

BILL OF PARTICULARS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON LABOR DAY,

SEPTEMBER 5, 1966 AT THE STATE CAPITOL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

WHEREAS: Of the 4 million Texas workers holding jobs in private industry, only 2 million are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The other 2 million are denied federal minimum wage protection.

WHEREAS: Of the 4 million workers, over 167,000 are farm workers who call Texas home -- this figure represents an increase of about 38,000 in interstate and intrastate travel since 1964. The increase occurred in all categories: men, women, youths and families. Farm workers who work more than 25 days a year on farm work, figures show that in 1965 their total annual earnings were about \$900 from farm wage work on the average; if you include the cash earnings which they made from other than farm labor, that figure comes to about \$1,100 a year, frequently the only source of income for a family.

WHEREAS: Texas farm workers -- regular, seasonal or migratory -- have the least security and the worst wages and working conditions of any major group of U. S. Working people, and relative to other groups in the work force their status has been declining. As members of an impoverished and exploited segment of the Labor force, they are subject to a wide range of injustices and discrimination, legal and illegal. The general tragedy of their poverty is aggravated by the fact that this part of the work force is comprised of high percentages of members of minority groups, particularly Mexican-Americans and Negroes.

WHEREAS: Of the 58,500 Texas youths under 16 who worked in the fields in 1965, over 25,000 had to leave school while it was still going on and return after it reopened in the Fall -- in order to contribute to the family annual income.

WHEREAS: The U. S. Office of Education reported recently that Texas has more "disadvantaged" children than any state in the Union. There

are 398,224 children in Texas families having incomes of less than \$2,000 a year. Many of these are the children of migrant parents or are migrants themselves.

WHEREAS: According to the 1960 Census, there were 729,218 functional illiterates in the state, most of them in South Texas and many of them migrant farm workers.

WHEREAS: What concerns us most is the plight of the working poor. It is bad enough to be without a job, or to have a job of sorts which offers only part-time work. It is even worse to work hard, every day and every week, and still earn too little to be self-supporting. Yet this is the plight of 2 million workers in Texas.

WHEREAS: The fact that more than half of the Texas families now living in poverty are headed by an employed worker . . . and a large per cent of them by a farm worker . . . is a national disgrace by any measure. Surely it is indefensible for any American, fully employed at useful work, to be paid less than he needs to support his family.

WHEREAS: That is why a \$1.25 Texas minimum wage must be established, and that is why 2 million of working Americans, now denied the protection of the law, must be covered by it. The working poor refute the basic assumptions of American society, in their own lives the American dream is a nightmare. A \$1.25 minimum is the least that Texas can do to eradicate this blight.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We believe that the Texas ^{Demund. Committee} Legislature should enact a statute placing a realistic floor under wages for 2 million workers not covered by the federal minimum wage. We believe that the Texas minimum wage rates should be identical with those required by Federal Law.

Alfred J. Hernandez

Alfred J. Hernandez, National President, LULAC

Hector Garcia

Dr. Hector Garcia, Founder, GI Forum

Roy Elizondo

Roy Elizondo, State Chairman, PASO

Emerson Marcee

Rev. Emerson Marcee, President, Texas Conference
Branches of NAACP

Leo Nieto

Rev. Leo Nieto, Director, Migrant Ministry, Texas
Council of Churches

H. S. Hank Brown

H. S. Hank Brown, President, Texas AFL-CIO

Henry S. Casso

Rev. Henry S. Casso, Executive Secretary, Bishops'
Committee for the Spanish Speaking

Betty Jane Whitaker

Betty Jane Whitaker, Regional Representative,
National Council of Churches

Gus Falk

Rabbi Gus Falk, American Jewish Committee

Rev. James L. Novarro

Rev. James L. Novarro, Coordinator, Southern
Baptist Convention

Antonio Gonzalez

Rev. Antonio Gonzalez, O.M.I., Coordinator, Houston
Catholic Archdiocese

Eugene Nelson

Eugene Nelson, Organizer, United Farm Workers
Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO

Ruben Ruiz

Ruben Ruiz, Chairman, Texas State GI Forum

John Alaniz

John Alaniz, Chairman, COMIDA