THIRD FORCE

Summer 1983

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Subscription Rates

CTWO is a non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible contribution is especially important to us, for it is your contribution which keeps us going. Annual Subscription fees are: $9 for low-income individuals; $15 for individuals; $25 for social change organizations; $35 for institutions; $100 sponsors.

Address changes should be sent to: CTWO, 4228 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609.

Mailings

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Article Submission

Articles should be sent to the above address, typed, double-spaced, no more than 500 words. CTWO reserves the right to edit all manuscripts due to space limitations.

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THE CENTER FOR THIRD WORLD ORGANIZING

WHO WE ARE

THE CENTER FOR THIRD WORLD ORGANIZING is a national organization dedicated to working with organizations and individuals in the Black, Asian, Latino, and Native American communities who are struggling to achieve basic social justice. With the policy initiatives of the current Administration threatening to undercut the gains and triumphs of people of color in the United States, CTWO is working to forge a network of organizations and progressive individuals in the third world community which can organize, develop, and implement a strategic counter-thrust to productively address the interests of people of color.

WHAT WE DO

CTWO's approach integrates nuts-and-bolts organizing with hard analytical work. Three years ago, the Center for Third World Organizing was founded to provide a forum for the exchange of organizing experiences between people of color in the United States, activists in the white community, and progressives in the international third world. In its short history, CTWO has:

- hosted 9 (week-long) organizer training sessions and over sixty on-site local sessions with groups working on issues of welfare, voting rights, police brutality, and tenants rights.
- developed regional issue seminars in the areas of education, immigration policy, U.S. foreign policy, and national housing policy which included activists and intellectuals.
- initiated liasons with third world progressives through the World Council of Churches, the United Nations, and co-sponsored educational exchanges in Nicaragua and Mexico.
- published an Occasional Papers Series which analyzes issues of relevance to people in the Black, Asian, Latino, and Native American community.

WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

ORGANIZER TRAINING

CTWO holds 3 (week-long) training sessions per year which bring together trainers from all over the U.S. to work with activists from community, labor, church, and other organizations.

ON-SITE CONSULTATIONS

CTWO also works with groups or local coalitions to develop training sessions around specific areas of concern as well as ongoing campaign development on issues of particular interest to people of color in the United States. We also provide technical assistance in the areas of organizational development and fundraising—we have one of the best-known grassroots fundraisers on our staff.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

CTWO's network of resource people includes activists, organizers, and intellectuals involved in many critical issues in third world communities. CTWO provides top notch speakers to talk to groups about the key social, political, and economic struggles in the 80's.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

CTWO has initiated organizer and activist exchanges with a number of organizations in the international third world. In Summer of 1984 we will coordinate a Development Exchange Project in Mexico with the Arizona Farmworkers Union.

PUBLICATIONS

As well as *Third Force*, CTWO publishes the Occasional Papers Series *The Struggle Within*, and *Organizing in Third World Communities, a Resource Manual.* In Fall, 1983, three other manuals will be available from CTWO:

- A Guide to Grassroots Fundraising
- The National Low-Income Rights Manual
- The International Support Manual: A Guide to Who's Doing What in the U.S.

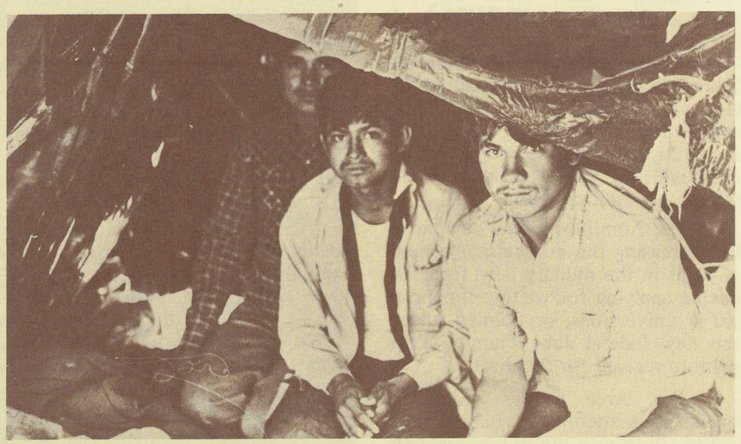
For more information on our programs or to order any of our publications, please write:

