

earned \$1,432. Year-round farm workers, those with more than 250 days of farm employment, earned \$2,560 for an average of 321 days of work, and in 1964 there were about 300,000 such workers. One other significant group was made up of migratory farm workers. Numbering approximately 386,000, they had average daily earnings of \$8.95, and yearly earnings of \$782 for 87 days work. Significantly, of the total farm labor force of 3.4 million, about 40 percent did both farm and nonfarm work, averaging 98 days of nonfarm wage work, 49 days of farm wage work, and total earnings of \$1,379. Those workers who did farm work only were employed about 100 days and earned \$698.

This capsule summary of the hired farm work force describes a very heterogeneous group which has varying degrees of affiliation with the agricultural sector of the economy. The data listed above also clearly indicate the extremely low income of farm workers.

Each placement made by the Farm Labor Service has a direct effect on the personal income of the persons served. Migratory farm workers, a group that has been described as *the forgotten people*, are aided directly by Farm Labor Service programs. In addition to the Annual Worker Plan, which is primarily concerned with providing continuity of employment, the Farm Labor Service, through regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor, provides some assurance that the jobs in which workers are placed through the interstate clearance process of the Employment Service meet certain minimum standards. These workers receive almost no protection under the social welfare legislation applicable to nonfarm workers. But they are not referred to jobs unless farm employers offer wage rates at least as high as those prevailing in the area of employment. And employers are required to provide decent housing, and free transportation if this is the prevailing practice in the area. The interstate clearance regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor are one of the few Government programs that afford some protection to migratory workers, and indirectly the wages and working conditions of all hired farm workers are improved.

During the summer months the Farm Labor Service operates special job programs for youth on school vacations. This is a service of extreme importance to these young people because farm employment in many instances is the only possible source of income in the local area for them. Some out-of-area youth programs are also administered by the Farm Labor Service. High school juniors and seniors and college youth are recruited for employment away from home, for jobs that meet certain minimal standards.

Farm training programs that upgrade the job skills of agricultural workers have a significant effect on both their personal incomes and the overall distribution of personal income. Increasingly, agriculture is becoming more mechanized. Entire crops in some States are harvested by machines and the use of herbicides, improved seeds and fertilizers have intensified the demand for skilled workers, although in smaller numbers. Training programs provide farm workers with the skills that will be increasingly in demand in future years.

The policy of the Department to cut back employment of foreign farm laborers (a policy originating in the Congressional action to terminate the Mexican labor importation program) has had the very