

MELON STRIKE IN TEXAS

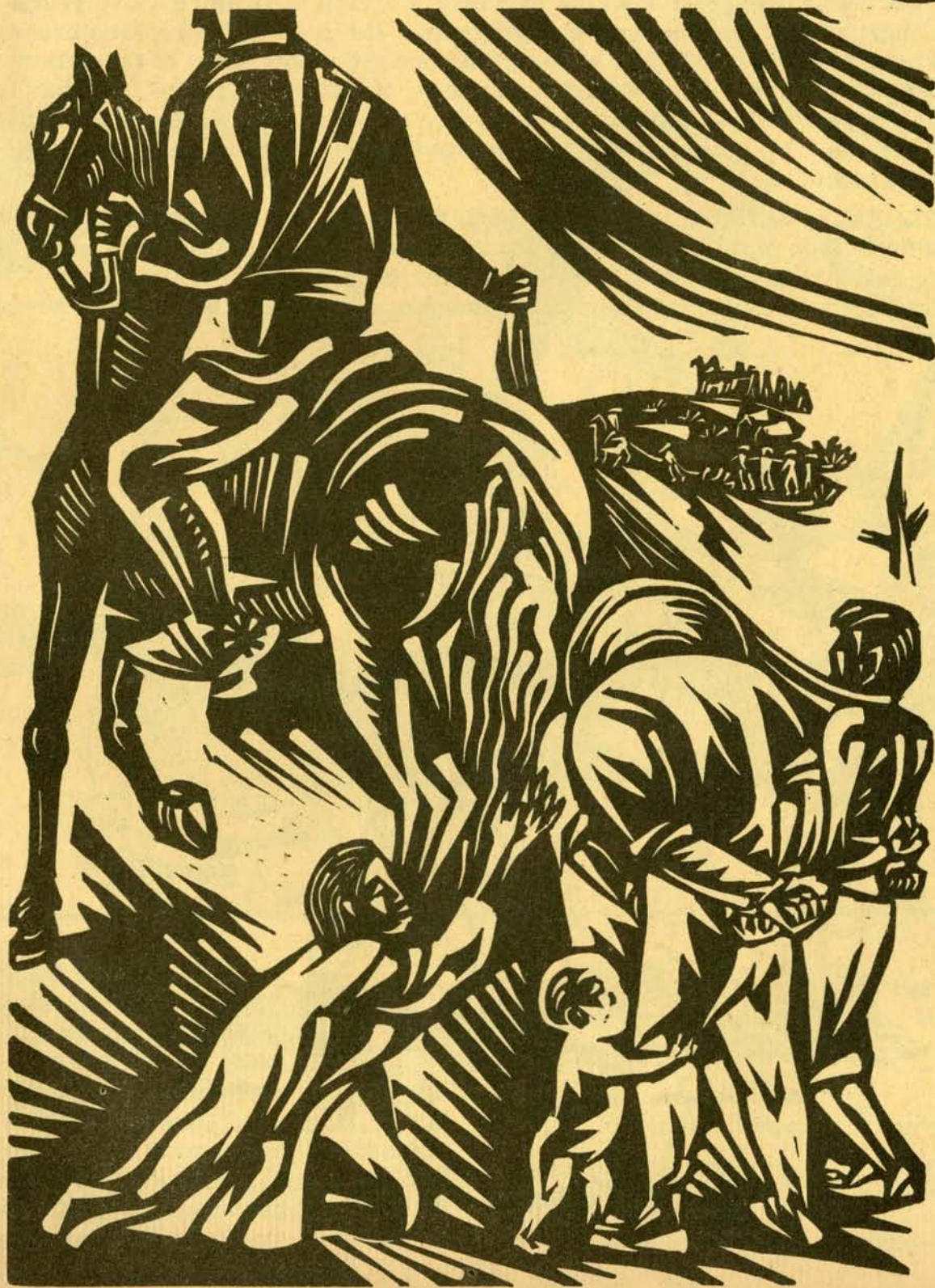
El Malcriado

IN ENGLISH

NO. 38

10¢

"The Voice of the Farm Worker"

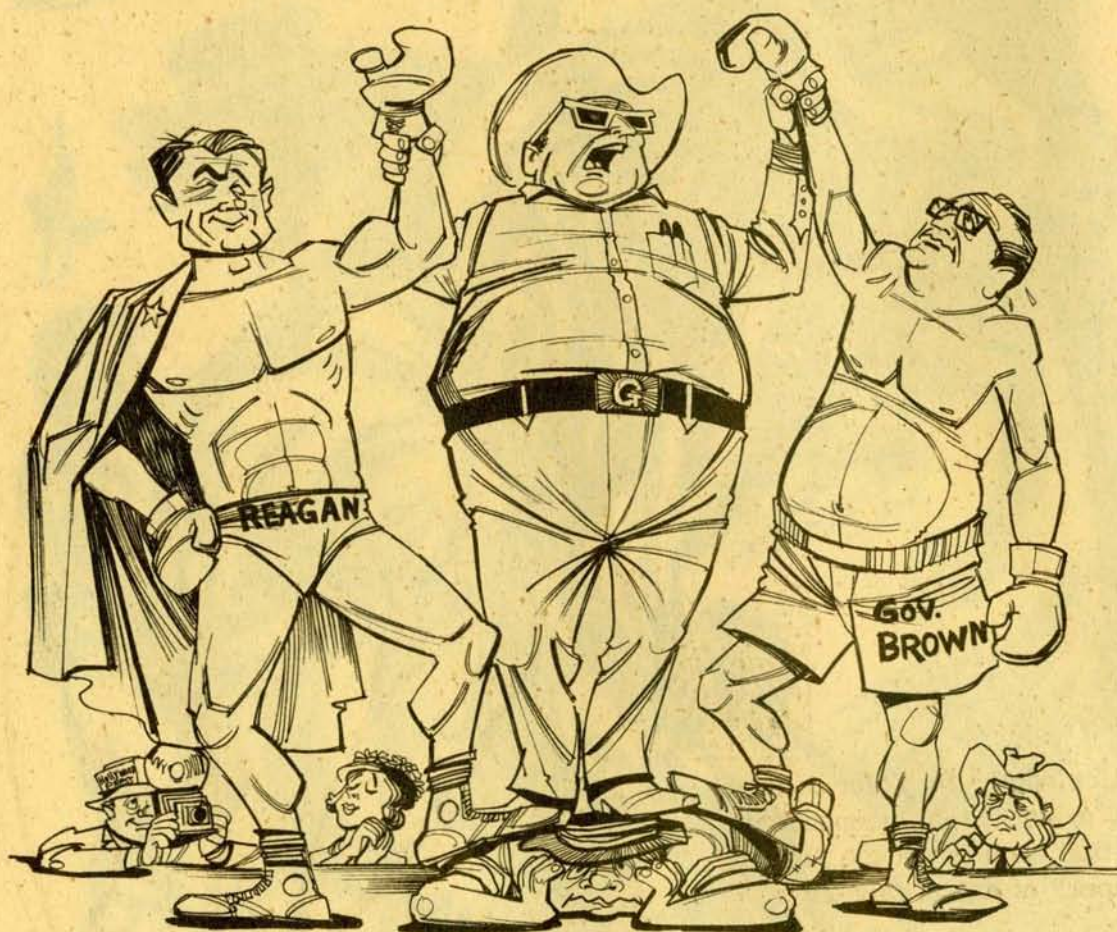


TWEEDLEDUMB AND TWEEDLESTUPID

Farm workers lost the election last week. And they will lose the election in November. It almost always happens that way. One politician is usually as bad as the next. The ranchers always buy them off. Farmworkers will never get ahead if we depend on politicians. The only way to get ahead is to help ourselves, by working together in the union.

Sometimes Governor Brown acts as if he wants to help us. But his actions speak louder than his words. He has kept braceros working in California two years after Congress outlawed the bracero program. He is trying to replace braceros with prisoners out of the jails, making California the only state in the nation with these programs. For the last four years, no Governor in the U. S. has had a greater opportunity to help the farm worker than Brown. No governor has done less to help us. No governor has broken more promises to us, told us more lies, than Pat Brown.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: If you want to keep your job, Pat, you better not take us for granted. You better prove to us that you care about our problems. Because if we're going to have another four years with an enemy in Sacramento, we would rather have an honest enemy like Reagan. At least we would know where we stand.



