THE MOVEMENT
Published by The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

Rent Strike Wins Contract With Slumlord

S. F. ALFANCITO -- A new, militant organization of tenants in the Black-Spanish district, the Neighborhood Federation Organization, won a major victory this month.

"The tenants of nine apartments owned by Mrs. Rose Frassonoff on the 106 block of Lyon Street returned the rent checks they had sent without reply until repairs were made, Mrs. Melissa Jackson, who lives at 858 Lyon with her husband and young son, delivered the demand for a rent

TENENT CITY IN LOWNDES COUNTY

"How do you handle that question?"

"We've been trying to squeeze them in with other families, and they've split up their families, Negroes don't control the resources of this country. it means that Negroes are seriously going to have to

LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA -- "One of the things we learned from Mississippi is that in Mississippi we did seek out coalitions -- and that's the price of coalitions is. We didn't seek in any area that the Negroes got evicted from the shorefront stores; they have no powers in that area. Those people have considered the Negroes as the other species.

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Editorial

VIETNAM

ONE MAN, ONE VOTE!

Talk About The War In Vietnam

The War on Poverty, in its legislative
manifestation, is the most significant
achievement of this White House in the
planning and implementation of program.
This legislation will become law and will
provide a new dimension of rights for the
poor, a dimension of dignity and respect
that should end the poverty of America,
and America's poor and demanding
the right to a full and decent place of
death and life in the land of the living.

More liberal supporters of the
movement are becoming more aware of
freedom and dignity are never given a people,
but are hard-won and dearly purchased.
The phrase "welfare colonialism" has come
to characterize all programs that the good
of the country is put first and the freedom
imposed on the community by an alien force.
Congress reluctantly recognized who
was right and who was wrong, but at a
poor cost. The civil rights movement, the
communists, membership or contributions
have been inessential on this principle
even when in specific cases they may
dismayed or one that a community deciding
for itself may make.

The increasing fear this principle has
completely paralyzed what is known as a
claw to their failure to understand a
clear related fact - that freedom and
democracy is the best posture for America.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Executive

John A. Morsell

[join]
TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF TURNS 20-CAR NFWA ROVING PICKET LINE. GEORGE BALLIS PHOTO

DELANO, CALIFORNIA - Many serious violations of the Welfare and Education Code were discovered last month by the National Farm Workers Association in an investigation conducted by the Tulare County Welfare Department.

The informal investigation was carried out by George Ballis, NFWA field manager and Ida Cousino, a volunteer working on welfare cases in the county.

The reason for the investigation was to find "why many of the NFWA's members who had been working all week were denied or discontinued... when they were qualified under state law." It didn't take long to find that the violations extended to non-NFWA members as well, in fact to everyone receiving Tulare County aid.

The violations, ranging from burying unclaimed bodies to aid for dying aid to persons who had no money to travel to welfare-required jobs, were of such a nature that Charles Chivers, NFWA Director, sent telegram to Governor Brown and the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington demanding immediate investigation of the Tulare County Welfare Department.

The NFWA investigation report documents 6 cases, and lists the violations incurred in each case, spells out the provisions of the welfare code, and makes specific recommendations for reform in the Department, TULARE COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

We quote from some of the sworn statements to the NFWA, and their findings.

"I, Manual Urbanday, made an application for AFDC at the Tulare County Welfare Department. He went the last time only because I had a driver's license. He was disqualified because he was under pressure from growers and I didn't have a driver's license. He was disqualified because he was under pressure from growers.

"The reason for the investigation was benefit by the delay and the NFWA would benefit by the eventual re-qualification of the welfare recipients. This way, Mr. Feud explained, he would be looked upon as a 'compromise.'"

**Useless Training**

In a January meeting with Work Project and Vocational Training Supervisor Mendoza, the NFWA discovered something about the community work projects.

There were 718 recipients available for 77 different community work projects, but only 298 were actually taking part. Mendoza claimed that these projects were to aid in the vocational training of the permanent, involved people. Most of that with the full cooperation of city, county, state and federal agencies, less than 2% of the people to "in" had been placed or hired in regular jobs.

"This percentage of success," the Representative said, "is of course very alarming to NFWA officials.

