

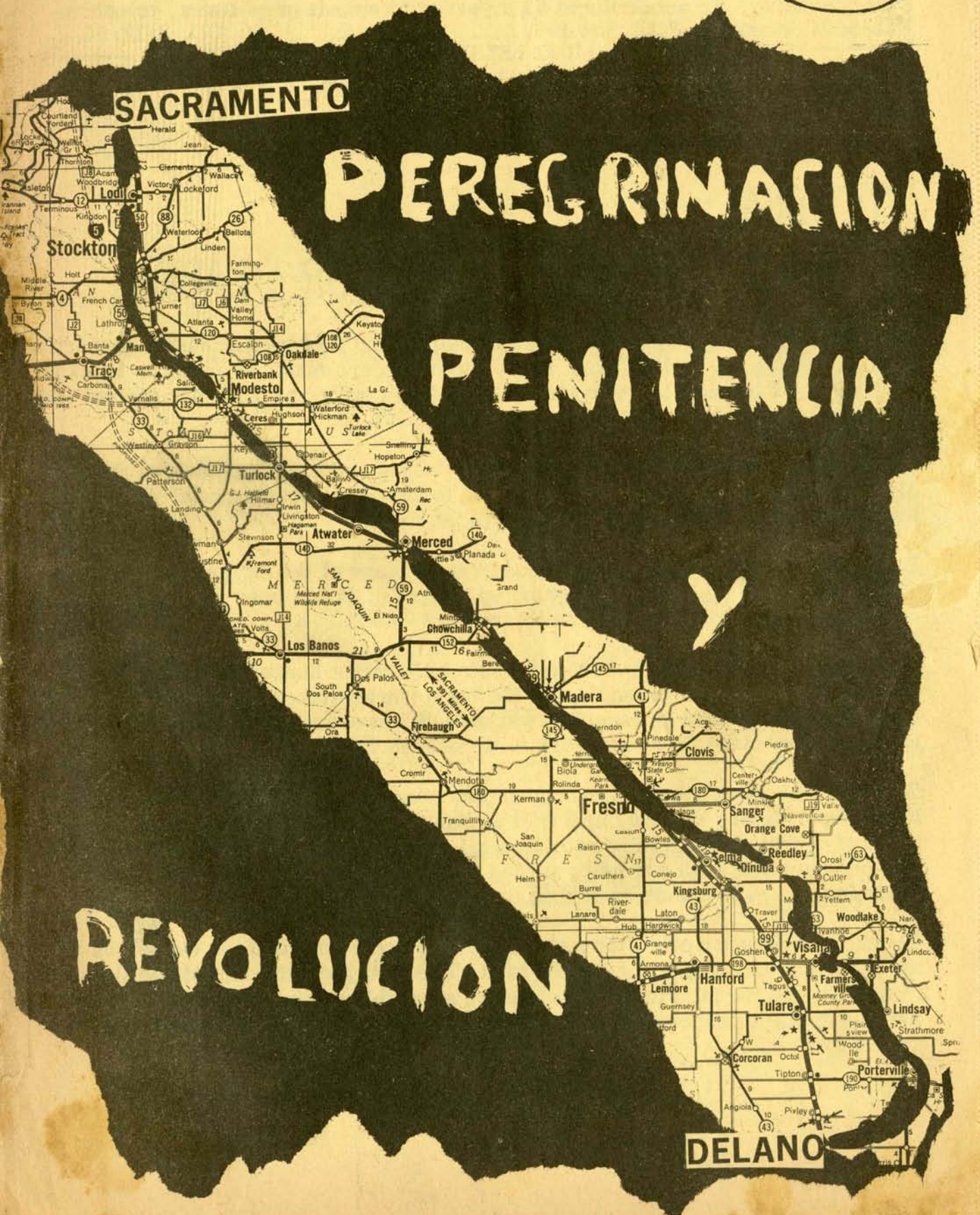
El Malcriado

"The Voice of the Farm Worker"

IN ENGLISH

NO. 31

10¢



El Malcriado

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IF YOU MOVE YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

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OFFSET PRINTING

EDITORIAL: A WAGE WORTHY OF OUR LABOR

We have fought long enough and hard enough so that now our fight is no longer for a miserable \$1.40. In this state where ditch-diggers make \$3 an hour, truck drivers make \$4 an hour and carpenters earn \$5 an hour, we think our skilled and arduous labor in the fields is worth more than \$1.40.

"The insolent strangers" who came to our valley and made themselves millionaires in a single generation are not going to get off so cheaply now. At first we wanted \$1.40 so that we would not always be hungry.

Even now--though we are poorer than ever because of the strike--we have learned what it is like to be free and to stand up like men. It has been six months and we have gotten used to the idea of being free.

This strike has changed from a desperate bid against hunger into a movement which will not stop its crusade until the farm worker takes his rightful place among America's other prosperous workers. We have a right to a share of the millions that are made from our work in these rich vineyards.

We think that these arrogant managers who take their orders from distant, faceless corporations, can give us \$1.75 an hour at the least together with travel and tool allowances and fully paid medical care. We think that these rich men of Delano who have, with our help, turned their few hundred acres of dirt into a goldmine, can and should be forced to pay us what we need.

There is no solution other than strong written contracts between ourselves and all who would take a profit from the land. The struggle will continue until we have this. Perhaps the pilgrimage on which we start this week is only the first humble act in a great crusade which will sweep California clean of its hidden misery and hunger.