Election Winners

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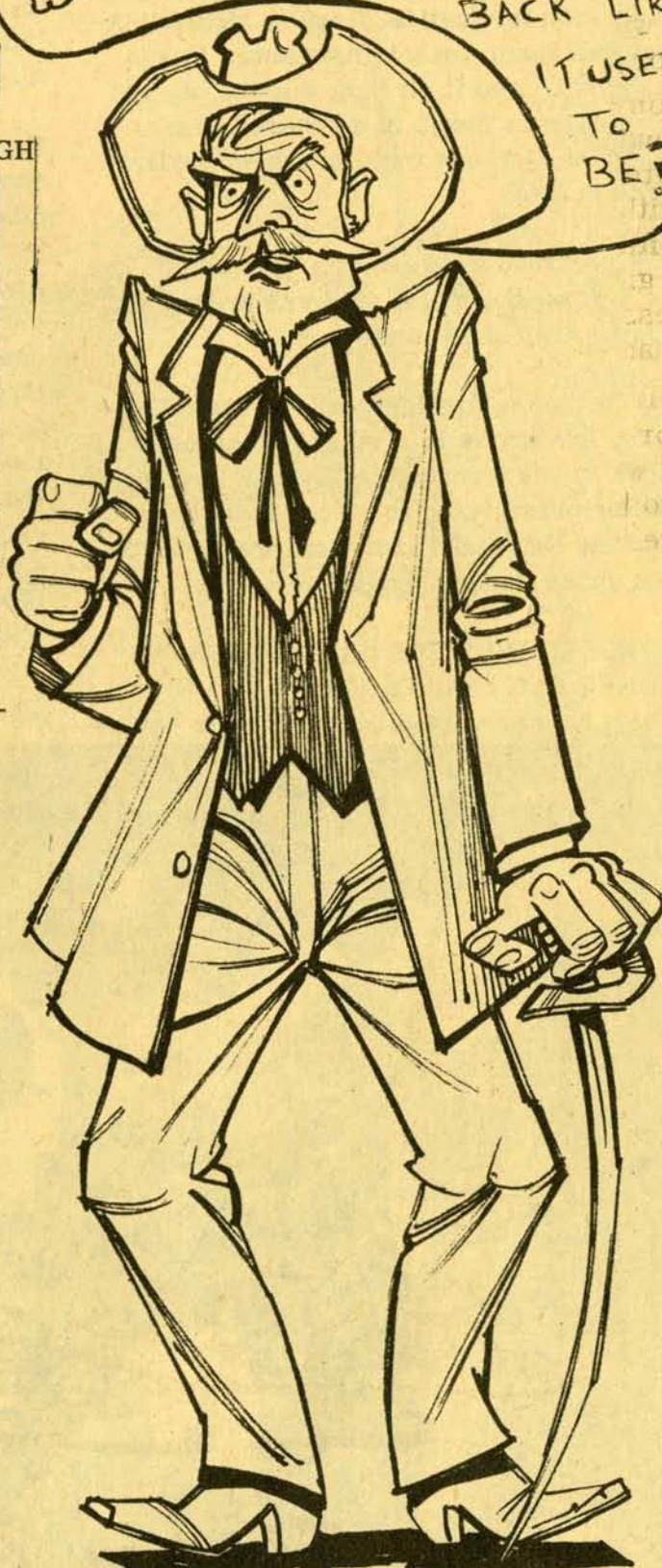
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EVAH SINCE 1865, MAH WORKERS
HAVE BEEN UPPITY. HOW WILL
WE EVAH GIT AMERICA
BACK LIKE
IT USED
TO BE?



OUR COVER:

"Las Acordadas" by Jesus
Escobedo



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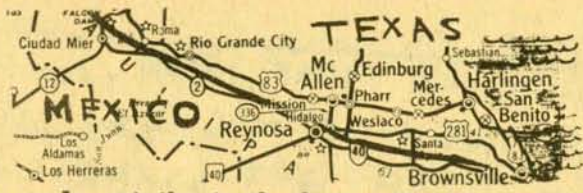
El Malcriado

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This issue is #

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RANCHERO DE TEXAS



Huge Strike

"The melon strike is the beginning of our revolution for justice," said a Mexican-American farm worker in Southern Texas last week. And it already was the biggest revolution in Texas in a hundred years. Since the workers went on strike the first week in June:

***Over 1000 workers have joined the strike against the melon growers around Rio Grande City and Roma.

***The union, the Independent Farm Workers, has grown to over 1500 members since it was founded on May 12. Last week the members voted to merge their union with the National Farm Workers Association under Cesar Chavez.

***EIGHT GROWERS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH THE UNION. These growers are all small (under 400 a-

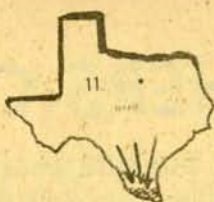
crees) and all Mexican-Americans. The contracts include \$1.25 an hour for the harvest. But the big growers refuse to sign a contract.

Farm workers in Texas have a long road ahead. The state troopers and state government discriminate against Mexicans and have special laws to try to prevent unions. And the fidderal govermint has opened the Mexican border so that thousands of Mexican Nationals can pour across to break the strike (almost all strike-breakers are now from South of the Border). La Casita Farms sends two 70-passenger buses south of the border everyday from Roma though pickets have cut them down to only 20 workers on some days. Many scabs also cross the border in private cars. The border offishals do nothing to stop this.

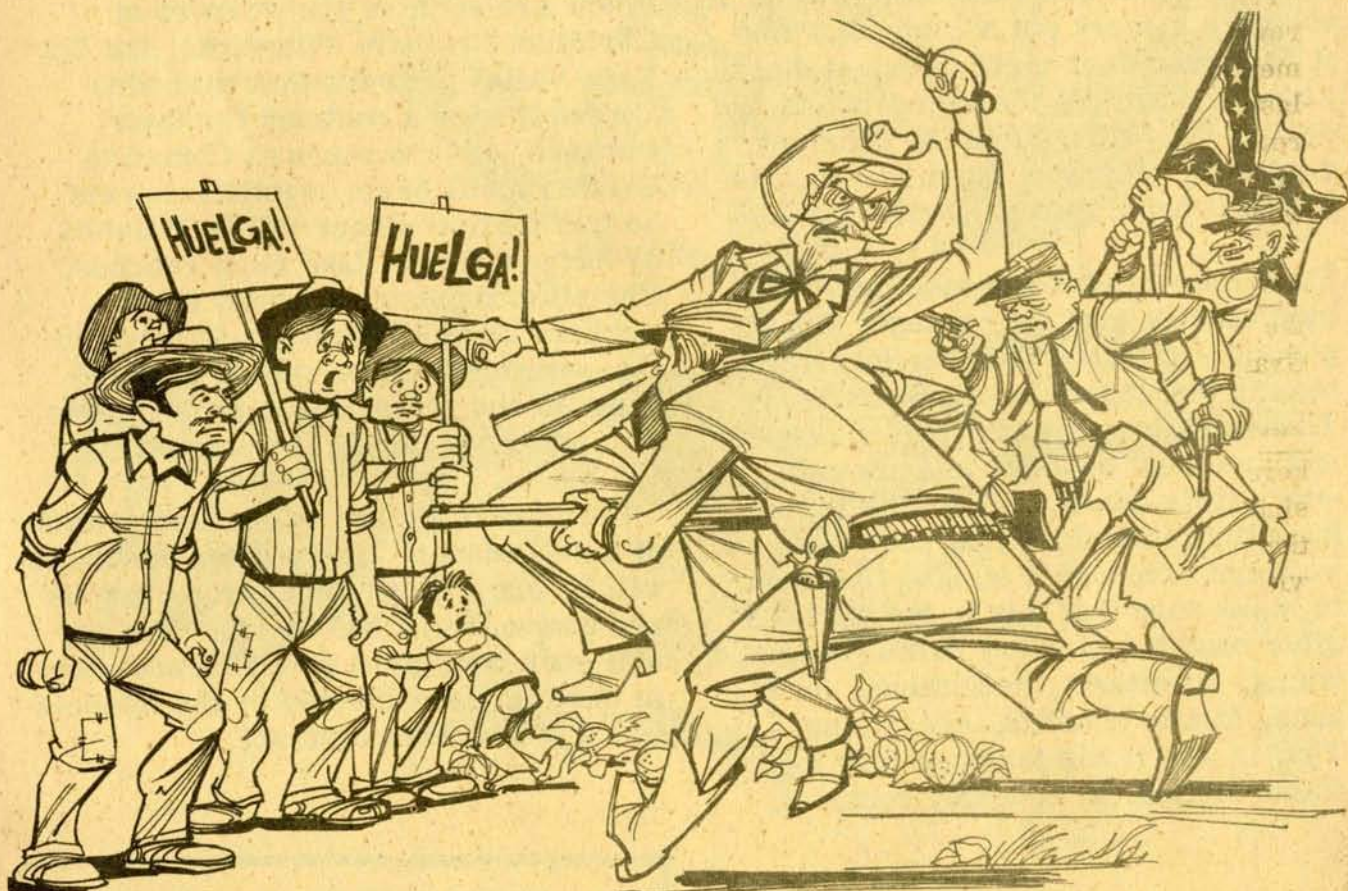
The Mayors of Roma and Rio Grande City



in Texas



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have endorsed the strike and local businessmen are helping the workers (how different from California!). The businessmen realize that higher wages will help everyone, that if workers earn more money, they spend more and the stores profit, too.

