

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Hector P. Garcia, M. D.
Founder & National Chairman
American G I Forum of the U.S.
3024 Morgan Avenue
Corpus Christi, Texas

JUN 4 1959

Dear Dr. Garcia:

I have your letter of May 25 addressed to Secretary Mitchell, congratulating the Department for its efforts in trying to better the wage and earnings possibilities of farm workers.

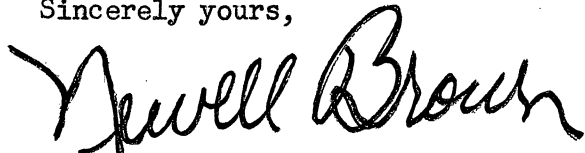
The piece rate earnings policies were promulgated in 1958 under the responsibility of the Department in connection with the administration of Public Law 78. While the earnings policies have met with considerable criticism from unsympathetic groups, progress has been made and continuing improvements are evident in the coming season.

With reference to your comments on the recruitment for out-of-State employment by the Texas Employment Commission, we believe that this presents a difficult problem. Historically, workers have left Texas each year for employment in the Rocky Mountain area, Gulf States, and the Northwest for employment in sugar beet, vegetable, and fruit harvests.

There are numerous reasons for workers desiring out-of-State employment, including higher wages, crop preference, and climatic conditions. We believe that Texas workers should be given their choice of employment and if it is their desire to move to northern States the Texas Employment Commission is obligated to make this employment available to them.

In connection with your comment regarding a minimum wage in agriculture, we feel it is necessary to secure additional information concerning this matter before we can intelligently make recommendations to the Congress concerning the coverage of farm workers under a minimum wage. A study towards this end is in progress and we expect to use it as a basis for considering recommendations to Congress in 1960.

Sincerely yours,



Newell Brown
Assistant Secretary of Labor