February 27, 1969



CHILDREN'S VILLAGE—Migrant children at this Mennonite-operated Immokalee day care center are served nutritious lunches each day, plus two snacks. The Florida State Board of Health nutritionist advises the Children's Village on menu planning.

February 26, 1969



IMMOKALEE DAY CARE CENTER—The 28 children of migrant parents at this center are served nutritious meals and snacks. The nutritionist from the Florida State Board of Health advises the day care center on menu planning.

February 26, 1969

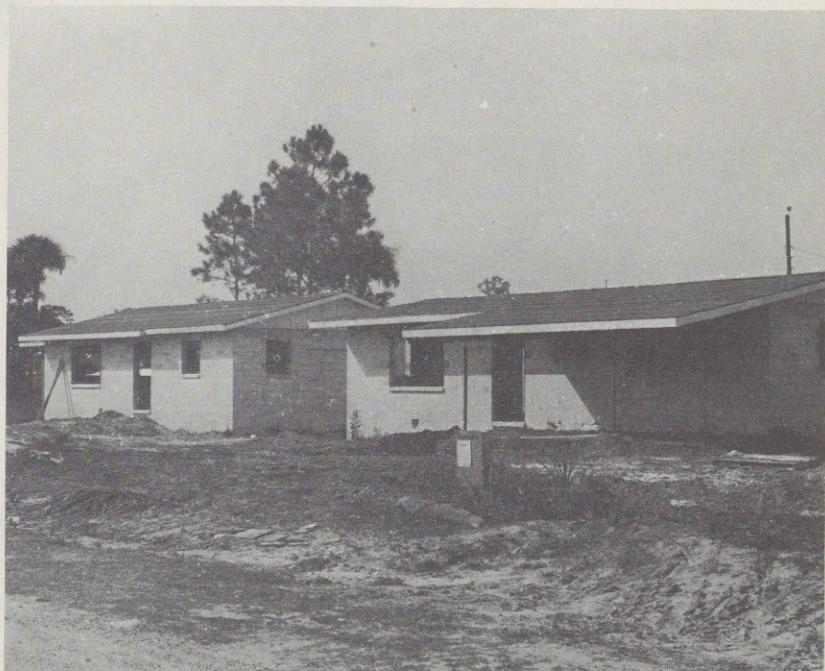


IMMOKALEE WATER PLANT—This new water supply system opened in late 1968 and serves over 700 connections. A sewerage system is also planned to serve the community.

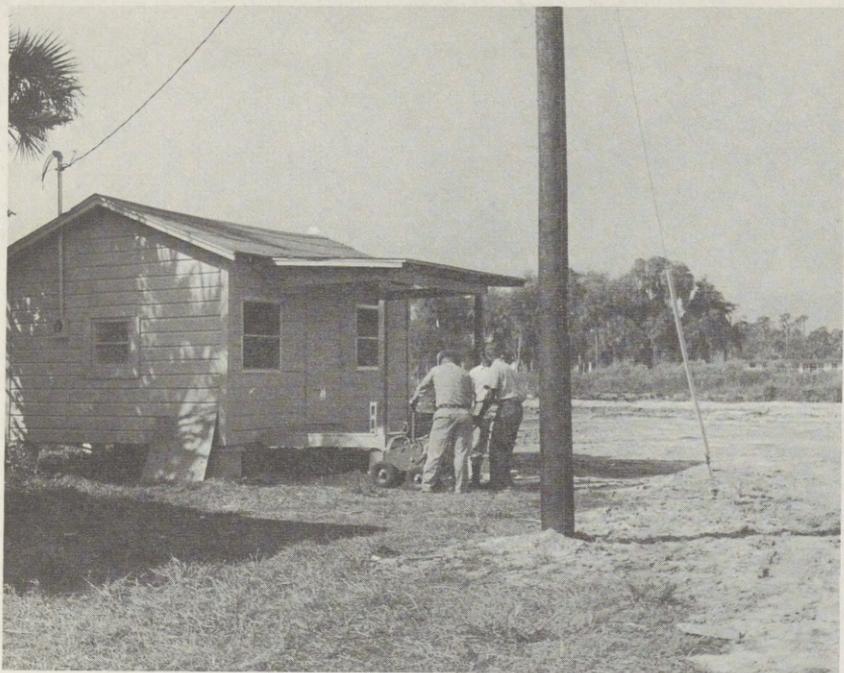
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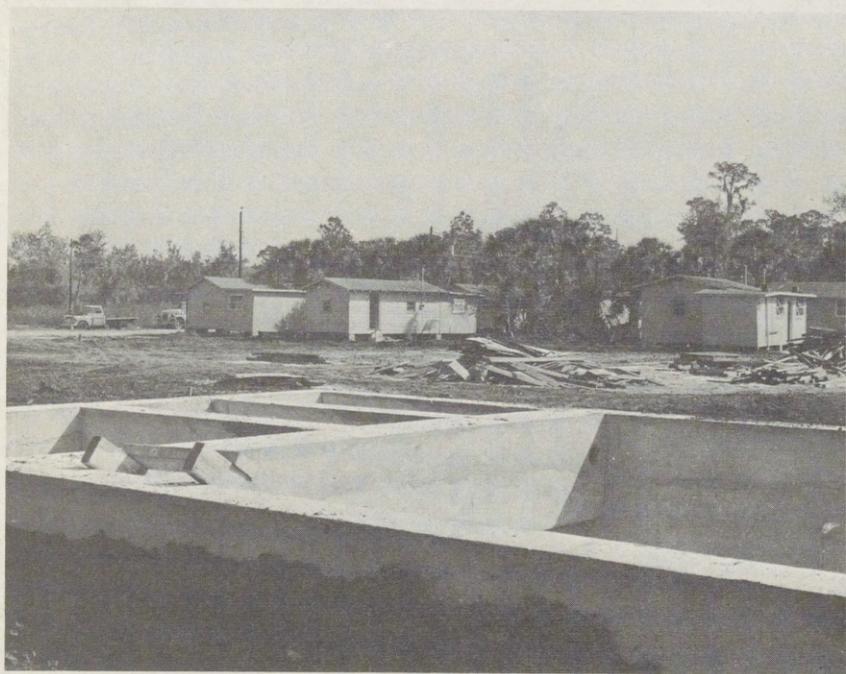
COMPLETED SELF-HELP HOMES—These homes were built by migrants who put in 1,000 hours of labor as down payment. Immokalee is the home base for many migrant families. February 26, 1969



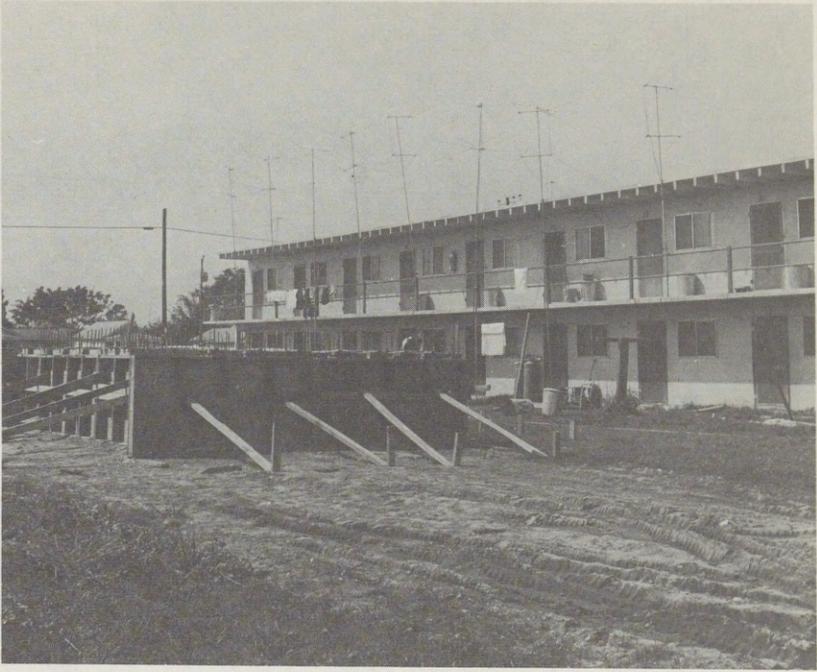
SELF-HELP HOMES—These new homes are being constructed by migrants in Immokalee. The houses are built by men who put in 1,000 hours of work as down payment. February 26, 1969



NEW HOUSING—A pipe line is laid to one of the more than 20 new cabins in this Immokalee development. Each cabin has two rooms, plus bath and kitchen.
February 27, 1969



NEW CONSTRUCTION—A trickle filter sewerage system is under construction in this new Immokalee camp.
February 27, 1969



CRAWFORD LABOR CAMP—A new \$15,000 central sewer plant is under construction at Crawford Labor Camp in central Immokalee. February 26, 1969



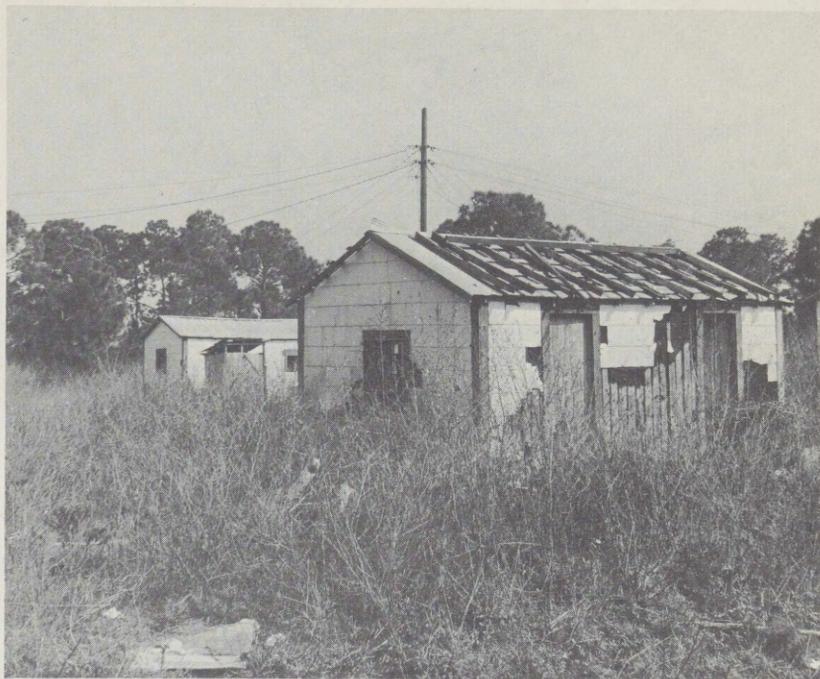
TRAILER PARK FOR MIGRANTS—This Immokalee migrant camp is composed of new trailers. February 26, 1969



SMITH CAMP—This camp was described by the *New York Times* as “windowless cabins . . . facing a dark slough choked with bottles and trash.” The cabins have shutters which can be closed in cold or rainy weather. The slough is typical of Florida ponds with bass, perch and catfish. February 26, 1969



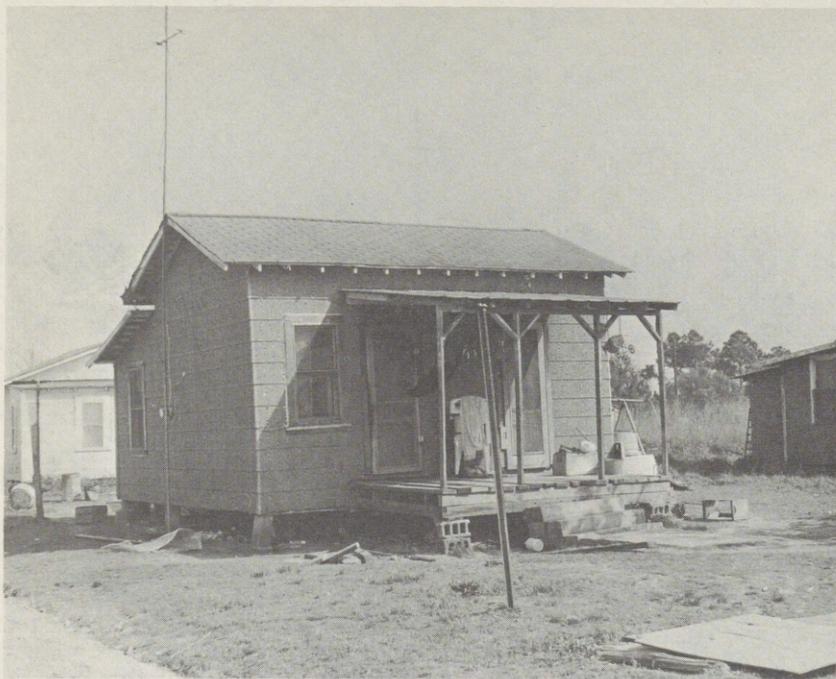
ABANDONED SHACKS—A row of tumbled down shacks in Immokalee. The County Health Department sanitarian wishes these shacks could be torn down. February 26, 1969



ABANDONED SHACKS—Tumbled down shacks, complete with privy, sag in a weed-choked section of Immokalee. February 26, 1969



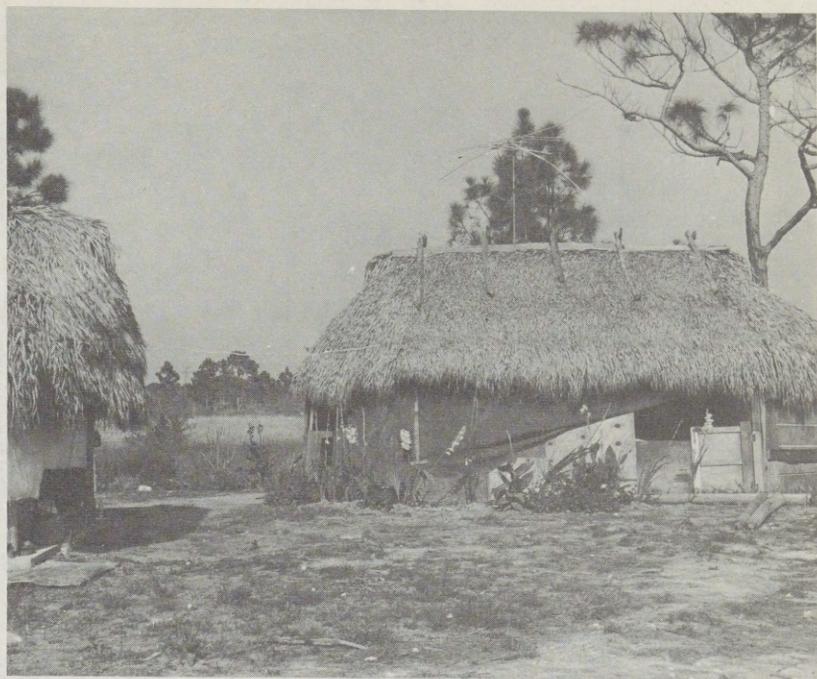
BETTER IMMOKALEE HOUSING—Some of the better houses which are located across the street from the abandoned shacks. February 26, 1969



IMMOKALEE HOUSING—One of the poorer migrant houses in Immokalee.
February 26, 1969



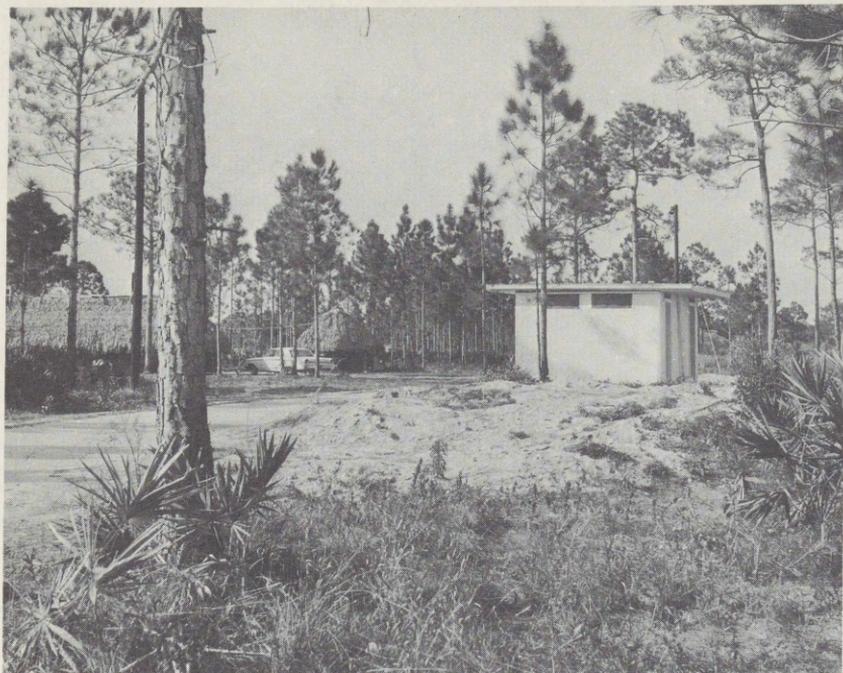
IMMOKALEE HOUSING—A street of migrant homes in Immokalee. Abandoned cars and trash litter the town.
February 26, 1969



SEMINOLE INDIANS—A thatched-roof hut, complete with television antenna, is the home of a Seminole Indian in Immokalee. The Indians prefer to live this way. February 26, 1969



SEMINOLE INDIANS—A thatched-roof hut is under construction in the Seminole Indian compound in Immokalee. In the background is the new sanitary facilities of the camp. February 26, 1969

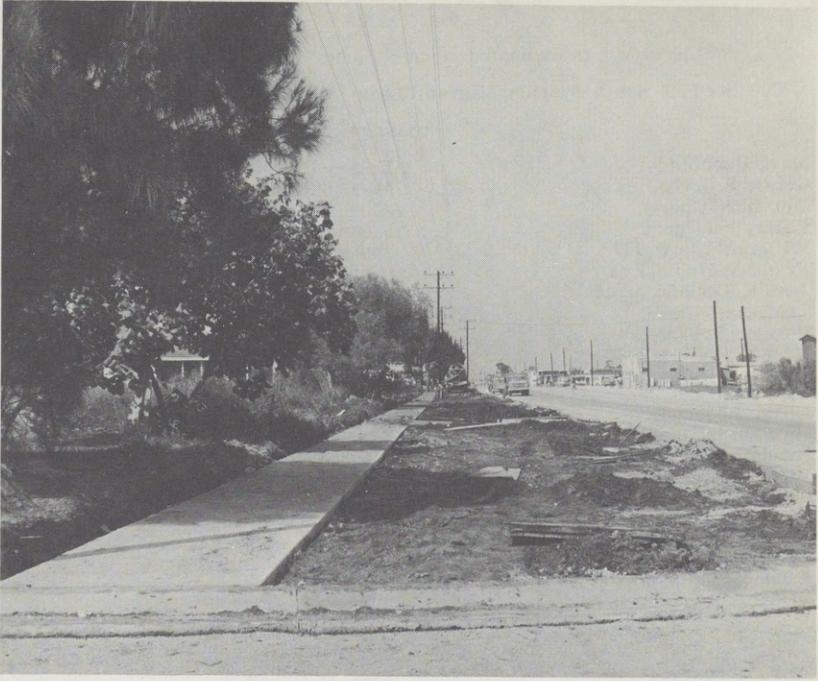


SANITARY FACILITY—This new sanitary facility improves the living condition of the Seminole Indians in Immokalee. February 26, 1969



The new Collier County building in Immokalee.

February 26, 1969



HIGHWAY WORK—Route 846 is widened and sidewalks laid through a section of Immokalee. February 26, 1969

SEASONS IN THE SUN

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE SEASONAL FARM WORKER IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA SETTING

(Prepared by the Staff of South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc.)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This report is the product of the entire staff of South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc. (MLS). It is a first synthesis of the experience of all of those who have labored, often under adverse circumstances, to bring some small measure of justice and equality to the agricultural workers who make possible Florida's enormous agricultural industry.

The idea that such a report should be written was pregnant in many minds for some time, but was first articulated at a meeting of attorneys in the summer of 1968 by Gerald Cassidy of the Fort Myers Office. The burden of preparing the manuscript fell to two women, Elizabeth J. du Fresne and Valerie Kantor. Mrs. du Fresne was formerly a Planning and Research Attorney with the Miami Office. She is now a trial attorney with the law reform unit of Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program, Inc., the legal services project in Dade County, Florida. Mrs. Kantor is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, who, in between taking care of her two children, finds time to clerk for the Fort Myers Office where her husband is a staff attorney. I extend my heartfelt thanks to these two dedicated women who spent so many overtime hours making this report possible.

For all of you on the staff who have fought the battle against injustice, intolerance, ignorance and misunderstanding, I have only feelings of pride and gratitude. When the day comes that America's agricultural workers take their place amongst those who have achieved economic and social equality, you will be able to say that you played your part.

JOSEPH C. SEGOR,
Executive Director, Miami, Fla., February, 1969.

DEDICATION

(This report is dedicated to our clients, whose day will come)

The Staff of South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc.:

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INTRODUCTION

"The urban riots during 1967 had their roots, in considerable part, in rural poverty. A high proportion of the people crowded into city slums today came there from rural slums. This fact alone makes clear how large a stake the people of this nation have in an attack on rural poverty." *The People Left Behind*, a report by the President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty ix (1967).

In this century, America has rapidly changed from an agricultural nation to an urban society. However, in the process some of our citizens have been "left behind" to work in the fields and pick the crops until mechanization eliminates the need for their labors. During the next few years the human laborers in agriculture will be reduced by half and soon the field worker will be obsolete. What will happen during the interim years? How will the people exist on wages and in an environment which is fast becoming an intolerable anachronism? What legal problems are unique to their condition of life and what institutions do they deal with? What does the future hold for the farm worker as he is being replaced by a machine?

South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc., is an OEO-funded research and demonstration project which is seeking to answer these questions while performing traditional legal services for seasonal agricultural workers in a six county area in Florida. This document represents the initial stage of an intensive research project designed to partially fill the void in information on the rural poor of South Florida, especially those engaged in agricultural work. It is hoped that from this work there will eventually emerge a few solutions to

the many problems raised by the Report of the President's Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty and the Report of the Citizens Board of Inquiry (Hunger, U.S.A.).

It must be remembered that Migrant Legal Services (MLS) is composed of lawyers, investigators and other staff serving people. Thus, this effort cannot be a mere recital of impersonal facts and objective descriptions. It will be colored and enriched by the people we serve and the people and institutions from whom help or conflict come. We are lawyers, not scientists. Lawyers are essentially justice-seekers and justice involves itself with the individual as well as the problem.

The farm worker who comes to the MLS offices represents only a small part of the fourteen million rural poor of America. Some of his problems are peculiar to his work. For example, those who cut sugar cane are covered by the regulations which govern practically every phase of the sugar industry. Other problems arise from the particular location in which work is found. While some of the small farming communities are of "Deep South" orientation with an undercurrent of racism, which pre-determines the white population's relationship to the many Negro, Mexican-American and Puerto Rican farm workers, agricultural centers closer to metropolitan areas tend to be much less obvious in any discrimination practiced against non-white workers.

Since the commitment of MLS and this publication *is to the farm worker*, the narrative will flow with the migrant stream from South Florida's struck farms, sugar cane fields, and acres of commercial flowers to Northern labor camps and grape harvests. The emphasis shall be on that portion of the world of the farm worker in which MLS participates, and, ultimately, the world of tomorrow in which the agricultural worker with his outmoded skills must somehow endure.

THE SOUTH FLORIDA SETTING

Migrant Legal Services serves a six county area of southern Florida, including Broward, Collier, Dade, Hendry, Lee, and Palm Beach Counties. The image that immediately comes to mind are the beach communities on the southern Atlantic and Gulf seacoasts. Miami Beach and Naples, in particular, have always been regarded as pleasure vacation spots for winter-weary northern travelers. Tourism is indeed an important asset to this area, but plays only a weak second to the very important and lucrative industry of agriculture. The tourists and visitors to the area drive past miles of citrus groves, sugar cane fields, and beautiful flower lands, but they are usually unaware of the streams of migrant agricultural workers who have preceded them in preparing these fields for the rich harvest.

Because of the seasonal nature of both the tourist industry and the agricultural business, the population fluctuates wildly. Consequently, the number of year round, involved citizens is extremely small. It is also obvious that the climate and tax attributes of Florida attract many persons seeking a retirement haven. The elderly represent a much higher proportion of the stable population than is found nation wide.¹ Persons who have played an active role in the communities where their families were raised do not usually seek to involve themselves in similar problems in their adoptive state of retirement. Age often fosters a more conservative attitude, favoring the status quo, and unconcerned about problems that pose no direct threat to their retirement solitude. These factors produce a hard core "establishment" to assume the duty of presenting a lush vacation image to wealthy seasonal tourists, and to manage the more profitable agricultural industry, whose results reach virtually all Americans.

With agriculture being the number one industry, the local power structure in Collier, Hendry, and Lee is largely controlled by agricultural interests, while in the more urbanized counties of Dade, Palm Beach, and Broward, the power structure is more diverse.² Naturally the officials are most concerned with preserving (and improving) the high profit return on their county's farm products.

¹ *County and City Data Book: 1967*, Dept. of Commerce and Bureau of the Census, p. 52; compare with *Id.* at 2.

² For statistics concerning county-by-county characteristics of the region served by MLS, see attached chart.

There is little or no farm worker or minority group representation on any official board or position of power so as to promote the self interest of these groups. Unfortunately, what is in the best interest of the farmers and growers, is not always best for the conditions of the workers in the fields. The interests of the two groups, the growers versus the workers, are often in direct conflict with one another.

The dichotomy is vast and the problems facing both participants are difficult to solve. Partially, it is to bridge this schism and begin to work out palatable solutions that MLS was founded in the spring of 1967.

Prior to defining the problem areas and seeking means to resolve them, it is necessary to identify the component parts: namely, the farmers, growers, workers and crew leaders. Who are the farmers and growers and what do they represent?

Agriculture means big business in southern Florida; it is not left to small family farms or cooperative plots; the coined euphenism "agribusiness" most aptly describes the farming concerns in the MLS target area.

The real giants in the business are the sugar companies, with U.S. Sugar Corp. in Hendry County and South Puerto Rico Sugar Co. in Palm Beach County by far the largest both in assets and number of employees. It is estimated that there are approximately 200,000 acres devoted to sugar cane in this region, which is processed by 9 major grinding mills.³ The sugar cane industry utilizes over 50% of the total agricultural work force in the Belle Glade area alone.⁴ In addition to U.S. Sugar Corp. and Southern Puerto Rico Sugar Co., the large employers are Talisman Sugar Corp., Florida Sugar Corp., and New Hope Sugar Co., all located in Palm Beach County. It should be noted that these concerns do not rely solely on their product output for income producing revenue. Under the Farm Subsidy Provisions of the Price Control Act of 1965, these 5 corporations collected a total of \$2,639,198 from the federal government in the calendar year 1967.⁵

³ Florida 1967 Farm Labor Report (Florida Industrial Commission), p. 14.

⁴ Florida 1967 Farm Labor Report, p. 14.

⁵ U.S. Sugar Corp.—\$1,275,687; South Puerto Rico Sugar Co.—\$610,923; Talisman Sugar Corp.—\$419,178; Florida Sugar Corp.—\$212,454; New Hope Sugar Co.—\$120,956. Congressional Record, July 26, 1968 (E. 6967, 6968).

United States Florida Broward Collier Dade Henry Lee Palm Beach	Population characteristics (percent)		Voting for President, 1960— Vote for leading party (percent) ⁵		Education, 1960 ⁶ — Persons 25 years old and over		Income in 1959 of families, 1960 ⁷		General expenditure (thousands of dollars) ⁹									
	Urban ¹	Negro ²	Foreign stock ³	65 years and over (percent) ⁴	1964	1960	Median school years completed	Completed 5 years or less (percent)	Completed high school (percent)	Under \$3,000 (percent)	\$10,000 and over (percent)	Public assistance recipients, 1964 ⁸	Education	Highways	Public welfare	Health and hospitals	Police protection	
United States	69.9	10.5	19.0	9.2	D-61.1	D-49.7	10.6	8.4	41.1	\$5,660	21.4	15.1	7,206,396	17,946,729	3,724,274	2,576,434	2,179,344	1,854,658
Florida	73.9	17.8	34.8	11.2	D-51.1	R-51.5	10.9	8.2	42.6	4,722	26.4	11.1	203,193	455,505	77,492	12,985	90,107	58,892
Broward	96.6	16.4	21.5	11.4	R-55.5	R-58.5	11.9	6.0	43.6	4,956	24.8	12.8	32,227	1,658	4,219	12,781	17,560	4,466
Collier	50.0	14.5	10.6	8.2	R-53.5	R-50.7	10.7	11.5	41.5	4,676	29.9	13.8	384	1,658	63	63	17,200	312
Dade	93.6	14.7	28.3	10.8	R-54.0	D-57.6	11.9	7.3	46.9	5,348	22.8	14.0	25,250	83,608	10,181	2,455	18,031	15,812
Henry	38.4	21.7	3.5	3.7	R-53.8	R-60.3	10.8	19.8	28.4	4,127	33.2	6.9	1,421	83,766	156	25	4,305	108
Lee	49.4	15.7	18.6	12.7	R-53.1	R-60.3	11.3	9.8	45.7	4,286	32.2	9.9	1,601	5,967	7,063	241	6,385	487
Palm Beach	82.8	22.8	18.6	12.7	R-53.1	R-60.3	11.3	9.4	45.8	4,784	28.2	12.1	7,678	20,442	3,431	1,412	2,851	3,575

¹ Urban: All persons living in places unincorporated or incorporated, with 2,500 inhabitants or more.
² Negro: Includes Negroes, those of mixed Negro and white descent, and those of mixed Indian and Negro descent unless he is considered an Indian in the community.
³ Foreign stock: Both foreign born and native population of foreign or mixed parentage.
⁴ 65 years and over: Based on age of the person in Apr. 1, 1960.
⁵ Vote for the leading party: D—Democratic; R—Republican.
⁶ Education, 1960: Data refer to highest grade (or year) of regular school completed. Regular schooling is schooling that advances a person toward an elementary, high school, or college completion certificate.
⁷ Income in 1959 of families, 1960: Family income represents, as a single amount, the combined incomes of the head of the family and all other members 14 years old and over.
⁸ Public assistance recipients: Persons receiving aid from the following programs: Old-age assistance, medical assistance for the aged, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled. It also includes persons receiving general assistance which is county funded.
⁹ General expenditures: Each figure includes all expenditures of the governmental unit (State or county) of governmental funds for the given subtopic.
 Source: County and City Data Book, 1967, Bureau of the Census, pp. 2, 5, 52-53, 55.

Relief handouts to farmers in the form of price subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (which have variously been called "a bonanza for a great number of corporate farms and wealthy farm owners" and "legislation for the rural 'fat cats,'" and a "financial boondoggle"⁶) are not exclusive to the sugar industry or the State of Florida. This piece of legislation "putting farmers on the dole" cost the taxpayers \$3½ billion annually. Many more diversified Florida farming corporations take their share.⁷

Citrus remains the largest job-producing single crop in the state of Florida, employing upwards of 30,000 farm workers per year.⁸ However, the vast total of citrus acreage is confined to the central ridge area, and MLS has little direct contact with the workers in that section. Nonetheless, citrus still produces an income of approximately \$600,000 per year in the fairly small county of Hendry.⁹ And substantial acreage is being planted with citrus in the southern portion of the state.

By and large, the growers in the six county area of southern Florida concentrate on vegetables: cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, egg plant, and of course watermelons and cantaloupes. Over 290,000 acres are devoted to the commercial production of vegetables in the state of Florida, with a yield of almost two million tons in 1966.¹⁰ Thus, Florida ranks third among all the states in total vegetable acreage, and second only to California in production yield. One other statistical comparison is worthy of note: whereas the production yield of commercial vegetables in California is roughly four times that of Florida, the value of this production in California is only double that of Florida.¹¹ Thus, the value to the grower of producing vegetables in this region of Florida is well established.

⁶ Hon. Ray J. Madden (U.S. Rep.—Ind.) in the U.S. House of Representatives July 18 and 20, 1967. (Cong. Rec. E6642, E6967.)

⁷ A. Duda & Sons—\$158,080; 715 Farms Ltd.—\$131,484; Closter Farms, Inc.—\$116,890; S. N. Knight Sons, Inc.—\$110,784. Cong. Rec., June 20, 1967, p. E6968. There are many more Florida farmers who receive a more modest sum—anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 under ASCS programs. See Royko, "The Famers on the Dole," Tropic Magazine, Miami Herald, Sept. 22, 1968.

⁸ Florida Industrial Commission, Florida State Employment Service, 1967 Farm Labor Report, p. 8.

⁹ Fort Myers News-Press, Feb. 20, 1968, p. 3-g.

¹⁰ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Agricultural Statistics 1967, tables 225 and 226, p. 187-8.

¹¹ Production Tonnage of Commercial Vegetables, 1966. California—7,129,050; Florida—1,947,270. Value of Commercial Vegetable Crop, 1966. California—\$585,252,000; Florida—\$210,748,000. Statistical Reporting Service USDA, Agricultural Statistics, 1967, p. 189.

Lee County calls itself "the flower capital of the world," and the name is no doubt well earned with over 3,000 acres devoted to growing gladiolus alone. Pompon Chrysanthemums are the other major flower assortment from this area. Agricultural products, including flowers, produced in Lee County provide an annual income of more than \$25 million and generate more than \$75 million in agribusiness activity according to County Agricultural Agent Robert G. Curtis.¹²

Collier County, to the south, reaps a vegetable harvest income of \$40 million.¹³ This figure is significant in that the bulk of the \$40 million dollars was earned by three corporation: A. Duda & Sons, Inc., Naples Farms, Inc., and Naples Fruit and Vegetable. Collier is the largest county in Florida (2,880 square miles), and at the time of its creation (1923) Barron G. Collier owned approximately 75% of all the land.¹⁴ The Collier Corporation remains the major land holder, although Gulf American, the Lee Tide Water Cypress Co., and Alico (subdivision of Atlantic Coastline Railroad) are making inroads. Much of this land is leased out for farming.

The make-up of the Collier County agricultural interests highlights the size and power of the farmers and growers in the south Florida region. These are large corporate enterprises involved in raising fruits and vegetables, and not family farms or single entrepreneurship businesses. The background of some of the "overseers" or "front men" reveals a history of "wild cat" farming, often starting in Cuba, then coming to Florida and leasing land from the large corporations to continue their well-learned exploitation of agricultural workers.

With this history, it is interesting to note that one of the farmers' chief concerns is the amount of low-priced foreign imports in vegetables (peppers, cucumber and tomatoes), especially from Mexico, "produced in areas where labor is cheap."¹⁵ It takes great business expertise as well as considerable investment to be a successful farmer in this competitive environment. Not only does he have to concern himself with the best utilization of his land, the market and business trends, but he also has to plan the amount of labor he will need, where to get that labor, and how best to manage it.¹⁶

¹² Fort Myers News-Press, Feb. 20, 1968.

¹³ The Miami Herald, July 21, 1968.

¹⁴ Tebeau, Charlton W., *Florida's Last Frontier—A History of Collier County*, Univ. of Miami Press, 1957.

¹⁵ See Fort Myers News-Press, Jan. 24, 1968.

¹⁶ For Statistical comparisons of agricultural significance in the 6 county MLS region, see attached chart B.

	Agriculture—1959		Agriculture—1964				
	All farms (Number)	Land in farms		Farms		Land in farms Total acreage (thousands)	Proportion of land (percent)
		Total acreage (thousands)	Proportion of all land (percent)	All farms (Number)	Operated by tenants (percent)		
United States.....	3,710,503	1,123,507	49.2	3,157,859	17.1	1,109,989	48.7
Florida.....	45,100	15,237	43.9	50,541	5.8	15,410	44.4
Broward.....	301	81	10.4	382	19.9	87	11.2
Collier.....	104	316	24.3	105	48.6	293	26.4
Dade.....	1,151	129	9.8	1,008	9.8	117	8.9
Hendry.....	189	641	84.4	206	9.8	680	83.0
Lee.....	279	143	28.3	316	13.3	161	32.1
Palm Beach.....	527	372	29.4	529	50.0	448	35.4

AGRICULTURE—1964

	Commercial farms		Size of farms		Value of farm products sold		
	Total	Sales, \$10,000 and over	Average (acres)	1,000 acres and over	Total (thousands)	Average per farm	Crops (thousands)
United States.....	2,165,727	40.2	352	145,286	\$35,305,894	\$11,180	\$16,414,024
Florida.....	23,302	40.1	380	1,971	953,514	23,520	727,450
Broward.....	312	228	17	20,453	53,543	13,341	7,107
Collier.....	92	78.3	2,789	7,507	71,498	6,560	928
Dade.....	680	47.2	116	48,242	47,859	43,509	4,615
Hendry.....	128	56.3	3,341	24,434	118,861	20,622	3,803
Lee.....	187	43.9	511	11,438	36,195	10,341	1,093
Palm Beach.....	443	70.4	847	78	96,568	182,548	86,379

NOTES

1. "All farms" includes all places of 10 or more acres with estimated annual sales of agricultural products amounting to at least \$50. Places of less than 10 acres were counted if estimated sales of products during the census year amounted to at least \$250.
2. "Land in farms" consists primarily of agricultural land—i.e., land used for crops, pastures or grazing. It also includes considerable areas not actually under cultivation nor used for pasture or grazing. Eg. the entire acreage of woodland and wasteland owned or rented by farm operators is included as land in farms, unless it was being held for nonagricultural purposes or unless the acreage was unusually large.
3. Farms operated by tenants" are agricultural lands which are rented from others or worked on shares for others.

4. "Value of land and buildings" is based on a sample of farms, and represents farm operators' estimated opinion of the market value (price which a farm operator would expect to receive if he were to sell them on day of enumeration) of land and buildings on that land.

5. "Commercial farms" are farms with a total value of products sold amounting to \$2,500 or more. Those with sales of \$50 to \$2,499 are so classified if farmer was under 65 and did not work off the farm 100 or more days during the year.

6. "Size of farms" is determined by acreage. For purposes of the census of agriculture, farms are essentially operating units, not ownership tracts. If lands has tenants, the land assigned each tenant is a separate farm.

7. "Value of farm products sold" is obtained by addition of reported or estimated values for all products sold for the farm.

8. "Average per farm" is obtained by dividing the total sales by total farms.

THE SOUTH FLORIDA SEASONAL FARM WORKER

Florida growers depend upon an actual farm work force of over 89,100,¹⁷ while in the six county region served by MLS, it is estimated that a total migrant population (including dependents) of 83,250 streams in every year.¹⁸ Since figures and estimates can be deceptive, it may be more informative to describe the seasonal farm worker than to attempt an exact head count.

With the variety of crops making three harvests possible annually (fall, winter and spring) the "season" in southern Florida extends from late October often until the end of may. However, it would be rare for a worker to be employed in one crop or by one farm for that length of time, and he may be rotated or seek other employment when work is slow at his assigned station.

It is impossible to speak of the seasonal farm worker in generalities. There are roughly nine groups comprising the total of agricultural workers in this area: 1) Spanish-speaking migrants (often called "Texas-Mexicans"), 2) Negro migrants (originally from other southern agricultural centers), 3) the "offshore" workers (generally from Jamaica and the West Indies); 4) Florida-based Spanish culture agricultural workers, 5) Home-based Negro agricultural workers, 6) Local low-income Caucasians, 7) Cuban refugees, 8) out-of-state Caucasians, 9) Indians native to this area.

Each grouping, and indeed each individual comprising this classification, has its own history and cultural characteristics. However, once a person becomes engaged in seasonal farm work, they all share many common problems and goals. The most basic problem is simply that the work is seasonal. The agricultural worker is forced to subsist on whatever income he makes here during the season, or travel north when the local season is over to work in another harvest, or try to find some makeshift work to supplement his income if the rigors of the migrant stream prove too taxing for himself and his family.

Since the average yearly income of the migrant farm worker is only \$1737,¹⁹ far below the \$3000 income level under which families are commonly considered to be living in poverty, it is not difficult to see why trying to subsist on this income year-round is not satisfactory. Nonetheless, many are forced to do just that either because no other employment is available locally or because they are untrained for those jobs that may be available. Although documentation is scant,²⁰ it is obvious that every year more and more migrants stay in this area year round.

Unfortunately, the drop-off of agricultural jobs during the summer and early fall is not balanced by an increase in employment possibilities in any other field. The worker is left to his own devices to try to find jobs mowing yards, driving tractors, doing repairs, etc. Often his livelihood during the off-season will depend on finding transportation to nearby cities to seek construction work.

Most of these workers used to "go up the road" for the northern crop harvest every year, but have now decided that this routine is both uneconomical and undesirable. From interviews, it appears that most unmarried people or people with fairly small families do travel, often with the same crew that they worked with in this area, whereas the workers with larger families tend to stay in this area year round. MLS records show that rather than going to New York for the potato harvest as is shown on most maps of migratory patterns, the worker from this area travels to many states to harvest various crops.²¹

There are many seasonal farm workers who do not migrate. Of those who do travel north to do farm work when the season is over in Florida, many consider this state their home base. Despite their permanency and their vital contribution to the area's economy, as well as the nation's, the seasonal farm worker is almost totally powerless.

Because of the strenuous long working day, and lack of adequate facilities at home, the horizons of the farm worker are necessarily limited. From the time of his birth the field worker is surrounded by people who do farm work,

¹⁷ Florida 1967 Farm Labor Report, p. 7.

¹⁸ Florida Migrant Health Project, Fourth Annual Progress Report, pp. 45, 65, 75, 83, 97. This figure includes "offshore" workers, but does not include local or day-haul laborers.

¹⁹ "The Migratory Farm Labor Problem in the U.S." 1967 Report of the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, p. 6.

²⁰ From interviews and questionnaires answered by MLS investigators (former migrants who maintain everyday contact with migrants in the south Florida region).

²¹ *MLS Summer Project Study*, tracing the destinations of migrant crews from the MLS area, shows that while some crews do travel the Atlantic Seaboard stopping off at farms in Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York, others travel inland to Indiana and Michigan.

and he knows that he will eventually do the same. While the present system makes it impossible for a field worker to obtain and material satisfaction from his job, these people identify with agriculture and take great pride in their work.

It cannot be overemphasized that the migrant worker is an expert at his trade. While farm labor is not a "first choice" occupation, the laborer who has trained arduously throughout his life has mastered a most difficult and hazardous vocation. He knows which tomatoes are ready to be picked on a row, how to pick them without bruising or damaging, and the most efficient way to gather a ripe harvest in the least amount of time. This knowledge and ability can never be fully replaced by machines. The field worker needs little, if any, supervision, and most "overseers" or field supervisors can profit greatly from the expertise of those working for him.

However, the worker's entire life is subject to the needs and controls of others. He is vulnerable to a great variety of pressures from those who depend upon him for their own livelihood. He seldom has any direct contact with the farm owner, or even managers, but he is completely dependent upon the continual favor of his crew leader; which, in turn, gives a crew leader enormous power over his crew.

THE CREW LEADER

The crewleader's role is crucial—both as to his activities and maintenance of the crew as a social unit. Among the activities: establishing initial contact with the prospective employer; assembling a crew (which may mean maintaining an extensive network of contact with individuals on a permanent year-round basis or by maintaining contacts with individuals who will recruit for him); arranging for transportation of the crew to the work site and camp. Then, if he acts as camp manager, he is responsible for the direction and maintenance of the crew within the camp. He usually provides buses or other vehicles for transporting the crew to and from the work site.

At the work site, the crewleader assumes a supervisory role, allocating specific tasks to workers, directing them in the course of picking, and managing all aspects of the operation until produce is actually delivered to the packing house. This may include planning the work, supervising the workers in the field, maintaining inspection procedures to insure that crops are properly picked, bulking of crops on the trucks, and actually transporting the produce to its destination.

He is responsible for paying the members of his crew. He is like a banker for the crew; lending them money, directly or through the allocation of credit for food, alcohol, transportation, etc. Likewise, he should be accountable to the workers both for what they are paid and for any deductions whether daily or weekly. However, almost every crew operation is run with extensive reliance on memory.

"Crew leaders function as entrepreneurs without stable or guaranteed income, but with a potential of earning very substantial sums during the course of the season."²²

A thorough study of the crewleader's role in a black migrant crew in a northern camp situation illustrates much insight into the relationship between the outside world, the crewleader and the workers:²³

"In contrast to most production organizations, what is notably about the role of the crew leader is the variety of activities which have to be carried on by a single individual. But this explains only in part his crucial sociological role. This must be perceived in terms of his ability to articulate between the Negro crew member and the white world. Crew members view the white world as unpredictable and dangerous. They prefer to have as little contact as possible with all aspects of white society. Buttressing this attitude is a similar attitude of whites who want as little to do as possible with the Negro migrants and who, on their part, feel that migrants are unpredictable and violent. Both groups look upon the crew leader as a liaison."

Mr. Friedland has created a descriptive typology of the various characteristics of crew leaders, each of which is pertinent to crewleaders found in the MLS area.

²² Friedland, "Migrant Labor: A Form of Intermittent Social Organization," *ILR Research*, vol. xiii, No. 2, Nov. 1967, 8.

²³ See note 20, supra at 6.

The first type is called "the village chief" who exemplifies the traditional leader. He is found in all ethnic groups and locales. His crew is recruited almost entirely in the leader's hometown, consisting largely of families and older people, many of whom had been with this leader in previous years. The village chief creates a social dependency by extending favors, giving loans, rides, etc. Productivity is high because the crew members are selected with care, and consequently there is a surprisingly low percentage of dropouts from the crew.²⁴

Another type is called "the coal baron." His style of control is by force and fear rather than kinship obligation or social dependency. Force can be exerted through manipulation of wages and credit as well as, through threats of expulsion or refusal to pay wages for a variety of reasons, and just plain physical force. Many workers resent him and are afraid of him. The crew consists mainly of unattached young men, picked up from the surrounding area or en route. The highest dropout rate and the lowest productivity is evident here. The prevalence of this type crew leader in the Negro portion of our clients and especially among the constantly changing "day haul" crews is quite evident.

The third type, and perhaps the most common amongst MLS' Spanish-speaking population, is classified as "the pater familias." This crew leader recruits his workers from family and very close friends, turning out to be one big family. This type usually has the most remarkable record of productivity, and along with it one of the higher dropout rates. Approximately half the crew members drop out before the season is over, leaving the central core of kin.

The "pater familias" traits may best be depicted by profiling a 33-year old Mexican American crewleader who has had extensive contact with MLS. He is married with eight children, and was originally contacted at Edinburg, Texas by the Farm Labor Placement Bureau of the Texas Employment Commission with an offer for a crew of 120 men to work from December through May in Naples, Florida.

After applying for registration as a crew leader, he recruited his crew consisting largely of relatives and friends, all of them then residing in southern Texas. In groups of ten or twenty, workers with their families made the trip by car from Texas to Florida, paid for by transportation expenses advanced to the crewleader.

The Clearance Order, setting forth the arrangements for crewleader and workers was fairly typical: specifying that the migrants would have regular work seven days a week at \$1.15 an hour, and that the leader would be paid a bonus per worker and a bonus per crate for haulage, which would be paid at the end of the season. It also stipulated that proper housing was available.

Before becoming a crewleader, this man had been a farm worker, spending part of the past four years in southern Florida. When the Florida season was over, he always went up the road, taking his family with him, usually to Indiana. He can earn \$15.00 a day when working in the fields, which does not count the bonuses for being a crewleader.

The white field manager, or owner's agent, would give the crewleader money to pay the workers at the end of each day. It appears that no money was ever taken out for social security, although whether the crewleader had been advised that he should is another question.

The problems encountered by this crew, perhaps more serious in nature than most, are nonetheless typical of the conditions workers may find when coming to south Florida for the season. Basically, it was a problem of not enough work (not as much as promised) and consequently not enough pay, together with abominable housing.

The members of the crew brought here from Texas to pick tomatoes had been promised approximately \$9.00 a day for the season (based on working a seven-day week). At most they earned \$30.00 a week. The housing supplied to the workers for a rental charge can only be described as unfit for human habitation. The MLS attorney handling the legal problems for this crew remarked:

"The conditions at both camps were bad. There was no electricity in any of the cabins but two. None of the cabins had running water. None of the cabins had working toilets. There were no facilities for garbage pick-up or disposal. There was no access to drinking water. There were no workable showers. The electric wiring was faulty. The cabins were without stoves. There was no heat-

²⁴ Only 1 percent dropout rate during the season. *Ibid.* at 7.

ing system to the cabins. The beds were without proper mattresses. There were no pillows, linens or blankets furnished."

The accompanying photographs are perhaps a more descriptive attestation to the conditions encountered than any number of words. That human beings should be subjected to such circumstances is appalling; the fact that many of the migrant workers in south Florida face this as a way of life is indefensible.

In the past, not only did the tourists and resident citizens ignore the plight of the migrant, but most even seemed unaware of his existence. Now that various social-conscious state and federal agencies have been apprised of some of the problems, there is at least hope towards betterment. MLS has had a unique opportunity through its rural field offices of observing these conditions firsthand, of establishing contact and rapport with the migrant population, and of seeking solutions to bring equality and justice to the seasonal farm worker.

Sweeping legislative and judicial gains have not come within our first year of operations, but the groundwork has been laid and analysis has crystallized goals and plans for the future.

The following sections attempt to demonstrate eight major problem areas, with comments on the progress that has been made.

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

Nothing more clearly underscores the alienation of the seasonal farm worker from the mainstream of American life than an examination of his working milieu. From the moment he is recruited, transported to the picking site, and begins to labor, the distinctions between his employment environment and that of all other occupational groups is obvious. As the MLS Chief Investigator, a former police officer himself, said recently, "The grower for his part treats the worker in a similar manner to that of the police. The handling of workers' crews, transportation, work assignments, housing, and pay arrangement is reminiscent of the arrangements made for prison labor crews."¹ Considering the power which Labor wields on the national scene, the archaic labor/management relationship in agriculture² is all the more clearly antiquated. The President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty summarized the situation.

Rural workers have been excluded from coverage of protective labor legislation that guarantees workers' rights to organize and to bargain collectively. Nor have they been protected against injury on the job, or against the risk of unemployment and disability. Until recently, farmworkers, especially, were untouched by these labor laws that most urban industrial workers take for granted. Even today, most farm workers and many rural non-farmworkers are excluded.

Great injustice has been done in extending coverage of certain types of labor legislation to some workers and not to others. The Commission proposes to end the traditional discrimination against rural workers by extending the prospective labor legislation to cover all workers.

The Commission recommends—

8. That the provisions of the National Labor and Management Relations Act, workmen's compensation laws, unemployment insurance, and old age, survivors and disability insurance (OASDI) be extended uniformly to all workers.³

Extension of the NLRA⁴ will not magically alleviate the plight of the farm workers in South Florida. However, the right of collective bargaining has been shown to be a necessary ingredient in any equitable framework for industrial peace—and, yet, the agricultural industry remains more than three decades behind other industries in the non-recognition of the freedom of association and organization.⁵

¹ William Boone Darden in an unpublished narrative answer to questions posed by the MLS research staff, 1968, 1.

² Some efforts of a nonlegislative nature have recently been made in this field. In early 1968, the Florida Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Florida initiated a training program for farm-labor supervisors. Numerous classes have since been held which are designed to assist farmers in employee relations. See Cully, *Training Programs for Farm Labor Supervisors*, Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Sept. 1968, pp. 18-20.

³ *The People Left Behind*, The Report of the President's Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty, 1967, 24.

⁴ *National Labor Relations Act*, 49 Stat. 449 (1935), as amended, 61 Stat. 137 (1947), 29 U.S.C. 151, et seq. (1964).

⁵ Subcommittee on Migratory Labor of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, *The Migratory Farm Labor Problem in the United States*, S. Rep. No. 1006, 90th Cong., 2d Sess. 40 (1968).

The argument that agriculture is somehow different from all other industries has been the rationalization by which farmworkers were excluded from almost all federal labor legislation. When one considers the vast corporations⁶ which play such a major part in agriculture today—as the number of farmers gets fewer and fewer and their holdings get larger and larger, such justification seems weak.⁷

It has only been since 1966 that a national minimum wage for farm workers was established by Congress, when some agricultural workers were brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act.⁸ This may help to explain why farmworkers are the lowest paid occupational group in America—but it does not explain why Florida is amongst the lowest of the low. Florida is one of the 10 lowest wage states for farmworkers in the country. Only New Mexico, West Virginia and the Deep South states are behind her. Florida has not yet reached the national average of 1965—and everyone agrees that this average was at that time scandalously inadequate.⁹

	1965	1966	1967
National average.....	\$1.14	\$1.23	\$1.33
Florida average.....	.99	1.07	1.12

¹ Id.

In addition to the deplorably low level of wages, the seasonal nature of farmwork intensifies the problem. The work-year of the hired farm worker is shorter than almost any other occupational group.¹¹ Hourly wage increases can never solve the lack of steady year-round employment. The Farm Labor Placement Service has attempted to cope with the problem in its Annual Worker Plan;¹² however, the efforts of the agency do not have the backing of the sophisticated computerized system that would be necessary for a really workable national mobilization plan to couple available jobs and workers.¹³ So far all such proposals have gone unimplemented. Spending many futile days driving from place to place seeking work, waiting for a delayed harvest or a break in bad weather, the seasonal farmworker only finds work for a small number of the possible working days of the year.¹⁴ Beyond this “occupational hazard” is the lack of management skills of many engaged in farming. This means that even the time when one is employed is a time of “underemployment” since workers are not given any motivational direction and the incentive for higher production is not encouraged. This unproductive time means loss of income to the worker and inefficient use of the labor force to the grower. Since farm workers cannot qualify for unemployment compensation in Florida,¹⁵ as they cannot in almost all states,¹⁶ the problem of unemployment is doubly serious.

Not only is unemployment in agriculture about twice the annual average in non-agricultural industries, but the monthly employment rate also fluctuates

⁶ E.g., two obvious examples of the industrial magnates of agri-business in South Florida are U.S. Sugar Corp. of Clewiston (Hendry County) and South Puerto Rico Sugar Co., Fellsmere (Palm Beach County). The first received government subsidies of \$1,275,687.00 in 1967 and the latter \$610,923. They were amongst the 12 corporations receiving the largest individual government payments under all farm programs for the calendar year of 1967. See also, supra note 5 at 27.

⁷ E.g., in the six county area MLS serves, the number of farms (1960: 2,735; 1964: 2,546) continues to decrease while the acreage under cultivation has increased (1960: 1,682,000; 1964: 1,786,000). *County and City Data Book: 1967*, Bureau of the Census 60.

⁸ Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 63 Stat. 918 as amended; 29 U.S.C. 213, amended by Public Laws 89-601, 80 Stat. 830, as enacted Sept. 23, 1966. See generally, *The Agricultural Minimum Wage: Coverage and Impact*, Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor, May 1968, p. 11. Only 390,000 of the 1.4 million farmworkers are presently covered. Supra note 5 at 25.

⁹ Supra note 5, at 27.

¹¹ Id. at 28.

¹² See generally, *The Annual Worker Plan in 1966*, Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor; Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor, May 1968, pp. 49-51.

¹³ For an example of an adequate system, see supra note 3 at 27-32.

¹⁴ The average migratory farmworker was only employed 82 days in farmwork in 1965 (the latest date for which statistics are available). Supra note 5 at 28.

¹⁵ F.S.A. § 443.03(5)(g)(1)(a-d): The term employment shall not include agricultural labor.

¹⁶ Only in Hawaii are farm workers expressly covered by a state unemployment compensation program. Supra note 5 at 52.

sharply. . . . As a matter of fact the situation is a good deal worse than the figures on unemployment suggest. Official statistics count a rural resident as employed if he works part-time, or a few days a month. The truth, of course, is that he is often underemployed, and almost as badly off as if totally unemployed. We have evidence that underemployment is widespread in rural areas, and as acute a problem as unemployment.¹⁷

Unemployment insurance is not the only aspect of employment protections from which the Florida agricultural worker is excluded. In the Workmen's Compensation statutes, the term "employment" is specifically defined so as not to include agricultural labor.¹⁸ Legislation limiting hours of work of minors¹⁹ and setting up general regulations for governing child labor do not apply to farm work.²⁰ The regulating agency on child labor problems, the Florida Industrial Commission concerns itself about the employment of children in alligator wrestling and transporting of radio-active materials, but disregards the many more children who perform difficult and often dangerous labor in the fields.²¹ The Florida Child Labor Statutes do not even reflect the minimal standards found in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.²² Of course, the federal standards for minors employed in agriculture govern when conflict exists.

The Florida laws not only exempt agricultural workers from protections on the job, but create special hardships through other provisions. For instance, an additional monetary burden is imposed by the State through the definition of "non-resident motorists" for purposes of motor vehicle registration²³ and drivers' licenses.²⁴ Because the exemptions from registration and purchase of a driver's license run only to non-residents who are *not employed* in the State and whose children do *not attend* Florida public schools the migratory farmworker must buy duplicate plates and pass additional tests because of his short-term employment in the State. This is particularly unfair when one realizes that the migratory worker is a "resident" for purposes of paying license fees to Florida and a "non-resident" when applying for welfare funds from Florida.²⁵

As another example, of government-made difficulties, Florida Statutes § 205.331 which is concerned with "emigrant or labor agents," provides for the payment of \$1,500.00 for a license to recruit any workers for out of state work. Such a license must be purchased in *each county* in which recruitment is done. This statute effectively eliminates private legal competition for the labor force by crew leaders and most individual farmers. Thus, the average crew leader, for whom such an amount is prohibitive, must either recruit workers surreptitiously and illegally or hope that he will be able to pick up a crew on the way to the next harvest. The exorbitant licensing requirement also tends to defeat the purposes of the efforts of the national Bureau of Employment Security and the Florida State Employment Service. Thus, fewer farmworkers are recruited through "legal" channels which give the protection of Department of Labor regulations.

Recruitment is a complex area of the agricultural worker's life. He may make his job contact through: (a) a stable crew/crew leader situation, (b) a constantly changing "day haul" basis, (c) a direct solicitation from the farmer,²⁶

¹⁷ Supra note 3 at 25.

¹⁸ F.S.A. § 440.02(1)(c)(3).

¹⁹ F.S.A. § 450.081, which provides that children under 16 shall not be employed before 6:30 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m., expressly exempts farmwork from regulation.

²⁰ Chapter 450 (Child Labor) of Florida Statutes begins with § 450.011 which states that except for § 450.061 (hazardous occupations) and § 450.111 (Employment Certificates), no provisions of the chapter will apply to minors working on their families' farms when school is in session and, except for § 450.061, will not apply to farm work outside of school hours.

²¹ "Best estimates indicate that there are about 800,000 paid farmworkers under 16. The group comprises about one-fourth of the total farmwork force." Supra note 5 at 32.

²² For a concise discussion of the federal requirements, see "Agriculture and the Child Labor Requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act." U.S. Dept. of Labor, Child Labor Bulletin No. 102, January, 1968.

²³ F.S.A. §§ 320.37-320.38.

²⁴ F.S.A. § 322.04(3), (4), (5).

²⁵ See "Welfare" infra note 1 and accompanying text.

²⁶ Some crops tend to create a farmer/worker relationship. For example, approximately 40 percent of Florida's citrus pickers have worked for the same grower year after year or are recruited by the grower's foreman. *A Survey of Florida Citrus Harvest Workers, 1966-67*, Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor, August 1968, pp. 24-36 at 25.

(d) the Farm Labor Placement Service.²⁷ Many workers prefer to work with a crew so that the responsibility for finding the job passes to the crew leader. Others enjoy the free choice of the "day haul" system where the commitment involves nothing beyond that one day's labor. In areas where most of the labor force is local, it is common to find grower/worker relationships without the middleman. However, during the harvest peak, when a much larger work force is necessary even the farmers who do their own recruitment the remainder of the year may rely on a crew leader or the Placement Service to mobilize a large group of workers for a short period of time.

The role of the Farm Labor Placement Service²⁸ is not limited to the recruitment of workers for harvest. It administers the Annual Worker Plan,²⁹ a poorly executed effort but it does at least attempt to schedule successive work opportunities for migrants. At present, it is about the only federally-funded³⁰ agency theoretically concerned with upholding standards of employment conditions through limiting the use of its interstate placement service to growers who have met the Secretary of Labor's wage, housing and transportation regulations.³¹

Even after the recruitment process, the farm worker must somehow get to his job. If employment is local he will either provide his own transportation, ride with his crew, or wait at a designated pick-up corner to be "hauled" to the fields in buses. To the out-of-state worker, the trip to the job site is unpleasant, at best, and often truly dangerous. Those who drive their own vehicles are left to chance. Those traveling with crews, usually suffer marathon rides, in over-crowded, antiquated school buses, slat-sided vegetable trucks, or stuffy, enclosed truck trailers. If non-family workers are transported more than 75 miles across at least one state line in a vehicle other than a passenger automobile or station wagon, those providing the transportation are regulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission.³² The regulations deal with the qualifications of the driver, maximum mileage and hours without rest and meal stops, and the condition of the vehicle. Unfortunately, enforcement mechanism for these regulations is virtually non-existent. Florida, too, has legislated—and failed to enforce a "Carriers of Migrant Farm Workers" Act.³³

The ICC transportation regulations might be rendered more effective by the realization of the promise of the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act which was passed with the idea of having an effective means of tracing and regulating crew leaders.³⁴ Registration is dependent upon, among other things, the coverage of vehicles used to transport migrant workers by public liability insurance.³⁵ So far, the Act's impact has been considerably less significant than might be anticipated. In 1967, the field staff of the Department of Labor's section concerned with implementing the act was limited to five professional employees for the entire country.³⁶ Yet, even with such restrictions, 2,141 crew leaders were successfully registered in 1967.³⁷

²⁷ "The Office of Farm Labor Service of the Bureau of Employment Security is a part of the Manpower Administration of the U.S. Dept. of Labor."

²⁸ The addresses of the Farm Labor Placement Offices in the MLS six-county area are: Broward, East Palm Beach: State Rd 7, P.O. Box 1989, Delray Beach, Florida, Tom Easterling, Mgr.

Glades, Hendry, W. Palm Beach: 300 S.W. 16th Street, Belle Glade, Florida; J. W. Mosley, Mgr.

Charlotte, Desoto, Lee: New Market Road, Immokalee, Florida; Paul Goldman, Mgr.

Collier, Dade: Federal Highway, U.S. No. 1, P.O. Box 264, Princeton Florida.

The Southern Regional Office is: Bureau of Employment Security, Route 631, 1371 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, V. A. Milton, Regional Director.

²⁹ Supra notes 12, 13 and accompanying text.

³⁰ Supra note 5 at 50; supra note 3 at 25-32.

³¹ The lack of success of this effort is poignantly illustrated in the plight of the crew in the MLS case, *Gomez v. Florida State Employment Service*.

³² § 198 et seq. of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission. See "To Crew Leaders, Drivers, and Owners of Motor Vehicles Transporting Migratory Farm Workers," Interstate Commerce Commission 1963.

³³ F.S.A. §§ 3.17.9931-33. Interview of State Highway Patrol Officials by MLS staff illustrates a complete lack of knowledge of the statute's existence. Once briefed by the staff of its contents, they felt the enforcement was probably intended by the Highway Patrol, but were unaware of any arrest ever made to enforce it.

³⁴ Pub. L. 88-582 (1964), 7 U.S.C. § 2044.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ Supra note 5 at 36.

³⁷ *Id.*

Crew leader registration may eventually be the key to combating another occupational hazard of farm work—the “Myth” of Social Security coverage.³⁸ Although statistics are notably lacking as to the number of South Florida seasonal farm workers receiving Social Security, the MLS field experience tends to suggest a near absence of practical coverage.³⁹ This situation is the result of several factors, not the least of which is the workers’ reluctance to work on farms or with crew leaders who “take the pennies.” This feeling on the part of the workers has probably developed because of group experience with crew leaders and farmers who take deductions and then fail to send the monies to the proper authorities. Such evasion on the part of those making deductions can be either maliciously motivated or the result of confusion as to those covered and those responsible. Often the matter will boil down to: Who is the Employer? Under present provisions, the crew leader is *generally* the employer of crew workers he furnishes *unless* there is a written agreement between the farmer and the crew leader, stating that the crew leader is the farmer’s employee.⁴⁰ However, the problem is further muddled by a twist—“*either* the farmer or the crew leader may be the employer if (t)here is no written agreement *and* the farmer or his agent pays the workers. In this situation, who ever has the final right to control the crew members in the performance of their work is the employer.”⁴¹ The Subcommittee on Migratory Labor of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare has suggested that the law be modified so that the responsibility for withholding employees’ tax and reporting wages be placed on the actual employer, the farmer.⁴²

Farm workers are not only excluded from social and labor protections, but also—perhaps because of their lack of organization—must occasionally compete with foreign workers for jobs. Florida was the nation’s largest employer of foreign agricultural labor in 1967.⁴³ In fact, the combined total of foreign workers in the rest of the states barely equals one-third of the number employed in Florida.⁴⁴ Thirty nine thousand and eight hundred⁴⁵ man-hours of British West Indians⁴⁶ employed in the sugar cane industry in Florida were logged in 1968. All of these workers, indeed all foreign workers in any occupation, enter the country under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Public Law 414.⁴⁷ The importation of foreign workers is supervised by the United States Department of Labor so that no adverse effect on the wages of domestic labor occurs.⁴⁸ Furthermore, the wages of sugar cane workers are set each year under the provisions of the Sugar Act of 1948.⁴⁹ The federally established minimum wage for the 1967–68 harvest was \$1.45 an hour,⁵⁰ considerably higher than the \$1.00 and, later, \$1.15 minimums for domestic agricultural workers.⁵¹ Since sugar is a very highly regulated industry and each of the sugar growers participates in the substantial benefits of the Sugar Act,⁵² the higher minimum wage may be understandable on a strange formula in which the Federal subsidies actually subsidize wages.

Migrant Legal Services initially had little contact with the BWI’s but as a result of a single case, the Program’s involvement has become considerable The

³⁸ Social Security Amendments of 1956, ch. 836, Sec. 105, 70 Stat. 828, 42 U.S.C. 409 (1958). Coverage is presently limited by the \$150 from one employer in a year or 20 days paid on a time basis during the year rule. See “*Agricultural Employer’s Social Security Tax Guide*,” U.S. Treasury Dept., I.R.S. Pub. No. 51 (1967).

³⁹ MLS clients who receive Social Security benefits are few: Belle Glade—2; Delray Beach—19; Princeton—5; Fort Myers—37. Although not all our clients would be eligible for benefits, the number of recipients out of in excess of 2,500 clients seen is remarkably low.

⁴⁰ See *Social Security Information for Crew Leaders and Farmers*, U.S. Treasury Dept., I.R.S., Pub. No. 365 (1967) 3.

⁴¹ *Supra* note 5 at 55.

⁴² *Supra* note 5 at 55.

⁴³ *Supra* note 5 at 13.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ For an excellent study of the BWI’s role in Florida agriculture, see Kramer, *The Off-shores*, 1966.

⁴⁷ 66 Stat. 166 (1952), as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1503 (1964).

⁴⁸ 20 C.F.R., § 602.10, et seq.

⁴⁹ *The Sugar Act of 1937*, 7 U.S.C. § 1100, et seq.

⁵⁰ 7 C.F.R., § 863.19(a) (1) (i) (b).

⁵¹ *Fair Labor Standards Amendment* (1966), 29 U.S.C. 206(a) (5).

⁵² *Supra* note 6.

case, *Cole v. Heidtman*,⁵³ has led M.L.S. attorneys through the intricacies of Labor Department regulations to a hearing by the State Department on the immunity from suit of the British West Indies Central Labour Organization, the government contracting and recruiting agent.

The British West Indians burn the sugar cane fields in pre-harvest and wield the machetes that, even in this age of mechanization, cut almost all the cane in Florida. This work is probably the dirtiest, hardest, and most dangerous agricultural work in the country.⁵⁴ However, almost all work of the seasonal farm laborer is repetitious, exhausting and hot. In South Florida it frequently seems to be impossibly hot. Male workers wear dirty-grey sweat bands around their foreheads to keep the moisture from flowing into their eyes. Negroes who have straightened their hair have bright handkerchiefs wrapped tightly around the hair to protect the "process." *Big, floppy hats dot the Mexican-American crews.* The majority of the work must be done during the heat of the day—and stoop labor, hoeing, or cane cutting is sweaty work under the coolest conditions. Although water⁵⁵ for drinking and washing is supposed to be provided⁵⁶ in the field, many M.L.S. surveys have found that this requirement is violated.⁵⁷ Perhaps an even more essential violation is the failure to provide toilet facilities⁵⁸ during the working day. The degrading effect of this upon the worker and the health hazard to both those working in the field and the ultimate consumer of the produce is obvious. Other conditions which would shock the urban worker include lack of frequent rest periods and food which is often either unavailable or only for purchase at enormously marked-up prices by the crew leader.

To the observer, it seems that the heat would be more nearly bearable if the rhythm of picking was not of such unbroken monotony. Since many field workers begin picking when they are children, the sameness of the work makes it possible for a degree of expertise to develop. Some workers choose certain crops and only pick tomatoes or celery. Others switch constantly. Those persons who work on a *day haul*⁵⁹ basis, i.e., early morning hiring in a town followed by a bus-trip to the fields, have little decision as to the particular crop and are usually the less dependable, slower workers. These men are simply paid at the end of the day and go through the whole hiring procedure again the next time they want to work. *Most Mexican-Americans prefer the crew system where a man can be paid by the week if he desires.* The prevailing practice⁶⁰ is still, however, daily pay by the crew leader based on his memory of the day's picking. Any debts or deductions are taken before the money goes to the worker.

The wage is usually figured on a piece-rate; that is, so much per bushel, crate or pound. By federal law, this piece-rate wage must equal the federal minimum hourly wage.⁶¹ When one realizes the method of computing the hours, it is obvious that the piece-rate, although low, will almost always equal the hourly figure. The worker is *not* paid for time spent going to and from the field⁶² time spent waiting for the crop to be ready,⁶³ time spent eating, time when no work is avail-

⁵³ 68-245-Civ-TC (S.D. Fla. February 29, 1968). The suit essentially raises questions about the unconstitutional deprivation of civil rights of Jamaican sugar cane workers during a peaceful labor dispute and about the subsequent illegal arrest, imprisonment and blacklisting of the workers. The suit also raises important questions about the systematic deprivation of wages due to the men under federal regulations.

⁵⁴ *Supra* note 46 at 46.

⁵⁵ Fla. Administrative Code, *Sanitary Code for Buildings Serving the Public and Places of Employment*, Chapter 170C-8.13.

⁵⁶ Those establishments subject to regulation are defined as:

"(1) *Places of Employment*—Every person, firm or corporation employing one or more persons must provide adequate sanitary facilities for such employee or employees; and when ten (10) or more persons are employed at the same establishment then equal facilities shall be provided for each sec. . . . " *Id.* at 170C-8.03.

⁵⁷ From information supplied by M.L.S. investigators.

⁵⁸ *Supra* note 55 at 170C-8.04, et seq.

⁵⁹ See generally *The Day Haul*, U.S. Department of Labor, 1967.

⁶⁰ Other methods of payment included daily tickets, weekly punch cards, and flat hour, day, or week rates.

⁶¹ *Fair Labor Standards Act*, 29 U.S.C. 213, et seq.

⁶² This travel time averages one to two hours in Lee and Collier County and probably is as high in Dade. Thus, the man who lives in an on-farm labor camp starts far ahead of the city dweller who rides to the fields.

⁶³ *E.G.*, tomatoes cannot be picked while still wet from dew. This means unpaid-time sitting, waiting for the dew to dry.