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FARM WORKERS PILGRIMAGE

Fifty farm workers set out this week to march 300 miles, on the greatest pilgrimage in California's history. They will march from Delano to the Cathedral in Sacramento, and will pass through hundreds of little valley towns and communities on the way. This Lenten Pilgrimage will be led by Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose statue will be carried the whole way on the shoulders of farm workers. It will arrive in Sacramento for Easter, which for Christians everywhere symbolizes the Day of Liberation for all mankind. For Christ suffered, died, and rose again, that we all might be free.

The pilgrimage will be dedicated to our faith in God, in the God of Justice, who brought His people out of slavery in Egypt; Who freed His people from the Babylonians; Who conquered the mighty Roman Empire, not with the sword, but with love.

The pilgrimage will also be dedicated to those great movements of men which have tried to improve the world and bring to God's children the justice that He promised them. The pilgrimage will signify our commitment to this cause of Justice. So the pilgrims will honor Washington and Jefferson, Father Hidalgo and Emiliano Zapata, and the other great heroes of the past who dedicated their lives to freeing their people from tyranny and injustice. Farm workers are revolutionaries, as are all true Christians, because they are trying to change the world, to end the evil, the injustice, the bitterness that lie at the root of so much of the sin of this world. They are asking for those rights promised to all Americans in the Revolution of 1776. They are fighting for justice just as their fathers fought for justice in Mexico between 1910 and 1920. The American Revolution, "with liberty and justice for all," has never reached parts of California, but perhaps 1966 will be the year that it finally is successful. This march is not a "protest march," but a pilgrimage in affirmation of our faith in God and our faith in the promises of our forefathers, and our commitment to our cause.

But while this will be a march of faith, a march signifying the strikers' commitment to the cause, it will also be a march of penance. For Lent is the time when Christians ask for forgiveness of their sins, where they act through public penance to purify themselves of their sins. The march will be a penitential march, public penance for the sins of the strikers, their own personal sins as well as their yielding perhaps to feelings of hatred and revenge in the strike itself. They hope by the march to set themselves at peace with the Lord, so that the justice of their cause will be purified of all lesser motivations.

The pilgrims will stop in many valley towns, and sleep in the homes of other farm workers, or in the fields. There will be a doctor and ambulance accompanying the marchers, and also a radio-telephone car to keep touch with cities

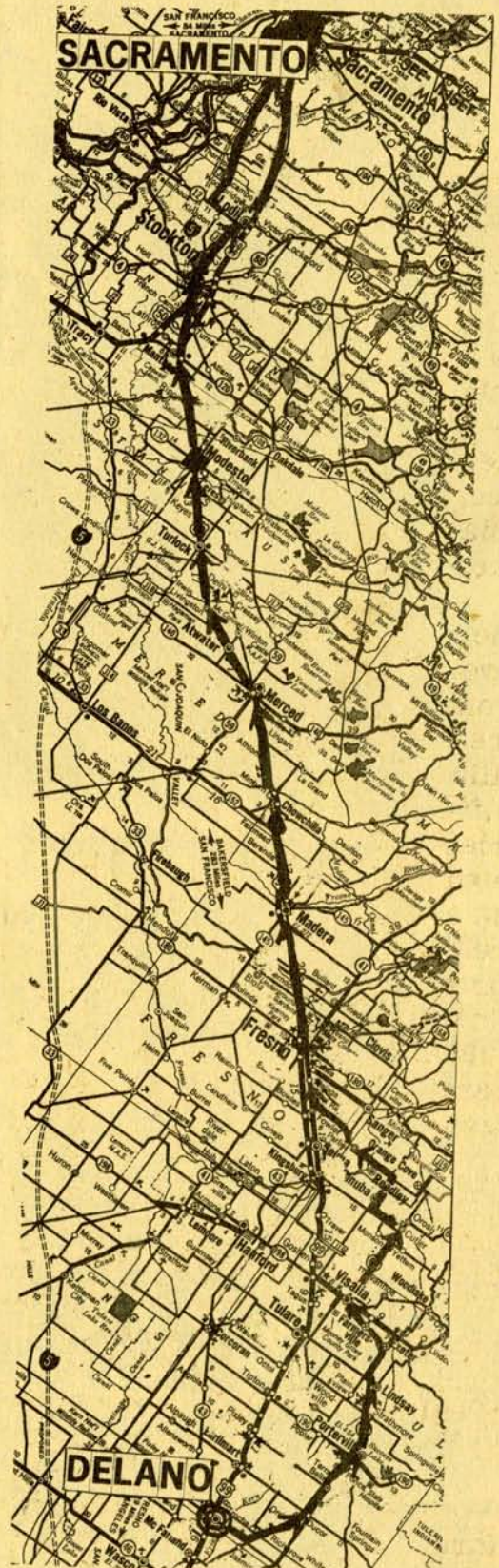
BEGIN 300 MILE



when the marchers are between towns. Many towns will have delegations of farm workers who will join the march for a day or two. There will be Protestant and Jewish ministers, as well as Catholic priests walking the whole distance.

