

the opportunity that you want. All you want is to have an opportunity to make a little bit better way for your family.

Mr. ARREDONDO. That is right.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mrs. Huerta.

Mrs. HUERTA. The next witness will be Assistant Director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, Mr. Larry Itliong who is in a great way responsible for the whole farm labor struggle.

STATEMENT OF LARRY ITLIONG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO, DELANO, CALIF.

Mr. ITLIONG. Mr. Chairman, I want to tell you a little something about myself so you will understand my concern on behalf of the plight and hardship of the farmworkers of our country.

I am a Filipino American. I came to this country in 1929. My ambition at that time was to go to the American schools thinking that I would get a better education in this country. When I left the Philippines I was 15 years old and I went through the sixth grade.

At the time when I came here, that was the beginning of the great depression during the thirties. I didn't know there were such things as the depression. I am the son of a farmer, a small farmer in the Philippines and I never did know what hunger was until I came to this country.

Mr. THOMPSON. From which island were you?

Mr. ITLIONG. From Luzon.

Mr. THOMPSON. Luzon.

Mr. ITLIONG. Yes.

I arrived in this country in April of 1929. At that time I arrived in the State of Washington and it was hard to look for a job. Some people were recruiting workers to go to work in Montana to work as sugar beet workers. They recruited us about the end of April to go and work in the beet fields of Montana. The people that recruited us said that we were going to be working in about a week after we arrived in Montana.

Well, we came to find out that after we arrived in Sidney, Mont., the beets were not even planted yet and it was not until June that we were able to do any kind of a job and it only lasted about 5 weeks. The planting took less than 5 weeks. While we were there we were being boarded, charged with rent at the camp at which we were staying, so when we got out I think I made about \$27.

We were brought to Montana for free transportation but after we finished cutting if we wanted to go back to Seattle, Wash., we had to pay for our fare. So quite a chunk of my \$27 was taken out of that pay for transportation. I went back to Seattle.

I looked for another job and went to work for the railroad. I made a few dollars while working for the railroad before I got into an accident riding the freight train and that is where I lost three of my fingers on my right hand.

I went back to Seattle, Wash., and I happened to get a job picking tomatoes on one of the big ranches in Monroe, Wash. I was not there a couple of weeks when they had a strike in that particular ranch.