

Farah Boycott Plans Laid

New York (RNS) — Church agencies and other religious groups are joining with organized labor to promote a nationwide boycott of clothing made by the Farah Manufacturing Company in El Paso, Texas.

Representatives of various denominational agencies and religious coordinating groups met in a strategy session here with the Rev. Arthur Keys, a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), who is religious coordinator for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA).

The strategy session was preceded by the first New York showing of a film titled "The People vs. Willie Farah," which documents the strike of Mexican-American workers against the manufacturing firm that has been going on since May 1972.

[The movie will be shown in Rochester at 8 p.m., Oct. 24 at the ACWA headquarters, 750 East Ave.]

Roman Catholic Bishop Sidney Metzger of El Paso appears prominently in the film, as does Father Jesse Munoz of Our Lady of Light parish. They have been among the leaders of the national and local religious actions supporting the strike and boycott.

Although the strike began in May 1972, it did not receive national prominence until Bishop Metzger sent a letter to all the U.S. Catholic Bishops on Oct. 31, 1972, after receiving a request for information from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan of Rochester, N.Y. In it, Bishop Metzger stated that Farah is opposed to labor unions, and has no job security for workers and no negotiated production standards.

He noted that "the Farah Company boasts that they have over 8,000 happy workers who will not strike, will have no part of a labor union and are satisfied with their employment as it is. It is true that many workers are satisfied and do not wish to be disturbed because they are convinced that everything is wonderful."

In a follow-up letter sent out last Spring, Bishop Metzger reported on several contacts he had with William J. Conroy, Farah's executive vice president. "While there are good things (and

there are good things in Farah Manufacturing Company)" the bishop wrote, "also abuses can creep in without being known or they could be ignored and forgotten. With all the fine things which Mr. Conroy mentions in his letter the abuses related by the strikers could still have happened when there is no negotiated personnel policy in writing."

Bishop Metzger also noted that without any suggestion from him, the Texas Conference of Churches (comprising 15 denominations, including the Roman Catholic dioceses in Texas) adopted a resolution at its February meeting encouraging member judicatories to support the Farah boycott. "It is most significant that this support of the Farah strike and boycott crosses denominational lines," he commented.

Farah Manufacturing Company employs 9,500 workers — 14 per cent of the working population of El Paso. Its employees are 98 per cent Mexican-American and over 80 per cent female. The strike is

being carried out by some 3,000 of the employees.

Last year, the National Labor Relations Board issued a decision ordering Farah to bargain with a union of workers, but Farah refused. The case is now going through the courts. Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America is organizing the strikers and promoting the national boycott.

At the religious strategy session here, it was reported that the Bishops' Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has been especially active in promoting the Farah boycott. Several participants in the session reported that the AME bishops view the issue as racial more than labor, and are taking steps to promote a secondary boycott.

Other religious groups that have expressed support for the Farah strikers include the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Social Apostolate of the Society of Jesus, the Social Action Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and United Church of Christ.



Pilgrims

Members of St. Cecilia's parish ready to board the bus as they embark on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Niagara Falls. Forty-eight members of the Elmira parish took part in the recent devotional outing.

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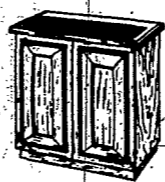
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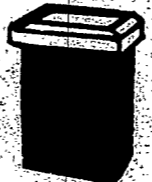
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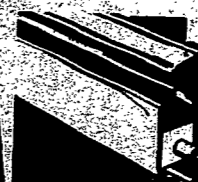
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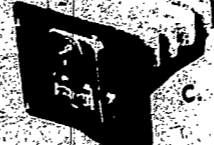
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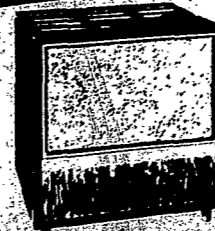
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Sisterhood Plans Sale

The ninth annual antique show and sale of Temple B'rith Kodesh Sisterhood will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 23 and Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Temple B'rith Kodesh Auditorium at 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester.

Outstanding exhibitors from many sections of the country will offer their most unusual jewelry, buttons, china, silver, furniture, orientals, primitives, and glass.

Proceeds are used to carry out sisterhood projects such as the College Student Loan Fund, nursery school scholarships for underprivileged children of all faiths, youth camperships, interfaith programs, and to contribute to the Philip S. Bernstein Chair of Judaic Studies at the University of Rochester.

**TONIGHT AT 8:30
TOMORROW NIGHT AT 8**

The Community Players launch their 50th season tomorrow night with three one-act comedies from Noel Coward's *Tonight* at 8:30. The show will run Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 18-21, and the following Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 25-27, at The Playhouse, South Clinton at Meigs. Curtain time will be 8 p.m. except for the Sunday performance, scheduled for 7:30.



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