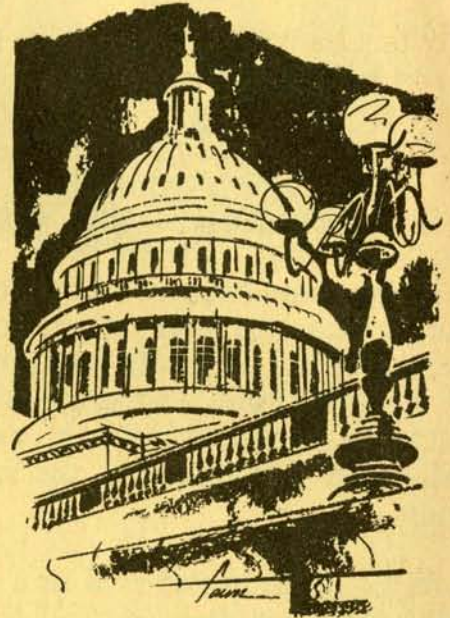
When the pilgrims arrive in a town, they will have a meeting and tell the people about the pilgrimage and its causes. They will tell the people about the faith that sustains the pilgrimage, and the faith that sustains the strike in the grapes, and the struggle of farm workers for justice.

Finally, after four weeks of walking, the pilgrims will reach Sacramento. On that last day, everyone will be invited to join the pilgrims, in a triumphal procession into the City and to the Church, for a solemn high Mass. Farm workers, city people, all who share the faith, will be encouraged to walk those final ten miles with the pilgrims. Maybe even Governor Brown, who call himself a Catholic, will be there. In the Church, the pilgrims will thank the Lord for the aid and many blessings He has given to farm workers in the last six months in their struggles for justice. And they will pray for forgiveness for those transgressions for which they have been guilty.





SENATE OF DELANO



Senate Investigators Senators Williams and Murphy

Growers from Wasco to Pixley mounted a furious effort to clean up their camps last week. New paint, a new roof here, new screens there. They even planted flowers around one dingy row of shacks. It is not just spring clean-up time. It's because the United States Senate came to Delano this week to investigate the ranchers.

The Senators were led by Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey. Other members include senators Ted and Robert Kennedy, brothers of President Kennedy; senators from Arizona, Vermont, and Wisconsin; and California's own George Murphy. El Malcriado previously referred to Senator Murphy, before the strike broke out, as a "stooge of the growers," because he swallowed all the growers' lies about braceros. But El Malcriado congratulates Senator Murphy on his open-mindedness and honest questioning during this investigation. He showed sincere concern for the problems of the farm workers,

The senators traveled 3,000 miles for their investigation. First they went to Sacramento, where state officials, local and national labor leaders representing over 14,000,000 American workers, and many other prominent people pleaded with the senators for new laws to protect farm workers. Here Cesar Chavez spelled out just what we are fighting for, and the senators praised him for his

RANCHERS INVESTIGATION



efforts. Harry Bridges of the Longshoremen told how farm workers in Hawaii are in his union, and they get \$1.80 an hour or more guaranteed, with a written contract and many other benefits. Even Governor Brown made a statement, at last coming out in favor of laws to help farm workers and help the unions.

Then the senators went to Visalia, where they visited Linnell Camp and saw the awful conditions there. They agreed with the rent strikers that something must be done to improve low-rent housing for farm workers.

Finally the Senators came to Delano. They visited growers' camps (one scheduled stop was Caratan's fancy special camp for his Japanese nationals, whom Caratan prefers to American workers because he knows he can ship them back to Japan if they join the strike). They quizzed grower Martin Zaninovich on why he paid such low wages. Many other growers were questioned. Then the senators visited with the strikers and went to the strike headquarters and the camp where the picketers eat. The senators praised the strikers for their courage and bravery, for their sacrifices and non-violence. They promised that they would return to Washington and try to pass new laws to help farm workers.

Specifically, the senators said that their investigations showed the need for a minimum wage law for farm workers, unemployment insurance for farm workers, special laws to protect women and children, and for inclusion of farm workers under the National Labor Relations Act. This last law is by far the most important, for it would give farm workers the same rights and protection that workers in industry have. It would only apply to the nation's big ranchers, but it would apply to Schenley, and DiGiorgio, and many of the Delano area ranches. It would mean that, instead of having a strike, the workers would ask for an election, where they could vote either for or against the union. The government would make sure that the election was fair. And if the workers won, and voted for the union, the growers would have to negotiate. Field workers in Hawaii have this law. They earn between \$1.80 and \$3.40 an hour, a retirement pension, unemployment insurance, and paid vacations. This is what this law could do for us. And there has not been a strike in Hawaii for many years.

The senators' trip was well spent. Even all the lies of the growers could not hide the facts. Harrison Williams, Chairman of the Committee, reads El Malcriado, so he already knew most of the facts on the grape strike. Now the other senators know the truth and they will tell everyone in Washington and even President Johnson himself.

Senator Kennedy was outstanding in his questioning of grower water subsidies, police unfairness, and the true facts.



El Malcriado salutes Senator Williams, and Senator Kennedy, and the whole committee, and yes, Senator Murphy, too.

CHEATING CONTRACTOR MUST PAY BACK WAGES

Labor Contractor Jimmy Hronis of Delano has at last been ordered by the government to pay back to his workers the money he stole from them, through illegal deductions from their paychecks. The Labor Commissioner, John Manning of Fresno, made this decision last week, and warned Hronis that if he did not pay the money to the workers, he will be taken to court by the Labor Commissioner.

This case has been in the courts for almost a year now. Almost a year ago, a dozen members of the Association who had been cheated by Hronis came to the office and told the Association that they wanted justice. The workers were working for Hronis in the sugar beets. And since the government gives sugar beet growers huge handouts and subsidies, the government says that growers must pay their workers a minimum wage in this crop.

