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Texas Farm Workers Won Half a Victory

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Texas Farm Workers Won Half a Victory

To the Editor:

Re your Aug. 16 front-page article on Texas A & M's paying farm workers as contractors, not employees:

Although the university is depicted as having owned up to its responsibility for violations committed in the 1990's, it also refused to correct the Social Security records of the many workers it admits having treated in the same way since at least the 1970's. During the last 10 years thousands of farm workers in Texas and elsewhere have in vain requested the Internal Revenue Service and the Labor Department to intervene to end such unlawful practices.

This case is a victory for the workers only in the sense that a robbery victim whom the police refuse to help is victorious when he has to hire a lawyer to file a civil suit for restitution.

MARC LINDER

Iowa City, Aug. 17, 1995

The writer, a University of Iowa law professor, was with Texas Rural Legal Aid, which brought the suit.