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## OREGON LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION HILLSBORO REGIONAL OFFICE

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April 28, 1991

Gerralynn Ness WCCAO 451 S. First Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97123

Dear Gerralynn:

I hope that all is well with you and that you continue to smile despite the extra work and heart-ache that the influx of migrant farmworkers may place upon you and your agency. Just remember that you are appreciated.

On Friday, April 26th, a sub-committee formed out of the Washington County outreach workers' meeting, met to discuss emergency preparations for the anticipated, or real, farmworker crisis in Oregon. Several groups, state and county wide have met to discuss preparations for the crisis, but so far as I can tell, no concrete plans have been made. These groups seem reluctant to establish any emergency plans without knowing how many farmworkers are in the state and county, and the problems resulting from any increase in the usual number of workers. Unfortunately, at present there is no data to evidence the exisitence, or non-existence of a crisis.

Therefore, I propose that the outreach workers coordinate outreach schedules and count the farmworkers currently residing in each labor camp in Washington County. (Actually, to give credit where due, Geralynn Ness of WCCAO came up with the idea - she knows her stuff!) A meeting has been set for Friday, May 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. in the WCCAO building, First Ave. in Hillsboro. At this meeting, we shall assign outreach workers to visit each camp in the county and actually count the numbers of workers living there. Armed with the necessary data, we can hope that County Commissioners and Governor Roberts, and her administrators will take notice of any crisis and thereby arm the service agencies with the resources needed to combat any crisis.

Enrique Santos of OLS and Geralynn will facilitate the May 3rd meeting. Please call Enrique at 648-7163 if you plan to attend, or if you are unable to attend, with your outreach schedule so that they can include you on the count-the-farmworkers schedule.

Respectfully,