The Association went to work on the case. It got the information and filled out all the papers. It took Hronis to trial time and again. Hronis was caught openly lying during the hearings. The Labor Commissioner soon realized that Hronis had lied, that he had illegally falsified his records in an attempt to conceal how much he had cheated his workers. But in spite of this, the Department of Agriculture tried to hush up the case, and get the workers to accept "token payments" (sometimes under \$1). The official admitted that the workers were right, that Hronis had cheated them, but he wanted to let Hronis off easy.

The Association and the workers refused any kind of deal. They wanted full justice. Hronis threatened to sue the



Hronis and Sugar beet worker

Association and El Malcriado, but nobody was afraid of him. And Mr. Moe, the lawyer of Mr. Hronis, secretly told El Malcriado, "We don't like to defend people like this. It gives us a bad name."

And so finally the workers won...

But it took almost a year. And it was only possible because the workers were brave enough to go against their contractor in the first place; and because they had an Association to help them with all the bureaucrats and officials, and red tape; and because Labor Commissioner John Manning believed in justice and worked month after month to bring it about.

This also points up to the problem of a minimum wage for agriculture. Though the Association supports such a law, in the hopes that some growers would honor it, there is really no way at present of enforcing it.

A MILLION ALLIES AID OUR CAUSE

"Farm Workers have been feeding us for years. Now we're trying to help them get decent wages, by working on the boycott. It's the least we can do." So wrote a lady last week, expressing not only her feelings but also the feelings of millions of Americans who are now working on the Boycott of Schenley Products and Delano Grapes. From Clallam Bay on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula, to Gainesville and Miami, Florida, new boycott activity was reported. Here are a few incidents:

***In St. Louis, an FWA representative had one half of an hour to explain the Strike and the Boycott on television.

***In Chicago, Tony Orendain is increasing the Boycott's effects. The Stineway Drugstore chain (176 stores) agreed to remove Schenley from their liquor department and then promised to speak before the State of Illinois Retailers' Association, which represents purchasing agents for every major store in the state. The Archbishop's Committee and local unions are putting steam in the boycott. Congressman Roman Pucinski of Illinois is setting up a special committee of Congressmen to help the farm workers.

***In Cleveland, UAW Local #45 raised over \$500 for the strikers and the Cleveland Federated AFL-CIO has promised to help. And Sam Pollock and the Meat Cutters and Butchers Union are helping. Pollock was an onion picker in the Ohio swamps back in 1934, when workers got 12¢ an hour. The workers went on strike that year and after a famous and bitter struggle, got a raise to 20¢ an hour. El Malcriado salutes Sam Pollock, a veteran of the onion pickers' strike, who is once again joining farm workers in their fight for justice.

***In Ann Arbor, Michigan, 60 pickets were out in a driving snowstorm in front of a store that was selling Schenley products.

***In Detroit, Retail Clerks and Teamsters are helping in the printing and distribution of thousands of leaflets, fund raising, and informing the public about the way Schenley and Delano growers treat their workers.

***San Antonio and Tyler, Texas, are organizing "Aid the Grape Strikers" Committee, and newspapers in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas are publicizing the strike. The Archbishop's Committee in East Texas is helping and thousands of Mexican-Americans in Texas have "taken the pledge".

***And word from Schenley Corporation itself: Schenley is doubling its advertising in many areas, to counteract the Boycott. Its stock price is down \$4 a share on the New York Stock Exchange, a 10% drop. It is writing desperate letters to stockholders, claiming that there is still no strike! And like DiGiorgio, it is hiring expensive lawyers to try to get injunctions and stop the strike and the picketing. But Mr. Schenley--how much better for all of us if you would just sign a contract. Save your lawyer-money and your advertising money. Just guarantee \$1.40 an hour in a written contract.



IN MEMORY OF
RICHARD GERROLA CHAVEZ Jr.

1949-1966

SCHENLEY, LEECH OF THE VALLEY

While El Malcriado has concentrated on the Granddaddy of the Water Thieves, DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation, one must not forget Schenley Corporation and the results of their 20 years of parasitic irrigated cultivation. Schenley has its own "private pumps" and claims it uses no government water. But government statistics show this to be a lie. Schenley pays absolutely no money back to the government for the water it uses, but Schenley's fast-growing profits would be impossible if it were not for millions of taxpayers' dollars invested in canals. Here's how it works.

After stealing or seizing great hunks of land from the original owners (Indians and Mexicans), the great 19th Century land barons (Southern Pacific, Kern County Land Co., etc.) put the land into wheat-farming and cattle-grazing. But after 1900, an increasing number of farmers began to plow up the grasslands for fruit orchards and vineyards. DiGiorgio's and Schenley's predecessors came into the Delano area in this period and began to plant their vineyards. They found that rainfall was too low to produce a good crop, so they began to sink down wells for irrigation. And between 1900 and 1948, hundreds of these wells were dug. The result was that the growers were sucking the land dry. If they had been allowed to continue, Delano would now be a dust-blown man-made desert. The underground water level was down so low that most of the wells were dry. Sam Fortier, chief Engineer and manager of the Earlimart irrigation district, warned that the underground water level had gone down a minimum of 100 feet and in many places over 250 feet during just one generation. The whole area faced ruin.

taxpayers stepped in to save the land. They built dams, canals, and tunnels, all at the taxpayers' expense, to bring water to Delano growers. As water was once again put into the ground, instead of being sucked out, the water level rose again. Many of the old pumps are no longer used since growers can use cheap federal canal water.

