

STATEMENT OF DOMINGO ARREDONDO, CHAIRMAN, UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO, RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX.

Mr. ARREDONDO. Mr. Chairman, my name is Domingo Arredondo. I was born and raised in Rio Grande City, Tex., County of Starr, and I went out on strike. I joined the strike organization and since then many things have been happening in Starr County or in Rio Grande City. Like you said, some arrests were for secondary picketing. Eight days before an election they had in Starr County for—I don't know what the election was going to be all about. Anyway, the deputy sheriffs went to our picket line. We talked to them, we asked them, "Are we on the right procedure? Are we violating any law?"

"Oh, no, no, no; you are doing perfectly all right, just don't go into anybody's property, just stay where you are and nobody will harm you."

Mr. THOMPSON. Who were the deputy sheriffs? Were they growers?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Well, we got growers deputized.

Mr. THOMPSON. Were they wearing a badge?

Mr. ARREDONDO. I think they wear secret badges. Anyway, they carry pistols on their hip.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you carry a pistol?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Pardon?

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you carry a pistol?

Mr. ARREDONDO. When I am on my farm I shoot rabbits with a pistol.

Mr. THOMPSON. You shoot rabbits with a pistol?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. You must be a good shot.

Mr. ARREDONDO. No, I always miss when I shoot.

Anyway, we kept our picket line on the right spot all the time so we could not violate any law by being on private property or anything like that. Anyway, we were very happy about the law telling all that we were on the right spot. It made us think and believe that they were for us but they acted that way because that election was going to take place either on the 1st or 2d of November, sometime in there. So they acted real nice with us during those days before the election. After the election was over and they realized that they were turned down they started making the arrests for secondary picketing.

Mr. THOMPSON. When was this, what date?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Of the arrests, that must have been around the 8th or 9th of November.

Mr. THOMPSON. 1966?

Mr. ARREDONDO. 1966, right.

Mr. THOMPSON. Were you arrested?

Mr. ARREDONDO. I was arrested; yes, sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. Were you taken to jail?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Yes, sir; I was placed in jail.

Mr. THOMPSON. Did you have to make bond?

Mr. ARREDONDO. Yes, sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. One hundred and fifty dollars?

Mr. ARREDONDO. No, I think that time it went to a thousand dollars.

Mr. THOMPSON. A thousand dollars?