The churches are also helping, bringing in food, preventing grower violence. There has not been any violence yet, and the workers have pledged to continue non-violence. But growers have attacked workers and have tried to outlaw picketing. Other unions are also helping. Packers in the area, members of the packinghouse union, did not cross picket lines and many lost their jobs.

Texas growers have called on the Texas Rangers, with their six-guns and cowboy boots to control strikers in the melons in the Rio Grande Valley. Growers have obtained an injunction forbidding picketing at the fields and sheds of the six major growers in the area.

The workers are asking \$1.25 an hour, guaranteed in a written contract. Here is what they are now receiving, on some of the biggest ranches:

Los Puertos Plantation--60¢ an hour;
Margo Farm--50¢ an hour;
Trophy Farms--70¢ an hour;
Las Velas Ranch--65¢ an hour;
Suntez--80¢ an hour;
and Rancho Grande--60¢ an hour.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONTRACT

It took eight months of striking to get millionaire Schenley Corporation to agree to sit down at the table with farm workers to work out a contract. And it has taken over eight weeks of discussions to settle all the agreements and details that will go into the Schenley contract. (A few of the minor details are still being worked out.)

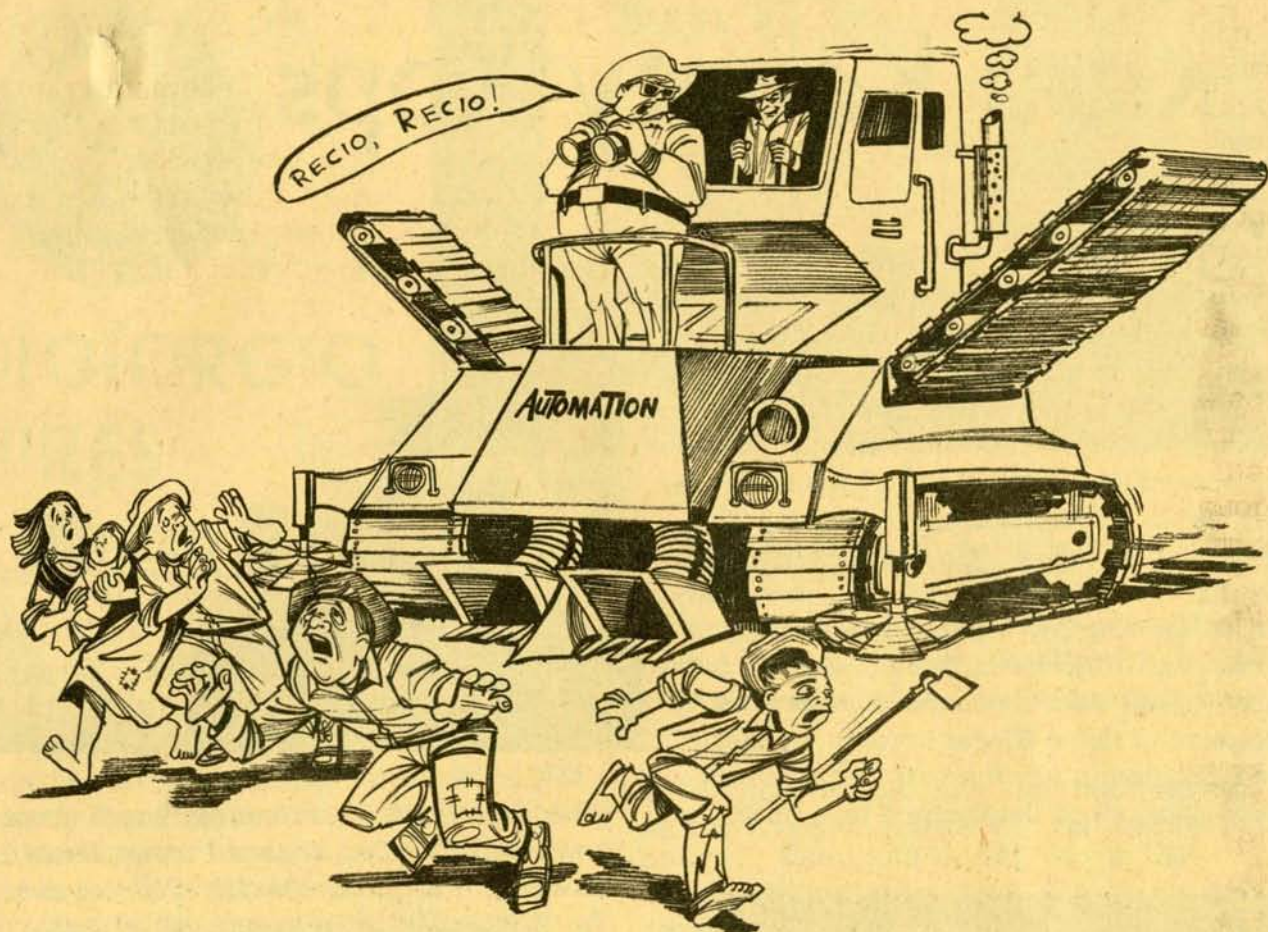
First the workers had meetings to decide exactly what they thought was important and fair. Then the Schenley bosses discussed these proposals. Then the workers and Schenley bosses had meetings together to work out every little detail. Since this is the first time in history that poor farm workers have won a strike, they want to make sure that this is the best possible contract in every detail—wages, hours, conditions, deductions, insurance, family benefits, everything. That is why it has taken so long to finish writing the Schenley contract.

But this contract will become a symbol for farm workers throughout California. Below are some of the workers at Christian Brothers Vineyards, the big Napa Valley growers that have also agreed to sign a contract for their workers. The workers at Christian Brothers will begin negotiations next, so that their contract will be finished by harvest time. Like most ranches, Christian Brothers has only a few workers as permanent employees, so the contract must be written to give benefits and protection to the migrants who just work during the harvest.

The Plan of Delano is our Declaration of Independence. The written contracts will be our Constitution, protecting us and guaranteeing our rights. The day will soon come when every farm worker in the state is protected by the Association and a written contract.



WORKERS AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS will soon start writing their contract. From left to right are Srs. Villegas, Rodriguez, Trujillo, Garcia, Mendoza, Fwa Vice President Tony Orendain, Majena, Candello, Maldonado, Zepeda, Rodriguez, FWA Director Cesar Chavez, and Cortez.



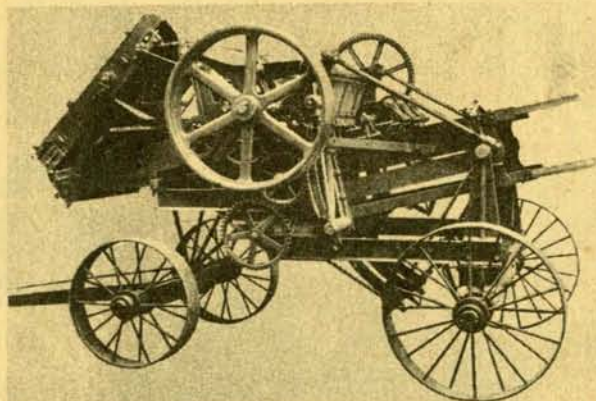
Government spends \$150,000 to help growers eliminate workers. The following is a statement from the University of California.

"A broad University-wide program to speed farm mechanization in the face of a growing labor shortage has been announced by University Dean of Agriculture Maurice L. Peterson

"The accelerated research effort, financed by a special \$150,000 state legislative appropriation, will be centered on development of machines or systems for using labor more efficiently . . . The speeded across-the-board research effort has grown out of discontinuance of the bracero program, the import of temporary farm labor from Mexico, at the beginning of this year.

"It was apparent at once," Director Kelly said, "that there could be only two solutions to the problem: find another labor source or mechanize."

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: That last line should read: "pay decent wages or mechanize." And how much is the state paying to help farm workers get higher wages?