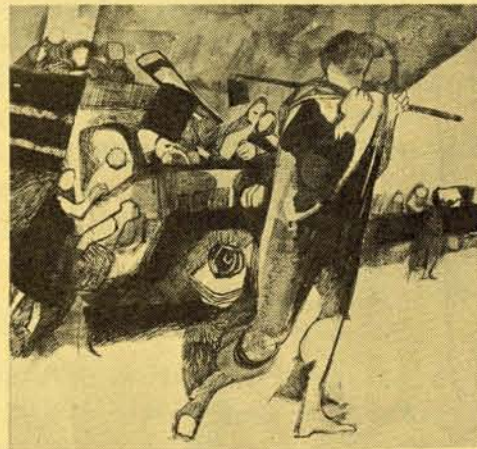
Schenley Corporation decided at this point to organize its gigantic water grab. They refused to pay any money to the government, whose canals had brought water to Delano. Instead they built monstrous new pumps. While Schenley's neighbors, with the help of taxpayers' money, were pouring water back into the land, Schenley's pumps were sucking it out again. If it weren't for the taxpayers' subsidy, Schenley's monstrous pumps would suck this whole valley dry, and the Delano Desert would be the result. Like a great vampire or leech, they have been sucking out the life-blood of our valley all these years, with never so much as a dime in repayment to the poor taxpayers who must support them.

Schenley



Then the federal government and the

THE PLAN OF DELANO



PLAN for the liberation of the Farm Workers associated with the Delano Grape Strike in the State of California, seeking social justice in farm labor with those reforms that they believe necessary for their well-being as workers in these United States.

We, the undersigned, gathered in Pilgrimage to the capital of the State in Sacramento in penance for all the failings of Farm Workers as free and sovereign men, do solemnly declare before the civilized world which judges our actions, and before the nation to which we belong, the propositions we have formulated to end the injustice that oppresses us.

We are conscious of the historical significance of our Pilgrimage. It is clearly evident that our path travels through a valley well known to all Mexican farm workers. We know all of these towns of Delano, Madera, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton and Sacramento, because along this very same road, in this very same valley, the Mexican race has sacrificed itself for the last hundred years. Our sweat and our blood have fallen on this land to make other men rich. This Pilgrimage is a witness to the suffering we have seen for generations.

The Penance we accept symbolizes the suffering we shall have in order to bring justice to these same towns, to this same valley. The Pilgrimage we make symbolizes the long historical road we have travelled in this valley alone, and the long road we have yet

to travel, with much penance, in order to bring about the Revolution we need, and for which we present the propositions in the following PLAN:

1. This is the beginning of a social movement in fact and not in pronouncements. We seek our basic, God-given rights as human beings. Because we have suffered--and are not afraid to suffer--in order to survive, we are ready to give up everything, even our lives, in our fight for social justice. We shall do it without violence because that is our destiny. To the ranchers, and to all those who oppose us, we say, in the words of Benito Juarez, "EL RESPETO AL DE-RECHO AJENO ES LA PAZ."

2. We seek the support of all political groups and protection of the government, which is also our government, in our struggle. For too many years we have been treated like the lowest of the low. Our wages and working conditions have been determined from above, because irresponsible legislators who could have helped us, have supported the rancher's argument that the plight of the Farm Worker was a "special case". They saw the obvious effects of an unjust system, starvation wages, contractors, day hauls, forced migration, sickness, illiteracy, camps and sub-human living conditions, and acted as if they were irremediable causes. The farm worker has been abandoned to his own fate--without representation, without power--subject to mercy and caprice of the rancher. We are tired of words, of betrayals, of indifference. To the politicians we say that the years are gone when the farm worker said nothing and did nothing to help himself. From this movement shall spring leaders who shall understand us, lead us, be faithful to us, and we shall elect them to represent us. WE SHALL BE HEARD.

3. We seek, and have, the support of the Church in what we do. At the head of the Pilgrimage we carry LA VIRGEN DE LA GUADALUPE because she is ours, all ours, Patroness of the Mexican people. We also carry the Sacred Cross and the Star of David because we are not sectarians, and because we ask the help and prayers of all religions. All men are brothers, sons of the same God; that is why we

say to all men of good will, in the words of Pope Leo XIII, "Everyone's first duty is to protect the workers from the greed of speculators who use human beings as instruments to provide themselves with money. It is neither just nor human to oppress men with excessive work to the point where their minds become enfeebled and their bodies worn out." GOD SHALL NOT ABANDON US.

4. We are suffering. We have suffered, and we are not afraid to suffer in order to win our cause. We have suffered unnumbered ills and crimes in the name of the Law of the Land. Our men, women, and children have suffered not only the basic brutality of stoop labor, and the most obvious injustices of the system; they have also suffered the desperation of knowing that that system caters to the greed of callous men and not to our needs. Now we will suffer for the purpose of ending the poverty, the misery, and the injustice, with the hope that our children will not be exploited as we have been.

They have imposed hungers on us, and now we hunger for justice. We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. WE SHALL ENDURE.

5. We shall unite. We have learned the meaning of UNITY. We know why these United States are just that--united. The strength of the poor is also in union. We know that the poverty of the Mexican or Filipino worker in California is the same as that of all farm workers across the country, the Negroes and poor whites, the Puerto Ricans, Japanese, and Arabians; in short, all of the races that comprise the oppressed minorities of the United States. The majority of the people on our Pilgrimage are of Mexican descent, but the triumph of our race depends on a national association of all farm workers. The ranchers want to keep us divided in order to keep us weak. Many of us have signed individual "work contracts" with the ranchers or contractors, contracts in which they had all the power. These contracts were farces, one more cynical joke at our impotence. That is why we must get together and bargain collectively. We must use the only strength that we have, the force of our numbers. The ranchers are few; we are many. UNITED WE SHALL STAND.

