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The Attorney General of Texas

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Dr. Hector Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Hector,

Don't give up on us. The enclosed news article will hopefully give you a clear indication as to what our position is in the case of Guadalupe Delgado.

If you have any questions please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "P. D. Rich", written over a horizontal line.

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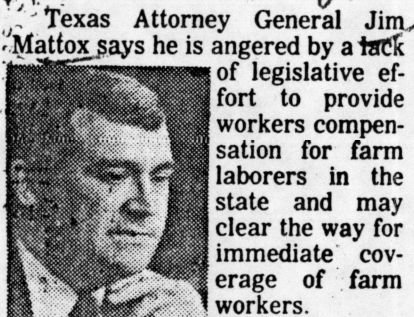
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News
Amarillo, Texas

APR 27 1984

Mattox promotes farm workers' compensation

By JOEL BRANDENBERGER
Farm and Ranch Writer



Mattox says he is angered by a lack of legislative effort to provide workers compensation for farm laborers in the state and may clear the way for immediate coverage of farm workers.

Mattox, who was in Amarillo this week for a Democratic Party rally, said he is considering dropping his appeal of a controversial judicial decision that would have mandated immediate coverage of all farm workers.

farm workers of this state."

Mattox said he has been asking Gov. Mark White and other state officials to include the workers compensation issue in a proposed special session of the Legislature. House Speaker Gib Lewis said Tuesday that special session could come within 30 days.

Mattox said the only reason he ever appealed the controversial workers compensation decision, made by State District Judge Harley Clark of Austin, was to give the Legislature a chance to consider the matter.

"I never really thought the matter ought to be appealed," he said. "They (farm workers) need some kind of coverage — not necessarily the kind mandated by Clark, but something."

Mattox said he has been dismayed since his March 16 appeal because neither White, Lewis or anyone else associated with the Legislature seems to be pushing workers compensation.

During a visit to Pampa Tuesday, Lewis said he thought the chances of workers compensation being considered in the special session are dwindling. He also said Mattox was just "rattling his sword" with threats.

Officials of the Texas Farm Bureau, meanwhile, have said Mattox might consider maintaining his appeal through a regular session next January.

"I may just drop the appeal before the special session," Mattox said. "Now that I've put this thing on appeal, the people involved have started dragging their feet. They

feel like they don't need to do anything."

Farm Bureau officials were not available for comment about Mattox's threat.

Lawmakers already have one workers compensation bill written and ready for consideration by both houses. The measure is based on a compromise reached earlier this year by members of the Governor's Select Committee on Farm Workers Insurance.

The measure differs from Clark's order in that it does not mandate immediate coverage of all farm workers. Only migrant work-

ers would be guaranteed instant coverage under the new bill.

Seasonal workers — those laborers who work only at harvest but do not leave the vicinity of their homes — would be covered gradually. Seasonal labor on large farms with payrolls of more than \$100,000 annually would be covered first. Those on smaller farms would be included during the next 10 years.

When Mattox's appeal first was announced, many involved with the writing of that bill were optimistic about the measure's chances of being included in the special session. Most said opposition from the

Farm Bureau would not hurt its chances.

The governor, however, is primarily interested in educational reform and teachers' salary increases during the special session. Lewis said he does not expect additional controversial issues to be included in the session.