

Mrs. HUERTA. Yes; that is true. In fact, the clergy has been acting as a mediator in our Perelli-Minetti dispute in trying to get us together with the company, but again it is very awkward. We notice the difference quite a bit in a meeting we had with the clergy and Perelli-Minetti as against the meetings we had with Mr. DiGiorgio.

When you have somebody that knows labor and they know arbitration procedures and other procedures, there is a tremendous amount of difference that is established for negotiations. So, you need someone that knows something about labor to be able to come in. I think that their assistance would be invaluable because, as I say, the growers say, "We don't want to talk with Chavez and his gang; they are a bunch of agitators running boycotts," but if you had some other third person that could come in, they could speak through that party to us.

Mr. THOMPSON. We are going to hear more about that because we are going to have Mr. Haughton here as well as Mr. Fields, the Executive Secretary of the NLRB.

Mrs. HUERTA. I guess that is about all that I have to say on the contracts. Maybe one of the others could say something.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Albert, do you have any questions?

Mr. ALBERT. I think you have a very informed and articulate statement, Mrs. Huerta; very enthusiastic. Your testimony has been very good.

Mrs. HUERTA. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. THOMPSON. Tell us something about yourself. What is your educational background?

Mrs. HUERTA. Well, I have had some college and I worked in the Stockton area in various kinds of jobs. One time I worked for the sheriff's office and as a schoolteacher. I became interested in the farm labor problem through the Community Service Organization which Mr. Fred Ross was organizing. I think Mr. Padilla and Mr. Chavez and myself all came out of that organization which was a civic action group for Spanish-speaking people.

As I say, we found there that although a lot could be gained through legislation if we had people like Congressman Burton fighting for you and wanting them to cure some of the symptoms of the ills—the fact was that people didn't have enough money in their pockets and therefore, regardless of how much we did in the civil rights area or in legislation, we could never cure the real problem.

This is where I became interested in farm labor organizing. When Mr. Chavez started this group, he asked if I would help him and I was very honored to do so.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Chairman, while Mrs. Huerta is talking about discrimination against those of Spanish origin, I should think that in her case the only discrimination would be from those who discriminate in taste.

Mr. THOMPSON. Very nicely put.

Mrs. HUERTA. It is really a discrimination against the poor because you find when you are working in the community and you put the shoes on the people that are the subject of discrimination, you have to kind of be hit with it a few times to really appreciate how terrible it makes a person feel, and I am talking about just discrimination against the poor, period.