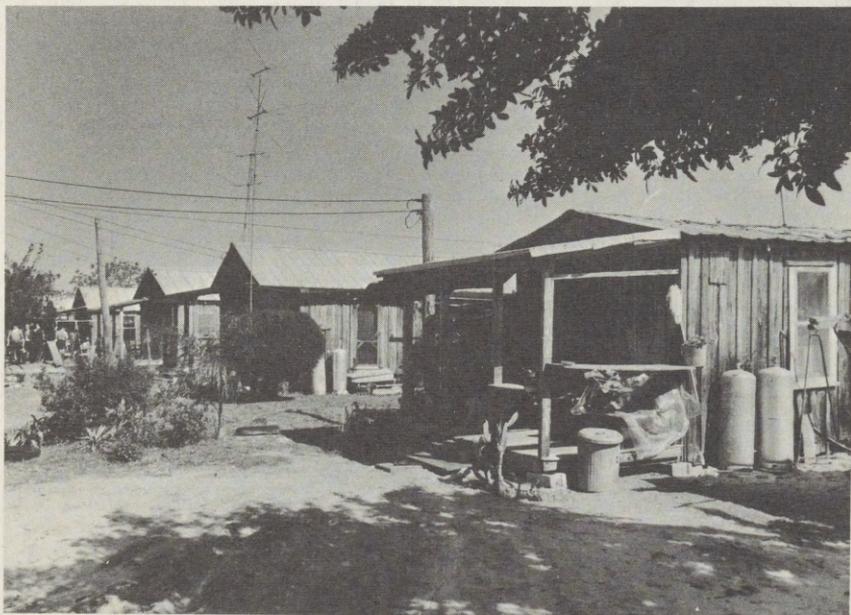
able or no new row assignment has been made, time when it is raining, or time when the crop-dusters spray the plants.

All of these determinations can be sources of employment problems, but they are invariably settled by the crew leader or farmer's representative⁶⁴ and never make it to a lawyer's office. If decisions regarding wages or hours seem unfair, the worker can change to another crew leader, another farmer. This is of little avail as long as there is practically no competition for workers—all farms pay about the same,⁶⁵ and enforce about the same conditions. However, the Department of Labor anticipates a change in this situation :

In coming years, the migrant work force is likely to be smaller, more highly skilled, and better paid. During the recent economic expansion, workers have been dropping out of the migratory stream to take better paying jobs in industry. Other migrants are making efforts to educate their children to qualify for nonfarm jobs. As the supply of migrants dwindles and farm wages rise, farmers will be induced to mechanize or find other ways to use migrants more efficiently.

*. . . [The farmer-employer] might decide that, as competition for workers increases, housing will become more significant as a bargaining point and that he should, therefore, be prepared to make a larger investment than would otherwise be feasible. On the other hand, he might decide that it would be more desirable for him to increase wage rates or provide rental allowance. . . .*⁶⁶

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN DURING THE COMMITTEE'S FIELD TOUR IN IMMOKALEE



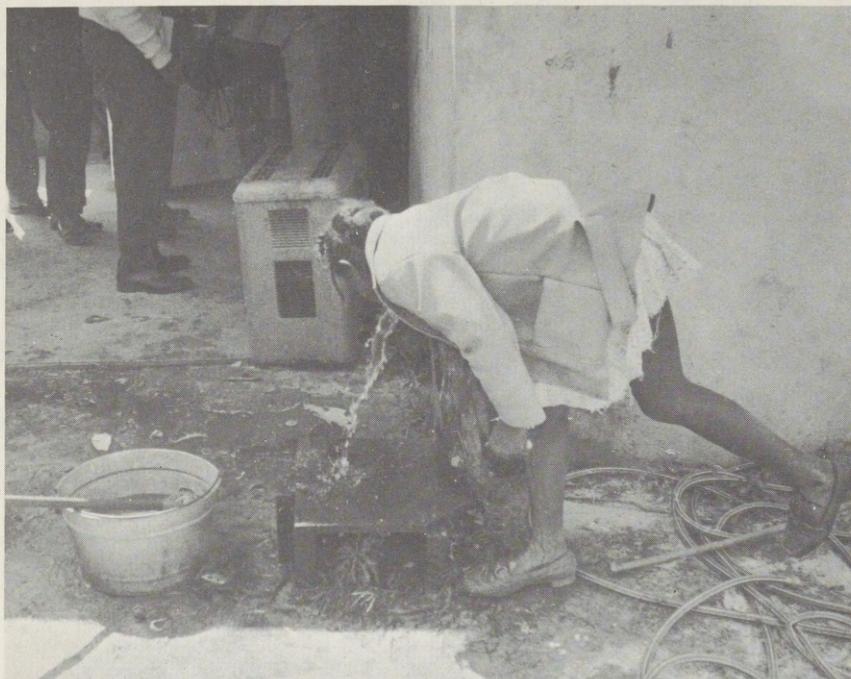
⁶⁴ Indicative of basic hostility, Rudolfo Juarez, M.L.S. investigator, notes that when workers are paid by the farmer, the man distributing the money is usually not alone and seldom ever unarmed, although this may merely be a precaution against robbery.

⁶⁵ Workers say wages are better up North, but that the higher cost of living makes things about the same.

⁶⁶ *Housing for Migrant Farmworkers*, Farm Labor Developments, U.S. Dept. of Labor, October 1968, 18-19.



1906



HOUSING

*Private housing**Nonlabor camp*

In most instances it is strikingly clear when you are in a neighborhood where farm laborers reside because that is where the paved roads end. In the summer the ditches next to the road are constantly filled with water and the water is never still because of the mosquitoes constantly darting about on the surface. During the winter (the dry period) the ditches are dusty as are the yards. In the rainy season the water does not end at the ditches but stands in stagnant pools surrounding each of the homes. Old cars with broken windows, tin cans, rags; and an abundance of trash and garbage stand in the stagnant pools of water and sometimes on dry land and give the appearance of a vacated battlefield.

There is the constant presence of many children darting in and out of the broken glass and bottles and playing in the stagnant puddles and using the broken down cars for trapezes, jungle jims, swings, and any other imaginary object that their limited experience would allow them to conjure up.

An overwhelming impression after visiting any of the houses is that they are in constant need of repair. Front doors are hung improperly or broken. Porches are on the ground or nonexistent. Windows are half out of their encasements. The roofs are a sea of patchwork and old shingles or in some cases are made of tin.

During the heavy rainy periods water leaks into the house through breaches in the walls or through improperly constructed windows. Everything smells of mildew. It is impossible to keep a house clean because the children track in mud from the outside and it mixes with the water on the inside resulting in filth. No matter how diligently the residents attempt to maintain cleanliness it is impossible to fight the elements which cannot be kept out of shoddy houses in disrepair.

Upon entering each of the homes the same smell greets you. It is a mixture of orders from backed up toilets and tubs. A slight, faint odor of urine and an overwhelming pallor of gloom and deprivation prevail. When indoor toilets are present, they frequently are in disrepair or will not flush properly during rainy periods. During those periods when the toilet is stopped up, the bath tub is also unusable, making it impossible to observe the basic rudiments of health and well being.

When septic tanks overflow the waste bubbles up and fills the yard with a rancid smell. Landlords are called but they do not react. The stock answer is that when the dry weather comes the septic tank will work perfectly. In many cases the septic tanks were imperfectly constructed and placed in such a manner so that they are higher than the toilets themselves. There are also cases where the pipes from the toilets to the septic tanks were too small to carry the waste products. The natural result of these problems is no drainage and toilets that do not function.

If water is taken from the wells the water smells bad, tastes bad, and often is not potable. When local health departments are called they usually find no problem with the water. Yet when surveys are taken by the residents and sent to the health department with samples, frequently the water comes back labeled "non-usuable for human consumption." As a result, on many tables, there are water buckets or water jars from water that has been hauled from inside nearby cities.

The lighting fixtures, when they are present, consist of a bare light bulb hanging from the ceiling by an electric wire. The wire is exposed as it runs from the bulb to the ceiling and across the ceiling to next room and finally to the outside electrical connection. Many residents complain that when they touch the outlet or attempt to change a bulb they are rudely startled by a shock from the exposed wiring. This is especially prevalent on rainy days.

In the heat of a summer's day all the windows in every home are open and usually there are no screens to prohibit flies, mosquitos and other pests from having free access to the houses. But there is a choice of suffocating from the ever present heat or being bothered by the smaller but no less annoying insects. All choose to fight the insects and not the heat.

The greatest haven for pests and bugs is under the kitchen sinks. When the doors of the cabinets have been opened to expose the rusted and leaky pipes, hundreds and thousands of small bugs and rodents scurry away from the

light of day and from the eyes of the onlooker. It is not a pretty sight. The residents complain frequently of the rats—rats which are a natural result of garbage in the yards, bad plumbing, and poor construction.

The residents complain to the various local officials about the lack of mosquito control. The officials always promise to spray the next day. More often than not the mosquito control unit is never seen.

Many persons renting from landlords pay an extra dollar a week for garbage collection services. In rural areas as a rule counties do not provide garbage service. It is the rare landlord who conscientiously collects the garbage on a weekly basis. As a result garbage overflows in cans, and dogs and children strew the garbage from one end of the yard to the other. Ditches are filled with debris and decaying food and other remnants of human waste. The landlord's answer to the problem is that the people are inherently dirty. But he doesn't provide garbage cans and he doesn't provide garbage service for which the tenants are paying.

The foregoing, based on observations of MLS staff members, describes many of the everyday housing nuisances and outright dangers encountered by the low-income families of seasonal farm workers in southern Florida. It represents a bleak picture and one that is most difficult to remedy for people without the financial means or bargaining position to demand or rent, much less buy, better housing. They have no alternative even if they could afford it.

For what was described above and what you see in the accompanying photographs, a worker is forced to pay between \$6.00 to \$12.00 a week, without benefit of a lease agreement. Often the most deplorable shack rents for the highest price simply because the season is on and there are no other quarters of any kind available, even at great distances from the farms. Even in the isolated instance where suitable rural housing is vacant for occupancy, the migrant laborer is turned away because he does not meet the landlord's criteria of a suitable tenant. In other words, he is black, Mexican, or cannot demonstrate financial ability with a steady income.¹

Thus, the first hurdle to be mounted by the migrant worker is to locate some sort of shelter for his family, and he takes whatever he finds. Once settled and confronted with these unlivable conditions, there are legal means and pressures he can exert to correct certain of these nuisances. However, none of these measures are without concurrent risks to the tenants, such as eviction, or more improbably condemnation, which would have the same effect. There is some plausibility to the argument that some shelter, albeit abominable, is better than nothing at all.

That is not to say the problems are insoluble or too complex for people of limited education to grapple with. Housing is too basic a need not to merit the effort. With proper guidance and legal support, there are four general avenues of approach open to low-income families who are now forced to live in deplorable housing; 1) persuasion and negotiation; 2) enforcement of housing codes where in effect, or enforcement of Florida nuisance laws where no housing codes exist; 3) lobbying with local authorities to enact stringent countywide housing regulations; and 4) bringing new housing into the area under various federal programs.

The first attack through persuasion or moral inducement is both uncertain and incomplete, unless the landlord involved is genuinely concerned with more than collecting his rents. One group of exasperated tenants in the Negro section of Boca Raton, under advisement from MLS attorneys, were successful in threatening the landlord with rent strike if needed repairs were not made. The efforts of the residents' association prodded the landlord into action with more promises than repairs forthcoming. But progress has begun on new roofs, painting, and in-

¹ It is revealing to figure the cost per square footage that seasonal farmworkers are forced to pay as compared to the square footage cost paid by middle-income residents in the same locality. In Fort Myers, a typical 2-bedroom house rented for \$10.50 per week consists of 450 sq. ft. of living space. This amounts to a payment of *\$1.26 per square foot per year*. Two miles away, an MLS attorney is renting a 2-bedroom air-conditioned house situated on a quarter acre of land, with living space of 1200 sq. ft. and pays the equivalent of *\$1.10 per square foot per year*. A similar comparison was made between a typical 1-bedroom labor camp dwelling in Dade County and one of the attorney's homes nearby. For total square footage of 329, the farmworker pays \$12.00 per week, or *\$1.89 per square foot per year* while the attorney, living in considerably more comfortable and sanitary quarters, pays *\$1.64 per square foot per year*. For this he receives lawn maintenance and use of two air conditioners and a washing machine.

stallation of new plumbing facilities in some of the apartments. Perhaps most importantly, the residents themselves realized they could get something accomplished, and with the expectation that repairs would be made, they have cooperated in a clean-up day making the entire project more attractive.

The essential ingredient in obtaining compliance with housing codes and regulations, where they exist, seems to be the number of tenants who are willing to make their complaints known. Only if the landlord or realtor managing the property are faced with action as drastic as a rent strike will the immediate complaints be satisfied. Individual calls of distress for faulty plumbing, electricity or garbage collection, are most often unheeded. Likewise, bringing violations in the local housing or health regulations to the attention of the department officials responsible for their enforcement are to no avail because their sanctions and authority are ineffective to deal with the overall problem of a housing shortage.²

Most rural housing is not covered by housing codes or regulations, because only the cities have jurisdiction over housing authorities.³ Housing occupied by farm workers is located in unincorporated towns and outlying areas of the county. Residents should attempt to persuade the local county commissioners to enact housing codes and regulations, both to give guide lines to builders and to protect tenants' rights. The larger the group of irate tenants, the more effective will be their lobbying measures on the commissioners to enforce stringent requirements. This legislative process is obviously not an immediate palliative.

One of the complicating factors in the enforcement of housing, building or health codes and regulations is the undefined (and often overlapping) jurisdiction of the various authorities charged with their enforcement. In addition to local city or county housing authorities, the Hotel and Restaurant Commission and the State Board of Health operate statewide.

The Hotel and Restaurant Commission requires all "public lodging establishments"⁴ to be licensed and has the power to *carry out and execute all the provisions of this chapter and all other laws now in force or which may hereafter be enacted relating to the inspection or regulation of public lodging and public food service establishments for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety and welfare.* This implies that not only can the Commission promulgate and enforce its own regulations, but those of the state or local health departments as well when pertaining to public lodging establishments. The sanctions available to the Commission appear to be limited to suspension or revocation of a license once granted.⁵

The State Board of Health likewise issues licenses for migrant labor camps, which are defined in more restrictive terms than public lodging establishments.⁶ The only difference in terms of the jurisdiction of the Hotel and Restaurant Commission and the State Board of Health as regards migrant housing is the requirement of *15 or more persons* for the Health Department to step in, and the further fact that the Health Department can act whether rent is paid or not, whereas the Commission is restricted to *accommodations for pay.* The State Board of Health has promulgated very explicit sanitary regulations and has the power to enforce them by withholding or revoking a license as well as invoking criminal sanctions.⁷

Local codes vary greatly from the rather stringent Dade County *metro* code to the non-existent Lee County Code. In view of the abundance of administrative authorities and the dearth of meaningful regulations or effective sanctions, it is

² The housing shortage is so acute that substandard housing cannot be condemned simply because there is no other place for persons thereby displaced to move. The Fort Myers Housing Authority (Lee County) which manages three projects serving low-income persons has a waiting list for each that could easily fill 10 more such projects.

³ F.S.A. § 421.04.

⁴ F.S.A. § 509.241. This definition includes: "All buildings, groups of buildings, or other structures kept, used, maintained, advertised as, or held out to the public to be places where sleeping or housekeeping accommodations are supplied for pay to transient or permanent guests or tenants, and apartments, except as hereinafter exempted, are defined and shall be licensed as public lodging establishments. . ."

⁵ F.S.A. Section 509.261.

⁶ F.S.A. Section 381.422 (1) defines *migrant labor camp* as: "One or more buildings or structures, tents, trailers, or vehicles, together with the land appertaining thereto, established, operated or used as living quarters for 15 or more seasonal, temporary or migrant workers whether or not rent is paid or reserved in connection with the use or occupancy of such premises. . ."

⁷ F.S.A. Sections 381.462, 381.411.

obvious that housing code enforcement is not an easy route for a distraught tenant.

In the interim, tenants with especially pressing problems can seek to legally enforce Florida nuisance laws, or other common law remedies. Again the dangers are great that the initiation of a legal proceeding will cause the tenant to be evicted, but then again the pendency of a legal proceeding may coerce the landlord into making necessary repairs. The Courts have the power to protect the tenant by putting the property in receivership with an order restraining the landlord from interfering with the tenant's occupancy pending outcome of the litigation. MLS is currently working with clients in testing all of the above methods to achieve the desired result of better housing.

While part of the housing problem can be met by improving the already existing units, the only possible way to solve the housing shortage is by a massive program of construction. Each of the MLS field offices is working with clients, civic and church groups on projects to initiate new housing. The first and most advanced such project is for a group of clients in the town of Pahokee in Palm Beach County. The Glades Citizens Association, Inc. (GCA), a local civic group most of whose members work in agriculture, asked the help of MLS attorneys in obtaining new housing. Prior to consulting MLS the group had attempted to get a grant from OEO for a self-help housing project, but had been unsuccessful.

At about the same time that GCA was talking to MLS about housing, a representative of the Foundation For Cooperative Housing⁸ (FCH) contacted MLS and informed the staff that there was money available under § 515(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 for Cooperative Housing. Together, FCH and MLS began to prepare an application on behalf of GCA for a coop housing project. Without any funds to work with a MLS attorney obtained an option on a thirty-one acre tract of land, obtained a resolution from the Pahokee City Commission approving the project, worked out water and sewer hookups and, together with GCA officers, prepared over 150 individual Farmers Home eligibility applications. FCH prepared a site plan and put together the data necessary for submitting a formal application to Farmers Home Administration. The Catholic Archdiocese of Miami was added as a co-sponsor.

The final plan was for a cooperative of 131 individual dwelling units plus a recreation center. The houses were to be prefabricated of plywood under a process perfected by a Florida manufacturer working through a Federal Housing Authority experimental program.

Despite the fact that there had been many prior conferences between MLS, FCH and Farmers Home, when the application was submitted, Farmers Home refused it, stating it was not authorized to lend more than \$300,000 to any one project. Attorneys retained by FCH as well as MLS attorneys rechecked the act, finding that there was such a restriction on section (b) but not on section (a) under which GCA's application had been submitted. Although informed of this finding, Farmers Home refused to recede from its position. Rather than engage in an administrative battle which might result in a law suit, and thereby indefinitely delay the project, it was decided to withdraw the application and in its place submit to the Federal Housing Authority under § 235 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.⁹

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 originally envisioned 26 million new or rehabilitated housing units over the next ten year, with 6,000,000 going to low income families. The Act's lofty aim is to rid the nation of all substandard housing.

Congress was asked to fund each of these two sections at \$75,000,000 for the

⁸ A private nonprofit group organized for the purpose of promoting cooperative housing. Through a subsidiary, FCH Services, Inc., it provides technical help to those wishing to construct such housing.

⁹ P. L. 90-448, Aug. 1, 1968.

Section 235 will enable families earning from \$3,000 to \$7,080 to buy homes for as little as \$200 down and monthly payments equal to 20 percent of monthly income. The federal government will pay all mortgage cost beyond 1 percent interest, which includes taxes and fire insurance. Families can purchase homes at a cost up to \$15,000. For example, a family earning \$3,600 could pay as little as \$60 monthly for a \$12,000 home.

Section 236, the new rental program, operates in the same manner except that tenants will pay 25 percent of their income for rent. The government subsidizes all but 1 percent of mortgage charges. Mortgages may run for 40 years under the home ownership and rental programs neither of which require *community workable* programs.

first year of operation. Instead it slashed its appropriation for each to \$25,000,000.¹⁰

A slash in funds such as this will certainly impede the progress that this Act was meant to achieve, and its effect will be felt in all areas. But, its effect will most likely be more injurious in rural areas since the priorities on what money has been appropriated has been allocated to socially explosive urban ghettos.

Section 235 applications and projects in rural areas will be processed by Farmers Home Administration with the technical assistance of the Federal Housing Administration, while projects and applications in rural areas under section 236 will be administered by Federal Housing Administration, due to the inherent difficulty of large scale rental projects. For like reason cooperative housing projects under § 235 will be administered by the Federal Housing Authority.

Therefore the urban centered priorities of the Federal Housing Administration, will be applied to rural areas casting very worthy rural multi-family projects to the back of the line.

Thus, for example under the present agreement between HUD and USDA the Secretary of HUD has made available to the Secretary of Agriculture the sum of \$2 million in contract authority for assistance payments on behalf of lower income homeowners who purchase homes under the section 235 (i) program.

With this lack of money and priorities in mind, consider the following approach to the housing needs of the rural poor.

The Fort Myers office of MLS became involved in assisting persons who live in an area known as Harlem Heights, approximately 12 miles from Fort Myers, Florida, in obtaining housing under the new housing act. The location of this community is in a particular area of the county which is rural in character.

The community is surrounded by various farms who employ many persons in the area.¹¹

Best estimates of long time residents indicate that the first persons to inhabit this area (Heights) were Negro farm laborers. This was approximately 1935.

After the second World War a physician in Fort Myers constructed approximately 125 rental units in Heights.¹² Other housing was similarly constructed and taverns, stores, churches, and an elementary school followed.

Within the last year a significant portion of the residents began to attempt to improve the community's physical environment.¹³

The greatest need identified by the association was that of low cost, decent housing for all of the residents. The physician who owned the greater portion of the housing in the area passed away. The estate incurred a massive federal tax liability and is attempting to sell the property. In addition, the housing was cited as being in violation of the sanitation regulations of the State Hotel and Restaurant Commission.

All of these factors combined to create a critical and immediate need for housing in the area.¹⁴

Initially MLS worked closely with the Improvement Association and the local NAACP office in presenting to the residents various alternative solutions. This included a review of programs financed by Farmers Home Administration, Self-Help Housing, and the Housing Act of 1968. Similarly a housing committee was

¹⁰ Prentiss Hall, Federal Aids to Financing Report, Bulletin No. 9, November 1, 1968.

¹¹ 70 percent of the full-time employed persons who were surveyed listed farming as an occupation. The remainder of those interviewed are employed in construction, restaurants, motels, domestic labor, yard work, trucking, and custodial positions. The 70 percent finding remains constant within the separate categories of males and females. See Survey of Housing Needs—Harlem Heights, prepared by MLS (unpublished).

¹² The greatest portion of these units are still standing. They are of wooden frame construction. The Survey of Housing Needs, Supra, indicated that all of these units were substandard or dilapidated. For instance it was indicated that 30 percent of the roofs leaked. (These percentages includes housing other than the rental housing). 71 percent had no hot running water. Over one-half had no indoor toilets. 52 percent complained of a severe lack of space in the home. Nearly 90 percent had yard drainage problems. 48 percent are plagued by deficient windows, screens, or doors; 86 percent were not provided with heat—and 92 percent are vermin infested.

¹³ A day care center was incorporated and is in operation. 18 families are presently constructing or have built single family dwellings under the federally funded Self-Help Housing Program. The Heights Improvement Association was incorporated and began to attack the problem of (a) community recreational facilities, (b) speed limits within the community, (c) provide for the construction of side walks on the main road, (d) the establishment of a volunteer fire department, and (e) obtaining a lighting district.

¹⁴ The Survey of Housing Needs, supra, indicates that over 75 percent of the heads of households were interested in moving into new housing as it was made available.

established by the Improvement Association to visit various builders to discuss construction techniques, costs, and other pertinent factors. Also, the committee, with the aid of many persons, began to search for a suitable site for the proposed project.

The most important single ingredient of this preliminary work was to find an indigenous, experienced non-profit sponsor. After contacting many church, civic, and related groups MLS attorneys met with representatives of the Presbyterian Social Ministry (PSM), an arm of the United Presbyterian Church, in St. Petersburg. This group has achieved great success in the Tampa Bay Area, as well as in Fort Myers, in developing communities for low-income elderly persons and minority groups.

Representatives of PSM met with the Improvement Association and many residents of the Heights area subsequent to their initial contact with MLS Attorneys. PSM was impressed by the community spirit and stability of the group as well as the need for housing. PSM has agreed to serve as the non-profit sponsor.

All concerned agreed to attempt to obtain financing under the below-market interest rate provisions of either sections 235 or 236 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. There is some question as to whether Farmers Home Administration or the Federal Housing Authority will handle rural projects under particular subsections of sections 235 and 236. To some degree this will dictate the section of the Act under which the application for funding will be filed.

Meetings were held with the Federal Housing Authority in Coral Gables, Florida, and the Farmers Home Administration in Fort Myers. The purpose of these meetings was to establish which agency will retain jurisdiction over the proposed venture.

Once the agency relationships are established further action can be taken regarding applications for financing, land sites, type of construction needed, and other problems.

Other possibilities for rural home ownership exist in the Self-Help Housing Program. Self-help Housing is specifically designed to help those families who do not have enough income to build modest homes by customary methods, to work together by using their own construction labor, and to help each other build homes of their own. When as many as seven families make application for authorization to build a home and they are approved by the FHA, work can be started on the homes through the total work effort of the group of seven or more families. The Southwest Florida Self-help Housing Corporation, located in Fort Myers, has lots available for families meeting the following requirements: those living in a rural community who have worked in agriculture for the past three years (earning 50% of their income in agriculture), who have a reasonably good credit record.¹⁵

A detailed commentary on the numerous sections of the new 1968 housing laws, or the previously existing federal assistance programs, could in itself fill many volumes. All that is attempted to be shown here is that such programs do exist for rural areas suffering from housing shortages. They can be utilized to the farm workers' advantage only through concerted group efforts and determination with proper guidance as to the most appropriate program for their income and needs.

LABOR CAMP HOUSING

The topic of private housing for seasonal farm workers was purposely discussed first to counteract the general assumption that all workers live in labor camps. As to how many agricultural workers live in the "labor camp" situation, one can only hazard an educated guess.

"A high proportion (about 55%) of [all hired farm] workers . . . live in rented or rent-free houses, from which moves can be made with relative ease."¹⁶

"Growers provide most of the housing facilities, generally unsuitable."¹⁷

Considering the scarcity of rural low rent units, the logical conclusion is

¹⁵ According to the latest figures available, 200 self-help houses have already been constructed or are in the process of construction as of December 1, 1968.

¹⁶ *Hearings on Migratory Labor Legislation* (S. 8, S. 195, S. 197, S. 198) Part 4 Appendix—Vol. II at 948.

¹⁷ "The Migrant Worker." *The National League of Women Voters, Facts and Issues*, Dec. 1967, p. 7.

that a significant proportion of the migratory labor force and their families are housed in grower-owned housing. This assumption is re-enforced by the constant assurance of the farmers' organizations that agriculture is unique in that employee housing is supplied by the employer.¹⁸

The assumption is fallacious on two counts when applied to the six county area of southern Florida. First of all, grower provided housing is not supplied rent free to the migrants. The prevailing system is to deduct rent from the workers' wages, or to carry the amount charged as a debt to be paid at intervals or at the end of the season. At Camp Happy in Collier County, operated by Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co., "Records show room and board to be \$15 a week, which alumni say was payable whether a worker ate or not at the company mess."¹⁹

Secondly, the percentage of migrant workers living in labor camps is far less than the 55% figure estimated nationally. The following chart has been compiled²⁰ to illustrate the often very minimal percentage of migrants housed in labor camps in the six county region served by MLS. It should be further pointed out that the percentage has continued to decrease each year in each of these counties, although there has been no concurrent reduction in the total number of migrants coming into these counties. The chart should be self-explanatory.

County	Number of labor camps	Permitted	Persons housed in camps	Persons in other housing	Percent in labor camps
Broward.....	22	4	2,790	14,000	17
Collier.....	126	99	5,053	16,947	22
Dade.....	22	22	5,760	7,000-8,000	45-41
Hendry.....	34	8	1,291	6,200	17
Lee.....	11	3	730	11,950	5
Palm Beach.....	132	104	19,926	18,416	52
Six-county total.....	349		35,550	75,513	32

¹ Separate figures on Hendry County not available. This includes Glades County.

Thus, only in Palm Beach County does the percentage approximate that of the estimated national average. There are several explanations for these figures, which can best be outlined by highlighting the 1967-68 county reports from the Division of Sanitation, Florida State Board of Health. Before presenting the county-by-county breakdown, there are certain uniform practices and procedures regarding certification of labor camps in Florida that should be explained.

It will be noted from the first column of the above chart that the total number of labor camps present in each county is greater than the number of "permitted" labor camps, in each of the six counties except Dade. In other words, certain camps are operating in contravention of Florida laws.²¹ The regulation states specifically:

"170 C-32.04 permit for operation.—before any person shall either directly or indirectly operate a camp he shall make an application for and receive from the board (Florida State Board of Health) a valid permit for operation of the camp."

Each prospective camp operator is directed to apply for a permit through the local health department at least 15 days prior to commencement of camp operation. If the county health board then finds that the camp conforms or *will conform* to the minimum standards required by state regulations, a permit will be issued.²² The regulations do not set forth any criteria by which to judge whether a prospective "will conform," and this is presumably left to the individual investigators.

¹⁸ See *E.g.*, *Hearings, supra* at 305, 330, 558, 742, 746, 998.

¹⁹ Samuel Adams, "Migrants Lot Not a Happy One at Camp Happy," *St. Petersburg Times*, April 21, 1968.

²⁰ From the Fifth Annual Progress Report, Florida Migrant Health Project, 1967-1968.

²¹ FSA 381.031 (1) (g), 381.432; Rules of the State Board of Health, the Sanitary Code of Florida, ch. 170C-32.

²² Rules of the State Board of Health, the Sanitary Code of Florida, 170C-32.05.

By law, an employer must further comply with Federal regulations if he wishes to use the facilities of the State Employment Security System for the interstate recruitment of agricultural workers. The U.S. Department of Labor requires that before an employer may receive interstate agricultural worker recruitment assistance, his housing must be inspected for compliance with the regulations by appropriate state employment service personnel. However, as a facilitating procedure, the State Employment Security Agency may rely upon the judgment of other responsible state or local health agencies if such state codes are equivalent to the standards set forth by the President's Committee on Migratory Labor.²³

Of the housing codes now in effect, the 1959 Florida code is considered to meet all the standards suggested by the President's Committee.²⁴ Thus, for all practical purposes, the Farm Labor Placement Service of Florida (the delegate agency of the State Employment Security Department) relies on the judgment of the county health departments for the inspection and licensing of labor camps. In view of the fact that permits may be issued to labor camp operators who allege they "will conform to the regulations," it is regrettable that no follow-up inspection procedures have been instituted either by the Farm Labor Placement Service or the county health department who originally issues the permit on a conditional basis.

In addition to the overall requirement of inspection and licensing, each county faces its own problems and difficulties in upgrading labor camps. Budget limitations throughout the six county area impose realistic limitations on the amount of work the small sanitation services staffs of the county health department can accomplish. These departments are responsible for a number of activities besides inspection and licensing; such as, the planning and enforcement of all labor camp regulations, educating camp owners and residents alike on the importance of good sanitary practices, and providing consultation and guidance to growers, health department staff members, personnel of other agencies, and others concerned with migrant sanitation. The various methods by which these objectives are pursued in each county are detailed below:

Broward.—The sanitation branch of the Broward County Migrant Health Program has attempted during the past year to upgrade labor camp facilities, as well as upgrade the entire migrant community (those areas in which migrants live, work, or patronize).²⁵

Emphasis during the past year has been centered on the elimination of shack-type living, with their total removal at two camps, and removal of two-thirds of the shacks at another. This was accomplished under the condemnation programs of the Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach communities. While the county has condemnation powers, it has not as yet used them.

DIFFERENCES IN PROVISIONS

Item	Florida housing code	U.S. Department of Labor housing regulations
1. Coverage.....	Housing 15 or more workers in buildings, structures, tents, or trailers.	Housing 1 or more interstate workers in buildings, structures, tents, or trailers.
2. Notice of construction or modification.	15-day notice to board of health.....	Silent.
3. Penalty for sub-standard housing.	Denial of permit.....	Denial of use of Employment Service facilities in the recruitment of interstate workers.
4. Campsite.....	No camp structure shall be located less than 200 feet from barns, pens, etc. All campsites shall be adequate in size to permit locating of buildings so as to minimize the hazards of fire.	Working essentially the same except that the 200-foot limitation is not included.
	Not covered.....	Not covered.
		Grounds shall be free from noxious plants (poison ivy, etc.) and uncontrolled weeds or brush.

²³ President's Committee on Migratory Labor (PCML) Aug. 1954–Jan. 1964. See Housing Regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor, Manpower Administration (1968).

²⁴ See Housing for Migrant Agricultural Workers, Labor Camp Standards, Bulletin 235 (Revised) Nov. 1962, p. 4, 7. A Chart showing the differences in provisions of the Florida Housing Code and the Dept. of Labor Regulations is attached.

²⁵ This entire section is a synopsis of the Broward County Migrant Health Project, Annual Progress Report, *Sanitation* found at pp. 41–46 of the Fifth Annual Report of the Florida Migrant Health Project, 1967–1968.

DIFFERENCES IN PROVISIONS—Continued

Item	Florida housing code	U. S. Department of Labor housing regulations
5. Housing structure—shelters.	Wooden floors in buildings without cellar or basement shall be elevated 18 inches above ground level. Concrete floors shall be elevated 12 inches above ground level. All sleeping rooms shall provide a minimum of 300 cubic feet for each occupant.	All floors shall be so located as to prevent the entrance of ground or surface water.
	Ceiling height above 9 feet or below 6 feet shall not be counted in computing sleeping space.	50 square feet per person in dormitories with single beds, used for sleeping only; 40 square feet per person in dormitories with double beds, used for sleeping only.
	All family living quarters hereafter constructed shall have 70 square feet for first person and 50 square feet for all others.	No floor area shall be counted where the ceiling height is less than 5 feet.
	Not covered.....	50 square feet in family-type housing used for sleeping purposes only; 60 square feet in family-type housing used for cooking and sleeping.
	do.....	Adequate and separate arrangements for hanging clothing and storing personal effects for each occupant.
	House trailers shall have a minimum of 20 square feet of clear floor area for each occupant.	Housing for families with 1 or more children over 6 shall have room or partitioned area for husband or wife. The partition shall be of rigid materials and installed so as to provide reasonable privacy.
	Not covered.	Not covered.
6. Water supply.....	Water supply shall provide at least 35 gallons per person per day.	Supply adequate to meet the standards of the State health authority.
	Where water is distributed under pressure the supply rate shall be $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the average hourly demand.	Not covered.
	Hot water for bathing and dishwashing shall be available in all camps hereafter constructed. Water under pressure shall be supplied for cooking, bathing, laundering, or dishwashing.	Hot and cold water under pressure shall be provided for cooking, bathing, laundering, and dishwashing.
7. Garbage and refuse disposal.	Not covered.	Common drinking cups shall not be permitted.
	Sufficient 20-gallon metal garbage cans shall be provided. Said cans must be emptied and cleaned as often as necessary.	1 20-gallon container for each 15 persons shall be provided. Said containers shall be emptied and cleaned at least twice a week and more often if necessary.
	Disposal of garbage, kitchen wastes, or other refuse shall be by incineration, grinding, burial, or incorporation in a sanitary landfill.	Disposal of garbage, which includes refuse, shall be in accordance with State and local law.
	Effective measures must be taken to control rats, flies, mosquitoes, bed bugs, or other insect vectors or parasites within the camp premises.	Housing and facilities shall be free of insects, rodents, or other vermin.
	Not covered except for screening.....	All screen doors shall be tight fitting, in good repair, and equipped with self-closing devices.
9. Heating.....	Adequate heat for 70° temperature.....	Adequate heat for 68° temperature.
	Walls and ceilings within 24 inches of stoves must be fire resistant.	Walls and ceilings within 18 inches of stoves must be fire resistant.
	Not specifically covered.....	No portable heaters other than those operated by electricity shall be provided.
10. Lighting.....	Where electric service is available each habitable room shall be provided 1 ceiling light and a separate double electric wall outlet.	All habitable rooms shall be provided 1 ceiling or wall light and 1 wall-type electrical outlet.
	Wiring installed in accordance with local ordinance or national electrical code.	Wiring and fixtures installed and maintained in a safe condition.
	Not covered.....	Adequate lighting for yard areas and pathways to common use facilities.
11. Excretia and liquid waste disposal.	Provisions of both essentially the same.....	Must comply with State health authority requirements.
12. Plumbing.....	Installation of all plumbing must be in accordance with State or local standards, whichever is higher.	Not covered.
13. Toilet facilities.....	1 toilet for each 15 women; 1 toilet for each 20 men.	1 toilet for each 15 men or women.
	Minimum of 2 toilets for shared facilities.....	Minimum of 1 toilet for each sex in shared facilities.
	Urinals in ratio of 1 to each 25 men.....	Provides for substituting 24-inch urinals for toilets on 1-for-1 basis up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of number of toilets required.
	Not covered.....	Provides for adequate supply of toilet tissue with holders.
	do.....	Toilets and privies must be well lighted and ventilated.

DIFFERENCES IN PROVISIONS—Continued

Item	Florida housing code	U.S. Department of Labor housing regulations
14. Washrooms, showers, and laundry tubs.	Lavatories in ratio of 1 to 20 Shower heads in ratio of 1 to 20 Laundry trays in ratio of 1 to 25 Not covered do	Laboratories in ratio of 1 to 15. Shower heads in ratio of 1 to 15. Same ratio or mechanical washers in ratio of 1 to 50 with minimum of 1 laundry tray for each 100 workers. Shower heads spaced 3 feet apart with minimum of 9 square feet of floor space per unit. Bathing and washing facilities must be within 200 feet of each living unit.
15. Food service facilities.	In camps where workers do their own cooking, 1 sink for each 10 persons or 1 sink for each 2 families. Refrigeration below 50° Not covered do Central mess facilities covered in detail	Adequate sinks must be supplied. Refrigeration 45° or below. In camps where workers do their own cooking adequate tables, chairs, food storage shelves and counters for food preparation shall be provided. Cook stove or 2-burner hot plates in ratio of 1 to 10 persons for those doing their own cooking. Central mess facilities shall be provided in accordance with applicable State codes.
16. Beds and bedding	Clean mattress covers shall be provided 12 inches of clear space between mattress and floor. 36 inches between top mattress and ceiling. 30 inches laterally or end to end between single beds, bunks, or cots. 36 inches laterally or end to end between double-decker beds, bunks, or cots. Minimum of 4 feet clear aisle space in all barracks and dormitories. All sheets, pillowcases, blankets, or other bedcovering provided by the camp operator shall be maintained in sanitary condition by camp occupants.	Not covered. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do.
17. Fire protection	All buildings in which people sleep or eat shall conform to the requirements established by the laws of this State and regulations or standards issued by the State fire marshal.	2 means of escape from all sleeping, dining, and common assembly buildings. In 2-story buildings, a second stairway or exterior ladder shall be provided. Fire extinguisher equipment not more than 100 feet from each building equal to: 2½-gallon stored pressure or 1 5-gallon pump-type water extinguisher. No flammable or volatile liquids or materials agricultural pesticides, or toxic chemicals to be stored in or near buildings.
18. First aid	Adequate medical and nursing care at or available to all camps. Reporting of communicable diseases to local health department is required.	1 16-unit kit recommended by Red Cross for each 50 persons. Not covered
19. Camp supervision	Covered in detail	Do.
20. Responsibility of camp operation.	do	Do.
21. Responsibility of occupants.	do	Do.

Note: In addition to the differences outlined in these pages, both the Florida State Housing Code and the U.S. Department of Labor Housing Regulations contain many identical or near identical provisions. Department of Labor regulations provide that the higher of the 2 standards apply to housing of employers recruiting interstate workers through employment service facilities.

Other major areas of concern have been the constant garbage problem, and achieving better cooperation between owner, maintenance, and tenants. Despite the efforts of the county boards, it must be realized that little can be done in areas requiring the cooperation and expenditure of moneys by other city and county departments. As this county's report concludes, "our objective of garbage and trash control in migrant home base areas, due to its magnitude and time consuming aspect, seems out of reach at this time." Closer cooperation with other city, county, and state agencies may help.²⁶

Collier County.—Subsequent to the time this county's annual report was filed, a meeting of the County Commissioners noted the most pressing problems facing the health department in Collier County.²⁷ It was pointed out that "only one

²⁶ Ibid at 46.

²⁷ As reported in the Miami Herald, Oct. 9, 1968.

farmer in 50 ever applies for permit, and many won't even seek the zoning which would allow them legally to have camps. The county for many years has fought the continuing battle to regulate labor camps and remove those not meeting state laws. The problem has been the camp owners who open up without attention to county rules. These may get through most of the season without being caught in the county's more than a million acres of land."

One of the specific objectives of the Collier County Board is to have every camp in the county permitted.²⁸ This resulted in 1967-68 in bringing approximately 80% into the permitted class. Nonetheless, it is true that in this county, as in others, the migrants are trying to get into private homes rather than stay in the camps. Housing ranges from excellent to very poor. This county's health department is continually urging the owners to repair or rebuild. They have served legal notices and have taken court action in many instances. One request that this department has made is for continuous legal advice on a retainer basis in order to aid enforcement.

The Collier County Migrant Health Project has likewise taken a healthy turn through its general program of advancing sanitary education with the migrants, the growers, and the farm labor representatives in the area. As their report stated:

We feel the improvements in the housing are basically due to a demand for better labor and is an endeavor to attract this better grade of labor, the competition for labor which is apparently in short supply, the increased length of stay of the migrant, the program with the farm labor representatives, *the availability of legal assistance to the migrants*, assistance from County Commissioners, and the judicial branch; increased publicly and meetings sponsored by Governor Kirk.²⁹

The report further emphasizes that while some improvements are noted as far as outside premises go, much more needs to be done. Garbage remains a problem, as does maintenance of community bath houses. Arrangements are *supposed to be made* to dispose of garbage by all camp operators. Many problems are known to exist in the workers' field environment, even though inspection and enforcement are severely limited by lack of staff personnel. A public water supply is under construction in Immokalee which will replace individual wells and assure potable water for a majority of the migrant housing. While new construction was at a low ebb during the past year because mortgage money was not available, the most modern camp was financed by FHA, as is the Immokalee Water System.

Another constructive suggestion made by the Collier County Migrant Health Department is that registration of all crew leaders must be affected. They in turn feel that such leaders, augmented by growers and members of regulatory agencies, should form an organization to solve the problems in fields and camps. MLS plans to cooperate as fully as possible in an attempt to achieve these noble objectives.

Dade County.—It was noted in this county's annual report that the total number of permitted labor camps continued to decrease.³⁰ In explaining this, health department officials stated:

There are several factors involved. A major one is the health department's continued pressure on operators to upgrade their facilities. This results in many of the workers being overcrowded in private housing.

Dade County, being more urban than the five other counties served by MLS, naturally has fewer labor camps than would be expected from its size. This, in turn, makes continual inspections by the County Health Department and the Public Health Service Regional Migrant Health representatives produce greater results.

A project to modernize two of the largest camps, the "Redlands" and "South Dade Labor Camp," both located in Homestead, has been approved by the County Commissioners. The Health Department is also considering possible legal action against some of the growers who "have not wholeheartedly initiated the use of chemical toilets for use by the crews in the field."³¹

²⁸ Reference should be made to Collier County Migrant Health Project, Sanitation in the Fla. Fifth Annual Report at pp. 61-65.

²⁹ *Ibid.* at 63. [Emphasis supplied.]

³⁰ The Dade County Migrant Health Project, Sanitation in Florida Fifth Annual Report at pp. 75-76.

³¹ *Ibid.* at 75.

The problems faced by this county in its efforts to upgrade and modernize camp facilities emphasize once again the necessity for close cooperation between all branches of the Government, as well as private organizations, in order to better meet the needs of the workers.

Hendry County.—The housing accommodations for migrants and their families vary greatly from new concrete block structures with modern and adequate plumbing facilities to small frame units served by privies. Improvements are expected to be forthcoming due both to new county zoning regulations and the recent addition of a full-time project sanitarian to the staff of the Migrant Health Program in Hendry County.³²

The options open to the families of seasonal agricultural workers regarding housing in the LaBelle area were described in the following excerpt from the Hendry County report:

The LaBelle area has had an increase in the concentration of White, Mexican, and Negro migrants. Some rent whatever housing is available, others have purchased low-cost land and live in trailers while some have bought permanent homes. Six Negro families are building homes with Self-help Housing. However, poor housing is still prevalent. . . .³³

The Hendry County Project Director, Dr. J. D. Workman, has demonstrated a keen insight into the realities of the housing situation, by stating:

Obtaining corrections of structural violations is most difficult. Failure to comply initially is seldom intentional. In some cases it results from misunderstanding on the part of the grower. In some cases the grower is operating on leased land and hesitates to spend large sums of money to improve the property over which he may soon lose control. . . . Recreation facilities in most camps are non-existent except for those provided by migrants. General cleanliness varies much from camp to camp and depends greatly upon the interest and participation of the grower.³⁴

Once again, the importance of cooperation between the growers, camp operators, health inspectors and migrants is highlighted. MLS' position is that only by emphasizing the benefits to be derived by all parties, resulting from the rigid enforcement of state and federal regulations will better housing for the migrant worker be realized.

Lee County.—Although only 5% of the migrant workers and their families live in labor camps in Lee County, the migrant Health Project has undertaken an ambitious program not only to keep a close check on the camps to see that they are being improved physically, but also to insure that they are kept up during occupancy.³⁵ In the larger counties, this latter task is virtually impossible to perform.

Again, the Lee County Report points out that only through concerted efforts of the community and all organizations favoring improvements in camps and migrant housing will better housing be obtained.

Housing accommodations in the labor camps consist of concrete block construction in one camp, house trailers are used by two camps and the others are of frame construction. As the report concludes, "The housing is generally poor to fair, but is becoming fair to good."

Palm Beach County.—The impact of the special migrant Health Project in Florida, now beginning its sixth year, is dramatically illustrated by the following tabulations from Palm Beach County. One hundred four (104) labor camps, or 79% now meet the State Sanitation and Housing Standards, as compared to 74% during 1966-67 and only 32% four years ago.³⁶

Among the other accomplishments of the Sanitation Division of the Migrant Health Project in this county were an inspection program set up to improve living conditions in 415 rooming houses where over 8,000 migrant workers and

³² See Hendry & Glades County Migrant Health Project—Annual Progress Report, Sanitation contained in Fifth Annual Report of Florida Migrant Health Project, pp. 83-89.

³³ *Ibid.* at 82.

³⁴ *Ibid.* at 84.

³⁵ See Lee County Migrant Health Project, Sanitation, Fifth Annual Report of the Florida State Board of Health, pp. 109-111.

³⁶ See Palm Beach County Migrant Health Project, Fifth Annual Report of the Florida State Board of Health, p. 171-181.

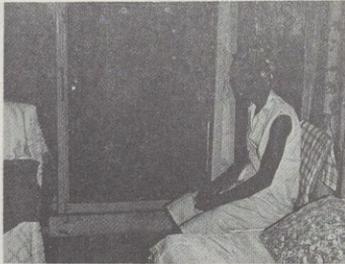
their families live; attempting to have growers, farm managers and crew leaders provide sanitary facilities in field locations; encouraging growers and camp operators to improve the environment in camps by providing recreation facilities and making the premises more attractive, and the institution of legal actions against camps not meeting the minimum standards.

Again, this county points out that increasing numbers of migrant families are seeking housing in urban areas in preference to labor camps. The report describes the housing accommodations for migrants as follows:³⁷

Nearly all of the labor camps built for migrants in the last ten years are of block construction which now represents 50 per cent of the total camp housing. Forty-two per cent of the remaining housing is of frame construction, seven per cent is metal, and one per cent of the camp occupants live in house trailers.

There are thus several levels upon which to discuss the housing problems of the seasonal agricultural worker in southern Florida—from types of construction most desirable in labor camps and public housing to obtaining the most appropriate means of federal assistance for rehabilitating existing units or bringing in new housing. The one pervading aspect that makes any attempt at better housing feasible is organization and cooperation.

Organization must begin with the migrant workers and crew leaders, who then must cooperate with the growers, county health departments and Farm Labor Placement Service to make these groups aware of valid complaints. With the assistance of MLS, the workers can draw up a plan of action which can then only be realized with monetary assistance from the federal government. Only then will solutions to the immense housing problems facing the migrant workers be imminent.



Born of Woman

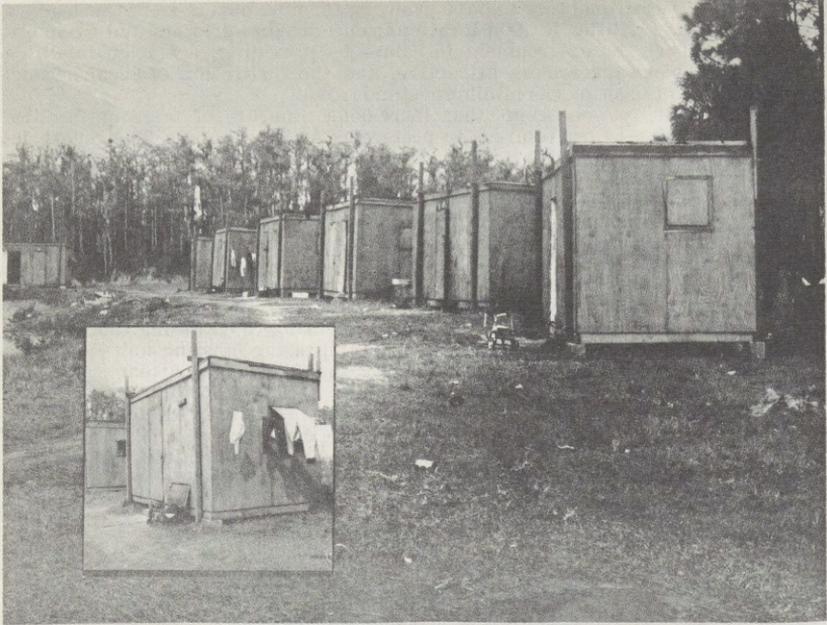


The Child is Father to



The Man

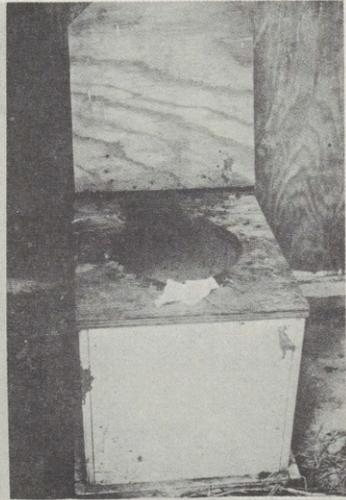
³⁷ Ibid. at 173.



Although they Look like Outhouses,
these Shacks are Home to Migrant
Workers and Their Families.



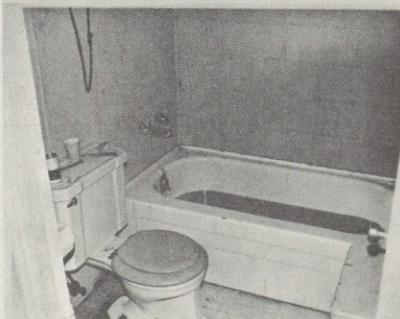
Trying to keep a house clean is futile
when the front yard is a lake.



This excretā covered privy is the
product of overuse and inadequate
maintenance.



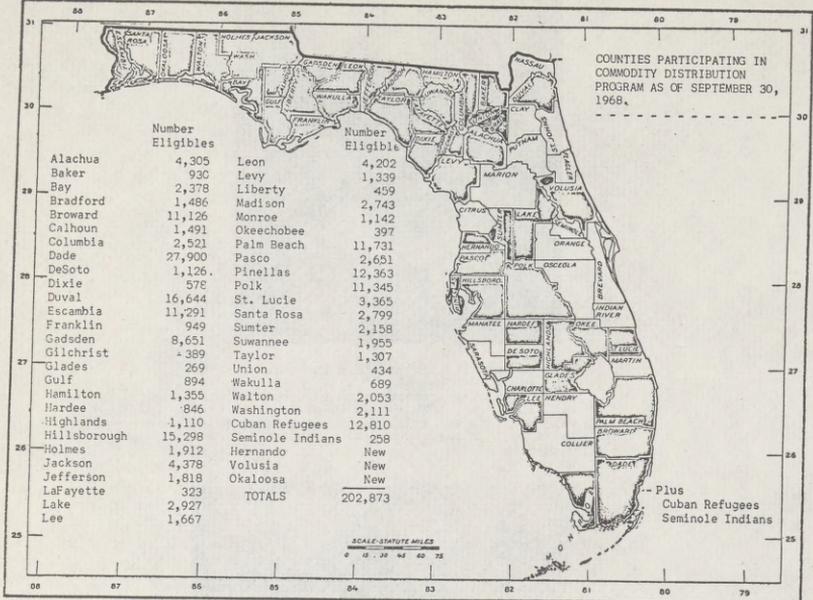
Many workers live in shacks without indoor plumbing like those shown on the preceding page. For others the problem is substandard facilities. The toilet above and the bathtub below are filled with waste water because an improperly constructed septic tank backed up.



While parents work, children sit unsupervised in the field or wander about amid the refuse of their impoverished environment as in these photos.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Consumer Food Programs
Southeast District

FLORIDA



[From the New York Times, Feb. 17, 1969]

HUNGER IN AMERICA: POVERTY LEAVES MIGRANTS PREY TO DISEASE

(By Homer Bigart)

IMMOKALEE, FLA.—Ten miles southwest of here, strung out like garbage along the edge of a cypress swamp, is Smith's Camp, a gathering place for some of the migrant farm workers who flock here in winter to pick the vegetable crops.

It consists of a dozen or more windowless plywood shacks, all without toilets or running water, all painted a dull green and all facing a dark slough choked with bottles and trash.

Some distance away there are three smaller shacks, two of them privies, the third a cold-water shower. None shows signs of recent use. Few migrants are hardy enough to take cold showers out of doors in the dead of winter, even in Florida, and the latrines are unspeakably "filthy, seats and floors smeared with dried defecation. So the people use the woods.

A spigot planted in the ground provides water for the shacks. But the 20 or 30 migrants who live here say the water is foul smelling and foul tasting. The only apparent amenity is the naked electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling of each shack.

Such a place is Smith's Camp, its condition of poverty far removed from the showy affluence of nearby Gulf Coast resorts and its people, during frequent periods of unemployment, vulnerable targets for hunger and disease. A Senate committee investigating hunger will be in the area March 10.

GATHERED IN CANTEEN

On a recent Saturday, a visitor found most of the camp's adult population assembled in the canteen. The migrants had just been paid, apparently, and several men and women were finding release from the surrounding squalor by getting themselves soddely drunk.

One woman, still sober enough to talk, said that in good times she made as much as \$60 for six days work in the fields, picking beans and peppers, but now work was slack because cold weather had retarded the crops.

"We've got to pay \$10 a week for these huts," she said. "Last week the water was so high we had to wade to the door. I never would've left Carolina, but they told us the rent was free."

Someone had skinned a possum in front of one of the shacks, then left the meat for the flies. The cadaver of another skinned animal floated in the slough.

A man who introduced himself as "Hobo Bob" reeled out of the canteen and proudly produced an old photo that showed him with a wine bottle in one hand and a pistol in the other, a cigarette dangling from his lips creased in a grin. He said he was sending the photo to a cousin in South Carolina, to show the relative what a happy life migrants could lead.

"That's Hobo Bob," he laughed, patting the photo.

Retrieving a cardboard box from his shack, Hobo Bob offered visitors some cold grits mixed with beans and fatback.

Smith's Camp is one of 60 or 70 accommodations for migrants around Immokalee.

Other camps seem less appalling in physical appearance but hold a greater potential for human degradation and misery because they swarm with children.

UNEMPLOYMENT HEAVY

Albert Lee, an energetic young Negro who heads the local antipoverty project, the Community Civic Workers, said it was a bad season for migrants, with heavy unemployment.

Immokalee, a town of 3,000 near the northern edge of the Everglades, normally has a mid-winter population of 12,000 migrants, he said, but now there were only about 10,000. Many who normally wintered in Immokalee had gone to Texas instead.

Immokalee is in Collier County. Many well-to-do retired people live in Naples, the county's biggest community, and this element, plus the big farm owners, have insured a highly conservative county government.

The county has a long history of snubbing Federal aid, even during the Depression era, and in recent years the county commissioners have stoutly rejected the food distribution programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Today Collier County offers neither direct food distribution nor the food stamp program. Migrants who run out of money here are out of luck.

How do they keep alive Mr. Lee was asked.

He said he had received on Christmas Eve \$500 from the Office of Economic Opportunity. The instructions were that the money could be distributed only for emergency food.

"PINCHING AND PINCHING"

"Now I've got a few dollars left," he said, "but I've been pinching and pinching and pinching."

He explained how he made the money last. He was doling out \$1 a day per person to the most desperately hungry, then cutting them off after 14 days.

"That's it," he said. "After 14 days if they can't get handouts from the neighbors they don't eat."

Two young lawyers from the O.E.O.-financed South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, T. Michael Foster and William F. Dow 3d, said that their organization had been trying for years to get Federal food sent into Collier County.

Last summer Mr. Foster wrote to the then Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman, telling of hunger and malnutrition in the labor camps, reporting the refusal of Collier County to participate, like most Florida counties, in making food surpluses available to the poor, and pleading for intervention.

ATTITUDE OF COUNTY AIDES

Washington did nothing. Congress had authorized the O.E.O. to take over the distribution of food in the poorest counties, which, for one reason or another, were not participating. But Collier County was not poor enough to qualify; the median annual family income, thanks to the wealthy Gulf Coast resorts, was \$4,673 a year.

"I've seen hunger in Immokalee as bad as in Latin America," said Mr. Dow, a graduate of Yale and Columbia, "yet the Collier County commissioners always say the problem doesn't exist, that the county always looks after its own 'worthy poor'."

Observers noted that the rural admonition, "root hot, or die," seemed to express the commission's attitude toward migrants. They recalled that at a hearing last August Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock warned: "There are those sitting with their hands out waiting to be fed, and that's a situation we won't go for."

Other officials expressed the fear that if migrants were given food they would not work. Others thought that free food would drive the corner grocery into bankruptcy.

Immokalee, which calls itself the "watermelon capital of America," is a flat, sprawling dusty town where people of different colors, black, brown, red and white, live in strict residential segregation. Smith's Camp, out in the swamp, is all black, but there are several other Negro camps inside the town.

These are in "The Quarters," an area that contains not only the Negroes but "Utopian" of concrete-block huts occupied by Mexican-Americans. Outside "The Quarters," scattered around the rest of the town, are camps for white migrants. A few score Seminole Indians live in grass huts on the eastern edge of the community.

RENT OF \$10 TO \$20 A WEEK

Most of the camps are clusters of wooden shanties, concrete huts, trailers. Rents range from \$10 to \$20 a week, plus utilities. Flush toilets are a rarity, most camps providing a communal latrine. Regardless of the color of the occupants, the camps appear universally mean and squalid.

Mrs. Angela Spencer, 38, and two small pallid children occupied a trailer in one of the white camps.

"I was lucky enough to get three days work this week," she said.

She said she had been averaging two and one-half days of work a week, earning \$25, out of which she had to pay a baby sitter \$3. The rent was \$15. That left \$7 for food and all other expenses. She owed \$19 in back rent, she said, and \$100 in doctor's bills.

There was a platter of green beans and hominy on the stove. Clouds of flies wheeled about. The refrigerator was empty except for three sticks of margarin, a partly empty bottle of milk and a box of powdered milk.

She had been helped from Albert Lee's meager allotment of cash, as had Mrs. Caroline Conner, an attractive blonde who lived in another white camp and was 10 days out of the hospital after delivering a baby girl. Her husband had abandoned her.

"We were real desperate," Mrs. Conner said of herself and the baby. "If it weren't for my friends, I wouldn't have been able to make it."

LIKES MICHIGAN BEST

Mrs. Conner said she had been migrating from Florida to the Great Lakes and back for the last four years, following the spring strawberry crop to northern Florida, then Arkansas, Illinois and Michigan; picking Michigan's blueberries, peaches and grapes during late summer and early fall, then going back to Immokalee for winter tomatoes, peppers and "cukes," or cucumbers.

She liked Michigan best, she said, because migrants got free quarters there. In Immokalee her rent was \$20 a week, and she had just about run out of the money she had received from Albert Lee.

"Whether she feels well or not, she's gotta go to work," Mr. Lee said.

"I got to do something," Mrs. Conner agreed.

Down in The Quarters, an elderly black named James Kelley and his yellow dog, Lady, found a way to beat the rent. A tolerant crew leader had let them take over an old abandoned bus.

Mr. Kelley, a diabetic whose fingers were gnarled and disfigured, was wearing two pairs of pants against the cold. An unvented oil heater had been installed near the front of the bus, and he had to keep a window open to avoid suffocation from the fumes.

He and Lady slept on piles of rags near the rear, where there was a little cookstove. The only food visible was a part of fatback and some pieces of fish heavily salted for preservation. Mr. Kelley said he had not worked in eight months but he seemed happy. He had just received \$7 from Mr. Lee.

10 CHILDREN IN HUT

In a black camp near Mr. Kelley's bus, Mrs. Pauline Milton and 10 children were crammed into a two-bedroom-and-kitchen hut.

"Me and two of the little ones sleep in this bed," said Mrs. Milton, "and there are two beds in the other room and one in the kitchen for the rest."

She had worked two days that week earning \$11.05 each day, and paying \$2 a day for baby sitters.

"I couldn't afford to give them breakfast," she said, surveying the hungry brood, "but we had boiled beans, rice and potatoes for lunch, and I'll give them the same for supper."

Mrs. Milton is one of a comparatively few migrants eligible for county welfare, for she has lived in Immokalee for seven years. She said she had applied, but had been told that her application would take 30 to 45 days to process.

Of all the ethnic groups, the Mexican-Americans probably suffered most during times of hunger, Mr. Dow said as he drove past "Utopian Homes." Some of the Mexicans had tried to alleviate the bleakness by planting flowers around the huts.

"Mexicans are proud," Mr. Dow explained, "and feel they are violating cultural mores if they ask for help."

Mr. Foster said that the Florida State Board of Health had denied the existence of widespread malnutrition in Collier County.

PARASITIC INFECTION CITED

"People are hungry, no one can quibble about that," he insisted. "And there is a tremendously high incidence of parasitic infection."

Last March the state health board issued a report saying that a team of doctors had "closely observed" some migrant children at play or in schools and clinics and that "none had gross signs of malnutrition."

The report said that pellagra, a severe dietary deficiency disease, had been noted but only in "known chronic alcoholics."

In riposte, friends of the migrants released next day the results of clinical examinations of 23 migrant farm children of Immokalee by the Variety Children's Hospital of Miami.

The sampling uncovered 38 clinical diseases in the 23 children, ranging from pneumonia to worms.

The hospital's executive director, Gerald W. Frawley, described the findings as "rather incredible . . . a most extraordinary morbidity rate" and concluded: "The migrant population must be about the most underprivileged in the nation, at least in terms of medical attention."

In a few weeks Collier County will feel the spotlight of national publicity. The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs is making this county its first stop on a tour of suspected hunger areas.

The committee is seeking information on the failure of the Federal food programs to reach millions of poor Americans.

ANOTHER SEASON OF HARDSHIP FOR THE MIGRANT WORKERS?

[Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, July 4, 1968]

NAPLES.—An attorney for the South Florida Migrant Legal Services has written Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set up a commodity foods distribution program in Collier County.

Attorney T. Michael Foster of the Fort Myers-based legal aid group asks action "before another season of hardship begins for the migrant workers who pick the vegetables that grace the bountiful tables of this nation."

Foster addressed the three-page letter to a number of authorities besides Freeman. E. Lee McCubbin, director of the Commodity Division of the Florida State Department of Welfare, the USDA's agency in Florida, was one. Walter Reuther, chairman of the Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., U.S. Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., of New Jersey, and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts are on the list.

So are the Collier County Commission members.

"The Collier County Commission has failed to act upon repeated requests for a commodity food distribution program." Foster said to Freeman. "I urge your department to take the initiative in this matter and make commodity foods available to needy persons in Collier County."

Foster cites the insecurity of farm work and includes newspaper articles from a number of newspapers during the past year on malnutrition problems occurring in the Immokalee area.

"The Florida State Board of Health," he writes, "while it denies that malnutrition exists in the Immokalee area, has acknowledged a need for a commodity foods distribution program in Collier County."

The USDA has been acting to institute commodity distribution programs in counties of high employment and low per capita income. Collier County has not been included in the lists. But where the USDA has acted, it comes in without local assistance if the local government refuses to assist. The county then is faced with a situation of pay its share or lose all federal funds eligibility, yet has no say in the program operations.

Excerpts from Foster's letter include:

"Farm work is never a full time job. At most it is seasonal, and even during the peak of the season changes in the weather can adversely affect working conditions.

"Farm workers seldom have the security of knowing where their next dollar will come from. Many agricultural workers and their families live in circumstances that are appalling.

"Estimates of the number of farm workers and their dependents in Collier County at the height of the season vary from 12,000 to 19,000. Many of these families live there seven or eight months of each year. The Collier County Welfare Department has a total budget of over \$121,000, of which only \$4,000 is allocated to the job of feeding indigent people. No other public agency assists in the task of feeding the county's poor."

Citizens of Immokalee have formed the Immokalee Migrant Committee to help but the voluntary contributions amount to a budget "hopelessly inadequate for the task," Foster said.

Even during good times there are families who have no income because the breadwinner is ill, injured or incapacitated, Foster wrote.

"On March 19, 1968, a county welfare official with experience among the migrant population told the commissioners that about 250 families in the Immokalee area were suffering from severe hunger because of adverse farm conditions and a lack of government assistance," he wrote. "These reports are not isolated instances."

HEALTH

INCLUDING HUNGER, MALNUTRITION, FOOD PROGRAMS, ACCIDENTS, AND MIGRANT HEALTH CARE AND FACILITIES

Despite a recent Congressional report concluding that there is no hunger in America¹ and contrary to a hastily prepared Florida State Board of Health report finding no evidence of severe malnutrition or serious disease incidence among the migrant population of Collier County,² the facts are abundantly clear that the migrant population served by MLS suffers from abuse and/or neglect in the area of adequate and nutritious food, consequent disease and health problems, and lack of or inadequate health care and facilities.

Since many health problems have their beginnings in poor or inadequate diets, a logical starting point in this inquiry is an examination of the extent of the problem in the target South Florida setting together with the existing facilities and programs available to help in solving these problems.

The Citizens Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States visited the Lee and Collier County areas in December 1967 and reported in *Hunger U.S.A.*:³

¹ House Agriculture Committee (Rep. W. R. Poage—Texas)—opinion replies from county health officers in 181 U.S. counties.

² Florida State Board of Health, Trip Report, "Evaluation of Health Situation in Immokalee, with particular reference to the children of migrants," February 1, 1968. (24 pps.)

³ *Hunger U.S.A.* A report by the Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States. (New Community Press, Washington, D.C., 1968).

"Constant, chronic, unremitting hunger (p. 18)";

"High incidence of anemia, growth retardation, protein deficiencies and other signs of malnutrition (p. 18)" noting that "protein deficiency in early childhood may cause brain damage (p. 21)";

"High incidence of parasitic disease associated with malnutrition (p. 23)";

"The cost of this chronic hunger and under-nutrition takes many forms: educational, psychological and social (p. 31)";

"The ultimate costs are to be found in patterns of social unrest, distrust, alienation, withdrawal and frustration (p. 31)."

A study of Graciela Delgado and public health service officials in 1961 reported the occurrence of Kwashiorkor and Marasmus (the most severe protein deficiency diseases) among infants of Negro migrant agricultural workers in Palm Beach County, Florida.⁴

This report further found that among Negro agricultural workers in Palm Beach County:

"34% ate no citrus fruits and 82% ate less than one-half the minimum daily requirement;"

"97% of the families fell below half the recommended allowances for milk and milk products;"

"84% of persons examined had dental caries and 35% had lost permanent teeth;"

"63% of families ate no green or yellow vegetables and the rest ate less than half the minimum allowances suggested by U.S.D.A." ⁵

Members of the Board of Inquiry have attested to seeing cases of scurvy, rickets, nutritional edema and marasmus on their trips to migrant camps in Florida.⁶

In the wake of these findings, as well as from personal observation and information gathered from clients, MLS attorneys have made repeated demands of Federal, state and local authorities to focus programs and funds toward meeting the dire needs of the migrants in this area.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

It is noteworthy that Florida is one of seven states that has no Food Stamp program in operation. Although the 1965 Florida legislature authorized a Food Stamp program in accordance with the Food Stamp Act of 1964,⁷ no appropriations have been made to effectuate this legislation in Florida. Thus, the State Welfare Department has designated any such program as "county option" with the counties to "bear the full cost of the non-federal share which will include an additional staff at the State or local level, etc."⁸ It is hoped that the State Welfare Department will submit a request for adequate funding of food stamp programs to the next meeting of the Florida legislature.

SURPLUS COMMODITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Florida does, however, participate in distribution of commodity foods received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture—again, on a "county-option" basis.⁹ Since the initiation of this program, 51 (out of 67) counties in Florida have cooperated on a voluntary basis.¹⁰ Notably absent from this list are Collier and Hendry counties, both having large migrant worker populations served by the MLS program.

Early in 1968, Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman announced that food distribution programs would be operated by the federal government in 1,000 of the lowest per capita income counties in the U.S., if those counties did not cooperate on a voluntary basis. Initially, 15 Florida counties were included in this listing, and subsequently three additional counties were named. Unfortunately,

⁴ "Eating Patterns Among Migrant Families," U.S. Dept. of H.E.W., Public Health Reports, vol. 76, no. 4, April 1961.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Hunger U.S.A.*, op cit, p. 25.

⁷ P.L. 88-524 (Aug. 31, 1964).

⁸ Report, Surplus Commodity Distribution and Food Stamp Information, to Florida State Welfare Director, Aug. 1, 1968, p. 5.

⁹ The main drawback to a "county-option" system is that those counties which traditionally have been least responsive to the needs of the poor and hungry are given veto power to prevent the program from reaching its intended beneficiaries.

¹⁰ U.S.D.A. Consumer Food Programs, Southeast District. See attached chart.

even this expansion effort did not reach Hendry or Collier counties, because of the great imbalance between high and low income residents which boosts the average percapita income out of the depressed rating.

MLS attorneys have brought considerable pressure to bear on the Collier County Commissioners to initiate a food commodity distribution program in that county, but to date no such program has been realized. Now that Secretary Freeman, as well as influential U.S. Senators, have been informed by MLS of the serious need for such a program in Collier County, the arguments previously offered in opposition may dissolve and a necessary first step toward meeting the basic needs of the migrant and poor population of Collier County may hopefully become a reality.¹¹

The Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law (Columbia University) has recently filed lawsuits in 26 states challenging the constitutionality of counties opting against participation in U.S. food programs. The suit filed in Florida, aimed at those counties which have no commodity distribution programs, including Collier and Hendry, seeks to enjoin USDA from further participation so long as discrimination exists in these counties. In addition, MLS has filed suit, in conjunction with Edgar Cahn, Esq. in Washington, D.C., directly against the Secretary of Agriculture in an attempt to force Hendry County to distribute commodity foods.¹²

No one presumes that a commodity distribution or food stamp program can even begin to solve the myriad of food and health problems confronting the rural poor,¹³ but to date these programs remain the only means through public funding whereby a man with little or no income can keep his family from starving to death when no work is available.

Dietary deficiencies represent only a partial factor contributing to the total health problems of the agricultural worker—albeit the cause for major concern, especially when considering the consequences of mal- and under-nutrition. The damage that poor and inadequate food can have on infants and children was graphically demonstrated when 23 migrant children were selected at random from the Collier County area for tests conducted at the Variety Children's Hospital in Miami.

The results of the examinations performed are indeed appalling and revealing.¹⁴ They are appalling in that the report concluded:

"This represents a high incidence of respiratory infections (including pneumonia) and also of dietary deficiency (iron deficiency anemia). It is noteworthy also that 23 children suffered 38 clinical diseases which represents a very high morbidity for such a group."

They are revealing in that unfortunately the results are typical of the serious conditions facing the families of farm laborers.

As attested to by MLS attorneys, who served as intermediaries for testing and treatment of the children at Variety Children's Hospital, similar physical manifestations are apparent even to the untrained layman when walking into any labor camp or housing project. The causes stem, not only from the inadequate food supply, but from deplorable housing where unsanitary conditions, non-potable water, over crowded dwelling space and faulty, unrepaired construction allow free space only to pests and vermin.

The needs are so acute and so plainly visible that corrective and preventive

¹¹ See attached newspaper clippings.

¹² *Lewis v. Freeman*, Civ. No. 2749-68 D.C. D.C.

¹³ There are, in fact, many problems involved in the commodity distribution program in those counties where it is in effect. For example, the program does not supply enough food to last an entire month. Only "surplus foods" are available, and the commercial market determines the surplus with no guidelines for providing a well-balanced diet. The distribution depots are poorly located, often near the county airport, far removed from the homes of recipients, making a 23-lb. box of foods a difficult transportation problem.

