

NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING FOREIGN FARM WORKERS

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz announced new regulations regarding the importation of foreign farm workers on March 6. The new regulations will replace the criteria for admission of these workers which had been issued in December 1964.

The new regulations require California growers, seeking foreign farm workers, to offer domestic workers at least \$1.60 an hour, plus other benefits, before they can apply for foreign farm workers. The rate had been previously set at \$1.40 an hour, but was increased to reflect increases in farm workers wages in recent years.

Wage rates, ranging from \$1.35 to \$1.60 were set in ten other states, all in the East, that had used foreign farm workers in the last two years. No rates were published for any other Western state, on the ground that no braceros have been used in any of these states in the last two years. If a demonstrable need for foreign farm workers should arise in any of these states, the Secretary would make a determination of the appropriate rate.

The new regulations also call for higher compensation for death and disability in those states where farm workers are not covered by workmen's compensation.

Copies of the new regulations will be available shortly for anyone seeking them.