

Editorial

**Migrants . . .
Think Twice**

There 2.6 million farm workers in the United States, most of them migrants.

As in the present case, they are often involved in controversy. Many sympathize with their plight, others are critical of them. The following facts, provided by the Christophers, should be considered by all.

If you were a farm worker:

* You would be paid around \$1,500 a year. If everybody in your family worked, you might make \$2,700. Many days you would not work. None would be available.

* Your life expectancy would be 49!

* Your children would be more than twice as likely to die at birth, and your wife in giving birth.

* Your family's chance of catching influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis or some other infectious disease would be three times the national average.

* You would probably never have reached the eighth grade.

* You'd be lucky to have two rooms in which to lodge your family. You might have some electricity, but probably no toilet, sink, bathtub or shower.

Think of these facts the next time you make a judgment on farm workers.

Sharing

Pope Paul VI, economists such as Barbara Ward, and many others have spoken out about the unequal division of the world's goods among nations and have asked governments of the haves to take appropriate action for the well-being of the world.

Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens, primate of Belgium, reiterated the plea in a talk to representatives of all the world's major religions last week at Louvain. He said that the world's rich people simply have got to respond to the "anguished cry" of the massive throngs of the earth's poor.

Laying it on the line, the cardinal declared: "Civilization is not worthy of the name, if it resigns itself to this collective social sin."

The handwriting has been on the wall for many years and in large part it has been ignored among the world's rich and powerful nations. For some reason, it has become easier to send bombs than help peoples.

Now, our own resources show signs of running out. The energy crisis has become a way of life. Oil supplies are down, sugar prices are up. We in the world's richest nation have begun to feel the pinch of extravagance. Chances are we will have to negotiate from a weaker position with those new nations who may possess the natural resources and the food to feed the massive consumption of this great nation.

Pragmatism is not the most noble of motives. Still it may behoove us to start sharing now. Who knows, the nation we save may be our own.

And it is not too late to act from purely moral and humanitarian motives. If such a stance were taken it not only would heal the world's sores but would also invite His blessings Who gave us the world and everything in it.

Better Use

Speaking of consumption, and who isn't these days, there is something for which we Americans spent \$3.1 million an hour in 1973. Bombs? No. Helping the poor? No. Alcohol? Yes.

The figure is provided by the WCTU from U.S. Dept. of Commerce reports.

Drinking in moderation is acceptable. Yet \$3.1 million an hour doesn't seem moderate even for a nation of 230 million. If only some of that money could be used for, say, finding the cause and cure for alcoholism, we would all be better off.

Opinion

Pool Decision Assailed

Editor:

The St. Augustine Human Development Committee wishes to express its disapproval concerning the decision by William E. Uptegrove, director of the Monroe County Planning Board, to refuse the allocation of \$1.5 million for a proposed pool facility at Genesee Valley Park. Mr. Uptegrove and the board have by their action denied the facility by stating the close proximity of the pool to the Monroe County Airport. They state that the location presents a safety hazard to the users of the proposed pool. The two pools presently in use are closer to the county airport than the proposed facility and aircraft that fly over them are much lower.

The city is presently suing Mr. Uptegrove and the board for unconstitutional use of its powers by refusing to allocate the money. Whether the legal action is successful or not, we feel that Mr. Uptegrove and Planning Board did not fully consider the impact of their action. We believe that Mr. Uptegrove did not take into consideration the real HUMAN aspects. The pool facility at Genesee Valley Park is the only public swimming facility in the area. It is used by a great number of local families. There is no doubt that the present facility is inadequate. What Mr. Uptegrove and his board are doing is denying the children of this area adequate pool and recreational facilities. The users of Genesee Valley Pool usually lack the resources to transport themselves to other swimming facilities. What are these people supposed to do?

We are convinced that Mr. Uptegrove and his board made an unwise decision against the people who would benefit by this new facility.

Taking into account the seemingly poor rationalization used to refuse the money, considering 1,000 residents of the area signed a petition asking for the pool regardless of the current decision. We wonder if there may be another reason for the refusal of the money. Considering the widespread support of the pool despite the "hazard", one must wonder if there are any outside considerations or pressures involved in this decision.

We strongly support the construction of the proposed pool facility and hope that the city will be successful in obtaining the required funds for the project.

ST. AUGUSTINE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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"WHILE YOU WERE ON THE PHONE, I SANG EVERY VERSE OF 'NINETY-NINE BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE WALL'!"

Is the Idea Of Limbo Dead?

Editor:

I am appalled by the lack of logic and Christian understanding used by the clergy of Immaculate Conception in Marlboro, Mass., in denying baptism to the child of Mrs. Morreale. Unless the modern Church has also abandoned the concept of Limbo, what human has the right to deny a child the privilege of being with God?

If indeed the clergy questioned the mother's intention to rear her son in keeping with Catholic teaching, they should have devoted their energies to insuring that the godparents were capable of doing so.

Now that the child is a member of the Christian community, I believe the clergy should direct their attention to the Christian well-being of the child rather than plotting sanctions against the Jesuit priest who performed the baptism.

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Another Angle On Chile

Editor:

Sister Loreta Jordan, in her letter to the Courier (9/18/74), made statements concerning Chile I find hard to believe.

In contrast, Lois Hillegas Lobos, a Chilean school teacher, wrote several letters to her aunt and uncle in Skaneateles which appeared in the July 22, 23, and 24 issues of the Syracuse Post Standard.

In her first letter she writes, "There is a worldwide campaign against our government all built on lies. They say our rivers are full of dead bodies after the Sept. 11th coup. They say our prisoners are badly treated. You should hear Radio Moscow sometime! It would frighten the devil if all they say were true. Sooner or later all people will realize they can't fight facts."

Paul Bethel, in his article, Chile After Allende, which appeared in the weekly Human Events, 10/20/73, quotes a bill issued by Allende's opposition parties.

"The government has seriously attacked freedom of speech by exerting all sorts of economic pressure against the news media which do not cater to the government, illegally closing down newspapers and radio stations, imposing legal 'networks' on them unconstitutionally, imprisoning opposition journalists, resorting

to treacherous maneuvers to secure a monopoly over newsprint and openly violating the legal measures which the national television channel must adhere to by turning it over to a higher administration official who was appointed without the advice and consent of the Senate, as required by law, and turning it into a sectarian propaganda piece to political adversaries."

Rather than criticize U.S. policy in Chile, Sister Loreta Jordan would do well to examine Marxist influences in that country.

During Allende's reign, Communist guerrillas trained throughout Chile — the Tupamaros of Uruguay as well as guerrillas from Cuba, China, Colombia and Argentina.

The late Salvador Allende was a Marxist and as a Marxist was obliged to eliminate his opposition. He almost succeeded.

Any part our government played in his overthrow should be praised, not criticized.

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On Sharing Our Talents

Editor:

If we have a God-given talent we should share it with others, whether or not they be of our religion, our nationality or our race.

I was distressed that Mrs. Hurley (Courier-Journal 9/11/74) would not teach religion to public school children because she sent her children to parochial schools. Is this Christian charity?

She probably was asked to teach because the Sister thought she had something to give.

"You give but little when you give your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Did Mrs. Hurley stop to think that the teacher who would be teaching her "special" child might not have "special" children of her own?

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Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.