MIGRANT BILL WORKSHOP HELD

The first of a series of Migrant Bill workshops was held in Jefferson County Saturday, September 11, 1976. The site of the workshop was Tony's Shorecrest, Rt. 2 Highway K, owned by Antonio Villareal, where 200 mejicanos, mostly families, gathered to celebrate el cumpleanos of local activist, Juan Guel. Guel, celebrated his 27th birthday with that of his daughter, Luciana, who was 6 yrs. old.

Guel has worked at the Mack Farms for the last six years, where he is a weigher and sewer of potatoes and onion sacks. The Guel family has been very active in the support of the La Raza Unida Party of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Migrant Bill effort and other Chicano struggles across the State.

The guests heard Ernesto Chacon, State President of La Raza Unida Party of Wisconsin, speak of the two year old struggle for the migrant farmworker bill. Chacon explained the need for the support and involvement of all the families present and indicated that "the fight has just begun." Chacon concluded his brief remarks by raising his fist saying "QUE VIVA LA RAZA".

Ness Flores, Chicano attorney, spoke about the need for Chicanos to support the candidates that have taken a position supporting the needs and efforts of La Raza. This, he stated, would make ourselves visible by letting the candidates know that we are voting only for those who support us.

The workshop was planned by efforts of Chicana activists, Sra. Irma Morales and Sra. Jesusa Ibarra, both are members of the program, Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC).

Sra. Morales, mother of 4 children, is a Social Worker and planner for the County. Sra. Morales' present organizing efforts are centered on the education necessary for the passage of the Migrant Bill. At the workshop she said, "The Migrant Bill should pass if we rally the support of our people, the community--the people are important." She pointed out, working for the people, I would like to have them understand that all that we do is being done for our own people and for our children."

Sra. Ibarra, is mother of 8 children, in addition she holds a full-time job as a Manpower Counselor and a Job Specialist. Her present involvement is working for the passage of the Migrant Bill and to supporting the political candidates that support Chicano efforts. "Chicanos should begin to understand that to reach goals, education is the source of strength," she said at the workshop. Another goal is to unify the Chicano people in order for us to be self-sufficient and not be waiting for the crumbs from the gringos." she added.

This was another occasion in which the cultural traditions of the Mejicano were utilized to serve the dual and necessary purpose of providing a political education for the Chicanos of Wisconsin. QUE VIVA LA CULTURA y QUE LA LUCHA SIGA.

The schedule of Migrant Bill workshops are:

Madison October 2; Contact Carlos Reyes for location and time at 263-3324. Arranged by La Raza Unida Party of Madison and UW-Madison Chicano students.

Oshkosh October 9 State-wide Conference-Registration of persons attending workshop at Multi-Cultural Center, 751 Algoma Blvd. at 9:00am - 10:00am. Workshop will be held at Clow Social Science Center Room 101 UW-Oshkosh Campus.

Milwaukee October 30; Latin American Union for Civil Rights (LAUCR) 805 S. 5TH