(Continued on Next Page)

PLAN OF DELANO

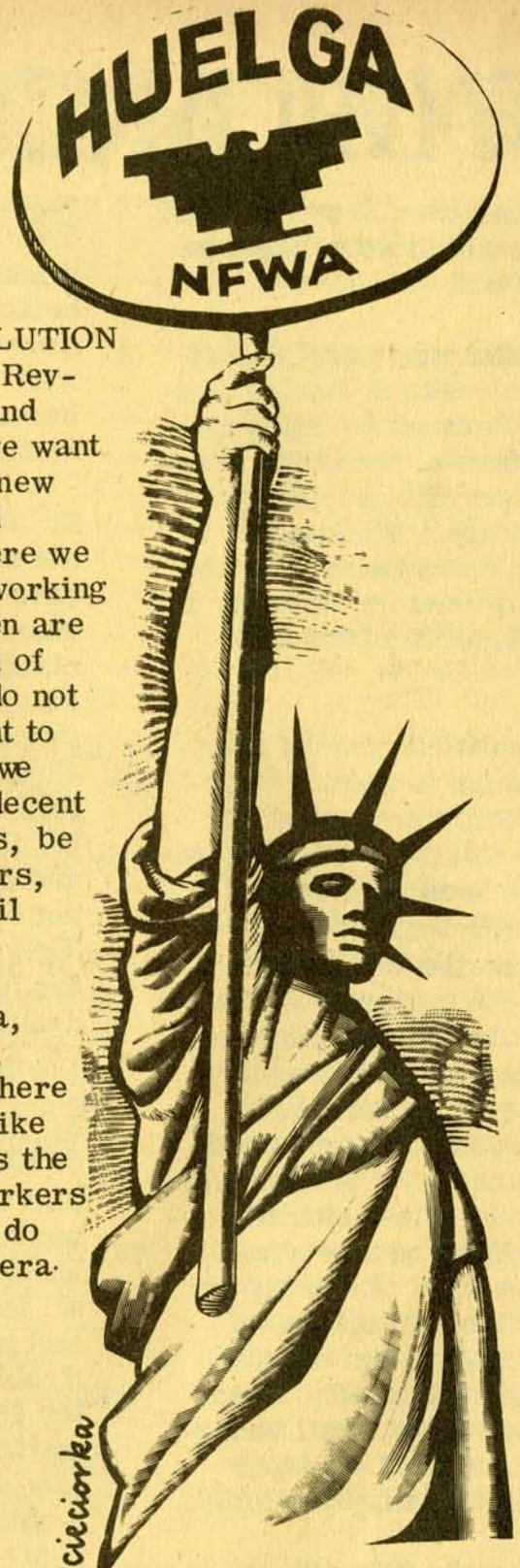
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6. We shall Strike. We shall pursue the REVOLUTION we have proposed. We are sons of the Mexican Revolution, a revolution of the poor seeking bread and justice. Our revolution will not be armed, but we want the existing social order to dissolve; we want a new social order. We are poor, we are humble, and our only choice is to Strike in those ranches where we are not treated with the respect we deserve as working men, where our rights as free and sovereign men are not recognized. We do not want the paternalism of the rancher; we do not want the contractor; we do not want charity at the price of our dignity. We want to be equal with all the working men in the nation; we want a just wage, better working conditions, a decent future for our children. To those who oppose us, be they ranchers, police, politicians, or speculators, we say that we are going to continue fighting until we die, or we win. WE SHALL OVERCOME.

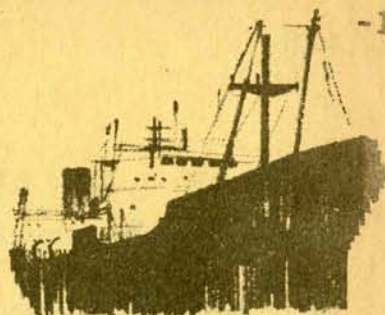
Across the San Joaquin Valley, across California, across the entire Southwest of the United States, wherever there are Mexican people, wherever there are farm workers, our movement is spreading like flames across a dry plain. Our PILGRIMAGE is the MATCH that will light our cause for all farm workers to see what is happening here, so that they may do as we have done. The time has come for the liberation of the poor farm worker.

History is on our side.

MAY THE STRIKE GO ON! VIVA LA CAUSA!



DIGIORGIO FOILED AGAIN!



-15-

Pickers Freed

The "Heroes of the Docks" have been freed! As reported in El Malcriado #28. These brave city people had been willing to go to jail because they believed so strongly in the cause of the farm workers. They helped the grape strikers picket the docks in San Francisco and Oakland, and for this they were arrested. They were not even arrested by the police, but by an employee of DiGiorgio Corporation, whom the Tulare County judge had sent to Oakland to do the dirty work.

But DiGiorgio Corporation has found out that it does not own the courts up in the city, and cannot throw its weight around up there the way it does in the Valley. The authorities in Oakland told them that, just because they were rich, they can't arrest anybody that pickets them. First one judge ruled that strikers could picket DiGiorgio and other scab grapes in Oakland, or Los Angeles, or San Francisco, or any where. Then, last week, another judge ruled that the "Heroes of the Docks" had committed no crime in picketing. The cases against them were dismissed, their arrests crossed off the records. The picketers promised that DiGiorgio had not seen the last of them. One said he was thinking of suing DiGiorgio for false arrest.