¹⁴ In twenty-three children and infants examined at Variety Children's Hospital, the following conditions were found:

1 Case with probable tuberculosis (by x-ray).

11 Cases with iron deficiency anemia.

3 Cases of diarrhea.

14 Cases of upper respiratory infection.

3 Cases of impetigo.

2 Cases of pneumonia.

1 Case of otitis.

1 Case of ascariasis.

1 Case of hydrocephaly.

1 Case of sickle cell trait.

measures must be immediate as well as remedial. As pointed out in the 1967 Migrant Health Program Report.¹⁵:

"Even a casual observer in migrant camps could see workers too sick or disabled to do a full day's work, and children who risked lifelong handicaps because preventive and remedial care was not readily available. Health services were needed—not studies."

MIGRANT HEALTH PROGRAMS

In an attempt to meet the dire health needs of migrant families, Congress enacted the Migrant Health Act in 1962.¹⁶

Hearings were held on legislation to renew the original authorization last winter, five years after the initial Act was passed. Some inroads have been made and some people have benefitted from these early attempts to meet such vast problems, but as was highlighted during committee reports in Washington:

"Service coverage remains weak in many of the areas where projects are now receiving grant assistance. Three-fifths of the counties identified as migrant homebase or work areas are still untouched."¹⁷

Seventeen out of Florida's 67 counties participate in the migrant health program operated by the Florida State Board of Health.¹⁸ In addition, Palm Beach and Dade Counties operate individually funded projects for migrants and their families. Each of the six south Florida counties served by MLS will be briefly examined as regards the availability and adequacy of the health projects serving the migrant population in those counties.¹⁹

Broward County

The annual progress report of the Migrant Health Project for Broward County²⁰ highlights the difficulties encountered by a program of limited scope and funding in attempting to solve the unlimited health needs of the migrant poor. Broward County operates a migrant clinic located in the Pompano Farm Labor Camp two nights and one day per week. In addition to these services, referrals are made to specialty clinics at Broward General Hospital, but no funds have been made available for in-patient care for migrant farm workers. This results in a great reluctance on the part of the hospitals to admit service patients unless their condition is extremely serious.²¹ With an emphasis on health education, the migrant health staff makes home visits, as well as visits to the farms and day care centers housing migrant children. The county concludes that if the scope of services is ever to broaden, an increase in professional and auxiliary help is essential.²² Among their plans for the future are visits to other project areas, familiarizing growers with the health services and attempting to enlist their aid, and attempting to engage crew leaders in furnishing transportation and information regarding health problems among the crews.

It is obvious that with a staff consisting of three nurses at the clinic, and only part-time help from three doctors and two dentists, the health needs of the migrant population of Broward County cannot be met. It is questionable whether the migrants are even aware of the medical services available in view of the transportation problems, the language barrier, and complex nature of the educational materials distributed.

¹⁵ "Migrant Health Program, current Operations and Additional Needs." prepared for the Subcommittee on Migratory Labor of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, 90th Cong., 1st Sess., 1967, p. v.

¹⁶ P.L. 87-692, Sept. 25, 1962, which appropriates funds to enable the Surgeon General: "(1) to make grants to public and other nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations for paying part of the cost of (i) establishing and operating family health service clinics for domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families, including training persons to provide services in the establishing and operating of such clinics, and (ii) special projects to improve health services for and the health conditions of domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families . . . and (2) to encourage and cooperate in programs for the purpose of improving health services for or otherwise improving the health conditions of domestic agricultural migratory workers and their families."

¹⁷ "Migrant Health Program," *Supra* note 13.

¹⁸ These are the counties having high concentration of farm migrants. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Migratory Labor of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate, 90th Cong., 1st Sess. (Dec. 7, 1967).

¹⁹ For a complete report, see "Florida Migrant Health Project Fifth Annual Progress Report 1967-68," Fla. State Board of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service.

²⁰ Included in Florida Migrant Health Project, Fifth Annual Progress Report, pp. 2-40.

²¹ *Ibid.* at 32.

²² *Ibid.* at 34.

Collier County

The Collier County Health Department operates three clinics for migrant workers and their families. The clinics are located in Naples, Immokalee and Everglades. It should be kept in mind that Collier County covers an area of 2,032 square miles with a migrant population of 19,000.

The largest concentration of migrants in the county reside in and around the Immokalee area, yet the clinic is open only one evening per week. No doctor is available for regular office hours²³ and patients are referred to doctors through the County Medical Association. There has been no formal health education program in the project, and like Broward County, there is no provision for payment to the attending physician for in-patient hospital care.²⁴

The services provided to migrants in Collier County include the control of communicable disease, venereal disease, and tuberculosis, as well as maternal and child health services, school health, mental health, and acute and chronic diseases.²⁵ Transportation problems and language barriers still remain unresolved, and Collier County feels it will only be able to overcome these weaknesses by additional personnel, facilities, and funds.²⁶

MLS attorneys have met several times with the migrant health personnel of Collier County in an effort to cooperate in attaining the goals of the Migrant Health Project. Specifically, MLS feels that funds should be sought for a mobile clinic that could bring health services to more of the migrants by traveling from camp to camp. At the present time a very small percentage of the migrant population is being reached by the Migrant Health Project.

Dade County

Family Health Service field clinics are operated in four locations in Dade County. Two of these are in large migrant camps and the other two are in areas near large concentrations of migrant housing. The South Dade Farm Labor Camp Clinic is open two nights each week because of heavy attendance; the other locations have one night clinic weekly. In addition, a migrant dental clinic is held two nights each week. The migrant population of Dade County also benefits from various other service projects that supplement the health services that can be provided by the Migrant Health Project.²⁷

MLS was cited as a *valuable resource to us this year* in the Dade County annual report.²⁸

"They [MLS] have been of assistance in helping patients get emergency welfare funds, in answering migrant legal questions, and were most valuable in the case of a hydrocephalic infant who needed to be institutionalized. Without their help, this Spanish-speaking family might have found great difficulty in managing the mechanics of a court commitment proceeding."

Hendry County

Glades, Hendry and Highlands operate as a tri-county Migrant Health Project, with six clinic installations in this area.²⁹ The Health department staff consists of two physicians, four nurses, five clerks, and three sanitarians.³⁰ Major emphasis has been placed on family planning and tuberculosis case finding, since the tuberculosis rate per capita is far above the national average.³¹ Despite the enthusiastic records of this health department, the impact of their health services is necessarily limited by inadequate project funding and no provision of funds to pay contract physicians for hospital care of referred patients.³²

Lee County

Suffering as do the other counties from inadequate staff and funding, the Lee County Health Department has made a valiant effort toward health education

²³ There is only one practicing physician in Immokalee with limited laboratory facilities. *Ibid.* at 59.

²⁴ *Ibid.* at 48, 49.

²⁵ *Ibid.* at 55.

²⁶ *Ibid.* at 51.

²⁷ *Ibid.* at 72. Projects specifically mentioned were the Head Start Program, the Maternity and Infant Care Project, the Women's Auxillary of the Dade County Medical Association, the American Red Cross, and the nutritionist staff of the Dade County Health Department.

²⁸ *Ibid.* at 72.

²⁹ Clewiston, Labelle, Moore Haven, the S & M Labor Camp, 6 L's Labor Camp, and Shawnee Farms Labor Camp.

³⁰ Fifth Annual Progress Report at p. 78.

³¹ *Ibid.* at 82.

³² *Ibid.* at 81.

of the migrants. They seem to have been most successful in enlisting the services of volunteer agencies and workers. While this does not solve the desperate need for more money for hospitalization and some financial reimbursement for doctors serving in-patients, it does relieve the health department staff of some of the more menial project duties. Funds are still needed for low-cost maternity care, corrective and elective surgery, and extended medical and dental services. Much remains to be accomplished in the way of identifying and reaching the migrant population of Lee County.

Palm Beach County

This county operates a separately funded migrant project, offering a variety of services to the seasonal farm worker. In the eastern "rangeline" area, only one rural migrant clinic is operated, located at Boynton Beach. In the western "Glades" area the health department clinics in Belle Glade and Pahokee function daily as part-time migrant medical clinics in conjunction with doctors offices on an appointment basis.³³ No effort has been made to establish a separate medical facility exclusively for migrants in this area.³⁴ In addition, no provision has been made in the migrant project budget for in-hospital physician payment, and as in other counties, it is difficult to admit patients for anything other than emergency care.

"Because of the overwhelming number of persons requiring hospital care, and an inadequate budget to meet these needs, discrimination of cases toward the end of 'the season' by setting priority was necessary."³⁵

This county summarizes that in order to meet the hospital needs of the migrants, a more adequate budget must be provided and some method devised for posthospital care and above and beyond the organizational services that now exist. Funds should also be budgeted to reimburse physicians on a reasonable cost basis. If Florida participated in Title XIX (Medicaid) an additional source of funds would be available to absorb some of these costs.³⁶

OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Because of the necessarily limited scope of the migrant health projects, great reliance must be placed in private doctors through the referral system and private or community-run hospitals and clinics. There exists an acute shortage of doctors and medical facilities in counties except Dade served by MLS, as is true in most rural communities. Many of the doctors and dentists are booked up for months in advance, and some don't even accept new patients. The emergency room at clinics and hospitals are left to bear the brunt of persons requiring medical attention.

For migrant workers, and the rural poor in general, the delay, seeming concern, and outright discrimination almost negate any eventual treatment they may receive.

Some county health and welfare departments operate on a referral basis, sending migrants in need of medical attention to specified physicians who accept a minimum fee from the department for their services. Other counties operate on a "free-choice" system, leaving it up to the client to choose a doctor, arrange an appointment and follow through with keeping it. Neither system is satisfactory.

From the beginning, a patient is shunted about from agency to office, from the county health department to the State Welfare Department to the county welfare department. Then once an examination or treatment is "prescribed" by a health or welfare worker, the process begins again of going from one doctor to a clinic or to a hospital or to another doctor—often facing refusal of services by one or all. Even emergency cases are often refused admittance or treatment because they cannot demonstrate an ability to pay or meet the deposit requirements in existence at many hospitals.³⁷

³³ *Ibid.* at 150.

³⁴ *Ibid.* at 152.

³⁵ *Ibid.* at 156.

³⁶ Florida has failed to appropriate any funds under the Medicaid program (Title XIX of the Social Security Act) which provides for payment of a variety of medical and dental costs of all recipients of public assistance. If the Florida Legislature does not enact the program during the 1969 session, the state will lose federal assistance for medical care which this year amounts to \$22 million. Fort Myers News-Press, Dec. 9, 1968, p. 1-A.

³⁷ Most expectant mothers are delivered by midwives in their homes rather than by doctors in well-equipped hospitals. They only see the inside of the hospital if complications ensue. See Fifth Annual Progress Report, *supra* at 103.

Aside from emergency or accident situations, the migrant who is a member of a minority race, must face shameful discrimination from the private medical sector. A number of southern rural physicians, dentists and clinics still have segregated waiting rooms,³⁸ and some even have "segregated days" whereby a few hours on one specified day are set aside to see Negro patients. These affronts to the dignity of the patient neither instill a trust in the medical profession nor can such practices be condoned.

It is time for everyone in the community to realize that adequate health care must be made available to migrants and their families—both to promote the health and wellbeing of the poor and to protect the self interest of the medical profession and taxpayers.

THE MIGRANT CONSUMER INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS

"The riots in Harlem, Watts, and Philadelphia resulted in part from the exploitation of poor consumers; the arson and looting was directed almost exclusively at those businesses associated with sharp selling practices, excessive prices, exorbitant credit charges or poor quality merchandise and service."¹

In recent years, considerable attention has been focused on the special problems of the consuming public. An awareness of the complexities, and often inequities, of the American market place have resulted in the President's appointment of a Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs in the Executive Branch of the government, a Special Inquiry on Consumer Representation in the Federal Government (a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations), and numerous groups of interested and irate consumers throughout the country.

At first, these studies centered almost exclusively on the buying habits of everyday middle class citizens, the purchasing power of the dollar, and pricing policies of large nationwide chain stores and lending institutions. One significant fact kept recurring throughout all of these studies: the poor pay more.² The low income consumer is being continually exploited by higher prices, usurious interest rates, and inferior quality merchandise.

The seasonal agricultural worker is subject to the same discriminations common to all low income persons, plus he faces some additional problems, uniquely attributable to his station and pattern of life. The typical migrant worker is at the extremes of all the indicia used to categorize those who are poor and deprived. Most often he is non-white, living in a southern rural area. Any one of the following criteria greatly increases the likelihood of poverty: being non-white, female, rural farm dwellers, the aged, southern, those with no work experience, the part-time employed, large families with numerous minor children, and those with little schooling.³ When a head of a family has not merely one but two or more of these characteristics, the probability of poverty may be overwhelming:⁴

	Percent below \$2,500 in 1960
Family head:	
Rural farm, nonwhite.....	78
Female, nonwhite.....	65
Aged, nonwhite.....	63
Aged, rural farm.....	55
Female, rural farm.....	55
Aged, female.....	37

With the average yearly earnings of the migratory farm worker falling far before the poverty level,⁵ it cannot be too emphatically stressed that the major

³⁸ MLS is currently prosecuting a suit on behalf of welfare clients and applicants who have encountered many abuses of the system, including segregated waiting rooms. *Johnson v. Dept. of Public Welfare of State of Florida*, Case No. 68-12-Vlc. Fort Myers, U.S. Dist. Ct. (M.D. Fla.). The suit has prompted HEW to conduct an investigation to determine whether federal funds are being used by the Florida State Welfare Department in violation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act or in contravention of the Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause.

¹"Consumer Legislation and the Poor," 76 Yale L.J. 745 (1967).

² See generally, Caplovitz, *The Poor Pay More* (1963) (Paperback ed. 1967).

³ "Poverty in the U.S.A.," Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 398 (March 1968), p. 14.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Migrants annual earnings for all of 1965 averaged only \$1,737. "The Migratory Farm Labor Problem in the United States," 1967 Report of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, p. 2.

factor contributing to consumer problems is simply not enough money. This factor, however crucial it may be, does not fully account for the complex purchase and debt pattern of the migrant workers. Much more research needs to be done in order to ascertain the make-up of the so-called "culture of poverty."

It would be naive to assume that people with little money can tailor their buying habits to correspond to their income. In an age of attractive advertising and mass media, the reality of a refrigerator and television set in every home, a new car in front of every house, and all the embellishments of the affluent society have become the desired items of the consuming public. It is as easy as signing your name to a contract, through the institution of installment buying and credit, at whatever cost. What matters is the amount of the monthly payment, and even the more sophisticated buyers are not interested in the overall cost including interest, insurance, and other add-ons that have become common practice.

The culture of poverty is best summed up in the following sentence: "since the poor have little prospect of greatly improving their low social standing through occupational mobility, they are apt to turn to consumption as at least one sphere in which they can make some progress toward the American dream of success."⁶ The migrant can compensate for his poor wages, bleak future, and inner frustrations by conspicuous consumption.

Conspicuous consumption is not so prevalent among the migrant as it is among his urban brothers. Both because of the really abject nature of the migrant families' poverty and through lack of access to stores in urban areas, the average farm worker does not buy more than their necessities, food and clothing for his family. It has been observed that most farm workers living in labor camp housing have no means of private transportation. At times the crew leader will have a private car, but hardly ever will crew members own such a luxury. For those workers living in private housing, a car is often a necessity both for work purposes (if used only to transport them to the nearest day haul pick up point) and for shopping (since there are seldom any stores to be found in the area of workers' housing).

This lack of access to urban areas where the big stores are to be found is a major obstacle preventing the farm worker from becoming a good bargain shopper. Groceries must be purchased at small rural stores, which traditionally have higher prices than their metropolitan area counterpart. Because of limitations in quantity and turnover of goods, smaller stores charge higher prices if only to break even. Add to this the fact that there is no competition within close proximity, and the stores cater to a captive audience. This is especially true at the large labor camps, where one grocer is often leased space to operate a store. MLS has observed that a dozen eggs cost the farm workers \$1 at the public housing camp store, whereas the same article cost 53 cents per dozen at a chain store in a nearby community.

A food price comparison survey conducted on twenty-two basic foodstuffs served to re-enforce the allegation that stores located where migrant workers shop consistently charge higher prices. Likewise, the selection of goods, their quality, and the service are not as good as these families could obtain were they able to shop in a downtown area. The conclusion is self evident:

"The poor are being exploited in their most essential human activity—the consumption of food."⁷

After four days of hearings on supermarket operations in low income areas, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee came to the conclusion that consumer problems of the poor in our society have not received the kind of attention that they deserve.⁸ At least five federal agencies have a responsibility to confront these types of consumer injustices: Federal Trade Commission, The Office of Economic Opportunity, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Welfare Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. As the Subcommittee concluded:

"Equal justice in the market place is hardly less important to the poor than equal justice before the law. Price discrimination is intolerable under any cir-

⁶ Caplovitz, "The Other Side of the Poverty Problem." Challenge Communications Inc. (N.Y. 1967).

⁷ "Consumer Problems of the Poor." Hearings before a Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Government Operations, Nov. 24-25, 1967, p. 113.

⁸ Ibid. Hon. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (Rep. N.Y.), Chairman.

circumstances particularly so because food expenditures account for about a third of the income of the urban poor."⁹

While these hearings focused on the plight of urban ghetto areas, the same tactics of price discrimination have been observed in the MLS setting. This means that the rural farm workers must pay a disproportionate share of his very meager income for food staples.

The same factors that cause higher grocery prices (small stores, rural areas, captive buyers, unsophisticated shoppers) create blatant inequities in the sales of other goods as well. The all-American installment purchase plan adds another cost element to the sales of furniture, automobiles, clothing, and like goods. The installment contract may be a very necessary evil when lack of cash or credit would otherwise prohibit the purchase of necessities, but somehow when used with the unwary, low income shopper, it turns into an underhand means to jack up the price of the goods.

The typical installment contract that has come to the attention of MLS is a pre-printed form prepared by the seller, with the only handwritten items being the amount of the monthly payments, and the number of months they shall be paid. Seldom is the total price given, for this would include the very steep interest rates charged, and other extras such as insurance, carrying charges, and a high daily rate for any time that payments are overdue. The printed form contains waiver of notice, confession of judgment, and gives the seller the right to repossess if any payment is missed, regardless of how many payments have been made up until that time. Certain furniture companies also employ an ingenious trap whereby each item purchased is added into the overall account, and the buyer is not deemed to have title to any item until all the others are completely paid for. This is not merely a matter of bookkeeping prowess, but has been held to be unconscionable in a Court of Law.¹⁰

A major problem in putting an end to such deceptive and unfair practices is that the uneducated, low income buyer is not aware that he has any legal rights in this regard. From the first when he is lured into making the purchase, he is not told the actual price or the consequences of not paying. As is so often the case in rural areas where there is no selection of stores nor of goods and merchandise, he has no choice but to sign the contract or to do without the goods. Thus, MLS has the task not only of bringing law suits when a complaint comes to their attention, but of educating the seasonal farm worker in his buying habits so that he too may play a part in averting such disasters in the future.

The installment plans described above are every day occurrences. More rare, but by no means exceptional, are outright cases of fraud and misrepresentation. The lucky salesman, bent on making a huge profit for his company, relies on the ignorance of the purchaser and the fact that until recently no lawyer would discover the practices or defend the buyer's rights in a Court of Law.

One instance MLS investigated, brought to the attention of a private attorney who brought suit, and started an investigation by the State Comptroller, involved a Post Office Savings Account fraud. The owner of a general store in a farming community at one time operated a post office on the premises and encouraged farm workers to start savings accounts. The post office was moved to a different location, but the unsuspecting farm workers continued entrusting their money to the store owner. When it was discovered that the owner had pocketed well over \$10 thousand dollars of savings, complaints were filed and cases were won.¹¹

Another case handled by MLS, now pending final resolution, demonstrates the extent to which slick promoters will go in exploiting minority groups. In this instance, a supposedly ambitious and laudable housing development for Negroes was announced with great public fanfare. The opportunity to own their own homes enticed many citizens of the community to select a model home from the lovely brochures, put up a down payment, and sign a supposed contract. After making several payments to the company, with no construction yet begun, some of the prospective home owners became suspicious and contacted MLS. Thorough investigation revealed that the housing promoters did not even own the land specified as the site where the homes were to be built. Further, there was apparently no intention on the part of the promoters to ever follow through with their part of the deal. When the number of persons deceived by this bogus corporation became known, the Assistant States Attorney swore out a Warrant in Grand Larceny for the arrest of the lead promoter.

⁹ *Ibid.* at p. 114.

¹⁰ *Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture Co.*, 121 U.S. App. D.C. 315, F. 2d 445 (1965).

Since that time, the promoter has pleaded guilty to the criminal charge, and MLS has been successful in restraining the company from continuing business. The Civil suit filed on behalf of all the persons who lost money in the hopes of buying their own home, is now awaiting final hearing and resolution so that they may recoup their losses.

This situation illustrates many of the problems involved in uncovering similar deceptive practices. An appeal specifically aimed at a low income minority group that they too must aspire to own their own nice home will gather a tremendous response. These people want to believe that their dreams can come true, and their desire for betterment can be fulfilled. Their great expectations blind them to all the cautions that the typical middle and upper class buyers would take. Blind faith guides them rather than an inquisitive, skeptical attitude. Even when a few courageous people are willing to admit that it may not have been such a good deal, others similarly situated are most reluctant to come forward and admit they were taken in. They are proud and their hopes will not be crushed that easily, even though they may have lost their entire savings in the process. There is no consolation in the fact that others too were deceived, but there is strength in numbers and the desire to recoup their loss will win out in the end. Hopefully, the publicity generated by this case will instill a more callous attitude on the part of prospective buyers, and defeat any similar schemes before reaching these proportions.

With legitimate businesses, the furniture stores and the used car dealers, violations of the law are sometimes so flagrant that once a person realizes he has been taken in and gets a lawyer, any attempt to get more money out of the unsuspecting buyer is immediately dropped. While the result is equitable for that individual buyer, the deceptive practices often continue. The seller is willing to exploit anyone who is inexperienced enough to sign a one-sided bargain. MLS is presently studying means of dealing with these problems. The lack of cohesive neighborhoods in many places and the migratory way of life make it difficult to use some of the community pressure methods that have had some success in urban areas. However, every effort will be made to find solutions to this difficult problem area.

WELFARE RIGHTS AND PROBLEMS AFFECTING SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

Americans have a curiously ambivalent attitude toward persons in need of relief. On the one hand, they spend billions annually to support programs of public assistance to help those who are less fortunate in their economic circumstances. At the same time, and this is especially true in general assistance, they seem reluctant to recognize that public aid is something to which persons in need are entitled.

The welfare system, being fraught with inherent weaknesses of its own, does not provide any panacea for the indigent migrant worker or his family. Migrant workers have been largely excluded from any benefits available because of the state's rigid residency requirements.¹ The current interpretation of these requirements effectively denies assistance from any state wherein the migrant might spend a part of his year. Most migrants are also inadvertently excluded from receiving any Social Security benefits, despite the number of years they may have worked, because of the failure of crewleaders or farm supervisors to record social security numbers or deduct the necessary payments.²

In addition to these two major obstacles, there are numerous significant factors limiting the migrants' participation in any welfare programs. Most of the problems confronting those in need of assistance can be summed up by sheer lack of information. For example, most migrant families have no idea what programs are in effect in Florida, or what benefits they may be eligible for. Further, they wouldn't know where to go (much less have means of getting there) to apply, nor how to apply for various programs they may be eligible for. If then denied because of some omission or misinterpretation on the application, they have no knowledge or power to challenge this denial. The maze of administrative technicalities to be followed for each program often requires a legal expert in that particular field. Or, if they do qualify, they have no information concerning what rights and obligations may attach to the receipt of public assistance.

¹ These provisions are discussed *infra* at p. 67.

² The practice of employing the workers for only 19 days by each crewleader or supervisor so that social security deductions need not be made has been brought to the attention of MLS attorneys. See discussion in *Employment Problems Section*, p. 19.

However, in the last two years tremendous changes have occurred in welfare law. Welfare rights groups are springing up in virtually every large city in the country,³ and they have at their disposal for the first time ever, competent legal counsel through the various OEO-funded legal services programs. The most glaring abuses in the welfare system are being challenged almost daily in the courts (in particular the Federal Courts) as well as by direct action and political persuasion.

It has already occurred to anyone who has attempted to digest the great mass of welfare requirements, regulations, policy statements, and directives, that the right to receive welfare benefits should be based solely upon need. This realization is now getting support from such sources as the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁴ based on experiments with a "need" only eligibility factor" in three states.⁵ At the present time state case workers are required to perform a variety of bookkeeping and administrative chores which drastically reduces the time that should be spent on actual social service.⁶ Despite the fears of many state officials with an eye on limited welfare budgets, the experiments have demonstrated that discontinuance of lengthy investigations to determine eligibility, or spot checking a small percentage of the applications, has not increased the rate of ineligible people receiving welfare.⁷

Many public officials have long argued for reform of the welfare bureaucracy. Most recently Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY) and Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York have proposed sweeping reforms in the administration of welfare benefits.⁸ While proposals for reform run the gamut from suggesting a strict clampdown or curtailment of all welfare programs to suggesting a federal takeover of all welfare payments, all the proposals have one common goal: to eliminate the red tape and enormous disparities that exists in the various state welfare programs.

FLORIDA

Florida administers four federally assisted public assistance programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); Aid to the Disabled (AD); Old Age Assistance (OAA); and Aid to the Blind (AB). Each county also has its own program of public assistance for those who are not covered by the state administered program. These programs, administered and financed by each individual county, will be discussed *infra*, p. 77. In addition, persons residing in Florida whose employers have participated in the Social Security program, may receive Social Security benefits when eligible.

Aid to families with dependent children

AFDC accounts for the largest category of public assistance in the state of Florida. The number of recipients state wide in October, 1968 was 42,739.⁹ The state has budgeted \$42.7 million (of which \$9.5 million represents state money) for fiscal year 1968 for the AFDC program.¹⁰ Despite the fact that Florida forfeited \$19.5 million federal AFDC funds in 1967,¹¹ the Florida State Welfare Board recently announced a deduction in payments to 57% of need for AFDC recipients from January through June of 1969.¹²

The present level of payment is only 65% of need,¹³ which should again be contrasted with the amount of federal funds available to Florida that are never used. The present cost to the state is approximately one dollar for every 4.5 dollars received from the federal funds for AFDC benefits. Florida is typical of

³ A welfare rights organization has recently been formed in Fort Myers, meeting once a week with an MLS attorney to discuss common problems and to plan future strategy and litigation.

⁴ HEW published the proposed new regulation that *people be made eligible for welfare on the basis of a simple statement of need* in the Federal Register on Nov. 20, 1968.

⁵ A total of 25 states now have some form of a simple declaration of need or are in some stage of putting it into effect. Ft. Myers News-Press, Nov. 20, 1968, p. 10-A.

⁶ In New York, it is estimated that handling of forms and procedures have taken up more than half the caseworkers' time. N.Y. Times, Dec. 8, 1968, p. 38.

⁷ See N.Y. Times, Dec. 8, 1968, p. 38 based on study by N.Y. Commissioner of Social Services, Jack R. Goldberg. Other states experimenting with this approach have found that only 1 1/2% of those who get on the welfare rolls are ineligible. See Ft. Myers News-Press, Nov. 20, 1968, p. 10-A.

⁸ Javits—Miami Herald, Nov. 5, 1968, P. 3-B; Rockefeller at the Republican Governor's Conference—See Miami Herald, Dec. 6, 1968, P. 1.

⁹ The Miami Herald, Nov. 12, 1968.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ N.Y. Times, July 20, 1968.

¹² Fort Myers News-Press, Nov. 15, 1968, p. 1.

¹³ *Ibid.*

many states, especially those in the southern region, about whom it was said, "charity does not always begin at home, as attested by the failure of a third of the states to spend a dollar in local funds for the poor to get two or more federal dollars."¹⁴

The primary problem is clearly budgetary. The average payment per person on AFDC in Lee County is only \$20.93.¹⁵ Collier County AFDC recipients averaged \$22.93 per person, and Hendry County averaged \$21.87 per AFDC recipient.¹⁶ Obviously these amounts are hardly adequate to sustain a family that is dependent upon public assistance as the only source of income. The State Welfare Board plans to ask the legislature for a 50% increase in welfare funds for the coming biennium, but the outlook is dim. The state welfare director certifies that appropriations have never been anywhere close to the Department's request.¹⁷

The amount of payments, and the proposed further reduction to 57% of need, pose serious problems for AFDC recipients in Florida, and will be challenged by MLS attorneys for their clients. However, the initial problem of qualifying for whatever benefits are available poses an even greater problem for migrant farm workers. Most specifically, the state's residency requirement acts to bar any otherwise eligible recipient from receipt of these funds since the migrant usually resides in Florida only six to eight months a year.

Florida prescribes that a child must have resided in the state for one year immediately preceding application, or that the parent or other relative with whom the child is living must have resided in the state for one year immediately preceding application to meet the residence requirement.¹⁸ The immediate question that comes to mind when considering children whose parents travel in the migrant stream is why should these children, who can demonstrate need, be deprived of the assistance that has been enacted for their benefit? It is worth while to contrast the federal interpretation regarding determining residence with that set forth by the state.

The HEW interpretation is as follows:¹⁹

"The state is not free to find such individual ineligible if he meets the following requirements:

"1. He is determined by the agency to be a resident of the state at the time of application.

"2. He has been physically present in the state for the required period of time; or if his physical presence has been interrupted by an absence or absences, such absence(s) has been temporary within the above deminition: or his true intent to live in the state can be otherwise determined in terms of his conduct, action, or relationships.

"A child does not have intent to establish a residence or to acquire one elsewhere in the same manner as does an adult. Since planning for the living arrangements of children is done for them and not by them, a child may be considered to be temporarily absent from the state when his absence occurs as part of a plan which is being made for him by the persons responsible for his care, custody, or control, and when this plan does not involve the establishment of an abode for him outside of the state on a permanent basis."

Thus, the federal interpretation seems to encompass children of migratory parents since his parents never establish *an abode for him outside the state on a permanent basis*. Because of the length of the season in Florida, virtually all seasonal farm workers reside in Florida the greater part of any one year, and if any residence is to be considered "on a permanent basis" it would be this residence in the state of Florida.

On the other hand, Florida construes this provision as follows:²⁰

"When a child has lived in Florida *continuously for one year* and has thus established residence in the state the fact that he has been absent from Florida

¹⁴ N.Y. Times, July 20, 1968; See also N.Y. Times, Nov. 14, 1968, Report of The Citizens Budget Commission showing that Florida is one of the ten lowest payers of benefits and that the State only foots 19% of the bill.

¹⁵ Fort Myers News-Press, Aug. 7, 1968, p. 10-B.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Emmet S. Roberts, State Welfare Director as quoted in Fort Myers News-Press, Nov. 15, 1968, p. 1.

¹⁸ State of Florida, Department of Public Welfare, Public Assistance Manual, Chapt. 500, p. 2. (May 1966—OL No. 1421).

¹⁹ Handbook of Public Assistance Administration, U.S. Dept. of HEW, Part IV, sections 3652, 3654. (5/1/46).

²⁰ Fla. Public Assistance Manual, op. cit., Chapt. 500, p. 3.

for a part of the year immediately preceding the application or at the time of application would not render the child ineligible for assistance. Continuous absence for a year or more would make the child ineligible except in those cases where such absence is due to factors beyond the control of the adult primarily responsible for the care of the child, such as illness, incarceration, military service, etc."

Thus, Florida requires continuous residence for one year, and any reference to *temporary absence* is meaningless under this interpretation. It should be further noted that HEW recommended as early as 1946 that states eliminate all requirements that relate to length of residence in the state.²¹ Since a decision is expected momentarily from the Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of any residency requirement for determining eligibility for public assistance, Florida may soon have to dispense with its rigid interpretation and allow children of migratory parents to receive AFDC benefits.

Even if the present residence requirement is met by an applicant, there exist numerous other eligibility requirements completely unrelated to the financial needs of the child. Specifically, a child to be eligible for AFDC must be: (1) deprived of parental support and care; (2) living in the home of a "specified relative"; (3) living in a "suitable home." Each of these state-imposed factors is highly questionable in view of the avowed purpose of Aid to Dependent Children, which is:

"Aid to Dependent Children is an essential part of a broad social plan of public services, including education, health, welfare, and the social insurances, that the National is progressively developing to assure its children opportunity to:

"1. Grow up in a setting of their own family relationships;

"2. Have the economic support and services they need for health and development;

"3. Receive an education that will help them to realize an education that will help them to realize their capacity; and

"4. Share in the life of neighborhood and community."²²

For example, Florida requires that a child be living in the home of one of six specified relatives in order to qualify for AFDC benefits. These arbitrary classifications include only blood relatives, step-parents or adopted parents. It rules out any benefits for children who may be living in the only home available to them, if the relationship does not fall squarely within these specifications. A case awaiting hearing brought by MLS attorneys involves just such an instance, where the relatives who are caring for three needy children are first cousins once removed.²³ There are no other living relatives except for an elderly aunt who is unable to provide for the children. Again, this situation points out that financial need should be the only criteria in determination of eligibility for public assistance.

Since the residency requirement alone effectively excludes the great majority of MLS clients from receiving AFDC benefits, many of the further obstacles are not often encountered.

Aid to the disabled

In order to qualify for Aid to the Disabled, Florida requires the most stringent residence requirement possible under the enabling act: "Residence in Florida for five out of the last nine years, including the year immediate preceding the application."²⁴ While the state provides for fulfillment of this requirement "by physical presence in Florida for certain blocks of time, the total of which must add up to the required number of years,"²⁵ "the client whose residence is based on physical presence in the state for certain blocks of time must have resided in Florida for forty-eight months in the last nine years plus the entire twelve months' period immediately preceding application."²⁶

This requirement thus effectively excludes any disabled farm worker who has traveled the migrant stream during the five years preceding application for benefits. For seasonal farm workers who have made Florida their home, meeting the residence requirement is only the first of a series of difficult hurdles.

The most difficult obstacle for the applicant to overcome is the state's interpretation of the requirement for *permanent and total disability*. A permanent impairment is defined as:

²¹ HEW Handbook of Public Assistance Administration, *Supra* note 16, Part IV, § 3665.

²² *Ibid.*, § 3401.

²³ *Cobb v. Fla. Dept. of Public Welfare*, Case No. 68-13 Civ. Ft. M. (M.D. Fla.).

²⁴ Florida Public Assistance Manual, *Supra*, Chapter 300, p. 2.

²⁵ *Ibid.* at 3.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

"A physical or mental condition (disease or loss) of major significance which is *expected* to continue throughout the lifetime of the individual and is *not expected to be removed or substantially improved* by medical treatment. It is expected to continue for a *prolonged period* of disability and the eventual prognosis may be indefinite. A physician is responsible for providing the information bearing on this part of the eligibility factor."²⁷

The issue in permanency is not so much the life expectancy of the disability as it is *who determines what*. An applicant for this category of assistance undergoes a medical examination by a private physician, who records his findings on a form provided by the Welfare Department. These findings are then reviewed by a state Medical Review Team. Despite these medical prognoses, the final determination concerning the permanency of the disability is made by the State Welfare Board which is composed entirely of laymen.²⁸

The requirement for *totality* is not entirely divorced from *permanency*, although a welfare worker is responsible for gathering the social information on which the decision regarding totality is based. A total disability is said to exist:

"When the permanent impairment or combination of permanent impairments substantially precludes the individual from engaging in a useful occupation. This includes gainful employment for *which he has competence*, and homemaking, when the individual is maintaining a home for at least one person in addition to himself."²⁹

While this brief definition limits gainful employment to that for which the applicant has competence, it does not take into consideration the only kind of employment the applicant may have ever performed, and the fact that he may be totally unable to perform that particular work. Likewise, when a welfare worker reports on the kinds of work which are usually carried on in the community where this applicant resides, no consideration is given to whether jobs of this type are available nor to whether this particular applicant could be hired for this type of job.

In the case of an applicant who has labored in the fields all his life, and knows no other occupation, these considerations are of utmost importance. A physical impairment that may have no undue effect on an office worker may completely prevent a man or woman from performing the strenuous, tiring manual labor required for harvesting crops. For example, if an accountant has diabetes, he can still function sitting at his desk with the proper medication; whereas if a field worker has diabetes, it is impossible for him to continue to work long hours in the hot sun without frequent nourishment regardless of the most advanced medical treatment.³⁰

MLS contends that the requirement for permanent and total disability must be based on the effect this disability has on the particular working experience and capacity of the individual applicant. This can only be determined by the observations of a competent doctor who has personally examined the applicant, in conjunction with testimony regarding the nature of the type of work the individual applicant has been performing, and the effect a disability of this type would have on a worker in that occupation.

Old age assistance

A person who is receiving benefits under the Aid to Disabled category will be transferred to Aid to the Aged when he reaches 65 years of age. In addition, persons who are not technically blind or disabled may qualify for Old Age Assistance upon reaching 65 years of age, if need for such benefits is demonstrated. This is based on the theory that advanced age tends to reduce earning power, require the purchase of services ordinarily self-performed, and foremost, is a threat to the independence and self-esteem of the individual. The avowed purpose of Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled is:

"To live free from the fear of want; to have his dignity preserved and his personal worth recognized; to be able to make use of his remaining faculties in achieving a satisfying way of life, is the right of every individual handicapped by age, infirmity or disability."³¹

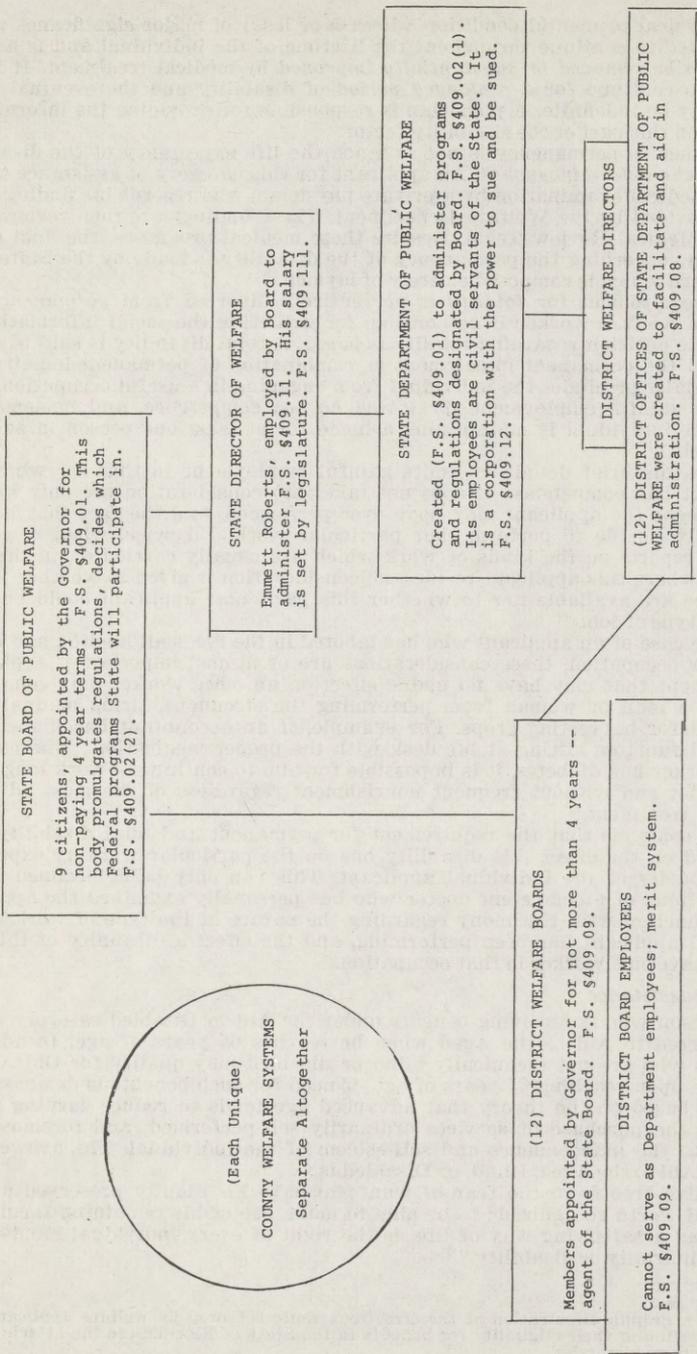
²⁷ *Ibid.* at 7.

²⁸ For a graphic illustration of the circuitous route followed by welfare applicants in a determination of their eligibility for benefits in the State of Florida, see the attached chart of the welfare hierarchy.

²⁹ Florida Public Assistance Manual, chap. 300, p. 8.

³⁰ Such a case is currently being litigated on behalf of an MLS client, *Johnson v. Dept. of Public Welfare of the State of Florida*, Case No. 68-12-Civ. F.M., U.S.D.C. (M.D. Fla.).

³¹ Florida Public Assistance Manual, foreword to chap. 300.



STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

9 citizens, appointed by the Governor for non-paying 4 year terms. F.S. \$409.01. This body promulgates regulations, decides which Federal programs State will participate in. F.S. \$409.02(2).

STATE DIRECTOR OF WELFARE

Emmett Roberts, employed by Board to administer F.S. \$409.11. His salary is set by legislature. F.S. \$409.111.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Created (F.S. \$409.01) to administer programs and regulations designated by Board. F.S. \$409.02(1). Its employees are civil servants of the State. It is a corporation with the power to sue and be sued. F.S. \$409.12.

(12) DISTRICT WELFARE BOARDS

Members appointed by Governor for not more than 4 years -- agent of the State Board. F.S. \$409.09.

DISTRICT BOARD EMPLOYEES

Cannot serve as Department employees; merit system. F.S. \$409.09.

DISTRICT WELFARE DIRECTORS

(12) DISTRICT OFFICES OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE were created to facilitate and aid in administration. F.S. \$409.08.

(Each Unique)

COUNTY WELFARE SYSTEMS
Separate Altogether

The purpose is well stated: the aim is lofty, and the right well deserved. However, in many cases, proof of age is extremely difficult to establish. In addition, the residence requirement for Old Age Assistance is the same as that required for Aid to the Disabled; five out of the last nine years residence in the State of Florida, including the year immediately preceding the application.

Regardless of the occupation of the applicant, many older persons cannot state their exact age with accuracy and do not have the usual methods of proof our society recognizes. These include a birth certificate or birth record, baptismal record, insurance statistics, military data, marriage license, census report, employment, medical or social security records. It is extremely rare to find a seasonal farm worker having any one of these *acceptable* proofs of age. The absence of such records stems from the fact that they have been quite literally absent from society during their entire lives.

The federalized American institutions which so fully document the lives of its middle and upper class citizens do not reach down into the poverty level citizens, and certainly did not do so in the distant past of 65 years or more ago. This is especially true in the case of the seasonal farm worker, who was probably born in a state other than the one of his present residence, who was originally given a name different from the one he now knows and uses, who has no employment records other than memory, who was married without a license, and who certainly has no medical or insurance records. Long searches through the Bureau of Census records are usually to no avail, since even if the fact of his life was ever noted, it may have been under a different name of which the applicant is not aware.

This is a problem which poses no easy solution, for the only way to ascertain the age of many of the rural elderly poor is by estimation or the applicant's own memory. Neither of these methods has proved *acceptable* to the Florida Department of Welfare.

The problems enumerated in the above synopses of the state administered federal assistance programs are representative of those that every welfare applicant or recipient must face. There are certain inadequacies and inequities that pervade every category of public assistance. These arise in the enforcement of the basic rights guaranteed by federal and state law for applicants or recipients of aid. Each person has the right to be paid the right amount of aid when the conditions of eligibility are present and the right to be treated with the respect due to all people. In protecting these basic rights, federal and state law has created certain additional rights for the welfare applicant and recipient, which should be considered absolute. Among these rights are:

1. The right to *apply* and have eligibility determined;
2. The right to *prompt action*;
3. The right to *equal treatment*;
4. The right to receive *notice of disposition*;
5. The right to *unrestricted payment*;
6. The right to *prompt change in grant*;
7. The right to be advised of *reasons for changes in grant*;
8. The right to a *hearing*;
9. The right to *fair treatment free from discrimination* based on race;
10. The right to *constitutional protections*;
11. The right to be *told* by the Welfare Department of *all their rights*.

While these rights should be considered absolute, their enforcement and protection is sporadic at best. Most of the case workers at the local level are genuinely concerned about individual families, but have little time and are much restricted by a maze of regulations. With an immense caseload per worker³² it is impossible for the worker to give the families any attention except review their situation every six months for re-certification. This means that individuals whose applications are denied are often never informed in terms they can understand why the application was denied, what recourse they may have or what alternatives may be available to them. They seldom have any information about other forms of relief available from the county, civic, or charitable groups. MLS has instigated a cooperative working arrangement with local welfare officials in all of the six counties in which it operates for a mutual

³² MLS has learned that each caseworker in this area may be required to handle over 100 active cases.

referral of clients, as well as informing the welfare applicant that legal counsel is available to him.

This does not solve the inequities inherent in the laws, which to date effectively deny a hearing to a client *prior* to a reduction or cutoff of welfare benefits, and effectively preclude *prompt action on any matter concerning receipt of welfare payments*. See attached chart.

TIME FACTOR IN RECEIPT OF WELFARE PAYMENTS

After application has been made, an investigation to determine eligibility must be completed within *30 days*. However, extensions may be given, and specific provision is made for a home visit to be made within *90 days* of application. *Florida State Public Assistance Manual, page 3.*

Actions on applications *should* be planned so eligible applicants will receive their first checks within *30 days* after the date of application and ineligible applicants will receive notice within the same period. *30 days. Florida State Public Assistance Manual, page 4.*

Following the decision of the District Welfare Board, an applicant may request a hearing, which request must be filed within *60 days* following the District Board action. *60 days. Florida State Public Assistance Manual, page 11.*

A hearing will be held not later than *30 days* from the date of filing the appeal. *30 days. Florida State Public Assistance Manual, page 12.*

The Board's final decision will be made within *60 days* but several possibilities exist for extensions of this time limit. *Florida State Public Assistance Manual, pages 12-13.*

Thus, if an applicant is initially denied benefits by the District Welfare Board, and even if only one appeal is involved, the time lag between application and receipt of the first check (without any extensions being given) would be *210 days*—or almost seven months permitted by statute.

Because Florida limits its state welfare to the federally funded categorical assistance program mentioned above, the individual counties must bear a large portion of the burden of public welfare. Article XIII, Section 3 of the 1885 Constitution of Florida vested responsibility to provide for the needy in the counties. Presumably, this responsibility remains under the new Constitution that went into effect January 7, 1969.³³ With the exception of placing responsibility to care for the needy on the county commissioners, there is no general law concerning county welfare benefits at all in Florida.³⁴ Thus, there exists great diversity of practice among the state's 67 counties and a wide variation and lack of uniformity both in benefits and record keeping.

The urban counties of Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach all have formal welfare structures, well-developed welfare departments, acting under published regulations and guidelines.³⁵

The Dade County Department of Welfare is concerned primarily with the provision of general assistance and with certain specialized programs, including burial of indigents, surplus commodities distribution, casework services to indigent families, and the Neighborhood Youth Corps centers operated throughout the metropolitan area in cooperation with OEO.³⁶ The Welfare Department of Palm Beach County is directly responsible to the Board of County Commissioners for welfare services in West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Jupiter, and Riviera Beach. In addition to the distribution of commodity foods, the main activities of this county's welfare department are centered around medical services in three special tax district hospitals and a county nursing home.

Welfare organization in Broward County is less complex than the structural patterns described above. The Broward County Welfare Department operates general assistance offices and serves clients in Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, and Hollywood.

The Department distributes surplus commodities and operates a custodial home for the aged.³⁷

³³ Article X, Section 10 provides that sections of the old Constitution not embraced by the new and not inconsistent therewith shall become statutes.

³⁴ Fla. Stats 125.01 (4) gives *permissive* statutory authorization to County Commissioners.

³⁵ See "County Welfare in Florida," a Study of Welfare Services administered at local expense. Institute of Governmental Research, the Florida State University (Tallahassee, Jan. 1968) p. 72-81.

³⁶ Dade County employs 50 caseworkers to perform these duties.

³⁷ *Ibid.* at 77.

The rural counties of Lee and Collier each employ two welfare workers on the county level,³⁸ while Hendry County has no welfare employees at all. The Board of County Commissioners in these three counties has direct responsibility for general assistance. Usually such assistance is of two kinds: financial aid in the form of "pauper pensions" and grocery orders, and medical aid.³⁹ The highest monthly maximum for cash payments or grocery orders reported in any county was \$15,⁴⁰ so we are not talking about any large-scale public assistance.

The welfare services available to needy persons in Florida's counties vary from the maximum in number and variety provided by urban Dade to the very minimum services available in the rural counties of Hendry, Lee and Collier. Because these county programs are locally controlled and financed, lack of uniformity in types or services available and the amount of financial assistance provided will remain as the dominant characteristic of county welfare in Florida. MLS is currently gathering data to challenge not only the arbitrariness of the decisions made by some county welfare officers, but also the constitutionality of the wide latitude of discretion given to these county welfare officers.⁴¹

Public assistance is clearly not the solution to the needs of the rural poor. Attempts must be made instead to get the migrant out of the stream, to give him an education or retrain him, so that he may share in the productive life available to Americans, in the main stream of society. Unfortunately, Americans, especially in those communities with large numbers of rural poor, feel that welfare and charity are all that is required of them when forced to admit that poverty exists.

"Public assistance is lacking in areas in which it is most desperately needed. It is lacking, in large part, because it is so structured as to be self-restricting, to expend exactly enough to soothe the consciences of those with comfortable standards and no more."⁴²

MLS—ITS CRITICS AND FRIENDS, A CONCLUSION AND CONTINUING

The main emphasis of this report has been on the problems of agricultural workers in South Florida and the steps that have been initiated to combat those problems. There is a need, however, to discuss the milieu in which MLS, as an organization, operates.

Because MLS has unequivocally identified itself with the interest of its clients, it has automatically drawn the fire of those who oppose them. The opposition, however, is not limited just to people who have found themselves on the reverse end of an MLS lawsuit, although these have been amongst our most tenacious antagonists. Other identifiable classes of opponents are:

1. The racial bigots who identify MLS (correctly) with minority groups;
2. Those who are against federally-funded programs for the poor; and
3. Those who see MLS as a danger to their political or economic interests.

The forms of hostility aimed at MLS have varied widely, ranging from obnoxious behavior to its personnel to complaints to a congressman. It has been reported that a lynch mob once formed to go after a staff attorney but was headed off by cooler heads. A fairly common tactic of opposing lawyers is to accuse MLS of handling ineligible clients or of soliciting cases. In this way they hope to separate the client from his attorney and thereby win the day. So far, these efforts have been entirely in vain.

It is most unlikely that the pressures against MLS will abate so long as the program continues to vigorously pursue the full range of its clients' interest. The staff has learned to live with the pressure, and so long as funds are available will attempt, to the best of its ability, to be worthy of its clients. The problems of the staff and the program pale into insignificance when compared to

³⁸ *Ibid.* at 82. However, it should be pointed out that *welfare worker* is not used here as a term of art. In the case of Lee County, the *welfare worker* stands behind a counter to distribute commodity foods to those he deems eligible.

³⁹ *Ibid.* at 83.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* at 84.

⁴¹ The blatant inequalities so obvious in the county welfare system are being challenged in other states as well. See generally "Equal Protection Aspects of Inequalities in Public Education and Public Assistance Programs from Place to Place Within A State," 15 UCLA Law Review 787 (1968).

⁴² "Public Assistance: To What End?," Southern Regional Council, Inc. (Atlanta, Ga. Nov. 1967) p. 40.

the problems of the clients as they have been described in previous sections of this report.

Fortunately, the MLS environment is not one of unrelieved hostility. The program has many friends. The staff has worked in close cooperation with the employees of many public agencies. It has cooperated with numerous lay and church groups that have an interest in the problems of the client population. Most important of all, has been the approval and support of the Agricultural workers themselves.

Because they are often inarticulate and many are illiterate, MLS does not often receive Madison Avenue type endorsements. Nevertheless, the feelings of our clients have been conveyed to us many times. They have been expressed very well in a report to the Director by one of our investigators, himself a former crew leader.

"To the people of the Glades area, MLS represents a way out—a small light in the dark or at least a chance. And because of this, the often humiliated, timid, frightened, farm working population is beginning to be concerned about their rights and consequently they are acquiring characters of dignity. It is not the big cases that impresses [sic] the population in this area, but the small amount of * * * much needed * * * help given to each individual who comes into the office or is brought in from the community by the investigator. Expressions of gratitude become overwhelming when one is the recipient of welfare assistance, or when one is allowed to remain in his apartment although he can't currently meet the demand for payment of rent. It is my opinion that MLS is the most respected program in the area, simply because it reaches almost everyone who needs it, although it is limited in its activity by law. People in Pahokee, Belle Glade, South Bay and the rest of this area all talk about MLS, each with his own emotion, but they all agree that it has become a very necessary thing and hope that it will continue for a long, long time."

In his essay on "Poverty in the Rural South," Paul Good said:

"The President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty, after noting that 'most of the rural South is one vast poverty area,' affirms that 'the United States has the resources and the technical means to assure every person in the United States adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and education and accordingly, recommends action toward this end.' But *action toward this end* involves commitments of the American will that no Congress can appropriate or agency implement. Here arise the unanswered questions that will determine success or failure—how to inspire national and regional motivation to make resources available, how to deal with the apparent fact that a majority of Americans feel that a surfeit of material things for most is compatible with deprivation for many, how to separate myths about poverty from the truth about private and governmental forces fostering it?" *Poverty in the Rural South*, New South, Vol. 23, No. 1, Winter 1968, p. 111.

MLS is one of the chief resources that has been made available to the farm workers of South Florida. Its staff is endowed with the full measure of commitment that Mr. Good says is so necessary. With the help of its friends and the support of its clients it will continue to work toward the day when every farm worker and, indeed, every American will have "adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, * * * education" and justice.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, July 4, 1968]

FOOD SOUGHT FOR HUNGRY IN COLLIER

(By Samuel Adams)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been asked to make commodity foods available to needy persons in Collier County despite refusal of county officials to apply for the federal food program.

The request was made in a letter made public yesterday from the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program Inc. It said only \$4,000 now is allotted by Collier County to provide food for hungry people. No other public agency assists in feeding the county's poor.

The letter, dated July 1, was sent to Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman by T. Michael Foster, an attorney with Migrant Legal Services, a federal anti-poverty program.

At the height of the harvesting season, farm workers and their dependents in Collier number from 12,000 to 19,000. A large number go hungry but no food stamps or federal food commodities ever have been available there.

Collier was not among the 15 Florida counties in which the Agriculture Department threatened to ignore opposition of local officials and made direct distribution of food. Neither was it one of those listed in April as "hunger counties" by a private report issued by the Citizens Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition.

With his letter to Secretary Freeman, Foster sent published reports, including St. Petersburg Times articles on hunger around Camp Happy, and documentation on poverty, malnutrition and diet-related health problems.

"On March 19, 1968, a county welfare official with experience among the migrant population told the commissioners that about 250 families in the Imokalee area were suffering from severe hunger because of adverse farm conditions and a lack of government assistance," the letter says.

"These reports are not isolated instances. Even during good times there are a number of families who have no income because their breadwinner is ill, injured, or incapacitated. These workers and their families often cannot receive assistance from the State Welfare Department, or through unemployment compensation or workmen's compensation laws because of their inability to meet residency requirements, or the failure of the law in question to include farm workers within its coverage," it continued.

"In view of the Collier County commissioners' refusal to take the initiative in this matter, I believe it is incumbent upon your department to see that the situation is corrected before another season of hardship begins for migrant workers."

The Migrant Legal Services is the second anti-poverty agency in South Florida to ask the U.S. Agriculture Department to see that free commodities are provided in Collier County. Community Action Fund suggested four months ago that it be allowed to distribute the free food if the county continued to balk at the program.

[From the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare, Commodity Distribution Division, Jacksonville, Fla., December 1967]

HANDBOOK ON DISTRIBUTION OF FOODS TO NEEDY HOUSEHOLDS

INTRODUCTION

This Handbook brings together in one publication all of the regulations and instructions which pertain to the responsibility of the State and County officials who are engaged in the distribution of USDA donated foods for needy households.

The State of Florida Department of Public Welfare through an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, is the State agency responsible for the distribution of foods to needy persons. The foods available for this program are purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture under price support and surplus removal acts passed by Congress.

By acceptance of these foods in our State, we assume the responsibility of properly safeguarding them from loss, spoilage, or diversion to unauthorized use. To carry out this obligation, we must follow a plan of operation that will insure that our program is operated within the rules and regulations prescribed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

This Handbook sets forth the policies and procedures which will be followed in meeting our obligations for this program.

Foods will be made available to any county that desires to distribute them to needy households within their geographical boundary, provided the provisions of this Handbook are followed.

We pledge the complete cooperation of the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare to any county that desires to participate in this program.

EMMETT S. ROBERTS,

Director, State of Florida Department of Public Welfare.

E. LEE McCUBBIN,

*Director, Commodity Distribution Division,
State of Florida Department of Public Welfare.*

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AGREEMENT AND APPLICATION FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE DONATED COMMODITIES

STATE OF FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE,
COMMODITY DIVISION,
Jacksonville, Fla.

We, the below named County Commissioners of _____ County, hereinafter referred to as the R/A or Recipient Agency, do hereby make application to the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare, hereinafter referred to as the D/A or Distributing Agency, for commodities donated by the United States Department of Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the USDA, and said Board of County Commissioners hereby enters into the following agreement:

This Agreement, made and entered into on this the _____ day of _____ 19____, by and between the County of _____ through its Board of County Commissioners, and the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare;

Witnesseth, That for and in consideration of being supplied with certain commodities donated by the USDA, the above named Board of County Commissioners, being the authority having the supervision and control over the Commodity Distribution Program in _____ County covenants and agrees with the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare to supervise and control certification of eligible recipients, the transportation, handling, warehousing, and distribution of all donated commodities received in such a manner as will insure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement, supplemental instructions issued by the D/A and USDA and the provisions of the Handbook on Distribution of Foods to Needy Households, said Handbook being attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The above named Board of County Commissioners further agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Commodities will be requested and accepted only in such quantities as can be fully utilized at rates not to exceed those established by the D/A.

2. Commodities received under this Agreement will be distributed solely to those persons certified as eligible under the terms and conditions as set forth in the Handbook, and under no circumstances will commodities be sold, traded, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of without prior written approval from the D/A.

3. Facilities, materials, and personnel for the proper handling, storing, re-packaging, and distribution of commodities will be provided by the Board of County Commissioners of the county making application for donated commodities. The said Board of County Commissioners further agrees to make restitution to the D/A for any losses resulting from its negligence or the negligence of its agents or employees in failing to provide the proper storage, care, handling, transportation and distribution of the commodities. The D/A and the USDA are authorized to inspect at any reasonable time the commodities in storage or the facilities or the warehouses used in handling and storing of commodities.

4. No charge will be made for commodities or services given to any eligible recipient nor will donations of any kind be accepted from recipients by the R/A or any of its agents or employees for commodities or services received.

5. Records pertaining to the entire program, including those of certification, receipt and distribution of commodities, financial expenditures and receipts will be kept for a period of not less than three years, and reports furnished the D/A as required. The D/A and the USDA shall have access to and are authorized to inspect such books and records at any reasonable time and place to insure compliance with the terms of this Agreement and the rules and regulations as set forth in the Handbook.

6. Either agency may terminate this Agreement by giving thirty days notice in writing to the other party. The D/A may cancel this Agreement immediately upon receipt of evidence that the terms and conditions of the program have not been fully met. Subject to such notice of termination or cancellation of the Agreement, the R/A agrees to comply with the instructions of the D/A, either to (a) distribute all remaining inventories of donated commodities, or (b) to return to the D/A, freight prepaid, such inventories, and to transmit such reports as are required by the D/A to record final disposition of such inventories.

In testimony whereof, the parties hereunto have executed this Agreement in the original and duplicate, the original copy being returned to the D/A and the duplicate copy kept by the R/A, the day and year first above written.

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of _____ County
by its duly authorized Chairman.

(Signature of Chairman)

Approved and certified for the period beginning _____
and continuing until terminated. (Month) (Day) (Year)

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WELFARE,

Director.

SECTION I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

In order for a county to participate in the distribution of USDA donated commodities to needy persons, the following minimum requirements must be met:

1. *Agreements.*—The Board of County Commissioners responsible for the general welfare of the residents of the county requesting commodities must enter into an agreement with the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare, hereinafter referred to as the D/A, by executing Agreement Form DDNP-1, before commodities may be consigned to the county. (See Appendix).

2. *Responsibility.*—The Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the R/A, requesting commodities must assume full responsibility for the following:

A. *Appointment of a Commodity Supervisor.*—It is the responsibility of the R/A to appoint a qualified full time commodity supervisor to act as an agent of the R/A in administering the county program in compliance with steps outlined in this Handbook. The commodity supervisor will be delegated authority to act for the Board in all matters provided herein; however, the responsibility of the R/A to obtain compliance with all requirements of the D/A and the USDA for distribution of USDA donated commodities shall not be mitigated by this appointment.

(1) In those counties having a County Welfare Department the responsibility of certifying local county needy persons, other than those persons on state Public Assistance rolls, may be delegated by the R/A to the County Welfare Department, and this action is recommended.

(2) Further, that in those counties having a County Welfare Department, all other functions of the program may be delegated by the R/A to the County Welfare Department, however, one member of their staff will be named as Commodity Supervisor and shall be accountable to the R/A through the Director of the County Welfare Department.

B. *Providing Distribution Facilities.*—

(1) *Facilities and Personnel.*—Adequate handling and storage facilities, including cold or freezer storage where specified, shall be provided for the proper safeguarding of commodities. Adequate facilities for the distribution of commodities to needy persons, including sufficient space and personnel, to perform such repackaging as may be required, will be provided. On no occasion shall personnel be paid for their services with donated foods.

(2) *Storage.*—Adequate dry and cold storage facilities that will permit holding not less than a 60-day supply of available commodities and provide safeguard against pilferage, damage by the elements, rodents and insects, will be made available by the R/A. Those counties without adequate and proper cold storage or freezer storage facilities will not receive commodities requiring this type of storage. The following general storage requirements and conditions will be observed at all times:

- (a) The warehouse will be kept clean, sanitary and orderly.
- (b) All commodities will be stored up off the floor on pallets, or dunnage.
- (c) Commodities will be stored in the warehouse in such manner as to permit the use of oldest stocks first.
- (d) Commodities will be stored around, but not against the wall, and will be stacked so as to permit free circulation of air around containers.
- (e) Commodities will be stacked in such a manner as to permit a ready and accurate physical inventory at all times.
- (f) Warehouse floors will not be overloaded and commodities will not be stacked too high for safe handling.
- (g) Adequate ventilation of the warehouse will be maintained to prevent damage of commodities by high temperature.

(h) All commodities will be stored in accordance with the instructions printed on the package or as provided by the D/A.

C. Provisions for Restitution.—If for any reason the R/A stores or permits to be stored any commodities under conditions less favorable than those printed on the containers or as established by the D/A or the USDA, the R/A does so at its own risk and will be held responsible for making restitution to the D/A for the full value of the commodities so damaged, spoiled or unaccounted for. Further, the R/A will be held responsible for making restitution to the D/A for any commodities damaged by negligence on the part of its agents or employees or for such commodities unaccounted for or not distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement and this Handbook.

D. Accountability.—Records shall be maintained to show the amount of commodities received for distribution to needy households and the amount distributed to such households substantiated by their signature on a distribution card. The R/A is at all times responsible for the full and complete operation of the program within their county, and periodic audit will be made by the D/A to see that program requirements are being met. The D/A will make the determination of negligence, failure or diversion in handling, storing, or distribution of commodities by the R/A.

3. Policy.—The purpose of the following instructions is to acquaint the R/A and its agents or employees with the policy of the D/A and the USDA with respect to the following:

A. No Charge to Recipients.—The needy households certified as eligible are only approved because of their economic need, therefore there will be no charge made or any voluntary contributions accepted in return for government donated commodities or services rendered as this would violate the intent of the program.

B. Elimination of Political Influence.—

(1) *Officials.*—Elected or appointed officials at federal, state, county or local levels in any way responsible for the distribution of these federally donated commodities are prohibited from using them as a means of furthering their political interests or that of their party or in an attempt to influence the vote of the recipient.

(2) *Active Candidates.*—Active candidates, or their political workers for any elective office shall not be permitted to be on the premises of the distribution depot or place of certification or in the immediate vicinity of such places at the time of certification or when distribution is taking place, except as required in performance of their official duties.

(3) *Political Literature.*—Political campaign literature shall not be distributed or political posters displayed at the point where certification is taking place or at the commodity distribution center.

C. Discrimination.—There shall be no discrimination because of race, color, creed, or political affiliation.

D. Signature by X mark.—In those instances where a recipient is unable to write he must sign by making his mark. The following procedure must be followed: Have the recipient touch the pen or pencil while an "X" mark is made. Complete by having the person who witnessed the mark initial thusly: Sam (his mark) X Jones, witness John Doe.

E. Delivery of Commodities by Proxy.—If a recipient or the person designated on the application to pick up commodities is unable to appear in person he may designate in writing a representative to receive his commodities for him. This authorization and the recipient's identification card must be presented to the commodity distribution center at the time of distribution. In addition, each proxy must establish identification. Such authorization must be dated and signed by the recipient and preserved with the other records for a period of three years following the close of the fiscal year for which they were presented. These authorizations are to be filed by months.

F. Rate of Distribution.—The rate at which commodities will be distributed to individuals and families is shown in the Family Distribution Guide (see Appendix). The amounts shown in this guide are not to be exceeded, however the Commodity Supervisor may reduce such rates as necessary so that commodities will not be distributed in such amounts that will result in waste, trading, being sold, or otherwise diverted to unauthorized use.

G. Financial Accounts.—In those instances where all distribution costs are not financed by the county and it becomes necessary to establish another method

of defraying distribution costs, records must be maintained in a manner which will permit audit of collections and disbursements by state and/or federal auditors. Any system must be a nonprofit operation and approved by the USDA. Any such operation must first be approved by the office of the D/A and must clearly show that in no instance will any charge be passed along to the recipient.

H. Monthly Reports.—Monthly reports must be submitted to the office of the D/A so as to reach that office not later than the 7th day following the close of the month to which they pertain. Appropriate Forms will be provided by the D/A for this purpose. (See Appendix).

I. Records.—All records pertaining to the commodity distribution program within the county will be maintained for a period of not less than three years from the close of the federal fiscal year to which they pertain. As a minimum these records will consist of the following and will be kept in an appropriate cabinet:

- (1) Approved applications (Form DDNP-2)
- (2) Applications disapproved, cancelled or rejected.
- (3) Notice of Allocation (Form DDNP-6)
- (4) Record of Container Salvage Fund (Form DDNP-8)
- (5) Monthly report (Form DDNP-7)
- (6) Notice of shipment to consignee and receiving report (Form DDNP-9)
- (7) Notice of allocation and receiving report—other than carload (Form DDNP-10)
- (8) Authorizations for delivery by proxy.
- (9) Work sheets from which monthly reports are prepared.
- (10) Documentary evidence secured when verification is made of evidence submitted by applicant for eligibility.

J. Disposition of Inventories.—At the expiration or cancellation of any county distribution program for needy persons, an inventory of commodities on hand will be taken and reported to the office of the D/A for disposition in accordance with instructions of the D/A.

K. Old Stocks.—In making distribution and storing in warehouses, the oldest stock of any commodity should be distributed first. Where old stocks are left over and new stocks arrive, steps should be taken to store the new shipment in such a manner as to permit the oldest stocks to be distributed first.

L. Containers.—Containers received with shipments of commodities will be used exclusively in the distribution or storage of commodities received or will be sold promptly. Such sales will be carefully supervised and made at a price level which will not disrupt the market for similar products. The funds derived from the sale of such containers will be used by the R/A only to apply toward those costs of distributing such donated commodities. All such sales and the funds derived therefrom shall be recorded on Form DDNP-8 and made a part of the permanent records of the R/A.

SECTION II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO CERTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS

In accordance with the intent of the program for distribution of commodities to needy households the following procedures will be followed:

A. DEFINITIONS

1. *Needy Person* means all members of a household which is certified as in need of food assistance.

2. *Household* means a group of related or non-related individuals, exclusive of boarders, who are not residents of an institution or boarding house, but who are living as one economic unit, sharing common cooking facilities, and for whom food is customarily purchased in common. It also means a single individual, living alone, who has cooking facilities and prepares food for home consumption.

a. *Public Assistance Households* means households in which all members are receiving benefits under federally aided public assistance programs authorized in the Social Security Act or under state or local welfare programs; or those households in which some of the members receive such benefits, but all members thereof are included in the determination to grant such benefits.

b. *Other Needy (Non-Public Assistance) Households* means those households in which none of the members receive benefits as described in (a) above or in which some of the members receive such benefits but all of the members are not included in the determination to grant such benefits.

B. ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. *General*.—Eligibility for food assistance shall be determined on the basis of households. Since all members of a household must be included in the determination of eligibility, no individual member (s) within a household shall be certified as eligible for food assistance.

2. *Public Assistance Households* are eligible for food assistance provided the benefits received by the member (s) thereof are made available under one or more of the following public assistance programs:

a. Old Age Assistance.¹

b. Aid to the Blind.¹

c. Aid to Families with Dependent Children.¹

d. Aid to the Permanent and Totally Disabled.¹

e. General Assistance, as administered by County Welfare Departments.

3. *Non-Public Assistance (Other Needy) Households* are eligible for food assistance provided the income to them does not exceed the amounts shown for applicable family sizes in the Income Scale contained in subparagraph (c) below; and provided that other resources available to the household do not exceed the allowable amounts as contained in subparagraph (d) below.

(a) All resources consisting of regular cash income from any source that is immediately and readily available to the household will be included in the determination of eligibility. This will include, but shall not be limited to, General and Public Assistance grants, Social Security payments, support payments, government pensions and compensation, military allotments, unemployment compensation or insurance, retirement payments, payments from boarders, rental from real estate, mortgage payments received, and income from part-time employment.

(b) For the purpose of computing farm income, deduct farm expenses such as fertilizer, feed, seed, hired labor, etc., from farm receipts and divide results by 12 to determine monthly income.

(c) *Income Scale*.—In order to establish uniform criteria for determining which households may be eligible to receive donated commodities the following criteria will be used by all participating counties and shall not be exceeded. This income scale shall be based upon NET income.

(1) Net income shall be defined as gross income minus *mandatory* deductions such as federal income tax, Social Security tax, union dues, and other items *not* elective on the part of the employee.

Total net monthly income from all sources

Number persons dependent on specified income in household :	
1	\$105
2	130
3	155
4	180
5	220
6	240
7	260
8	285
9	310
10	335

For households of 11 or more persons the maximum allowable income shall not exceed \$350.00 per month.

(The total income from *all* members of the household from *all* sources must be considered in determining eligibility. All resources consisting of regular cash income from any source immediately and readily available must be considered).

(d) *Other Resources*.—Cash on hand, money in the bank, savings and bonds, cash surrender value of insurance policies, and any assets readily converted to cash, the total of which does not exceed \$600.00 for 1 person and \$1200.00 for 2 or more persons will not prevent a finding of eligibility if all other requirements are met.

¹ As authorized in the Social Security Act.

Real property, in addition to that used as a homestead, owned by a member of a non-public assistance household must be considered as a possible resource. If the property is being used for the production of income, such income must be considered in determining eligibility.

(e) *Emergencies.*—In those cases where emergencies exist, income limitations may be waived during the period of such an emergency. The certifying authority is expected to use careful and prudent judgment in dealing with unusual situations which might be construed as an emergency. For the purpose of these instructions, emergency situations mean where there is sickness causing large medical or doctor bills, losses by fire, floods, hurricanes, etc. Emergencies are also to be considered as short term matters and will be discontinued or changed to a permanent status, if the case is eligible, as soon as practicable. *Facts to substantiate eligibility exemption must be stated on the application Form.* If there is any reason to doubt the validity of the statements given by the applicant, facts should be verified.

