

But that doesn't make the second problem any easier to take. Nor does it excuse the runaway companies from their fast buck approach. More than anything, it points up the fact that localized, self-interest, exploitative approaches to unemployment hurt all workers and the only sound programs are those which meet the needs of all workers.

In a recent television program on the unspoiled wonders of Baja, California, naturalist Joseph Wood Krutch noted that this area of Mexico is inching into the modern world and the changes are not necessarily for the better. His final comment was: "I flatter myself that I value Baja for what it is and not for what I might find exploitable there."

That seems a good approach to nature.

And to people.

[From the IUE News, May 30, 1968]

AFL-CIO PRESSES ACTION ON GREEN CARDS, PRONAF

Employer exploitation of cheap Mexican labor on both sides of the U.S. Mexican border is under stepped-up attack by the labor movement.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council this month adapted a resolution against two government-aided programs under which Mexican workers are being exploited in ways that hurt U.S. and other Mexican workers. The resolution was prepared by the council's 4-man committee on border problems, of which IUE President Paul Jennings is a member.

In connection with the PRONAF program under which the Mexican government is luring runaway U.S. shops to its border areas, the AFL-CIO resolution called for cooperation with Mexican unions to seek Mexican minimum wages nearer U.S. levels; changes in the U.S. regulations that permit the runaway to ship into this country at bargain tariff rates; taxes on capital export and profits under the program, and a trade agreement with Mexico to eliminate unfair competition with U.S. labor.

The resolution also declared that PRONAF hurts efforts both to improve the standard of living on the U.S. side of the border and to raise Mexican wage levels. "The only beneficiaries," it said, "are profit-hungry companies."

The resolution also dealt with the practice of bringing in Mexican "green card" workers, who commute to low-wage jobs in the U.S. on government-issued immigration cards.

Pointing out that the "green carders" have been used "to undermine organizing drives and to break legitimate strikes," the council urged that immigration authorities act to "prevent exploitation of Mexican commuters to undermine U.S. standards."

U.S.-MEXICAN CONFERENCE

Before drafting its recommendations, the committee met with the joint U.S.-Mexico trade union committee. The representatives agreed on a 13-point plan for protecting workers on both sides of the border and increasing union cooperation between the two nations.

Members of the AFL-CIO border committee included, in addition to President Jennings, Joseph Keenan of the IBEW, David Dubinsky of the Ladies Garment Workers and Jacob Potofsky of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON UNITED STATES-MEXICAN BORDER PROBLEMS

The statement issued last week following the meeting of the Joint U.S.-Mexican Trade Union Committee could not, because of the nature of the meeting, deal as candidly as we would like with pressing issues which confront the two labor movements. We agreed to establish a mixed committee for interchange of information and work for better labor conditions and to seek representation on Joint U.S.-Mexico Border Development Commission.

One issue is the use of Mexicans holding permanent resident alien status, but living in Mexico, to undermine U.S. working conditions across the border. These Mexicans—so-called "green carders"—by living in Mexico and working in the U.S. are largely beyond the reach of the trade union movement. Because of the differences in national living standards and costs, they have little motivation to participate in the struggle of their fellow workers in the U.S., most of them also of Mexican origin, to raise their living standards through collective bar-