

completed in advance of the arbitration. I think he did a tremendous job.

Our next two witnesses are Gilbert Padilla, who is in charge of organizing in Rio Grande City, Tex., and Domingo Arredondo, who is one of the striking workers.

**STATEMENT OF GILBERT PADILLA, DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION,
UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO,
RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX.**

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. THOMPSON. Before you start, Mr. Padilla, tell us something about yourself. Where are you from?

Mr. PADILLA. I am from California. I came down in January to Rio Grande City to help the strikers in Rio Grande City in Texas.

Mr. THOMPSON. What are they trying to do there?

Mr. PADILLA. They have a little problem in Texas, something like the strike of nine growers.

Mr. THOMPSON. What is this little problem in Texas?

Mr. PADILLA. I would like to tell you about it and I would like to tell you what I have seen since my stay in Texas and then I will also tell you some of the things that happened when we walked out on the strike.

The atmosphere in Texas is completely different than in California. The strike started on June 1, 1966, with one of the biggest growers in Starr County, which is La Casita Farms.

Mr. THOMPSON. What crops are involved?

Mr. PADILLA. La Casita has melons, onions, potatoes, peppers, celery, and lettuce.

What happened in Texas should never happen again in the United States. Immediately after the walkout of the workers—several hundred walked out in Starr County, Tex.—the deputy sheriff deputized the growers. A week later, with the assistance of the sheriff, the growers recruited green-card carriers from the Mexican towns adjoining the United States which are Ciudad Mequil Aleman and Ciudad Camargo and brought them in to break the strike. How they did it, to bring the strikebreakers in, was to have buses drive up to the International Bridge and park and let the workers walk across the bridge from Mexico with the protection of the sheriff.

Mr. THOMPSON. And they have green cards.

Mr. PADILLA. They have green cards.

Mr. THOMPSON. In other words, Mexican nationals are being used as workers during strikes?

Mr. PADILLA. Right.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you know of any instances where the growers have told the Mexican citizens that because they were Mexican they could not strike?

Mr. PADILLA. Yes. In many instances most all of them have been told that they could not strike, that it was against the law, that they were not citizens. They were told that they had gotten their green cards legally and they should abide by the laws, and not to come here and get in any kind of a dispute. As a matter of fact, they have been told that they cannot vote even in an election of the workers.