Farmworker Exploitation: Who Really Pulls the Strings?

Two key members of the Board of Directors of CAMPBELL SOUP CO. are ANDREW ‘DREW’ LEWIS (left), also a director of EQUITABLE LIFE, and ROBERT A. BECK (right), Chairman of the Board of PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE. They symbolize the powerful interests behind the plight of migrant and seasonal farmworkers who harvest tomatoes and cucumbers in the Midwest for CAMPBELL products and Campbell-owned VLASIC pickles.

The label on the can or jar containing a CAMPBELL or VLASIC product tells you certain facts about what’s inside, but it doesn’t tell you the truth about how it got there.

If you check the list of ingredients, you’ll see no mention of child labor, malnutrition, exposure to dangerous pesticides, sub-minimum wages or anything else pertaining to the atrocious working and living conditions thousands of farmworkers endure merely to survive. Nor is there any reference to the corporate irresponsibility of the ‘Drew’ Lewises and Robert Becks who set the policies that exploit those who toil in the fields.