

Mr. PADILLA. Forty-five minutes later he arrested the minister and he was also charged—

Mr. THOMPSON. Why did they wait?

Mr. PADILLA. What?

Mr. THOMPSON. Why did they wait?

Mr. PADILLA. They didn't know what to do with him.

Mr. THOMPSON. I see.

Mr. PADILLA. After they got him, they found out he was a minister, they had him locked up. They arrested him at 10 o'clock at night and it took them until 11 o'clock the next day to figure out a charge. Finally, it was disturbing the peace. I kept saying I was not disturbing the peace, I was just praying; the courthouse was closed for business and there was no employee in there doing business that I could distract. So Mr. Nye filed a charge that I disturbed the janitor on the third floor from performing his duties.

Mr. THOMPSON. Why? Did he want to kneel when you prayed?

Mr. PADILLA. I suppose he wanted to pray with us.

Mr. THOMPSON. I see.

Mr. PADILLA. In any event—

Mr. THOMPSON. I wonder how much he was being paid an hour?

Mr. PADILLA. I would hate to say that.

Mr. THOMPSON. You know, we do not put our witnesses under oath but just informally are you telling me the truth?

Mr. PADILLA. I am telling you the truth and I swear it on a stack of Bibles. I know nobody could believe me so I have brought something to show my charges.

Mr. THOMPSON. I find it hard to believe.

Mr. PADILLA. I know it is hard to believe but it is true.

Mr. THOMPSON. I believe you.

Mr. PADILLA. Now I think and I know that if we have an election now in Starr County with the people who have been oppressed for so many years, we will prove that the process of voting, the democratic process of doing things quietly and nonviolently, works.

Recently we had an election in the packingshed, the only packingshed in the county that is covered under the National Labor Relations Act. We petitioned for the election and there were 36 employees involved. In spite of the harassment of the power structure, in spite of the harassment of the courthouse people who were going to the workers and telling them not to vote for the union, in spite of the fact that the company hired a special superintendent to work against the union, to tell them not to vote for the union, despite the fact that they put a sample ballot on the wall marked "No," on the date of the election, when the odds were against us very heavily, we still wanted to go ahead just to prove that people can vote and people want the union. The day of the election the deputy sheriffs were there, Mr. Randall Nye, the county counsel was there representing the company, the superintendent—

Mr. THOMPSON. Wait. Is this the doctor again?

Mr. PADILLA. No, this is the county counsel; he has not got his M.D.

The superintendent who had been campaigning against the union was in the polling place and even despite the fact that they offered the workers higher wages—they had never seen this in Starr County before the strike—of 50 cents an hour in the shed so they were getting