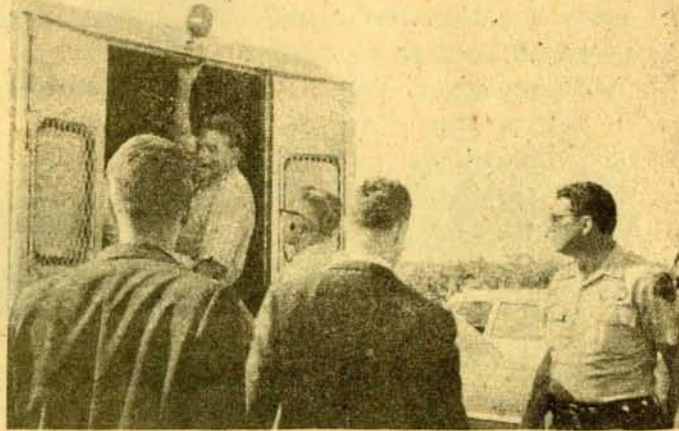


Early automatic baler

Kern Kounty Kops



Last October 17, Kern County Sheriff LeRoy Gaylen arrested 44 people, mostly Mexican-Americans but also including priests, mothers, even children. Their crime: shouting "Huelga!" to scabs in the fields. Growers thought they could end the strike by arresting pickets at the El Rancho Farms strike down in Arvin last August. That time, the strikers were held in jail until the harvest was completed, and then released, the charges being dropped. But the story was different in Delano. People from all over the country heard about our strike because of these illegal arrests. Money was donated to pay the bail. And the strikers were more determined than ever.

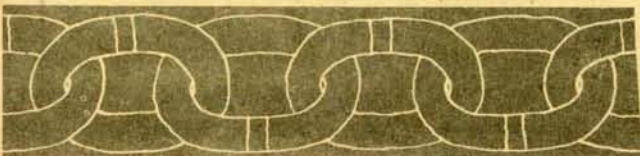
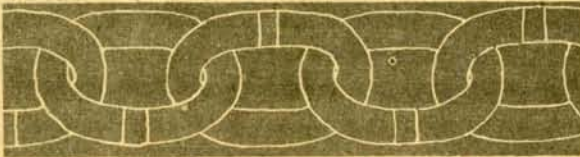
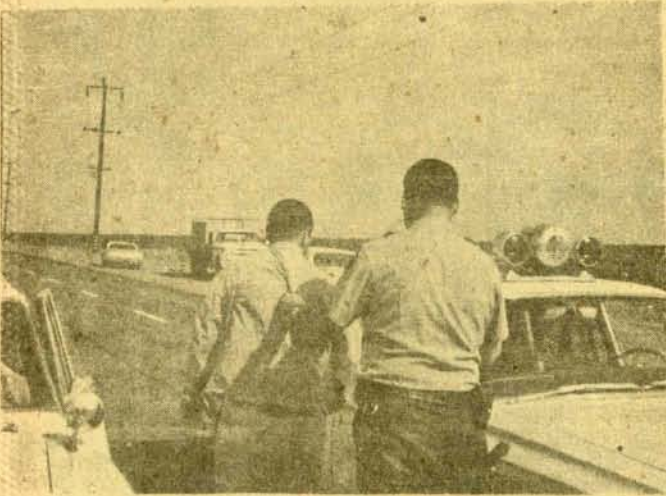


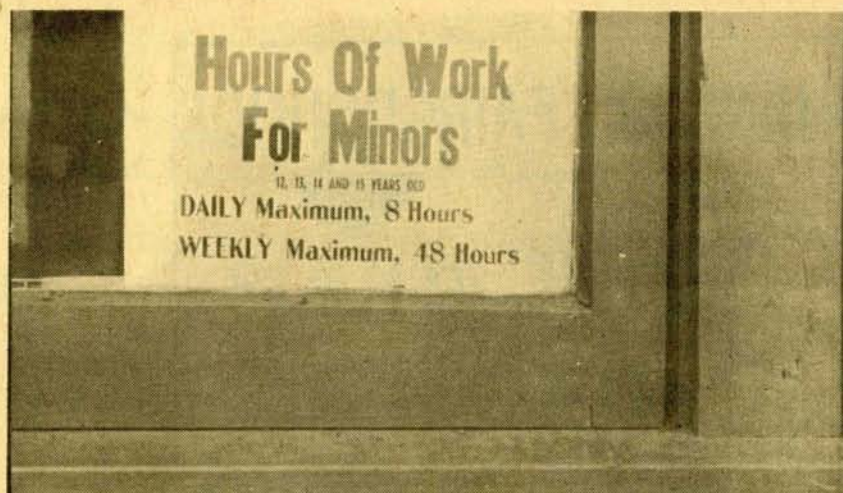
When Senator Robert Kennedy heard about how sheriff Gaylen arrested the strikers, he said, "I suggest, Sheriff, that you read the U. S. Constitution before you arrest any more strikers."



Last week in the elections, sheriff Gaylen was defeated and a new sharif was elected. The people were sick of cops illegally arresting people without any cause or reason. And the charges against the strikers will be dismissed, since they didn't break any laws.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Not one member of the FWA has been convicted of breaking any laws during this strike. Yet they continue to arrest us for no reason. But these illegal arrests just make us more determined than ever to change this rotten "way of life".





DIGIORGIO HIRES

CHILDREN AS STRIKEBREAKERS

The gigantic DiGirgi Croporation, with \$132, 000, 000 in profits last year, is having to hire children to harvest its grapes. In Borrego, where the harvest has already begun on their 5, 000 acres, two truckloads of high school children were brought in to do the picking. Several crews of children are working on DiGoogoo's 9, 000 acres near Arvin. And DiGorgon plans to get several hundred children to work in Delano in the near future.

On the other hand, they are sending 75 women employees from Delano back to Juaraz, Mexico, where they were hired two months ago without being told of the strike. Why is DiGurgio firing these women, just before the harvest? Because they signed cards

saying that they wanted the protection of the National Farm Workers Association as their union, and a written contract.

DiGiorgio bosses are running scared, as the boycott grows and the harvest nears. They are trying to get the County Courts to outlaw picketing and arrest the strikers. They tell the press that they are for "free" elections but then they fire anyone that says he favors the union. But time is running out for Mr. DiGirgi. FWA members have secret meetings with DiGorgi employees almost every night. Every day more stores say they will not carry DiGiorgio products until this giant treats its farm workers decently.

HOMBRES Y MUJERES! SE NECESITAN PARA LA CIA. DI GIORGIO FRUIT CORPORATION

En sus Ranchos de California, para trabajo de la Uva. Se dará preferencia a los trabajadores anteriores.

ACUDA A:
CHAMIZAL FARM LABOR AGENCY

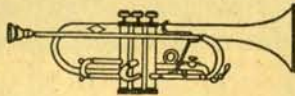
108 West Palsano Dr. Tel. 533-2997. El Paso, Tex.

This add has been running in "El Mexicano," the newspaper of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, since May. It does not mention the strike.

