First Presbyterian Church
(FOUNDED - 1845)
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

P. B. HILL, PASTOR

March 4,1938.

Governor James V.Allred
Austin,Texas;

My dear Governor Allred,

I want to send you a few facts in connection with the pecan situation here. The troubled began with a one cent per pound reduction in pay. Two or three hundred shellers and crackers stopped work and sought to induce the others to quit.

I am reliably informed that they were not organized at the time. Most of them said that they had not been called out on strike but they had just walked out. One testified that he heard a speech by Emma Taneyuca Brooks in Cassiano Park where she urged them to strike.

Emma Taneyuca Brooks and a man named Segar, avowed Communist, and known to the Federal Bureau of Investigation here, took this opportunity to start things. They addressed mass meetings, organized the pickets and began to enroll the Mexicans under the C.I.O. The majority of the workers wanted to work, feeling as Hambone said,"Half of something is better than all of nothing." Work is scarce and there are numbers who are working today and others would be glad to work if they were let alone.

Those who were working were threatened and were told that if they were caught at the pecan plant working, the Governor would send Rangers down to whip them. I have the names of a number who said that they were so informed. Henderson has kept repeating to the press that he had communicated with you and that you were going to send the Rangers.

Your statement, however, to Kilday and Commissioner Wright has cleared this angle as far as the community in general is concerned.

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Henderson, Beasley and Mrs. Cassie Winfree have urged their pickets to pay no attention to the police and have done this even after Judge Tayloe refused to grant an injunction restraining the police department. If they would leave San Antonio and Emma Teneyuca Brooks were told where to get off, this whole situation would end in a few days.

They are complaining about the civil rights of this group which walked out, belonging then to no union, being violated, but are oblivious to the rights of hundreds of Mexicans who want to work and earn a living as far as they are able to do so.

The leaders have asked the citizens to feed thousands of Mexicans who are not working because they were encouraged to leave their jobs on which they were dependent for support. I say thousands, because there are Mexicans who were picketing that had ~~not~~ never worked at the pecan plant.

I am not defending Seligman and the pecan operators for the poor pay they give the pecan workers. That can be handled as a separate issue if the Communistic element that has entered into this situation is removed.

You know, as I do, that the way the poorer class of Mexicans live was not brought about by the pecan situation. It has existed for decades wherever this class of Mexicans resides.

Pablo Meza, head of the League of Loyal Americans, (a Mexican organization) branded Henderson and his associates as Communists, and repudiated Emma Taneyuca Brooks as a dangerous type. The Mexican Chamber of

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Commerce which is interested in the betterment of the Mexican people has publicly repudiated Emma Teneyuca Brooks, Segar and leaders of the so-called "strike movement".

At one of the hearings Miss Rebecca Taylor, an executive of the International Garment Workers said, "I never heard of a peaceful picket line, exactly." At the hearing before Judge Tayloe, Mrs. Cassie Winfree stated that a child had been gassed and died from the effects of it. No such death has occurred and later she said that she had heard this.

A picture of a baby that had been tear-gassed in its mother's arms was shown in one of the papers. One of the news-paper men called my attention to the fact that the mother who held the child at the time had not been gassed.

The business men and representative citizenship of San Antonio are behind the police department in their efforts to keep things quiet "on the Western front." Three times in the past, the police department tried to give the Mexican workers an opportunity at peaceful picketing; 1st at the Dorothy Frocks plant; 2 at the Shirley Frocks plant and then at the White Star Laundry. In every instance those who attempted to work were abused and some beaten. On one occasion Chief Kilday and some of his men when called to quell a disturbance and protect the lives of some women workers, had mud thrown on them and the Chief was spit upon.

Our people feel that if the authority of the Police Department or any law enforcement body can be resisted at will that, should some emergency of a serious nature arise, they would be without the prestige that

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every law-enforcement body should have.

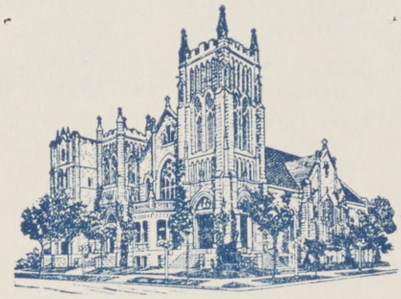
At the Dorothy Frocks Plant, the Communistic element that came to our city, promoted the destruction of $10,000.00 worth of material and machinery and I have seen the confession of a Mexican who was offered $100.00 to dynamite the plant.

The peril in this situation is not so much the minor matter of the pecan shellers walk-out as it is the effort to establish in San Antonio a Communist Mexican organization of ten or fifteen thousand people.

A number of aliens are mixed up in this. Kilday arrested 111 Mexicans. He let 20 go because they had little children at home. That left 91 in jail. Of this number, 63 were aliens according to the Mexican Consul's own statement.

I have a mass of information on this whole question of Communism which I would like to discuss with you sometime. This talk of Beasley's, suggesting the possibility of "a massacre" of workers, indicates the pitch to which these Mexicans have been aroused by the daily and nightly harangues at their meeting places and in vacant lots by this outside element.

The Protestant ministers of this city are against Beasley, Emma Taneyuca Brooks and these who have come into our midst to stir up trouble. I have talked with the pastors of the leading churches, personally. They deplore the poverty and low wages of the Mexicans, but have declared themselves, by resolution, as against Communistic, Fascist and other un-American influences.



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I hope that you will not think this statement presumptious. I felt that you would want to know facts that can be substantiated and who could give them better than your own Ranger Captain?

If there is any service that I can render you further in this situation, I should be glad to do so, In my judgment this present leadership which is acceptable to neither the Mexican or San Antonio representative citizenship should get out and stay out. The matter could then be taken up through the State Labor Board without having a C.I.O. of the Communist type planted in San Antonio.

I hope this will find you and Mrw. Allred and the children all well. With my sincere regards, I am,

Most cordially yours,

P. B. Hill