Center for Third World Organizing
4228 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California 94609

The "Alien Amnesty" Bill

The "Alien Amnesty Bill," better known as the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill, has been reintroduced into the House and Senate. According to Attorney General William French Smith, "(T)he legislation would help curtail sharply the growing number of aliens illegally entering the U.S., enabling the nation to regain control of its borders." The bill has been amended to impose civil and criminal penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

The bill is extremely controversial, for, as *Business Week* (June 23, 1980) notes, "The importance of immigrants, illegal or not, is to provide the margin of survival for entire sectors of the economy and buttress the labor supply." Immigration in the U.S. has traditionally been a means of supplementing the labor market by encouraging new immigration as the more established, acculturated workers move into other economic sectors.



courtesy Arizona Farmworkers

The legislation is being touted as an "amnesty" bill, yet, in actuality, the bill sets a ceiling on permanent residencies of 425,000, thus drastically limiting the number of residencies available. Nor will the requirements for permanent residency be changed, requirements that many undocumented workers cannot meet. So the majority of the 3-10 million workers living in the U.S. illegally today will be unaffected by the "amensty" portion of the bill.

In place of permanent residencies, the bill will streamline procedures for employers to request "H-2" or temporary workers. As the Bay Area Committee Against the Simpson/Mazzoli Bill (BASCAM) points out in its February, 1983 newsletter, "In many ways, temporary workers are the 'ideal' workers from the viewpoint of the employer. They will have to accept the lowest wages; they are difficult to organize; and while they will pay taxes, they cannot receive public benefits, unemployment benefits, etc., nor will they be allowed to bring their families here." Add to this the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies' estimate that sweatshop owners 'save' between $3,000-$5,000 per year on every undocumented worker, or a total of about $15 billion per year, and the bill begins to look less like legislation to benefit the undocumented worker and more like a policy to bolster certain sectors of the economy—agriculture, lumber, the garment industry—by institutionalizing a secondary labor market with no political or economic rights.

Unions are beginning to realize that the use of "guest workers" in certain sectors undermines their support base, and are beginning to call for the organizing of undocumented workers (Service Employees' Union, letter to the membership, August 31, 1982).

As to the employer sanctions in the bill, BASCAM points out the unenforceability of employer sanctions as well as the inequality between employer and undocumented worker. Whereas "the employer who 'knowingly' hires an undocumented worker would be fined $1,000 for the first undocumented, and $2,000 for the second, after a 'pattern' of unlawful hiring has been established; the worker who is caught using falsified documents could face a penalty of a $5,000 fine or 5 years in jail or both. And, of course, deportation."

In BASCAM's view, "Employer sanctions will just increase discrimination in the hiring of minorities, particularly Asians, Latinos, and Blacks. Not only would minorities be asked to produce documents proving they are 'legals,' but an employer can refuse to hire them with the excuse that they might be 'illegals.'... Obviously, the net effect of these provisions is for business to gain greater control over the immigrant work force, and to exploit it as much as possible by keeping it low paid, temporary, and without rights." The passage of this bill will thus have grave repercussions in many sectors of the U.S. economy, while actually doing little to stop or even regulate the hiring of undocumented workers, let alone protect their political and economic rights.

CTWO'S CO-FOUNDER LEADS NEW VOTING RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Arguing that now is the time to capitalize on the new interest in the electoral arena, CTWO's co-founder, Hulbert James, has become the Executive Director of the Human SERVE Fund, a national voter registration effort which will target its registration efforts among low income people of color. SERVE has already succeeded in achieving its first goal: the registration of 50,000 minority voters in New York City by mobilizing a coalition of community organizations, voluntary service agencies and professional membership organizations. The second stage of the SERVE agenda is the replication of this registration model nationwide, in order to get hundreds of thousands of voters registered. For more information on the national campaign, contact: Hulbert James, Exec. Dir., HUMAN SERVE FUND, 922 W. 113th St., New York, 10025; (212)243-6055.