HANFORD FAIRGROUNDS




**GRAN
FIESTA!**



Refreshments-Fun

B E E R

Games

Prizes

Food



FEATURING

*Farm Worker
Theater*

SUNDAY, JULY 3 STARTS
12 NOON

BENEFITS GO TO

Cesar Chavez and NFWA

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

PRAYER

-10-

VIGIL

IN SAN JOSE

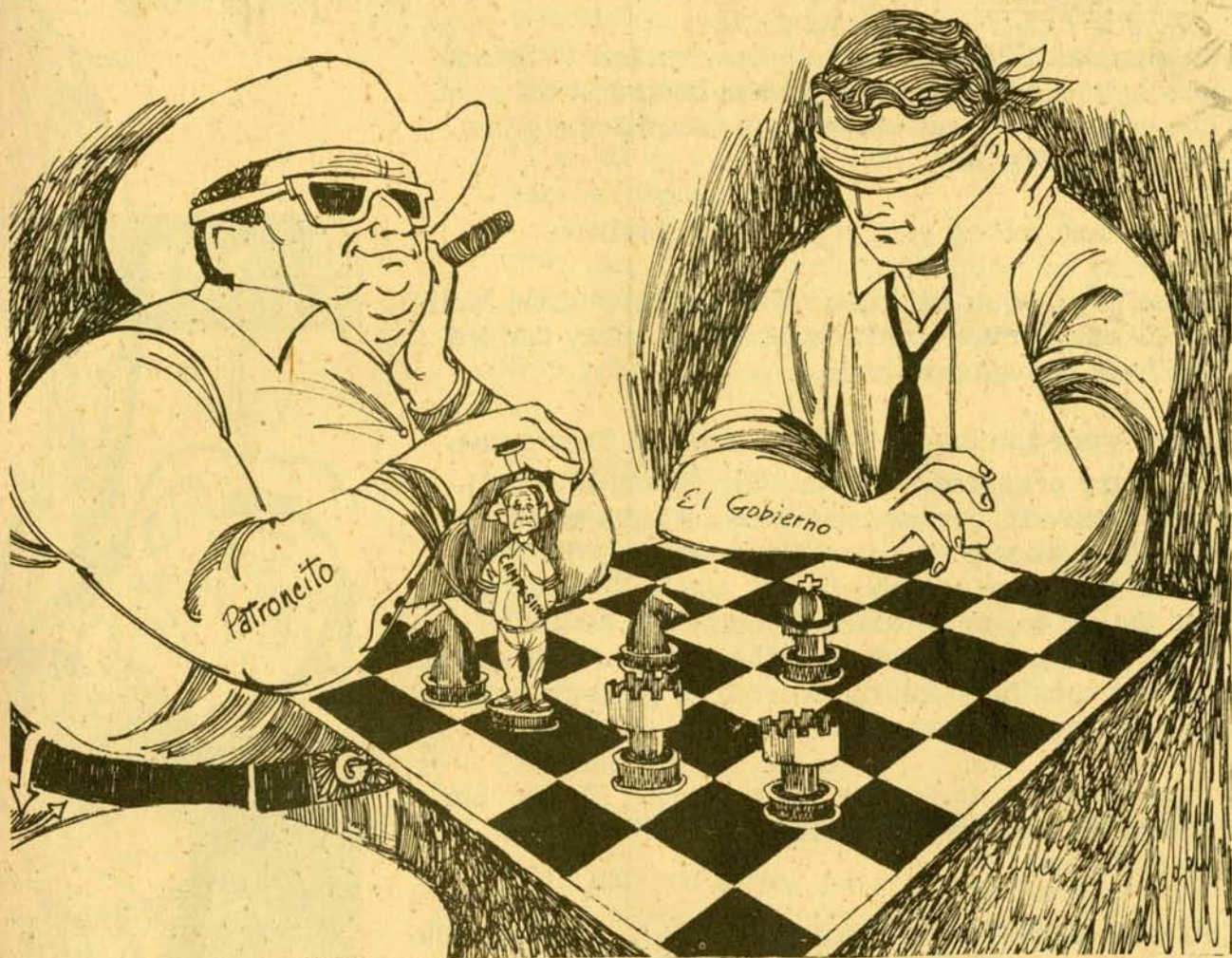


Priests, farm workers, people of all religious faiths have begun a "resada", a continuous prayer vigil, at the Carmelite Mission on Mt. St. Joseph near San Jose. The purpose is "asking God to help all parties concerned to act with wisdom and justice" in ending the Delano strike and helping farm workers throughout California. The woman pictured above is one of hundreds who have gone to the Mission to pray, some for a few minutes, some for an hour, some for a day or throughout the night.



CHECKMATE

(but the campesinos not the only pawn)



Send this coupon to
EL MALCRIADO, BOX 1060
DELANO, CALIFORNIA

The best way to be sure you will get your MALCRIADO is by mail, delivered to your home every two weeks. Send your name and address to Box 894, Delano, Calif., and we will send you the newspaper to you for one year.

The cost is \$2.00 per year, but you do not have to send this now. We will send you a bill.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____



A Tale of Don Sotaco

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The sign said: "Strawberry pickers wanted." Sotaco and his friend Meliton stopped and looked at the sign. "The strawberry festival was a heck of a party last year," said Sotaco.

"Who's been pulling your leg?" asked Meliton.

"Those guys would sell their own mother," said Meliton. "Furthermore, Salinas is too far away and we don't have enough dough."

As they were talking, they spotted Uncle Tom's car. Tom, very presumptuous, driving slowly in a California State car. Sotaco and Meliton have known Uncle Tom since they were kids together. They all lived in the same neighborhood. Uncle Tom was always the sissy, always hiding behind his mother's skirts. But now he works for the state; always wears a tie and uses high-falutin' words, to project the image of his own importance.

In that throaty voice of his, he inquired, "Boys, have you heard about the strawberry harvest? We need your help in Salinas."

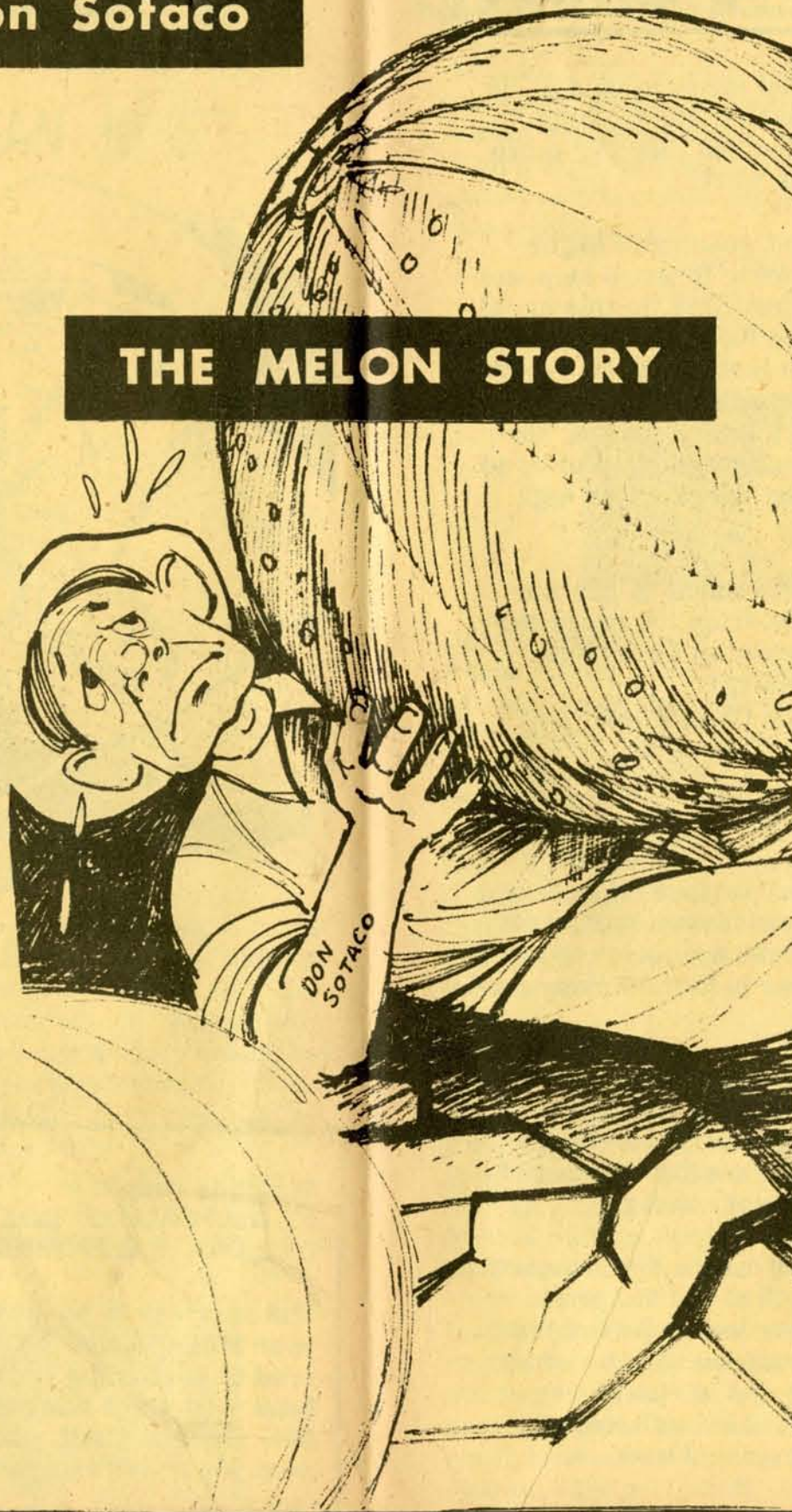
This was all Sotaco and Meliton needed. Meliton, who was somewhat of a mechanic, stayed up all night fixing his Oldsmobile. Next morning the two families left at full speed for Salinas with all their belongings.

A week later they had returned. They had only worked two days before being laid off. There were too many workers. They earned \$34 in those two days. But their expenses were \$14 for rent, \$6 for food, \$5 for gas, and the rest they used to buy a tire.

Back home, under a tree, Sotaco, leaning back on the trunk, said to Meliton, "That's exactly what we deserve for believing in Uncle Tom. Gimme a drink of Kool-Aid."

"We should be drinking beer instead of this blasted Kool-Aid. You can have it--all of it."

THE MELON STORY



"I'm gonna see Foxy about a job weeding cotton. My kids are up to here with beans."

