

TEXAS FARM WORKERS UNION

P. O. Box 876, San Juan, TX 78589, (512) 787-5984

Antonio Orendain, President

Cathy Vasquez, Capitol City Coordinator

2109 East 2nd St., Austin, TX 78702, (512) 474-6376

April 6, 1979

Dear Dr. Garcia:

We are very hopeful of swaying the three needed votes for getting H.B. 227 to the floor. Farmworkers have been in some of the Districts of the committee members. At the same time they are engaged in a strike in the onion fields of Willacy and Northern Hidalgo counties. Already, the handicap of not having an Agricultural Labor Relations Act is making itself manifest.

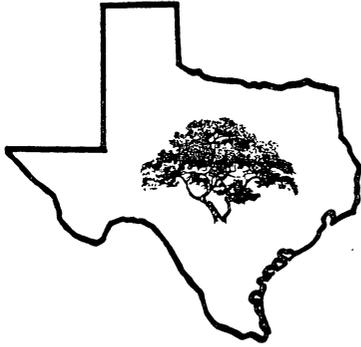
Without that legal mechanism to protect the farmworkers right to organize and bargain in good faith the grower in this strike has begun to exploit and turn one against the other.

Charles Wetegrove, the big grower in that area has employed strike breakers and is apparently not interested in meeting the request for the minimum safety & health benefits asked by the Farmworkers.

Meanwhile, I am plugging away at the Legislature trying to get those 3 votes! Lately, I've been feeling a little discouraged by some of the verbal reactions to GOMA by some "leaders."

To me, no "Advocate" for Migrant Affairs at TDCA nor all the manpower programs in the world will solve the farmworkers problem.

Their plight as economically oppressed people will continue until they obtain that basic right to organize and to bargain like all other employees to improve their over-all living and working conditions.



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I am however encouraged with the work we are all doing and of the opportunity to have been in a position to work with you. To me, you are bigger than life itself and I hope to someday acquire part of the strength which makes you great. My best wishes for your continued health. Also, please extend my warmest regards to Rosita. I am enclosing copies of the magazine containing an article on page 6 which refers to your speech at the Rally on March 10, 1979.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy".

Cathy Vasquez