**Forced Labor**

"In the Delano strike," Mrs. Huerta said, "the people were in effect forced to take part in a community work project or a work-training project because they were getting little money. The people were getting little money from the government for nothing, and since he had nothing he had no choice."

"So there was no reason why these people shouldn't work for little money."

"Tulare County can well be considered a poverty-area, a poverty-area," the NFWA Representative said, "and has approximately 18,000 farm workers... 31% of the population. 27% of the population below the poverty line, 22% of the population living beneath $3,500 annually."

"The Tulare County Welfare Department is serving only 12% of the people considered eligible for work projects."

"Tulare County should be less concerned with the rising cost of welfare administration and more concerned with the restriction of poverty."
In the December issue of THE MOVEMENT we published an edited copy of some remarks by H. L. Mitchell, organizer of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the 1930's. We got this transcript from FARM LABOR magazine. It never occurred to us that Mitchell might still be around -- the '30's seem a long time ago for young people. H. L. Mitchell is thought still to exist, and he is the International Representative of the Flath, Snob, Agricultural and Allied Workers. Last week in Memphis, Mr. Mitchell read the December MOVEMENT and wrote to tell us he was interested in the work NFSA and the SNCC are doing in Delano.

We asked him about the Southern Tenant Farmers Union -- what happened to it.

"The STFU was a balanced, integrated union until World War II," says Mitchell. "When the War started, whites got jobs and Negroes didn't. After 1940 the union membership was 95' Negro. That did more than any of the Negro-baiting to break up the whites and Negroes in our union."

"We started out integrated, really there wasn't any place for whites to meet except in Negro homes. There wasn't that social antagonism in Arkansas at that time that exists in the South today."

"The STFU stayed independent after the War. We educated a national committee: Mrs. Roosevelt, and Norman Thomas. We had a hearing in Washington, D.C., where we called in congressmen and labor people. The result was the AFL-CIO put up the sign -- they had to come in and say they would organize farm labor."

"Then once they started, they wouldn't let me in it. A lot of the leadership in the AFL-CIO was trained by us."

Schonely Strike

"A few years after the Di Grego strike we had a strike against the Schonely Ranch in Delano. This one last two weeks. We tried to make a national boycott against Schonely, but we couldn't pull it off. Organized labor wouldn't support it. A Schonely Labor Relations man told me, 'You can't make a boycott against me if you'd like to.'"

"We just couldn't get those guys in the labor union to support agricultural workers organizing. At that time the Agricultural Workers were completely riddled -- riddled.

"I'll tell you, I'm very impressed by this guy Cesar Chavez. His program sounds like the Southern Tenant Farmers Union -- he's become involved with organized labor."

BROWN FACES PICTURES, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Farm Labor Policy

The statement adopted by the Convention was written in conjunction with NFSA representatives. Among other things, it called for:

* Repeal of the Social Security Act to cover farm workers.
* Passage of a state Labor Relations Act establishing an Administrative Board to deal exclusively with collective bargaining rights of agricultural workers.
* A state minimum wage of $2 as hour for all agricultural workers.
* Abolishment of the Farm Placement Service.
* Representatives from farm labor organizations to sit on all government agencies dealing with agricultural affairs.
* Strict enforcement of the 160-acre water limitation law.
* Full support of the Delano strikers.
* Support of the Schonely boycott.

POVERTY DIRECTOR DUSTOMED BY POOR

BY Fred Hirsch

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA -- The power structure of Santa Clara County, successful in keeping out national controversy concerning local war on poverty, is now clawing and scrambling to gain control.

A year ago the County Commission of Central Santa Clara County, the Establishment's tool for administering United Fund and other programs whose aim is a more bearable standard of poverty, initiated a War on Poverty commission. The County's holding the ball composed the program, and a board of 14 members most representing the community power structure, was set up to govern the program.

In the beginning there was a lone voice, that of Swat Swar, a local Negro attorney, calling for an enlarged Commission which would include the County Supervisor for his position grew. Organized labor and some Mexican-American organizations joined in efforts to enlarge the Commission and to put in a Director and Deputy Director who would be sympathetic to the real needs of the poor.