4. *Reducing Grants.*—At no time will the level of financial or other assistance provided needy persons by state or local agencies be reduced because of the receipt of donated commodities.

C. APPLICATION

(See Form DDNP-2, Appendix Section.)

1. All applications will be received from the head of the household through personal interview. However, in the case of physical or mental incapacity of the head of the household, another member of the household having knowledge of the household's composition and financial condition may make application.

2. Information on the application must be complete and accurate in order to make a valid Form. Incomplete applications may be the basis of disallowance upon audit by the D/A and form the basis of a claim for commodities improperly distributed. Questions should be asked of the applicant in such a manner as to get full and complete information on the current financial status of the household.

3. Special emphasis should be placed upon the questions dealing with "other resources" such as cash on hand, savings, and the like.

4. It should be impressed upon the applicant that he swears that he is giving true and complete information as to his status and that of his household. It is also essential that the "Certificate of Applicant" at the bottom of Form DDNP-2 be read by the applicant, or be read to him if he cannot read, before his signature is made to the application.

5. Unless applicant is able to furnish information needed to properly execute the application Form, it shall not be considered for approval.

6. Information given by the applicant *shall be verified* to support the determination made in each case. Methods used may be one or more of the following:

(a) Home visits.

(b) Collateral visits and telephone contacts with persons having knowledge of the applicant's household financial condition, (e.g. employers, landlords, Employment Service Office, Social Security Administration Office, etc.)

(c) Examination of documents furnished by the applicant (e.g. wage statements, rent receipts, utility bills, tax returns, etc.)

(d) Obtaining information by use of Forms devised by the D/A and issued by the County Commodity Supervisor. (See Appendix)

7. Sources from which verification was obtained will be recorded on the application Form and documentary evidence filed in permanent records.

8. The application of a recipient of public assistance from the State of Florida Department of Public Welfare will not have to be filled in completely as all basic data has been secured by this agency upon application and certification for assistance. In these cases each applicant will be furnished a certification of eligibility card, form DDNP-4, which will be brought to the distribution center by the assistance recipient or sent from the Unit or District Office of the Department of Public Welfare, and this card will be securely stapled to the application card Form DDNP-2. Form DDNP-2 for such applicants will be filled in to show that the applicant is a P.A. case and the first two lines of the Form will be completed to show name, age, Social Security number (if any) and complete

mailing address. Also, the section listing other members of the household will be completed. The same procedure will be followed in respect to the certification at the bottom of Form DDNP-2, and signature, of these applicants as it applies to all other applicants.

D. Certification

1. The County Commodity Supervisor as agent for the Board of County Commissioners will review each application. If the applicant is found to be in need as determined by the criteria of eligibility, the appropriate space on the application will be marked, dated, and signed by the agent, and the number of persons certified to be eligible in the household entered on the reverse side of the Form. If the applicant is found not to be eligible the appropriate space will be marked "disapproved", signed by the agent and dated. A brief statement giving reasons for disapproval should be made on the application card.

2. All approved applications will be filed either alphabetically, numerically or by household size. This file will be the master record of all persons in the county eligible to receive donated foods.

3. If an applicant fails to secure foods for two successive months, eligibility will be cancelled, the appropriate space on the application marked "disapproved", signed or initialed and dated by the Commodity Supervisor.

4. A separate file of disapproved applications, those cancelled upon review by the Commodity Supervisor, and those cancelled for failure to secure food for two successive months, will be maintained in the same manner as the master file.

5. Applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements should be notified if the determination is not made when the application is taken. A form letter should be sent to the person notifying him that upon investigation it has been found that he is not eligible to receive the donated foods and advising him that if his circumstances change he should reapply at a later date.

E. Recertification

1. *Public Assistance Households*—The eligibility of public assistance households shall be reviewed at intervals that are coincident with the redetermination of eligibility to receive public assistance grants or benefits.

2. *Non-Public Assistance (Other Needy) Households*.—The eligibility of non-public assistance (other needy) households shall be reviewed no less than each three months; except that in certain instances, reviews may be made at longer periods, not to exceed 12 months. These longer periods may be used for households where the county certifying agency determines that the income and resources available to such households will probably remain essentially unchanged during such period (for example, households deriving all income from Social Security payments, retirement payments, etc.) The reason for using a longer period must be evident from the application.

3. The certifying agent shall obtain from the head of the household information relative to any changes in income resources, and household composition, which have occurred since the preceding certification. This must be done in a personal interview using the same procedure and thoroughness outlined for the original determination of eligibility. The pertinent information shall be entered on the application Form and documentary evidence filed with permanent records.

F. Identification cards

Identification cards will be issued to each certified eligible head of the household as evidence of eligibility to secure USDA donated commodities. (See Appendix.) The recipient may designate on his application card and on his identification card the name of a person he authorizes to receive his donation of foods, should he not be able to appear. The commodities will not be delivered to any person unable to present or establish identification.

G. Distribution record

After the application has been completed and the applicant certified, the reverse side of Form DDNP-2 will be filled in with all information asked for. This card

forms the record of distribution of each commodity in accordance with the distribution guide rate as established by the D/A and shown on Form DDNP-3. Special care shall be exercised to see that only the correct amounts of each commodity are given to the applicant and that these amounts are entered in their proper column. Each recipient must sign for the amounts of commodities received, and in the event he is unable to sign his name the instructions previously given for "X" marks will be followed.

SECTION III. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR STORING OF USDA DONATED COMMODITIES

1. The Warehouse.—Two types of warehouse facilities are needed for the storage of foods; dry and refrigerated storage. The dry and refrigerated warehouse facilities should be located near each other, or preferably in the same building and adjacent to a railroad siding with ample truck loading docks to assure prompt handling of inbound and outbound shipments by railroad or trucks. Care should be exercised when selecting or approving warehouse facilities for storing USDA donated commodities to determine its adequacy for the type of commodities to be stored and the space needed in relation to the volume of commodities that are to be handled. Overstocking of USDA donated commodities should be avoided at all times, as this leads to waste.

A. Construction.—The building should be constructed so as to provide safe and sanitary conditions for the storage of foods and safe and healthful working conditions for employees. Consideration must be given to the size of the building so as to provide sufficient space for repackaging and distribution of commodities if they are distributed directly from the warehouse.

B. Floor Load.—Floor load capacity should be approved by a safety engineer or building inspector before it is accepted for the storage of commodities. *Do not overload.*

C. Protection from the Elements, Insects, Rodents, Theft.—The building should be so constructed so as to protect the commodities from damage by natural elements. It should at all times be insect and rodent proof as far as is practicable, and if there is question about this condition the service of an approved exterminating service should be used. Doors and windows should be screened and provisions made to have all doors and windows protected against possible entrance by unauthorized persons at times when the building is not open for regular work.

D. Ventilation.—Good ventilation is essential to the proper storage of any type of commodity. It not only retards the growth of various types of bacteria and insect life, but assists in controlling temperatures in summer and winter. Ventilation can be controlled or accomplished by natural flow of air through the warehouse or by mechanical means such as intake and exhaust fans or air conditioners.

E. Light.—Sufficient light either natural or artificial should be provided to insure safe and efficient operation. Poor lighting contributes to accidents and unsatisfactory warehousing conditions in general.

F. Cleanliness and Sanitation.—It is important that the warehouse be clean and sanitary at all times. All trash and rubbish should be removed from the premises daily and placed in trash cans as provided. Floors should be swept daily and scrubbed as necessary. Sweeping compound is recommended for use on floors to keep down dust. Running water and toilet facilities should be provided for employees use, and an adequate supply of soap and paper towels should be readily accessible for use by all persons handling food products.

G. Food Must be Stored on Floor Racks or Dunnage.—Floor racks or pallets can be constructed at a reasonable cost from 2" x 4" lumber and 1" x 4" or 1" x 6" stock. This allows ventilation under the commodities and protects them from spoilage. Commodities will at all times be kept off the floor of warehouse.

H. Safety.—Cases and bags will be stacked on racks or dunnage in such a manner as to enable a ready physical count at any time and in stacks not too high for safe lifting or too high so that there is a possibility of the stack falling over, thus causing damage to the commodity or injury to someone nearby.

Warehouse aisles must be kept free and clear of commodities, empty boxes and sacks, and good safety practices will be followed at all times.

I. Fire Extinguishers.—It is recommended that approved type of fire extinguishers be provided for the warehouse and that they are inspected at regular intervals to insure proper working condition.

J. Storage and Disposal of Empty Containers.—Empty containers may be used in the program to package commodities for distribution to eligible recipients. Care should be used in opening cases, bags, or boxes so that their value will be greater if sold. Salvage containers do have a resale value, and if they are not used in the program they should be sold at the best possible price to a local dealer. The proceeds from such sales must be used in the distribution program itself and such sales will be recorded on the Salvage Container Fund Report, Form, DDNP-7, together with the information as to how the money was spent.

SECTION IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSIGNEES AND RECIPIENT AGENCIES

The responsibility and authority for placing all orders for commodities with the United States Department of Agriculture rests with the State Department of Public Welfare, Jacksonville, Florida. Every effort will be made by our agency to see that sufficient inventories are on hand at all times to adequately meet the needs of the participating counties. Because purchase contracts have to be made for most of the donated commodities, neither the D/A nor the USDA can be held liable for deliveries not made on time.

Inventory control on the part of the recipient agency is most important and each county program must anticipate their future needs on a monthly basis using known factors such as maximum distribution rates per person per month, actual caseload of eligible persons, and potential future caseload. Participating counties will submit their requests for commodities monthly to the D/A showing the name of the commodity, number of units needed, and the approximate date of desired arrival within their county.

1. Consignee.—In many instances full carload or part carload shipments will be made direct to the participating counties on instructions by the D/A to the USDA. The consignee is the person designated by the D/A on the order to unload the car at its destination.

2. Notification of Allocation.—When the D/A places an order for delivery of any given commodity in carload or part carload amounts, Form DDNP-6 will be prepared and forwarded to the consignee who will unload the car. This is only a notice that a given amount has been allocated for distribution.

3. Notification of Shipment.—When the D/A receives notification that a carload shipment has been made from the point of origin, Form DDNP-9 will be prepared in duplicate and forwarded to the consignee.

4. Arrival of Shipment.—The agent of the delivering carrier will notify the consignee when the car arrives at destination for unloading.

5. Notification of Sharing Agencies.—There may be times when more than one county will share in the distribution of the contents of a carload or truck load shipment. If this is the case, this information will be shown on the Form DDNP-6. The consignee should then notify by telephone (*collect*) all recipients as shown on the Form DDNP-6, giving the location of the car, date and time it will be unloaded. If possible such notification should be given the day prior to actual unloading so that the participating counties can make arrangements to come and pick up their allocations at once. If arrangements have been made prior to arrival of the shipment, the consignee may ship *freight collect*, by common carrier, the amounts allocated to the participating counties.

6. Government Bills of Lading.—Government Bills of Lading are forwarded to the State Department of Public Welfare, Commodity Division. Consignees will not receive these Bills of Lading; however, the carrier's agent may ask for the Government Bill of Lading before the shipment is released for unloading to the consignee. Please inform the carrier's agent that all Government Bills of Lading are completed in the office of the State Department of Public Welfare, Commodity Division, Jacksonville, Florida, and are forwarded directly to the

carrier as soon as the consignee completes Form DDNP-9 and it is received in the office of the D/A. If the carrier's agent insists on having the Government Bill of Lading before the car is unloaded, have him check with his main office for instructions to permit the unloading of shipment.

7. *Unloading Provisions.*—Under no condition should a consignee unload a shipment without first having received from the State Department of Public Welfare Forms DDNP-6 and DDNP-9 which show that the allocation has been made of the commodity, and further that actual shipment has been made from the point of origin. If you are notified by the carrier that a car is to be placed or has been placed for unloading, and you do not have papers from the office of the D/A that the car is due you, then secure from the agent of the carrier the initials and number of the car, kind of commodity, number of units supposedly in the car, then call collect the office of the State Department of Public Welfare, Commodity Distribution Division, Jacksonville, Florida, and the necessary information will be furnished you as to whether this car is for distribution to one county program or if there are other sharing programs involved. Sometimes through error cars are shipped without proper notice being furnished the D/A as required by federal regulations.

8. *Supervision of Unloading.*—The consignee or his representative should be at the car when seals are broken. At this time, he should record the car initials and number, seal numbers on both doors, and the condition of the seals upon arrival. He should be present at all times while the car is being unloaded and personally count the contents being removed from the car. To substantiate his count it is advised that a stroke tally be made as each container of commodities is removed from the car. A record of the time unload is started and the time it is completed should also be recorded. If there are other sharing programs participating in the load, the consignee should make only the distribution to them of the amounts shown on the Form DDNP-6 and secure a valid hand receipt for those items delivered to the sharing programs. If it becomes necessary to leave the car before unloading is completed the consignee should see that the doors of the car are securely locked with a padlock or secured with railroad seals which the carrier can furnish you, and upon return to the car an inspection should be made of the lock or seals. If they are not intact, this should be immediately reported to the railroad carrier.

9. *Completion of Form DDNP-9.*—When the unloading of the car is completed and it is ascertained that the contents of the car check out correctly according to the amounts shown as allocated and as shown on Form DDNP-9 the consignee should complete Form DDNP-9 and mail the original copy to the office of the D/A. If there is a shortage, damage, or overage, in the car this information should also be noted on Form DDNP-9 and the office of the D/A so notified.

10. *Over, Short, or Damage.*—If at any time before or during the unloading shortage or damage is discovered, the railroad agent, or agent of the trucking company in the event shipment arrives by truck line, must be notified immediately and a request made for an inspection by the carrier's agent. A complete recheck should be made by the consignee to verify shortage. When damage to the contents is evident, a joint inspection by both the carrier's agent and the consignee will be made to determine the amount damaged.

When the office of the D/A receives word of the shortage or damage in any car USDA Form FD-57 OVER, SHORT OR DAMAGE REPORT will be prepared by the D/A in blank and forwarded to the consignee for completion and signature by the carrier's agent.

If a major portion of the shipment is damage, the consignee will immediately notify the office of the D/A in Jacksonville, Florida. This is usually evident upon opening the car door, and such notification to the D/A should be made before unloading is started. The D/A will then furnish the consignee instructions as to what further steps to take in this matter.

If the damage to any commodity makes it unfit for human consumption it should not be accepted by the consignee and should be returned to the carrier for disposition. All damage cases, bags, or cartons will be reworked so as to salvage for use all possible amounts of the commodity, however, no damaged unit where the contents are exposed will be accepted from the carrier.

11. *Handling Stop-off Cars.*—A stop-off car is one where a part of the load is to be unloaded by a consignee at one designation and the remaining, load is to come out at another designation. Such information is shown on Form DDNP-6 Notice of Allocation. In the case where a stop-off car is being handled by a consignee he should be sure that *only* the number of units called for on Form DDNP-6 are unloaded at his receiving point.

When the unloading is completed the consignee at the stop-off point *will level off the remaining load in the car* in accordance with accepted practices to prevent future damage of the load enroute to final destination. The consignee will then seal the car doors with new seals and notify the railroad that the car is ready to move to its new destination.

On stop-off cars the consignee will record and show on Form DDNP-9 both the inbound seal numbers and the outbound seal numbers of both doors of the car.

In case the consignee is handling the final destination on the shipment and has removed from the car the number of units specified on Form DDNP-6 and there still remains in the car a large number of units, the consignee will at once make an accurate count of the overage and notify the office of the D/A for instructions. If only a few units remain in the car the consignee should remove these to his warehouse and report the excess on Form DDNP-9.

12. *Demurrage Charges.*—Normally, demurrage charges do not become due until 48 hours after 7:00 A.M. of the day the car is placed for unloading, Saturdays, Sundays, and official holidays excepted. This period is known as free time and each car is expected to be unloaded within the free time. If for any reason the consignee fails to unload the car within the established free time as allowed under the railroad freight tariff such demurrage charges become due and payable by the consignee at the destination and will be paid for only by such consignee. If there is any question as to the allowable time for unloading a car it is suggested that the consignee contact the carrier.

13. *Freight Charges.*—All freight charges on carload shipments are prepaid to the destination city by the shipper or the USDA and consignees will not pay to the carrier any charges on such shipments.

14. *Allocation Notice and Receipt, Shipments Other than Carload Lots.*—In some instances shipments of commodities will be made to Recipient Agencies in quantities other than carload amounts. These shipments may be part of a carload to be unloaded by another consignee, or they may come to the R/A from warehouse inventories held in the name of the D/A at strategic distribution points. If these shipments move from the distribution point to the R/A by common carrier they will move on a Freight Collect Bill of Lading. When such less than carload shipments move by common carrier and there is a shortage or damage in the delivery of commodities, it will be the responsibility of the R/A to file claim with the delivering carrier for the amount of loss or damage in an amount determined by the D/A. The office of the D/A will be notified of such action taken and will be kept informed by letter of the progress being made toward proper settlement of the claim.

Recipient Agencies will be notified in advance of shipment by the office of the D/A on form DDNP-10 Allocation Notice and Receipt for Shipments Other than Carload Lots. This Form shows the name of the commodity, amount allocated, the D/A's Delivery Order Number, distribution point, and the name of the consignee at the distribution point, and will be prepared in duplicate. As soon as the recipient agency receives the commodities as shown allocated from the distribution point, Form DDNP-10 will be filled in to show the amount and date commodities are received, the Form will be signed and the original copy mailed to the office of the D/A *immediately*.

15. Nothing in these regulations will prevent the R/A from sending his own vehicle to the distribution point to pick up his allocation and transport it back to his county, providing proper safeguards can be given the commodities while enroute.

SECTION V. APPENDIX

(Fourteen applicable forms for use in this program and referred to in this Handbook follow:)

Form DDNP-2
(5/63)

Page _____

APPLICATION FOR USDA DONATED COMMODITIES

P.A. _____ NEEDED _____

Head of Household _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name Age Social Security Number

Mailing Address _____ County _____ Occupation _____

Are you Employed? _____ By Whom? _____ Mo. Salary \$ _____

Name and Address of last Employer _____ Date _____
Name of Firm Address

Why are you Unemployed? _____ Receiving Unemployment Benefits _____ Per Month \$ _____

Farmer -(Part-time/full) (Owner-tenant-day laborer) Total Yearly Farm Income \$ _____ Mo. Income \$ _____
Delete One Delete Two

Cash Crop Acreage _____ Do you receive a P.A. check? _____ Regularly _____ Per Month \$ _____

Do you receive a Government Pension, Social Security or any other income? _____ Kind _____ Per Month \$ _____

Do you own your home? _____ Assessed Value \$ _____ Landlord's Name & monthly rent _____

Resources of other members of household: Cash on hand \$ _____ Bank Account \$ _____

Other real estate \$ _____ Monthly Income _____ \$ _____
Assessed Value

OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD:

(How Verified _____)

				Monthly					Monthly
Last Name	First	Age	Relationship	Income	Last Name	First	Age	Relationship	Income
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	6. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	7. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	8. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	9. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	10. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

Total monthly income of all persons in your household and living in your house..... \$ _____

Do you have a garden? _____ Do you have cooking facilities? _____ Do you own a car or truck? _____

If sick or unable to pick up foods, name of person authorized to get them for you: _____

Name _____

CERTIFICATE OF APPLICANT

I hereby certify that the above information is correct and authorize the Board of County Commissioners or their appointed agent to check with my bank and other business or personal references to verify such information. I live within the county indicated. I will notify the Board of County Commissioners or their agent if there is any change in my financial or household situation. I agree to accept this food and use it only for myself and the above listed members of household. I will allow no one to sell, trade, willfully destroy or otherwise dispose of this donated food.

(Date) _____ (Signature of Applicant) _____
Approved () _____ (Date) Disapproved () _____ (Date)

(Signature or Persons taking Application) _____ (Signature of Agent for Board of County Commissioners)

Name of Certified Head of Household _____ Number Persons in Household _____ Public Assistance or Other _____ Date of Certification _____

Address - Street or Box No. _____ City _____ Distribution Point _____ Other Person(s) Authorized to Receive Food _____

Approved Disapproved Change Date *	Signature of Certifying Person	Date		Distribution Point														Signature of Recipient													
		Month		Beans	2# Bags	Margarine	Pounds	Cheese	5# Lvs.	Corn Meal	5# Bags	Flour	10# Bags	Shortening	Pounds	Meat	Can		Milk, Dry	4# Pkg.	Peanut	Butter	2# Can	Rice	2# Bag	Wheat	5# Pkg.	Oats	5# Pkg.	1# Pkg.	
		Jan.																													
		Feb.																													
		Mar.																													
		Apr.																													
		May																													
		June																													
		July																													
		Aug.																													
		Sep.																													
		Oct.																													
		Nov.																													
		Dec.																													

Remarks: (Reasons for disapproval and other pertinent information)

* The certifying agent or member of his staff must approve or disapprove by signature and date upon cancellation, recertification or reinstatement (indicate by word "cancelled", "recertified" or "reinstated.") Any applicant continuing to be eligible must be recertified at least every three months with the exception of Public Assistance persons who will be recertified when redetermination of grant is made.

DNP-3
(Rev. 8/1/67)HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION GUIDES FOR DONATED COMMODITIES
(in units per month except as noted)

NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 or more
COMMODITY	UNIT												
Beans, Dry	2# Pkg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Butter or Margarine	Pound	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15
Cheese	5# Leaf d/	1/2 a/	1 a/	1	1	1 1/2	2	2	2	2	2 1/2	3	3
Corn Meal	5# Pkg	1 a/	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Flour	10# Pkg	1 c/	1 a/	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Lard or Shortening - 1# Pkg	Issue by Pounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
"	- 2# Pkg	2 a/	2	6 a/	4	6	6	6	8	8	10	10	12
"	- 3# Pkg	3 b/	3 a/	3	3	6	6	6	9	9	9	12	12
Meat, Chopped	30 oz. Can	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Milk, Dry	4 1/2# Pkg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Peanut Butter	2# Can	1 c/	1 a/	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
Rice	2# Pkg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wheat/Oats, Rolled	3# Pkg	1 b/	1 a/	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
Grits	2# Pkg	1 a/	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Peas, Split - 1# Pkg	Issue by Pounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
"	- 2# Pkg	2 a/	2	4	4	6	6	8	8	10	10	12	12
Raisins	1# Pkg	1 a/	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	8

a/ Two month supply
 b/ Three month supply
 c/ Four month supply
 d/ To be cut as necessary

These rates shall not be exceeded. A recipient may turn down or refuse to accept any item or amount and not be penalized for such action. The rate should be reduced if commodities are not properly utilized for human consumption.

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Front

**CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR USDA DONATED COMMODITIES
PART I**

Name of Recipient

Number of Persons Eligible
in Household Group

Signature

Date Issued

Address of Recipient

City

This certification is valid for commodities from the date of issue until such date of recertification or cancellation by the State Department of Public Welfare.

Unit Address:

Signature of Worker

()

Unit

Form DDNP-4 Rev. 5/63

Back

NOTICE TO COUNTY COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION CENTER

The recipient of financial assistance from the State Department of Public Welfare as shown on the reverse of this card is eligible to receive USDA donated commodities only for the number of persons as shown to be in the family group. Eligibility will remain in effect from the date of issuance until such time as this case is regularly reviewed or cancellation notice is sent to your office. This card (Part I) will remain in your files and be attached to Form DDNP-2 permanently.

State of Florida

Department of Public Welfare

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PART II
IDENTIFICATION CARD — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT

Name of Recipient

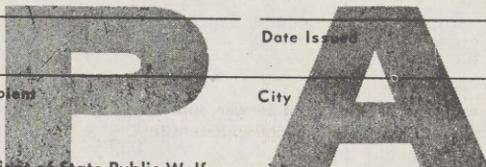
Number of Persons Eligible
in Household Group

Signature

Date Issued

Address of Recipient

City



Notice to Recipient of State Public Welfare assistance.

This is your identification card for the purpose of receiving donated federal commodities from Commodity Distribution Center of your county. You must carry this with you and present it at the center when you go for your commodities. Defacing or altering this card in any way may make you ineligible for further receipt of donated commodities.

Back

If I am unable to come for my foods, I hereby authorize the following person(s) to pick them up for me.

Signature of Recipient

Name _____

Signature of Person Authorized

Name _____

Signature of Person Authorized

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Front

**CANCELLATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR USDA DONATED COMMODITIES
Public Assistance Recipient**

Name of Recipient

Date

Address of Recipient

City

The above named person is no longer eligible to continue receiving donated commodities and will be removed from your register.

Unit Address:

Signature of Worker

()

Unit

Form DDNP-5
Rev. 5/63

Back

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County

_____, Florida

City

ATTENTION: Commodity Distribution Director

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IDENTIFICATION CARD
DIRECT DISTRIBUTION TO NEEDY PERSONS' PROGRAM

Front

USDA Commodity I.D. Card No. _____
_____ County
Name _____
Address _____
Number in Household _____
Type of Recipient _____
Date Certified _____
Signature _____
Applicant
Signature _____
Certifying Officer

Back

If I am unable to come for my foods, I hereby authorize the following person(s) to pick them up for me.

Signature of Recipient
Name _____

Signature of person authorized
Name _____

Signature of person authorized

1964

Form DDNP-6 ALLOCATION NOTICE TO CONSIGNEE AT RECEIVING POINT

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
COMMODITY DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2050 JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32203

Date

Commodity

59

D/O No.

TO:

Receiving Point

Anticipated Shipping Date
from point of origin
1st half -
2nd half -

FROM: E. Lee McCubbin, Director, Commodity Division

We have accepted one carload of the above named commodity to be unloaded as follows:

_____ to be unloaded at _____ consigned to you.
_____ to be unloaded at _____.

Freight charges will be paid by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the above Receiving Points. If other participating programs are included in the shipment for your destination they are listed below and are being notified on Form DDNP-10, as per copies attached, that on arrival at Receiving Point their allocations will be forwarded to them transportation collect unless they notify you immediately that they will pick up their commodities in their own vehicle.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS SHIPMENT AS FOLLOWS:

Form DMP-7
(1/65)

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
COMMODITY DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2050 JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32203

NOTE: Prepare in duplicate
Send original to
State Office

MONTHLY REPORT OF DONATED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

COUNTY _____ MONTH _____ YEAR _____

	Dry Beans 2#	Butter Lbs.	Cheese 5#	Corn Meal 5#	Flour 10#	Lard Lbs.	Meat Cans	Dry Milk 4 1/2#	Peanut Butter 2#	Rice 2#	Wheat 3#
1. Commodity											
2. Unit	Bags	Lbs.	Loaves	Bags	Bags	Lbs.	Cans	Pkgs.	Cans	Bags	Pkgs.
3. Inventory											
4. Shipment											
5. Transfer											
6. AVAILABLE											
7. Out											
8. Spoilage											
9. Distributed											
10. Ending											
11. Inventory											

NOTE: Show Difference between lines 10 and 11 on lines 12 and 13 below. Explain difference on back of this Form

12. Over											
13. Short											

- 14. (a) Total number persons eligible to receive USDA Foods _____
 - (b) Number of Public Assistance persons that received food this month _____
 - (c) Number of other needy persons that received food this month _____
 - (d) Number of persons who failed to pick up food this month _____
- (Total of (b), (c) and (d) should equal (a).)

This is to certify that the above information is true and correct based on records on file in this office.

Signed _____ Title _____

1968

DDHP-9 NOTICE OF SHIPMENT TO CONSIGNEE AND RECEIVING REPORT - CARLOAD LOTS

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
COMMODITY DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2050 JACKSONVILLE, FLA. 32203

TO:

Date Amount

COMMODITY D/O No.

Car Number

FROM: E. Lee McCubbin, Director
Commodity Division

We have been advised by the U. S. Department of Agriculture that car containing
the above listed COMMODITY was shipped to you _____ from _____
Allocations from this shipment were sent to you under date of _____

UPON RECEIPT OF THIS CAR PLEASE COMPLETE THE SPACES BELOW AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL
COPY OF FORM TO THIS OFFICE THE DAY THE CAR IS UNLOADED.

DATE
RECEIVED _____
CONDITION _____
OVER _____
SHORT _____
DAMAGED _____

Inbound Seal Nos. _____
Outbound Seal Nos. _____
(Stop-off Consignees Only)

Signature of Consignee

1969

DDNP-10

NOTICE OF ALLOCATION AND RECEIVING REPORT

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
COMMODITY DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2050 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32203

COUNTY

DATE

TO :

FROM: E. Lee McCubbin, Director Commodity Division

You have been allocated the following USDA donated commodities:

VIA: _____

FROM: _____

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT AND UNIT</u>	<u>D/O No. - LOT No.</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
------------------	------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Date commodities were received Signature of Authorized Representative
On receipt of commodities, please fill in the date and amount received. Sign and return the original.
Duplicate copy must be retained in your files for audit purposes.

REMARKS _____

1971

PRESS CLIPPINGS

[From The Miami (Fla.) Herald, Dec. 21, 1967]

HUNGER, POVERTY FOUND—IMMOKALEE SURVEYED

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

IMMOKALEE.—A national group checking hunger in the U.S. confirmed to The Herald on Wednesday that it has made a study of the Immokalee area "and did indeed see evidence of poverty, poor nutrition, and parasitic disease" among migrant families.

A newspaper story broadening these findings into accusations of neglect against county health operations and adding charges of price gouging against local grocers has aroused residents here.

"Nobody goes hungry in Immokalee to my knowledge," said veteran Principal Frank Warriner of the charges on Tuesday.

A meeting of Immokalee leaders with supporters of the charges is set for 11 a.m. today at Tyler's Restaurant.

The statement about the inquiry into local conditions was released to The Herald by telephone Wednesday night from Washington.

Dave Hearn, former Texas newspaper man, gave as authority for the statement the cochairman of the "Citizens Board of Inquiry Into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States."

Hearn said the statement was made by Leslie Dunbar who is also a director of the field foundation.

"The Citizens Board of Inquiry Into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States," the statement declared, "represented by a field team of observers did visit the Immokalee area in recent weeks and these team members did indeed see evidences of poverty, poor nutrition, and parasitic disease affecting various agricultural workers' families in the area.

Observers have filed a report for review with the board of inquiry which now is engaged in a national study of hunger and malnutrition in both rural and urban areas of the U.S.

"The full report of these surveys and the board's conclusion will be completed and made public by late February or early March, 1968.

"The board of inquiry will be pleased to make this report available to all those persons interested in such problems at that time."

Hearn said he could not comment on the statement.

[From The Miami (Fla.) News, Jan. 12, 1968]

MIGRANT DISTRESS: A BIG JOB REMAINS AT IMMOKALEE

Immokalee and all of Collier County are in an uproar over the charges of a national investigating group that the migrant workers of that town constitute one of the worst poverty pockets in the nation.

Whether or not the Citizens Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition is correct, we cannot say. We are not familiar with the regions of Mississippi and South Carolina with which Immokalee is compared.

Governor Kirk's reaction to the national attention conferred on Immokalee was rather typical. The governor swooped down on the town for a quickie inspection, announced that he saw no evidence of what the investigators had found, and flew off to other parts.

City officials complain angrily that anti-poverty workers in the area showed the investigators only the worst cases of poverty, and that no attention was paid to the town's efforts to improve the migrant's housing, diet, medical care and so on.

Immokalee has indeed taken measures to improve the lot of the agricultural workers, as Miami News readers learned in a series of stories by Reporter Verne Williams, the last of which appears in today's editions.

Williams also found that much remains to be done, and that there certainly are families living in hunger and in quarters that cannot be justified under today's health and sanitation laws. He found that rent gouging was all too

common and a major obstacle in efforts to obtain compliance with the migrant housing laws.

Reporter Williams also found that Immokalee's migrant problems will multiply. The complex social and economic factors of agricultural labor are changing. More and more migrants are dropping out of the streams to become permanent residents. Many are staying in Immokalee.

Immokalee has come a long way in its attitudes since those days of 10 years ago when thousands of workers were found starving after a crop failure. But Immokalee and other Florida cities on the migrant stream have a long way yet to go. The embarrassment they suffer from periodic looks by outsiders into the hovels at their backdoors is nothing compared with the plight of those who must live in them.

[From the Collier County (Fla.) News, Mar. 24, 1967]

GRAND JURY DEPLORES HOUSING

What were described as health, fire, sanitary and building hazards "in migrant labor camps and so-called hotels or rooming houses throughout the county" were brought to the attention of the public Thursday after the 1967 Spring Term Grand Jury for Collier County had handed its report to Circuit Court Judge Harold S. Smith.

The jury's statement added that "in the Immokalee area conditions were found to be deplorable, with particular reference being made to labor housing."

Saying it had carefully investigated health, sanitary and safety conditions in the county, the jury stated: ". . . there is a noticeable lack of compliance with licensing laws pertaining to health hazards, fire hazards, sanitary hazards and building hazards."

That law-enforcement agencies are faced with a problem in the situation described was indicated by the jury when it said "state and county authorities engage in a running battle to keep abreast of these problems—involving illiteracy, drinking, filth and poor morals."

Declaring it had no desire to deprive growers of a necessary labor market and that it was aware that there exists a public housing authority to undertake to provide improved housing conditions in the Immokalee area, the jury concluded its report as follows:

"The Grand Jury deploras the fact the County Commissioners have no authority to condemn dangerous structures in the county. It is, therefore, recommended the County Commission obtain the authority from the Florida State Legislature as soon as practicable. It is also recommended that state and county enforcement officers exercise immediate and effective compliance of their respective spheres of jurisdiction to alleviate and remedy these unsatisfactory conditions in Collier County.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 24, 1967]

HEALTH, FIRE HAZARDS HIT BY GRAND JURY

(By Fred Winter)

NAPLES.—The grand jury Thursday called for new legislation and strong enforcement of present laws to correct health, fire, sanitary and building hazards.

Its report, filed with Circuit Judge Harold S. Smith, cited no specific examples of hazardous conditions, and named only the Immokalee area as a place where "conditions were found to be deplorable with particular reference being made to labor housing."

The report was signed by Lewis W. Parks, foreman of the 18-man jury, Joseph H. Bishop Jr., vice foreman, and W. H. Kaverman, clerk.

The jury reported it had "examined health, sanitation and safety conditions in the county."

"We now find," the report continued, "that there is a marked laxity in enforcement of applicable statutes, ordinances and administrative regulations, safety and housing conditions in migrant camps and so-called hotels or rooming houses throughout the county.

LACK OF COMPLIANCE

The jury called several county elected officials and employes during its month-long hearings. Officials said they had no comment on the report.

The report cited a "noticeable lack of compliance with licensing laws pertaining to health hazards, fire hazards, sanitary hazards and building hazards."

In the Immokalee area, it said, "conditions were found to be deplorable with particular reference being made to labor housing."

"Specific instances of violations and irregularities throughout the county have been strenuously brought to the attention of appropriate enforcement officers," the grand jury said.

"State and county authorities engage in a running battle to keep abreast of the problems involving illiteracy, drinking, filth and poor morals."

The report said that "the grand jury has no desire to deprive the growers of a necessary labor market."

It also took cognizance "of the fact the County Commission has created a public housing authority to undertake to improve housing conditions in the Immokalee area."

"However," the report continues, "the grand jury deplores the fact the county commissioners have no authority to condemn dangerous structures in the county."

The report recommended:

That "the County Commission obtain the authority from the Florida state Legislature as soon as practicable."

That "state and county enforcement officers exercise immediate and effective compliance of their respective spheres of jurisdiction to alleviate and remedy these unsatisfactory conditions in Collier County."

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 21, 1968]

MIGRANT'S LOT NOT A HAPPY ONE AT CAMP HAPPY

First of A Series

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

(NOTE.—For the past several weeks Times reporter Samuel Adams has been investigating conditions facing migrant farm workers in the Fort Myers and Naples areas. He spent three days in the fields picking and hauling tomatoes, and talking to men who work at a labor camp called Camp Happy. He was denied entrance to the camp himself—he was told—because he was from the Fort Myers area and the camp wanted only out-of-state workers. Since then he has spent days interviewing migrants, anti-poverty workers and crew leaders. Here is his report.)

FORT MYERS.—They call it Camp Happy. But, despite the sometime rollicking drinking of migrants living there, there's sadness at the camp and farm fields which surround it.

This is the impression I received while working in the fields beside migrant farm laborers for several days—talking with them, riding to work and afterward.

Carl Glidden, president of the company which operates the camp, sees things differently. He believes the majority of workers in and out of the camp are happy.

But he adds: "It doesn't matter what you do for them, they just aren't satisfied."

Migrant workers who have lived at the isolated camp say:

Workers are forced to stay because they usually are in debt to camp operators from the time they arrive.

Their main escape is wine, women and "joking."

The cost of beer and cheap wine at the company store is high, and most workers couldn't buy it elsewhere (due to transportation problems and the isolated camp).

There are only a few women among some 150 men. And some of these earned money for favors.

Enforcers of camp rules beat up those who get out of line.

Outsiders are prohibited from visiting and grounds are posted "Private Property, Positively No Trespassing."

Many of these complaints were confirmed in personal interviews with migrants now working in Fort Myers, and by anti-poverty officials seeking to improve plight of the migrants.

A court suit is pending in a Miami federal district court contending labor crews sent to the farm by the Texas State Employment Service were not paid wages they were promised and were given inadequate housing.

The complaint was filed against the Florida State Employment Service and Naples Farm Inc., which has close financial connections to the Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co., owner of Camp Happy.

Camp Happy is the self-contained camp for almost 200 migratory workers. It is about 30 miles south of Fort Myers, about the same distance west of Immokalee, and eight miles north of Naples. Corporation president is Carl Glidden, Naples; manager is Jack Branch, gun-toting former contract labor boss from Immokalee.

Former camp residents tell of midnight escapes, fights, beating, peonage-like prohibitions against leaving while in debt to the company, and economic controls that keep many workers in hock to bosses.

The camp recruits some of its resident work crew through state employment services in farm labor supply states, the bulk coming this year from South Carolina. Local "day haul" crews from Naples, Fort Meyers and Immokalee are brought into fields around the camp each day additional workers are needed.

Many camp migrants are in debt when they arrive, owing for transportation from out-of-state. Some claimed being charged also for rental of sheets and blanket. Records show room and board to be \$15 a week, which alumni say was payable whether a worker ate or not at the company mess.

Wages for a regular six-day 51-hour week was about \$51, but take home pay was often less than \$20 because of debts to company stores, advances and other charges.

Some former camp inmates now commute in day haul crews that harvest various farms in the area. One of these has just completed six months in the Collier County jail from charges stemming from a visit to Camp Happy.

His crime was "trespassing." He was hired on a farm labor bus that went into fields around Camp Happy a year after he had been told not to return.

Mike Walker, 25, thin, weak-looking migrant, says he did not know where the crew leader was taking him when he hired on as a tomato picker that November day. Shortly after he began work, he was recognized as someone who swam a creek and slipped away from the camp during the night, taking with him two other disgruntled workers—"Wilbert" from Mullins, S.C., and James Michael Murphy from Darlington, S.C.

Walker said they sneaked through the woods, and when they came to the paved road leading into Naples, they would lie in the weeds to dodge car lights and keep from being arrested on possible charges of "beating the board bill."

Mike had lived at the camp for about 10 days before leaving. Thinking the camp owed him money, he went back to collect shortly after his escape. But he was told he owed the company \$6 and that he had better leave and not return, he recalls. He went back to the farm as a commuting worker a year later and was arrested.

"He's the one been lying 'bout us," Walker said he heard one man say.

"Yeah. He took those boys off," said another.

According to Mike, the dialogue was between camp manager Branch and Glidden, president of the fruit and vegetable company. He alleges they threatened to bash his head but did no violence to him.

"By the time we got to the place where the dispatcher was, they had two police cars waiting for me. And they said, 'lock him up for trespassing; he's one of those social workers trying to cause trouble.'"

Walker, who now is a community aide for Community Action Fund, Inc., was convicted of "trespassing after warning" by a Collier County jury. Half of his six-month jail term was for having knife in his pocket at the time of his arrest—a standard tool for many farm laborers.

After his release from jail a few days ago, the thin laborer said the isolated Camp Happy company store profited from large mark-ups and a virtual monopoly over items otherwise inaccessible to its trapped consumers.

He reported: Pocket combs which could have been purchased elsewhere for a dime cost a quarter. So did 15-cent containers of hair grease. A can of beer retailed for 50 cents, and a half pint of cheap wine was \$1. Used shirts and pants were available for \$1 each.

Walker and other camp residents said most items could be purchased at the camp on credit, provided the worker had an ID number and a ticket (scrip) to show he had been working. The tickets served as collateral for continuing credit, keeping the laborer in debt. Those owing were free to leave only after accounts were settled, he said.

In the late evening after work, camp residents line up in the field to receive their (scrip) tickets. They line up again near their camp quarters to receive small advances they are encouraged to take each day to spend for wine and other items at the company store.

The salary advance usually is \$3 a day, according to Steve Poklemba comptroller for the Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co.

From the road the camp appears handsome. Inside is different. It includes several long barracks covered with aluminum siding and many small cubicles that look like tool sheds sold by large department stores.

"Inside, they are like most other camps—plywood partitions and six-man rooms—terrible," said Walker.

The camp flies an American flag, has an unused guard house at the entrance, and except for two entrance roads is cut off from the main road by a canal. Several miles deep in the fields are larger canals circling part of the farm. A migrant farm woman was reported drowned in one of the canals recently. Some other deaths in the area have been attributed to epileptic fits.

Branch, camp manager, was hospitalized last week for lung surgery and was unavailable for comment. He is described as a gruff-talking, stocky man with a big stomach. "He keeps henchmen around him. And he's got a bat and some say they have been beaten in the ribs with it," says Walker. "It's called his lazy-boy bat."

Answering the criticism, Glidden said, "There's nothing to it as far as I know." He said the camp is under the management of Branch but he believes some of the accusations are unfounded.

"When you get 200 to 400 in a camp, you're bound to have some problems," Glidden said.

Glidden said he does not spend much time at the camp, but in reply to the question about whether camp manager Branch had beaten workers, he replied, "I don't think so."

He said "We are running a nice camp." And he told of medical and other benefits to workers. He said Branch on one occasion took a machine gun from a white worker who was threatening his roommate. The gun now is kept at the camp and can be seen, he said.

There has been a good deal of turnover at the camp, but some migrants have been there since it was opened, said Glidden. They will confirm the opinion it is a good camp, he added.

He said the company would lose money if the workers were permitted to leave soon after getting to the camp. But he allows them \$2 on their travel expenses for each week they work, allowing \$10 after five weeks, he said.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 22, 1968]

FOR THE MIGRANT, GETTING A JOB IS A JOB IN ITSELF

Second of a Series

By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff

FORT MYERS.—I was still gulping down strong, black coffee when a Puerto Rican migrant ordered "one inch" of coffee in his styrofoam cup. He paid 11 cents, then proceeded to fill the cup with cream and sugar from the counter.

"If you want coffee, I'll sell it to you, but you can't have a whole cup of cream and sugar for 11 cents," the tall graying proprietor spouted angrily.

It was 5 a.m. and dark in the small dingy restaurant. "Mac" and "Miss Pheobe" were serving breakfast to those who had money. Sometimes it was mullet with grits, egg with grits, and very popular was pork chops with grits. Most only bought coffee and stayed near the window so they could see the approach of buses they might try for a job.

"There comes dat Camp Happy bus."

"Is Robert driving it?"

"No, he got a job making about \$2 a hour."

The green bus, bound for Camp Happy, was inscribed "Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co." I dashed out, spilling my coffee. There wasn't time for breakfast or to buy lunch.

"Big Bad John" stood in the doorway of the bus surveying his regulars who made their way. I had been turned down often along with many others begging for work. This time I decided not to ask for a job but to take one.

I pushed my way on—not first, but nearly—as if I were a regular, asking as I squeezed by, "Where's Robert today?"

"I don't know," answered Big John, the square shouldered Mexican crew leader. "We take 22," he yelled inside to Benny, the Puerto Rican driver who was married to Rosa, one of Big John's 14 children.

I felt sick seeing so many wanting and needing work, turned away. One regular who had been on the bus but left to buy something to supplement his lunch returned to find his place filled.

He came aboard cursing to retrieve his greasy bag from the seat he left it on. One day he would be needed, and he might say "No" just to get even, he said.

It was still dark, but I kept my face turned away from Benny, who kept counting, recounting and looking. I feared being dropped. I had spent several days trying to get hired and each time was among the nearly 200 rejected.

Not knowing what to expect, I worried about going all day in the hot sun without food. As we pulled off I mentioned it to the old "Geechee" (mixed slave-English dialect from near Charleston, S.C.) woman who sat next to me. She told me the bus stopped every day at Morrell's Grocery en route to the fields. There we waited for the store to open and to pay its prices.

I ordered three thin slices of bologna and cheese. The middle-aged storekeeper put it on the scale and pulled it off in one motion. He left no time for me to check quantity or price.

"Thirty-five cents," he said, his tone suggesting finality. "Don't you also want a loaf of bread?"

Instead, I found a long lean sandwich. "Eighty-five cents," he said.

I was a penny short and he wasn't budging. The Geechee again came to my aid with a penny.

I was carrying a surplus light gym-bag inscribed with an assumed name. In it were a change of underwear, extra ties, shirt and socks.

In the fields we drove through hundreds of acres before stopping at a pre-selected tomato plot. I became a tomato picker and the only instruction given was that "We only get pinks."

I had a middle row and I struggled vainly to keep up. Benny, whose job now was "row walker," checked my row and, finding I had left some pinks, called me back to the beginning, putting me further behind. I began picking everything that bordered on light pink, but then I was behind for picking green tomatoes. Actually, all looked pink except a few that were over ripe.

The red-green color blindness didn't help, as I learned that the color changes begin at the bottom of the vegetable. This meant stooping and inspecting the bottom of every one. I was failing the test and feared getting fired for attempting to work my turn as a resident of Camp Happy.

Benny suggested that I "go now" and "tell that lugger to check your row." I grabbed filled plastic buckets and began the job which required lots of strength, mobility and a strong will to keep up.

Between trots to pick filled buckets of pink, I grabbed wooden cartons to arrange them to be filled and stacked.

Toward the middle of the day, a tractor with long arms that spread over nine rows came creeping behind us spraying a chalky-wet chemical on the tomatoes.

We stopped for a minute to let the vehicle pass, and the pickers went immediately back to work. Because I feared the spray might be a poisonous solution, I delayed going back by faking something wrong with my shoe. But the others began yelling for me to relieve them of filled buckets.

"I ain't the kinda guy to run from work," I said trying to impress Big John, whom I had asked to help me get into the camp.

My story about having no place to stay won the Mexican's sympathy and he told me I might spend the night at his place if I did not get word that everything was prepared for me to move into the camp. A foreman had said the delay was administrative, that they needed me, but would have to get the okay of Jack Branch, the camp manager.

The place I was given to sleep was too nasty. But I did not want to appear too fastidious and create suspicion about who I really was. It was an abandoned house next door to Big John's.

Roaches were crawling. I decided to stay only long enough to convince my benefactor I was his kind of migrant, and before returning home I would obtain medicine to prevent any infection from a splinter I had received in my hand.

Soon I could stand it no longer, so I left. I returned at about 3:30 a.m., but instead of going back into the house, I slept on the bus parked out front.

When Benny, his wife Rosa, and Big John joined me on the bus at 5 a.m., the Mexican crew leader said, "I thought you had gone. I check last night and you not there."

"I met a gal and fooled around a little while," I chortled.

Big John seemed satisfied with my story. Whether I get in the camp or not, I can lug tomatoes with Big John's crew, he assured me. From my assumed accent, he said it sounded like I was from Georgia. He prides himself on being able to tell. To him, "Florida boys" are bad news. "They're crazy." Guys like me "from Georgia or South Carolina" are good guys. I continued to work with him.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 23, 1968]

A DAY OF SWEAT AND PAIN

SADNESS AROUND CAMP HAPPY

Third of a Series

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

NAPLES.—"Lugger! Luggerman! Walk around."

The sing-song chant kept me moving fast, for we were picking everything two inches or larger in diameter that day—pinks and greens. And the tomato buckets of a single picker were being filled at a rate of about one every two minutes.

The clean-cut 22-year-old Negro who was helping lug tomatoes on my side of the road began stumbling and falling toward the end of the day. But he would pull himself up. And he kept shuffling with a loaded pail in each hand.

I too fell occasionally as salty sweat flowed into my eyes and my legs gave away.

This was worse than the work I had done during summers from college when we shoveled the hardened waste from cattle cars. What made it even more difficult was the drinking water problem. Everybody was complaining because the water truck had not served our crew since lunch time. And now it was around 3:30 p.m.

Some pickers wet their throats by breaking open green tomatoes and sucking on them. But I was afraid to eat one because the vegetables were being sprayed and dusted continually. Pickers and crew leaders said the chemicals killed off worms.

We could see the water truck miles away serving the crew that lived-in at the Camp Happy compound, and pickers cursed the driver for serving us in the mornings but ignoring us in the afternoons.

As everyone became more tired and thirsty, a woman whose buckets I had been lugging began fussing about my taking someone else's first. Actually, the younger lugger was responsible for her buckets, but I had volunteered help most of the day.

Her attack so angered me that I spoke curtly: "There's your lugger sitting on his bucket at the end of the row. You call him."

He was breathing deeply as if almost passing out.

"Who'ee! You sho' must be tired. Your voice done even changed. And you kin tell it in your face, too," another woman said.

She was right. In that moment of anger, I inadvertently had slipped out of my assumed dialect.

Before quitting time the unhappy word from Camp Happy was voiced by a foreman driving one of the pickup trucks armed with long rifles. Answering Big John's question about promises to arrange for me to stay at the camp, he said:

"Jack (Branch, camp manager) don't want nobody in the camp from Fort Myers."

"This boy ain't from Fort Myers," the Mexican crew leader explained. "You tell Jack. He's good worker."

To keep me from having to stay in "that messy camp," Raymond, a stiff-legged picker, offered to get me a room for about \$8 a week. And an aging woman offered to let me share her place "to keep me from that trouble" and maybe "save your life."

Practically all my coworkers each day voiced the sentiments of the first crew leader I had asked to intercede for me about a job at the camp. He said, "If I wuz you, I wouldn't move in. You subject to git beat or killed if you git in and try to leave or git in trouble."

The alternative to joining the camp crew was to continue staying at Fort Myers or Immokalee or Naples and pick up jobs with bus-driving crew leaders. Because I wanted "in" and so many of those in wanted "out", I became the subject of a lot of talk that became more vocal when an ambulance with flashing red lights drove through the field that day toward the camp crew.

Pointing and yelling, a picker across the road shouted to me: "See that? That's what they'll be sending for you. When it gits in the newspaper, it'll say you had a fit and died."

The whips and guns hanging in the rear windows of foremen's trucks made me wonder.

While working a few days later with "Cowboy," another crew leader, a platted leather whip attached to a two-foot staff was taken from a truck driver by a young foreman called "Wayne". But I was too tired, too sore, and too numbed to worry.

I had lost the lugging assignment and was picking an outside row next to the grassy bank of a large drainage and irrigation ditch. Some others didn't want to pick this row because they had seen snakes in a nearby field. A giant ache throbbled up and down the center of my back and spread out at the base. Some-times I could not straighten up because of muscle spasms and pain.

My compassion for the gray-haired picker on the first row, who was called "Old Man", vanished, for he seemed better suited than others for picking. His body was permanently stooped at about a 44-degree angle.

Big Bad John had this job for me with Cowboy after I showed up a little late for his bus and found all spots filled.

I bought dinner in the field that day, paid no sales tax, suffered again of thirst during the afternoon, and earned a little less than the \$1.15 an hour minimum wage for large farms. (There is no minimum pay for small farms not covered by wage-hour laws.)

No Social Security tax was withheld any day I worked and no one asked or knew my name or Social Security number.

My earnings varied: \$10.25 for nine hours one day, \$9.25 for eight hours on another day, and then \$9 for eight hours. Day haul workers are paid in cash, usually by the crew leader, but Wayne, the young foreman, helped pass out the money to "Cowboy's" crew.

Crew leaders, like operators of rolling company stores may make extra money. For example:

Enroute to the field on one bus, cold drinks were sold to me for 20 cents and boiled eggs for a dime each. A hot dinner consisting of a small portion of rice, gravy and part of a chicken wing cost me 75 cents. A slice of cake was 25 cents and a candy bar was 15 cents. No sales tax was required, and nobody seemed to worry about whether those serving had clean hands or health cards.

Some buses that transported workers to and from the fields of Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co. were unsafe. The front wheel ran off a loaded bus Freddie Commodore was driving. Luckily, the vehicle had arrived in the fields around Camp Happy and was moving slowly. No one was injured.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 24, 1968]

UNHAPPY ACCOUNTS OF LIFE AND PAY AT CAMP HAPPY

Fourth of a Series

(By Samuel Adams, The Times Staff)

NAPLES.—Unhappy accounts of beatings and money problems of migrants around Camp Happy have spread from Florida to the Mississippi Delta.

The former Camp Happy worker, now back in Mississippi, says he worked as many as 79 hours in one week while staying at the compound operated 30 miles south of Fort Myers by Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co. But his net pay was less than a third of the 100-a-week promise that lured him to Florida.

Joe Lee, of Pass Christian, Miss., already was in debt when he reached Naples last January. He owed for a one-way bus ticket given to him by a job counselor at the Gulfport office of Mississippi State Employment Service.

From Lee's first check \$20 was deducted as travel repayment. That and other deductions, including amounts for room and board, reduced his pay to \$31.

Lee quoted a camp boss he identified as "Jack" with saying the counselor at Mississippi State Employment Service in Gulfport was promised \$25 for each migrant farm worker he sent to the Naples camp and that a counselor in Greenwood, Miss., was promised \$30 for each worker sent.

In Gulfport, Edgar Littles, who estimated he has recruited 50 workers for the Naples company, said:

"There's not a word of truth in it. Lord, no! We work for the employment service of the State of Mississippi."

Littles said the company sent \$30 for each worker, the bus fare is \$25.50, and the other \$4.50 is given the recruited worker as eating money en route.

He said the Mississippi Employment Service had asked the field offices to interview returning workers, and he offered the statement of a Fannie Walls, whose only complaint was the bathroom facilities were dirty.

She also said, according to Littles, that some of the men, not connected with the company, did loan fellow workers \$1 and collected \$1.25 but that the company was not involved.

According to the other Mississippi migrant, Lee, life around the camp was horrible. He said:

On each pay day he netted less than half of what he had earned after deductions for room, board, and advances.

Workers were not allowed out on the street after 6 p.m.

Migrants were beaten with boards and fists. "A couple of cats got beat almost to death. They went to the hospital . . . One boy got his eye knocked out."

Wives of some workers are forced to submit to the attentions of some bosses in order to keep the better jobs in a company store or bar room.

Steve Poklemba, Camp Happy comptroller, said his records list the worker with Lee's employe number and age, 26, as "Joe Samm."

Poklemba said the company allows new employes \$10 on their transportation to the camp if they work for five payroll periods. This means a worker given \$30 for a bus ticket and eating money would have \$20 deducted from his pay and would be expected to remain at the camp for at least five weeks. Otherwise he is charged the full transportation cost, Poklemba said.

According to Poklemba, the \$20 taken from the 26-year-old laborer's first pay check and credited under miscellaneous represented repayment for the bus ticket and money given him by the Mississippi State Employment Service counselor.

Lee claims he should have been charged for two days of room and board—about \$4.80—on his last check. He paid twice as much—\$9.60.

"He probably got drunk over the weekend and laid up and didn't work, and then put in a couple of days and left," Poklemba theorized.

But Lee's bus ticket shows he left on a Saturday—two days after the end of his previous pay period. He said he worked both days. His pay records credit him with working 15.9 hours.

He said he did not receive his final pay check, netting him \$1.30, until two months after he left Florida. It took a letter from Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark to get the check. She heads the Pass Christian, Miss., office of STAR Inc. (Systematic Training and Redevelopment), a statewide adult education and manpower

training project the Catholic Church conducts in Mississippi under a federal grant.

"Frankly I doubt if they're doing anything blatantly illegal, but it looks as if their ethics leave a lot to be desired," wrote Mrs. Clark in a report to her director.

But she added: "It seems to me that, if nothing else, the Mississippi State Employment Service ought not to be a party to processing workers for this plant."

The organization is continuing its investigation.

Poklemba said the firm has had several investigators "to come down and we have been given a clean bill of health."

Asked who had investigated, he replied: "I don't know. Maybe the Labor Department or somebody. Some agitator, you know." He said some 150 migrants presently are in the camp and hiring is continual.

The pay stubs of Lee (listed as Joe Samm by Camp Happy) are examples of what migrant workers of Naple Fruit and Vegetables Company net from their gross earnings:

Week ending Jan. 11—Pay rate \$1 an hour; total hours 79.05; gross earnings \$79.05; paid out \$3.48 for Social Security, \$3.40 for room \$11 for board, \$9 for advances 90 cents for credit at company store, and \$20 for miscellaneous. Net pay was \$31.27.

Week ending Jan. 19—Pay rate \$1 an hour; total hour 51.48; gross pay \$51.48; pay out \$2.27 for Social Security, \$4 for room, \$11 for board \$9 for advances, \$3.55 for company store bills. Net pay was \$19.66.

Week ending Jan. 25—Pay rate \$1 an hour; total hour 15.9; gross pay \$15.90. Pay out 70 cents for Social Security, \$2.40 for room, \$7.20 for board, \$3 for advances, \$1.30 for company store debit. Net pay was \$1.30.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 25, 1968]

IS CAMP HAPPY HAPPIER? WAGES RAISED TO \$1.25

Fifth of A Series

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

NAPLES.—"Farming is like the weather—no it is the weather.

"One hurricane can wipe out a grower. After the hurricane season comes the freeze. After that the sun can tear you up. Farming can be 10 per cent skill and 90 per cent luck."

That was the way a top official of the Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co. explained problems facing growers and migrants alike yesterday as he gave this reporter a guided tour of the farm fields surrounding Camp Happy.

Previously I had worked three days in these same fields, earning \$1.15 an hour picking and lugging tomatoes and listening to complaints of migrant farm workers about the fruit company and Camp Happy.

Yesterday Steve Poklemba, comptroller for the company, told me during the tour the firm has raised its wages to \$1.25 an hour.

Last Friday Carl Glidden, president of the firm told me by telephone he would like to increase its hourly rate to this amount, so any connection between the increase and this series is moot.

Poklemba also cited these problems facing south Florida fruit and vegetable growers:

Because of changing federal policies, growers must employ domestic laborers at a minimum wage of \$1.15 an hour instead of cheaper, easier-to-recruit foreign workers from islands offshore Florida.

The cost of fertilizer and other materials is increasing, while the selling price of tomatoes remains relatively unchanged.

Bad weather did considerable damage to crops last March.

The migrant workers often attempt to settle disputes between themselves by violence and weapons must be taken from them.

On display at the Camp Happy tavern is a large assortment of these fighting tools taken from the workers: knives, swords, pistols, chains and horseshoes.

One usual weapon was the handle of a spoon fashioned into a ring with a sharp two-inch point, apparently intended to be used like brass knuckles to cut and stab victims.

Missing was a machine gun I had heard about while working in the fields. Bartender Walter Garadella said it had been removed by the camp's manager, Jack Branch, who is now in a hospital suffering from a lung illness.

Naples Fruit and Vegetable Co. cultivates about 900 acres, and only a portion of its workers lives on the farm at Camp Happy. Others are recruited by crew leaders who make daily trips to the farm from Fort Myers, Immokalee, Naples and other areas.

Life at Camp Happy provides some workers an opportunity to earn and save, Poklemba told me yesterday. Interviews with camp residents revealed some of the money comes from gambling.

Willie Miller, 43, of Mullins, S.C., is listed as employe number one and has been with the camp six years. He said he gambled frequently and earned quite a bit of money from it.

Employees who have been with the company the longest generally find little fault with the camp except for lack of motion pictures and other social outlets.

A federally-funded antipoverty agency, the Community Action Fund, is attempting to set up movies, but the district director for the agency, R. S. Mitchell, last week said Branch had refused to let the agency show films at Camp Happy.

Poklemba said one packing-house worker, Tony Cannon, 25, Florence, S.C., had accumulated \$800 and had just withdrawn it. Questioned about the withdrawal, Cannon called this an invasion of his privacy.

Cannon, who wears a black headrag over his straightened hair, was accused by another worker of helping to beat up some employes. The worker, Turner Strong, 40, of West Point, Miss., said a gang of fellows at the camp beat up workers if they failed to go to the field, but he always made it to work except for a short stint in the hospital.

Strong, one of several disgruntled workers, said his hospital bill for four days was \$47, which was taken from his check. In addition to Cannon, he pointed out two so-called "enforcers," one of whom he identified as "Sonny."

Strong said all the other workers were afraid to speak to "ya'll labor men" and he asked that he not be interviewed in their presence, for it might mean trouble for him. He said he hoped to leave the camp today.

A 19-year-old worker, who stayed away from the fields to clean a one-room cabin he is to move into, also expressed concern about violence.

"See all them people with stitches in their heads? They drink that wine and that causes them to get beat up," said Richard Peterson. Peterson says he drinks only beer.

Sixty-seven-year-old Thomas Jefferson of Clarksdale, Miss., said violence had missed him. "I haven't had any trouble but some have—fightin' and gettin' beaten up and things like that. Some fightin' is amongst themselves, (workers) and sometimes white folks beat them up."

Asked whether camp manager Jack Branch had hit anyone, he replied, "Yes, sure, I'm just goin' to admit it."

Others interviewed painted a rosy picture of Glidden. Poklemba told of Glidden's paying \$2,400 in delinquent taxes for one employe. He also told of fringe benefits—hospitalization—Glidden has provided for workers.

Tato, 48, a Cuban exile who formerly owned a half-million dollar ranch, said Glidden used to have a farm near his in Cuba and provided work for Tato after his arrival here.

The grounds around the camp are sodded and well kept. The "Juke" is a relatively handsome building paneled inside and selling such wines as Seabo, Petri, Fruit Bowl and Wild Russian. A half pint of wine costs 65 cents and beer costs 40 cents, said Poklemba. These prices differed from what camp alumnus Mike Walker said he encountered more than a year ago. Wine then was \$1 and beer was 50 cents, he said in an interview two weeks ago.

The firm's executives are experimenting with new housing arrangements that are expected to lessen some problems. They are getting rid of barracks because units with fewer persons breed fewer conflicts.

"Barracks cause friction," said Poklemba. "We got rid of one of the two barracks buildings last year, and we've had less problems this year because we've had only one barracks."

They are planning to switch to two-man units, he said. A nearby company, the Basso Farms, is building more expensive small masonry units to house workers and Poklemba said his company will be watching to see how successful they are.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Apr. 26, 1968]

OFFICIALS REFUSE AID—HUNGER LIVES AT CAMP HAPPY TOO

Last of a Series

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

Hunger invades the southwest Florida area near Camp Happy each year, but county, state, and federal officials seem unwilling to do much about it.

The Collier County Commission has refused to participate in free federal food programs and the county was not included in a list of 15 announced Wednesday as eligible to receive food directly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture without local approval.

But hunger is here. Only a few weeks ago, before the tomato crop ripened, hundreds of farm laborers without work were reported in "severe hunger" by an Immokalee citizens' committee.

County commissioners listened to the committee's report last month but took no action.

The committee then solicited money and food to help impoverished families until the agricultural harvesting picked up.

Emmett Roberts, state welfare director, said yesterday a representative of his office recently visited Collier County to encourage participation in food commodities or food stamp programs, but officials there concluded the hunger problem had abated since harvesting had picked up.

Collier is not considered a poor county, for it has substantial wealth around Naples, but the migrants living in the Immokalee area represent extreme deprivation. These were the hands pleading for work and food after bad weather delayed crop growth and caused idleness.

Twenty-five Florida counties, including Collier, Hendry, Glades, De Soto and Charlotte, which have substantial migrant populations, do not participate in federal programs that provide free food for impoverished families.

And many migrants in counties which do participate in the programs cannot qualify for commodities of food stamps because they are unable to claim residency—generally one year for county programs and five of the last nine years under state aid.

William Johnson of Fort Lauderdale, state director of Community Action Fund, Inc., is seeking approval for his agency to distribute free federal food to needy migrants in South Florida counties which have rejected the programs.

Even larger problems face migrants caught in a cycle of poverty which few have been able to escape.

But these problems are being attacked by new programs.

One new program just being developed will set up courtesy stations where migrants can obtain emergency help while shifting from one location to another between crops.

R. Sidney Mitchell, director, Region 2 of Community Action Fund, Inc., said the program, being developed in Washington, will place one permanent courtesy unit in Florida and a dozen others, which would be mobile units, along the three major migrant streams throughout the nation.

The Florida unit is expected to be placed somewhere between Leesburg and Ocala. A staff now is being recruited by Community Action Fund offices and by the sponsoring Manpower Development Institute.

The program would offer migrants:

Information on antipoverty programs and other community services, including housing accommodations and public facilities.

Referrals and assistance in getting emergency health and welfare services.

Free refreshments and identification cards.

Emergency tow service, pits and tools for "tramp buses" subject to frequent breakdowns.

Clerical completion of forms and translation of documents.

Loans of up to \$10 for emergency needs.

Films, entertainment and education, meetings and discussions when the migrants are in temporary camps.

Johnson and other heads of key participating migrant service programs will go to San Francisco early next month to brief workers and launch the program. Gilbert J. Chavez of Moses Lake, Wash., and Gene Delatorre, Washington, D.C., Office of Economic Opportunity, will be among a dozen persons attending.

In Florida, migrants seldom are able to meet the state's five-year residency requirement for aid to dependent children, aid to the blind and handicapped, or other welfare services.

They are generally considered "hands," to be used and discarded as seasonal harvesting fluctuates.

The lowliest of the nation's laborers, they have no protection through labor unions or workmen's compensation, usually no Social Security, and either no minimum wage protection or lower coverage than for other work categories.

Recent experiences working with and living among migrants in this Southwest Florida area suggest that despite significant achievements of the various agencies, the situation of migrants is worsening when compared with that of other working groups.

Their problems include: Poor housing, unsanitary conditions, infectious illnesses, high interest on loans and on properties taken in pawn by unlicensed brokers, some child labor abuses, inadequate education, and too few jobs for too limited periods.

Housing—The range is from poor to unfit at many migrant labor camps and in towns with migrant communities. Examples are complexes of one-room masonry apartments sometimes sleeping large families and renting for \$12.50 a week in Immokalee; shanties in Fort Myers and Jerome, and a flop-house for Latins in Fort Myers.

Sanitation—Microorganisms from human waste less than two years ago were reported being pumped as "table" water for a Lee County community of agricultural workers. And Mexican migrants now at Estero were forced to drink from a nearby creek after their pump broke down and they had no work to provide money for purchasing repair parts. Many others live in their own filth.

Disease—Illnesses often go unattended, and living conditions and overcrowding breed infectious diseases. Children often are wormy. A medical survey reported this week by a national Citizens Board on Hunger reported 38 different diseases among 23 Immokalee migrant farm children. And, according to Dr. Robert Coles, psychiatrist, in a study for Southern Region Council, Inc., "In only two of the 10 families (he studied) were the children delivered by doctors.

Interest rates—Migrant living is hand to mouth. They borrow on credit items at high interest rates—sometimes 25 percent and higher. An unlicensed broker, in the presence of this reporter, took in pawn an expensive-looking portable radio at an Anderson Street grocery in Fort Myers. In the transaction, he gave the migrant \$7 after testing the radio, then marked the ticket \$8.75 to be paid in a week.

Child labor—While violations of child labor laws have decreased, the problem continues, especially among Spanish-speaking migrants. Some reportedly promote early marriages to get around the law, and some abuse it openly. Four school-aged teen-agers were observed this week trying to obtain work rather than attending school.

Education—Teachers of Spanish-speaking migrant children usually don't know Spanish. And the migrants frequently are uprooted in the middle of the school term to move with parents. Schools in Collier County, for example, double their population during the harvesting season. Also, children often are kept out of school to help with or to care for younger children.

An obvious need for the migrant is year-round earnings from a full year of work in a single community. If off season jobs could be developed to keep grits in the pots during the off-season expensive migration would be unnecessary.

And children of the migrant might have a chance for a better life.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Apr. 24, 1968]

CHRONIC HUNGER REPORTED IN MANY PARTS OF NATION

WASHINGTON (AP).—A special committee of private citizens reported Monday there is concrete evidence of chronic hunger and dangerous malnutrition in

all parts of the United States but primarily in the South and Southwest. It estimated victims number in the millions.

The Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States, established by the Citizen's Crusade Against Poverty, studied the problem for the past nine months and concluded:

"If you will go look, you will find America is a shocking place."

CHECK AT IMMOKALEE

The Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition dispatched a special field crew including a nutritionist to Immokalee in nutritionist to immokalee in Collier County last November to check reports of hunger and poverty. In the wake of the committee's visit, Gerald Cassidy of Migrant Legal Services in Fort Myers, issued reports of the finding of hunger and malnutrition in labor camps and denounced merchants for what he said was increasing of prices on food on paydays.

In the dustup that followed, Gov. Claude Kirk paid a special visit to Immokalee Jan. 7, to check on conditions there. Kirk said he didn't see anything he didn't expect to see, climbed back into his airplane and flew back to Palm Beach.

POCKETS IN MISSISSIPPI

The board was formed after a Senate subcommittee toured Mississippi last spring and found pockets of malnutrition and hunger. A few weeks later six doctors reported that they had personally observed what they called inhuman and intolerable conditions in Mississippi.

In its 100-page report, released Monday, the board said there is a prevalence of chronic hunger and malnutrition and "this prevalence is shocking."

"A thousand people who must go without food for days each month would be shocking in a wealthy nation," the board wrote. "We believe that, in America, the number reaches well into the millions. And we believe that the situation is worsening."

It listed 256 "hunger counties" in 20 states. Georgia led with 47 while 36 were named in Mississippi.

HUNGER IN FLORIDA

In Florida, the counties listed were Flagler, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Liberty, Suwannee, and Washington.

The board, which held hearings around the country and made field trips, said wherever it went poor people spoke "not with precise analysis of foods consumed in grams or ounces—but of constant, chronic unremitting hunger."

The board reported it found:

—High incidence of anemia, growth retardation, protein deficiencies and other signs of malnutrition among the poverty population.

—That pregnant women in poverty suffered from nutritional deficiencies and were constantly anemic.

ABNORMAL HEIGHTS

—Evidence of retarded growth—abnormally low heights and weights—attributable to malnutrition in both urban and rural areas.

—Diet deficiencies resulting in the most severe protein-deficiency diseases—Kwashiorkor and Marasmus, diseases usually found in underdeveloped countries.

PARASITE DISEASES

—Evidence of high incidence of parasitic diseases associated with malnutrition on its visits to South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Indian reservations.

The citizens' board was highly critical of the federal food programs administered by the Department of Agriculture and funded by Congress.

"We feel fairly confident that most Americans must believe—if they think of it at all—that the federal food programs including the school-lunch program are designed to serve the interests and needs of beneficiaries. This is not true," the board said.

"They are designed and administered within the context of the national agricultural policy. That policy, as led by the Department of Agriculture and con-

gressional committees and subcommittees of agriculture and agricultural appropriation, is dominated by a concern for maximizing agricultural income, especially within the big-production categories.

"Other objectives always yield to this one. Those other objectives include farm production, soil conservation, the welfare of individual farmers, and farm employment.

"Our agricultural policy can be and often is attentive to those other objectives, but only when they do not conflict with the dominant objectives of maximizing income," the report says.

THE POOR CONSUMER

"But almost never does our agricultural policy take a direct concern with the interests of consumers and, certainly, not of poor consumer."

The board recommended that federal food programs be removed from the administration of the Agriculture Department and Congress.

It says also its principal recommendation is for the establishment of a free food stamp program keyed to need and to the objective a completely adequate diet; and one which would be administered with minimum controls.

The 25-member board has as co-chairmen Benjamin E. Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse college in Atlanta, and Leslie W. Dunbar, executive director of the Field Foundation, New York. Membership includes physicians, educators, clergymen and labor union leaders. The board reported its work was financed by individuals, private foundations and church groups.