But DiGiorgio never seems to learn. They have gone back to court to try to get a NEW injunction to prevent picketing, this time against the Longshoremen who load the boats. They want the courts to force the longshoremen to load scab grapes.

El Malcriado Says: Farm Workers salute the longshoremen, who have refused to bow down and be slaves to DiGiorgio. We have tasted DiGiorgio's injunctions for six long months, but we will never go back to being their slaves.

Workers Vote For Union

Some farm workers, if they work in packing sheds, are protected by the government laws that protect workers in industry. If the workers say that they want a union, the government holds a special election and guarantees that it will be fair. If the workers vote for a union, then the growers have to sit down and negotiate a written contract with the union. (These laws should apply to all farm workers, but they don't --yet.)

At the Tulare County Lemon Association Packing Shed last month, workers had a special election and voted to join the Teamsters Union (which also has a members all the truck drivers who drive the fruit to the markets). These workers will soon be covered by a guaranteed wage and a written contract. At two other sheds, elections will be held this month. At both the Hillside Packing Association of Lindsay and the Exeter Citrus Association, voting has been delayed by the bosses because they know that the workers want a union. One union member pointed out that the union has already forced wages up in many of the citrus sheds, from \$1.40 to \$1.55 for women and from \$1.60 to \$1.75 for men.

What The People

Letter to a Schenley Stockholder:

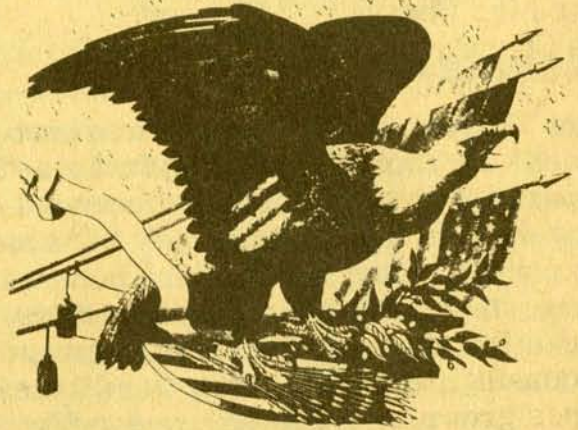
Dear Mr. Stockowner,
We are always delighted when our stockholders do us the favor of questioning our operation, because it gives us the opportunity of exposing the methods used in the conduct of our business.

First, permit us to state that Schenley is over 99.9% unionized. We are under the firm belief that we pay the highest rate of pay paid to agricultural workers in the State of California. We pay our adult male pickers an average of \$2.70 per hour. Please excuse the delay in answering your letter. This matter got sidetracked on account of the pressure of the events arising out of this erroneously called 'strike.'

(Signed personally)

James E. Woolsey
Vice President, Schenley
Industries

El Malcriado Says: If 99.9% of your employees have a contract, why not give it to that last 00.1%? If your workers average \$2.70 an hour, why not sign a contract guaranteeing \$1.40 an hour? Is it because you take back most of the pay in deductions, and the poor workers are left with only 30¢ an hour in take-home pay.

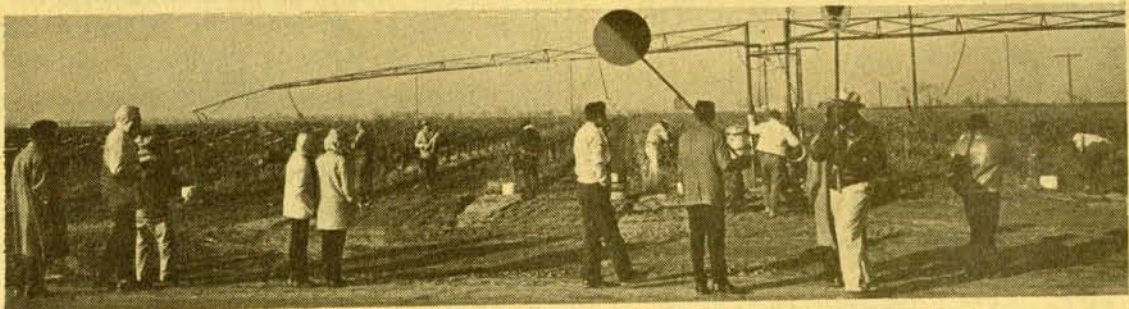


Dear Sr. Chavez:

Congratulations on the magnificent leadership which you have given to the grapepickers' union in California. I greatly admire the courage which you and the other men in the union have shown in the face of powerful and wealthy growers in California. You and your associates have been good soldiers and a great deal of public opinion in the United States is on your side. You are winning friends constantly and I hope that nothing will discourage you in the long battle for justice.

With best wishes and cordial regards,
I remain

Very sincerely yours,
Most Rev. Robt. E. Lucey
Archbishop of San Antonio



Picketing a Scabmachine

Are Thinking

Dear Mr. Chavez,
The Executive Committee of the Catholic Council on Working Life of Chicago, Illinois, has had a special meeting. It wishes publicly to express its support for the strike of the National Farm Workers Association. We are aware of the fact that Schenley Corporation owns and operates vineyards, purchases the famous Delano grape for processing, and also makes wine from grapes grown in the Delano area. We know that union labor is used to process and distribute various Schenley products, and we feel that union labor should also be used in the fields of California. We wish you success in your sincere attempts to organize the farm workers of Delano.

