

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HIGHWAY PATROL DIVISION

February 23, 1938
San Antonio, T e x a s

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

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

Dear Sir:

The hearing concerning the writ of injunction applied for by Donald Henderson, C. I. O. leader, to restrain the police from arresting pickets, is still in session. According to E. P. Lipscomb, attorney for plaintiffs, it will take at least another week to finish with the plaintiffs' witnesses, and the defendants' testimony is expected to take at least two days.

J. Austin Beasley, strike leader who had previously been arrested, was released by Chief Kilday yesterday morning, February 22, and resumed active command of the strike situation. Due to his statement that he would redouble the picket lines, we spent over an hour yesterday afternoon and two hours this morning, February 23, in the pecan plant area. However, we saw no pickets nor signs yesterday, and very few pickets this morning. While the police are still on duty in the strike area, there has been no violence nor disturbances.

We talked at length yesterday with Miss Rebecca Taylor, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local No. 123. Miss Taylor is a militant labor leader, and has led several strikes here in San Antonio, among the garment workers. She readily admitted having been incarcerated by the San Antonio police upon numerous occasions, for her strike activities. In reference to the police infringing upon the rights of the strikers, Miss Taylor said that while she was not in favor of the two city ordinances on authority of which Chief Kilday has been arresting the pickets, that nevertheless they existed, and in her opinion, the police have been within their legal rights in every arrest which they have made during the present strike.

We talked this afternoon, Wednesday, February 23, to Barney Egan, Regional Director for the C. I. O., and it was his opinion that should an adverse decision be given the strikers at the close of the present hearing, the strike would become ineffective and dormant.

Donald Henderson, former C. I. O. strike leader, to whom Chief Kilday, the Texas Pecan Shellers Union, and the Mexican Chamber of Commerce were so bitterly opposed, left San Antonio last night, February 22, to take up other duties. Chief Kilday expressed the belief that with the departure of Henderson that a settlement would be reached between the strikers and plant owners at an early date. Beasley, present strike leader, also expressed this belief.

Trusting that our actions in the above matter meets your approval, we remain,

Respectfully,

/s/ Hill Foreman

Hill Foreman, Captain
Texas Highway Patrol
San Antonio District

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...also expressed this belief. ...and plans to move at an early date. ...Hessley, ...and ...

...that our section in the above matter needs your approval, as ...

Respectfully,

W. H. ...

W. H. ...
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