

CONTACT! PEOPLE AND LAW

The lawyer of the eighteenth century in Williamsburg holds a romance captured in the images of the founders of a nation; gentlemen planters, many of them, educated far beyond the average, leaders in the great issues of the day, far-sighted as they planned and wrote the documents on which a nation came to rely as philosophy and heritage.

Part of the heritage of the colonial lawyer is the ability to look beyond rules and citations and precedents to the ebb and flow of human affairs that the law undertakes to serve and guide. CONTACT is a record of human affairs taken from the press of Virginia, an image of the law's impact on people.

In Estimated 1,000

Virginian-Pilot, July 28, 1970

Migrants Suffer Job Loss

By Virginian-Pilot Correspondent

EXMORE—An estimated 1,000 migrant workers are wandering through Accomack and Northampton Counties without work or income, a Virginia Employment Commission worker said here.

The unemployed farm workers come to the Eastern Shore on speculation, said James N. Belote of the VEC office here, without any contract or job offers.

An overabundance of rain during the harvesting season, coupled with mechanization of harvesting procedures, has left some migrants jobless.

But Employment officials say the big hindrance comes from Federal restrictions on recruitment of migrants.

Belote said local farmers have almost entirely quit using the Exmore VEC office as a source of migrant labor, primarily because the camps they maintain for the migrants, while they come up to state health standards, do not meet new, stricter Federal standards.

The Employment Commission cannot recruit migrant labor from other states to come to Virginia unless they come to camps that meet the new Federal stand-

ards.

Some state employment spokesmen say the new Federal restrictions have brought about a virtual "ban" on state recruitment of migrants. The Federal health laws apply in all cases where the state does interstate recruiting.

Some farmers say they cannot meet the expense of keeping the camps up to Federal standards. This factor has led to urging by several farmers' groups, including the Virginia Association of Potato and Vegetable Growers, that farmers move to mechanization of harvesting methods to cut

down the labor problem.

Many Eastern Shore farmers have increased their use of mechanical potato and bean harvesters.

Another method used by some farmers to deal with the problem, Belote said, is keeping migrant labor crews under contract from year to year. Migrants with such private contracts come to Virginia knowing they will have work.

This private recruiting by farmers is not subject to the Federal health regulations, and the VEC is not involved in the transactions.