Once again Sotaco is weeding cotton for Foxy at the same miserable wage, under the same lamentable conditions, and abuses. When they finished weeding cotton, they saw Uncle Tom again. Once again in his characteristic voice he says: "I've got some good news about the melon harvest."

"I'm all up to date on that," says Sotaco with a gesture of repugnance.

"No, no, no. Everything is different this year. They are paying \$1.40 an hour plus a bonus if you stay until the end of the season. And they're not using sacks this year. Everything is easier. Go find out in Huron."

"Is Meliton going?" asks Sotaco.

"He doesn't believe me anymore," says Uncle Tom, somewhat worried.

"I don't believe you either," says Sotaco. "Even if I'm so stupid, I don't believe you anymore."

"But the wages are guaranteed," says Uncle Tom.

"By who?" asks Sotaco.

"By the ranchers, all the ranchers," answered Tom.

"How can you prove that?" asked Sotaco. "Do you have a written contract signed by the ranchers?"

"No, but the ranchers have given their word."

Sotaco answers mockingly, "Whose word? Those beggars can't keep their word to the workers."

Sotaco continues, "Tell me, Uncle Tom, how come you guys who work for the Department of Employment of California and those who work for the Department of Labor fib to us so much?"

"What lies?" asks Uncle Tom, gulping.

"Well, first you said there was a lot of work in Salinas, that anyone who showed up would get a job. You also said they paid \$1.40. But that was a lot of baloney."

Tom loosened his tie and a lonely drop of perspiration folled down his low forehead. "You're nuts. You don't know what you're saying. You lazy boys won't take a good job when it's offered."

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Friend Malcriado:


I want to let you know what all the people of this state ought to know, that here in Corcoran exists a concentration camp, where all the prisoners should be mute, and that it belongs to the Solyer Company.

I worked for a month and quit. Do you want to know why they became millionaires? Because they charge their employees for the things they use while working for them, such as: shovles, boots, lamps, etc.

Don't you think that the proper law authorities should know about their proceedings?

I'm asking you to send an organizer so that we can join your union, all at once.

Your friend,
P. M. L., Corcoran



Dear Editor:

Some people say that these so called "wet backs, black and white demand so much". But this is 1966 not 1936. Today \$1.40 an hour is the second to the lowest if not the lowest wage paid to any worker in the state of California. If the growers can afford to have \$75,000-\$100,000 homes and own three or four automobiles, they can afford to pay higher wages. If you cannot see this, you are just as ignorant as all the rest of the people in this town who are trying to interfere in something they know nothing about.

P. O. A., a farm worker
Delano



Fellow workers:

There's been a fresh breeze blowing out this way, in Washington State.

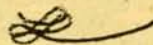
For instance, for the first time in his-

tory the "good" hop farmers paid \$1.35 and up to \$1.40 an hour for training hops. Never before did they pay more than \$1.25 for this work.

In the blocking and weeding of sugar beets another historic forward step was taken. For the first time (in this area) the bosses allowed the workers to use long-handled hoes instead of the 8-inch handled tools formerly used. Besides this almost revolutionary change, the pay for blocking and weeding went up to \$1.35 an hour from the previous high of \$1.10.

This trifling improvement in pay and conditions resulted from the scare the growers got by events in California.

Viva la Huelga!
George C. Underwood,
Yakima, Washington



Dear Sirs:

In Texas State, the "patriotic" biggest owners of thousands and thousands of acres of farming land, claim that they "cannot" pay over 50¢ an hour to their Mexican workers.

The same thing happens in Colorado, where the rich farmers don't pay reasonable wages, and are also "unable" to provide the Mexican farm employees that they import from Texas with decent housing.

Most people believe that we live in poverty because it is the will of God that people be poor, and they never look at the fact that we live under an economical system that allows just a few to get as rich as they please, with the work and suffering of thousands and thousands of workers.

As long as we live under these conditions

What The People Are Thinking

because of this system, there is no other remedy to cure farm workers' grievances except to organize and to "STRIKE". That's our only weapon in our struggle against such heartless exploitation as the one practiced here.

Your humble servant,
Robert Trujillo,
Denver, Colorado



Dear Hermanos:

Farm workers are always ignored, especially when they are trying to help themselves. The United Farm Workers has 500 people ready to go to work for Salinas Strawberries, Inc., in Salinas. (That figure is only scratching the surface of the labor that would be available if decent wages and a contract were offered.) All we want is a union contract, including transportation, and a guaranteed wage of \$1.40 per hour, plus 15¢ a crate.

EL MALCRIADO reports how Governor Brown obtained slaves from Mexico for his political friends in Salinas. Did you know that on April 15, May 10, and May 23, the United Farm Workers informed Salinas Strawberries that workers were available in San Jose?

Instead of sending buses and trying to negotiate with the people here who were waiting to work, Salinas Strawberries recruited poor families in Texas to come live in trailers renting for either \$108 or \$210 per month (now, after the arrival of braceros, lowered to \$150).

Of course such recruiting was a failure. We of the United Farm Workers hold that it was a planned failure, for the purpose of obtaining braceros. When the families began leaving (as calculated), Salinas Strawberries ran off happily to their political friends in Sacramento and Washington. They were given braceros while still refusing to recognize hundreds of local workers in the San Jose area.

Only when farm workers and their unions stand united, will growers be unable to ignore domestic workers, as Salinas Strawberries, with the help of Governor Brown and Albert Tieburg, have done this past month.

Please tell farm workers and EL MALCRIADO readers how United Farm Workers members were cheated out of their jobs.

Sincerely,
Oscar Gonzales
President, United Farm
Workers

Dear Sir and Brother:

At our last membership meeting of Local 598, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, the membership voted unanimously to support you wholeheartedly in your fight for better wages and conditions.

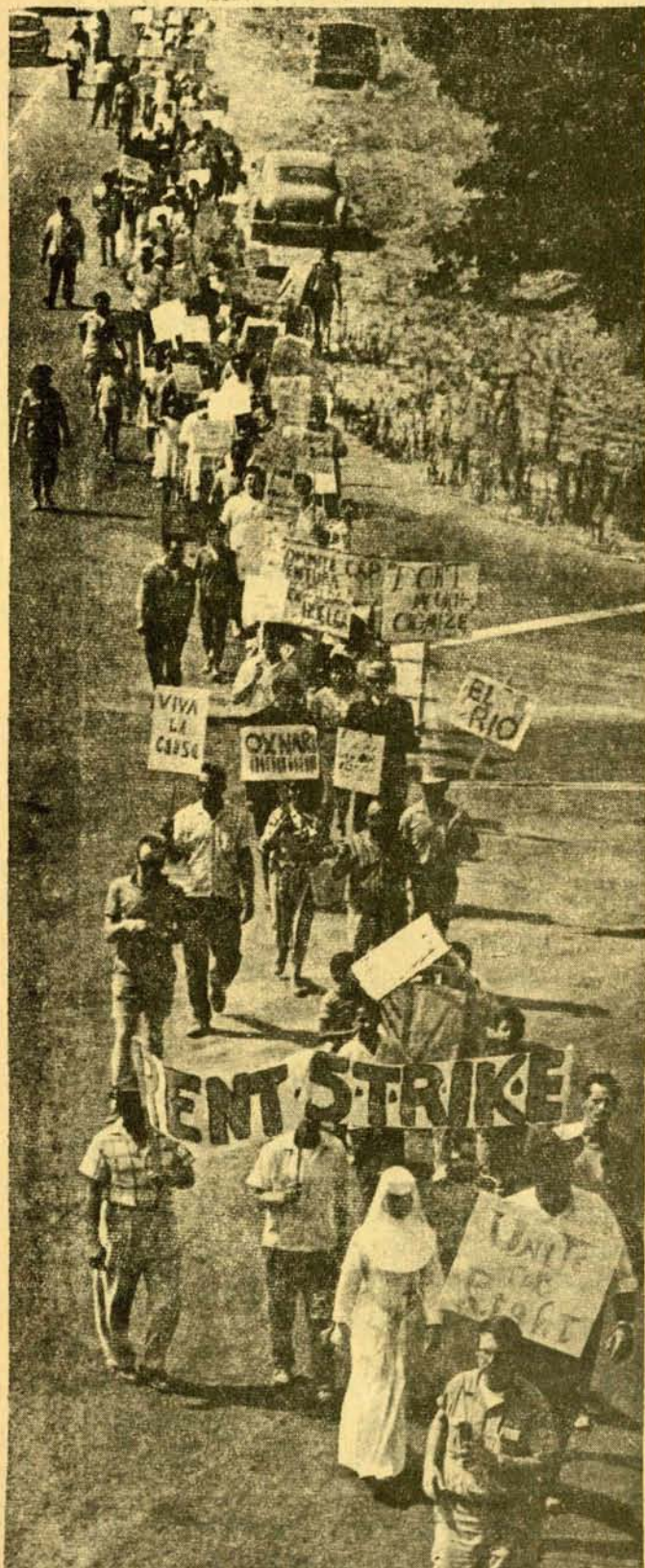
The officers of this local union manned the picket lines at Ralphs Markets in support of the consumer boycott of S & W foods.