They lost the battle over the Director when Arthur Potts, the "safe" choice of the power structure, was handed control of the program.

The result was that the AFL-CIO were let me in it. A lot of the leadership in the County seemed to claim that any action the County Commission to make their bid.

They moved in executive session to receive cooperation from a new Director, Mr. Van Allen, who was special meeting to divide the County into three districts. A special meeting to enact a "vendido." They paid no attention to the latitude of poverty in the Mexican-Americans, the words which finally touched the fuse that started the Mexican-Americans can't touch me. They haven't got the political power to kill me."

A "Mexican-American Roundtable" was formed, including the American G.I. Forum, MAPIA (Mexican-American Political Association), COO (Community Organization Service Organization) and about ten other groups ranging from the conservative to radical and from social clubs to political factions. For the first time Mexican-Americans in Santa Clara County came together to take united social action. Although they are the largest minority in the country (12%), Santa Clara Latinos have until now had the strongest minority voice. The Roundtable structures of the city of San Jose and the County, and the County Commission which handed the program over to a Democratic administration.

When the walk-out took place, the NFSA pickets got swept up in the crowd, many of the picket leaders carrying former work signers and some of the strikers were impressed into service in the same demonstrations. This situation was unfortunate and since many of the strongest supporters of the picket line are anti-Mexican, Ray Greenway from Fresno, for example, a principle mover in the outcome, has done a lot to set the picket line in that direction.

The stark reality of the convention is heavily pro-strike.

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SPECIAL TO THE MOVEMENT

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To Get Ahead Of Unions

DON'T BUY CUTS PARK
I.W. Harper
Ancient Age

California growers would do well to take a leaf from the Hawaiian sugar industry, says one University of California agricultural scientist.

Dr. Frank E., Rotman, an agricultural scientist in El Centro, told growers, “I think the future is now. Your industry has a message for you.”

He recalled the labor strike in the island's cane sugar industry in 1911 and said the growers should be thinking about the industry's message for them.

Rotman, like many farmers, is convinced that growers can do more to help workers who are the “bread winners” of the state.

At 85 percent, according to a study done at the University of California, the farm labor force is better off than it was in the 1920's, although the percentage of workers who are unemployed has increased.

The average farm family earned $2.60 an hour in 1920, compared with $2.00 in 1966.

In its flights around the country the Lockheed, too, might have leveled attacks on Los Angeles, where so many companies could see how things are going with development in development Montages, or in Bakersfield, where thousands of cattle are being fattened for markets.

And that's only a portion of the picture...

Schenley Foiled Again... Guests Respect Picket

SALINAS FARM WORKERS march on Welfare Office.

California—Every year, the Schenley Corporation gives away two college scholarships to Negro students. The ceremony is called the “Old Charter Scholarship Luncheon.”

This year it took place last month in the Stearne auditorium. The event attracted a large audience of men and women protesting Schenley's arrogant refusal to negotiate with the farm workers who have set up pickets outside the labor recruitment buses.

In the past, the company had compelled workers to sign an agreement not to strike for two years, and that agreement had been reinstated.

The company has left for Atlanta, Georgia, to organize a new labor force, and the workers are picketing in front of Schenley's main office.

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THE BACKGROUND OF THE GREENVILLE AIR BASE LIVE-IN "We Have a Gun" Event

Following is an edited transcript of a press conference held at 6:30 AM on February 10, 1964, with the spokesmen for the Negroes who occupied the Greenville Air Force Base. They are Mr. Isaac Foster, Tribbett, a leader in last Spring's strike of plantation workers, Mrs. Unita Blackwell of Mayersville, a member of the Freedom Democratic Party executive committee, Mrs. Ida Mae Lawrence of Rosedale, chairman of a Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party state committee, and Rev. Arthur Thomas of Greenville, director of the Delta Ministry of the National Council of Churches.

MR. FOSTER: The people are going to set up at the tent city out at Tribbett and work on getting poor peoples to come and build a new city. Because of the fact that we was refused the building under the beaureau of housing of our own government.

MRS. BLACKWELL: I feel that the federal government has proven that it don't care about poor peoples. Everything that we have asked for through these years has been handed down on paper. It's never been a reality.