PARASITES IN LEE

The report said that on a field trip to Florida, officials of the Lee County Health Department told a member of the board of inquiry that 435 persons were treated in the county in 1966 for parasitic diseases. There were 39,424 treated that year in the state, the county officials reported.

Among Negro migrant agricultural workers in Palm Beach County, Fla., the report said it was found that:

34 per cent ate no citrus fruits and 82 per cent ate less than one half the minimum requirements.

97 per cent of the families fell below half the recommended allowances for milk and milk products.

84 per cent of the persons examined had dental cavities and 35 per cent had lost permanent teeth.

SCURVY AND RICKETS

63 per cent of the families ate no green or yellow vegetables and the rest ate less than half the minimal allowance suggested by the department of Agriculture.

Scurvy, rickets and other diseases of malnutrition were observed.

Gerald Frawley, executive director of the Variety Children's Hospital, Miami, informed the board that an examination of children of migrant workers from Immokalee showed that of 23 children "we found 38 clinical diseases—a most extraordinary morbidity rate for such a group."

Eleven cases of iron deficiency anemia were diagnosed among the 23 children examined, the report said.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Thurs., Apr. 25, 1968]

LEE TO REMAIN IN SURPLUS FOOD AID FOR NEEDY

Lee will remain the only Southwest Florida county with a surplus food program to feed the hungry even with a new Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to bypass governments of counties that won't help.

Only 15 Florida counties without such a program were on the list of "hungry" counties, those with income so low that the food aid is vital. There are 28 counties with food programs, and Lee is one of them.

The federal program involves distribution of surplus foods to needy households. Until this year a county had to provide warehousing and distribution facilities.

Under the new plan the USDA can set up the programs with the counties paying only what they can afford.

Lee McCubbin, director of the surplus commodities distribution for the state, has voiced apprehension that counties paying a full share may object.

LEE FEEDS 1,300¹

Lee County feeds some 1,300 persons through the surplus commodities assistance, according to Director Robert Craft of the County Welfare Department. The budget this year was \$7,594 from county money, including \$3,744 in salaries, \$2,350 in freight charges and another \$1,500 in labor charges.

Those provide with assistance food range from destitute families of eight or more to single people on minimal Social Security support. The amount of food provided is based on income.

Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, DeSoto and Glades counties have no such programs. Those within the counties who cannot afford enough food are dependent upon the good will and welfare of neighbors.

The statewide February distribution totaled \$640,811.32 in value and benefitted 133,670 persons. *McCubbin said average value per person was 4.79*, with a cost to the community of only one or two cents per day per needy person to store and distribute.

CHEESE AND SPLIT PEAS

Foods distributed include dry beans, butter, cheese, cornmeal, flour, lard, canned chopped meat, dry milk, peanut butter, rice, rolled oats and wheat, grits, raisins and split peas.

Eligible for the aid are those on public welfare. It does not reduce the welfare payments.

Families where one or none of the members are on welfare may be eligible if combined income does not exceed \$105 per month for one person, \$130 per month for two persons, \$155 for three persons, \$180 for four, \$220 for five, \$240 for six, \$260 for seven, and \$285 for eight. Adjustments include subtraction for such non-voluntary charges as income tax and Social Security tax.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Apr. 30, 1968]

AMERICA'S HUNGRY CAN BE FED

They call this the "affluent society." This nation is shocked by reports of hunger, disease and malnutrition in other lands and massive amounts of foreign aid are made available to help those people.

Now a prestigious group has pointed the finger at America and disclosed malnutrition, hunger and disease in our country—the land of plenty. "If you will go look, you will find America a shocking place," says the report of the Citizens Crusade Against Poverty published last week in Washington.

In every part of America, including southwest Florida, the committee found anemia, low resistance to disease, parasitic conditions, poor prenatal health, stunted babies, "withdrawal, apathy, alienation, frustration and violence."

Agreeing with the findings, Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman said, "This social ill is a great deal more complex than a simple lack of food. It is compounded of unemployment, lack of education, discrimination, and a centuries-old culture of poverty that the nation has only recognized in the past few years, to say nothing of attempting to solve."

Hunger is unnecessary with the vast stocks of food available to the American people that we have been using to feed other nations' hungry people. Only bureaucratic indolence and a sleeping public have allowed to go unchecked.

There are two U.S. Department of Agriculture food programs. One is a direct commodity distribution such as Lee County uses to help feed some 1,300 people during the current year. That program has cost Lee County \$7,594 for local administration such as salaries, freight and warehousing. Food is passed out to hungry people at a Page Field warehouse. The other is a food stamp plan by which poor people may purchase with their few dollars food stamps to "spend" in stores for groceries valued at much more than their dollars would buy. This program has drawbacks but in some areas is working well.

The rest of Southwest Florida—Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades and Hendry Counties—have neither program for feeding the hungry. Perhaps the officials of these counties believe they have no hungry people. To them, the committee says, "If you will go look, you will find your county a shocking place."

¹ Compare this to \$45,000 figure cited by Collier County officials.

The Department of Agriculture has announced that if counties won't participate by providing local support for these programs, the government will set them up in the poorest areas (naming 15 Florida counties) and the U.S. will pay for it. This is not going to sit well with the counties which do pay their own local cost.

The USDA is using per capita income as a measuring stick to determine which are the counties where hunger is a severe problem. By this standard none of the counties in Southwest Florida qualify. This does not mean there is no hunger here. It simply means the measuring stick is wrong. Collier County has a relatively high per capita income. Yet the committee found hunger, disease and malnutrition in Immokalee, while millionaires bask in the sunshine at Naples. Per capita income in this case is like taking an average temperature with one foot in a hot stove and one in the refrigerator.

Federal failure to attack hunger apparently is being corrected with recent moves by the USDA. This failure is most graphically illustrated by the fact that in fiscal 1966, the most recent on which figures are available, the USDA had available some \$700 million dollars to help feed the poor.

It is authorized to use 30 per cent of the previous year's customs receipts plus \$300 million of unused funds from customs receipts of past years to help feed the hungry. This is not part of the President's budget. Congress does not have to appropriate it from general taxes. It goes directly to the secretary of agriculture.

With this amount available, it would seem that hunger could be banished immediately. Yet the USDA failed to spend \$208,682,970 and returned that to the Treasury, and carried forward an unobligated balance of \$300 million to fiscal 1967—an unspent balance actually of \$508,682,970 available to feed the needy.

State and local governments share the responsibility for failure to feed the hungry. Freeman says his department is getting better at finding and feeding the needy. In seven years the number of counties involved in one or the other of the food programs has almost doubled and the number of people reached rose from 3.5 million to 5.8 million. Nobody really knows how many people in the U.S. are chronically hungry; the citizens committee believes there are about 10 million in America suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Lack of an adequate diet means poor nutrition; poor nutrition means health problems, either immediately or finally. Thus adequate food would save millions in public health funds alone, besides saving the very lives of the people affected by this massive national ill.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, May 7, 1968]

COLLIER WELFARE HAS SMALL BUDGET TO FEED PEOPLE

NAPLES.—*If there is hunger and malnutrition in Collier County, the county welfare department is ill-equipped to do anything about it. Of a budget of over \$121,000, only \$4,000 is budgeted for food for indigent people.*

The Citizen's Crusade Against Poverty has reported finding hunger, disease and malnutrition among the poor people of Collier County, especially in the migrant worker areas around Immokalee. The Collier County Welfare Department has nothing in its budget for migrants.

Most of the county's welfare budget—more than \$95,000—is allocated to medical services which include hospitalization for the tuberculosis patients and burial of the indigents.

FREE BREAKFAST

In March, Immokalee schools—Pinecrest, Bethune, Highlands and Lake Trafford—served 3,696 free breakfasts and 7,292 free lunches. Another 4,332 breakfasts in March cost Immokalee kids 10 cents each. With 20 school days a month, an average of 400 children got free or 10 cent breakfasts a day.

During that same month, there was a total of 11,600 free lunches served. Most of them were in the Immokalee schools. The average number on the free lunch program for the whole county was 580 kids per school day.

The lunchroom services were reported by Mrs. Eloise Lester, school lunch supervisor. In March, Collier County had an average daily attendance of 6,350 children.

EMERGENCY CONDITION

Hunger shows up most dramatically when there is an emergency. It usually is a temporary condition, according to the welfare department.

"The Collier County Welfare Department may help a family or person once or several times," the director, Mrs. Hazel Griffin said, "but we have no one permanently on the welfare rolls."

Mrs. Griffin pointed out that due to a cool spell in the growing season this winter, there was little work for agricultural employees during February and half of March.

"We had 25 to 30 people a day coming to us then, and there were some hungry people in the county, especially in Immokalee, but now there are only one or two a day needing help," Mrs. Griffin said.

This is the time of year when rent is due for the land eased for their dwellings and the worker's money goes for the rent. He may need assistance to buy food, the welfare director explained.

WOULD USE COMMODITIES

There are emergencies, Mrs. Griffin said, when people need help to pad out the assistance they receive from other sources.

"We don't have many food orders but if we had a federal commodity distribution program here, I'm sure we could use it," Mrs. Griffin said.

There is a disproportionate amount in the county welfare budget for medicines, hospital service and hospitalization as compared with groceries for indigents.

Mrs. Marion Fether is a social worker with the migrant program working through the county school board. She is a charter member of the Immokalee Migrant Committee and appeared in March before the County Commission for help for migrants who she said were hungry because of the lack of work at that time.

THEY WERE HUNGRY

"I go into the homes and look into the refrigerators and cupboards," Mrs. Fether said, "and I know they were hungry."

The migrant welfare program is funded through voluntary contributions and this year for the first time through a \$900 grant from the Salvation Army, a United Fund agency.

Mrs. Fether would like to see some kind of emergency program implemented here, perhaps a voucher type of thing where people, especially those with children could get food and help if they needed it.

"I sometimes feel the children are forgotten."

Capt. Harold Reese, an Episcopal minister and president of the Immokalee Migrant Committee said he feels, "there is no fault in the kind of welfare programs we have in the county, but in the number they reach."

WORK FOR ALL NOW

Mrs. Fether and Reese agreed that the situation for the migrants at present is good. With the harvest season in full swing, there is work for everyone who wants to work.

No one discounts the probability that some in the county may suffer from lack of variety and the proper nutrients rather than from quantity.

In February there was a food emergency among the migrants. The County Commission sent for information on the federal Community Action Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity, with the thought of looking into a commodity distribution program.

NO FUNDS

A letter from OEO in reply stated that no funds are at present available for expansion of an OEO agency or formation of a new one.

The commodity food programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, however, not by the OEO.

At present, as far as the commission stands, the matter rests.

Mrs. Eleanor DeWilde, director of the Naples Welfare Association whose agency covers the city and its northern and eastern environs, says there is great fluctuation in the numbers on her rolls.

"We supplement state welfare grants which are inadequate or help if people are awaiting state welfare eligibility," Mrs. DeWilde said.

State old age assistance, aid to the disabled and to the blind amounts to \$75 a month.

"With the high rents in Naples, the maximum state grant is not enough," Mrs. DeWilde says.

For aid to dependent children the state gives \$32 a month for one child and up to \$85 a month for four or more children.

"We try to encourage the mother to work but if she has pre-schoolers most of what she can earn must go for child care," Mrs. DeWilde says.

"I feel the Florida State Welfare program is a patchwork," Mrs. DeWilde stated. "People shouldn't be under two agencies. Once they have met residence, age and need requirements the state should take complete responsibility for them."

One of the greatest deterrents to helping those in immediate need with government related programs is the residence requirement. The only agency contributing to welfare of citizens here with no stipulation as to residency is the Salvation Army.

"Our food allowance from the Naples Welfare is not too bad," Mrs. DeWilde said. "For an adult it is \$30 a month, for a child \$10 a month but if a person is trying to live on state welfare alone, it is possible we do have hungry people here."

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, May 19, 1968]

FEDERAL PROBE OF CAMP HAPPY AREA PLANNED

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

The D.S. Department of Labor is planning to investigate living and working conditions of migratory farm workers in the Lee-Collier county area around Camp Happy.

James J. Reynolds, under-secretary of labor, wrote that the department will look into conditions recently cited in a St. Petersburg Times series.

The articles reported problems of severe hunger and malnutrition, unsanitary and unfit housing, disease, child labor and poor education which face the migrants.

They also spotlighted strict control of camp residents who arrive from out-of-state owing employers for transportation and having little of their pay left after paying these same employers for rent, food and wine.

Reynolds said Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz has had a continuing interest in the problems of migrant farm workers and "has taken a number of actions to improve these conditions."

Reynolds did not specify what action the department contemplates taking. He sent a letter to The Times after reading the Camp Happy series.

His letter states: "We are interested in the events you relate and we intend to look into them. You will hear from me again regarding this matter."

Meanwhile, there was other reaction to the conditions reported.

U.S. Rep. Frank Thompson Jr., (D-N.J.), chairman of the special subcommittee on labor, wrote that The Times' migrant labor series is being made a part of the subcommittee's investigative file.

"The results of your investigation in many ways paralleled the testimony heard before this subcommittee," Thompson's letter states.

A bill seeking to make the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act applicable to agriculture is now pending before the U.S. Congressional Committee on Rules, the letter adds.

U.S. Rep. Charles E. Goodell (R-N.Y.) and Thomas F. Foley (D-Wash.) announced the formation of a "Coalition to Help Malnourished Americans." The 14 member coalition of Democrats and Republicans is calling for "public hearings immediately to determine what can be done to improve and refocus existing programs" designed to help the malnourished.

The coalition also asked the House to approve a Presidential Commission with authority to study the problem "on an emergency basis and report to the nation on Jan. 1, 1969."

Aides to presidential hopefuls Richard M. Nixon and U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy wrote of their desires to find solutions to migrant labor problems.

McCarthy's office sent *The Times* a position paper stating his efforts during the last 20 years to find legislative cures to the ills of the migrant labor system. He also listed related bills he has sponsored.

Agnes Waldron, a campaign aide of Nixon's, said Nixon's staff now is working on specific programs "which we believe will operate to alleviate the distressing problems which were so well reported in your series."

Her letter further states that their research "has paralleled the findings which were reported in your informative articles . . . Our research should shortly result in a forthcoming program which aims directly at viable solutions. The information . . . will prove useful in this task."

From Tallahassee, Ralph Ross, chief Farm Labor Department, Florida State Employment Service, wrote, "the articles were extremely readable and certainly of interest," but were slanted to the worker.

His letter suggests a future series on "the responsibility of the worker to the employer in making himself available for a normal work week and protecting and maintaining living accommodations provided by the employer."

Ross' agency was criticized in the series for the state labor unit's role in recruiting out-of-state workers to live and work in sub-standard conditions. Along with Naples Farms Inc. and Lee County health officials, the employment service was named in a suit the series reported, alleging negligence and providing unhealthy housing for laborers-recruited from Texas.

In the letter, Ross states:

"It is the policy of this agency to do no recruiting and referral of workers except to growers who provide housing that has been inspected and licensed by the Florida State Board of Health.

" . . . Our main responsibility is the recruitment and referral of workers from all sources to provide manpower to harvest our citrus, vegetable and tropical fruit crops. In a good many areas, including Southwest Florida, the welfare and economy of the entire area depends upon agriculture and the agrobusiness."

Reuben V. Anderson, a civil rights attorney in Jackson, Miss., wrote of plans to begin legal action "to correct some of the practices at the Mississippi Employment Services," which periodically sends migrant workers to Camp Happy in Florida.

His suit would be on behalf of a migrant who said he was promised earnings of up to \$100 a week at Camp Happy, but worked 79 hours one week and actually received only \$31 of his gross earnings of \$79.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, July 3, 1968]

FAILING TO FEED THE HUNGRY

The DeSoto County Commission declined June 11 to participate in a federal surplus food distribution program that has been in effect in Lee County for years. Last Thursday the state director of the food program told DeSoto County that the program would be set up without county help. This indicates the degree of commitment to feeding the hungry that Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman is under. Freeman has been buffeted this spring and summer by the Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States and by the Poor People's Campaign in Washington but not all the buffeting has been justified.

In DeSoto County, where an official was quoted as saying, "We'll take care of our own welfare programs," free distribution of surplus food is indicated. DeSoto is not one of the richer counties and even if it were there still would be a number of underfed people. So too are there underfed people in Collier, Charlotte and Hendry Counties which also do not join the federal government in the food program.

For want of a better yardstick, the government uses per capita income as a measure of a county's need for free food. DeSoto in 1966 had a per person income of \$1,916 and ranked 35th in Florida. Slightly more than 40 per cent of the families, according to the 1960 census, had incomes of less than \$3,000, the accepted poverty level. Only 32.2 per cent of the families in Lee County had such low incomes yet Lee has had the food program.

What is beginning to be realized, only after much publicity has been focused on Freeman by the hunger report in March and the Poor People's Campaign in June, is that Freeman lacks congressional authority to give away food to hungry people. Also becoming clear is that recalcitrant state legislatures and stubborn county commissioners have failed along with Congress to give Freeman authority to implement the programs.

Yet by the end of this year 6.1 million Americans will be getting food under one or the other of the food programs compared with 4.3 million as of 1960. They will be getting more food and of a larger variety than before through both food stamps and direct distribution. While there is no congressional authority for the commodity distribution program, it developed because the food was there to be used. Increased distribution was directed by President Kennedy in 1961. Congress passed the food stamp act in 1964 to change the basis of feeding the hungry from a direct aid system to one using the commercial marketing system and to provide a wider variety in the diet of malnourished people. However, Congress has been reluctant to fund the food stamp program to the extent necessary to eliminate hunger. People must have money to buy the stamps; this automatically shuts out some potential recipients.

It is easy to seek scapegoats in Washington. People are hungry and the Citizens Board of Inquiry estimates their number at perhaps 10 million, possibly more. The people demonstrating in front of the Agriculture Department last week knew there is hunger and knew the nation has the resources to check hunger. Perhaps it is time for poor people to make some noise in Tallahassee and on the courthouse steps in counties where local officials don't believe they have any malnourished people in their bailiwicks.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, July 4, 1968]

SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM SOUGHT IN COLLIER COUNTY

NAPLES.—An attorney for the South Florida Migrant Legal Services has written Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set up a commodity foods distribution program in Collier County.

Attorney T. Michael Foster of the Fort Myers-based legal aid group asks action "before another season of hardship begins for the migrant workers who pick the vegetables that grace the bountiful tables of this nation."

Foster addressed the three-page letter to a number of authorities besides Freeman. E. Lee McCubbin, director of the Commodity Division of the Florida State Department of Welfare, the USDA's agency in Florida, was one. Walter Reuther, chairman of the Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., U.S. Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey, and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts are on the list.

So are the Collier County Commission members.

"The Collier County Commission has failed to act upon repeated requests for a commodity food distribution program," Foster said to Freeman. "I urge your department to take the initiative in this matter and make commodity foods available to needy persons in Collier County."

Foster cites the insecurity of farm work and includes newspaper articles from a number of newspapers during the past year on malnutrition problems occurring in the Immokalee area.

"The Florida State Board of Health," he writes, "while it denies that malnutrition exists in the Immokalee area, has acknowledged a need for a commodity foods distribution program in Collier County."

The USDA has been acting to institute commodity distribution programs in counties of high unemployment and low per capita income. Collier County has not been included in the lists. But where the USDA has acted, it comes in without local assistance if the local government refuses to assist. The county then is faced with a situation of pay its share or lose all federal funds eligibility, yet has no say in the program operations.

Excerpts from Foster's letter include:

"Farm work is never a full time job. At most it is seasonal, and even during the peak of the season changes in the weather can adversely affect working conditions.

"Farm workers seldom have the security of knowing where their next dollar will come from. Many agricultural workers and their families live in circumstances that are appalling.

"Estimates of the number of farm workers and their dependents in Collier County at the height of the season vary from 12,000 to 19,000. Many of these families live there seven or eight months of each year. The Collier County Welfare Department has a total budget of over \$121,000, of which only \$4,000 is allocated to the job of feeding indigent people. No other public agency assists in the task of feeding the county's poor."

Citizens of Immokalee have formed the Immokalee Migrant Committee to help but the voluntary contributions amount to a budget "hopelessly inadequate for the task," Foster said.

Even during good times there are families who have no income because the breadwinner is ill, injured or incapacitated, Foster wrote.

"On March 19, 1968, a county welfare official with experience among the migrant population told the commissioners that about 250 families in the Immokalee area were suffering from severe hunger because of adverse farm conditions and a lack of government assistance," he wrote. "These reports are not isolated instances."

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, July 4, 1968]

FOOD FOR NEEDY ASKED IN COLLIER

IMMOKALEE (By Staff Writer).—An attorney for Migrant Legal Services yesterday announced that the organization has requested Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to distribute food in Collier County for hungry farm workers.

T. Michael Foster, representing South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc., made public a letter he sent to Washington Monday, requesting federal relief from "circumstances that are appalling."

Foster stated the Collier County Commission "has failed to act upon repeated requests" for a foods distribution program, and he urged the Department of Agriculture to "take the initiative in the matter and make commodity foods available to needy persons in Collier County."

A spokesman for the Collier County Commissioners said the commissioners had discussed the letter after they received a copy, and that they were not entirely opposed to the idea of commodity foods for indigent farm workers.

"The problem," he said, "is the expense in storing and distributing the food, which the government doesn't pay for." He said the commission was looking into the possibility of what sources would be available for warehousing and financing such a policy in conjunction with the free federal food.

Foster's letter stated: "The Florida State Board of Health, while it denies that malnutrition exists in the Immokalee Area, has acknowledged a need for a commodity foods distribution program in Collier County.

Migrants, said Foster, often can't receive assistance from the State Welfare Department, or through unemployment compensation because of their inability to meet residency requirements. He also said that many laws fail to include farm workers within their coverage.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, July 4, 1968]

FOOD SOUGHT FOR HUNGRY IN COLLIER

(By Samuel Adams, of The Times Staff)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been asked to make commodity foods available to needy persons in Collier County despite refusal of county officials to apply for the federal food program.

The request was made in a letter made public yesterday from the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program Inc. It said only \$4,000 now is allotted by Collier County to provide food for hungry people. No other public agency assists in feeding the county's poor.

The letter, dated July 1, was sent to Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman by T. Michael Foster, an attorney with Migrant Legal Services, a federal anti-poverty programs.

At the height of the harvesting season, farm workers and their dependents in Collier number from 12,000 to 19,000. A large number go hungry but no food stamps or federal food commodities ever have been available there.

Collier was not among the 15 Florida counties in which the Agriculture Department threatened to ignore opposition of local officials and made direct distribution of food. Neither was it one of those listed in April as "hunger counties" by a private report issued by the Citizens Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition.

With his letter to Secretary Freeman, Foster sent published reports, including St. Petersburg Times articles on hunger around Camp Happy, and documentation on poverty, malnutrition and diet-related health problems.

"On March 19, 1968, a county welfare official with experience among the migrant population told the commissioners that about 250 families in the Immokalee area were suffering from severe hunger because of adverse farm conditions and a lack of government assistance," the letter says.

"These reports are not isolated instances. Even during good times there are a number of families who have no income because their breadwinner is ill, injured, or incapacitated. These workers and their families often cannot receive assistance from the State Welfare Department, or through unemployment compensation or workmen's compensation laws because of their inability to meet residency requirements, or the failure of law in question to include farm workers within its coverage," it continued.

"In view of the Collier County commissioners' refusal to take the initiative in this matter, I believe it is incumbent upon your department to see that the situation is corrected before another season of hardship begins for migrant workers . . ."

The Migrant Legal Services is the second anti-poverty agency in South Florida to ask the U.S. Agriculture Department to see that free commodities are provided in Collier County. Community Action Fund suggested four months ago that it be allowed to distribute the free food if the county continued to balk at the program.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, July 17, 1968]

A JUG OF WINE—BUT WORK?

COUNTY CAN'T GIVE JOBS AWAY

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—Collier County efforts to give jobs instead of food relief to unemployed Immokalee area farm workers isn't very successful, the county commission heard Tuesday.

The board learned from Harmon Turner, county engineer, that only four men accepted any of the 12 labor jobs offered them although Mrs. Hazel Griffin, welfare director, said 75 had applied for food relief.

"There's something wrong with hungry people when you can't hire 12," Chairman Les Whitaker said.

"They're not hungry enough," said Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock.

Turner said that applicants asked how long the work would last and when told it might be permanent "they weren't interested."

"If we offer them work and they won't and have no logical excuse," Whitaker said, "we should strike them from the list. We didn't agree to feed them if they don't want to help themselves this is to help them and to help us."

Ewell Moore, Immokalee commissioner, said there is work available cleaning ditches and culverts with grubbing hoes "and if they won't report for work, cut them off."

Mrs. Griffin said so many applied for food relief last week that she didn't know what to do with them.

"I couldn't issue food orders," she summed up. "The food budget is gone."

"The only trouble with feeding them is they buy wine." Commissioner Bill Sentell said.

"They want a balanced diet—a loaf of light bread and a quart of wine."

Moore said that, under the county plan, food had to be bought, not wine.

The commission meets Thursday with federal food officials on the program.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Aug. 14, 1968]

COLLIER WILL CARE FOR ITS OWN HUNGRY

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—Collier County will take care of its deserving hungry but won't use any federal food aid program "on which Washington holds the strings" the County Commission reaffirmed Tuesday.

The reaffirmation of a past stand against a proposed \$434,000 annual giveaway food proposal came after T. Michael Foster of Fort Myers and the South Florida Migrant Legal Aid group appeared to push federal aid.

The County Commission's views reflected a traditional stand in the area whose slogan—"Collier County takes care of its own"—was written in days when it rejected WPA and other federal aid projects.

Foster argued that lack of the federal project would deprive the deserving needy, "the aged and the ill," of food they need and couldn't get otherwise.

"If this program can't be in our sole discretion," said Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock, "the farmers will soon be migrants themselves."

"If it comes to a case (on migrant aid)," Foster admitted, "I will represent them."

Hancock said he doubted that any who need aid would have trouble getting it "*but there are those sitting with their hands out waiting to be fed, and that's a situation we won't go for.*"

"That pretty well states our case," Chairman Les Whitaker agreed.

"We're not saying people who are hungry won't be taken care of, but when we have thousands of able bodied people and can't hire 12 men, don't ask us to take part in the program.

Foster protested this situation wasn't found in other counties but commissioners chorussed their complaints that several weeks ago while over 100 farm workers sought food aid, the county couldn't hire men for a dozen jobs.

Hancock assured Foster the county "will make better provision than it has in the past" for those needing food and wouldn't close the doors to the federal commodity food program.

The board opposed the program when it first found only one investigator would have to handle 4,270 cases in the 1.2-million acre county, an area twice the size of the state of Rhode Island.

Cases rejected after receiving aid could appeal to the federal government and, Hancock said, "every morning we'd be in court in Miami."

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Nov. 21, 1968]

SUPPORT DUE FOR MIGRANT CLINICS IN LEE, COLLIER

A review being made of migrant clinics in Lee and Collier counties will mean changes, probably for more support, Miss Helen Johnston, Chief of the U.S. Public Health Service's migrant program, said Wednesday night.

Miss Johnson and other officials from Washington and Jacksonville, along with a member of the national review committee, will end a four-day tour of migrant health clinics today with visits in the Hendry-Highlands-Glades Counties project.

"We are finding a great deal of evidence of need for this kind of service," said Miss Johnston after looks at clinics in Lee and Collier counties. "We also are finding a lot of dedicated people."

Dr. Leopold Snyder of Fresno, Calif., a private physician and member of the "External Projects Review Committee" which sets policies for the migrant program, agreed with Miss Johnston.

"I think you have a tremendous reservoir of need for health services," he said during the visit to the Teeter Road Camp in Lee County.

"You have people who recognize it," he said. "But the ones trying to meet the needs need the support of the rest of the community and the political leaders."

Miss Johnston said the program will have to be expanded to do more in Collier County. But the growth will have to be done within the county, with the county acquiring the people, she said.

"You can only stretch a shoestring so far," she said, commenting on the resources.

The Public Health Service cooperates financially with local sponsors of the migrant health programs. Most often the health departments are the sponsors. But some counties don't have health departments, Miss Johnston said. Medical societies, hospitals and migrant programs also are sponsors.

In the tour with Dr. Snyder and Miss Johnston are Dr. A. F. Caraway and W. J. Clarke of the State Board of Health in Jacksonville, Dr. Spencer Larsen of the Washington office and Bob Martens of the regional office in Atlanta.

The tour started Sunday with the health department offices in Jacksonville. The team Tuesday night visited the Harlem Heights clinic, went to Immokalee Wednesday and came back to see the Teeter Road Camp setup Wednesday night.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Nov. 21, 1968]

20 COUNTIES SUED FOR NO FOOD AID

LOCAL OPTION ATTACKED

(By Charles Stafford)

(Miami Herald-St. Pete Times Wire)

WASHINGTON.—Seventeen Florida counties have been chosen as a battleground in the effort to establish a new legal doctrine—that “hunger in the United States is illegal.”

Columbia University's center on social welfare policy and law, which operates under a federal anti-poverty grant, got the fight rolling when it filed suits in Federal District Courts in 26 states, including Florida.

If the suits are upheld, they will force the U.S. Department of Agriculture to begin commodity distribution or food stamp programs in counties which have no programs for feeding the hungry poor.

The Florida suit was filed in Federal Court in Orlando. Plaintiffs were three Orange County women—Buna Dixon, Betty Jean Thomas and Bertha Bentley. Their suit was filed not only on their behalf, but for all persons similarly situated in Florida.

Named as defendants were Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman; S. R. Smith, administrator of the Consumer Marketing Service, and E. Lee McCubbin, director of the commodity distribution program for the Florida State Department of Public Welfare.

The suit listed 20 counties in which it said people were “unable to obtain federal food programs because these defendants have failed to provide for the availability of federal food benefits.”

The counties are Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Hernando, Flagler, Indian River, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, St. Johns, Sarasota, Seminole and Volusia.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said, however, three of these—Hernando, Okaloosa and Volusia—have made arrangements to begin distributing surplus commodities.

There are two federal food programs. One is the commodity distribution program, which makes 22 separate food items available to the needy on a straight handout basis. Forty-seven Florida counties are already cooperating in this program with the three soon to be added.

The newer food-stamp program requires the eligible person to put up some money of his own—the amount depending on his income and size of family. In effect, said the USDA spokesman, he swaps his money for food coupons which are worth significantly more. These he takes to a retail grocery and uses them to purchase food.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Nov. 22, 1968]

SOMEBODY UP THERE IN WASHINGTON DOESN'T LIKE US

(By Tom Morgan)

NAPLES.—More than one Collier County official is beginning to get the feeling “somebody up there doesn't like us.” And up there is up in Washington.

And several, respectfully pleading for anonymity, say their federal taxes are being used to work them over, and to work over other South Florida residents.

Maybe their case isn't conclusive in court but this is the way they see it. Some years ago an \$800,000 federal grant went to something called the South Florida Migrant Legal Services, formed by the federally sponsored Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program Inc. in Miami.

Troubles began appearing that had an apparent common connection.

Some young ladies from the North had already appeared to aid the "down-trodden migrant workers" at Immokalee and had to be forcibly restrained from living in areas where white outsiders weren't welcomed. These girls went home to tell northern papers of Immokalee's evil, unpaved streets and starving migrants.

Citizens protested this was all lies but got no satisfaction despite the evidence they showed.

Young men came, also seeking to help the migrant workers, and some of their help appeared to include rent strike proposals, incitement to riot and other activities. They were defended by the SFMLS and at least one stayed on the federal payroll while serving a term in the county jail.

A mysterious investigation by "the citizens' board of inquiry into hunger and malnutrition in the United States" made an unannounced and undocumented two-day survey of all of 1.2 million acre Collier County, an area twice the size of Rhode Island.

Although the survey's results were never seen by anyone else, they were released to a Tampa newspaper with pictures, all purporting to prove once more that Immokalee was a hellhole for migrants where the average child had worms because he had no shoes and insufficient food because "grocers jump prices when the welfare checks are issued."

The storm that broke out over these disclosures and their falsity reached all the way to Washington, and the claims were promptly retracted and denied by those who put them out, although they refuse to discuss them with Immokalee residents.

A Herald check showed there were only two doctors in the area and neither was interviewed. The clinic whose services was reportedly denied to workers was found to have been established just for them and still carrying out its job.

Justifiably bitter grocers, whose ads show prices below those of neighboring towns, pointed out supposed overcharges would have been physically impossible to make overnight on the thousands of items in their stocks. They demanded a state investigation.

Rep. Paul Rogers came down from Washington and Gov. Claude Kirk came from Tallahassee. They could find no sign of the supposed evils.

Two months after the first charges a South Florida Migrant Legal Services leader finally appeared and said the original items were all a mistake—"bad publicity—I got misquoted and others did too—the emphasis in some instances was wrong."

He had nothing to say about federally released pictures purporting to show malnutrition but was later traced to the children concerned and found to be normal baby fat.

Finally the reason for the charges appeared.

Nineteen other Florida counties were cited as homes of hunger and malnutrition by the "citizens board of inquiry," but Collier which was the first and star case, before claims here backfired, was omitted.

The Florida report went into a national one showing "10 million Americans are going hungry," and perhaps it was as factual as the original Collier County report. In any case it was attacked by Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman as "biased—a travesty on objective reporting." Other authorities in the food field supported his claims.

The next federal aim was on Collier courts. An assault and battery case from the Immokalee Peace Justice Court went several times to the Miami Federal District Court and Collier County lost because the defendant was not told of his right to counsel, although Judge O. W. Hancock insisted he had not only twice given the caution in English and in Spanish but had also called in an interpreter to repeat it.

Last summer the State Welfare Department came with plans for Collier to accept some "free federal food" which county commissioners questioned as costing them \$3 for every \$1 given away because they would have to build a warehouse and a refrigerated storage space and provide many administrative personnel yet still be under tight federal control.

"We would be in Miami court every week," said Commissioner A. C. Hancock.

The state warned the EFMLS would "exert pressure" and it did the next week

but the commission held to its views, that welfare cases able to work should do so and that it couldn't find seven willing workers out of 100 able bodied food seekers.

Now a new federally inspired and financed group is trying an end-around play to force the Department of Agriculture to make Collier and many other Florida counties accept the free food.

Is there any wonder they get the feeling at the courthouse that somebody is working against them?

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Nov. 25, 1968]

AGENCY WILL PROBE HEALTH CARE SPENDING

CONFERENCE SET IN MIAMI DEC. 1 TO GATHER IDEAS

TALLAHASSEE.—Some 700 doctors, dentists and hospital workers have been asked to give their ideas on how the \$1.1 billion used for health services in Florida each year could be better spent.

Robert Roesch, director of the state Office of Comprehensive Health Planning, said he and other federal, state and local officials will try to explain to conference participants how their planning work is aimed at getting more value out of that huge amount of money.

He said county health officers, osteopaths, legislators and Negro leaders have also been invited to the first governor's conference on health planning to be held in Miami on Dec. 1.

EXPLAIN FUNCTIONS

"We want to explain the function of this office," the director said, "and to seek constructive criticism—or any kind of criticism, advice or ideas."

He said his office is trying to gather information about health services being offered in Florida, what is needed and where and what kind of federal and state funds can be used to solve the problems.

Purpose is to be able to establish priorities or at least offer alternative solutions so someone else can make a decision. Roesch said, because even \$1.1 billion doesn't do the job adequately.

"There simply isn't enough money in the world to solve the health problems of people just in the State of Florida," he said.

JOIN MEDICAID?

Examples of the kind of problems the office will struggle with are whether the state should participate in the Medicaid program or whether the state should pour more money into the University of Florida medical school instead of spending it at the new institution at the University of South Florida, he said.

He said his office will eventually be able to supply data on how much each of the different alternatives will cost, the benefits from each and even the political implications.

To do this, Roesch said, the office will also have to present a projection of where the state will be and what it will need in 10 to 20 years.

Regional planning councils are being started under the state's auspices to bring the planning down to the local level, he said.

CONSOLIDATE SERVICES

He said that solutions may be developed to the rising cost of hospital care through comprehensive health planning—such as state stipends to hospitals for certain services or consolidation of certain hospital services.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Nov. 28, 1968]

CITRUSMEN GO AFTER SCHOOL LUNCH MARKET

(By Jack Fay, Vero Beach Bureau Chief)

LAKELAND.—Florida's citrus industry took a big step Wednesday toward joining the nation's school lunch program by approving a growers and processors tax to underwrite the program.

The special tax would be used by the Florida Citrus Commission to buy concentrate from the processors to be resold to the federal government for use in the schools.

The commission also set up an administrative committee to handle the mechanics of the new marketing setup.

A statewide referendum was scheduled for Dec. 3 through Dec. 18. Both growers and producers must approve the plan for it to go into effect. The program calls for an assessment of five cents per standard packed box.

The money will also be used to underwrite or subsidize the development or expansion of packaging and marketing techniques in connection with the program, and to do the same for the development or expansion of the sale of orange products.

Both Gov. Claude Kirk Jr. and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman immediately hailed the industry and the commission for taking the action, and stressed that the proposal was a self-help measure showing that Florida's citrus producers could aid greatly in solving their own problems.

Under the plan, the administrative committee will use the special tax funds to buy up concentrate and then will use the product to open up the secondary markets through the stabilization of price and supply.

In the past, the industry has participated in the school lunch programs during times of oversupply when the USDA purchased the surplus, but in years of undersupply the cost of the product went too high.

It is hoped the use of the concentrate reserve plan will provide a supply of concentrate at a constant level, regardless of year-to-year changes in production and at a stable price.

Ballots can be obtained from any county agent's office or by writing to the commission and requesting a ballot.

The order also permits any cooperative association to cast the vote of all its grower members unless a member notifies the commission in writing prior to the final day of the referendum that he desires to vote as an individual.

The marketing administration committee which will oversee the program includes seven growers and seven processors.

The growers appointed to the committee are Alfred Estes of Winter Haven, and John F. Nelson, Umatilla, one-year terms; Andrew Spada Jr., Tampa, and Robert Barben, Tampa, two-year terms; and B. K. Wheeler Jr., Oveida, O. R. Minto, Fort Pierce, and Harvey Heller, Winter Haven, three-year terms.

The processor on the committee are Reid W. Jensen, Tree Sweet Inc.; Joseph Marshburn, Florida Citrus Cannery; Guy Gilliland, Cocoa Cola Foods Division, (Minute Maid); Austin Caruso, Southern Fruit Distributors; Ben Adams, Lykes-Pasco; James H. Bock, Winter Garden Citrus Products; and David Hamrick, Tropicana Products Inc.

Jensen and Marshburn will serve one-year terms, Gilliland and Caruso, two-year terms and Adams, Bock and Hamrick will serve on the committee for three years.

Members of the committee will serve without pay but will be entitled to expenses.

An estimated 133 million boxes of oranges will be produced in Florida this year. It is the second highest production figure in the citrus industry's history, and sparked the move to take part in the lunch program.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Dec. 1, 1968]

SEVENTEEN OF FLORIDA'S COUNTIES HOLDING OUT FOR HUNGER

U.S. FOOD BENEFITS REJECTED

First of Two Articles

(By Bette Orsini, of The Times Staff)

Hunger is a guest at the table for the victims of poverty in 26 states—including 17 counties in Florida.

In the homes of these poor, the setting could be more festive—not only on holidays but throughout the year—with federal food benefits available for the asking.

But the waiting foodstuffs never get to the target tables.

Why do the holdout counties, which refuse to participate in federal commodity food distribution programs, elect to turn their backs on thousands of dollars worth of foods available to their hungry?

In Florida, Citrus County officials say: "The people aren't starving."

"We just don't figure we have enough hungry people," Charlotte County officials assert.

Say Orange County officials: "How would you like it if we gave a child a free lunch and then found his father out drinking in a bar?"

The attitudes that keep free commodity foods and other federal food benefits from the mouths of the hungry in some sections of the country and not in others run the gamut from pride to prejudice, with a lot of stops between.

But through them runs a pattern.

At least, there's one discernible to staff attorney Gabe Kaimowitz of Columbia University's Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law, which has filed suit in federal district courts in 26 states to force the U.S. Department of Agriculture to start food programs in counties which have none.

At New York, Kaimowitz says the pattern among the holdout counties usually involves one or more of these elements:

Fear and intimidation—"It's true in several southern states in which we are suing, particularly in Louisiana and Texas."

Says Kaimowitz: "They don't want the federal government involved in their local-community affairs, the fear being that if food had to come in, the federal government would be intimately involved in local county matters."

Poor persons living in rich counties—"Some counties want to pride themselves on the fact that no hunger exists."

In such counties, says Kaimowitz, "the poor have no access except through litigation to force the county to accept one program or another."

"This is true in Michigan, Massachusetts and Kansas, in which the county governments do not want to admit that they have significant numbers of poor persons."

Philosophy of conservatism—"It's a feeling by the counties that they don't need the federal government coming in to help out their people; they can take care of their own."

"The state of Idaho on almost a statewide basis has refused to request that the program be brought into its counties," says Kaimowitz.

In Florida, the philosophy of conservatism "definitely applies," Kaimowitz says.

"The attitude has been, 'What do we need with the federal government telling us who's hungry and who's poor?'"

Some Florida counties also suffer from the too-rich-to-have-any-poor complex, Kaimowitz reports.

The center attorney ranks the rich-county poor people as the "freshest angle going." "We didn't even realize a thing like this was possible until the plaintiffs we had flown into Washington came there and we got a chance to talk to them personally."

"We found a pattern of persons from wealthy counties who were saying they had gone time and time again to the welfare department or school system asking for access to the foods and were told it's degrading to go on a line to get surplus commodities."

"There's some kind of moral stigma attached."

But the contentions of rich counties that they have no poor to whom they should give access to commodity foods are contrasted by Kaimowitz in the suits. They present statistics "on the number of persons in a given county who are below the poverty line, the number receiving public assistance—which is usually significantly less—the number of post-natal deaths between one and 11 months" and other tell-tale figures.

On some matters fear is even more widespread among the states, says Kaimowitz.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Dec. 2, 1968]

NO STOMACH FOR FEDERAL FOOD TIES

Second of two articles

By Bette Orsini of The Times Staff

Apathy, cost fears, and just plain "anti-federal-intervention" stubbornness are pieces to the puzzling answer of why 17 Florida counties block their poor from access to free federal commodity foods.

Privately, some county commissioners say flatly they don't want to be bothered with "this federal dictation." They have a strong aversion to what they call "the federal government coming in."

Publicly, the reasons run by pattern, too.

Most of the counties give financial explanations for failing to gear their communities to participate in a commodity food distribution program estimated to provide more than \$10 in food for the poor for every \$1 of county money invested.

The holdout counties:

Contend they'd have to build expensive warehouses and hire large staffs of personnel.

Say they're already meeting food needs with county welfare and don't have hungry residents not being served.

But most counties which have started commodity food distribution have done it without building warehouses; they rent them. And most of the holdout counties are small in population and wouldn't require large commodity staffs, state welfare officials say.

Further, the county welfare setup, especially in small rural counties, often is only a one-man operation, with the occupant wearing a number of other hats as well, according to state welfare leaders.

To the holdout counties who claim they have no hungry residents in need of food, the State Welfare Department's E. Lee McCubbin, director of commodity distribution, responds:

"There's not a county in the state in which we don't have public assistance recipients in one of the four categories of services who are eligible for this type of added help."

The impetus that brings some Florida counties into the commodity food distribution program is pressure brought by local anti-poverty community action groups. Hernando County has agreed to start a program. McCubbin reports Clay, Manatee and Seminole counties soon may come in. Florida counties being sued to get in are Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Flagler, Indian River, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, St. Johns, Sarasota and Volusia. Federal officials say Okaloosa and Volusia along with Hernando have made arrangements to join the program.

Dade in 1961 was the first county to participate. Pinellas came into the program in 1964 after a year of spadework during which McCubbin met with two successive county welfare directors.

The long preamble to participation was spent "just getting the interest going and the county commissioners aware enough of it to make the decision that they wanted to go in," said McCubbin.

There still is no provision for food stamps in Florida, but McCubbin says the state's plan has been approved tentatively in Washington and will be submitted to the state budget director and Cabinet for approval.

"But there's no money at the state level, so our plan says any county that wants the program has to be able to finance whatever isn't covered by federal reimbursement just as they're doing in the food distribution programs," says McCubbin.

Financing the cost of local operations has been the stumbling block with most Florida counties holding out against commodity foods, according to McCubbin.

The holdout counties persist in their positions. In Charlotte County:

"You can give away anything, but we don't need commodity foods. Our county welfare director recommends the ones she feels are entitled to special help and we help them."

"We have a little welfare in this county. If we have someone who is in need, the county will issue a grocery order and let them go to the store and buy what

they need. Not on a permanent basis, you understand, Just till their situation gets straightened out."

"We never felt there was enough demand for food to justify the cost of administering the program."

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Dec. 9, 1968]

PLAN APPROVED BY BOARD:

MEDICAID WOULD BOOST STATE WELFARE COSTS TO \$80 MILLION

(By Pete Packett)

A plan which would boost Florida's welfare spending for medical care services from about \$30 million a year to more than \$80 million a year is being whipped into shape by the Florida Department of Public Welfare.

Federal assistance would increase from \$22 million per year to more than \$52 million; the state contribution would rise from \$8 million per year to more than \$30 million.

The plan would bring the state under the Medicaid program, Title 19 of the Social Security Act, the companion legislation to the Medicare program for the elderly. Medicaid pays bills for people not covered by Medicare.

Wright Hollingsworth, director of medical care services of the state welfare department in Jacksonville, told the News-Press that the Medicaid proposal has been approved by the state welfare board and is almost ready to present to the Cabinet and appropriate legislative committees.

Florida's Legislature must enact a Medicaid program at the 1969 session or lose federal assistance for medical care which this year amounts to \$22 million, Hollingsworth said. The state now contributes some \$8 million toward the total being spent for medical care service which amounts to \$30,324,343, said Hollingsworth.

FOOT ENTIRE BILL

If the state does not enact a Medicaid program, according to Robert Roesch, director of the Office of Comprehensive Health Planning in Tallahassee, it will have to foot the entire bill for the medical services. Medical welfare assistance money comes out of the general revenue fund.

Counties now are spending some local tax funds for medical care in addition to those spent by the state to assist the needy with medical problems. Lee County this year has budgeted \$66,500 for this purpose. Under the proposed program, Hollingsworth said, counties would be relieved of making these payments and the total program would be assumed by the state welfare department.

Counties could pass on the relief in the form of tax reductions or could spend the money for something else, Hollingsworth said.

The proposed program would immediately cover all recipients of state welfare assistance under aid to the aged, aid to the blind, aid to disabled and aid to families with dependent children. It would not cover other medically indigent persons unless amended by the Legislature.

This program automatically would cover 2,379 Lee County residents under public assistance programs, said Gerald Evans, director of state welfare here.

The state now has a six-phase program funded this year by \$21,376,016 in federal money and \$8,948,327 in state funds, Hollingsworth said. This program provides:

1. Drugs at a maximum of \$10 per case per month.
2. Hospitalization at the rate of 12 days per year for acute illness or injury, except for those under the aid to the aged program.
3. Nursing home care at a maximum of \$120 per month for adults under programs for aid to the blind, aid to the aged and aid to the disabled.
4. Medicare assistance covering the \$40 deductible for the aged and the \$4 per month medical insurance benefit.
5. A state hospital program for all aged recipients on a per diem basis which costs \$4,760,800 this year.
6. Family planning assistance for all recipients of child-bearing age.

The current program would be larger except that Florida has some residency requirements for public assistance recipients, but under Medicaid these requirements may not be imposed.

- There are 12 parts to the proposed Medicaid program, as follows:
1. Physicians' services for all categories of welfare recipients on an unlimited basis. ("This one is really expensive," Hollingsworth commended.)
 2. Dental care for all recipients, including surgery.
 3. Limited podiatry services.
 4. Hospitalization up to 45 days per year for in-patients.
 5. Hospital out-patient treatment.
 6. Skilled nursing home care with a maximum payment of \$300 per month. This would be where the counties would get the most tax relief.
 7. Laboratory and X-ray services outside a hospital.
 8. Drugs up to a maximum of \$30 per case per month.
 9. Family planning services as at present.
 10. Home health services provided by trained nurses.
 11. Vendor payments for prosthetic devices including eyeglasses and dentures, artificial arms and legs, etc.
 12. The state hospital program on a per diem basis as at present.

There are two ways the program can be administered, Hollingsworth said. It can be directly administered by the state at a cost of \$81,623,419, with the state contributing \$29,601,025 and the federal government contributing \$52,022,394. Or it could be administered by a carrier such as the Blue Cross-Blue Shield program at a slightly higher cost. If the Blues administer the proposed program, Hollingsworth said, it would cost \$82,636,315, with the state contributing \$30,115,200 and the federal government contributing \$52,521,115.

If the Legislature does not enact a Medicaid program, and the present aid programs are continued at the same level, it will cost Florida \$30 million. If it does enact a Medicaid program, it will cost Florida \$30 million.

The big unanswered question is: Where's the money to come from?

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 12, 1968]

FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM BEFORE WELFARE BOARD TODAY

(By Sam Mase, Tribune Staff Writer)

JACKSONVILLE.—State Welfare Director Emmett S. Roberts will ask the State Welfare Board at its meeting here today to approve a food stamp program to aid low income families.

He stated in a memorandum to the board that there are no state funds involved in the stamp program. Counties which are interested in participating in the program must provide all funds for local administration.

Cost of the food stamps is defrayed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As an example of how the food stamp program works, Roberts stated all households must, with their own funds, purchase an amount of food stamps monthly based on total net income and the number of persons in the household.

"In return and without cost to the state or the participant, they (the poor people) are given bonus stamps provided by the United States Department of Agriculture so that they go to an approved grocery store and purchase food products and have an increase purchasing power," he said.

He emphasized that no alcoholic beverages, tobacco, nonfood items, or imported food items could be purchased by a food stamp participant.

Roberts listed the following categories of persons eligible to participate in the food stamp program:

Those in household groups normally certified to receive financial assistance under any of the state's public assistance programs.

Persons in household groups regularly being financially aided by a county welfare department.

Other persons in household groups who are not categorized in either of the above groups, but who are in need and meet the income and resource test as prescribed in a plan of operation the state will adopt if it approves the stamp program.

The federal government sets the following scale of maximum net income per month under which a household can be eligible for the food stamp program:

One person, \$115; two persons, \$160; three persons, \$220; four persons, \$250; five persons, \$280; six persons, \$305; seven persons, \$330; eight persons, \$360; nine persons, \$395; 10 persons, \$420.

Each additional person over 10 persons in a household is allowed an additional \$30 in net income.

The federal regulation also limits the amount of cash assets on hand to \$600 for a single person and \$1,200 for two or more persons in a household.

If the Welfare Board approves the program, a plan of operation will be submitted to the State Cabinet for its consideration.

"When this is accomplished we will then be in a position to accept applications from those counties who desire to go into this program for submittal to the office of the United States Secretary of Agriculture for approval or disapproval of the county's request," he said.

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Dec. 12, 1968]

U.S. EXPANDS FOOD STAMP PLAN, EFFECTIVE IN FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON (UPI).—Liberalization of the food stamp program so that the poorest of Americans can get more to eat for less money was announced yesterday by Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman.

Freeman disclosed the new plan to help families with net incomes of less than \$70 a month in an address before a Falls Church, Va., high school student body. The secretary estimated the new plan would affect more than half a million Americans when it becomes effective in February.

"The goal," Freeman told the suburban Washington school assembly, "is to bring a family food assistance program to every home that needs it, and we should apply a single standard of need whether Virginia is involved or New York or California."

Freeman referred to the present program which is slightly scaled down for needy persons living in the South where living costs are presumed to be somewhat lower than elsewhere.

A family of four in that area, with a monthly income of under \$30 now can buy \$48 worth of food for \$2 in stamps. This ranges up to \$60 in food for \$26 worth of stamps for a family in the \$60-\$70 monthly income category.

Beginning in February, the range will be increased from \$58 worth of food for \$2 in stamps, to \$62 worth of food for \$24 in stamps.

In northern states a four-person household with monthly income less than \$20 now receives \$52 worth of food for \$2 in stamps. At the top of the range, \$28 in stamps buys \$66 worth of food.

Under the liberalized plan, \$2 in stamps will buy \$60 worth of food for the most impoverished. Those in the higher income bracket of \$60-\$70 a month will be able to buy \$66 worth of food for \$26 in stamps.

Freeman made it clear he did not consider this the solution to the problem of hunger in America. He noted that nutritionists calculate a family of four needs a food budget of \$107 for an adequate diet.

Freeman told a news conference earlier that changes in the program would cost an additional \$14 million during the fiscal year that ends next June 30.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 5, 1969]

HUNGER PLAGUES 300,000 FLORIDIANS

FOOD AVAILABLE

JACKSONVILLE.—About 300,000 Floridians go to bed hungry at night, the nutrition director for the State Board of Health said Tuesday.

Miss Mildred Kaufman told a conference of county health officers that only 20 per cent of the indigent families are taking advantage of the free food distribution program.

Miss Kaufman urged the health officers to seek out families eligible for the program in their counties and make them aware of it.

She asked them also to see that information about the supplemental food program for pregnant women is given to those who are eligible but not using it.

The State Board of Health plans to ask a substantial grant to study malnutrition in Florida, she said, and hopes to be able to survey upward of 10,000 persons.

In addition to this report on the lack of food among five per cent of Florida's six million residents, the health officers heard a dismal report on sanitary conditions in restaurants and other places food is served.

A. W. Morrison, state director of sanitation, said 2,000 cases of food-related illnesses are reported each year and experts believe only 5 per cent of such actual illnesses are reported.

"This brings the number into rather large figures," he said.

Morrison charged that improperly trained personnel are frequently sent to inspect restaurants and other public places where food is served.

He said the attitudes in various state agencies are often lax when it comes to violations of sanitary regulations.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Feb. 7, 1969]

YOUNGSTERS HUNGRY, STATE SURVEY SAYS

TALLAHASSEE.—Of the 1,250,936 children attending public schools in Florida one day last September, a State Education Department survey shows 58,905 had nothing to eat for lunch.

Another 233,682 brought their lunch from home. Mrs. Thelma Flanagan, director of the state food service program guessed Thursday that 200,000 of these couldn't afford to buy a hot lunch.

Most people think a lot of tax money is poured into the school lunch program for children, especially the needy, Mrs. Flanagan said.

But figures in Mrs. Flanagan's office in the department of education show that federal aid provided slightly more than \$9 million last year. County funds totaled \$3.2 million. The state provides no direct funds.

The total spent on school lunches in the 67 counties was \$61,044,080.

Mrs. Flanagan said most of it comes from the children. She said the total federal subsidy, including aid of up to 15 cents per lunch for needy children, averages less than a nickel per plate.

One reason boys and girls sit in school all day with nothing to eat, Mrs. Flanagan said, is because in many school boards the program has to remain solvent.

This, she said, "puts a ceiling on how many free and reduced-price lunches can be served. When they reach the limit, they just close their eyes."

Mrs. Flanagan said some school officials have been known to rotate the free lunches, feeding one child one week and another the next.

The struggle to keep from going into the red on the accounting sheets also forces the supervisors to cut costs, she said. This results in less variety, cheaper foods and portions that are smaller than they should be, she said.

Making the program self-sustaining means that the money the children pay for lunches must pay the salaries of cafeteria employes.

"The kids of this state should not have to pay the cafeteria salaries any more than they have to pay the bus driver or the custodian," she said.

The price paid in most counties ranges from 35 to 45 cents per plate.

If state and county funds were used to pay the food service employes, Mrs. Flanagan predicted, the number of children eating hot lunches would jump from the present 66 per cent to 90 per cent in two years.

Mrs. Flanagan figures giving every student enough to eat would pay for itself.

She said it would save the state the cost of many repeaters who failed because they were unable to do their best work. It also would cut the number of dropouts.

"A lot of high school kids drop out simply because they are hungry and have to go to work to get something to eat," she said.

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Feb. 17, 1969]

REPORTER SAYS MIGRANTS HUNGRY IN IMMOKALEE

(By Homer Bigart, (c) 1969 N.Y. Times News Service)

IMMOKALEE.—Ten miles southwest of here, strung out like garbage along the edge of a cypress swamp, is Smith's Camp, a gathering place for some of the migrant farm workers who flock here in winter to pick the vegetable crops.

It consists of a dozen or more windowless plywood shacks, all without toilets or running water, all painted a dull green and all facing a dark slough choked with bottles and trash.

Some distance away there are three smaller shacks, two of them privies, the third a cold-water shower. None shows signs of recent use. Few migrants are hardy enough to take cold showers out of doors in the dead of winter, even in Florida, and the latrines are unspeakably filthy, seats and floors smeared with dried defecation. So the people use the woods.

A spigot planted in the ground provides water for the shacks. But the 20 or 30 migrants who live here say the water is foul smelling and foul tasting. The only apparent amenity is the naked electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling of each shack.

Such a place is Smith's Camp, its condition of poverty far removed from the showy affluence of nearby gulf coast resorts and its people, during frequent periods of unemployment, vulnerable targets for hunger and disease. A senate committee investigating hunger will be in the area March 10.

On a recent Saturday, a visitor found most of the camp's adult population assembled in the canteen. The migrants had just been paid, apparently, and several men and women were finding release from the surrounding squalor by getting themselves drunk.

One woman, still sober enough to talk, said that in good times she made as much as \$60 for six days work in the fields, picking beans and peppers, but now work was slack because cold weather had retarded the crops.

"We've got to pay \$10 a week for these huts," she said. "Last week the water was up so high we had to wade to the door. I never would've left Carolina, but they told us the rent was free."

A man who introduced himself as "Hobo Bob" reeled out of the canteen and proudly produced an old photo that showed him with a wine bottle in one hand and a pistol in the other, a cigarette dangling from lips creased in a grin. He said he was sending the photo to a cousin in South Carolina, to show the relative what a happy life migrants could lead.

"That's Hobo Bob," he laughed, patting the photo.

Smith's Camp is one of 60 or 70 accommodations for migrants around Immokalee. Other camps seem less appalling in physical appearance but hold a greater potential for human degradation and misery because they swarm with children.

Albert Lee, an energetic young Negro who heads the local antipoverty project, the Community Civil Workers, said it was a bad season for migrants, with heavy unemployment.

Immokalee, a town of 3,000 near the northern edge of the Everglades, normally has a mid-winter population of 12,000 migrants, he said, but now there were only about 10,000. Many who normally wintered in Immokalee had gone to Texas instead.

Immokalee is in Collier County. Many well-to-do retired people live in Naples the county's biggest community, and this element, plus the big farm owners, have insured a highly conservative county government.

The county has a long history of snubbing federal aid, even during the depression era, and in recent years the county commissioners have stoutly rejected the food distribution programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Today Collier County offers neither direct food distribution nor the food stamp program. Migrants who run out of money here are out of luck.

How do they keep alive, Lee was asked.

He said he had received on Christmas Eve \$500 from the Office of Economic Opportunity. The instructions were that the money could be distributed only for emergency food.

"Now I've got a few dollars left," he said, "but I've been pinching and pinching and pinching.

He explained how he made the money last. He was doling out \$1 a day per person to the most desperately hungry, then cutting them off after 14 days.

"That's it," he said. "After 14 days if they can't get handouts from the neighbors they don't eat."

Two young lawyers from the OEO-financed South Migrant Legal services program, T. Michael Foster and William F. Dow, said their organization had been trying for years to get federal food sent into Collier County.

Last summer Foster wrote to the then Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, telling of hunger and malnutrition in the labor camps, reporting the

refusal of Collier County to participate in making food surpluses available to the poor and pleading for intervention.

Washington did nothing. Congress had authorized the OEO to take over the distribution of food in the poorest counties, which, for one reason or another, were not participating. But Collier County was not poor enough to qualify; the median annual family income, thanks to the wealthy gulf coast resorts, was \$4,673 a year.

"I've seen hunger in Immokalee as bad as in Latin America," said Dow, a graduate of Yale and Columbia, "yet the Collier County commissioners always say the problem doesn't exist, that the county always looks after its own 'worthy poor'."

Observers recalled that at a hearing last August Vice Chairman A. V. Hancock warned: "There are those sitting with their hands out waiting to be fed, and that's a situation we won't go for."

Other officials expressed the fear that if migrants were given food they would not work. Others thought that free food would drive the corner grocery into bankruptcy.

Immokalee, which calls itself the "Watermelon Capital of America," is a flat, sprawling, dusty town where people of different colors, black, brown, red and white, live in strict residential segregation. Smith's Camp, out in the swamp is all black, but there are several other Negro camps inside the town.

These are in "the quarters," an area that contains not only the Negroes but concrete-block huts occupied by Mexican-Americans. Outside "the quarters," scattered around the rest of the town, are camps for white migrants. A few score Seminole Indians live in grass huts on the eastern edge of the community.

Most of the camps are clusters of wooden shanties, concrete huts, trailers. Rents range from \$10 to \$20 a week, plus utilities. Flush toilets are a rarity, most camps providing a communal latrine. Regardless of the color of the occupants, the camps appear universally mean and squalid.

Mrs. Angela Spencer, 38, and two small pallid children occupied a trailer in one of the white camps.

"I was lucky enough to get three days work this week," she said.

She said she had been averaging two and one-half days of work a week, earning \$25, out of which she had to pay a baby sitter \$3. The rent was \$15. That left \$7 for food and all other expenses. She owed \$19 in back rent, she said, and \$100 in doctor's bills.

There was a platter of green beans and hominy on the stove. Clouds of flies wheeled about. The refrigerator was empty except for three sticks of margarine, a partly empty bottle of milk and a box of powdered milk.

She had been helped from Albert Lee's meager allotment of cash, as had Mrs. Caroline Conner, an attractive blonde who lived in another white camp and was 10 days out of the hospital after delivering a baby girl. Her husband had abandoned her.

"We were real desperate," Mrs. Conner said of herself and the baby. "If it weren't for my friends, I wouldn't have been able to make it."

Mrs. Conner said she had been migrating from Florida to the great lakes and back for the last four years, following the spring strawberry crop to northern Florida, then Arkansas, Illinois and Michigan; picking Michigan's blueberries, peaches and grapes during late summer and early fall, then going back to Immokalee for winter tomatoes, peppers and "cukes," or cucumbers.

She liked Michigan best, she said, because migrants got free quarters there. In Immokalee her rent was \$20 a week, and she had just about run out of the money she had received from Albert Lee.

In a black camp nearby Mrs. Pauline Milton and 10 children were crammed into a two-bedroom-and-kitchen hut.

"Me and two of the little one sleep in this bed," said Mrs. Milton, "and there are two beds in the other room and one in the kitchen for the rest."

She had worked two days that week, earning \$11.05 each day, and paying \$2 a day for babysitters.

"I couldn't afford to give them breakfast," she said, surveying the hungry brood, "but we had boiled beans, rice and potatoes for lunch, and I'll give them the same for supper."

Mrs. Milton is one of a comparatively few migrants eligible for county welfare, for she has lived in Immokalee for seven years. She said she had applied, but has been told that her application would take 30 to 45 days to process.

Of all the ethnic groups, the Mexican-Americans probably suffered most during times of hunger, Dow said.

"Mexicans are proud," he explained, "and feel they are violating cultural mores if they ask for help."

Foster said that the Florida State Board of Health had denied the existence of widespread malnutrition in Collier County.

"People are hungry, no one can quibble about that," he insisted. "And there is a tremendously high incidence of parastic infection."

Last March, the state health board issued a report saying that a team of doctors had "closely observed" some migrant children at play or in schools and clinics and that "none had gross signs of malnutrition."

The report said that pellagra, a severe dietary deficiency disease, had been noted but only in "known chronic alcoholics."

In reply, friends of the migrants released next day the results of clinical examinations of 23 migrant farm children of Immokalee by the Variety Children's Hospital of Miami.

The sampling uncovered 38 clinical diseases in the 23 children, ranging from pneumonia to worms.

The hospital's executive director, Gerald W. Frawley, described the findings as "rather incredible . . . a most extraordinary morbidity rate" and concluded: "The migrant population must be about the most underprivileged in the nation, at least in terms of medical attention."

In a few weeks Collier County will feel the spotlight of natural publicity. The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs is making this county its first stop on a tour of suspected hunger areas.

The committee is seeking information on the failure of the federal food programs to reach millions of poor Americans.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 11, 1969]

ASSISTANCE FOR SOME: SCHOOL LUNCHEON PLAN EXPANDED

PROGRAM IN COLLIER "NOT NEW"

EAST NAPLES.—A school lunch program for children whose families can not afford their school meals is being broadened in Collier County to make sure no child sits hungry in school.

"These are just broader rules to cover any child whose family situation is such that he can't otherwise get a lunch," said Mrs. Eloise Lester, county school lunch supervisor. "We have always had a program like this as far as I know."

"Every school child should have an adequate lunch," Supt. John A. Murphy confirmed. "All children whose family income level is \$2,500 a year or less will be eligible for aid, and as the number of school children increases, the family income level will be increased."

The school system still urges that parents apply at the school for their children to get a cut-price or free lunch, and if they cannot come in person, to write or phone the school. Parents are also encouraged to pay as much as they can afford toward the lunch prices.

Additionally, teachers who detect signs of malnutrition in a child may qualify him for lunch aid, and the schools are now receiving lists of welfare family children to aid in seeing they get fed.

When a class leaves elementary school for secondary any members who should receive and are listed for the authorities in the new school to continue help.

"There are also emergency aid plans," Murphy said, "for when the father or breadwinner in the family dies, a house burns down, or some similar tragedy occurs."

Mrs. Lester noted the standard lunch provides a main dish and two or more fruits or vegetables, milk, bread and butter, and other foods and sells for 30 cents in elementary schools and 35 center in middle and high schools where the portions are larger.

"In November," Mrs. Lester said, "as an example, actual food lunch costs were 29 cents a plate, labor 14 cents and other costs five cents for a 48 cent cost total."

Presently 84 per cent of the Collier school population is taking part in the non-profit lunch program.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Feb. 18, 1969]

IMMOKALEE FARM ACREAGE TO DOUBLE

TOMATOES ON RISE

The Immokalee agricultural area has seen a remarkable growth during the past 10 years and the vegetable volume is predicted to double during the next 10 years.

Acreage planted in cucumbers last year was 3,100 as compared to 1,600 ten years ago. The area had about 3,500 acres planted in pepper during the 1967-68 season and 325 acres in 1957-58. The tomato acreage was 8,070 last year compared to 1,875 ten years ago.

Growers in Collier County planted about 5,000 acres of watermelons last season and 1,600 acres 10 years ago. The total of all other crops such as cantaloupes, egg-plant, potatoes and squash amounted to about 1,600 acres last year and their same crops totaled 940 acres 10 years ago.

Collier County is blessed with ample agricultural land, water and favorable temperature which makes an ideal area for the production of winter vegetables. Consequently Immokalee has become one of the main winter vegetable producing area in the United States. The first watermelons of the season are usually shipped from the Immokalee area. It is known as the "Watermelon Capital of the World."

One of the 15 State Farmers' Markets is located in Immokalee. The market is operated by the Florida State Department of Agriculture. Here the produce is assembled, cleaned, graded and packed for shipment to the northern terminal markets.

The market serves the agricultural industry in other ways such as teletype market and weather information. Offices are available to buyers, brokers and truckers.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 18, 1969]

FOURTEEN THOUSAND MIGRANTS COME TO COLLIER FACILITIES

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES—Collier County officials are proud of their efforts to handle the annual influx of migrant workers that may exceed 14,000 in a county with normal 30,000 population but say they are handicapped by state law and may be even more so by expected federal changes.

State law requires a year's residence in the county before qualification for welfare payments. Payment to unqualified people could bring state auditor's complaints and perhaps indictments.

Efforts to regulate migrant labor camps may be further limited by federal plan to deemphasize some programs and end the environmental health program aimed at improving such camps.

"Smith's Camp," cited in a New York Times story, was supposed to have been abandoned, but it is only one of 100 or more camps that must be watched by only two county sanitarians, one a trainee, who have the jobs of covering a county twice the size of Rhode Island.

County officials say they are unable to hire more sanitarians because of a shortage of trained personnel in that field.

Some camps spring up overnight and unofficially in old tents or bus bodies and shacks hidden in the woods without county approval.

"We have 22 camps under permit out of 140," Bob Wheeler, county environmental health director, said. "Every camp that applied we have worked with and gotten to minimum standards or closed. The full camp situation is the subject of a four month survey we are just completing which should be ready in 10 days and tell exactly what the situation is.

"I don't claim there aren't migrants who are hungry and camps that are substandard, but we are making progress."

Dr. Charles Bradley, county health director, said that contrary to reports of lack of medical aid and medical expenses for migrants, the county has an effective medical program with the help of local pediatricians and doctors and Mt. Sinai Hospital cancer team from Miami.

"Doctors are free for the migrants," Dr. Bradley said in his office as migrant kids squealed and cried around him while being examined. "The doctors help out on this."

A woman mentioned in The Times' story who pleaded poverty had just had a major surgical operation at county expense, he said.

Like Wheeler, Dr. Bradley said the camp survey would throw more light on the facts of migrants' needs and circumstances.

"It will be the first that can really show us a lot," the doctor said. "Then we can make suggestions. Right now we have no control over some camps, but we figure some roof is better than none."

Other officials pointed out the story did not mention high quality camps in Collier which have been listed among the best in Florida.

The Times story referred to "a long history of snubbing federal aid, even during the depression" in Collier. County officials said this was a misunderstanding of county efforts to continue a traditional policy that "Collier County takes care of its own."

The latest county refusal came on federal plans to supply \$434,000 yearly in surplus food. The plan was rejected last year after County commissioners said they heard that qualifications would be by federal, not local standards and subject to possible federal court suits.

The amount was based, they said, on "a top of my head figure" worked up by a state commodity distributor on a pro rata extrapolation of figures obtained in a totally dissimilar north Florida county.

The Collier school system for years has given free lunches to needy children and this year widened the field to end any restriction on formal requirements. A year ago Immokalee school children had 98 percent participation in school lunches, ahead of the county's 83 percent average which was then Florida's highest.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 18, 1969]

COLLIER OFFICIALS SAY "HUNGER" STORY UNFAIR

FEDERAL DIVERSION, THEY SAY

(By Tom Morgan, Miami Herald-Washington Post Wire)

EAST NAPLES.—A New York Times story on Monday about hunger among Immokalee area migrant workers was called "just more of the same" by county officials who remember a similar attack a year ago that backfired under state and national investigation.

The Times predicted a Senate committee hunger check in March would start in Immokalee.

Two officials here felt it was a counterattack aimed at rescuing federal programs for the Office of Economic Opportunity and the \$806,000 South Florida Migrant Legal Services Inc. The OEO is facing dissolution and the migrant group has been warned it will probably lose its federal aid.

"We welcome the Senate committee coming to look over our situation," said Dr. Charles Bradley, county health department director. "Any suggestions they have will be fine with me."

He agreed with County Commissioner A. C. Hancock that there seemed to be a connection between the federal fund cutoff and the revived publicity series.

"Somebody had to make a noise," the doctor said.

The story is one of a series by Homer Bigart, Times feature writer who covered the Dr. Carl Coppelino trial here. It is illustrated with pictures of migrant housing, Seminole Indian "grass huts," and a map which adds 1,100 square miles to Collier County's 2,100 square miles area by including most of the Everglades National Park and Monroe County.

Among the pictures was one of a little boy whose big stomach was attributed to malnutrition although he shows none of the other symptoms. A similar picture run last year with a Tampa Tribune story on migrant problems was identified later as a normal healthy child with a full belly.

Bigart's story lists conditions he said he found at "Smith's Camp" and other migrant housing projects and also cites a Variety Children's Hospital checkup of 23 migrant children last year that revealed 38 diseases and caused the hos-

pital director to say "the migrant population must be about the most underprivileged in the nation.

"You could go anywhere in the United States and find parasites as you do here," Dr. Bradley said. "The parasites have been here for thousands of years."—What are you doing about them?

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Feb. 19, 1969]

SOME SCHOOL CHILDREN DENIED LUNCH

INADEQUACIES OF PROGRAM AIRED

TALLAHASSEE (AP).—Of the 1,250,936 children attending public schools in Florida one day last September, an Education Department survey shows 58,905 had nothing to eat for lunch.