Fraternally yours,
Thomas Wood
Secretary-Treasurer
Local 598

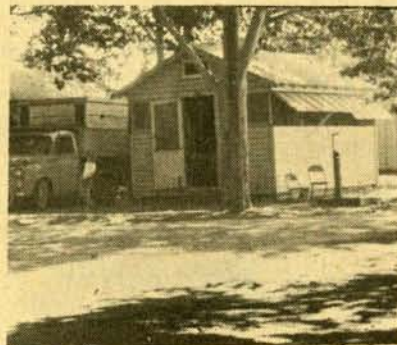


Life in

Aims Unchanged in Year Long Rent Strike



July, 1965: Workers march to Visalia to protest Tulare county housing.



For a year now, residents of Tulare County's Migrant Worker Camps at Linnell and Woodville have been demanding better conditions and lower rents. They have refused to pay rent increases and have gotten offishals to promise new houses. But now the officials plan to charge \$60 a month for the new houses, much too high for the poor farm workers, who usually make under \$1800 a year.

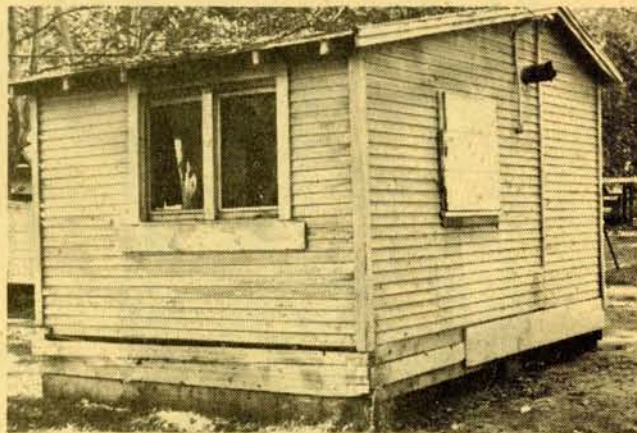


Housing officials say that \$30 is to pay the rent and utilities, and \$30 to pay high salaries for the officieals. Ernesto Loredo of Woodville, a leader of the tenants, promised the rent strike would continue until the workers got decent housing at fair prices. For 13 months these farm workers have stood up to the offishals and have saved themselves hundreds of dollars because of it. The fight will go on until justice is won.

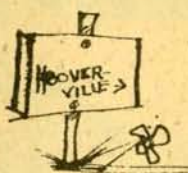
the Camps

Gridley Camp: Same Old Story

The idea of a "camp" is to herd hundreds of people into a small area and give them as cheap as possible housing. Some camps, like some stables, are clean. But most are not fit for human use. The story at Gridley Labor Camp in Butte County (north of Sacramento and Chico) is the same as at Tulare County or Arvin County, or Wasco, or any of the other "public, non-profit" camps in the state. Shacks 16' by 20', no running water, leaky roofs, some without windows, garbage not collected, unsanitary, no repairs.



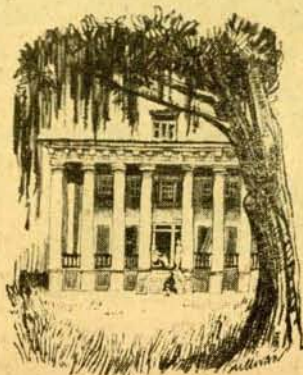
Home for a family of four



Tenants in Gridley Camp tried to organize a tenants council last fall to defend their rights. They elected a tenant to the County Anti-Poverty Commission. But the ranchers and the Housing Authority tried desperately to destroy the tenants council and kicked Joe Hafer, their tenant's representative, off the Anti-Poverty Commission.

The rents seem low (\$16-\$25 a month) except that most families have to rent several cabins. These shacks cost under \$100 apiece to build, back in the 30's, so the Housing Authority has reaped thousands of dollars of profit per house for over 20 years. When farm workers earn decent wages, they won't live in camps. But until that day, those that must live in these camps have the right to withhold all their rent from the greedy officials until the camps are repaired. And the huge profits that the camps have made for the officials (Tulare County made \$130, 000 profits in the last ten years) should be given to the tenants.

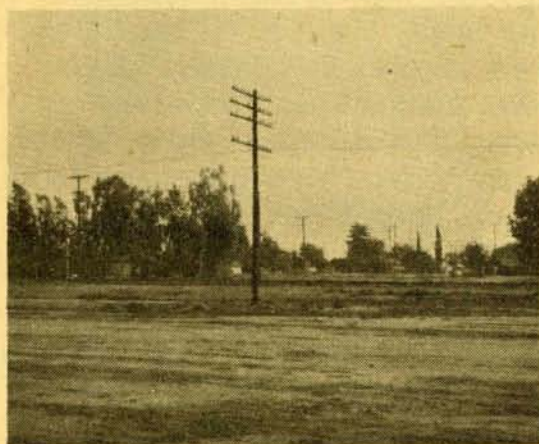
El Malcriado salutes Joe Hafer and the other tenants who started the tenants council in Gridley. We hope that the 800 residents who come to Gridley for the peach and prune harvest will form a strong tenants council and put the arrogant officials in their place.



(we lives
OUT
BACK)



What is the Name of This Town?



*The first answer
wins \$5.00*

SEND YOUR ANSWER AND
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
TO:

"GAME OF THE TOWNS"
P.O. BOX 1060
DELANO, CALIF.

Mr. Malcriado:

I want to tell you that the photograph in the last EL MALCRIADO is a picture taken in the town of McFarland. Before it was the train station, but now it is the place where the Konklin Nursery has its people working. And that Mr. Konklin is precisely the one that robbed me the past year of \$66 and that never has paid me the money.

Atte.,

Epifanio Camacho

McFarland, California

In addition to Sr. Camacho, there were four others whose correct answers were post-marked June 9. They were Henry Peraza, Manuel Garza, and Concha Garcia of McFarland; Jill Fernando of Delano; and Geneva Celedon of Bakersfield. They will all receive the "Corrido de Deleno".

Boycott in Chicago:

S&W Official Attacks Pregnant Woman



In Chicago last week, the biggest Co-op store in Illinois (with over 9,000 families as members) was the scene of a near battle between shoppers and S&W offishals. The shoppers, who were also members and owners of the co-op, were going through the store and removing all the S&W products from the shelves. They were filling grocery carts with these cans and then putting leaflets on them, telling other shoppers about the Delano strike and about the huge boycott against DiGiorgio's S&W products. But an S&W offishal happened to come into the store at this at this time. He got furious at the women, tried to put some cans back on the shelves, and finally, in desperation, shoved a loaded shopping cart at one of the women, who happened to be 7 months pregnant. She was knocked to the ground. Police soon arrived and escorted the S&W offishal out of the store. And the store manager helped the shoppers take off the rest of the S&W scab products. The 59 feet of empty shelves there are now a monument to the stupidity and stubbornness of DiGioho. VIVA EL BOYCOTEO!!!



A woman customer uses her free hand to empty shelves of S&W canned goods at the Hyde Park Co-operative Store, 1526 E. 55th St., during protest against the Di Giorgio Corp. of California where the National Farm Workers Assn. is on strike.

\$ALINAS \$TRAWBERRIES INC.

\$alinas \$trawberries Inc. is a millionaire corporation which makes fantastic profits every year but treats its workers like captive animals. \$alinas \$trawberries Inc. uses Mexican braceros to pick its crop. Congress outlawed the bracero program two years ago, but these growers seem to be above the laws. Governor Brown pretends he doesn't know how \$alinas \$trawberries Inc. treats its workers. He helps this brutal company to smuggle in braceros year after year, in spite of the laws.

Here a worker replies to the lies of \$alinas \$trawberries Inc. and Governor Brown:

Dear Editor:

If Salinas Strawberries, Inc. provided humane working conditions, they would find no need to use braceros as governmentally supplies strike breakers. Salinas Strawberries, Inc. uses barracks furnishing neither hot water nor mirrors for 500 domestic workers. The nearest villages are miles away; however there is a conveniently located company store. Overcharges for such inhuman living conditions are a common practice. Salinas Strawberries, Inc. requires, few, if any, accurate records of its barracks.