REPRESENTATIVE: That's what it is. We're tired of it so we're going to build for ourselves, because we don't have a government that represents us.

MRS. LAWRENCE: See, you can only accept poor peoples by being poor and really know what it is like being poor and all this stuff about poverty program and federal funds, that's out for poor peoples.

We were loaded upon just as a civil rights demonstration. But really we were there demanding and asking that these things be brought there to fill some desperate needs. And we was asking that the poor peoples he accepted as such. And instead of this being accepted, we was asked, we got the whole air force trooper in on it. To me, that's our government.

MRS. FOSTER: See, if you ask for a house, yes, well, we, our government give you a house. We don't want to be the idea for a lot of people to come and live around Tribbett or somewhere in particular. Would this be a big argument.

MRS. FOSTER: I know and you know that the tents are not going to stand forever. But we won't be surprised if it wouldn't start that way.

MR. FOSTER: We would also consider yourselves bound by the restraining order, the actions of county, state or federal law enforcement officers?

Tribbett, a leader in last Spring's strike of plantation workers, was asked to nominate the Negroes for the committee. Why weren't poor peoples? The conference drew up a list of demands: a commodity program because we know what being poor is like. And all this stuff about poverty programs and federal "We need to go there and set up one of our own government.

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MR. FOSTER: That's what we want. And being right by that air strip the government can fly in surplus commodities. For this purpose and begin funding the poverty program. Our program has the maximum feasible participation of the poor.

MR. FOSTER: We need to go there and set up one of our own government.

Let's get back to where we reformed to now being do at these three or four lessons camps, said one man.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MISSISSIPPI CHILD DEVELOPMENT GROUP?

Part 1: Working With the Children

We begin in this issue a three part article by Dr. Gerald Rosenfield of Berkeley, California, on a “noble experiment,” the attempt by the Negro poor of Mississippi to organize a summer program. Dr. Rosenfield analyzes why it failed to meet the expectations of many of those involved should be of interest to all who see the “War on Poverty” as part of the politics of America.

The entire article will be published together with a report by Tom Levin, Ph.D., director of the CDGM, in the KEY LIST MAILING, a publication of San Francisco SNCC.

The Child Development Group of Miss­issippi (CDGM) was one of the many anti-poverty programs funded by the federal government as part of the “War on Poverty.” The program was intended to help disadvantaged communities through education and organizing. However, the program faced numerous challenges and ultimately failed to achieve its goals.

In Mississippi, “poor” means Negro. “Though the poor would be invited to participate regardless of race,” it was expected that few whites would work with Negroes in the program. This was part of a larger strategy to maintain control over the Southern white state and local governments of Mississippi communities. The central administration office would be on the Mount Beulah campus of the Delta Ministry near Vicks­ville, Mississippi. The central office would keep the center schools and help organize, assist, and supply the local centers, but not run them. The local centers were to be organized and operated by the communities themselves, under the direction and supervision of each of the center schools, and run by the community’s elected board.

The teaching staff at each center would be composed of local people. No professional training was necessary. Each center would have a “resource teacher,” someone with professional teaching experience. For those communities where no qualified person was available, a resource teacher would be recruited from outside. A “teaching aide” would assist the teachers with health evalua­tions of the children and arrange follow-up treatment when indicated.

The Delta Ministry then divided the work. Levin went to New York to recruit center personnel and resources, the Delta Ministry people working in the state to find local people to organize local commu­nity meetings. The Delta Ministry also recruited people “representing a broad spectrum of res­ponsible community leadership as possible” to sit on the CDGM Board of Directors. It was necessary, under the terms of the Child Development Opportunity Act, to find a college or university to sponsor the program and act as an official recipient of the federal grant. Only projects sponsored by institutions of higher learning are exempt from this rule by the American Council on Education.

The Delta Ministry sent a letter to the American Council on Education saying that its proposal for a summer session for pre-school education of “disadvantaged” children was $1.2 million. This was the maximum feasible participation of the Negro communities in the War on Poverty. The maximum feasible participation was $12,000,000, the amount of the federal funds available.

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MR. NOVAK: You do think it was a factor?

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