Another 233,682 brought their lunch from home. Mrs. Thelma Flanagan, director of the state food service program guessed yesterday that 200,000 of these couldn't afford to buy a hot lunch.

Most people think a lot of tax money is poured into the school lunch program for children, especially the needy, Mrs. Flanagan said.

But figures in Mrs. Flanagan's office in the State Department of Education show federal aid provided slightly more than \$9 million last year. County funds totaled \$3.2 million. The state provides no direct funds.

The total spent on school lunches in the 67 counties was \$61,044,080.

Mrs. Flanagan said most of it comes from the children. She said the total federal subsidy, including aid of up to 15 cents per lunch for needy children, averages less than a nickel per plate.

One reason boys and girls sit in school all day with nothing to eat, Mrs. Flanagan said, is because in many school boards the program has to remain solvent.

This, she said, "puts a ceiling on how many free and reduced-price lunches can be served. When they reach the limit, they just close their eyes."

Making the program self-sustaining means that the money the children pay for lunches must pay the salaries of cafeteria employees.

"The kids of this state should not have to pay the cafeteria salaries any more than they have to pay the bus driver or the custodian," she said.

If state and county funds were used to pay the food service employes, Mrs. Flanagan predicted, the number of children eating hot lunches would jump from the present 66 per cent to 90 per cent in two years.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 19, 1969]

COMMISSION WELCOMES PROBE INTO MIGRANTS

AFTER NEW YORK TIMES STORY

Starvation, Diet Lack "Different"

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—Collier County commissioners would welcome a Senate investigating committee to probe migrant living conditions and claims that the workers are starving because of county failure to aid them in need while profiting from their labor.

Commission Chairman Les Whitaker and Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock made the offer on Tuesday after a highly critical New York Times story by Pulitzer Prize winner Homer Bigart.

They and other county health and welfare people familiar with migrant's camps and conditions questioned 15 specific points in Bigart's story and the conclusions offered by four accompanying photographs and a map which raised the county's size 50 per cent.

"Malnutrition and starvation are two different things," said Mrs. Hazel Griffin, county welfare director. "The problems won't be settled until they teach migrants how to buy and prepare foods and keep clean. They need education."

Mrs. Griffin said the county had used federal surplus commodities going all the way back to Depression days when they were placed in area stores, a contradiction of claims the county never accepted any such aid and its commission had a "root hog or die philosophy" toward migrants.

"Back in 1935 when we had 3,500 population Mrs. Winnie Frederick and Mrs. Marguerite Shearer visited every family in the county to see their needs," Mrs. Griffin recalled. "They gave help and only the Seminole Indians would not accept aid from 'the great white father' but they didn't trust anybody then.

"We do what we can to help now but we also try to save taxes."

A feature of the Bigart article was a four-column picture of James Kelly who was identified as having gotten aid only from the federal anti-poverty program in the past eight months. The welfare office said Kelly had been sent to the state tuberculosis hospital and cured with county funds and had * * * food order "until he quit coming in for it."

The file showed Kelly got such an order Feb. 12, only five days before the picture ran and was given orders for clothes and shoes before he went to the hospital.

Under his picture, a one column shot of a small child was labeled "distended abdomen indicates malnutrition," but Dr. Charles Bradley, County Health Department head, said it was a normally healthy kid.

"Look at the fat arms and muscles, the straight legs," the doctor said. "That kid's all right."

The story and another picture questioned Seminole Indians living in grass huts and explained that because Collier County is wealthy it doesn't get federal aid.

Those familiar with the Seminoles know they have lived all their history in palmetto thatched chickees and refuse to leave them because they are open, airy and healthful, as well as storm resistant.

Whitaker said the county last year refused \$434,000 in a federal handout program that would have cost \$56,000 for administrative staff yearly plus a cold storage warehouse and would have opened the county to federal dictation and court action if any one were turned away.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 19, 1969]

FOUL WATER: SULPHUR; 'WAS LIKE SMALL CITY'

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

SMITH'S CAMP.—Perhaps it wasn't the blue bird of happiness, but it definitely was a blue bird that fluttered about Smith's Camp or Smithville on Tuesday. The migrant camp was one questioned in a New York Times story headed "Hunger in America: stark poverty leaves Florida migrants vulnerable to disease."

Other than the blue bird, a few cardinals flitting through the pines nearby, several ducks underfoot, a fluffy cat and an old dog the Smithville inhabitants were few and the outlook poor.

The 15 green-painted plywood shacks huddle around a small lake near the Audubon Corkscrew Sanctuary. They had little to recommend them Tuesday except that they had been vacant two weeks. Empty bottles, trash and broken toys littered the ground but one smouldering fire and the ashes of others showed cleanup attempts.

"Usually I have two men cleaning up my camp while the crew's in the field," explained crew chief Sylvester (Honeybun) Hall. "We aren't staying here now, we're over on the Oil Well Grade and the cleanup men are working there. I work camps in North Carolina, Michigan and Ohio and I don't keep a nasty camp."

While The Times' story said "a spigot planted in the ground" was the only water supply and is "foul smelling and tasting," Hall pointed out spigots between each of the 15 cabins and a pressure water system he repaired just before the crew moved. He still stays at the camp in a new, large and neat three bedroom house trailer with colonial furniture. With him are his wife, mother and six children.

"This 'pitiful' drinking water was certified in December by the Board of Health," said Moise Smith, who built the camp in 1966 and owner until it was

sold to Laguna Farms recently. "It's the same water year round in Immokalee—it's sulfur water."

The water level in drainage ditches Tuesday was at least two feet below the hut elevation "and there's more water now than since we've been here," Hall said. The county had a 1.6-inch rain on Saturday.

Other than the huts, an old school bus with the wheels off and up on blocks at one side, the main vehicles were a newer bus that Hall said threw a rod and needed an engine, another new bus that carried the crew in to check with the chief before going to the fields. Hall's pickup and station wagon and Smith's white Lincoln Continental.

There were three privies and two shower rooms in fairly clean condition, but one toilet was fouled up, as The Times had said, and a water line to the shower appeared to have been recently disconnected. Power lines run to each of the eight-by-16-foot cabins and light sockets were in place outside as well.

"It was like a small city when we were here," Hall said.

He agreed few people use the cold water showers "but they all had their stoves to heat water and little foot baths in their rooms to wash in."

Neither Smith nor Hall agreed with other conditions The Times claimed, although the crew chief admitted workers "would be drunk and in the county jail in an hour if I took them into Immokalee on Saturday." Smith said of the story about drunks in the camp canteen "they must have picked up a couple downtown and drove them here."

"I had nothing in that building but a piccolo (juke organ) and a soft drink machine," Hall agreed. "I'd like to see the kind of person who would tell lies like that."

Neither man nor any of the 20-member work crew recalled a visit to the camp by other reporters or photographers, but they did remember a "Hobo Bob" mentioned by The Times and a picture he displayed.

"It was made at the picture place in back of Fred's Barn in Immokalee," they agreed, and that Hobo Bob had been at the camp some time ago, though no one could say when.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 19, 1969]

"RENT FREE" SAYS CAMP CREW CHIEF

SMITH'S CAMP.—Much was made of a \$100 weekly rental charge for poor quarters in a New York Times' story about this now abandoned camp but The Herald's inquiries on Tuesday didn't support the claim.

In fact the man who built and owned the camp for two years, the last crew chief to use it and a woman still living here agreed "the rent is free" to workers.

Moise Smith, the original owner, and Sylvester (Honey Bun) Hall, the crew chief, agreed there was no rental charge and, Hall said, "There never has been since the camp was built."

A woman questioned before they arrived made the same statement but refused to give her name when she saw the men coming.

Hall's crew of about 20, brought into the camp briefly because their bus had trouble on the way to the fields, agreed with the "no rent" claim, but one man said "we pay \$2 a week." Hall explained this was for electricity and water and the rest of the crew agreed.

Hall, from Pompano, said he rented the camp from Smith for \$125 a week while he had used it and got \$25 daily from A. Duda and Sons for bringing the bus and its load of workers to the farm and taking them home nightly.

The workers, Hall and county officials denied the Times claim that unemployment was making things hard for migrants.

"We've got more work than we can do," said Lincoln Jackson, "but he (Hall) takes care of us whether we work or not."

Hall said the workers, men and women, get \$11 a day "and it's paid right to them—I don't touch it." He and they agreed work had been full for three months.

It is known that some other camps charge from \$10 to \$20 weekly but some also include meals in the charge. Hall does not but says he sells meals to single men "out of the same pot we eat out of."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 20, 1969]

OUR CAMP'S NOT BAD, MIGRANT CHIEF SAYS

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

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Collier County commissioners have said they welcome a U.S. Senate investigation of the plight of migrant farm workers living in the area.

Field hearings of the Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition Human Needs are scheduled to begin here on March 10.

Committee Chairman Sen. George McGovern (D., S.D.) announced the hearings after publication of the story by The Times.

The Senate committee, which only recently suffered a 40 per cent budget cut, was given a new life Tuesday when the full Senate voted to restore the \$100,000 previously cut from the study.

The move was the first time in memory that the Senate has reversed the powerful Rules Committee in a head-on fight over a committee budget.

At the camp, 15 green-painted plywood shacks huddle around a small lake near the Audubon County Corkscrew Sanctuary. They had little to recommend them except that they had been vacant two weeks. Empty bottles, trash and broken toys littered the ground but one smouldering fire and ashes of others showed cleanup attempts.

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[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Feb. 21, 1969]

HUNGER FIGHTERS WILL HEAD FOR IMMOKALEE

(By Charles Stafford, Times Bureau)

WASHINGTON.—A little band of evangelists bent on stamping out hunger, rather than sin, will visit the migrant camps of Immokalee next month and if one or two of them claims to be a U.S. senator, don't be surprised.

They are senators, members of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. It was Sen. Spessard L. Holland, D-Fla., not entirely happy about having a section of Florida singled out for investigation by the committee, who labeled its members "evangelists in the food field."

George S. McGovern, D-S.D., is chairman. Among the 11 other members are Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., and Charles Percy, R-Ill.

McGovern certainly, and some other members, will accompany committee staff people to Immokalee March 10 for two days of inspecting migrant living conditions and holding hearings on hunger and malnutrition problems. They picked out Immokalee even before a New York Times story painted a grim picture of life in Collier County for a migratory farm worker.

The committee did so because of complaints it received about conditions there, and because the County Commission has refused to take part in federal programs which could make surplus foods available to the poor.

A committee employe said the investigation, first of a dozen field trips throughout the country to look into hunger and malnutrition problems, will be trying to:

1. Discover how severe are the hunger and malnutrition problems.
2. Survey and analyze the effectiveness of existing food assistance programs.

The food assistance programs include (1) the distribution of surplus foods, (2) the food stamp program in which the poor buy food stamps on a subsidized basis which can be redeemed at grocery stores for food supplies, (3) the school lunch and (4) school breakfast programs to provide meals to school children.

In Collier County, the spokesman said, the committee will be specially interested in finding ways of helping migrant workers who have difficulty in meeting residency and income qualifications for any kind of assistance.

The committee might visit other areas of Florida, he said, but no schedule has been set up. Members would like to visit a county with a large migrant population where a food program has been established.

Since Collier County officials claim the surplus food distribution program would be too costly for the county to bear, the Senate group will seek testimony from county officials on the program's drawbacks, the spokesman said.

But he added that committee will do more than that.

"Where we find a need, we are going to recommend that people be fed," he said. "We are not just going to do a survey."

Holland, second-ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, saw Collier County as a pawn in "a fight going on between two federal agencies as to who will be the principal handler of this (food distribution) program in the federal field."

"The Department of Agriculture has been the principal handler of legislation I have mentioned and other legislation which I can mention and I think that by and large it has done a good job," he said. "However, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has been trying to get hold of that program."

During debate this week on the resolution continuing the select committee and providing funds for its investigative work, Holland said the New York Times story on Immokalee was "probably a bit of propaganda" in the struggle for control of the food distribution programs.

Holland said he had "no disposition at all to cover up anything in my own state" and would welcome the select committee's visit.

But he said of the newspaper article: "It seems to me, from reading that article, that the reporter was concerned about two things in particular. One was that he found some poor, hungry, ill-fed and ill-housed people, whom he did not describe as migrants, but who I am sure were migrants, in a county where he said the average income per person was \$4,600 and where the county commissioners had not been willing to install a food stamp program or a program in the field of general commodity distribution.

"Perhaps," the senator continued, "he was over-looking the fact that migrants do come to Florida in the winter, just like everybody else, including the evangelists, who always come to Florida in the winter: and they come to Florida sometimes before the work is available. Perhaps that might have been the case.

[Feb. 23, 1969]

MIGRANT LEGAL AID CUTOFF PROTESTED

(By Virginia Snyder, Staff Writer)

DELRAY BEACH.—The migrant farm workers in south Florida are about to lose their "Friend in Court."

The South Florida Migrant Legal Services program is to be phased out July 1 and "it is not anticipated that it would be refunded," according to Rep. Paul G. Rogers, who said Saturday he has received many complaints about the program.

Gov. Claude Kirk's office is also receiving complaints, according to James Bax, director of the State Division of Economic Opportunity.

The migrants, however, are not complaining—they are protesting the move to end MLS.

The migrant self-help organization, OMICA (Organized Migrants in Community Action) has sent a petition to Washington, with 500 signatures, asking that MLS be refunded and expanded, OMICA president Frank Torres, of Lake Worth, said Saturday.

The 800-member Glades Citizens Assoc., a strong supporter of MLS, is greatly concerned, according to its president, Otis Jordan of Pahokee.

HIGH INTEREST

"Before they came, there were cases where a person would borrow money from his employer until payday and then be charged \$5 for five or six days' interest on \$20."

"Or a person would buy a television or other appliance and the interest or carrying charge would be too high, but local lawyers wouldn't take the cases. They wouldn't go against local businessmen."

He said that in the past there was a regular pattern of setting a fine or sentence in municipal courts greater than the law allowed. However, the person would pay the fine, rather than pay \$100 or \$150 to get a lawyer from West Palm Beach, 45 miles away.

FINE INCOME

"When the city budget went down, they would step up the arrest of farm workers," Jordan stated. "They were like vultures."

"When MLS came in and clamped down on many of these injustices the big employers ran to their political leader to get MLS out, and now that is what is happening. He's worried about reelection," Jordan explained.

SIX COUNTIES

The SFMLS program funded in April 1967 as a demonstration project, provides legal services for six counties: Palm Beach, Broward, Dade, Hendry, Collier and Lee counties.

"The attorneys are overly-aggressive," "grab headlines," "deter the administration of justice," and "take fee-generating cases," Jordan stated.

"We have never taken fees," SFMLS director, Joseph Segor, stated flatly.

He also replied to other charges by West Palm Beach attorney Marshall M. Criser, president of the Florida Bar Assoc., that MLS "fomented problems between employers and employees, which have resulted in strikes, riots, and problems of that kind."

"We have never fomented a strike or a riot. In the one case where we represented workers involved in a labor dispute, we didn't even know about the dispute until after it occurred. That was clearly seen by the report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In fact in several instances we have been successful in removing the disputes from the streets to the courts."

SMOKE SCREEN

"Most of the criticism directed at us is clearly nonspecific and is being used as a smoke screen to deny legal services to agricultural workers," Segor charged.

Individuals and organizations working closely with migrants are concerned about the threatened cut-off of the program.

Mrs. Charles Cross of Delray Beach has written to Rogers urging that the program be extended and enlarged, rather than ended.

She pointed out that prior to its inception, she had appealed to a number of attorneys in Palm Beach County, including several local attorneys who had been designated by the bar to take legal cases for the poor.

"In each case the response was negative," she stated.

ON TRIAL

She pointed out to Rogers that the service, a new one, is "somewhat on trial by the same attorneys who have shown no inclination to take up the challenge, being judged also by those growers who prefer peonage to the free labor of a democracy."

"I urge you to judge the service by its need and on its performance, not by the economically motivated detractors," her letter concluded.

Rogers said the Florida Bar Assoc. has applied for funding for a state-wide program. He was queried as to whether MLS personnel would be incorporated into the new program, in order to utilize their experience in working with the legal problems of the migrants.

"I would presume there would be a change of personnel," he replied.

If OEO agrees to fund MLS over Rogers' objections, the Governor will have the opportunity to veto it, according to Bax.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 27, 1969]

MIGRANTS GET \$½ MILLION IN SCHOOLS

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

NAPLES.—The New York Times' recent story on migrant problems "gave this county a bad name it doesn't deserve," school Supt. John Murphy told the Naples Rotary Club Wednesday.

He listed \$556,000 in federal-county school programs alone that are aimed at migrants yearly, including \$24,000 for meals.

"No migrant child need go hungry," Murphy said. "He can have a hot breakfast and lunch in school, wholesome meals."

The bulk of the county school migrant paid program provides \$332,000 for 28 additional teachers and 10 teacher aides to reduce the teacher-pupil ration in migrant areas. The schools also provide bus service to Naples for medical and dental treatment and day care for 200 five-year-old children "to put them a school year ahead of time."

"We also have a 'work and earn' program to keep children in school until they complete their education instead of releasing them to go to full-time work in the fields," Murphy said.

Then he explained the "home and family life unit" in which classrooms are changed into semblances of homes "so migrant children" can learn the fundamentals of living in clean houses, preparing balanced meals, and such things."

"We figure that mothers are too tired from working in the fields to come to such courses," Murphy explained, "but by teaching the children, they can teach their parents at home."

Other programs Murphy cited include \$30,000 for equipment to expand curriculums in Everglades City and Immokalee; \$97,000 for a reading program for those below their grade levels; \$34,000 for Head Start and \$39,000 for adult education in basic skills. Murphy said it is possible that a \$300,000 bi-lingual educational approach for migrants in which English is taught as a foreign language may soon be approved for federal aid.

The Times story, Murphy said, was very embarrassing because he had been recruiting teachers at the National Association of School Superintendents convention in New Jersey "and this story came out telling how bad Collier County was."

"I felt like a real estate salesman caught selling land under water," Murphy told the Rotarians. "They asked me 'what kind of place are you trying to get us into?' It was a fairly distorted picture for this county government's point of view. It gave us a bad name we don't deserve. We should challenge The New York Times and anyone else who makes such charges."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 28, 1969]

KIRK ACCEPTS HUNGER LOOK, BUT...

SAYS STATE DOING MORE

(By Charles Stafford, Miami Herald-St. Pete Times Wire)

WASHINGTON.—Gov. Claude Kirk Jr. said Thursday he has no objection to a Senate committee investigating hunger in Immokalee, but his administration is "doing more meaningful work in all this migrant worker problem than any headline will do."

The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, headed by Sen. George S. McGovern (D., S.D.) will visit Collier County March 10-11 to inspect living facilities for farm workers and hold hearings on hunger and malnutrition problems.

Kirk in Washington for a two-day meeting of the national governors' conference, said: "I hope they do come if they want to come in a sense of accomplishing a survey. But I don't want it to be in any way political."

Both the governor and members of his staff said many urban areas have more hunger than Immokalee. Robert Roesch said, "Frankly, I think we've got in a given square block of Miami, Liberty City, as many or more problems than the entire Immokalee area in terms of human suffering. I've been through all of these places and quite frankly my own feelings are that people in Immokalee are far better off than perhaps they are in some of the real congested slum areas."

There were reports gubernatorial aide James Bax was working to persuade county officials in several counties, including Collier, to adopt a food stamp or surplus commodity distribution program to aid the poor, or to allow the state to do so. But Bax refused to confirm this.

"My recommendations on this will not go to newspapers first," said Bax. "They'll go to the governor."

Bax said a program he was seeking to work out with Avco Corp. could help migrant farm workers more than any Senate investigation. But he said he was not ready to announce any details.

Kirk said he met Wednesday morning with Avco officials to discuss an "impact training, vocational training" program that would be carried out at the old Sanford Naval Training Center.

"Our vocational training in Florida just doesn't work," said Kirk. It's not relevant, it's not productive, and we are not turning out the people we should be turning out for the jobs that are there. . . . You can't deliver a house in Palm Beach County in less than seven months, I am told, because they don't have the people."

Kirk said the state can get a federal grant to help pay for a vocational training program run by Avco. He said he envisions a pilot program for 150 trainees to begin with.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

HUNGER: COLLIER SAYS PICTURE DISTORTED

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—A New York Times story two weeks ago described a migrant camp with no windows and only one faucet, told of one migrant "out of work eight months but aided by the local anti-poverty group, and showed the county map and a picture of a "starving" child.

The camp was found to have been abandoned two weeks before the story ran and to have windows and water although it is sulfur water. The ailing migrant, cured of tuberculosis at Collier County expense, had gotten a \$16 monthly aid check five days before.

The county map included an area the size of Rhode Island, 1,100 square miles, that is not a part of Collier County. Doctors and women working with Immokalee migrant children said the baby pictured was in fine health.

"This is just more of the same," said Commission Chairman Les Whitaker, and explained he referred to another story in a Gulf Coast paper. This complaint by the South Florida Migrant Legal Service accused Immokalee grocers with overcharging migrants and the county with denying aid to pregnant women.

Immokalee, as an example, has a migrant health clinic intended almost entirely for migrants and deeply involved with pre-natal care and child treatment. The accusations were then said to have been misunderstood.

In this case also a photograph of a "child suffering from malnutrition" was published but this boy was identified and found to have been a county welfare client and in fine health.

Later last year the state Surplus Commodity Distribution Office sought to get Collier to take over a \$434,000 federal food program. County officials pointed out they would have to pay \$56,000 a year for staff workers and that added costs of building cold storage warehouses would "make us spend \$3 for every \$1 we gave away."

The county figures were "off the top of the head" as were the state ones which the surplus commodity distributor Lee McCubbin admitted he had worked up the night before based on experience in north Florida's Gadsden County whose problems differ from those of Collier.

"We are in full accord with Head Start and self-helping housing programs, and all the educational programs designed to help and equip these people to be useful citizens," Whitaker said Friday.

"But if you start handing out something like that people just sit on their rear ends and take it, and that is the problem we have in the nation."

Whitaker recalled recent news stories that the "Welfare Rights Action Committee" organized by the SFMLS asks state welfare revisions and will back up its requests with a march on Tallahassee in April when the Legislature convenes.

Proposals to be pushed by the demonstrators include college tuition for welfare clients, baby sitters to allow welfare clients to attend school, less strict welfare eligibility rules including payments even if there is an unemployed man in the family, jobs without a cut in welfare, and 100 per cent furniture, clothing, welfare and non-prescription drug allowances.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

HUNGER: LEE HAPPY WITH FOOD PROGRAM

(By Steve Ruediger, Fort Myers Bureau Chief)

FORT MYERS.—Lee County officials are "very happy" with the commodity food program in Lee County. Their enthusiasm, however, is not shared by some civic and community groups which feel the program does not go far enough toward alleviating hunger among the poor.

The food, which is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is distributed from a warehouse on Sixth St. behind the Page Field Airport. The food is provided free.

During January, 1,646 families in Lee County picked up commodity foods. The amount received depends on the size of the family.

About 1,736 families were eligible to receive the food.

County Commission Chairman Julian Hudson told *The Herald*, "We are very happy with the program. We have got to feed these people and this program is a lot cheaper than buying the food on the market." Hudson said the choice was either feed them or watch them starve.

The total cost to the county in 1968 was \$7,930.66 plus the use of a county-owned warehouse, part of which is also used for storage of civil defense materials.

Only two costs to the county are involved in the program. A cost of \$5,362.91 for salaries and cost of \$22,567.75 for shipping the food from Atlanta, Ga., where the federal distribution warehouse is located.

The most frequent complaint heard about the program is that the warehouse at Page Feld is too far from the main poverty area.

The warehouse is from four to seven miles, depending on what part of the area a person lives in, from the Dunbar area which contains more poor people than any other community in Lee County.

As a result, a person, in order to get the food, must either have a car, get a ride in someone else's car or take a taxicab to the commodity food warehouse.

A three month survey which ended last December of problems in poverty communities in Lee County showed that the poor usually had to pay for transportation to the places where the services were offered which they needed. The survey was made by Gerald Troy, a student at Florida State University, as part of his master's thesis.

Pete Packett, former president of the Community Coordinating Council, appeared before the County Commission on behalf of the council several times last year to urge them to set up a neighborhood service center in the Dunbar area. Commodity food distribution was one of the services proposed by Packett for the center.

The commission opposed Packett's recommendations. When Packett went to the Dec. 12 meeting, Commissioner Bruce Scott said to him, "if people truly need a service they can get it." Scott said he was strongly opposed to setting up a service center in the Dunbar area. The other commissioners' opposition was milder than Scott's.

The survey by Troy in the Dunbar area showed the settled poor knew of only 25 per cent of the services available to them and used only 10 per cent. The services used most were the mobile health services provided by the Lee County Health Department.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

LEE VISITED BY SENATE LAWYER

(By Steve Ruediger, Fort Myers Bureau Chief)

FORT MYERS.—A hearing will be held in Fort Myers by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, *The Herald* learned Friday.

It had been expected that the hearings on March 10-11 would be held in Immokalee both days. However, the committee decided to hold one of the meetings in Fort Myers after a visit to the area by committee general counsel and staff director William C. Smith.

Smith returned to Washington Friday. He visited poverty areas and talked with some leaders of groups working in those areas during his visit.

In addition to holding hearings, the committee headed by Sen. George S. McGovern (D., S.D.) will inspect living conditions in farm worker and poverty communities.

Gov. Claude Kirk said this week that state programs being developed would do more good than Senate investigations. There also were reports that the state might try to persuade Collier County to begin using a surplus food or a food stamp program for the poor.

Kirk also said he is working out a program of vocational training to be administered with the Avco Corp. He said a federal grant could be obtained to help pay for the pilot project, with 150 trainees to start with.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

SELF-HELP IS BEST—COLLIER

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—Despite national publicity that Collier County has a "root hog or die" approach to migrant workers supposedly starving for lack of jobs, county officials in all areas declare they are striking at the root of the migrant problem through health aids and education of children to whom hot meals are given to make learning easier.

The officials admit there are problems for migrants but doubt that a no-strings-attached free federal food program would be any help, as some agencies have urged.

"We don't turn away from federal aid in an emergency," said Mrs. Hazel Griffin, county welfare director. "We used it after various freezes cut jobs but right now we don't average three requests a week for food. We just don't have a lot of families asking for help."

Collier officials say they follow strictly the state laws that say no welfare aid goes to anyone not a resident for a year. School officials, under a different set of laws, open their free lunch program to all.

"No migrant child need go hungry," School Supt. John A. Murphy told the Naples Rotary Club Wednesday. "He can have a hot breakfast and lunch in schools."

The county this year is feeding a daily average of 5,500 children in the lunch program, says Mrs. Eloise Lester, school lunch supervisor. Under this program in January there were 6,222 migrant free lunches served in the four Immokalee area schools. Bethune pre-schoolers there got 1,577 meals then.

The county schools annually use about \$90,000 worth of free federal commodities weighing 278,407 pounds which help provide meals at 20 cents for elementary students and 25 cents for secondary pupils in the Immokalee area. At Naples, where students are presumed better able to pay, the meal price is 30 and 35 cents each.

The meals are a bargain because with the operating state costs they are worth 48 cents a plate. A state survey has shown most counties in similar circumstances set the prices at 35 and 45 cents.

Even at the low prices, no student anywhere in the county need go without food. He or his parents can ask, or the teacher may choose to provide free lunches without any stigma or publicity attached.

The Collier arrangement is in comparison to a statewide survey recently which showed 41 counties of Florida received less than the \$89,829 in surplus commodities this county got in the 1st full year recorded, 1967-68.

Many of these counties choose to pass the shortage on to the students by rotating free meals with one group of students getting food one week and another the next.

Federal commodities received here are in all categories from apples and butter and chicken, to peas and raisins and turkeys. Federal aid is also given to buy milk for school children, an aid which runs to \$7,100 a year.

The county has no figures on other aid given migrants and their children through the Immokalee Migrant Committee which cooperates with county welfare, local churches and the Salvation Army.

"This group has never to my knowledge turned anybody away," says Capt. Harold M. Reece, a minister and president of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce and the Migrant Committee.

Capt. Reece said the group spent several thousands dollars on migrant aid at Christmas but refused a recent offer of a generous quantity of food "because we do not have any indication of widespread hunger or need."

"This community will look after its hungry and needy and we will certainly ask if we need outside help," he said. "But there is also an inbred American pride that most of our citizens want to earn their own living, and being of American pioneer stock they will not (quote New York Times) 'Seek release from the surrounding squalor by getting themselves drunk' but will work hand in hand with the community to improve living conditions."

Collier County has endorsed that approach by encouraging self-help housing and through the schools is trying to reach the migrant problem at the source, the migrant.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

"IT'S A MADHOUSE" OF MAD BARGAINS

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

EAST NAPLES.—Bargains by the bushel, the truckload and the stack are waiting here for the 9 a.m. opening today of the annual White Elephant Sale of the Naples Community Hospital Auxiliary.

Ladies of the auxiliary worked late into Friday night with the aid of their husbands and volunteers to sort out, display and price the items available for the big charity event.

In a corner 10 golf bags, complete with new clubs, are out-shone by stacks of new clothes.

"We have stacks we haven't even opened and marked," a worker confided, then hurried off to other tasks.

"It's a madhouse," another said, but the event always is.

One year a reporter lost his camera when he set it down to pay for a bargain. A genuine African witch doctor's mask with 250 handsewn cowry shells for only \$10.

This year's exotica include a paired unit, a silver hypodermic needle to inject Vermont into very dry martinis and a battery hygrometer style measuring device to measure how strong a drink really is.

A table nearby has at a fantastic price a welded iron diver's boot and in another area there are available 11 stool bottoms with swivels, but no seats.

The doors will open promptly in all five store areas at nine a.m. with six sheriffs, deputies and a highway patrolman to ensure safety. The auction of the big items, the cars, boats, antiques and paintings, comes at 10 a.m. Food will be available from the "junior deputies" chuck wagon.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 1, 1969]

MORE LEE PROGRAMS SOUGHT

FORT MYERS.—William Dow of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services program was asked for an evaluation of the commodity food program in Lee County. Dow told The Herald, "Because charges have been made that we instigated these hearings before the Senate committee, we don't want to chance adversely affecting any of the committee's work by discussing the matter before they arrive."

Lee County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People president, Rev. Isadore Edwards, told The Herald Lee County was better off than Collier County. However he indicated he was dissatisfied with the Lee County program, Edwards said, "I would rather not make any specific comments until the hearings." He said he was looking over complaints he had received and he had not yet decided exactly what he would say if asked to testify at the hearings.

Of the 1,646 who picked up their commodity foods in January, 1,391 are under the state program and 255 are on the county program. Both programs operate in Lee County through the County Welfare Department.

Anyone drawing state welfare assistance is entitled to food under the state program. To qualify for the county program, an individual must have an income of less than \$115 a month and be able to prove he is unable to work or unable to find a job providing him with a sufficient salary. The minimum income requirement increases as the size of the family increases. It is possible for a person to be on the state program who wouldn't qualify for the county program.

Domenic Scolaro, one of the men who distribute food at the commodity warehouse, said about 60 percent of the families which pick up food are Negro and about 40 percent are Caucasian.

Scolaro said most people pick up their monthly ration in the first half of each month.

If the warehouse runs out of an item, the records of those who didn't receive it are marked so they can pick the item up later.

The variety of food provided under the program has expanded during the past year.

One problem with the commodity program has been that many of the poor did not know how to properly prepare the food to provide a balanced nutritional diet.

An attempt to solve this problem is being made through an experimental program begun last week in Lee County and 12 other Florida counties.

Under the program, 12 women from Lee County low income areas have been trained to instruct needy families in the proper preparation of food. These women go into the homes of poor families to provide them with this instruction.

The only other government program providing food in Lee County to the needy is the school food service. Service Supervisor Mrs. Francis McEvilly said 13,000 children each school day get milk, lunch and a snack.

However, only a small number get free or reduced price lunches. In order for the children to get free lunches the parents must submit applications stating they are needy families.

[From the Palm Beach (Fla.) Post, Mar. 6, 1969]

ROGERS PLANS TO ATTEND COLLIER HUNGER HEARING

(By Dale Pullen, Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Rep. Paul Rogers, D-West Palm Beach, will accompany a special Senate committee when it visits Immokalee Monday in a probe of living conditions of farm workers.

Rogers, whose 9th Congressional District includes Immokalee and Collier County, said he had accepted the invitation of U.S. Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., and chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

The committee is seeking to locate poverty and hunger pockets throughout the country and recommend to the Congress and the administration ways to eliminate them.

Rogers said, "I am going to encourage the committee to take a look at all aspects of the conditions and what's been done by local people to improve the lot of migrant farm workers."

Meanwhile U.S. Rep. James A. Haley, D-Sarasota, said Wednesday he had not received an invitation from the McGovern committee to attend the scheduled hearing.

The committee has scheduled a visit Tuesday to Fort Myers, in Lee County, which is in Haley's 7th Congressional District.

Haley said he would either go himself, if invited, or send a representative. He said he believed the failure of the committee to invite him stemmed from the recent shift of Lee County from Rogers' district to his district and he believed McGovern was not aware of the shift.

Still he did not have many complimentary things to say about McGovern.

When first asked about the committee's visit to Fort Myers, led by McGovern, Haley said, "What does that jackass have to say now?"

He said further of McGovern, that "the only thing he would come up with would be to give 'em a lot of money and all the free food they need and build 'em houses rent free."

Asked if that was bad business, Haley said: "That's right."

He also said: "I don't think they'll find much in Fort Myers; it's a pretty prosperous community. I've always said give me five acres of good land, shotgun and shells and seed and you couldn't starve me in that part of the country."

The McGovern committee, which will visit Collier and Lee counties also includes Republicans Jacob Javits, of New York; Marlow Cook, of Kentucky, and Robert Dole of Kansas and Democrats Walter Mondale of Minnesota and Allen Ellender of Louisiana.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 7, 1969]

TRUTH PROBE IS WELCOME

(By Tom Morgan)

NAPLES.—There will be a welcome in Immokalee Monday for the Senate investigating committee—if it's there to investigate and not merely to backstop a preconceived case.

I'll tell you all about welfare and work, if you'll tell the truth. Some of these newspaper reporters won't tell the truth, said an Immokalee woman this week.

The same for the committee. If it wants to see the truth, it will be welcome. Immokalee doesn't want to prevent aid to migrants or to others in need, but it sees no need to be crucified for a television show like the Miami production this week which I am told could find nothing to picture in the Immokalee area but dozens of outhouses, "more outhouses than I'd ever seen before," as one viewer said.

The most vicious and widely circulated story of all was the one that wealthy Neapolitans were teaming up with the farmers to hold down migrant aid when, for example, it is largely the wealthy Neapolitans who provided an \$8-million hospital that is the only one available to migrants and poor people in this county.

The story even reached California and brought an indignant letter from a young college student to the county commission this week.

Writing of "the tragic condition of migrant workers in your area," Miss Sidney Connell said, "one understands you aren't going to give these pathetic souls money directly from your own Christian pockets, but if the federal government offers food and money, what sort of pride is it that is allowing you to deny them to thousands of depressed individuals living on \$25 a week?"

The migrants are not in a tragic condition, but it would be false to say their lot is paradise. Some have good conditions, some bad. Some have enough to eat, some don't.

The federal government is the only group which could break this stream of traveling misery, and it isn't trying. It has offered Collier County food but no money, especially no money to handle delivery and distribution of the food. In Lee County this means the county has to use a war surplus warehouse at Page Field and welfare clients have to take taxis or hitch rides to get their food.

Collier doesn't refuse federal free food. It uses that food to see that every migrant school-age child gets a warm breakfast and lunch free and that others with low income can buy meals at 20 and 25 cents. Lee County, which has been justly credited for its food program, sells its meals for 42 and 47 cents and has stricter rules than on "freebies."

The worst aspect of this national publicity is the \$25-a-week pay angle, which is totally untrue. Independent reporters going to Immokalee have found workers being paid \$11, \$17 and even \$39 a day in one case.

Labor has been in short supply all season—6,000 to 7,000 workers short at harvest time—according to Don Lander, veteran county agricultural agent.

And it is not just a farm labor shortage. A downtown drugstore has had two thirds of its luncheon counter closed this week for lack of help. The Naples Daily News this week has been running up to 172 job openings of all types, and the 172 figure is a conservative reading of requests for "men, labor waitresses," counting each request as only for two people.

The Committee by all means should talk to Albert Lee, who has worked so hard to improve many fields of activity at Immokalee. It should also talk to Mrs. Hazel Griffin, who directs county welfare, Mrs. Eloise Lester, who heads the county school lunch program, Dr. Charles Bradley, head of the health department, and to the Immokalee Migrant Committee which has over the years spent thousands of dollars out of its own pockets and even worked with Naples to raise emergency funds to aid migrants in need.

My own suggestion to the committee members is to act like a good reporter: Believe nobody without checking the opposite side of the story, and go over every angle, not just the beautifully worded and prepared handouts from some non-local source.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 7, 1969]

NAACP HEAD SAYS HE'LL TELL "FACTS ON FOOD PROGRAM"

CRAFT WON'T BE HAPPY

FORT MYERS.—Rev. Isadore Edwards, president of the Lee County NAACP, said Wednesday night he has been invited to testify before the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs at its hearings here Tuesday.

"I won't go just to be going," Edwards said. "I am going to tell the facts I know about the commodity food program and they will make that program look bad. Craft won't be happy about what I will say." Robert Craft is director of the Lee County Welfare Department.

Edwards said he expected the hearings to show that Lee County treated the poor better than Collier County but there were faults in the Lee Welfare program.

"Paternalism in Lee County is just as bad as in any part of Mississippi," the Baptist minister said.

Edwards said he would accept affidavits from people on their experiences with the welfare program and would present these affidavits to the Senate committee with his testimony.

Edwards said the cutting off of funds from the South Florida Migrant Legal Services program was proof that Rep. Paul Rogers and others did not care what happened to the poor. The NAACP leader said the migrant program would not work if it was put under the influence of the Florida Bar Association.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 8, 1969]

HUNGER PROBES FOCUS ON COLLIER PANGS MONDAY

(By Charles Stafford, Times Bureau)

WASHINGTON.—The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs moves into Immokalee Monday with the acknowledged intent of grabbing the nation's attention and focusing it on hunger.

That means Collier County is in for some bad national publicity. For the committee is certain to find malnourishment among migrant farm workers' children, and the press will be listening for the answers of Collier officials as to why they refuse to take part in federal food distribution programs.

The committee will have headquarters in Fort Myers. The six senators who will take part—Chairman George McGovern, D-S.D., Allen J. Ellender, D-La., Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., Marlow W. Cook, R-Ky., and Robert Dole, R-Kan.—will begin arriving Sunday.

McGovern will fly in by helicopter early Monday from Miami where he is to take part in a Sunday television program on the hunger problem.

U.S. Rep. Paul Rogers, D-Fla., of Collier County, will attend the hearings. U.S. Rep. James Haley, D-Fla., of Lee County will not. Nor will Sen. Spessard L. Holland, D-Fla., or Sen. Edward Gurney, R-Fla.

The committee first will visit the health clinic in Immokalee at 9:15 a.m. Monday. From then until 12:15 p.m. members will visit several migrant neighborhoods in Immokalee to inspect living conditions and talk with families.

The committee will open hearings at Bethune School at 1 p.m. Witnesses will include representatives of the Collier County Commission, the president of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, the Collier County health officer and school superintendent and other community leaders.

After questioning the county health officer about malnutrition among county youngsters, the committee will bring in its own medical experts to testify.

Tuesday, the committee will tour Fort Myers neighborhoods beginning at 9 a.m. The tour will end at 12:15 p.m. at the Saval Ponds rent supplement housing apartments where a small informal hearing will take place.

At 2 p.m. the committee will open a public hearing in the Southward Village recreation hall. Witnesses will include Lee County officials, and migrant and community action leaders.

The committee will return to Washington Wednesday.

The hearings are the first in a series throughout the country.

"That's the wrong kind of publicity," he said. "We are seeking publicity that will try to do something constructive, to persuade people there is a problem, to persuade legislators to enact legislation to attack the problem."

Members and staff workers are frank to admit publicity is one of their objects. Sen. Ellender, a Louisiana conservative and chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the man who helped foster the food programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said so on the Senate floor.

"We know the problem exists," he said. "We are exposing it. The best thing we can do is let the country know what the conditions are . . . It is my feeling that

holding hearings throughout the country, as the senator (McGovern) proposes, will do more good than hearing from 1,000 consultants."

McGovern and his staff have noted repeatedly that the U.S. Public Health Service has no idea how much hunger and malnutrition there is in the country. It has begun a survey to determine this.

A committee staff member said the publicity the committee is seeking is not for the personal benefit of any of its members.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 8, 1969]

SENATE TO CHECK FOOD PROGRAMS IN LEE, COLLIER

Differing food distribution policies of Lee and Collier County will be compared Monday and Tuesday when the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs conducts investigations in Immokalee and Fort Myers.

The committee, headed by Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota will be accompanied by Rep. Paul Rogers, who represents Collier County.

The schedule for Monday calls for a start at the health center in Immokalee at 9:15 a.m., said William C. Smith, staff director and general counsel for the committee. About three hours will be spent on a tour. Then the committee will have a box lunch at vacant Bethune School. Smith said hearings at the school will start at 1 p.m. and probably run until 5 or 6 p.m.

On Tuesday the committee will tour poverty areas around Fort Myers until 11:30 or 11:45 a.m., when a hearing will be held for the residents of Sabal Palm rent supplement housing off Anderson Avenue.

At 2 p.m. hearings will start at Southward Village Recreation Center. County officials will be present in both counties.

Smith said the comparison of the counties is one thing the committee wants to explore. Lee County finds food distribution desirable while Collier declines to enter federally supported programs.

Lee County last year provided food commodities to some 16,000 people, with as many as 1,600 on the list at a time. The number has swelled from more than 10,000 in 1955 when the program was started.

\$11 MONTHLY

Last year the food distributed was valued at \$11 per month per person involved. The cost to the county is administration, some shipping charges and warehousing. Salaries last year totaled a bit more than \$5,000.

Recipients of the food vary from month to month, as some families drop below the income level qualifying them for the aid and others find income and go above. The program is administered through the county welfare office under Bob Kraft, but many are on the list who do not qualify for welfare. The requirements differ.

"This is one thing we want to explore," said Smith. "Also the operation and administration of the commodity and welfare program, a look at how it operates in Lee County."

Other committee members on the tour are Sen. Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, Sen. Jacob Javits of New York, Sen. Marlow W. Cook of Kentucky and Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas. Dole won't arrive until Monday night. Dole, Cook and Javits are Republicans, the rest are Democrats.

The committee is making its first field trip here. Another is scheduled April 14 in Washington, "right in their own back yard," said Smith. Others are to be scheduled in Boston and in California.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 9, 1969]

HOW MUCH HUNGER IN IMMOKALEE?

(By Howard Van Smith, Staff Writer)

IMMOKALEE.—Start talking about whether hunger is really rampant along this farming town's main street that looks like part of the wild, wild west and you can just about get yourself into a gun battle—no matter which side you take.

Monday, amid this chipdown atmosphere, Sen. George McGovern, the South Dakota Democrat, leads his Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs into town for two days of hearings at the Bethune Elementary School. With him will be Sen. Jacob Javits, R.-N.Y., Sen. Allen Ellender, D.-La., Sen. Marlow Cook, R.-Ky., and Sen. Robert Dole, R.-Kan. Missing will be Sen. Edward (Ted) Kennedy and six other members of the committee.

The charge, made mainly by the South Florida Migrant Legal Aid Services, is that there is malnutrition bordering on starvation brought on by lack of work—and especially among the older or otherwise incapacitated migrant and other farm workers. Free government food will be asked.

The countercharge, made mainly by the farmers, businessmen and the Immokalee Migrant Committee, is that there is plenty of work for those who want to work even though this is the "off season"—between the fall and spring harvests. No such giveaway food is needed, they say.

The gap of misunderstanding is very, very wide.

IT BEGAN . . .

The controversy began—and brought the Senate here—on the basis of a Feb. 17 story in *The New York Times* which told of hunger at the starvation level and wages too low to live on because there was not enough work. The story was admittedly "fed" by the Migrant Legal Aid to writer Homer Bigart as part of a "Hunger in America" series. A key picture showed a youngster under two with a caption, "Child's distended abdomen indicates malnutrition."

Since then doctors who have seen the picture say it surely doesn't represent malnutrition. True, the child has a big stomach but where are the spindly legs and arms that with a distended stomach factually spell out malnutrition? This child, they say, is merely fat.

Some people refuse to talk. Immokalee doesn't like the front page. It's been there before. People here still smart from the memory.

The year was 1958. But actually it began on Dec. 8, 1957. It just took time to settle in.

There was the kind of frost-and-freeze the farmers call a wipe-out. There was no work from then on for the migrants.

THOUSANDS HUNGRY

By mid-January the number who were without food was in the thousands. No one could give the exact number then. Immokalee is an odd town in this way. It is still unincorporated. This meant then—more so than now—that there were no laws covering sanitation, housing, health or anything else. There were no county laws that could be substituted or active state laws.

Neither had Immokalee been a farming town then for too long, although it was boasting it would overtake big Dade County with its 50,000 acres in winter vegetable farming. (And since then with sugar cane and an increase in tomatoes it has considerably narrowed the gap.)

By early February the condition was so serious migrants were dying. The one doctor in the town—still the same Dr. Hinton and still the one doctor—was sick with hepatitis. He had always done a big business with the migrants, one he's mostly lost now to the health clinic built in that year of famine.

A common sight to see then were the migrants who had some kind of old rattletrap—there was hardly one left that did run and no gas for that—rolling bald tires into the service stations and trying to sell them for 10 cents with which to buy some bread or fuel.

Yes, it stayed cold. The elements combined in this misery. Paratyphoid broke out. So did other diseases. It was known by then that 4,500 migrants were stranded. Some took to the woods, Some died there.

CENTER OF MISERY

All this misery centered in a place called Shacktown. This term when used in Immokalee makes the residents squirm. Call it the Quarters, they urge. But if ever there was a jungle of misery and destitution it was Shacktown. It is nearly the story of Immokalee itself.

Discovering dike farming brought the migrants to Immokalee. These dikes enclose fields into which water is pumped in or out as needed. But these farms are not in Immokalee. Not even one can be seen from the edge of the town.

They're spread for miles and miles over the countryside, in places with names like the Devil's Kitchen. But nearly all the migrants lived in Immokalee, in Shacktown. In fact it did then, and still does, make up a community of about 5,000 when fall or spring farming is peaking.

Once Immokalee had been a lumber town. Here a great deal of cypress was milled. The boards that were planed off, some of them of the pecky type that have big holes throughout, were ideal for making shacks. Other left-over lumber helped. The residents of the town saw a new industry. They built the shacks and rented them to the migrants.

SOME ANSWERS?

The obvious places to find the answers to such contradictory charges would be the town's only doctor and the local Collier County Health Clinic.

Dr. Forrest Hinton, the local physician, replied to the question by saying: "There are only three times to get your name in the paper: when you are born, when you get married and when you die. So far, I've had mine in twice and that's that."

At the clinic a nurse, on the condition that her name not be used, said that there had been no increase in malnutrition but some had to be expected in an area which had a population, at season peaks of 7,000 migrant and other farm workers and their family members.

But there had to be more to it than that.

Perhaps the most useful observation came from a teacher at the Pine Crest Elementary School, which is integrated and contains farm children. He not only refused his name for "protective" reasons but ducked every time a camera was aimed at him. But he did say:

"I'm sure there is malnutrition. We serve free breakfast and free lunch, two meals a day, and give milk later in the day also, and I'm sure there wouldn't be any reason for doing that if there were no malnutrition."

Many of these shacks were so rickety they were falling sideways. Many were so small they would squeeze one man, yet families of 10 were in them. They rented for prices up to \$10 a week, and at that time migrants when working were making 60 and 65 cents an hour. Before the freeze children went to the fields with their parents to try to meet the cost of rent and food.

SANITATION UNKNOWN

Sanitation was just about unknown. The only real argument was whether there should be pit-type outhouses instead of surface ones. One served a cluster of shacks. So did one well and usually it was located near the latrine.

The water also was high that winter. It flowed around the latrines and sewage floated in it and around the well nearby. The water flowed across the floors of many shacks and the cold remained. Sometimes it went down into the 20's. And yet in this huge mass of hungry, stranded humanity women still kept on having babies. One public health nurse tried to work against all this, to do what she could, and one time she kept working day and night when her own temperature was 102.

Conditions had always been so bad in Immokalee that the farm labor bureau of the Florida State Employment Service called it "the forgotten area" and refused to send migrants who used its service there.

Those who did come, with an unusually heavy amount of Mexican-Americans for a Florida farm area, were what were called "free-wheelers." They came on their own from wherever they left. Migrant labor, with some 3,000,000 workers and their families, is big business in America. So, long ago the states began cooperating in moving crews (about 50 men bossed by a crew-leader) to the farm areas of the nation as they needed them. Certainly some of those areas were bad enough, such as can still be seen in Broward County, but Immokalee was just too much even for the farm labor service.

A curious thing happened at the start of this misery. The Immokalee Migrant Committee was a body supposed to function in an emergency. But then who expected an emergency? There hadn't been anything really, before. The chairmanship revolved among better known people although there was no particular need to hold meetings.

MINISTER ARRIVES

At that time a young Methodist minister had come to town to preach at the Immokalee Methodist Church and occupy the nearby parsonage. His name was the Rev. David Newell. He was honored by giving him the chairmanship. It was entirely an honor, not because he knew anything about migrants.

Young Dave Newell suddenly found himself the rallying point of a debacle, of trying to control the swirling of what was literally a human cesspool. He began working day and night and he thought the others on the committee cared as much as he did. Perhaps some did. But others were there for the "front" the committee had become.

At one meeting Rev. Newell heard a member ask a farmer what should be done with all the destitute migrants. The farmer suggested digging a hole and dumping them all in it.

From then on, still never slowing his pace, Rev. Newell began working more with a reporter as a means of bringing in outside help. The town he knew, was trying to cover it up.

Eventually these newspaper stories brought in \$150,000. At the worst time of the crisis government surplus food was sent in after a long delay because of freight cars "lost" enroute to Immokalee. But this food given out each month only amounted to enough for a week at best. The town was full of babies and little children and it contained nothing for them. Also the main item was cheese as a protein.

A remarkable fact emerged about this item. People of Mexican descent—and Immokalee had many—can't eat cheese because of their natural oily diet. It wasn't a matter of taste or anything like that. You might as well give them a block of wood. Finally a Puerto Rican dietitian was brought in, who said all this was not only true but the "blocking" effects of cheese on the Mexicans could increase the amount of illness.

The newspaper stories brought the money and the money bought supplemental food and kerosene. The stories also brought many other things, including clothes and cases of baby food from the Pabulum Company that arrived by the freight car-load. Rev. Newell set up his supplementary food depot at the Lion's Den, home of the local civic club. For months he labored at this.

Dr. George Kareles of Newberry, Fla., then head of the rural health committee of the American Academy of General Practice who even before that year had wanted Immokalee investigated and somehow changed, said this effort had saved the lives of dozens, perhaps hundreds.

The stories kept flashing across the country. They told a far, far different story of Florida, the land of sunshine and palms. Then Gov. LeRoy Collins became admittedly angry because he couldn't believe anything was that bad in his state.

He sent his adjutant general down with an investigating group. They landed at the local airfield, were given a careful tour by a farm group of one hour and a lunch of one hour. They then flew back to Tallahassee and announced the farmers had the Immokalee conditions under control.

The Rev. Newell spoke bitterly about the "whitewash" and the stories became more strident also. Finally Gov. Collins, "incognito" in a hunter's outfit and his wife, Mary Call, literally sneaked into town.

The meeting of the minister who had stood up against virtually an entire town as the voice of the voiceless starving 4,500 and the governor was—for a fleeting moment—one of the most dramatic of those which happen when migrants experience one of their frequent tragedies. They stood together for a moment looking down upon Shacktown. Then the governor said, "It's only fit for a bulldozer." Behind him Mary Call Collins kept repeating, "Oh My God!"

When the governor left he said he would do something. There were no laws he was told. He would find them, he said. And he did.

Sanitarians came in as soon as the migrants had gone in the spring and condemned 90 percent of the buildings. Other laws on health and sanitation were found and enforced.

But that didn't mean these buildings would all disappear. Declared "unfit for human habitation," they could not be rented. Many just collapsed. But some remain.

THE HEAT'S OFF

The story went around town, something gangster-like in tone, that in time "the heat would be off." Today some of these "unfit" buildings are back being

rented. Someone is helping to overlook. Others that made it through the hammer of condemnation signs have reached a stage as bad as the others were 10 years ago.

Shacktown in all its cesspool-like horror is well on its way back. It's again a place in America that Americans wouldn't believe until they saw it. Americans, they think, do not live this way. But they do. And pay dearly in rents.

Shacktown, then, was the place to pursue the controversy that has one part of a town fuming at the other part—and which Sen. McGovern will see Monday. What do the people who live there think?

Mrs. Rosalee Brown explained she was born "century-time," which means she's 68 or 69. She can get no state welfare because she's a migrant—and of course there is no local welfare.

But she must pay \$12 a week for half a house whose two "apartments" are contained in a building that, were it a garage, one car would find a tight squeeze.

"I can't do stoop work (squatting for picking) so good anymore," she said. "An' it's been cold a lot so I ain't had no work since last fall."

She said a grandson supports her.

\$24 A WEEK

But Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Mabel Allen who lives in the tiny cubicle on the other side together pay \$24 a week, more than \$100 a month for their tiny cubicles, and all these places are cubicles. There's no other place to go.

James Kelly is 71, diabetic and lives in a bus.

He described it succinctly, "They ain't working and they ain't eating."

It's easy to see a lot of people aren't working because they're around Shacktown during the day. But why?

Authorities and farm people say there's all the work around needed to employ everyone. The town isn't as full now as during its fall and spring harvesting peaks. That's what the farm people say. They say the migrants are down in Dade and over in Belle Glade mostly. But still no place is empty. Even one cabin that is teetering so badly it will collapse at any moment is occupied.

Agreement is hard to come by in Immokalee.

Albert Lee, who heads the Community Civic Workers of the OEO's legal aid group, says it has been a bad season for migrants with heavy unemployment. He explained when he said "migrants" he really means farm workers in general because about half are migrants and half are year-round residents. The word migrant is becoming a misnomer because so many are dropping out of the "streams" because by living year-around in a place they can become residents and eligible for welfare.

He said Immokalee, an unincorporated area which doesn't bother much with censuses—and no one has ever been able to take a census of the wandering migrants anyway—has a normal population of 3,000 and bulges to 12,000 in the winter growing season.

Stanley Wrisley, publisher of the local paper, the Immokalee Bulletin, said the local population is about 5,000 and the number of farm workers is about 7,000. But he says half of these stay there year-around and half are true migrants.

This divergency of opinion indicates how little is really known about this vast population of people who live at a subhuman level here and who will attract Sen. McGovern's inquiry Monday.

ANOTHER ODDITY

Another oddity is that Migrant Legal Aid, which set up the show, now refuses to show newspaper people the places they have cited as "extreme conditions." The obvious reason is that the members fear publicizing of this has backfired on them and owners of such places are making an effort to clean up in advance of the committee's visit.

Down in Shacktown no one seems to know about the senatorial inquiry. All they say, in case after case, is that there is very little work and the high rents are taking what food they could get out of their mouths. They say they are hungry, very hungry. Clarence Gaskin, who lives with his wife and one son in one of the shacks, said, "This place is a pigpen, that's all. Just look around you."

Around him is every kind of shack. One group is of corrugated sheetmetal and none larger than a small tool shed. Certainly smaller than a jail cell. In one a man, trying to keep warm, recently burned to death. His burned shoes and a few

skippy charred belongings still lie in front of the shack. The metal is held up by a few two-by-fours. There are no windows but a piece of board can be pulled down when the occupants are away. How even a small family can get into one is impossible to imagine. But the rent is only \$7 a week. Eight of these on the space of about half a lot bring in \$56 a week.

"I just tell you the truth about it," says Mrs. Gaskin. "We pay \$7 a week for this frame house with nothing in it. I worked 2 days last week and, anyway, the food is so high here you can't buy it with these wages."

A CONSTANT THEME

That's a constant theme: migrants as destitute as they are nevertheless are good business for the townspeople.

Neither Mr. or Mrs. Gaskins had made a dime by late last week but somehow, like the others, they manage to eke out or borrow a few cents to pay sky-high prices for cheap food and rental payments—and these must be made every week to stay in a place.

Sylvester Parker, 46, who was lugging a collard he'd got out of a friend's garden along the street under his arm said, "Work is bad and I'm hungry. You talk to me after I eat this up."

Earl Jones and his wife pay \$13 a week for a tiny cubicle in a long building of tiny cubicles. The ability, in these larger places to get so many "apartments" into so little space becomes architectural wizardry.

Mrs. Ina Delgado, lives in what is called "Utopia Apartments." This is in the Spanish-American section of Shacktown. She has eight children and no husband and pays \$17.14 a week. A 16-year-old son, Bernardo, works to support the family. She speaks very little English but what she does say is: "Not enough work among people and people very hungry."

How hungry are they? How sick are they?

The clinic admits some malnutrition and hunger. There are always hunger and disease among these people. A check-up a year ago—on 23 children—found also pellagra and severe dietary deficiency. The tests produced 38 clinical diseases.

SAME RESULTS

But among the poor—there are about 50,000 to 60,000 in the western part of Broward County's urban area—you can find the same results day in, day out.

The Rev. Keith Kelly, who has replaced David Newell also subs in the schools. He's also been made a member of the Immokalee Migrant Committee but there's never been a meeting in the months he's been there. He said:

"There's work if they want to work. There was one bad freeze last fall when nearly all was harvested so it didn't slow us down too much."

County Commissioner Ewell Moore, a former Immokalee farmer himself, is a veteran of the 1958 crisis. He was in charge of government free food distribution and worked long and hard for the migrants during that period. He has been asked to testify and he isn't hesitant about what he has to say:

"They're accusing us of refusing federal commodities here and we're right. We're not going to spend \$40,000 or \$50,000 of the taxpayer's money, especially after what a tie-up I learned it meant after speaking to Lee McGovern (no relation to the senator but in charge of surplus food in Florida.) If you decide to give these people groceries you won't have any workers."

County Commission Vice-Chairman A. C. Hancock had this warning: "There are those sitting with their hands out waiting to be fed, and that's a situation we won't go for."

A PUT-ON SHOW

And you can even find migrants—or farm workers—who agree, though it takes a lot of looking. Mr. and Mrs. Santo Sanchez walked along a street in Shacktown. She said: "I ain't sure this is such a bad time." She said she and her husband, despite the cold weather slow-up, had made about \$30 apiece last week. And some weeks they'd averaged \$100. They're buying their own home. But, too, they are not field hands but work in the packing house grading lines. In migrant territory that's the aristocracy.

Publisher Wrisley, a former migrant himself who has also been asked to testify, calls it a put-on show and he'll tell Sen. McGovern that.

"The OEO is trying to garner publicity to get a new lease on life," he said, in obvious reference to the Migrant Legal Aid which the state government division controlling OEO funds says will be cut off at the end of the fiscal year because it has been such an unnecessary irritant. "Gerry Cassidy, one of the attorneys of the South Florida Migrant Legal Aid Services, did it in an effort to try to stave off being put out of business."

He said he is going to ask the legal aid people to produce before the committee the cases of malnutrition they say are here, not just talk about it.

"This isn't any 1958," he added.

The conclusion? There's only one left to come to. The prediction that Shacktown is returning to a place of disease and filth is true—as lucrative as it is to some townspeople. The gouging rents always take a huge bite. But when work slows down that big bite doesn't and it's big enough then to consume a lot of families' groceries. Then there's hunger. There's malnutrition. There are all those things associated with it, such as disease.

Sen. McGovern will have to make a big decision Monday. But will he overlook the obvious—that after a look at Shacktown what will happen if there's another freeze such as in 1957? Perhaps not this year but the next or thereafter. The seeds are there; for complete human degradation and destitution, for famine, for virulent epidemic disease—yes, for the cycle of death.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 9, 1969]

IMMOKALEE: NO FAMINE BUT PLENTY OF MISERY

(By Matt Taylor, Herald Staff Writer)

IMMOKALEE.—It does not come every day for Mrs. Sanchez, but every now and then she must face her 10 children at mealtime and make a grim choice. Which ones to feed.

Her painful choice represents one extreme of a situation that will be investigated Monday and Tuesday by U.S. Senators who will journey to Collier and Lee counties to find out how widespread hunger is among Florida's migrant farm workers.

The senators will find there is no famine here, but they will find there is misery.

The choice she must make horrifies Mrs. Sanchez and her voice breaks as she stands with a baby in her arms and tells how she chooses which one will eat. "I decide on what they like and what I have," she said, "and on what they are going to have to do. Sometimes I only have to choose about what part of the meal to give them."

She said if she prepares potatoes and beans for supper, some will get potatoes and some will get beans, but nobody will get both.

Five days a week Mr. Sanchez brings home \$10 a day for laboring in the fields. He is a migrant with no hope of getting anything better. His family lives in a shanty that costs \$15 a week.

If it gets cold—like last week—or rainy or the crops are bad somewhere else in the United States, the Sanchez family will find itself with no income at all.

They will get no help then from Collier County's commissioners. The commission does not consider migrant laborers their problem. Up to 10,000 migrants live in 50 "camps" in the area. At present, there are only about 7,000 and farmers complain there aren't enough to do the work.

"There might be occasional times they're hungry through a meal," said Ewell "Pappy" Moore, the county commissioner responsible for the interests of Immokalee.

Moore said "these people are farm laborers. That's all they are. They'll never be any different. They're that kind of people and they'll be that way till they die. They're farm labor." He said the Immokalee population is 50 percent Mexican-American, 30 percent Negro and 20 percent Anglo Saxon.

"If anyone on that board (the county commission) knew of hunger they'd do something about it," he said. "There isn't a man on that board that would stand by and see people hungry."

Mr. Marion Featters has been a volunteer social worker in Immokalee since

1952. She is now paid by the federal government in school program to help the poor. Mrs. Featters said about the county commission:

"We have been before them time and time again, asking for help for hungry people . . . and in 17 YEARS they have never spent one penny on migrants."

She added: "A couple or three times they did help us with the paperwork when we got emergency federal relief."

It was a reporter for The New York Times who stirred up the recent controversy over whether Immokalee has hungry people.

Homer Bigart, who has twice won journalism's highest award, the Pulitzer Prize, was not the first to discover poverty in Collier County, but he made it topical and in so doing brought the Select Committee of the U.S. Senate down for hearings that open Monday.

In Collier, news stories declared it wasn't so. Reporters talked to county officials or farmers and went home, chortling over inaccuracies and fabrications.

Most of the people that Homer Bigart talked to vanished. Within a few days after The Times story was reprinted in The Miami News, people who had been neighborly the night before were gone, suddenly and without word.

For that reason, the name Sanchez used in this story is a fabrication. The lady with 10 children has another name, but she is afraid to have it printed.

Others are not afraid, or are beyond caring. Here are some of their stories: James Kelley is one man interviewed by The Times who is still around Immokalee. He is an old black man who thinks he is 56 or 57, but is probably mistaken.

He lives in a bus. Illness brought to an end his labor in the field eight months ago.

At night when it is cold, Mr. Kelley lights a kerosene stove if he has any kerosene and sleeps on one of the seats. The seat is about 40 inches long. Mr. Kelley is about 65 inches long.

"De bus seat at night," Kelley said. He opens a window so he can stay inside.

"People bring food. Sometimes they bring me fish to clean for them," he says, "and they give me some."

During the day he sits in one of the front benches of the bus looking through the front window at the shanty dead ahead, as though he was on a ride to somewhere.

In that shanty, a man died in a fire over a week ago. The charred mattress that held the body still smells of choking smoke.

All day long James Kelley stares ahead or nods in sleep, on a long ride after a hard life.

Call her Rosita. She lives within two blocks of the heart of Immokalee in a house owned by a labor crew leader—as many are.

Rosita's baby is two month old. It does not take a doctor to see that the child has a respiratory ailment—the breathing is labored and the child is running a fever. Its home is a Time Saver bleach box. A cardboard box stuffed with old cloth. Flies swarm through the room.

There are gaping holes where the screens and the doors don't fit. A thin, reedy, useless cry comes from the tiny, watery-eyed baby as a fly lands in his mouth.

There are two rooms to the house—one is a bedroom just behind the general purpose room. There is an oil stove, electricity and indoor water. This is a luxury dwelling for a migrant. Rosita will probably not be here long.

Her husband is gone. Her rent is \$25 a week and she is four weeks behind in the rent. Neither her home nor the others owned by crew chiefs of real estate specialists can expect much repair except when some investigation is under way. The housing shortage is acute and most residents "live outlaw"—that is, in condemned housing. If the law was enforced, the migrants would have no where at all to live.

Rosita would go back to the fields if she could work. But the baby is sick and there are two other little children to care for.

Because Rosita lives in Immokalee only eight months out of the year, she is not eligible for county or state welfare.

She is entitled to federal aid but Collier County, insisting it can take care of its own, refuses to allow a federal program to be started.

Mike Saucier (that is his real name) is 19 years old. A husky, shaggy blond boy with crooked teeth and a hurry-up job.

He is taking part in what has become Immokalee's big project: sprucing the place up before the senators get there.

Mike's task right now is painting what used to be known as Smith's Camp, a place made sordid by Homer Bigart's story in *The Times* and almost glorified in local reaction.

Bigart described the camp as "a dozen or more windowless plywood shacks, all without toilets or running water, all painted a dull green and all facing a dark slough. . . ."

He said there was a spigot in the ground running with what the migrants described as "foul smelling and foul tasting" water.

The article mentioned filthy dwellings and cold water showers.

What Mike Saucier is doing, he said, everybody else is doing. "We all had a piece of fixing the place," he said. His shirt was smeared with a red paint that made him look like he had suffered a terrible wound.

The dull green shacks, under his care were becoming a blood red. "We been fixing the floors and the roofs, too," Mike said.

He walked over to the community shower stall and pointed proudly to some open pipes inside. "They're bringing out a water heater, too," he said. Smith's camp was sold to D. C. Clemons and Sylvester Hill of Immokalee after the visit by Bigart.

The "foul smelling" water described in *The Times* became something of a local joke. "Sulphur water. That fellow didn't know that was sulphur water." The well water had been declared safe for drinking.

Whether Bigart had ever heard of sulphur water is not known. Native Floridians describe sulphur water as a foul smelling, foul tasting water that you get from untreated wells. It is considered safe to drink.

In the slough, which he had helped clean, Mike had caught two mud cats that he was going to have for supper, if his boss ever got back from Zellwood, a muck farming community near Orlando.

Mike was anxious for the boss to get back. He was waiting to go back to Gulfport that night on the bus.

The boss was bringing Mike his pay so he could make the trip. Mike had been waiting for four days.

"My wife Dorothy called me Saturday and told me," Mike Saucier said, "I'm sorry to be so long, but they have a good funeral home in Gulfport. They're keeping the baby in the cooler. They're waiting the funeral until I get there."

Mike Saucier shrugged, dropped his catfish back in the water and returned to his painting.

At the Health Clinic in Immokalee, a federal-aided welfare facility, Mrs. Ruby Conrad—waiting for treatment—thrust herself into the controversy over whether migrants get all the help they need.

Angrily, Mrs. Conrad said, "If they're hungry, let them let it be known. If the county don't have it, go to the churches."

She had children with her and said she had lived seven years in Immokalee as a migrant. "I pay \$20 a week for three rooms," she said.

She insisted there was no need for federal help.

Asked what would happen to her family if neither she nor her husband could get into the fields to work, she said: "Someone will take care of us. We won't have to go hungry. You reporters only tell the one side."

Agreeing with Mrs. Conrad is the man with all the power in Immokalee—Commissioner Moore. The place called Immokalee is unincorporated and whatever official guidance it gets comes from the County Commission.

There is a move afoot now to create a city. "They're figuring on the cigaret taxes helping them," Moore says, "I just don't give it much prospects as a city yet."

Moore thinks housing is the most critical problem in Immokalee. "People don't realize this was a sawmill town," he said.

"You come in here now and you look around and you say how terrible things are. Well . . . you should have seen it in the early 30s . . . then things were terrible, far far worse than they are now.

"Well," said Moore, "there's some that's not so fancy."

He has white hair with a flavor of gold in it and all his life in Immokalee has been a farmer, or, as now, a public official.

"I come here permanently in '49 and it look like everybody followed me—and we overran this town. Housing was short then and its short now."

He said he knows what he's talking about when he says people have to help

themselves: "When times was bad in the 30s I had a wife and two kids and a grocer carried me. He carried me two damn years."

Did he repay the grocer?

"Yes sir. Every penny. What that man saved me and my family."

There is a half-mill tax in Collier County for welfare, and Commissioner Moore says "60 to 65 per cent of it is spent here in Immokalee." The welfare budget last year was \$131,500.

It is not spent on migrants. It is spent on the permanent residents who are poor.

"We cannot spend these taxpayers' money on these migrants," he said. "We are restricted by the laws of the State of Florida and we just don't have the right to do with taxpayers' money for migrants. We are solely responsible for the citizens of Collier County. The churches, this, that and the other help these migrants."

Moore said he almost had the board talked into adopting the commodity food program, a federal undertaking that gives needy people a monthly allowance of basic foods.

"Then come to find out it would take maybe \$50,000 of county money to run this program, and we'd have to build a freezer and it was just dropped. If the federal people are gonna do it, okay."

The migrants themselves, Moore said, "are federal people. They's not Immokalee people, they're not Collier people, they're not Florida people. They're federal people."

There is a more pressing problem in having a free food program. Commissioner Moore said. "If there's free food, these people'll come early and stay late. We'll have them in town all year long."

As a farmer, he had other complaints about the migrants, whether black, Mexican or Anglo-Saxon.

"They don't give you a day's work. They get good money. A tractor driver gets \$12 to \$14 a day. That don't sound like no starvation wage to me." Field laborers get about \$10 a day, except at peak harvest time when the wages go up—sometimes about double.

"But the farmer's got his land rent to pay (almost all farm land in Collier County is owned by the Collier Corp., the Tidewater Cypress Co. or Leeco Land Co. and it is leased to growers) his labor to pay, his fertilizer, his tractors.

"There's got to be something for these boys to survive. It's a little bit rough, brother. It's a little bit rough."

There is a federal program that is being watched with apprehension in some areas of Collier County. It is Self-Help Housing.

Under it, a loan for material and skilled labor is guaranteed by Farmers Home Loan and a family can, by providing its own unskilled labor, construct a home for \$10,000 or \$11,000 with no down payment.

As in early America's pioneer days, large groups of people band together and provide quick construction to a house at a time.

For the migrants taking part in the program, there is a danger. The family can find itself paying for two homes at once—\$100 a month or so for rent and about \$41 for the home they will own.

Those interested in preserving things the way they are in Immokalee see another great force at work: What happens when a significant number of migrants own homes in Immokalee, and pay taxes?

What happens, say members of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, Inc., is that they will be able to demand services of the county. In addition, if a city's incorporated at Immokalee, they will run it and elect its government.

Legal services is an unsettling force in both Collier and Lee counties. Full of young lawyers turned social reformers, it has met opposition that borders on paranoia. They are the only official agency that regularly plows into the migrant quarters. They bring small checks from another agency (\$1 a person a day for a maximum of 14 days in cases of extreme and obvious need) and advise migrants of their legal rights.

Some of this advice has led to law suits against farmers and combines that never before experienced interference in their labor relations. Often these interests are heavy political contributors, sending men to Tallahassee and Washington, and they do not intend to be hurt.

Legal Services is under such heavy fire that its continued existence is in doubt. Its funds end April 30, but it can survive until July 1.

Legal services people are making all the preparations for the Senate hearings that open at Immokalee's Health Center Monday.

William Dow is in charge of the Immokalee office of Legal Services. "There is a tremendous cleanup campaign going on in Immokalee now," he said, "just like when the governor came last year."

He added: "I wonder just how far they think a can of paint will go covering up this mess."

Albert Lee, president of the Community Civic Workers of Immokalee, and Ovidio Silva both work for Migrant Legal Services as investigators.

Much of their time is spent gathering data for cases but more is spent getting food for women without men or for those too sick to work.