Salinas has no farm labor shortage. On July 1, 1965, three major employers there (Jack T. Baillie Inc.; Bruce Church, Inc.; and Bud Antle, Inc.) turned away domestic farm workers. Salinas Strawberries, Inc., Pat Brown, and Al Tieburg are using braceros to hold the domestic farm worker at the forced labor level of the bracero. I worked for Jack T. Baillie, Manuel Jiminez of Calcagno Farms, and Salinas Strawberries, Inc. (worker number 12096) in June and July of 1965. Of these, Salinas Strawberries is in greatest need of a "Plan of Delano."

Fraternally
William T. Gray, now of
Westminster, Colo.



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THE HOT LINE



THERMAL:One of the largest grape packing houses in Southern California has signed a union contract and agreed to pay \$2 an hour. The workers, members of the United Packing House Workers, will also get overtime pay (a 50% bonus) for any work after the regular 8-hour day. The Packinghouse is owned by the David Freeman Company of Thermal. This is where grape pickers had the strike of May, 1965, which was the spark for the Delano strike.



WASHINGTON, D. C.--Sargent Shriver, head of the Peace Corps and the War on Poverty has presented Cesar Chavez and the farm workers of Delano with a check for \$5,000. The award had been given to Shriver by the AFL-CIO because of Shriver's efforts to help poor people in the war on poverty. Shriver passed it on to the farm workers because they were "on the front line" in the war on poverty.



CLEVELAND--A Catholic priest, Father Gabriel Hannan, is wearing a Huelga button and trying to help Puerto Rican farm workers organize and improve their conditions in Ohio. He has brought attention to the horrible housing conditions and the low wages of the area, especially those paid in the nurseries. "I'm not a union organizer, but I am trying to point out to the nursery operators that unless they mend their ways these people could organize and strike," said Father Hannan.



LINDSAY--Workers in the Central Valley Packing Company orange shed in Lindsay have voted to have a union and a written contract. They voted to join the Teamsters Union, which is presently signing up workers in most of the orange sheds in Tulare County. Workers in six sheds have already voted to be protected by the union. Wages have already gone up, and the union is now working on a contract to cover all the packing sheds in the county.



SAN FRANCISCO--The California-Nevada council of Churches has called upon all Christians in California to support the farmworkers in our struggle for justice. The Council of Churches asks every Christian in the state to refuse to buy DiGiorgio products until DiGiorgio has signed a fair product with their workers.



LESSONS



FROM A STRIKE THAT LOST

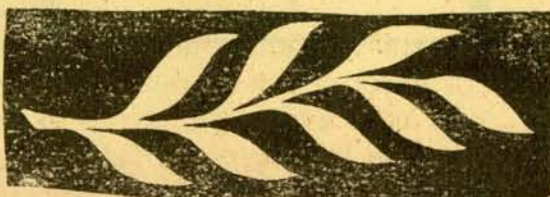
In 1961, hundreds of workers in the lettuce in the Imperial Valley both in the fields and in the packing houses, went on strike. Braceros were then getting 70¢ an hour, the same wage they had been getting for the past 10 years. Braceros were getting almost all of the jobs, and the local workers were protesting discrimination against Americans, as well as the abysmally low wages. But Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg refused to remove the braceros and brought more braceros in. Finally strikers sat down in front of the gate of the Danenberg Bracero Camp and demanded that the braceros be sent back to Mexico. The Mexican government also requested that the braceros be removed from the struck ranches. But even then, the U.S. Department of Labor refused to act, and instead decided to "make a study" of the situation.

Growers started a campaign of terrorism in the area, and three hundred ranchers and their "security guards" were deputized into the county police. Hundreds of strikers were arrested on trumped up charges.

In addition to the government's importation of strikebreakers, grower violence, and police suppression, the workers also were handicapped by disagreements of the union bosses from back East, who wouldn't help each other, or work together to help farm workers. (The Packinghouse workers, one of the main unions in the Imperial Valley, are now one of the finest supporters of the Delano strikers, are helping the Texas melon strikers, and are a firm friend of the farm workers. AWOC, the other major union at that time, is now our closest ally and partner in the struggle).

Though wages went up from 70¢ to 80¢ an hour (and sometimes a little higher), the strike was basically a failure. The federal government actively intervened to break the strike with braceros. The strike also proved how important it is for all the workers and all the unions to work together. And it showed the dangers of letting someone from back East tell the farm workers how to run their union. Farm workers themselves must run their union, like the FWA is run. The workers themselves make the decisions by voting.

These lessons were learned for the Delano strike. The Filipinos (AWOC) and the Mexicans (FWA) worked together. The Longshoremen, the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters have all been helping us. This is what has made our victory possible.



DON'T BUY DI GIORGIO

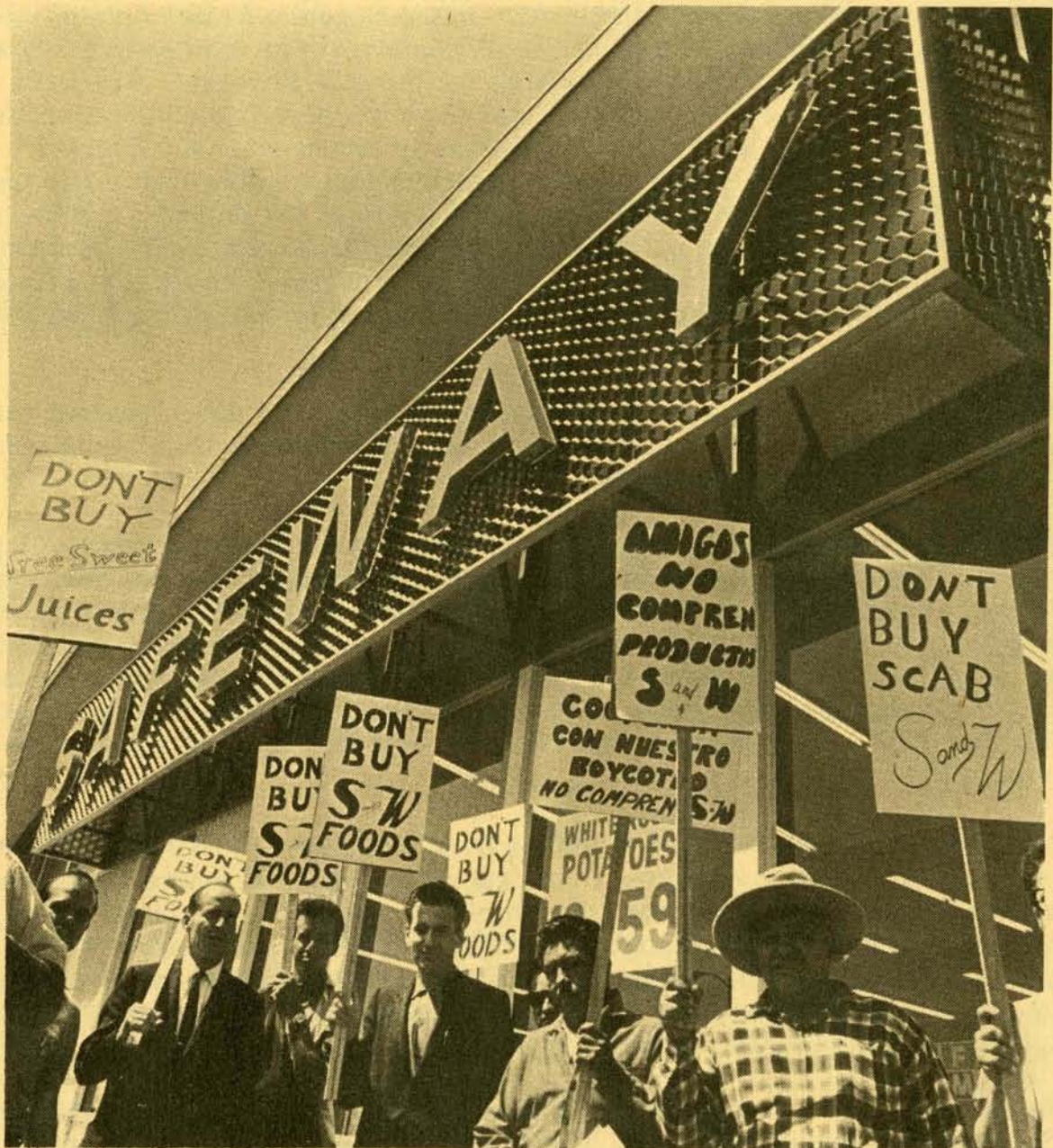
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MAKE DI GIORGIO DEAL JUSTLY WITH THE DELANO FARM WORKERS

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