



### Fate of U.S. POW's Their Concern

A plea for American POWs held by North Vietnam and the Vietcong — in Washington, Mrs. Sybil Stockdale of Coronado, Calif., spokesman for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing, and her associates are shown as they gathered to ask for a joint session of Congress on the prisoner of war in North Vietnam issue. (RNS Photo)

## U.S. Senator Scandalized By 'Migrant' Testimony

Washington — (NC) — Rodolfo Juarez went into the fields at age five — a migrant worker living in poverty and squalor, seeing little improvement over the years.

His familiar story of poor, bleak living and labor conditions facing most of the nation's million migrants was told here to Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.).

Mondale, who has been holding hearings about the migrant's situation, asked Juarez if things had gotten "substantially better" in recent years.

"No," Juarez told Mondale's subcommittee on migratory labor, "housing is not better, food is not more plentiful. With the migrant worker, you name it—the whole society is against him."

"When did you first start working as a migrant?" Mondale asked Juarez, now executive director of Organized Migrants in Community Action, a Florida farm workers' organizing group.

"I was five," Juarez said.

Mondale asked if employment or agriculture agencies helped farm workers know where jobs are available — or more importantly, for migrants traveling hundreds of miles for work — where jobs no longer exist.

"I have never seen any effort by any state or federal agency to inform or assist migrant workers in any state I have been in," Juarez said.

"I think that's scandalous," Mondale said.

He expressed similar dismay when testimony in recent hearings revealed that migrants are:

- Plagued by disease, neglect and deprivation.
- Exploited by Texas politicians and huge corporations.
- Gripped in a power structure of business and families holding them in a system perpetuating the poverty-ridden migrant cycle.

Exponents of agriculture and business are also being hit during testimony following an hour-long NBC-TV documentary July 16 on the plight of the migrant workers.

Mondale has even begun a new round of hearings in efforts to see if reports are true that "pressure was applied" to

alter or censor that program.

"Nothing will change until this rotten system is exposed and held accountable," Mondale said of his aim to investigate what he calls "the powers, the pressures, the politics and the special interests" that keep the situation as it is.

Some of the nation's biggest corporations have substantial land holdings on which migrant workers live and work. Among them is Coca-Cola, and its subsidiary, Minute Maid orange juice. Other Coke products include Snowcrop orange juice and H-C and Real Gold fruit drinks.

At the hearings, Philip W. Moore testified that Minute Maid operates poorly-equipped migrant quarters in Florida.

Moore, coordinator of a Ralph Nader-inspired corporation

watchdog group called Project for Corporate Responsibility, said the facilities have no indoor water or plumbing and conditions generally are "unquestionably bad."

Moore said that what is worse, even, than the housing conditions suffered by migrants is the social control that is maintained over the life style of the migrants by the corporations.

In order to live in company-provided houses, a family must work for the company. If someone is sick, the foreman, not a doctor, can decide whether the person can stay home, Moore said.

"If the foreman decides that a worker is not sick, then he must either work or risk eviction from his house and total loss of income, housing, medical support, food."

## Doctors Blame 'Cruel System' In Migrant Health Report

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Living conditions among migrant farm workers provide a "sad commentary on the moral economy of our country," a Boston doctor told a Senate subcommittee.

Dr. Gordon Harper, a pediatrician who checked health conditions in Michigan camps, charged that he had been actively opposed by growers and threatened with physical violence during his investigations.

Two other physicians who investigated health conditions in Texas told the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor of large families, poorly fed and crowded together in camps, without heat, water or sanitary facilities, which resulted in heavy incidence of disease.

All three doctors attacked Congress, the growers and their own medical profession for the "utter neglect and deprivation" they found a year after Congress passed the \$15 million migratory health program.

"How can you justify the endless words and devious political maneuvers which have delayed and withheld meaningful aid to children who don't have enough to eat, children whose parents have no jobs, no money for food or medical care?" asked

Dr. Raymond M. Wheeler of Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Wheeler's testimony revolved mainly around conditions in Hidalgo County, in Southern Texas, where a team of 15 doctors examined some 4,400 migrants.

Focusing on children who he said are "often dying of neglect" or "growing up without hope" Dr. Wheeler said most of the children are left "unequipped physically or mentally to cope with life in a complex society."

He listed a number of diseases among children, among them rickets, a disorder which he said was thought to be nearly eliminated in this country. He added that "every vitamin deficiency known to us" was found in those children.

Dr. Harry S. Lipscomb of the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, seconded Dr. Wheeler's remarks and stated: "I am ashamed as an American of what we saw and concerned as a physician that my colleagues and I have failed to act as leaders in the face of demonstrated need to structure the delivery of our services to every man, woman and child in our nation."

## Urged to Quit, Bishop Says

San Juan, Puerto Rico—(NC) Bishop Antulio Parrilla Bonilla, S.J., has disclosed that a papal representative and an Italian Jesuit, in separate visits, advised him to resign his episcopal rank and leave the island.

The 51-year-old bishop, who lives with his mother in nearby Rio Piedras and teaches social sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, said he was being pressured also by other prelates to go away, because of his views.

Bishop Parrilla said Archbishop Antonio del Giudice, apostolic delegate to Puerto Rico and apostolic nuncio in the Dominican Republic, had visited him and "suggested I return to the obedience of the Jesuits."

"I believe this was done in hope of putting me under the obedience of a Jesuit superior who could forbid me from making public statements on the Vietnam war, Puerto Rican independence, American imperial-

ism, social injustice and the draft," the bishop said. As a bishop, he is dispensed from obedience to the Society of Jesus.

Bishop Parrilla reported that he was approached also by an Italian Jesuit preacher, Father Ricardo Lombardi, who suggested he "go into a self-imposed exile as an act of asceticism."

The bishop said he believed Father Lombardi might have come at the suggestion of the island's five other bishops "since he came the morning he finished giving them a retreat."

Bishop Parrilla has had no episcopal duties since he resigned his post as rector of the major seminary here in August 1967. Before that he was auxiliary bishop in the diocese of Caguas. He got permission in 1968 from the Jesuit General Father Pedro Arrupe, to work with Jesuit Social Action in Guatemala but was denied permission by the Holy See.

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