

Mrs. HUERTA. I wish that they would give them to you but, as Mr. Chavez says, they will not make them public. They sent us one letter in which they said they were very satisfied with the work force. I am sure they won't say this publicly because they are afraid of the other growers.

They did continue the contract for another year and said they were very satisfied. It is really commonsense. For instance, they had about 300 workers in their camps in April 1965 and these workers were being charged \$2.50 board and room a day. In 1966, after the union contract agreement, they only had 12 workers in the camp and all the rest of the workers were local people.

See, the company had had to pay out maintenance on the camps and they had to pay a camp operator; they had to pay the cooks and all these other expenses that come in when they have to run a boarding operation.

Of course, the workers were also working for those expenses and the worker also was paying \$2.50 a day out of his paycheck to keep that operation going. All this was eliminated when the union came in.

Furthermore, we know they were paying the labor contractor something like \$18 a ton for grapes, to have the grapes picked. Now they end up paying the worker only about, say, \$12, \$6 a ton less and the worker can make a much better wage and it costs the company less money. Growers have been negative in that. They say, "We know it is not going to work," and they refuse to talk to the union. They don't see the sensible aspect of unionization.

So, as long as they have this attitude, and it is hard to get to them, they won't meet with us and they won't meet with us because they have already said so many terrible things about us that they feel they are losing face if they do meet with us. But they are severely handicapped because they don't have any support.

Now, if we were covered under the NLRB, we could use the services of the Federal Mediation Service that has some authority in adjudicating unfair labor practices, on telling what they can and cannot do. The State conciliation service isn't enough. It can only act if all the parties are in complete agreement. Even if we had only one Federal mediator that would come to Delano and then talk to the growers and try to get them to meet with us, I am sure a lot of this would be over and maybe would have been over a year ago.

Now, if we don't get some kind of assistance in this area, we will probably continue for another year with the strike. The longer it goes the harder people's positions become. Of course, we have to present our case to the public and ask them to help us. So, then you know it really becomes a communitywide thing in terms of people taking sides.

Mr. THOMPSON. What is the population of Delano?

Mrs. HUERTA. It is 16,000.

Mr. THOMPSON. 16,000?

Mrs. HUERTA. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. And there still exists this incredible hostility to the workers and to the unions; is that correct?

Mrs. HUERTA. Yes; very much so.

Mr. THOMPSON. Yet, you have had a tremendous amount of support, have you not, not only from the AFL-CIO and the autoworkers but also from the clergy of various denominations?