

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HIGHWAY PATROL DIVISION

San Antonio
February 19, 1938

SUBJECT: I-C-418-O-91. Confidential investigation of alleged violations of civil liberties of strikers during pecan shellers' strike in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Colonel H. H. Carmichael, Director
Department of Public Safety
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

As per your instructions that we make a confidential investigation of the pecan shellers' strike in San Antonio, Texas, we wish to make the following report:

For the past week we have been studying the situation in San Antonio concerning the pecan shellers' strike in order to determine whether or not the legal rights of the strikers are being violated by the police department of San Antonio. We find that the present strike was instigated by Mrs. Emma Tenayuca Brooks in a speech at Cassiano Park on January 30, 1938. Mrs. Brooks is president of the Workers Alliance in San Antonio and, as a matter of record, was arrested in June, 1937, for leading a sit-down strike in front of the WPA offices in the Gunter Building, San Antonio. Several days after the strike was called Mr. Donald Henderson, CIO leader from Washington, D. C., was called in to assume active leadership of the strike.

Late in 1937 a CIO charter had been granted to a group of workers in San Antonio under the leadership of one Willie Garcia. We talked at length with Juan Puerte, who for the past two years has been president of the Pecan Shellers Union El Nogal. He reported to us the people who actually work at shelling pecans were not the ones who were engaged in strike demonstrations here. He further stated that out of the five thousand normally engaged in pecan shelling at this season, less than two hundred are out on strike. When the CIO charter was granted to the group of workers under the leadership of Willie Garcia, Puerte stated that he himself joined the Local, but later left the organization. He told us that there were less than thirty paying members in the local CIO organization at the present time. We have visited numerous pecan shelling plants ourselves and find that they are operating normally with normal crews of workers. Senor Pablo Neza, secretary of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce, reported to us that it was not the Mexicans engaged in shelling pecans who were picketing and holding the mass meetings, but

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
HONORARY PATROL DIVISION

San Antonio
February 18, 1958

1-6-58-0-91. Confidential investigation of alleged violation of the Public Safety Act, Chapter 100, Section 100.01, Texas Penal Code, in San Antonio, Texas.

Colonel J. B. ...
Department of Public Safety
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

As per your instructions that we make confidential investigation of the person or persons who are active in San Antonio, Texas, in connection with the following report:

For the past week we have been actively investigating the person or persons who are active in San Antonio, Texas, in connection with the following report: ...

Later in 1957 a CIO chapter had been granted to a group of workers in San Antonio under the leadership of one Willie ...

sympathizers and curiosity seekers.

Chief of Police Owen D. Kilday has taken the above view-point, and declared that since those picketing and holding demonstrations were, in the great majority, not pecan shellers, that they had no right to picket the pecan shelling plants. In the first week of February, 1938, the police used tear gas on several occasions to disperse groups of Mexicans who were blocking the sidewalks and streets. In the hearing held by the State Industrial Commission, however, not one of the Mexicans who were questioned admitted having ever been hit or mistreated by the police. There has been no other violence nor casualties during the entire strike.

Donald Henderson, international president of the United Cannery, Packing and Allied Workers union, whose leadership of the strike has been extremely objectionable to the Mexican Chamber of Commerce, to the United Pecan Shellers El Nogal, and to others, has been replaced, effective this date, by J. Austin Beasley, CIO organizer from Denver, Colorado. Almost simultaneously, this date, eight police squad cars were withdrawn from the strike area. On Friday, February 18, 1938, Donald Henderson asked for a court injunction restraining the police from arresting pickets of the pecan shelling plants. This hearing will be held at 2 P. M., Monday, February 21, 1938, by Judge S. F. Tayloe, in the 57th District Court.

It is our belief at this time that the Police Department of San Antonio has been acting in the best interests of those engaged in pecan shelling, and that have the situation well in hand. Furthermore, we believe that with this change in leadership of the strike that a speedy agreement will be reached by the owners of the pecan shelling plants and the disgruntled workers. We shall continue to keep in close touch with the situation here, and shall report further developments in the controversy as the occasion arises.

Trusting that our actions in the above matters meet with your approval, we remain,

Respectfully,

/s/ Hill Foreman
Hill Foreman, Captain
Texas Highway Patrol

/s/ Hugh J. Pharies
Hugh J. Pharies
Junior Criminal Investigator

HAMPDEN HILL
BOND
MADE IN U.S.A.

and outside workers.

Chief of Police Owen L. Kelly has taken the above view-point, and de-
clared that since these picketing and holding demonstrations were, in the
great majority, not peaceable, that they had no right to picket the re-
spective plants. In the first week of February, 1938, the police used
force on several occasions to disperse groups of workers who were pick-
eting the plants and streets. In the hearing held by the State Industrial
Commission, however, not one of the workers who were questioned admitted
having ever been hit or mistreated by the police. There has been no other
violence nor casualties during the entire strike.

Paul H. Henderson, international president of the United Brewery, Beer,
and Allied Workers Union, stated in testimony that the union has been ex-
clusively organized by the Mexican Chamber of Commerce, the National In-
dustrial Conference, and the others, and has been replaced, effective this
case, by U. A. Smith, CIO organizer from Denver, Colorado. Although
simultaneously, this date, state police said that they withdrew from the
strike area. On Friday, February 18, 1938, Paul Henderson asked for a
court injunction restraining the police from attacking pickets of the be-
er and allied plants. This hearing will be held at 2 P. M., Monday, Febru-
ary 21, 1938, by Judge S. P. Taylor, in the U.S. District Court.

It is our belief that the above view-point of the Police Department of San An-
tonio has been acting in the best interests of those engaged in peace-
ful picketing, and that we have the situation well in hand. Furthermore, we believe
that with the change in leadership of the strike that a speedy settlement
will be reached by the owners of the beer and allied plants and the disman-
tled workers. We shall continue to keep in close touch with the situation here,
and shall report further developments in the controversy as the occasion
arises.

Trusting that our efforts in the above matters meet with your
approval, we remain,

Respectfully,

HILL TOMLINSON
HILL TOMLINSON, Captain
Texas Highway Patrol

W. J. Thomas
W. J. Thomas
Director, Highway Patrol

HAMMILL
BOND
MAGAZINE