"They say we don't have any problems in Immokalee," said Lee, outside a lean-to shack in which one mindless old man kept a death watch on a silent, even older man who kept his hands folded on his chest and muttered to the ceiling while lying on his rotting mattress.

"They say we don't have any problems here," Lee said as he looked at a brand new migrant housing project, still unpainted, that would include the same old cheap, warped lumber, the size of a motel room but in which families of five and 10 would live.

Lee came to a no-trespassing sign (under Florida law farmers can prohibit anyone, even a man's own lawyer, from seeing him in a migrant camp) and said: "They say we have no problems here."

Mrs. Feathers' main delight is to feed children at school.

She also has about \$1,000 a year in charity funds collected by the Salvation Army, the local Methodist Church and her Immokalee Migrant Committee.

There is some resentment by Mrs. Feathers of the fact that local efforts have been ignored by those writing of migrant problems.

"We're as successful as we're allowed to be financially," she said. "But it's extremely tight. We've never failed to meet a need that we knew of—though maybe not adequately.

"The County Commission has never given us any money," she said. "No they never." She agreed with the view that training is necessary before any grand program is begun for the migrants.

"They don't know how to save their money," she said, "and I know of people who have stayed home from work to get their commodities. I do not want to deter these people from making it on their own.

"I have made over 200 home visits every month," Mrs. Feathers said. "We try to get the poor—if they aren't migrants—on the state welfare. We never try for county welfare. They're too rigid."

Mrs. Feathers' great joy is the food program at school. "You should see them eat," she said. Elementary and pre-school children are indeed packed with food at Bethune or Highlands schools. At Bethune there is an unused cooler that friends of the migrants say the county could use if a food program was started.

"But what of the children who aren't old enough for school? What about food on the weekends? What about when they're too sick to come?" Mrs. Feathers spread her arms. "We never have enough to be free with our help," she said. "We have to be meager."

Next year, she is trying to get a food program for the middle school.

What happens, Commissioner Moore was asked, when a migrant gets too old to work. Would the county help him if he was forced to settle in Immokalee? What ever happens to a 70-year-old migrant?

"Why," Moore said, "I don't remember the question ever coming up."

[From the Miami (Fla.) News, Mar. 10, 1969]

PROBE OF IMMOKALEE HUNGER BEGINS TODAY

(By Louise Blanchard, Miami News Reporter)

IMMOKALEE.—The U.S. Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs began a two-day investigation of hunger among migrant workers here today.

The committee, headed by Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.), was to inspect living conditions and talk with families in migrant labor camps this morning, then listen to residents and Collier County officials in a public hearing this afternoon.

It will repeat the pattern in Fort Myers (Lee County) tomorrow.

Sen. McGovern's committee is making a nationwide study of hunger. Other committee members on the trip are Sens. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.), Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), Marlow W. Cook (R-Ky.) and Robert Dole (R-Kan.).

The Senators were to spend three hours this morning inspecting housing and living conditions in several migrant camps near Immokalee. At the public hearing this afternoon, they were to hear several county commissioners, the Collier County health officer and school superintendent, medical experts, and migrant and community leaders.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 10, 1969]

MIGRANT PROBING STIRS IRE

(By Howard Van Smith, Staff Writer)

IMMOKALEE.—Tempers of local and county officials erupted today in the glare of TV camera lights as Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota brought his Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs here.

McGovern said he wanted to know why county officials were refusing federal food aid for the hungry.

He said conditions were "substandard and intolerable," and added this applied not only to housing but to diet.

The remarks were made at the conclusion of his tour of the areas where 5,000 migrants live.

Civic pride was wounded repeatedly as the mile-long caravan of senators, press representatives and TV and radio reporters and cameramen wound through the town asking questions.

OTHERS IN GROUP

Accompanying the South Dakota Democrat was Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y.; Sen. Allen Ellender, D-La.; Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., and Sen Robert Dole, R-Kans.

U.S. Rep. Paul Rogers, who also was on hand because this is part of his district, said he hoped the program would be seen from both sides and that as much progress would be made as possible. But county officials claim the entire thing was being shown in a carnival atmosphere.

Local officials kept interrupting as McGovern and Javits questioned migrants about conditions in Immokalee.

At one point McGovern was asking a young mother if she had gone without food. She replied yes, and immediately a county commissioner said, "Tell 'em about the grocery order you got. Tell 'em who gave that to you."

Later, the head of the County Commission nearly broke up a national Columbia Broadcasting System broadcast.

Daniel Schorr, prominent commentator, was standing in front of a shack and talking about hunger and filthy conditions in the Immokalee area.

Commissioner Jesse Whitaker rushed up, pulled the microphone from Schorr's hand and yelled, "I'm tired of your damn lies."

Later, Schorr was asked what he thought of the near breakup of the program. He replied "I don't quite know, but it'll certainly make a good show."

The committee began its investigation this morning at the Collier County Health Clinic here to see children diseased by hunger.

SHORT OF DOCTORS

At the clinic, the senators questioned Dr. Charles Bradley, Collier County health director. He told them he didn't see any diseases particularly attributable to malnutrition, but said there were a lot of upper respiratory and parasitic troubles.

McGovern asked him what was most prevalent. The doctor replied by saying he considered medical facilities in Immokalee inadequate. He said in his job he was only able to be at the clinic two afternoons a week. The only other medical help was one private doctor in a town whose population at harvest peak sometimes rises to 12,000.

"I wish I could do more, but this is better than nothing," the doctor said.

The inspection tour continued into the Shacktown area where nearly 5,000 migrants live—Negroes, Puerto Ricans and a large number of Mexican-Americans. There the senators spoke with many and heard stories about the gouging rent they have to pay for the most miserable collection of hovels found in this country, some of the observers noted.

TALK TO MANY

The senators spoke to many of the migrants who were not working, as they have not been to any great degree, they told them, for some time because of the cold. It was 42 in this Florida interior town last night.

Rosalee Bryant told a huddle of senators that she was 19 and the unwed mother of four children, the oldest six.

McGovern asked her: "Has it ever got to where you or your children didn't have anything to eat?"

"Yes sir, I ran out of food," she said.

"What do you do then?" McGovern asked.

"I just go and ask people for food," she said.

Immediately, Whitaker and other county and local officials broke in, one asking, "Did you ever get a food order?" She said she had.

Another county official asked her how she got medical help. She said the county had given it to her, but while she was pregnant with her last child she worked in the fields until the day the child was born and when he was born he was found to be retarded.

Midway through the morning inspection McGovern said "I see so much more spent on missile systems and it concerns me that they're doing that instead of coming to grips with something like this."

He was asked if he hadn't deliberately picked one of the worst areas in Florida. He replied that picking the worst area was the right way to go about it.

The South Florida Migrant Legal Aid Services, which instigated the coming of the senator and his committee, claims that hunger and malnutrition—and even some starvation—are widespread here. This, members such as Albert Lee say, is caused by the inordinately high rentals and the small amount of work.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 11, 1969]

MIGRANT SETUP BRINGS AREA SLAP—MIGRANTS' SITUATION BRINGS REBUKE FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

(By Howard Van Smith, Staff Writer)

IMMOKALEE.—The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which is making a national study of hunger, left here today for a hearing in Ft. Myers—but before it did it indicted South Florida for inhuman treatment of migrants.

Lashed were all the counties in the area, including Broward and Palm Beach, in a maze of testimony which even slapped Gov. Claude Kirk. This came about in a 6½-hour nonstop session that began at 1 p.m. yesterday and ended at 7:30 p.m.

At one point Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., yelled at the governor, "Until we agree migrants are human, too, we'll never solve it." Kirk had said he didn't want to see the local (Collier County) officials castigated.

Kirk, last to speak and be questioned and also on hand without invitation, revealed that because Florida had 100,000 migrants he had called a meeting of 12 nearby state governors on the problem and added, facetiously, "But don't think we are going to secede."

At this point, Mondale, one of the five senators here, said the migrants are the worst off and yet the hardest working Americans of all.

Kirk replied that a free food stamp program might be considered by Florida. At present it has none, and, as Kirk pointed out, the federal government has not yet appropriated money for extension of the food stamp program, whether free or paid for, in general.

Witnesses came from all the counties and the picture they painted made the senators, led by George McGovern, Dem., S.D., and including Mondale, Jacob

Javits, R-N.Y.; Marlow Cook, R-Ky., and Allen Ellender, D-La., author of the food stamp bill, declare time and again that conditions in this area were "inhuman, indecent and despicable."

INSPECT SHACKS

They had visited the camps and Shacktown, where 5,000 migrants live near the heart of the town, and found conditions they called unbelievable, including no food and no heat in 40-degree weather.

They saw a place where a woman had bought a tumbling shack for \$175, but was not allowed to have the land on which it stood and which she had to lease yearly.

There was another place where Cook delightedly discovered the "slumlord"—as these property owners were called—had so recently painted in advance of the senatorial visit the green paint wasn't dry.

But it was during a long session that overflowed an auditorium in Bethune Elementary School, which has been emptied by the integration process and amid cheers and boos on each side—that two Collier County commissioners made the most indicting remarks upon which the senators, particularly Javits, pounced.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

Commissioners Ewell Moore of the Immokalee district and Lester Whitaker, commission chairman, said—both in different ways—that at times they considered the migrants a national problem, not the responsibility of the county, although it draws 22,000 of them yearly, much more than the regular population, to harvest its produce industry.

They said they had rejected government supplemental food because it would cost \$45,000 to \$60,000 annually to administer such a program and that the yearly amount of money spent on welfare food, including that for migrants, was only \$7,500.

McGovern asked Whitaker, "Are you really saying \$7,500 will close the malnutrition gap?"

Whitaker replied, "The malnutrition gap I can't say, but the hunger gap, yes."

FEDERAL PEOPLE

Moore said the migrants were "federal people, not Collier or Florida people." Although he was later to admit they might be "Florida people," this brought the full fury of the two senators upon them.

Javits snapped, "Don't these people contribute materially to the community (meaning Immokalee alone)? There's something wrong here."

He then pointed out the Immokalee community had yearly crop values of \$40 million, that he had seen indisputable evidence of the suffering and hunger, that it was even admitted the community could not survive without the migrants—and yet the community and county could see no responsibility.

"We are not going away from here and forget this," Javits said. "Our purpose will be to see that justice is done."

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 11, 1969]

FOOD STAMP PLAN GETS "STICKY" HERE

(By Jed Drews, Staff Writer)

Broward poverty war workers are anxious to bring a new food stamp program to the county. But county commissioners are apparently viewing the state-federal proposal with some hesitation.

After taking several months to come to an agreement with federal officials, the state Cabinet today approved the program—which could double the grocery purchase power of poor families.

Dade and Orange counties have already put in a request for the project, and will apparently be among the first to participate.

OPPOSED BY STEVENS

But Broward Commissioner J. W. "Bill" Stevens said the county's current food distribution program was sufficient, and that he was not in favor of food stamps.

Commission Chairman Robert Barkelew and Commissioners F. R. "Jack" Humphries and Earle Kraft had some reservations about the program. But they all said they wanted to look into it further.

Barkelew was concerned with what effect the food stamps would have on the distribution of federal surplus foods from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture at Port Everglades.

CONFER WITH MOSS

The commissioners said they would talk to county welfare director Jack Moss before coming to a final decision.

Meanwhile, poverty war officials threw support to the project, which would allow needy families to buy food stamps at a discount based on their income.

The stamps would be exchanged for food in approved grocery stores.

SEES BENEFITS

Mrs. Vera Kares, with the county migrant council, said the program would be of great benefit to the county's migrants.

She said that although they do get food from the Port Everglades surplus center, they often cannot eat it because they aren't adapted to it.

"You can choke to death on grits and cheese," she said. "And you can't feed that to a Mexican," she said.

"They tell me it constipates them."

Mrs. Kares said that if migrants were allowed to buy with food stamps they would be able to vary their diet, and also eat food they were accustomed to.

The county's Economic Opportunity Coordinating Group (EOCG) would also like to see the program initiated in Broward.

EOCG Deputy Director Leonard Gainey said that the location of the Port Everglades surplus distribution point made it difficult for poor families in remote parts of the county to get their food.

He said the EOCG had set up other distribution points, but the problem was not entirely solved.

Gainey said also that he felt such a program could result in some relief to state welfare rolls. He said welfare food expenditures could be lowered.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 11, 1969]

JAVITS: SLUMS BETTER THAN IMMOKALEE SHACKS

IMMOKALEE.—Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., said yesterday the poor people in the pine shacks of a southwest Florida migrant labor camp are worse off than New York's slum tenement dwellers.

"In the slums they at least have toilets," said Javits after he surveyed the dingy, smelly community outhouses and outdoor spigots in a labor camp.

Javits and other members of the Senate's Committee on Nutrition toured one of the 50 labor camps which house some 10,000 migrant workers who annually come here to harvest vegetable crops. The migrant population is nearing a peak with the approach of the early spring tomato harvest.

As the committee began its tour, T. Michael Foster, assistant director of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program, reported figures showing that 20 of every 1,000 children born in Collier County die before their first birthday, primarily of hunger and malnutrition.

He said the death rate among nonwhite children in the county is "an astounding 40.8 deaths per 1,000 births. This is triple the rate for nonwhites in Florida."

The Committee, headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., saw migrant shacks made of pine and covered with tar paper roofing, and many of them had been spruced up with paint for the visit of the committee.

"On visits like this, you get the feel of it. I am sure it's tricked up in some cases for our benefit but it is pretty hard to sweep a whole community under the rug," Javits said.

"Hunger is uniquely appealing to the American people. This is what has really touched the conscience and what is worrying the country."

McGovern, whose committee is making the first of several field trips, expressed concern over the cost of the proposed anti-ballistic missile system President

Nixon is studying and said he believes such military considerations "delay the day when we can come to grips with problems like this."

"This is sub-standard housing as we see it today. We will see conditions like these in many parts of the United States," McGovern said.

One of the committee's first stops following a 75 mile-an-hour motorcade from Fort Myers to this farm community of some 4,500, which lies in the rich growing land midway between Florida's inland Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Adderson. It was an unpainted three-room shack that leaned with age and was lit by a bare bulb inside.

The senators crowded inside to talk with Mrs. Adderson, a 65-year-old invalid who sat in a rocking chair and told the committee she supports her 69-year-old husband and four children on a monthly Social Security-disability income totaling \$134. She said the main diet was peas and beans.

"It's obvious the woman has never known what it is to have a decent standard of life," McGovern said as he emerged from the shack, shaking his head.

"There's evidence when you look around the house, this is a poverty stricken family. They are not even aware they are poor."

He said he believes the answer to some of the migrants' problems is food stamps and commodities, "but it also is a nutritional education."

"After talking with her it was obvious she didn't know anything about an adequate diet," McGovern said.

"We're trying to find out the nature and dimension of the problem, then make recommendations for new legislation to correct the problems."

The committee also visited Rosalee Bryant, 19, an unmarried mother of four who is one of the residents of a complex of dingy white two-story block apartment buildings which house Negro families, most of them farm workers.

Miss Bryant, a thin woman dressed in slacks and blouse, told the senators she lives on \$50 a week she makes working in the fields, but that she cannot always work. She pays \$65 a month for her apartment and \$3 a day for a babysitter when she can go to the fields.

"Do you ever go hungry?" McGovern asked the woman.

"Yessir, it was during the summertime when there was no work. There was too much rain." She said neighbors gave her enough food for her children until she was able to work again.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 11, 1969]

COLLIER OFFICIALS PROTEST HUNGER PROBE

(By Sam Adams)

IMMOKALEE.—Collier County officials attempted to thwart hunger investigations here yesterday by interjecting during a national television taping and disputing testimony of some residents during field study.

Lester Whitaker, County Commission chairman, said some of the statements about widespread hunger in the Immokalee area are not true.

Rep. Paul Rogers, D-Fla., criticized the decision of the select Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs for failing to include visits to some of the better exhibits in the county such as self-help housing.

Even Gov. Claude Kirk, who surprised the committee by flying in just as the 1 p.m. hearing was to begin, chided the committee for not contacting him to learn what he and his aides had uncovered in prior investigations. The committee will continue their hearings today.

He also complained that the physician in charge of the county's health clinic was not scheduled to appear and that a nutritionist rather than his boss was to testify. "I like to hear from the chiefs not the corporals," Kirk said.

Freshman Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., brought muffled rumbles from the packed hearing room while questioning Albert Lee about a side trip he took to a migrant camp called Smith's visited earlier by New York Times reporter Homer Bigart, whose stories brought national publicity. (Lee was one of the drivers in the caravan transporting the committee from Fort Myers.)

"I just shook hands with a camp boss with wet paint on his hands. Some people are concerned about retribution for what they say to this committee. I want it known that Lee didn't want to take me out there," Cook said of his visit to the camp.

Smith's Camp, which was temporarily closed after Bigart's visit and sold to another owner, is one of several camps apparently receiving quick paint jobs in preparation for the committee's widely publicized visit.

Cook's party included Lee; Robert Choate, who was staff director of the private Citizens Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition and a St. Petersburg Times reporter.

The Kentucky senator said his state has probably as much poverty and hunger as Florida and if investigators came in there they would find it. But, he said, the purpose is not to give Florida a black eye and officials are erring in taking that attitude.

When the Cook car broke away from the caravan it was followed to the camp by the county health inspector in an official automobile. The inspector took pictures of the little touring party as it inspected the camp.

At Brown's Camp, about three miles away, Cook found a large group of Mexican children playing and had three take him through their families' two 8 by 10 shacks.

He noted the occupants paid \$15 week for rent plus \$5 for electricity and said the owner was collecting about \$250 a month for operating a small generator, which supplies electricity to the camp.

Cook called excessive \$20 per month for electricity for heatless shacks with one light.

The three children included a 14-year-old boy whose growth the senator said was stunted and who was three grades behind in school. He was about 4 feet tall and hardly understood English. The children said their parents and three adult children live in one of the shacks and six younger children live in the other, some sleeping on the floor.

"It doesn't speak too well for this area and for the nation when a boy is three grades behind and brags about it," Cook said.

He rejoined the caravan at Bethune Apartments where Congressman Rogers was being questioned about license tag inscriptions on his car that stated, "I fight poverty. I work."

Rogers said the inscription is relevant because the County Commissioners told him they have been looking for 20 workers and were able to get only five out of 100 available. Questioned further about why the others were not hired, he admitted he wasn't filled in on the details.

Sen. George McGovern, D.-S.D., reacting to criticism for not scheduling some of the nicer sites, said it wasn't their purpose to look for the beautiful. The committee, he said, wants to find the extent of the existence of hunger and to structure programs to deal with it:

"In this nation of abundance if we can't solve the question of hunger and malnutrition we can't do anything," McGovern said.

Both McGovern and Sen. Jacob Javits, R.-N.Y., talked of having the federal government do the job if local governments continue to reject food programs.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 11, 1969]

CABINET EXPECTED TO OK FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PLAN

TALLAHASSEE.—(AP).—Florida is on the verge of adopting a federal food stamp plan which could double the grocery buying power of needy families.

After months of work on terms of the agreement by state and federal officials, the State Cabinet was expected to approve an administrative plan today.

First counties to participate apparently will be Dade and Orange. Both have made requests to start the plan.

The plan provides for the sale of food stamps to welfare recipients at a discount which varies according to total income. The stamps can be used for food purchases in approved grocery stores.

Dade and Orange counties should have no trouble getting federal authorizations if the Cabinet approves the plan, according to Emmett Roberts, State Welfare director.

After that, he said, requests from any county probably will depend on the amount of federal funds available.

The program has been authorized in Florida since 1965, but has not been used. Roberts said he notified all counties of the authorization in 1967 and about

16 expressed an interest but Dade and Orange are the only two officially to request the program so far.

Roberts said the number of counties distributing the commodities, or so-called surplus foods, has increased from about 27 to 51.

Under the food stamp program, Roberts said, a family of four with an income of \$80 to \$100 per month can buy up to \$40 worth of stamps which can be exchanged for \$70 worth of food.

The federal government pays the difference, he said, and the cost to the county is for operation and supervision of the program.

Cigaretts and beer are classified as luxury items and cannot be purchased with the stamps, he said, but the stamps can be used for vegetables, fresh milk, eggs and other foods not available under the commodities program.

Counties using the commodities program set up warehouses from which the federally supplied foods are distributed to needy persons once a month.

Roberts said the program "improved a great deal" when the number of items distributed was increased to 23.

The director said both programs have advantages and disadvantages. He said it is difficult to determine which program is less costly.

"It just depends on the county," he said.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 11, 1969]

THERE'S LOTS OF HUNGER IN IMMOKALEE, SENATORS AGREE AFTER LOOK AT MIGRANTS

(By Matt Taylor, Herald Staff Writer)

IMMOKALEE.—They didn't vote on it, but five senators looking for hunger in Collier County Monday agreed that they found plenty of it.

Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota found people "living on fatback and peas" but offered county authorities who had refused federal help his understanding.

Sen. Jacob Javits of New York, outspoken and biting, found people "living in houses fit for chickens and pigs—but not people," and said if the county wasn't going to do something, the federal government must.

Sen. Marlow Cook of Kentucky, who took a private tour of his own, found that "when they came out and met me, their hands were still wet with paint." The senator was referring to a cleanup program under way in Immokalee since the committee hearings were announced.

Rep. Paul Rogers and Gov. Claude Kirk attended the sessions, Rogers because he represents the district and Kirk because he didn't like the witness list. He was angry because Dr. Wilson T. Sowder, head of the State Board of Health, was not called, but one of his nutritionists was.

"I believe we ought to hear from the general," Kirk said, "and not from a corporal."

The tour in the morning covered a number of dismal houses near the heart of Immokalee. Sen. McGovern went through refrigerators as the senators inquired about family diets.

"They don't even know what good nutrition is," McGovern said.

T. Michael Foster, assistant director of the State's Legal Service Program, was the lead witness as the committee met in the Bethune School after lunch.

He said his agency and others had investigated housing and nutrition in Collier County and found significant poverty and significant hunger. "When a little child misses a meal," Foster said, "I consider that significant hunger."

Said Sen. Javits, standing in a muddy yard and shivering from cold, "I think hunger is an issue that is uniquely appealing to the American people. I think we've got a real issue."

Javits said there was no comparison between the slums in New York City and the migrant camps around Immokalee.

"In the slums, they at least have toilets," he said after looking at the community outhouses and outside water spigots in a labor camp.

Rep. Rogers noted an old television set in one house on the tour, (the house had one room, a barn-like door, a privy, no water and got its electricity from an extension cord to the house next door) and said: "We've got to teach them how to handle their money." At a labor camp, McGovern talked to 65-year-old

Mrs. George Adderson, She told him she supports a husband and four children on a monthly income of \$134, most of it from Social Security.

She said their main diet is beans and peas.

McGovern walked away from Mrs. Adderson's three-room shack shaking his head and saying: "They are not even aware they are poor.

"It's obvious the woman has never known what it is to have a decent standard of life. This is a poverty-stricken family."

As the committee began its tour, Foster reported figures showing that 20 of every 1,000 children born in Collier County die before their first birthday, primarily of hunger and malnutrition.

He said the death rate among non-white children in the county is "an astounding 40.8 deaths per 1,000 births. This is triple the rate for non-whites in Florida."

McGovern's committee, which planned to move to nearby Fort Myers today, has received a cool reception from local farmers and government officials, who resent the investigation as an intrusion into their private affairs.

Kirk offered some support to two county commissioners who found themselves under a withering examination by Sen. Javits. His support was only that "the senators have the county commissioners at a disadvantage."

Sen. McGovern told the county commissioners, "We have an urgent problem here," if they really considered migrants a federal problem and not a county problem.

Commissioner Ewell Moore said that was how he saw it.

Commission chairman Lester Whittaker agreed with him.

The Florida Field Director for the NAACP, Marvin Davies, told the five senators he once taught in the same school where the hearings were being held. "At this very school," he said, "I really saw hunger and malnutrition at its very worse. There were white lips on black children, a sure sign of hunger.

"I have seen children whose only verbal sound was heard only at the command for lunch. Too, I have witnessed with the flow of tears, at the same command because there was no money to purchase the school lunch.

"The only continuing sounds that were assured from these children were those of agony, pain and the cry of acids in the digestive tract.

"I have also seen brown paper bags opened during the lunch hour to reveal only a cold piece of corn bread or cold biscuit or a small container of molasses. Occasionally there will be a piece of cold pork or fat back or neck bones."

Sen. Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana asked if things had changed since Davies had left the school with the new free lunch program furnished by the U.S.

"Things are better," Davies said.

(Sen. Ellender was the chief architect of the school lunch program.)

Commissioner Whittaker told the panel that about \$7,500 was spent on emergency food in Collier County each year. He said there are about 22,000 workers at the peak of the season.

Sen. Ellender briefly interrogated the assistant director of South Florida Migrant Legal Services Inc. about the validity of his program.

The assistant director, P. Michael Foster, was the lead witness and it was on documentation prepared by him that much of the subsequent testimony and interrogation was based.

Foster told Sen. Ellender that the program had been funded for two years at about \$800,000 but was going to be running out soon.

Sen. Javits, thanking Foster for "your very dedicated work," asked him how much he made. Foster told him \$11,700 and that he had taken a cut in pay to come down to Florida from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sen. Ellender then dropped his line of questioning. The Migrant Services has been under continuing attack from some Florida officials and particularly from Rep. Rogers.

Davies of the NAACP was almost weeping with anger when he told Rogers—at the conclusion of his testimony for the senators—"I don't feel too good about being here with you today, because I've been fighting your opposition on and off for years. If you've been changed . . . if nothing but that comes out of this today, I'll be glad."

Angry, Rogers said he had worked for a number of activities for migrants "such as migrant help and the housing bill."

"That's for the farmers," Davies said.

"It's for the laborers," Rogers said. He added that if Davies' pinpoint program for relieving migrant problems was founded on information as unreliable as that, he didn't think it was worth much.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota challenged the editor of the weekly Immokalee Bulletin, Stan Wrisley, who was testifying that migrants are shiftless and that welfare or free food would lead them to sitting home all day:

"Do you know anyone who works harder than a migrant laborer? We had a witness here, a man 30 years old with seven children. He's been at it since he was five and crawls all over this country doing piece work. At 45 he'll be burned out.

"Is that four-dollar county welfare payment you offer (per person per week) that much competition to going to work?"

"No, Sir," the editor answered.

"You know," said Sen. Mondale, "There's some suggestion we're defaming this county for coming here for our hearings. But I don't know any worse way to defame the county than to say you have to starve the people to get them to work."

The committee heard that Collier County gets about \$400 million annually from its farm crop but feels that migrants are "gypsies, not citizens of the county."

Asked Sen. Javits: "What would you do without them?"

Whittaker said the economy would collapse.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 11, 1969]

"HAVEN'T SEEN ANY HUNGER," COLLIER HEALTH CHIEF SAYS

IMMOKALEE.—Here are comments made during the morning tour of this area by the Senate Committee headed by Sen. George McGovern.

Dr. Charles Bradley, Collier County health department head: "If hunger is here, I don't see it. I haven't actually seen any hunger or malnutrition. I have never had anybody tell me they are hungry or are not getting food. If there are any such it would be the pre-schoolers. The ones in school get free hot breakfasts and lunches.

"If the inadequacy of the medical service could be said to be manifest, it would be that I wish I could practice a bit more medicine. We are short of doctors all over the county but if necessary here we can run people to the Naples Community Hospital emergency room."

Sen. George McGovern: "We are looking for the worst, not the best. I have seen housing like this in my own state. It is true in many states. We need to adjust national priorities to the greater needs, that is one reason I am concerned about the anti-ballistic missile program.

"We have people here who have never had a good diet, which is probably why they are sick a lot."

Sen. Jacob Javits: "We are trying to view the most acute areas of need in every state. We are not viewing the model programs, there are lots of pretty poor housing in New York but the slums of Immokalee are different. They have outhouses. No matter how bad the slums are in New York, they have plumbing.

"I imagine there has been some touching up for our benefit but you can't sweep a whole community under the rug, such as when you have one doctor treating 40 people a day and they have to trek to him.

"We have to touch the conscience of the people. It may take the federal presence and we may not depend on the County Commission but we must see that people don't just eat beans and peas. That's the real issue before the country. It's not an irreconcilable conflict but there is a need and it has got to be met. I hope we really have an issue that will arouse America."

Rep. Paul Rogers: "This is a problem over the nation. We will see what has to be done to improve the lot of the people."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 11, 1969]

SENATORS TOUR MIGRANT HOUSING AMID PUSH, SHOVE OF NEWSMEN

(By Tom Morgan, Naples Bureau Chief)

IMMOKALEE.—The Select Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs got a close look at migrant labor housing and food problems here Monday on the first day of a two-day tour of Collier and Lee Counties.

The tour was planned by the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Inc. but not all the itinerary was followed.

Eight stops were planned before lunch, but the tour was shortened after the senators had to fight their way in and out of houses and apartments and stop for frequent questioning along the way.

Nearly 100 newsmen, photographers and TV reporters hustled after the senators with lights, cameras, microphones and recorders. Tempers grew short as microphone cords were fouled or camera views disturbed in efforts to get more detail.

Two TV cameramen clashed briefly at one apartment when one poked his mike boom into the other's field of view.

At another stop, Les Whitaker, Collier County Commission chairman, said he had to argue his way inside over the objections of Sen. Jacob Javits.

"I told him 'let me in, we're the ones being attacked and I have a right to be here,'" Whitaker declared.

Whitaker said that when he pointed out to the Senator "four packages of meat and two half-gallons of milk" in the refrigerator at this house the senator paid no attention and stepped outside to tell the TV cameras "this woman has nothing but beans, potatoes and greens to eat."

Bob Moss of station WNOG, Naples, said at the home of Mrs. Mary Anderson at Cummer's Camp there was a similar incident when he showed Sen. George McGovern "a pile of pork chops in the refrigerator and what looked like chickens in the freezer, but the senator stepped out on the porch and said, 'there is hunger here—this woman has only beans, peas and potatoes to eat.'"

Early in the tour Whitaker flared up at Dan Shore of CBS who insisted he comment on conditions seen in the first two houses while Whitaker insisted he would make a statement during the afternoon hearing.

"All I ask is for you to tell the truth, no matter what you see," Whitaker said, obviously angry, "None of these damn lies that have been put out some places and in some newspapers."

"We're still waiting for your statement," Shore called as Whitaker walked off.

The television cameramen went along with the senators' statement "we're here to see the worst" and refused to picture other subjects. Children were reportedly posed by faucets getting a drink until all the cameramen were satisfied, but another shot was refused that showed a different aspect of the situation.

Rep. Paul Rogers, invited by the Senate committee but left outside at the house stops, picked up camera interest when talking to 12-year-old Tino Anzualdo Jr. who was sitting on a nearly new bicycle. The microphones and cameras quickly swung away when Anzualdo told of free hot breakfasts and lunches in school.

Another television cameraman jeered loudly when Bill Price, president of the First Bank of Immokalee, drove off as the man tried to photograph a tag on Price's car that said "I fight poverty—I work."

"How much do you think you can really learn from this three ring circus?" a Negro reporter asked Sen. Allen J. Ellender, who replied "This is really no circus. It is a very good bi-partisan committee and it is very important that we get things in perspective."

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 11, 1969]

SENATORS BRAND IMMOKALEE LABOR QUARTERS "SHOCKING"—KIRK APPEARS,
SUPPORTS COLLIER COUNTY OFFICERS

(By Eddie Pertuit)

IMMOKALEE.—A U.S. Senate committee investigating "nutrition and human needs" toured squalid migrant labor quarters here Monday, held a six-hour hearing at which county officials were criticized and defended—and found no person who said he was hungry.

Chairman George McGovern, D-S. Dak., remarked, however, that malnutrition can occur while a person has a stomach full of the wrong foods.

He explained that the committee came "not to look at the best side of this great state but frankly to look at areas of the most acute need." He termed what he found "simply shocking" and Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., called it "distressing."

Gov. Claude Kirk sat through the hearing and defended the Collier County Commissioners in connection with food stamps. They have declined to set up a program for providing free government surplus food to the needy.

SAGGING SHACKS

The tour took in sagging shacks and slum apartment housing. It did not take in the better camps. Sen. Allen Ellender, D-La., after watching cameramen of the three major television networks film pictures of hovels, said he hated to see the pictures shown because they were a misrepresentation.

"What we saw was not typical of Florida," said Ellender. "I hope Tuesday we will see a little better side."

LEE COUNTY TOUR

Today the group tours some Lee County houses in the morning and holds a major hearing, similar to the Immokalee hearing, at Southward Village Recreation Center on Edison Avenue at 2 p.m.

Sen. Marlow W. Cook, R-Ky., didn't tour with the rest of the group. He talked Albert Lee, president of the Community Civic Workers of Immokalee, into showing him two camps not on the selected list. They were Brown's Camp and Smith's Camp.

"At Smith's Camp," he said during the testimony of Rodolfo Juarez. "I shook hands with a man who still had wet paint on his hands." There is no rent there, he said, but the camp charges \$15 per week for food in the camp kitchen, or \$450 per week to feed 30 people.

USUALLY 13

He asked Juarez if it were common to have five people, a man, wife, two teenage daughters and a son, sleeping in the same single room with two beds.

"That's very usual sir," Juarez said, "because there is usually sometimes 13."

Javits expressed astonishment at the attitude of the Collier County Commission. Testimony had been entered, and the two commissioners testifying supported it, that if it were not for migrant laborers the \$40 million agricultural industry in Collier County would collapse.

Yet, Javits told Kirk, Commissioner Ewell F. Moore and Chairman Lester Whitaker of the commission, "said they had no responsibility for migratory labor."

Whitaker said the county cannot spend money legally on non-residents and the migrants are non-residents. Even the \$7,500 budgeted for food for the poor, criticized by McGovern as comparatively picayune, can be spent only on residents, Whitaker told the committee.

FOOD STAMP TOPIC

A food stamp program was discussed. It was on food stamps that Kirk defended the commissioners. The state has no food stamp program in any county because Congress didn't appropriate enough money to include Florida, he pointed out.

If Congress provides the money the state will implement the program, said Kirk.

"I'm pleased you favor food stamps," said Ellender.

"Don't bind me on that," retorted Kirk. "I said we'd implement the program," not that it was favored.

The commissioners favored food stamps. They are issued for use to buy food at a local store. They are issued free or at a set ratio below face value, depending on the level of poverty of the user. The storekeeper recovers face value.

SELF-HELP BACKED

The commissioners backed Self Help Housing, Community Action Fund manpower training efforts and other such programs that are not direct "gimmies," Whitaker said.

"These are the programs that are going to correct this," he said.

Javits asked if the county couldn't spend some money on the people who are vital to the \$40 million agricultural returns.

"The county," said Whitaker, "does not get any tax out of that \$40 million industry."

Kirk told the senators that the migrants "are a Florida problem." The migrants are a human need "and we consider a human need to be the need of Florida," he said.

A 12-state coalition is being formed by governors along the "migrant stream" to close loopholes in the programs for the roving workers, he said. Kirk said he was organizing the "concert."

"What I have achieved here is a modified federalism," he said. "But bringing 12 states together does not mean we are going to secede."

ROGERS ASSAILED

Marvin Davies, field representative for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged Congressman Paul G. Rogers with blocking programs.

"We have had to fight over your opposition," Davies told Rogers, who was sitting with the senators.

Rogers cited programs he has helped urging Davies to first determine the facts. He agreed that he had opposed some ideas originating with the NAACP.

Others testifying included Michael Foster, assistant director of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services; Juarez of the migrant-originated Organized Migrants in Community Action; Albert Lee of the Community Civic Workers of Immokalee; Capt. Harold M. Reece, president of the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce; Stan Wrisley, editor of the Immogalee Bulletin; John Murphy, Collier County school superintendent, and the county health officer, Dr. Charles Bradley.

The meeting pointed up a number of programs lauded by both the poverty representatives and the other side. In addition to Self Help Housing and the Community Action Fund development programs, the schools have a free lunch program and a free breakfast program. Murphy said he had never seen a hungry child in the schools. The schools also have a 200-student pre-school program at Bethune School.

The houses and conditions seen on the tour were generally what was expected, Javits said. Even the testimony hadn't brought out anything not already known, he said.

McGovern said he knew somewhat of how the Immokalee residents felt. His own state, South Dakota, has a huge collection of Sioux Indians.

"At least once a year the New York Times does an expose on the Sioux Indians," he said. But it takes "these nudges" to keep progress moving, he added.

"We would hope that rather than be too resentful the people will respond by working together," he said.

Javits said the committee would not condone retribution on anyone who was a witness on the tour or at the school.

"We are not going to forget this," he said.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., told the commissioners to pay particular heed not to call the migrant worker a loafer.

"He literally crawls on his belly all over this country," he said, earning at best \$3,000 per year with the average income half that.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 11, 1969]

HUNGER TOUR FINDS SQUALOR IN FLORIDA—SENATORS ALSO ENCOUNTER AN INDIGNANT GOVERNOR WHO WASN'T NOTIFIED

(By Marjorie Hunter)

IMMOKALEE, Fla., March 10.—A special Senate committee investigating hunger in America found migrant squalor and a coldly furious Florida Governor waiting for them here today.

Angered by the committee's failure to notify him of a hunger tour in his state, Gov. Claude Kirk flew here from the state capital about noon.

Four Senators—two Democrats and two Republicans—had just spent nearly five hours trooping through squalid labor camps, peeping into nearly empty refrigerators and ducking under clotheslines outside dilapidated shacks that in some places house families of 10 or more.

The sign at the city limits proclaimed "Welcome to Immokalee, New World of Opportunity."

"Simply shocking," Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, said later of what he had seen.

JAVITS "DISTRESSED"

And Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, termed it "distressing."

Governor Kirk left no doubt that he too was distressed and shocked—that the committee had failed to tell him it was coming to his state.

"I wish my office had been asked so I could have supplied you with information about my previous trips here," the Governor said coldly, as the committee opened afternoon hearings in a crowded school auditorium.

It was the first of a series of field trips in which the McGovern committee plans to investigate hunger and malnutrition across the continent.

By singling out Florida as a starting place, they angered not only Governor Kirk, a Republican, but Democratic county officials here in Collier County, a farming area sometimes described as the watermelon capital of the world.

For years, county officials have thwarted all attempts to bring in Federally aided food programs, such as surplus commodities and food stamps for the poor.

They have argued that such aid would be too costly, that migrant farm laborers might be tempted to settle down here instead of moving North and that the poor might refuse to pick crops if they received free food.

U.S. FOOD AID BLOCKED

"We want to get to the bottom of this," Senator McGovern said. "If the county won't cooperate, maybe we'll have to set up a wholly Federally supported food feeding program."

But there is dissension even within the ranks of his own committee.

Senator Allen J. Ellender, a peppery, 78-year-old Louisiana Democrat, protested today that the committee was touring only the worst areas.

"Why?" he asked. "That's what I want to know, why? This isn't typical of Florida. I've been here many times and I know."

While conceding that "Conditions certainly aren't good here," Senator Ellender gestured toward a clump of shacks and said, "The people we talked to here today seemed to be happy. I haven't seen anyone who isn't contented."

He and others had just left a rotting shack where an elderly Negro man and his one-legged wife live with a 6-year-old granddaughter.

"All I need is a new leg," Mrs. Mary Adderson told them. She said that she had plenty to eat, "peas and beans and sometimes a piece of fatback."

The Addersons have an income of \$136 a month, from Social Security and Old Age Assistance.

One 19-year-old migrant worker, an unwed mother of four tots was wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with "Flower Power" as she opened the door to the touring Senators.

A few weeks earlier she had told antipoverty investigators that she had trouble feeding her family. Today, she said that they "eat well."

Refrigerators at most of the shacks visited today contained little more than fatback, sodden corn bread and plates of cold string beans.

But at one shack, Collier County Commissioner Les Whitaker took Senator McGovern in tow and said, "Come look in this refrigerator." It was jammed with milk and fruit juices and packages of meats and butter and other staples.

A staff investigator for the committee said that just two days before he had found only fatback and cold beans in that refrigerator.

"It's passively strange," Senator McGovern said.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Mar. 11, 1969]

FLORIDA OFFICIALS STUNG BY HILL'S HUNGER PROBE

(By Bruce Galphin)

IMMOKALEE, FLA., March 10.—A Senate committee turned the spotlight on hunger here today, but white officialdom said it still didn't see any.

Florida Gov. Claude Kirk testily accused the committee of ignoring him and refusing to allow the State Health Department director to testify.

The chairman of the County Commission angrily interrupted a network television filming session to accuse newsmen of misrepresenting conditions in Collier County.

But other witnesses appearing before the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs offered statistics showing substantial nutritional and related health needs. And the Senators, in a 3½ hour whirlwind tour this morning saw that housing is also a severe problem.

Kentucky's freshman Sen. Marlow Cook broke off from the main tour to make unannounced visits to migrant worker camps, and expressed shock at what he had seen.

He said he found "showers" that were no more than spigots "about two feet off the ground" and other housing conditions that couldn't pass urban code inspections.

At one camp, he said, "I shook hands with a man with wet paint on his hand." This was one of several references made during the hearings to last-minute sprucing up in Immokalee.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), chairman of the Committee, told a standing-room-only audience at the Bethune School here that he was "not singling out Florida . . . I suspect that in my own State, we will see problems of hunger and housing that are worse than those here."

Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) remarked earlier in the day that he believed the Nation is on the edge of a breakthrough against hunger. "I think this is at last going to spark the conscience of America," he said.

During today's hearings, the hardest data on malnutrition came from T. Michael Foster, assistant director of the South Florida Migrant Legal Services Program.

He said the Florida Board of Health had investigated Immokalee a year ago and concluded ". . . there is no evidence of severe malnutrition or serious incidence in the migrant population."

But, said Foster, the Citizen's Board of Inquiry in its report "Hunger U.S.A." listed Collier County as one with a serious hunger problem.

Nearly 30 per cent of the families in Collier County have incomes under \$3,000, Foster reported, and that does not include the migrant workers who nearly double the County's population in certain seasons.

Foster contended that the high disease rate among migrants in Collier County was circumstantial evidence of malnutrition.

Among children one month to one year in age, he said, the death rate is three times the national average. Among nonwhites, he continued, the rate is more than six times the national average.

A survey of 23 Collier County farmworkers' children, selected at random, was made at Miami's Variety Children's Hospital, Foster reported. It found 38 clinical diseases among the 23 children, including anemia, respiratory infection and pneumonia. Hospital director Gerard W. Frawley called it "a most extraordinary morbidity rate."

The State Board of Health's own study showed Collier County has one of Florida's highest rates of incidence of new active cases of tuberculosis.

Gov. Kirk, who stayed throughout the hearings, said he "regretted" that the Committee had not checked with his office about data he said he already had on Collier County. And he said the Committee called a State Health Department nutritional officer while refusing to allow the director, Dr. Wilson Sowder, to testify. "I like to get the generals, not the corporals," the governor said.

Kirk added later, however, "If there's any way we can help uplift them (migrant workers), we want to. We want them to grow and prosper with us. I think we too often make 'good' the enemy of 'better'."

A Committee spokesman said the panel had been in contact with Kirk's office and understood Dr. Sowder was satisfied with the testimony arrangement.

The flareup between the County Commission chairman, Lester Whitaker, and a CBS-TV newsmen occurred during the morning tour of poverty areas. Whitaker interrupted while newsmen were recording introductory remarks, accusing them of lying about Collier County. When he was invited to state his own side on camera, Whitaker said newsmen would only "slant" his remarks, and stalked away.

Chamber of Commerce President Harold M. Reece, who had argued that people would not work if they had free food, said that if there were any food program at all, it should be administered by the Farm Labor Bureau, so that workers refusing jobs would be ineligible for food distribution.

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Mar. 11, 1969]

LABOR CAMP LIVING JARS SENATORS

"WORSE THAN NEW YORK SLUMS"—JAVITS

(By Warren Canon)

IMMOKALEE—U.S. senators probing hunger in the nation looked at some freshly-painted migrant farm labor camps here yesterday, but heard some described as worse than New York's slum tenements.

That was the view of Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., who came to Immokalee's migrant camps with the senate committee headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., on the first of the group's field trips to survey hunger reports.

"In the slums they at least have toilets," said Javits, who explained at a hearing following a tour of the camps that the minority party agrees fully with McGovern's aims in overcoming malnutrition in the U.S.

McGovern opened the hearings saying, "In my own state I am sure we will find conditions worse than this, with the Sioux Indians, and I want you to know we are not singling out any state as a poverty area—this is all over the United States—but we are trying to look at the problems, and we want to see the worst areas so we can learn."

"We are seeing the worst," countered Sen. Allen Ellender, D-La. "I hope that what we see here will not be used as an example of Florida."

"I want to find out before these hearings are over why we came to see the worst labor camps in Florida without being given an insight into the others," he added.

Gov. Claude Kirk was a surprise visitor, and obviously not a completely happy one.

"I wish you had called my office before coming to Florida," he said, explaining he could have provided the committee with information gathered in the past.

Also along on the tour were Sens. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., Marlow Cook, R-Ky., and Robert Dole, R-Kans.

One of the committee's first stops following a 75 mile-an-hour motorcade from Fort Myers to this farm community of some 4,500, which lies in the rich growing land midway between Florida's inland Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Adderson. It was an unpainted three-room shack that leaned with age and was lit by a bare bulb inside.

The senators crowded inside to talk with Mrs. Adderson, a 65-year-old invalid who sat in a rocking chair and told the committee she supports her 69-year-old husband and four children on a monthly Social Security-disability income totaling \$134. She said the main diet was peas and beans.

"It's obvious the woman has never known what it is to have a decent standard of life," McGovern said as he emerged from the shack, shaking his head. "They are not even aware they are poor."

He said he believes the answer to some of the migrants' problems is food stamps and commodities, "but it also is a nutritional education."

The committee also visited Rosalee Bryant, 19, an unmarried mother of four who is one of the residents of a complex of dingy white two-story block apartment buildings which house Negro families, most of them farm workers.

She lives with her children, all under six, in a 10-by-14 foot room that has an old refrigerator dividing the living area from the kitchen, a partitioned bathroom, two twin beds and pictures on the walls of the late President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy and Christ.

Miss Bryant, a thin woman dressed in slacks and blouse, told the senators she lives on \$39 a week she makes working in the fields, but that she cannot always work. She pays \$65 a month for her apartment when she can go to the fields.

Joining the committee, but not taking an active part in the formal proceedings, were U.S. Rep. Paul Rogers, D-Palm Beach, and State Sens. Jerry Thomas, D-Palm Beach, and Louis de la Parte, D-Tampa.

Attorneys from the South Florida Migrant Legal Services, an OEO financed group, testified that the infant mortality rate for non-white children in Collier County is "triple the rate" in the rest of the state, and six times the national average.

This group has come under fire recently by Rogers, who said the OEO will make "changes in the nature of the service" after funds run out in June.

Asked if the high mortality rate indicated malnutrition, Michael Foster of the legal services, said, "according to nutritionists, it does indicate a lack of nutrition, or proper nutrition."

Foster said that groups attempting to get federal food for migrant farm families received little cooperation from Collier County. Collier is one of 17 counties in the state which does not participate in the commodity food program sponsored by the federal government.

Earlier, on the housing tour, the committee was followed by about 100 persons, mostly newsmen, as they rode in a string of about 40 cars through the camps. Javits, noticing that some of the camps had received a fresh coat of paint, said, "I'm glad, and if they did it for the Senate committee, I say give thanks to the Senate that it was done."

Cook disappeared from the conducted tour for about an hour and later reported that he had looked into other areas by himself. He said he visited Smith's labor camp and Brown's camp and "they still had paint on their hands when they greeted me."

Rudi Juarez, a leader in Organized Migrants in Community Action, told committee members that his group was trying "to help ourselves." Juarez said that they were hindered by low wages, despair, a lack of pride, poor housing and insufficient medical care. He said local officials wouldn't help the migrants, and added that if people came to the camps to try and help the people, "they are run out."

Under Florida law the owner of a labor camp may forbid outsiders to enter, and "no trespassing" signs were in view at some camps.

While on the tour with the senators, Les Whitaker, county commission chairman in Collier, told reporters, "If I seem hostile I'm sorry, but this is slanted reporting and we resent it." He shouted as the cars began to move on the third visit, "You guys know any worse places we can show them?"

Whitaker later told the committee that the federal food projects were bureaucratic and would cost the county more to run than the food would cost.

Fred Edenfield, a local grocery store owner, small loan business operator, landlord, and businessman, said to a friend as the committee went around, "This is going to kill it for local industry. There should be some way we could sue them (the committee.)" He was referred to the idea of free food stamps.

Collier Sheriff Doug Hendry, said he thought the farm workers really wanted "unions" and that hunger wasn't the issue at all.

Stan Wrisley, editor of an Immokalee paper, said, "Gentlemen, how long do you actually believe migrant workers would return to Immokalee if these people who leave here each summer would tell other migrant workers: 'Don't go to Immokalee unless you want to go hungry or starve or have your children become afflicted with malnutrition?'"

Today the committee will hold hearings in Lee County and tour the Fort Myers area. McGovern said he wanted to compare the counties, because Lee has a large farm labor force also (although not as large as Collier's) and because Lee County was a participant in the commodities program and other migrant programs. "We want to see how much of a difference it makes," he said.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 11, 1969]

SURPLUS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN MAY: FOOD SET FOR MANATEE

(By Robert Bowden)

BRADENTON.—Food for Manatee's hungry will begin arriving April 1 with distribution to begin May 1.

The food is part of a federally sponsored surplus program, a program subsidized by \$20,000 of a local tax monies.

It will provide about \$1-million worth of surplus food each year for an estimated 6,000 persons in Manatee County.

In a press conference yesterday afternoon, Eva Miller, director of the local welfare program, explained the particulars for eligibility.

Anyone now under a state welfare program is eligible. Included are the Old Age Assistance Program, Aid to Dependent Children, aid to the blind, seasonal farm workers and those receiving minimum Social Security in some cases.

Basic to the program is the "household," a defined as any group of related or nonrelated persons sharing a common kitchen.

Once the household is established, limits are placed on the wages: 1 person may earn up to \$115 a month; 2, 160; 3, \$220; 4, \$250; 5, \$280; 6, \$305; 7, \$330; 8, \$360; 9, \$395; 10, \$420. For households of 10 or more, add \$30 per person.

It's this system eligibility that has drawn the most lay criticism. The system seems to encourage family splitting so that one household may receive the free food.

Also under fire is the fact that the system encourages a person working only to earn the minimum levels to remain eligible for free food. In some cases, a worker may be able to work three days a week, remain eligible and receive the government food.

Another criterion which raised Mrs. Miller's eyebrows is a stipulation that the head of the household cannot have more than \$600 in cashable assets (excluding a home). A household may not have more than \$1,200 in assets.

Mrs. Miller said under the present system, a life insurance policy of more than \$600 value would be cause to reject an applicant. Thus the program tends to discourage insurance plans, savings accounts or investments.

Mrs. Miller read with crossed fingers a section that "requires" the household head to notify the authorities if his income increases or the household changes in number. Another section requires the household head to use the food "only for myself and the above listed members of household. I will allow no one to sell, trade, willfully destroy or otherwise dispose of this donated food."

Asked the penalty for giving false information on the application form, Mrs. Miller searched the policy manual and found there is none.

"But don't you worry," she said. "They're going to be checked out here." She said those applying to her department will be thoroughly investigated to determine eligibility.

Those eligible will receive a PA (public assistance) card. The card must be signed by the head of the household who will in turn sign each time he receives free food. This supposedly is a check to make sure he is not allowing others to use his card—to pay off debts, for instance.

But the card can be signed with an "X."

The transportation problem is not really solved, either. Mrs. Miller said community workers for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) have agreed to help get the food to the needy.

They will pick up the food and truck it to various churches. The household heads or their designates can then pick up the monthly supply.

The supply is roughly 33 pounds per person.

The cost and scope of the program have increased somewhat since county commissioners gave it a nod last December. At that time, commissioners contemplated using some existing county personnel to cut costs.

The entire program was estimated at \$15,000 a year. The cost is now estimated at \$20,000 a year in local funds.

Commissioners also were hopeful the food could be used for indigents in the hospital, for the juvenile home and for prisoners.

The government said no in all instances with the possible exception of foster children whose families are below the poverty level.

And the program bloomed into a supervisor, bookkeeper, typist-clerk, and two or three workers for the warehouse. The warehouse hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. It will be closed weekends and holidays.

Mrs. Miller emphasized that the program's particulars are not her ideas, but are requirements of the federal government. She said she will soon announce when application forms are available for household heads. Those on state welfare programs are automatically eligible and should see the state welfare agency, not Mrs. Miller.

Finally, the new program is the beginning of what Mrs. Miller sees a near-certainty in the future—abolishment of residency requirements for all welfare aid. Under the new program, all persons, even migrants, are eligible without any particular length of residency.

With it in operation, there are certain to be persons who would rather "winter" in Florida on welfare than "winter" in the North on welfare. Mrs. Miller said it appears certain the Supreme Court will strike down residency requirements for other types of welfare.

"When that happens the great migration South will begin—and I'll say good-bye," she concluded.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 11, 1969]

FOOD STAMP PLAN GETS "STICKY" HERE

(By Jed Drews)

Broward poverty war workers are anxious to bring a new food stamp program to the county. But county commissioners are apparently viewing the state-federal proposal with some hesitation.

After taking several months to come to an agreement with federal officials, the state Cabinet today approved the program—which could double the grocery purchase power of poor families.

Dade and Orange counties have already put in a request for the project, and will apparently be among the first to participate.

OPPOSED BY STEVENS

But Broward Commissioner J. W. "Bill" Stevens said the county's current food distribution program was sufficient, and that he was not in favor of food stamps.

Commission Chairman Robert Barkelew and Commissioners F. R. "Jack" Humphries and Earle Kraft had some reservations about the program. But they all said they wanted to look into it further.

Barkelew was concerned with what effect the food stamps would have on the distribution of federal surplus foods from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture at Port Everglades.

CONFER WITH MOSS

The commissioners said they would talk to county welfare director Jack Moss before coming to a final decision.

Meanwhile, poverty war officials threw support to the project, which would allow needy families to buy food stamps at a discount based on their income.

The stamps would be exchanged for food in approved grocery stores.

SEES BENEFITS

Mrs. Vera Kares, with the county migrant council, said the program would be of great benefit to the county's migrants.

She said that although they do get food from the Port Everglades surplus center, they often cannot eat it because they aren't adapted to it.

"You can choke to death on grits and cheese," she said. "And you can't feed that to a Mexican," she said.

"They tell me it constipates them."

Mrs. Kares said that if migrants were allowed to buy with food stamps they would be able to vary their diet, and also eat food they were accustomed to.

The county's Economic Opportunity Coordinating Group (EOCG) would also like to see the program initiated in Broward.

EOCG Deputy Director Leonard Gainey said that the location of the Port Everglades surplus distribution point made it difficult for poor families in remote parts of the county to get their food.

He said the EOCG had set up other distribution points, but the problem was not entirely solved.

Gainey said also that he felt such a program could result in some relief to state welfare rolls. He said welfare food expenditures could be lowered.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News, Mar. 11, 1969]

MIGRANT SETUP BRINGS AREA SLAP—MIGRANTS' SITUATION BRINGS REBUKE FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

(By Howard Van Smith)

IMMOKALEE.—The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which is making a national study of hunger, left here today for a hearing in Ft. Myers—but before it did it indicted South Florida for inhuman treatment of migrants.

Lashed were all the counties in the area, including Broward and Palm Beach, in a maze of testimony which even slapped Gov. Claude Kirk. This came about in a 6½-hour nonstop session that began at 1 p.m. yesterday and ended at 7:30 p.m.

At one point Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., yelled at the governor, "Until we agree migrants are human, too, we'll never solve it." Kirk had said he didn't want to see the local (Collier County) officials castigated.

Kirk, last to speak and he questioned and also on hand without invitation, revealed that because Florida had 100,000 migrants he had called a meeting of 12 nearby state governors on the problem and added, facetiously, "But don't think we are going to secede."

At this point, Mondals, one of the five senators here, said the migrants are the worst off and yet the hardest working Americans of all.

Kirk replied that a free food stamp program might be considered by Florida. At present it has none, and, as Kirk pointed out, the federal government has not yet appropriated money for extension of the food stamp program, whether free or paid for, in general.

Witnesses came from all the counties and the picture they painted made the senators, led by George McGovern, Dem., S.D., and including Mondale, Jacob Javits, R-N.Y.; Marlow Cook, R-Ky., and Allen Ellender, D-La., author of the food stamp bill, declare time and again that conditions in this area were "inhuman, indecent and despicable."

INSPECT SHACKS

They had visited the camps and Shacktown, where 5,000 migrants live near the heart of the town, and found conditions they called unbelievable, including no food and no heat in 40-degree weather.

They saw a place where a woman had brought a tumbling shack for \$175, but was not allowed to have the land on which it stood and which she had to lease yearly.

There was another place where Cook delightedly discovered the "slumlord"—as these property owners were called—had so recently painted in advance of the senatorial visit the green paint wasn't dry.

But it was during a long session that overflowed an auditorium in Bethune Elementary School, which has been emptied by the integration process and amid cheers and boos on each side—that two Collier County commissioners made the most indicating remarks upon which the senators, particularly Javits, pounced.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

Commissioners Ewell Moore of the Immokalee district and Lester Whitaker, commission chairman, said—both in different ways—that at times they considered the migrants a national problem, not the responsibility of the county, although it draws 22,000 of them yearly, much more than the regular population, to harvest its produce industry.

They said they had rejected government supplemental food because it would cost \$45,000 to \$60,000 annually to administer such a program and that the yearly amount of money spent on welfare food, including that for migrants, was only \$7,500.

McGovern asked Whitaker, "Are you really saying \$7,500 will close the malnutrition gap?"

Whitaker replied, "The malnutrition gap I can't say, but the hunger gap, yes."

"FEDERAL PEOPLE"

Moore said the migrants were "federal people, not Collier or Florida people." Although he was later to admit they might be "Florida people," this brought the full fury of the two senators upon them.

Javits snapped, "Don't these people contribute materially to the community (meaning Immokalee alone)? There's something wrong here."

He then pointed out the Immokalee community had yearly crop values of \$40 million, that he had seen indisputable evidence of the suffering and hunger, that it was even admitted the community could not survive without the migrants—and yet the community and county could see no responsibility.

"We are not going away from here and forget this," Javits said. "Our purpose will be to see that justice is done."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

BY COUNTY COMMISSION: ACTION PLEDGED ON "OUTLAW" CAMP—VIOLATIONS OF HEALTH LAWS HIT

(By Tom Morgan)

EAST NAPLES.—Legal action under the county building and state sanitary codes will be taken against an "outlaw" migrant labor camp that recently moved in south of the county seat off the Tamiami Trail, the Collier County Commission decided on Tuesday. The action was a follow-up on violations of state labor camp law.

The commissioners acted upon recommendation of Dr. Charles Bradley, head of the county health department.

The camp was not one of those visited by the Senate committee investigating migrant hunger problems in Immokalee.

Chairman Les Whitaker urged the action as indicative of county support of its health department officials.

"If we don't back them, the board is derelict in doing its duty," Whitaker said. "He is too valuable a man to lose from failure of the board to support him."

Commissioners were told Dr. Bradley was sick at home with pneumonia after having taken part Monday in the Senate investigation at Immokalee despite being ill.

The camp of 45 prefabricated frame cabins, each eight by 16 feet, was reported to have been moved in on a field site in violation of the sanitary code and without a building permit.

"I'd like a report next meeting on this," Whitaker said.

The board also endorsed continuation for a second year of the Community Action Migrants Programs Inc. which is aimed at developing jobs, job training, and babysitters so workers can take training.

"They are doing an excellent job and I support them," Whitaker said. "In the past year they have encouraged 823 families by training and teaching them how to be self-supporting and self-sustaining."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

PEOPLE HERE AFRAID

FORT MYERS.—"I'm surprised at the large numbers of people here who tell you they don't have enough food, but who are not participating in the commodity program," Sen. George McGovern said Tuesday.

McGovern, chairman of the select Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, went on to describe his reactions to the committee's Tuesday morning tour of Fort Myers poverty areas.

"I had thought from what I had been told that they were taking care of a considerable number of people here through the free food program.

"I find that they are not; that people don't know about it and others who do are afraid to apply in many cases because of the kind of harsh conduct of the man running the program (County Welfare Director Robert Craft) so it is not as effective a program here as I had expected to find.

"This project (the FHA rent supplement Sable Palms apartment project) is very encouraging. You can just see the pride on the part of these people when we asked them about the housing here that obviously is a great improvement over the type of thing they had been accustomed to."

McGovern said, "I think probably the worst single thing we saw was that garage over there in Immokalee where the one family was living next door to this other one. But other than that one unit, there were several that we saw today that seemed to be somewhat worse than what we saw in Immokalee."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

LASHES OUT IN RADIO TALK—WHITAKER: COMMITTEE IDEAS PRECONCEIVED

(By Tom Morgan)

NAPLES.—County Commission Chairman Les Whitaker said in a radio interview on Tuesday night that the Senate committee investigating hunger in Immokalee was a three-ring circus that came with preconceived ideas and views the Collier County Commission as criminals.

"We knew we had three strikes on us," Whitaker said. "We had Sen. McGovern, an ultra liberal, Sen. Javits, who in my thinking is a Socialist, and Sen. Mondale who I understand was hand picked by Hubert Humphrey.

"We can expect what the results of the investigation will be. It could have been written before they came except for a few details. They were evidently trying to justify their existence and their trip to Florida."

Whitaker admitted he himself had been distracted "and didn't act in a very adult way" in at least one television interview, but that he objected to the disagreeable treatment by news and television reporters.

"When I saw what they were doing, I couldn't contain myself," he said "Every network had a representative, every news service. It was as many as at the Coppelino trial but they were a more avid and rabid gang.

"Some of the people interviewed admitted later they had been schooled in what to say."

Whitaker said that he spoke to Dan Shore, CBS commentator, when he heard him say the County Commission had done everything in its power to keep the committee from coming to Immokalee.

"I told him," the chairman said, "I'm sick and tired of this kind of reporting. When he asked for 'my side' I replied, 'You'd cut and edit and twist it every way—you can hear me at the hearing.'"

Whitaker said the South Florida Migrant Legal Services "probably set up the whole thing because their funds are being cut off, although I understand the Robert Kennedy Foundation is trying to get them reinstated."

He had one bit of praise for the OEO-financed Migrant Legal Service: "Their report was a little closer to the truth than what they have said in the past—they even had one figure right, but it still was practically all wrong."

Whitaker repeated the County Commission claim of last year that when it offered jobs to 100 welfare seekers it could only get five takers," and said, "I made a survey on the tour and saw at least 100 apparently able bodied men standing around doing nothing."

Bob Moss, WNOG reporter who accompanied the tour, said he had shown Sen. McGovern "stacks of pork chops and five or six whole chickens in a refrigerator and the senator went out and said 'here is hunger, this woman has nothing to eat but greens and grits.'"

Whitaker said he had a similar experience with Sen. Javits and a young woman with four illegitimate children. He said she pleaded poverty but under his questioning admitted she had two major operations at county expense and had received county food orders.

"The senator wouldn't listen or pay attention to the four packages of meat I showed him in the refrigerator," Whitaker concluded.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

"I DON'T LIKE TO GO BEGGING, I NEED FOOD BAD AS ANYBODY"

FORT MYERS.—Most of a typical interview with one of the people living in the poverty areas of Fort Myers is given below. The primary difference between this woman and others interviewed is that she gets commodity foods.

Asking questions of Mrs. Clandar Mae Smith were the senators on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and several reporters.

The following discussion took place in Mrs. Smith's kitchen after Mrs. Smith had shown the group making the Tuesday morning poverty study a box of commodity foods she had received and discussed the taste and nutritional value of the foods with the committee.

(Q. represents various individuals and A. represents the answers of Mrs. Smith.)

Q. We talked to a couple of ladies earlier today who said they were afraid to go down there (County Welfare Director Robert Craft's office) because they turn them down.

A. Oh, they did turn me down couple times. . . . everytime I go now I take somebody with me so I don't have no arguments."

Q. What kind of arguments did you get at first?

A. Well, he said I didn't need anything. Now, after awhile, I said I need it as bad as anybody else that don't have nobody working. My husband was dead and I needed something to eat. It was summertime and I didn't have no work.

Q. Why are you people afraid? I don't understand. Why are they afraid to go down there and at least ask for it?

A. Well sometimes you just don't get the satisfaction. If you're like me I just don't want to go down there to an argument and begging because I get mad just like they do. My patience is very short too . . . And that's the reason I carry somebody with me to see that I get it. Because I needed it but yet still, he knows you need it, but he's just that crabby.

Q. Does he want to prove that you don't have enough income, is that why they are worried?

A. Well, sometimes it makes no difference with Mr. Crab.

Q. What did you call him?

A. Crab.

Q. What's his name?

A. I don't know.

Q. How long have you been here, Mrs. Smith?

A. I been here 12 years.

Q. How much do you pay on this property?

A. This house here? Oh, \$9, . . .

Q. Nine dollars a week?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay your own electric bill, water bill and gas bill?

A. Yes. But I don't have no gas and water now because I wouldn't give them no money and they cut my gas and water off.

Q. You don't have any water at all?

A. No . . . (A discussion followed in which she said they were cut off because she owed 25 cents more than the \$20 deposit. She said her income is about \$40 a month and she uses water at the homes of her neighbors.)

Q. Who do you take down there with you when you want to get the food?

A. (Mrs. Smith said she takes one of the people from the South Florida Migrant Legal Services.) . . .

My doctor said it's time for me to get some food. So he said I'll have to make out an application. She say, well can't she make it out now and let her have food today. He say yah I can do that. And so he say well I know her cause she has been here before. That's what he told her. So after that, every time it's time to sign up I get somebody to go with me . . .

Q. Did you ever complain about that step out front?

A. Sure.

Q. How long has that been torn up like that?

A. Been torn up now a good while.

Q. Somebody's going to get hurt on that step.

A. I know . . .

Q. Who is the landlord here?

A. L. M. Dixon.

Q. Is he a white man?

A. No.

Q. Colored man?

A. Yes . . .

Q. What's your age?

A. I'll be 63 in October . . .

Q. When you work, where do you work, Mrs. Smith?

A. I worked on a farm, but I need glasses and I can't see how to work and so I need glasses and my stocking worse than I need anything in the world right now. (She explained the stocking was an elastic stocking for her bad leg.)

Q. How long ago did they promise it to you?

A. It's been more than a month now . . . They haven't said nothing about my glasses and I can't see nothing.

Q. Have you been examined for glasses?

A. Yes sir. I want glasses. But my other ones, I had em about seven years and they wore out. They broke.

Q. Who examined your glasses?

A. County clinic down on Anderson. I got some papers to fill out. I filled em out and sent em back, but I haven't heard from them . . . I wish they would hurry up and get them before I go stone blind trying to see. You see when I'm looking at anything I have to look close to tell what it is . . . Eyes, that's my trouble. If I had my stocking and my glasses I could do a little work.

(She said she really wanted to work so she could get her water and gas back on. Mrs. Smith also said she would like to get a better house. It was pointed out by one of the senators that it would take half her month's Social Security just to get the water and gas back on. Mrs. Smith said people are afraid to go to the welfare director because he yells at them and will not give them anything unless they take somebody along with them.)

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

SENATORS SEE LEE SQUALOR

(By Matt Taylor)

FORT MYERS.—Working their way through weeds, garbage and rotting houses, members of a Senate committee had a confrontation with a landlord Tuesday and finally saw "a stunning example of what federal help can do."

The stunning example was at Sabal Palms, an apartment complex with federal rent supplements.

"Why they're living human beings here," said Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, chairman of the Senate's Select Committee for Hunger and Human Needs.

McGovern had just come from another squalid housing settlement for Negro farm workers in Fort Myers. There he had encountered people totally ignorant of the fact that federal food was available to them when they were in need.

Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota joined McGovern in quizzing Robert Reilly, who owns about 20 houses in the area.

Reilly had been criticizing the senators and newsmen who were interviewing a number of his tenants.

"They like it like this," Reilly told Mondale. "You act like I make my living out of these people."

Mondale asked him how he did make his living. Reilly said, he used to have a warehouse and "just ask them how it burned down."

(Reilly's warehouse burned down shortly after the funeral of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Some townspeople feel that because Reilly did not close down for the day of the funeral he "was burned down." Four persons were quizzed in connection with the fire, but the verdict was innocent.)

Walking through the houses, the senators found cold, drafty rooms, leaking roofs, broken steps and sagging floors. People told them that they were getting commodity foods and making do.

"Out of that house," Reilly told the senators, pointing to one they had just left, "I get \$500 a year . . . maybe . . . if they pay the rent every week and the insurance man don't get there first."

He asked Mondale, "How much can you put in a place like that?" He was asked if he was losing money. Reilly would not give a direct answer.

Sen. Allen J. Ellender, of Louisiana, courted by county officials who hope the senators would go easy in their report of conditions, said he had seen what he had expected.

"These conditions exist everywhere, all over American," he said. The senator added that he had seen clear evidence in both Collier and Lee counties that more federal help was needed. He made it very clear that Collier County, which he visited Monday, "needs a food program. We've got to do something."

An old lady running a day care center almost got in trouble by the visits. Mrs. Mary Green operates the center for seven children whose mothers work during the day.

Health inspectors accompanying the senators took one look at Mrs. Green's operation and said they might have to close her down for operating a below-standard facility.

But the health director came right along behind them and ordered that they work with her to bring the center up to standard.

Sen. Jacob Javits of New York has promised his own intervention if anyone threatens or harms in any way anyone who has testified before the committee.

The committee took testimony Monday in Immokalee and found there was a great need for a food program there.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 12, 1969]

HOUSING IS NO. 1 PROBLEM IN COLLIER, ROGERS REPORTS

(By Charles Stafford)

WASHINGTON.—Collier County's congressman said Tuesday there might be some minor nutrition problems there among migrant farm workers' children, "but the major problem is not hunger as much as it is housing."

Rep. Paul Rogers, West Palm Beach Democrat, was in Immokalee Monday as an observer of the inspection trip and hearings by members of the Senate Select Committee in Hunger and Human Needs. Five senators led by Sen. George McGovern (D., S.D.), were looking for evidence of hunger and malnutrition.

Collier County does not take part in the federal surplus food distribution or food stamp programs.

Rogers was asked whether he considered the committee's visit worthwhile. "They only saw the worst, which is what they went for," he said. "McGovern admitted that. He said there is no point in our coming around to see what is good. I think this is a sure way to point up the problem and this is what they are trying to do."

Were the hearings fair?

"I'm not really sure," Rogers said. "They did not really see any of the good, so I don't know that it was a fair presentation in that sense. Nor the fact that when the testimony was given in the afternoon, it was something like 5 o'clock before local people were even heard, so that the testimony just didn't have the same impact as that of those who had testified before. But here again, they were trying to point out the problems as people saw it who were critical."

Rogers said the county health doctor testified he had seen no "acute malnutrition cases, which would indicate hunger."

Rogers said county commissioners and some state officials appeared inclined to provide food stamps for the poor, which would permit them to buy food at their local grocery at reduced prices. He said the State Cabinet is to discuss participation in the program later this week.

But the congressman added that "housing is probably the major need" among the farm workers. "Some of the housing," he said, "is very bad."

The county is making progress in this area, he said. A housing authority has been formed, and self-help housing is available to farm workers.

[From the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, Mar. 12, 1969]

HUNGER COMMITTEE CITES MALNUTRITION—SENATORS VISIT FORT MYERS' POOR

(By Warren Canon)

FORT MYERS.—The U.S. Senate's "hunger committee" cited more instances of malnutrition among migrant workers after touring parts of this city yesterday and heard Gov. Claude Kirk blame "federal bureaucracy for the plight of the poor."

The investigative committee headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., said "the same pattern of misery and malnutrition was seen here as in Monday's tour of farm labor camps in the Immokalee area."

"People should not have to prove abject destitution or starvation before they receive assistance," commented McGovern during a hearing. "Certainly a country

that is powerful enough to rocket men to the moon should be able to feed its own hungry people."

McGovern said migrants in south Florida live in conditions "one might expect to find in Asia, not in America."

"Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we visited in these two counties," he said as the committee wound up the first field trip on which it hopes to draft legislation to improve the lot of the migrants.

He said that in Collier County the committee saw a failure to "take advantage of the federal food program."

In Lee, he continued, the committee found that "even in counties receiving federal food commodities, many people are kept from participating by the way regulations are administered."

Although the six-man Senate committee found poor housing for migrants in part of the outskirts of this city, members also found some of the housing more modern.

Late in the day they heard from Florida's Republican governor who said there are too many federal agencies dealing with migrant labor. He said the state government found it difficult to deal with up to 12 different departments with conflicting regulations.

"Use your influence," he told the senators, to set up a central federal agency to handle the problems of the migrants.

Kirk also noted his office had communicated with the governors of 11 other states to establish a regional compact to deal with the problems of the migrants.

He recommended officials be "mobile" when dealing with mobile people. Use large mobile homes as travelling day-care centers, health clinics and service centers for migrant, he suggested. Such units could be financed from state and federal funds, he said.

He also suggested a possible cure for migrant housing would be for the federal government to make available low-cost loans so migrants could buy trailer homes.

Kirk said since education is a state responsibility, an interstate compact could provide the cooperation necessary to assure migrant children proper schooling.

Senators noted Monday Collier County does not take part in the federal commodity foods program, so such aid is not available to those in the labor camps of Immokalee.

Lee, however, does distribute food under the federal program. Lee welfare officials reported about 4,000 families were served during 1969 under the program.

Reuben Mitchell, regional director for Community Action Migrant Programs Inc., attacked the welfare department when he told the committee, "The major shortfall as our experiences have shown is the attitude of the director. A director who is without compassion for the poor, who is humiliating and insulting and who does not demonstrate an understanding or the indigenous."

During their tour of housing areas here yesterday morning, the committee was told by a Negro woman, "We have a motto around here. If they don't insult you coming in the front door, they get you when you leave."

Robert Kraft, welfare director in Lee County, told the committee he followed the law. Mitchell retorted that some people wouldn't even go back to Kraft's office because they would "rather starve than be treated like dogs."

While touring Booker's Alley, a project owned by a local bank chairman, Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., talked to Roosevelt Murphy, a resident there. Murphy showed the senator rent receipts for a one-month period in which the balance due kept getting higher, even though he made payments. Murphy told the senator that was because if he was late in making his weekly rent of \$12.50 for a one-room shack without toilet facilities, they "added a little penalty."

Sen. Cook called over a migrant legal services lawyer and told him to look into the matter.

State Sen. Lee Weissenborn, Dade County Democrat, who was making the tour representing the State Senate, said he was prepared to pre-file a bill for a minimum housing code in Florida. He said at present there is a minimum code for migrant housing but it would not cover slums in other communities.

The senators were shown a federal rent-supplement housing project called Sabal Palms. It is a rather attractive 100-unit complex which offers wall to wall carpeting and modern furnishings to the poor who can qualify.

Felix Johnson, a 25-year-old father of one small child, told the group the project was "heaven-sent." He said prior to moving into Sabal Palms, he lived in a two-room shack in Harlem Lakes which had no bathroom or kitchen facilities, no yard, broken windows, screens and doors.

Johnson said he paid \$11 a week at Harlem Lakes. Now he pays \$42 per month for his new attractive two-bedroom apartment.

The young construction worker said that since he, his wife and family had been able to move into better surroundings he has had the incentive to start night courses at the local junior college.

Sen. Cook earlier said "you'll hear people talking about these people not doing anything to better their condition. Well, let me tell you, if you lived here I don't think you could have any initiative."

McGovern said at the hearing "I want to reemphasize that this committee has not singled out Fort Myers or Immokalee for criticism. These conditions exist across the land." But he added that he thought a little more local cooperation and interest could be shown for the migrants and poor in general.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 12, 1969]

LIFE OF MIGRANTS SHOCKS MCGOVERN

FORT MYERS.—Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., said yesterday his "hunger committee," during two days of seeing how migrant laborers live in South Florida, found conditions "that one might expect to find in Asia, not in America."

"Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we visited in these two counties," said McGovern as the special Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs wound up two days of hearings.

The Senators visited Collier County Monday and Lee County yesterday, both in the heart of the rich vegetable growing district between Lake Okeechobee and the Gulf of Mexico.

Among those persons interviewed by committee members was Mrs. Mary Green, 78, who cares for 9 children belonging to a working couple at a Fort Myers migrant camp.

McGovern said he had seen people "existing without the barest necessities of life, including the most urgent need of all—a decent daily diet. Some of them have survived on bad diets so long that they do not even know what it is to be free from hunger and malnutrition.

"We have seen diets and living conditions during these past two days that one might expect to find in Asia, not in America," said the senator.

He said that in Collier County the committee members saw "the failure to take advantage of the federal food program for the most deprived citizens of all, the migrant families."

"We have heard local officials deny that these families are their responsibility. They say they are solely a federal responsibility," said McGovern.

He said that in Lee county, the committee found that "even in counties receiving federal food commodities, many people are kept from participating by the way regulations are administered. People should not have to prove abject destitution or starvation before they receive assistance."

In a statement issued during the final hearing, McGovern re-emphasized "that this committee has not singled out Fort Myers or Immokalee for criticism. These conditions exist across the land." The committee held its Monday hearing at Immokalee. Both days, Gov. Claude Kirk sat in on the hearings.

Yesterday morning, the senators saw the contrast between garbage strewn, tin-roofed shacks available to some farm workers and modern rent-subsidized apartments which house others.

Robert Riley looked down a row of 20 shacks he rents for \$10 a week to migrants and said, "I'd like to build them something decent," in another part of town, Felix Johnson stood on the balcony of a two-bedroom, \$40-a-month stucco apartment and said, "It's just like heaven."

The six-senator "hunger committee," as they have been dubbed by local residents, toured the Sabal Palms apartments and Riley's shacks before holding a public hearing at a local recreation center. The contrast between the two places was striking.

The Sabal Palms apartments were built with private funds at a cost of \$1.14 million. There are 100 units in the complex, which boasts paved parking lots and sodded lawns kept green by a sprinkler system.

The Sabal Palms tenants pay one-quarter of their monthly income for rent. This amounts to \$20 to \$40 a month. The federal government picks up the remainder of the tab—\$80 to \$100.

Riley told the senators he collects \$500 a year from each of his 20 dilapidated shacks—"if I can collect it."

As McGovern walked through the housing areas, he stopped children and asked them if they were hungry and what they had for breakfast.

"They would tell me they weren't hungry, that they had coffee and grits for breakfast," McGovern said. "This amounts to a malnutritional diet."

Francine Jackson, one of the tenants at Sabal Palm, told the senators Lee County's food distribution program has serious shortcomings.

"The commodities I get don't last a month like they're supposed to," she said. "They usually run out in two weeks, or a few days after that."

Other members of McGovern's committee are: St. Allen J. Ellender, D-La.; Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky.; Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y.; Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn.; and Robert Dole, R-Kansas.

Also present was Congressman Rogers of Florida. He expressed interest in the commodity food distribution program, or food stamps.

"I'm not really sure," if the hearings were fair, Rogers said, in reply to a question.

But the congressman added that "housing is probably the major need" among the farm workers.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 12, 1969]

ROGERS ADMITS HUNGER, SAYS HOUSING CRUCIAL

WASHINGTON.—Collier County's congressman said yesterday there might be some minor nutrition problems there among migrant farm workers' children, "but the major problem is not hunger as much as it is housing."

Rep. Paul Rogers, West Palm Beach Democrat, was in Immokalee Monday as an observer of the inspection trip and hearings by members of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Collier County does not take part in the federal surplus food program.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 12, 1969]

A POVERTY THAT CONFOUNDS THE NOTION OF DEMOCRACY

When the U.S. Senate investigating team currently in Immokalee ends its inspection of poverty in America, it will return to Washington to face the realities of public policy.

The truth is that American public policy has a hard time dealing with the existence of hunger, illiteracy and all the other earmarks of hopeless poverty in this rich nation.

It is embarrassingly simple to approve a \$2-million federal purchase of grapefruit juice for the needy, because it satisfies a powerful agricultural lobby. Such a purchase—751,000 cases, or one tenth of an average year's pack—was announced last week, and the announcement caused not a ripple.

But let some one suggest raising the maximum income level for participation in the new federal free food program in South Carolina—raising it above the current maximum of \$30 income per month for a family of four—and the processes of public policy freeze.

It's easy to buy grapefruit juice for the needy, but it's hard to increase the number who can receive it. The difference can be expressed in terms of political power—or lack of it.

That's the dynamic in Collier County too. Public policy can tolerate the exploitation of migrant labor in order to protect a \$40-million truck crop economy, but it cannot abide the expenditure of \$50,000 per year to participate in federal food programs that would feed hungry migrants.

County commissioners explained that the \$7,500 local poverty-fighting budget was for "residents" only. (For residents substitute "voters.") Sadly, the migrants are resident only long enough to rescue the county economy each year.

The team of visiting senators was careful to point out that Immokalee, or even the state of Florida, is not unique. There is poverty in every corner of America.

But the migrant's special burden is a rootless, nomadic, purposefully exploitive kind of poverty—a perpetual flight from disaster. It is a kind of poverty that wards children and paralyzes the humanity of their parents.

The proposed solutions all suffer the same realities of public policy. The tendency is to inject into every program an "incentive for self-help"—whether such an incentive is relevant or not.

But what kind of ethic is it that places more emphasis on self help than on feeding the starving and the malnourished, than on clothing those who live in rags, than on housing those who live in shacks that have no toilets, than on stabilizing the lives of a rootless tribe of the American poor, than on ending the exploitation of humanity for the sake of harvesting vegetables?

The pitiless poverty of the migrant is one case in which incentives are not immediately relevant.

Massive expenditures must be made to raise these and other desperately poor to a level of human existence that does not confound the simplest notions of democracy.

[From the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times, Mar. 12, 1969]

FOOD STAMP PLAN OKAYED BY CABINET

TALLAHASSEE.—A plan to let poor people buy more than their money's worth of food was approved yesterday by the Florida Cabinet.

Without discussion, the Cabinet agreed to submit an application to the federal government to start the food stamp program.

State Welfare Director Emmet Roberts said Monday that, under the program, a family of four with an income of \$80 to \$100 per month could buy up to \$40 worth of federal food stamps which could be exchanged for \$70 worth of food.

The Florida Legislature approved the program in 1965, Roberts said, but state and federal officials have not been able to agree on wording of the plan until now.

The stamps would only be good for foods not available under the surplus commodities program, such as fresh milk, eggs or vegetables, he said, and they could not be used for luxury items like beer or cigarettes.

Roberts said the federal government would pay the difference between the cost of the stamps and the cost of the food.

Dade and Orange Counties have already requested the program and, with Cabinet approval, should get federal authorization immediately, Roberts said.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 12, 1969]

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT HELD RUDE, DISCRIMINATORY

LOCAL GROUP MAY ADMINISTER FOOD GRANTS IN COLLIER

(By Eddie Pertuit)

The Community Action Migrant Program in Fort Myers may administer a food commodity program for the needy in Collier County if the Department of Agriculture agrees, Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., told a crowded hearing Tuesday at Southward Village Recreation Center.

The proposal came in a hearing by the Select Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Need at which Robert Craft, Lee County Welfare Department director, was put on the griddle.

Witnesses criticized the Lee County commodity program—distribution of free food provided by the Department of Agriculture—saying it was operated in a discriminatory, insulting manner and designed to keep people from using it. The charges of discrimination were not racial, for one witness said the office was as rude to white recipients as black.

Craft denied any rudeness on the part of his office and maintained that he initiated the program personally in Lee County in 1964 because he wanted to see the people get food.

KIRK'S PROPOSAL

The five and a half hours of testimony, including a closing recommendation from Gov. Claude R. Kirk that a "National Coordinating Council" be formed to "codify" all the federal agencies dealing with migrants and indigent farm workers. The facilities already exist to solve any problems but they need "horizontal" coordination, he said.

James Bax, administrative assistant to Kirk, said \$5.68 billion is spent in all activities each year by the federal government in Florida in 438 different federal programs "with no horizontal coordination in Washington."

The senators seemed unimpressed. McGovern said the charts presented by the governor on organization of the coordinating committee looked "like the kind of complicated chart that may or may not work."

Kirk criticized the federal government and the Senate committee for "bypassing the governor's office." He recommended making the governor responsible "as a partner" in attacking poverty. He and Bax also recommended putting migrant aid programs "on wheels" to follow the migrant, so the aid would get to the migrants needing it and not five-fold to the ones who don't in crossing state borders.

LEE COUNTY PROGRAM

The committee's main concern was the structure of Lee County's commodity program. McGovern asked Reuben Mitchell, regional director of the Community Action Migrant Program, if his agency would act as distributor and Mitchell said the state office had approved if the Department of Agriculture would approve.

Collier County has no commodity program. E. Lee McCubbin, director of the state distribution program, said he had failed to persuade the Collier County Commission to institute one despite "sincere effort." He denied statements such as a claim that it would cost \$3 in local money for every \$1 in food. In fact, he said, he told the Collier board that a program started with nothing in warehousing, equipment or manpower would cost the county at most \$45,000 while serving an estimated 4,200 people, migratory and resident, nearly \$444,000 worth of federally provided food.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., asked why the estimate on Collier with a 27,000 population was 4,200 while the Lee County program was serving only 1,600 out of a population of 83,000. McCubbin said he could not answer.

LIVE IN PRIVATION

Mondale and other senators grilled officials on the Lee County program after a morning tour in which they heard complaints from recipients or those who might be.

The tour took the senators to some spots in Lee County where people live in privation, paying user's rental charges for miserable quarters in miserable neighborhoods. It was the same Monday in Immokalee. McGovern said it was a pattern "we expect to find in every state in the nation" as the committee's investigations move to other regions.

The difference between "hunger" and "malnutrition" came up again, as it did in Immokalee.

"Hunger is a sensation. Malnutrition is a condition," McGovern said. The committee had found no one really hungry but maintained that malnutrition existed in Immokalee.

On Tuesday the senators found persons in Fort Meyers who said their children didn't get enough to eat. They found children who said they never got breakfast or who ate "coffee and grits" for breakfast.

CRAFT KNOCKED

They also found people who didn't want anything to do with "Mr. Crab," as they had dubbed Craft. This was true even at sparkling Sabal Palms rent supplement apartments, where a "Lee County Welfare Rights Organization" has been formed. Mrs. Francine Jackson, president, was asked by the senators if "Mr. Crab" was the welfare director's name.

"No," she said, "but it fits the situation."

She said the organization was formed to exchange recipes and make better use of what is available.

The women said the commodities were hard to get because Craft insulted them, demeaned them and outright refused to issue them. (Craft denied anyone had ever been insulted by him or his staff.)

They also criticized the fact that the commodities are distributed once a month at a warehouse at Page Field. There is no public transportation so the point is between three and five miles from the central poverty area in Lee County.

REACH THE PEOPLE

Senators also queried why many persons apparently have not heard of the program and asked Craft and Commission Chairman Julian Hudson if they had tried to reach the people.

Both said they thought sufficient advertisement had been given since 1964 for everyone to have heard of it, through news accounts, public health nurses, sanitarians, extension agents, migratory assistance aides and others.

Hudson said a subdepot for distribution in Dunbar Heights would be expensive and a mobile unit was out of the question.

Craft said he did not keep people off the list deliberately but had to abide by the state rules. He said he had to have an income verification from a family before certifying them for commodities.

McGovern asked if he had ever made a verification by home visitation and Craft said he hadn't. Craft said he abided by the rules in the state guidelines.

McGovern pointed out that home visitation is the first means listed for verification in the guidelines. Craft said he had never been informed that he legally could use visitation.

SPENDING REPORT

Craft reported Lee County spends \$9,875.60 per year administering the program. A full-time man at the warehouse gets \$4,085 per year (\$77.50 per week) and another \$1,680 is paid for a part-time man. Another \$2,610 goes for freight and miscellaneous expenses and \$1,500 is listed as "administrative."

Craft is paid \$9,500 per year, a salary Hudson called "too little" for the work Craft does.

Reuben Mitchell's Community Action Migrant program was attacked by Sen. Allen Ellender, D-La., who was critical of the \$430,000 budget to train some 720 people during the past year for jobs, a ratio of \$600 per person, Ellender said.

"Don't you think this is a bit high?" he asked.

Both Mitchell and Rev. Isadore Edwards, local chapter president for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, expressed astonishment at Ellender's attitude.

"This is the single program in Florida that attempts to move people out of the migrant stream," Rev. Edwards told Ellender.

The \$600 is not high, said Mitchell, "If you compare the expense of education to bring a man from an \$8 per day job to a job paying \$150 to \$200 per week in one year, is that money worth being spent?"

"Could you have enrolled more?" Ellender asked.

"I think we are working at capacity," Mitchell said.

The six-county program employs 56, he said.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 12, 1969]

COLLIER BOARD MEMBERS IRKED AT INVESTIGATION

(By Fred Winter)

NAPLES.—Collier County Commission Chairman Les Whitaker told the commissioners Tuesday, "I'm still suffering from my battle wounds yesterday."

Whitaker referred to the Immokalee investigation Monday of the U.S. Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Other commissioners also had remarks about the visit.

After hearing a division of corrections report that a prisoner in the Immokalee

Jail needed to have a cyst removed from his throat, Commissioner Ewell Moore said "We'll have to provide an operation."

"Whether they're hungry or not," Whitaker said, "we'll have to also see they get recreation and work programs."

The corrections report, which generally praised the new branch county jail, noted the lack of recreation and rehabilitation programs.

"I'm just repeating what one of our distinguished senators said over there," added Whitaker.

"Ellender (Louisiana Sen. Allen) was the only one willing to see both sides," said Moore.

When Health Officer Dr. Charles Bradley and social worker Mrs. Hazel Griffin brought in no welfare claims, Whitaker said, "This doesn't jibe with yesterday" and testimony migrants suffer from lack of food and from insufficient housing facilities.

Mrs. Griffin explained the usual week's cases had not been written up.

Dr. Bradley, whom commissioners praised because he fought off an attack of pneumonia long enough to appear before the Senate committee late Monday afternoon before entering Naples Hospital, was still in the hospital Tuesday.

"We should commend him," said Moore, "for sitting there all day with pneumonia while he waited to testify."

"We should pass a resolution backing him up 100 percent in all future recommendations," added Commissioner Cliff Wenzel. "I wouldn't want to go that far," said Commissioner A. C. Hancock.

The "backing up" suggestion came after Whitaker told the board the Health Department had reported a labor camp in the Immokalee area which had failed to get a building permit before construction.

"You cannot keep employees," said Whitaker, "if you don't back them up."

[From the New York Times, Mar. 12, 1969]

SENATORS HEAR POOR IN FLORIDA

MIGRANTS TELL OF LAG IN U.S. FREE FOOD PROGRAMS

(By Marjorie Hunter, Special to the New York Times)

FORT MYERS, FLA., March 11.—Many of the poor of this costal city told United States Senators today they were afraid to seek free Government food from the man they call "Mr. Crab."

That is their name for Robert Craft, director of the Lee County Welfare Department, the man who decides who gets free "Government commodities."

The commodities—beans and flour and other staples—do not make for exotic meals, but they are nutritious. And it was obvious to five Senators as they toured the slums here today that many of the families not now getting free food needed it badly.

"Mr. Crab, he snap at us, and I snap right back," Mrs. Clander Mae Smith told members of the Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Mrs. Smith is an exception. Others said they were so afraid of the welfare director that they had not sought the commodities. Some said they had stopped asking for the free food because "Mr. Crab insults us" and "Mr. Crab makes us feel like nobodies." And still others said they were unaware there was free food available.

"There is certainly something wrong," Senator George McGovern, chairman of the committee, said as he walked away from a rotting shack where a mother of 10 children had told him she had to send her children to school hungry.

Meanwhile, Senator McGovern disclosed today that the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity had agreed to underwrite the cost of a free commodities program for neighboring Collier County.

Yesterday, the Senators toured the town of Immokalee and other parts of Collier County and found widespread squalor among the migrants who pick the beans and truck crops before heading North each year.

Contending that the migrants were "Federal people" and not their responsibility, Collier County officials have refused to set up any of the Federally supported food programs, commodities or food stamps.

Furthermore, the Collier officials argued, the cost of administering distribution of the food would be prohibitive.

Senator McGovern said the Office of Economic Opportunity would underwrite the cost of distribution if the Department of Agriculture would provide free commodities.

In the past, the Department of Agriculture generally has required that the distribution cost be financed locally.

But even as they learned that there now seems a good chance that the migrants and other poor of Immokalee may get free commodities, the touring Senators were discovering that a free food program did not reach all the poor.

Lee County, which describes itself as "the flour capital of the world," has had the commodities program for several years. The county officials testified today that they were happy with it.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 12, 1969]

McGOVERN EXPRESSES SHOCK AT FLORIDA POVERTY

(By Bruce Galphin, Washington Post Staff Writer)

FORT MYERS, Fla., March 11.—At the conclusion of a field trip into Southwest Florida today, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) expressed shock at the living conditions of the poor there and said America must do better about the problem of hunger.

"We have seen diet and living conditions these past two days that one might expect to find in Asia, not in America," the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Aid said.

"Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we have visited (in Collier and Lee counties)," he said.

"... A country that is powerful enough to rocket men to the moon should be able to feed its own hungry people."

McGovern earlier had described as intolerable the administration of programs to help the poor in Florida.

In Immokalee, Fla., yesterday the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Need was confronted with a county government that refused to participate in free food distribution. Here in Lee County, there is a food program, but it is not reaching all the needy.

The local director of commodity food distribution, Robert Craft, was the target of a barrage of criticism from the poor, who accused him of such humiliating treatment that many needy persons were afraid to seek free food.

\$4 TAXI FARE

Repeatedly, during a 3½-hour tour of run-down shacks in the Fort Myers area, the committee heard Welfare Director Craft referred to as "Mr. Crab."

The Senators were told that in this city, without a public transit system, it cost an average of \$4 round trip for free food recipients to collect their allotments by taxi.

They also were surprised to discover the number of obviously under-fed people who said they didn't know about the free food program.

More than 700 families are on public assistance in Lee County and automatically are eligible for commodity food, yet only 450 are getting it.

"There is no evidence of outreach at all," Sen. Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) said.

"I was surprised to see so much hunger," Sen. Allen Ellender (D-La.) commented. He urged use of existing agencies, such as agriculture and health departments, to bring immediate relief.

Again and again the poor people's complaint centered on "Mr. Crab."

"He talks to a man just like he talks to a dog," said Clifford Stewart, an elderly man who said he had refused free food even though his income was only \$65 a month. I thought he was buying it the way he was talking about it," Stewart said.

(The Federal Government pays for the food commodity. The county pays for its distribution.)

"If you're like me," 62-year-old Mrs. Clander Mae Smith told the Senators when they visited her waterless, fuelless shack, "you don't like to argue and beg. I get mad like he (Craft) does.

Mrs. Smith finally is getting commodity foods after receiving help from the South Florida Migrant Legal Service Program.

\$12-A-WEEK SHACK

Mrs. Altames Jackson, her husband and eight children live in a \$12-a-week rental shack. She said she hadn't tried to get the free food because of the bad experiences neighbors have had in applying for the program.

Reuben S. Mitchell, regional director of Community Action Migrant Program Inc., said many of the poor "feared to protest or to challenge—for they fear retaliation." He said Craft was "a director who is without compassion for the poor, who is humiliating, and insulting."

Craft denied that "any client of ours has been treated with abusive language," the County Commission Chairman Julian Hudson remarked that "sometimes a 'no' is considered an insult."

Craft insisted that he simply was adhering to the rules layed down by the Florida Welfare Department.

McGovern disputed him Reading from a Welfare Department handbook, the Senator said there were several ways of verifying an applicant's need, and Craft was using only one of them.

[From the Washington Evening Star, Mar. 12, 1969]

HUNGER PROBE LOOKS TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

M'GOVERN'S "LONG ROAD"

FORT MYERS, FLA.—A U.S. Senate committee which reported misery and malnutrition in the migrant labor camps of two Florida counties next will turn its attention to destitute people in the Capitol of the world's richest nation.

Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., said Washington will be the next city to be investigated by his select Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs as it seeks a way to rid the nation of the blight of hunger.

"Then we will go to Boston," he said, "and probably after that to California. It will be a long road, running into the middle of the summer."

In the migrant farm camps at Immokalee in the Everglades and in the resort city of Fort Myers, McGovern said his committee saw this week that "many citizens are existing without the barest necessities of life, including the most urgent need of all—a decent daily diet."

"Some of them have survived on bad diets so long that they do not even know what it is to be free of hunger and malnutrition," he said. "They have neither the resources nor the knowledge to feed and shelter their families."

"We have seen diets and living conditions these past two days that one might expect to find in Asia, not in America."

"Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we have visited in these two counties."

In Collier County, McGovern said the committee heard from county officials who denied any responsibility for migrant families and refused to give them the benefit for migrant families and refused to give them the benefit of federal programs because the county didn't want to pay the cost of distributing food.

"Immokalee is not unique," he said. "There are many other counties where local officials disclaim responsibility."

Even in Lee County, where a federal food program exists, McGovern said many poor people in Fort Myers lost out because of ignorance, fear and haphazard administration.

Poking through the labor camps on the outskirts of this resort city of 34,000 the senators talked with many persons like Katie Bell Murphy, who has eight children.

Mrs. Murphy pays \$65 a month for a shack which holds three beds for 10 persons, has no hot water and a stall shower bath that does not work.

"What did your children have for breakfast this morning?" McGovern asked her.

"They don't get no breakfast," Mrs. Murphy said. "Except I manage to get some baby food for the youngest (three months old). The others get two meals a day, mostly boiled peas and beans. I don't hardly ever buy any meat."

Asked if the children were given milk, Mrs. Murphy said none but the baby.

Mrs. Murphy's husband, a partime farm laborer, earns about \$1,500 a year and is well within the qualifications for public welfare, but she told McGovern the family receives no assistance and did not know that government surplus commodities were available to them.

"There is no evidence that Lee County tries to reach these people with food," said Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn. "We heard some of them say they were unaware of it, and others say they were afraid to ask for it."

Coming out of one shanty, Mondale said, "This is indescribable. I want the health officer out here fast."

It was the home of Mrs. Altames Jackson, who exists with her husband and eight children in two rooms where the lights do not work and the toilet doesn't flush.

Summoned by Mondale, Dr. Joseph Lawrence, director of the county Health Department, promised to "get my sanitarians right out here."

In one camp, the committee encountered the owner, building contractor Robert Riley, who charges tenants of some 25 shanties \$10 a week.

"This is all they can afford," Riley said. "We used to charge \$8 but we brought water in here and we had to raise the rent. I don't know where else they can live."

Glaring at television cameramen, Riley called out, "You with the cameras, give me some money and I'll build them something decent."

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 12, 1969]

INVESTIGATE SENATORS

The investigating senator panel who investigated poverty in Immokalee travel on a big salary with a per diem expense voucher, enjoying the nice Florida sunshine at the taxpayers' expense.

They are not proving or disproving anything. Their sales pitch was the further distribution of government food stamps, free to the receiver, also at the taxpayers' expense.

When a family travels to several different locations each year because they have chosen that way of life and the liberal freedoms that go with it for the purpose of making an independent living without the responsibility, in many cases, of marriage, taxes, withholding and Social Security, being paid from day to day instead of by the week or month, and a group of young inexperienced lawyers who call themselves the Migrant Legal Aid Society, wants to get their greedy hands into a basket of the taxpayer's money under the auspices of do-gooders at the taxpayers' expense and forgetfully pushing in where they aren't wanted or needed, and I might add, their funds are running out next month unless they can create enough stink and public opinion for another appropriation.

I appreciate the manner in which Gov. Kirk represented our state, telling one of the senators that he was down here for a hearing and not to make a speech, and I believe that all the people who are creating this rabble-rousing unnecessary atmosphere, they should be investigated as to their background and their possible loyalty to the good old U.S.A. and I quote the Bible which states, "The poor ye shall have with you always." There is no political body going to disprove one prophecy in the Bible.

JOE P. BROWN,
Immokalee.

[From the Daytona Beach (Fla.) Morning Journal, Mar. 12, 1969]

THE PAINT DIDN'T COVER

Speaking of coverups—if that did happen in the Ray case—they tried that down in Immokalee just in advance of the visit there by the Senate committee investigating hunger and malnutrition in Collier County.

People came out of the shacks there to talk with the investigators with fresh paint on their hands. Indeed, a couple of days before the committee arrived on the scene, a Miami Herald reporter found the place a beehive of activity as people were set to work to try to change what Homer Bigart of the New York

Times had said of the migrant camp: "A dozen or more windowless plywood shacks, all without toilets or running water, all painted a dull green and all facing a dark slough . . ."

So, they painted the places a bright red.

But it didn't work because the paint on the shacks did not erase the misery in the eyes of the people, nor the diets of peas and beans.

It didn't alter the fact of a lack of concern of Collier officials for the people who, though they produce the wealth the county enjoys, are considered not a part of the community and their welfare not a part of the responsibility of the community.

The paint couldn't erase the fact that little children there are expected to fit into such servitude and degradation without becoming bitter and angry, and that old people are expected just to die peacefully from lack of any kind of security.

The committee that saw the paint for what it was is not going to forget Collier County, Florida. They have seen that the state too long has ignored the plight of the migrants and given no thought to the explosiveness that can come from that lack of concern.

We expect the federal government will take over and force some reforms.

[From the Philadelphia Bulletin, Mar. 13, 1969]

SENATORS RAISE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE DURING PROBE OF HUNGER

(By Joseph R. Daughan, Bulletin Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs has found that you can't investigate hunger in Florida on \$16 a day during the winter.

The committee, which spent two days this week interviewing poor people in huts rented for \$9 to \$12 a week, was forced to ask that the \$16 allowance provided traveling senators and employes be increased because of the higher prices in Ft. Myers.

SENATORS STILL PAY

Although Sen. B. Everett Jordan (D-NC), chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, tried earlier in the year to slash the investigating committee's budget, he agreed \$16 a day was not enough in the resort town. Jordan, whose committee is in charge of such matters, permitted the eight staff members and six senators making the tour through southwest Florida to spend up to \$30 a day.

Even with the \$30 allowance, said William Smith, staff director of the investigating committee, most members of the party had to dig into their own pockets to cover their expenses.

Sen. George McGovern (D-SD), chairman of the committee, and the other senators stayed at a Holiday Inn, paying \$16 a day each for their rooms. Staff members paid \$14 a day each at two nearby motels.

On top of this, said Smith, were expenses for meals, tips, telephone calls and other incidentals.

"I went down there two weeks ago to make preparations for this trip and I tried to do it on \$16 a day," Smith said. "It cost me money. You just can't do it. The prices are too high."

OTHERS FIND OUT

At that time, said Smith, he did not know the Rules Committee could waive the \$16 limitation. But he subsequently found out it could be done, and others who travel on Senate business are finding out.

"There has been a slight increase in requests to waive the limit," said Gordon F. Harrison, staff director of the Rules Committee. "I expect the number will go up, but right now about 80 percent of Senate travel is done within the \$16 limit."

Harrison said many travelers are apparently unaware that, if they are visiting a resort area or a large city where prices are higher, they can request in writing a waiver of the limit.

A Senate committee, broken down into two subcommittees, recently went to New York City. One subcommittee asked for the waiver and was permitted an

allowance up to \$30 a day, while the other subcommittee members had to make do with \$16.

CHANGE DESIRED

"We haven't had a revision of the rate in several years, while the House went up to \$25 per diem two years ago," said Harrison. "I know there's tremendous feeling that \$16 is too low. There's a general discontent and it's readily understandable."

Harrison said he has "no doubt" that Senate travelers "are losing money."

"I can't imagine this committee turning down a request for a waiver," Harrison said. "I don't think we ever have turned down a request."

Even though a waiver is granted, he added, the traveler must keep receipts or a list of prices for every expenditure over \$3.

"Senators and Senate employees are authorized to travel first class and we rode coach," said Smith. "We saved the taxpayers \$518."

[From the Washington Evening Star, Mar. 13, 1969]

GOVERNOR KIRK OFFERS PLAN ON MIGRANTS

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. (AP).—Gov. Claude Kirk, chiding members of a U.S. Senate committee to stop talking and start doing something, has proposed formation of a far-reaching national council to solve the problems of migrant laborers.

In a communication to the committee yesterday, he also said mobile migrant centers should be set up to follow seasonal workers from state to state.

His proposals were made in the aftermath of hearings this week in Immokalee and Fort Myers by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

A national coordinating council on migratory farm labor services, under direction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, should be created by executive order by President Nixon to coordinate the efforts of at least seven cabinet-level agencies, Kirk said.

He said the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should set up a program to help seasonal workers purchase mobile homes.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 13, 1969]

GOVERNOR KIRK SEEKS MIGRANT PANEL

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., March 12 (AP).—Gov. Claude Kirk, chiding members of a U.S. Senate committee to stop talking and start doing something, proposed yesterday that a national council to solve the problems of migrant laborers be formed.

He said mobile migrant centers should be set up to follow seasonal workers from state to state.

"We are all growing tired of seeing the poor among us used as pawns in political publicity gimmicks," Kirk said in a communication to the committee headed by Sen. George McGovern, (D.S.D.). The proposal was made in the aftermath of hearings this week in Immokalee and Fort Myers.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Mar. 13, 1969]

KIRK PROPOSES NATIONAL GROUP ASSIST MIGRANTS

SUGGESTS SENATORS STOP TALKING AND DO SOMETHING

TALLAHASSEE (AP).—Gov. Claude Kirk, suggesting that members of a U.S. Senate committee stop talking and start doing something, proposed Wednesday formation of a far-reaching national council to solve the problems of migrant laborers.

He said mobile migrant centers should be set up to follow season workers from state to state.

PUBLICITY GIMMICKS

"We are all growing tired of seeing the poor among us used as pawns in political publicity gimmicks," Kirk said in a communication to the committee headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D. "There has been altogether too much talk and not enough action at all levels of government."

The proposal was made in the aftermath of hearings in Immokalee and Fort Myers by the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. Kirk attended both days and revealed part of his plan on Tuesday.

McGovern said he found conditions in Florida "that one might expect to find in Asia, not America."

HOGS BETTER FED

"Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we visited in these two counties," the senator said.

Kirk said "the first order of business" to help the migrants should be coordination at the federal level.

A national coordinating council on migratory farm labor services should be created by executive order by President Nixon to coordinate the efforts of at least seven cabinet-level agencies, the governor said. He said the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should head it.

Since the migrants are always moving, Kirk said, the federal government should use trailers to "provide mobile one-stop service for migrant family needs."

He said state agencies concerned with migrants should be coordinated through the mobile centers. Federal surplus food and food stamp programs should also be handled through the traveling centers, he said.

MOBILE CENTERS

One of the mobile centers should be established for every 5,000 migrants, the Florida chief executive said. Each center should have a broadly based local advisory group.

He said the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should set up a program to help seasonal workers purchase mobile homes through FHA-type financing.

"The committee came to Florida and it saw and it listened," Kirk said. "The committee will go to another community and another and another and will see more and listen to more—then what?"

BRIGHT YOUNG AIDES

"Then some bright young aides will write up a committee report and perhaps by the end of the year there will be some legislation introduced for more direct commodity support or more food stamps and the matter will be forgotten and the same people will still be hungry."

He said shoveling more food into the migrant camps will not solve the problem of hunger. There must also be education from health officials about nutrition, health care and help in obtaining proper housing.

"We must develop a comprehensive delivery system to do the complete job," Kirk told the committee.

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) Nes-Press, Mar. 13, 1969]

HEARING A "ROMAN CIRCUS" COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SAYS

MR. CRAB TALK RAPPED

"My impression of it was that it was a Roman circus," Chairman Julian L. Hudson of the Lee County Commission told fellow commissioners Wednesday in describing the U.S. Senate committee hearing here Tuesday.

The committee, headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., was shown the worst conditions in Lee County, carefully selected in advance, and heard witnesses antagonistic to the local government without hearing any other views, Hudson said.

Worse, he said, the senators themselves publicly insulted officials before nationwide television cameras.

The senators, addressing or discussing Robert Craft, county welfare director, "called him 'Mr. Crab' when they knew what his name was. It was a public insult, the very thing they were talking against," said Hudson.

Craft was accused of insulting those seeking food commodity assistance by witnesses before the senate hearing at Southward Village Recreation Center and by residents during the morning tour of selected slums.

MOVE QUIETLY

The proper way to have gotten facts, said Hudson, would have been to send in investigators to quietly ask questions, take the list of commodity recipients and see a representative number of them, meet people who are not on the list, talk to county officials, and put the whole thing into perspective without the "show operation" of a forest of television lights.

Craft is a natural recipient for criticism, said Hudson. The chairman had told the senators that "a 'no' can be interpreted as an insult. Sometimes you have to say 'no.'" On Wednesday Hudson said, "Every frustration for every no (in state and local welfare) is directed at Mr. Craft."

"LOT WORSE"

About housing, Hudson said, "I think things used to be a lot worse and it's going to get a lot better."

The senators' suggestions of "delivering it to their door" and "knocking on doors to find hungry people" is not a practical or reasonable approach to supplying needy with commodities, he said.

"You can fill the streets with food and let them take their pick," he said. "Is that going to solve anything? Their (the senators') angle is to say, 'Sit here and wait and it will be brought to you.'"

Commissioner P. A. Geraci said he favored the stamp program, if and when it can be provided. It was approved by the State Cabinet Tuesday. Had it been approved last year it would have been eligible for current federal funds, McGovern said Tuesday night.

Issuing the stamps would eliminate need for poor people to find transportation to a distribution center, Geraci said.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 13, 1969]

HUNGER AND FLORIDA'S "PRIDE"

Conditions under which the migrant workers live in the farm camps of South Florida are predictable, as we said earlier this week on the eve of the federal investigation in Collier and Lee counties.

The message of the Sermon on the Mount is also predictable, but it needs repeating to gain and keep the attention of those who would forget that they are their brother's keeper.

Sen. George McGovern's Committee on Hunger and Human Needs found both in startling quantity. The pride of local politicians has been hurt and there are complaints that the senators came to Florida looking for hungry people and paid no attention to all the good things of life not in short supply.

But county programs ignore and reject federal assistance. The Senate committee found that Lee County is using only about 10 per cent of the commodities it should be using. That means 90 per cent of the people who need help are not getting it. And Lee County is doing a better job than Collier, where a majority of the farm workers are now living.

The director of Florida's school lunch program told the senators that she estimates 58,000 children in the state go to school without breakfast. And teachers know that many children can't pay attention to their morning lessons because minds are on the free lunch they know is coming.

As several of the senators acknowledged, the conditions found in South Florida also exist in the labor camps of Georgia, North Carolina and many Northern areas.

But South Florida is where the crops grow this time of year and this is where the migrant workers are. If the senators were to document medical testimony of hunger in America this is where they had to come at this time.

That documentation is necessary for the enactment of effective programs. There was no intention of branding Florida as a place of special cruelty. We regret that Rep. Paul Rogers, who represents the farming counties, continues to talk about minor nutrition problems.

The forthcoming Senate report doubtless will put such bland talk beyond understanding.

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Mar. 13, 1969]

SOUND AND FURY ARE GONE, BUT POVERTY LIVES ON

FORT MYERS.—The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs has gone and Lee County has to some degree returned to normal.

Except for anger on the part of county officials and, perhaps, a little more hope for the future on the part of the poor nothing really seemed changed by the hearing the day after the hearing.

The tour of the Dunbar area Tuesday morning hit the area like a whirlwind. Residents came out of their homes to stare at the stream of 20 or more cars which dashed from one part of the area to another.

Many people didn't know what was going on. Mrs. Mary Green was interviewed on the porch of her home by several Senators while dozens of newsmen crowded around to listen or wandered about taking pictures.

Asked what she thought was happening when that mass of people started coming toward her house, Mrs. Green said, "I thought they were coming to kill me."

"We came to help you," one senator said.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 16, 1969]

SENATORS FIND FOOD ALONE WON'T SOLVE MISERY OF POOR

(By Bruce Galphin)

FORT MYERS, FLA.—Until now people have been calling it the "hunger committee." But after their first field trip last week in southwest Florida, members of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs were paying increased attention to the second part of the title.

For they found heart-rending evidence that hunger is inseparable from a whole tangle of human problems.

The search for hunger led to a circular trail of squalid housing, lack of sanitation, bad health, poor education and limited job opportunities.

The senators found that children may receive free breakfasts and lunches and still stay sick because of home conditions.

They talked, for instance, to Eloisa Martinez, a Mexican-American who lives with her husband and eight children in a sagging frame shack. Six of the children get free meals at school, but they come home to a hovel with no plumbing and with dirty bedding on the floor.

Mrs. Martinez' 15-year-old daughter was home from school sick. She is still in the sixth grade. Grinning nervously, she said she was so far behind because she is sick a lot.

COFFEE INSTEAD OF MILK

There are health clinics for the poor, but they are frequently ill. There are classes in nutrition, but as Sen. Marlow Cook (R-Ky.) remarked, "What good would it do for them to come into your nutrition clinic if they don't have food?"

The committee had talked to children under the age of 6 who regularly drank coffee instead of milk. They heard mothers tell of not having enough food to give their children breakfast.

They learned the poor typically eat a "white diet" high on starches and low on proteins, except beans and peas.

The senators heard and saw evidence that the poor of Collier and Lee counties were far more prone to disease than the average population. Malnutrition, they were told, is a contributing factor.

Sanitation and heating obviously are problems, too. In the shacks the senators visited, portable kerosene stoves are the typical sources of heat. Housefires are frequent.

The senators rarely saw properly functioning indoor plumbing. One woman had no running water because her water bill ran 25 cents over her \$20 deposit. Several of those visited used toilet facilities of neighbors. Communal outhouses were common.

And the senators learned to their dismay that Congress can enact food distribution plans, but hasn't been able to guarantee the neediest will receive the help.

None of Florida's counties distribute food stamps. However, the State Cabinet agreed on Tuesday to apply for the program.

Some counties do participate in the commodities or "surplus" food program under which the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides free packages of basic food items and the counties bear the costs of distribution.

But Collier County site of the first day's committee hearings, has no commodity program yet.

(The Office of Economic Opportunity said Wednesday that it would pay the administrative costs of a commodity food program for Collier. The program now needs the approval of the Department of Agriculture.

(Under the commodity program, a local welfare organization would be responsible for distributing the food. However, Collier County may have to help provide warehouse space to store the commodities. This cooperation may be hard to get since the county commission feels the migrants are a federal problem.)

Lee County (Fort Myers) has commodities but a stream of witnesses accused the local distribution agent of treating applicants in a humiliating manner and turning down many who were qualified. Some of the poor told senators they were afraid to apply. Others said they didn't know how.

And the county's sole distribution center is at the local airport, a \$4 round-trip cab drive from the area where most recipients live. There is no public transit system.

In this area where truck farming is such an important part of the economy, the problems of the poor are magnified by the seasonal influx of migrant farm workers.

Migrants are excluded from coverage by the National Labor Relations Act, workman's compensation and unemployment compensation law. Residency requirements exclude most from welfare. A housing shortage forces them into crowded, unsanitary, often overpriced camps.

Most migrants specialize in certain crops, and when these are ready for harvest they earn good money for two, three or four weeks. Then follow long weeks of bare subsistence until it is time to move to the next part of the country.

Some of the senators were openly irritated by local officials who denied that there were any serious problems among the poor, or insisted they were someone else's concern.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.) told Collier County commissioners that their attitude was "inconceivable" to him.

REFUSAL TO WORK BLAMED

The area's congressman, Rep. Paul Rogers, told reporters, "the health doctor here tells us he's seen no extreme cases of malnutrition."

Rogers, a Democrat from West Palm Beach, was riding in a car with a tag that read: "I fight poverty. I work." He explained that the car belonged to a friend.

Asked whether he thought refusal to work was the reason for poverty in Collier, Rogers replied that "it applies in some areas."

The editor of the local newspaper, was more sweeping. "There is but one way to fight poverty, gentlemen," he said—"by providing work to those who will work and denying access to the welfare rolls to those who refuse work."

Despite the cold-hearted remarks of some officials and community leaders, the poor are not being totally ignored. There are free lunch and breakfast programs for some children in some schools. County health officials, within severe budgetary restrictions, are trying to improve health and nutrition conditions.

OTHER HEARINGS SCHEDULED

But the problems are far beyond the scope of local finances, even where the willingness to help exists. Sen. George McGovern (D.-S.D.), chairman of the com-

mittee, remarked at one point that it may be necessary to have complete federal funding of the food programs.

The committee will continue exploring the dimensions of the problem with hearings in other parts of the country, starting with a front-yard trip to hunger areas in the District of Columbia. Other sites include Boston and California.

The first traveling hearing suggested, however, that food alone will not crack the cycle of human misery. It may take an assault from all directions.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 16, 1969]

HUNGER: WHY DOES IT EXIST AMIDST PLENTY

(By John A. Hamilton)

After weeks of hearings in Washington at which nutritional experts testified to the paradox of hunger in a land fat with agricultural surpluses, members of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs toured migrant labor camps in Florida's Collier and Lee counties last week. They looked for hunger and found it. They also found rust, rot, the stench of abject poverty and appalling human suffering along with belligerent local officials who considered these conditions none of their business.

"They're not Collier County people," said one of the officials, referring to the migrant farm workers who spend most of their time helping that county reap \$40-million annually from its farm operations. "They're Federal people."

The select committee on its first field trip discovered that Federal programs aimed at helping provide the poor with adequate diets may not reach them at all. Intervening levels of government can erect barricades.

Florida is one of seven states that does not participate in the Federal food stamp program and Collier County is one of several hundred across the nation that has not been willing to shoulder the usually modest costs of administering a surplus commodity distribution program.

The food stamp program is designed to stretch the food dollars of the very poor. The poor buy stamps for small amounts which can be redeemed at grocery stores for larger amounts. They may pay \$40 for \$60 worth of stamps.

The surplus commodity program offers certain commodities—mostly vegetables—free to eligible families. The foods are purchased by the Department of Agriculture from those that tend to be in surplus. The program is linked to the farm price support program.

In Collier County the Senators visited Combers Camp, a depressing collection of windowless, bare-board shacks sitting on the flat, sandy land. They met Miss Rosalee Bryant, 18 years old, unmarried, mother of four, who lives with her children in a concrete and tin apartment project, in a small, 10-by-15 room. Miss Bryant used to travel north to Virginia and Pennsylvania picking tomatoes and other crops and she still goes to the fields in Collier County when she can find someone to keep her children. It is difficult, she says. Her badly deformed, retarded three-year-old son requires special attention. "We have enough food to eat now," she told visitors. "We didn't have last summer though. It was rough then."

The touring Senators heard Rodolfo Juarez, a representative of Organized Migrants in Community Action, tell about the abuse migrants suffer, the poverty they endure and the benefits of Federal and state welfare laws they are denied. Senator Marlow W. Cook, Republican of Kentucky, toured migrant camps not on the official schedule and reported finding as many as five or six in a family living in windowless shacks as small as 8-by-10 feet.

"Is this unusual?" he asked Mr. Juarez.

"Very unusual," the migrant replied. "Usually, sometimes thirteen."

The Senators heard children report having coffee and grits for breakfast and nothing else and other children report having no breakfast at all. They saw children with cold-encrusted noses, sores on their feet from playing in lots strewn with broken glass and boards with protruding nails. They saw one little girl with legs so badly bowed that she could hardly walk.

Collier County officials flatly denied that any real hunger exists—"Maybe just a little and a little malnutrition"—and they cited a special state survey of its health departments as confirmation of their views. Outside groups have

reported wholly different findings. The Citizen's Board of Inquiry Into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States, a group that helped spark formation of the select Senate committee, found in 1967 that there was clear evidence of "poverty, poor nutrition and parasitic disease."

Despite all this, Collier County does not operate any food program for poor families. Neighboring Lee County, where the statistics are only a little better, operates a commodity distribution program but the touring Senators discovered that it reaches only a small percentage of those eligible for it.

Senator Jacob Javits, like his touring colleagues, was struck by conditions in the two counties and by their failure to bring the benefits of Federal programs to those needing them. When Florida Gov. Claude Kirk appeared at the hearings to insist on a continuing role for the states, Mr. Javits warned: "We want to give the state every opportunity but not to allow the thing not to be done." He cautioned that the Federal government would have to do the job, as it has begun to do it in two impoverished South Carolina counties by offering free food stamps to the most needy, if the states and the localities do not do it.

The Florida state cabinet voted while the tour was in progress to permit its counties to participate in the Federal food stamp plan. The Office of Economic Opportunity announced that it would authorize one of its local agencies to administer a surplus food distribution program in Collier County, even over the protests of local officials, if the Department of Agriculture would supply the food. Senator George McGovern, chairman of the select committee, intends to pursue the offer with Agriculture Secretary Clifford Hardin.

THE FIGURES SAY BOOM

There is simply no way to read the latest figures on employment and unemployment in the American economy except boom. Since last September, there has been a rise of 1.6 million, or 325,000 a month, in the nonfarm payroll, twice the gain of earlier in 1968. No one knew that there were that many people available to be employed.

Another item: Negro unemployment in February fell below 6 per cent for the first time since the Korean war—a drop in numbers of 544,000 out of work from 668,000 a year earlier.

What has now become clear is that unemployment for most Americans has become a decidedly temporary thing. As recently as 1955, there were 755,000 persons who had been out of work for 15 weeks, and half of them had not had jobs in more than 26 weeks. But this February, only 393,000 had not worked in 15 weeks, and a mere 115,000 had been out of work for 26 weeks or more.

[From the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News & Sun, Mar. 16, 1969]

WHY THE MIGRANT STAYS IN MISERY

PROBLEM IN IMMOKALEE

(By Howard Van Smith, Staff Writer)

The Nation last week looked at Immokalee with stunned horror through the eyes of television—Immokalee has to be a visual experience to know its total look of human misery—and suddenly the public had second thoughts about this land of sun, sand and palms. It had to be a look of gulping surprise that left two great questions:

1—Why do farmers actually hate the migrant farm workers when without them there could be no farming?

2—Why do the migrants themselves go on living this life of filth, hunger, disease and hopeless, eternal poverty?

But before venturing some answers there was another question that this observer at the Senate meetings would like answered first—although for this one there is no such ready answer.

To understand you have to know a certain doctor who lives in Newberry, Fla. Newberry is a very small place near Gainesville, and for this reason Dr. George Kareles has to even pull teeth because there is no dentist nearby. He's never sent a bill to anyone.

Many people, especially the Negroes who wander from their little homes cross-country to his office, pay him in eggs and sweet potatoes and the like. But this isn't the reason this man who more than fits the overworn phrase "dynamo of human energy" was more pertinent to the hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs than anyone else.

Dr. Kareles is chairman on rural health for the American Academy of General Practice for Florida. Moreover, his particular study has been of the Immokalee migrants. Gov. LeRoy Collins appointed him to the group which steered the regulations that "cleaned up" as much as it could be of Immokalee after the 1958 freeze-and-frost and crop wipe-out that left 4,500 stranded. He already has voluminous reports on the situation. Long ago he warned Immokalee would go "bad" again.

But, mainly, no one has more concern about Immokalee and its migrants than Dr. Kareles. No one is more aware of the growing strips of poverty that this state that believes itself so affluent lets fester on and on. Paradoxically it seems to grow rich by area and poor by area at the same time. The rich get richer and poor get poorer, and Dr. Kareles is the foremost man in this state on what that does to us.

It creates stinking holes of filth and destitution and disease. Immokalee is one. It may be the worst but Broward County isn't doing a bad job along this line either.

Instead of from Dr. Kareles the senators heard from a meek little county health director, not long on the job, who lowered his head, under the stare of his bosses, the county commissioners. Dr. Kareles is his antithesis. That's way it would have been especially interesting to hear what he had to say.

Contacted about this, Dr. Kareles didn't know why. He did know one thing, however: The all-important point had been overlooked.

If the migrants were hungry or even near hunger now, if this is to be the continued condition of up to 7,000 people in Immokalee where the County Commission doesn't believe in any kind of food program because hungry migrants are apt to do more work—then it presents a very obvious and fearful picture.

What Dr. Kareles would like to know is: "What happens if next year or the year after you have a freeze and once again strand 7,000 migrants and farm workers without means of support for months?"

Strangely with all the questions asked and the raised hackles at the hearings, no one suggested this possibility. No one thought of it except the local officials and of course they didn't raise the question. They remember that year of famine and death in Immokalee, 1958. They weren't about to raise it.

But Dr. Kareles would have—if he had been there.

Dr. Kareles also knows why farmers hate migrants because he's worked among Florida's migrants for so long. At first, it seems surprisingly strange. Why detest the people upon whom you depend? Why make things as tough as you can for people you don't even consider human animals? And expect them to return?

Dr. Kareles says you've got to understand the psychology of a migrant. He's basically frightened. He can't do anything else. He comes to Immokalee because there's a shortage of places where migrants can go in the winter. Thus a serf-and-the-king condition is set up. "Keep them hungry" is the motto in Immokalee.

That means you have a captive working force that you can pay the least and work only when the market is favorable. As a member of the noble order of farmers you naturally hate these poor miserable people. You've controlled them with hate so long you don't know any other way.

Why do they go on accepting it? Perhaps the testimony was overlooked but Rodolfo Juarez, 30-year-old migrant, told why. He was picked to show the migrant's thinking, and it agreed in detail with what Dr. Kareles said. Juarez didn't need a translator. He did have, however, a heavy accent. He spoke of migrants living in misery generation after generation. Low wages . . . bad hours . . . "it all stinks." You live in huts seven-by-seven. You cook there and sleep there. It is cold and your children get sick. You're always in debt. Your crew-leader, often working with the farmer or with his knowledge, makes sure of that. You are never allowed to catch up.

Juarez, who became a migrant in Texas with his family at five, said: "If some of you lived like a migrant does you wouldn't be alive."

Then he spoke of a "diet" of potatoes and beans and all those starchy things. "It fills you up."

Then he uttered the words that so many migrants have. "The way things are is the way things will always be."

With him sat some other migrants. They described, with Juarez acting as translator, the most remarkable characteristic of the migrant. That's the ability to go without food for so long and so often. You might travel in the back of a truck from Texas to Florida without eating and have to go into the fields to earn money to do so when you get here.

Of course, the living standard has improved in the last 10 years for migrants. In 1958 the average income per family head was \$900. Now it's \$1,750. The slack end of the minimum wage law began picking up the migrant's wages. It's up to \$1.30 an hour now when he's working.

But, if you're a migrant, don't go by those reports that the cost of living has gone up 4 percent or so per month in recent months. The crew-leader, the farmer, the gouging landlord see to it that the migrant pays more rent than such increases. He pays more at the store where he can get some credit. He's no better off today than he was ten years ago because, as they say in Immokalee, the idea is to keep him hungry. Hunger makes better workers.

But, says Juarez, you keep on and on because you're afraid. You're always owing and clinging to the place where you can get some food now and then. You're really not fit to be anything else—and in the farm country they don't let you forget it. And you don't—and you stay a migrant—and your children and your children's children are migrants.

It's a big question, says Dr. Kareles and many agree with him. No other American, not even the Indians, are worse off than the migrants. And there are about 3 million of them and their family members forever traveling in America.

It's the shame of America, says Dr. Kareles. And here in Florida we do our best to try to add to that shame.

We, by doing nothing about it, believe in this man's inhumanity to man. It's extraordinary, says Dr. Kareles.

All these nice, decent people around here. It's just simply extraordinary . . .

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 1969]

McGOVERN: "HUNGER KNOWS NO POLITICS"

Sen. George McGovern said yesterday that the chief spokesman for the Nixon Administration had allied himself with those who refuse to "face up to the problems of hunger."

McGovern, in a statement, rejected a charge by Herbert G. Klein, President Nixon's communications director, that he and his Senate committee investigating hunger were playing politics with the issue.

"Hunger knows no politics," McGovern said. "Mr. Klein seems to be alining himself with those few of Florida's state and local officials who refuse to face up to the problem of hunger and who react defensively to the fact that our committee has turned the public spotlight on an outrageous situation—the existence of hunger in the world's richest Nation."

In a speech Saturday to the annual Young Republican Leadership School, Klein said everyone is concerned about hunger but that the problem will not be solved "by traipsing around the country with television cameras"—a reference to McGovern's committee hearings in Florida.

[From the National Observer, Mar. 17, 1969]

THE HUNGER CRUSADE: HOW THE SENATORS SEARCHED FOR MALNUTRITION

(By Jude Wanniski)

The caravan of 30 cars that left the Holiday Inn motel at 8:30 a.m. was embarking on a crusade. In the lead was Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, directing a two-day search for hunger and malnutrition in the two counties at the northern edge of the Everglades. The entourage included newsmen, local officials, and four other members of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human

Needs, the panel formed last year to take jurisdiction over "hunger," the hottest current social-action issue in Congress.

Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives are rushing to this latest "pop issue." It springs from the idea that while poverty is a long-range problem, hunger can be tackled more neatly and quickly.

DRAMA, NOT EXPERTISE, ACCENTUATED

"The game plan," says Senator McGovern, "is to take these field trips to all regions of the country, arousing the national conscience." Then, he figures, leverage will be exerted to pry an extra \$1-billion for Federal food programs from the Nixon Administration, doubling the current outlay. Congressional Republicans, he believes, will not want the Democrats to exploit this issue, and therefore will push for a maximum budget increase themselves. With this kind of politics in the air, the McGovern caravan candidly had as its prime interest drama and publicity, not scientific thoroughness. There was no doctor or nutritionist aboard, for example. And at lengthy hearings, first in the farm town of Immokalee, then in Fort Myers, witnesses who complained of their plight were heard at length. Rebuttal witnesses often were required to summarize their statements as the committee seemed to run out of time.

Not that it would have done local officials much good if they had more time to defend themselves. Against the squalor witnessed by the senators, no explanation apparently would have sufficed. The senatorial panel plainly was in no mood for debate.

In the mornings, in bright sunshine, the caravan traveled to the meanest migrant camps its advance men could find, places like Comber's Camp, Booker's Alley, Harry's Camp, squalid \$10-a-week quarters occupied by Negro and Latin-American families.

The senators, crowded by the entourage of television cameramen, went from hotel to shack, sometimes stunned, sometimes sickened, often furiously outspoken.

"These shacks are fit for pigs or chickens," raged Sen. Jacob Javits, New York Republican, who wore Army boots with his business suit. "In the slums of Harlem the people at least have inside plumbing," a crack that brought hoots from the defenders of Immokalee. Mr. McGovern winced at the Javits remark.

Sen. Marlow Cook, Kentucky Republican, at first said he thought the committee was "spinning its wheels" by taking such field trips. But on the way back to Washington, he admitted he hadn't been able to sleep well the night before, troubled by conditions he had seen during the say.

THE STENCH IN DARK ROOMS

Sen. Walter Mondale, Minnesota Democrat, and Sen. Robert J. Dole, Kansas Republican, staggered from the stench they encountered in the dark, cramped rooms of Mrs. Altames Jackson, whose husband supports her and eight children on income as a field hand of about \$1,500 a year. Sen. Allen Ellender, Louisiana Democrat, at first complained that the committee was misrepresenting Florida by focusing on its meanest conditions. But he softened his objections as the quarters he viewed progressed in wretchedness.

"We have seen diets and living conditions these past two days," Mr. McGovern summed up, "that one might expect to find in Asia, not in America. Most of the cattle and hogs in America are better fed and sheltered than the families we have visited in these two counties."

This was a slight exaggeration. The group did find abysmal housing and sanitation, but no genuine hunger or blatant malnutrition. When women told the senators what they ate and what they fed their children, the senators could assume, however, that their diets were unsatisfactory. Both counties appear to have adequate school breakfast and lunch programs. And Lee County, in which Fort Myers is located, participates in the Federal surplus-commodity distribution program on a limited scale.

The committee was originally drawn to Immokalee and Collier County by the report *Hunger, USA*, issued by a private group early last year. The report suggested there was widespread malnutrition in the area, especially among migrant laborers.

MIGRANTS ARE "FEDERAL PEOPLE"

The Collier County Commission, however, was not impressed with the report and continued to refuse participation in a Federal surplus-food program. The

county's permanent population is 27,700, and its peak migrant population is 22,000. Ewell F. Moore, a county commissioner, insists the migrants are "Federal people," since they move across state boundaries in following the crops, and so they are not his county's responsibility.

The senators were openly incensed by Mr. Moore's distinction. The commissioners have argued that they "take care of their own," and now Mr. Moore was drawing a line between Collier's "own" and the migrants. Besides, the Federal food is free, the county need pay only for distribution. But Mr. Moore, and some others in the county, seemed to fear that if a significant welfare hand is extended to the migrants they will choose to remain year round in Immokalee instead of moving north with the migrant stream. Their labor is needed only four months of the year.

Under pressure from the senate panel, County Commission Chairman Lester Whitaker finally agreed to "take a look" at the Food Stamp program when it becomes available in Florida. The state has delayed getting into this program. Many counties have resisted surplus food after protests from grocers who fear loss of trade because of the direct giveaway.

WITHERING BLASTS FROM JAVITS

Claude Kirk, Florida's Republican governor, glumly sat through the hearings, puffing on a pipe. He risked statements a few times only to suffer blasts from Senator Javits and Senator Mondale, who believe Governor Kirk should have exerted more influence to bring Collier County into the surplus-food program.

At the conclusion of the hearing in a Fort Myers' recreation center, Mr. Kirk chided the committee for posturing as if it had the monopoly on social conscience, pulled out some freshly drawn charts, and suggested a 12-state governor's compact to serve the migrant stream in a Federal-state effort. The panel brusquely dismissed him after Mr. McGovern made a faint show of welcoming the governor's suggestion. In Tallahassee the following day, Mr. Kirk put a long-distance blast on the committee: "We are all growing tired of seeing the poor among us used as pawns in political publicity gimmicks."

The population of Lee county is \$3,200 and almost a third consists of families with an annual income of less than \$3,000. It has a Federal food-surplus program. Nevertheless, on their tour of Fort Myers, the senators again found miserably poor families who had either never heard of the program or had been turned down by County Welfare Director John Craft.

Mr. Craft indicated that he insists upon documentary proof of abject poverty before handing out the free Federal food. Nor will Mr. Craft or his aides make a home visit, which is enough under Florida law to qualify a family for free food if the conditions are obviously miserable.

"THESE POOR DON'T COME TO CHURCH"

Julian Hudson, chairman of the county commission, apparently believed Mr. Craft was serving 4,600 families a month, rather than a scant 450. The local president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), who is also pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church, brushed aside suggestions from Senator Dole that he perhaps has a responsibility to get word out to the poor that free food is available. "These poor don't come to church," the minister replied.

The hunger crusade, in a way, was baptized in these two Florida counties. It was the place, at least, where the rhetoric of hunger politics got a chance at some needed refinement. And some tentative conclusions might be drawn:

Mr. Kirk may have been laggard in bringing food stamps to Florida. Doubtless more of his energies could have been spent on ridding his state of places like Harry's Camp and Booker's Alley. But his idea of a 12-state compact to service the migrant stream is not a bad one. At least that was the only fresh approach offered at the hearings.

The caravan's goal is to build a national issue, to pull a mandate from the White House, to channel more of the nation's resources toward fighting hunger. Mr. McGovern seems to think a good move has been made in that direction, and he is probably right. There was direct benefit too. Mr. Craft may ease up on his guidelines. Immokalee will "take a look" at Federal food stamps. And Senator Mondale made sure Mrs. Altames Jackson's toilet was unplugged.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 18, 1969]

**\$1 BILLION SOUGHT TO ATTACK HUNGER—URBAN COUNCIL ASKS NIXON FOR FUNDS
IN ADDITION TO \$1.5 BILLION JOHNSON PLAN**

(By Robert B. Semple, Jr.)

WASHINGTON.—President Nixon has been presented with recommendations calling for new Federal spending of at least \$1-billion over the next four years to attack hunger.

According to Administration sources, the recommendations were contained in a report on hunger delivered to the President today at a morning meeting of his Urban Affairs Council.

The 26-page document offers several alternative plans for approaching the problems of hunger and malnutrition, which afflict at least 10 million Americans, according to the most widely used estimates.

The President said that he would study the report and probably use it as the basis for his recommendations to Congress. These recommendations are expected "within six weeks," according to one Administration source.

Sources said that the recommended \$1-billion would be in addition to funds already proposed by President Johnson.

Mr. Johnson called for appropriations of slightly more than \$1.5-billion for food and nutritional programs for the fiscal year 1970, which begins July 1. The major ones were as follows:

Food stamps, \$350-million.

Child nutrition—a consolidation of existing and new programs, such as school lunch, day care feeding and school breakfasts—\$367.4-million.

Direct distribution of Federal surplus commodities to needy families, \$350-million.

Distribution of Federal commodities to school lunch programs, \$276-million.

Special nutritional supplements, \$34.5-million.

Direct distribution of food to welfare institutions, \$63-million.

White House sources would not go into the new recommendations in detail, except to say that the food stamp program would probably be expanded and liberalized and new emphasis placed on "educating" the poor about dietary needs and ways to achieve a balanced diet on a small budget.

The chairman of the subcommittee that made the recommendations is Clifford M. Hardin, the Secretary of Agriculture. The other members are Robert H. Finch, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of Commerce.

Staff help was obtained from all of these agencies in preparing the report and from the Budget Bureau and the Urban Affairs Council.

On Feb. 21, Mr. Hardin announced that Federal food stamps were to be issued free to persons with incomes of under \$30 a month in Beaufort and Jasper Counties in South Carolina. It was the first free distribution of food stamps since the program was authorized by Congress in the Food Stamp Act of 1964.

In a related development, Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, issued an oblique criticism of remarks on the hunger issue made over the weekend by Herbert G. Klein, Mr. Nixon's communications director.

Addressing the annual Young Republican leadership school, Mr. Klein said that some Democrats had tried to play politics with hunger, particularly Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota. Mr. McGovern recently completed a well-publicized tour of hunger-stricken areas.

The problem of Hunger, Mr. Klein asserted, will not be solved "by traipsing around the country with television cameras."

In a statement issued yesterday but largely ignored, Mr. McGovern retaliated by saying that "hunger knows no politics."

[From the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Apr. 9, 1969]

BOARD IS TOLD GOVERNMENT MUST OPERATE FOOD PLAN

(By Fred Winter)

NAPLES.—The federal government has told Collier County, food stamp program administration cannot be delegated to non-government bodies.

The commission wrote the Consumer and Marketing Service of the Depart-

ment of Agriculture last month, asking that, "if food assistance is to be given to low income families in Collier County, such assistance be made through the food stamp program."

Additionally the request asked "if the food stamp program is made available, it be administered by the Immokalee Migrant Committee Inc."

Administrative responsibility for the food stamp program on the state and local level is delegated to the state and local welfare agencies," responded Howard P. Davis, deputy administrator for consumer food programs.

"Therefore," he said, "the administrative responsibility cannot be delegated to another group or organization."

He also said that before the program can be begun, "local officials must request it from the state welfare agency who must then ask for it from the Department of Agriculture on behalf of those local areas in which it wishes to administer the program."

"I'm pleased to find out how that's really handled" commented Commissioner Ewell Moore.

"I don't want to let these people push me into this," said Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock.

"We would have no way of controlling (what stamp recipients do with the food stamps)," said Commissioner Cliff Wenzel, "they might just trade them to buy wine."

"Even if they did," said Hancock, "we couldn't deny them the commodities." Davis, in his letter, said his agency does "not have a request on file on behalf of Collier County by the Florida State Department of Welfare.

"In the meantime," his letter says, "the commodity distribution program is immediately available and county officials in Collier County may apply to the state to make arrangements to enter it.

"Under this program, USDA-purchased foods are donated to households in need of them."

Collier commissioners have taken the stand in the past that initial expenses of storage and costs of administration would be too expensive to handle a commodities program here.

The current discussions on food stamp and commodities programs spring from the March 10 visit of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Local area officials reacted sharply against what they termed "a misrepresentation" of the facts of the lives of agricultural workers in the Immokalee area.

During the visit of the senators, Governor Claude Kirk defended Collier's stand against adopting the federal government's food stamp program.

But Collier commissioners agreed Tuesday they are not closing the door to federal food assistance, but are maintaining their position that "We want it done right, so the ones in need get the food."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Apr. 16, 1969]

FOOD STAMPS DISCUSSED: SEND SURPLUS TO MIAMI, COMMISSIONER SUGGESTS

(By Tom Morgan)

EAST NAPLES.—A discussion Tuesday of a food stamp program for Collier County brought a suggestion from County Commissioner Jack Kurke that surplus farm crops here be taken to Miami's Liberty City to feed poor people there.

Collier got unfavorable national publicity several weeks ago when a Senate investigating committee headed by Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota claimed to find "widespread hunger and malnutrition" among migrant workers, some of whom said they couldn't get but a few days' work weekly.

"I've been working in the packing house myself so short of help," Commissioner Ewell F. Moore said. "I'm sorry that Vero Beach sent a load of fish over to Immokalee. They found there was no place to give them, there were no hungry."

"We don't have to ask for food," added Vice Chairman A. C. Hancock. "They poke it down our mouths."

Moore said that migrants "took one look at the gift fish and found they weren't dressed and ready for the pan so they didn't take them."

Kurke said the vegetables "now rotting in the fields for lack of help to pick them should be taken to Liberty City where they need food, or to the Indians of South Dakota."

Sen. McGovern admitted at Immokalee that the Rosebud Sioux were in need in his state. South Dakota welfare groups, seeking donations in a mail campaign that has reached into Collier, have said the Sioux there have a \$600 annual average income. McGovern said migrants here have a \$1,239 annual average income.

"I was in Immokalee on Friday and Saturday," Kurke said. "They are desperate for help in the packing houses and there were plenty of people awake at 2 a.m. But they were in the bars and not working. They should have been sleeping so they could go to work in the morning."

In the discussion of the federal aid food stamp program, the board said that the stamps are not possible because neither state nor federal funds are available to support them.

"I'd rather have the 'green stamps' myself," Kurke said, "but it's a long term project because you have to teach the kids how to use the foods. The parents don't know how to use them as they didn't know how to use the fish. They like fish but they don't know how to clean them."

"Where we control the aid," Moore added, "is the only kind of program I'm willing to go along with in this county."

Mrs. Hazel Griffin, county welfare director, said on the last welfare check the county issued "they took the groceries and sold them to buy wine—so we quit giving them."

Mrs. Griffin said not more than three food orders had been given by the county in recent weeks.

In another aspect of the migrant problem, Dr. Charles Bradley, head of the county health department, said that a U.S. Public Health Service doctor is starting work this week on a two-day-week basis in Immokalee. He said that nothing more has been heard of a \$20,000 migrant health service grant supposed to be available for hiring a full-time resident physician in Immokalee.

"We have had nothing in writing about the grant offered to us," Dr. Bradley said, "I'd like somebody to put his John Hancock on something about this migrant health project."

[From the Miami (Fla.) Herald, Apr. 17, 1969]

COUNTY GROUP ASKS FUNDS TO REPLACE MIGRANT AID UNIT

(By Clarence Jones)

WASHINGTON.—Opponents of the controversial South Florida Migrant Legal Services Inc. got together here Wednesday with a counter-proposal and asked the Office of Economic Opportunity to finance their plan.

The formation of Six County Migrant and Legal Aid Inc. has the backing of bar associations in the six counties, the Florida Bar Association, Gov. Claude Kirk and Rep. Paul Rogers of West Palm Beach.

The counties included in the proposal are Palm Beach, Broward, Hendry, Glades, Lee and Collier.

Palm Beach Bar Association President Gavin Letts came to Washington personally to file the application for federal financing at OEO. With him was Buddy McWilliams, director of migrant affairs for Gov. Kirk.

Notice of the application was released by Rogers' office, and the president of the new corporation is Marshal M. Criser, current president of the Florida Bar Association.

The new group of attorneys wants to replace the present migrant service which has for the past two years sought out migrant workers with complaints then represented them in court action against farmers in the area.

Opposition to the migrant service boiled over last month when a group of U.S. senators toured migrant labor camps looking for signs of malnutrition and hunger. The lawyers financed by the poverty program had arranged the tour.

Both Rogers and Kirk were angered over the nationwide publicity that showed squalid living conditions in Florida.