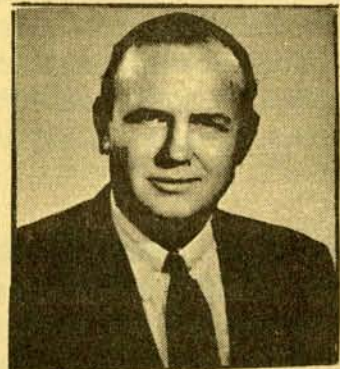
Martin J. Burns, Pres.
Catholic Coun. on Working Life



"It better not be Schenleys."

HAGAN TRIES NEW SMEAR OF NFWA

Congressman Harlan Hagen of Hanford made a new and vicious smear attack on the grape strikers during the Senate hearings in Sacramento. His lies were so outrageous that the Senators were forced to ask publicly that he shut up. El Malcriado asks again, "Who is paying Congressman Hagen to make these statements?" Since the first weeks of the strike, Hagen has been smearing Cesar Chavez and the Association, and telling lies about the strike and the Mexican-American people. He tried to take away the \$267,000 that President Johnson gave to the NFWA.



THE GRAPE STRIKE:

September 8, 1965: Over 1,000 Filipinos in the Delano area go on strike, asking for \$1.40 an hour year-round wage, and 25¢ a box bonus for the harvest season. When the growers refuse to even talk to the workers, the strike begins.

September 9, 1965: Growers begin evicting Filipinos from their homes (some had been 35-year residents), shutting off gas and other utilities, and throwing belongings into the road.

September 16, 1965: The 2,200 family National Farm Workers Association, under Director Cesar Chavez, votes to join the striking Filipinos unless the growers negotiate. The vote of the 980 local members present at the great meeting in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church--unanimous, to join the strike unless the growers raise wages.

September 20, 1965: Over 1,200 Mexican-American and Puerto Rican members and supporters of the NFWA quit work, join the picket lines, or support the strike by finding work outside the strike zone. "Huelga" echoes throughout 400 square miles of vineyards as workers proclaim a general strike in the grapes. A grower's son takes shotgun blasts at one picket's sign, shattering it. Other growers attempt to run down pickets.

September 26, 1965: A huge rally in Ellington Park and a march through Delano's West Side demonstrate complete solidarity of Mexican, Filipino, Puerto Rican, and Negro strikers. Help from the outside begins to arrive. The California Migrant Ministry helps to prevent grower violence.

October 1, 1965: Growers, down to barely 500 workers in the fields (normal work force is 5,000) finally realize this strike is going to continue. They begin an intensive campaign of lies to recruit scabs from outside the area. They either do not mention the strike, or lie by saying that it is over. Grower violence in the fields continues as growers spray pickets with blinding sulphur and insecticides, douse Episcopal Bishop Walter in an artificial dust storm.

October 2-15, 1965: Picketing pickup points completely stop the six busloads of scabs that growers have been sending south from Tulare each morning at 4 a.m.; cuts down on scab recruiting in Bakersfield. The State has officially certified almost two dozen strikes by this time. The border patrol reports that growers are resorting to using wetbacks in record numbers, but growers are not punished when caught.

October 16, 1965: Grower brutality increases as a rancher viciously strangles picket captain Gene Nelson. Grower Charlie Disputo brutally attacks crippled war veteran Hector Abeytia and police refuse to arrest Disputo until a state investigation reveals the scandal. The next day police arrest Reverend David Havens for reading Jack London's famous "Definition of a Strikebreaker".



SEVEN MONTHS OF STRUGGLE

October 19, 1965: 44 NFWA pickets, including nine ministers, are arrested after shouting "Huelga" to the strikebreakers. After almost a week in jail, they are bailed out with contributions from all over the country.

October 22, 1965: Two Catholic priest fly over Delano vineyards in a private airplane pleading with the strikebreakers to join the strike.

October 24, 1965: Farm Workers' Mass in Ellington Park, Delano, gives thanks that the strikers have been bailed out of jail. Strikers pledge a non-violent strike

November 1-14, 1965: First large car caravan bringing food and clothing arrives in Delano from Alameda County and the Bay area. Growers are almost three weeks behind in picking, in spite of the excellent weather, and are forced to sell most of their crop at low prices to the wineries because of delayed and sloppy scab packing. But through massive recruiting efforts and promises of higher wages, growers manage to get over 2,000 strikebreakers working for them by November.

November 15-30, 1965: Rains come to Delano. Picking of table grapes is almost completely ended but growers pick for wine until late January (and about 8% of the grapes, left to rot on the vines, must be stripped off for pruning). Pickets leave for the San Francisco docks where, on November 17, they stop scab grapes from being loaded on the S. S. President Wilson, a huge ship bound for Asia. Longshoremen later refuse to load scab grapes on the Burrard, the Rio Negro, and other large ships. Growers lose thousands as grapes are left rotting on the docks. DiGiorgio tries to outlaw picketing, to arrest all the pickets, and to sue the unions for their losses (over \$100,000) without success.

December 18, 1965: Strikers celebrate the 100th day of the strike by pledging anew to strike until they gain victory. The national convention of the 14,000,000 member AFL-CIO pledges "all possible aid" to the strike and Walter Reuther visits Delano to deliver personally a \$10,000 "Christmas check" to aid the strikers. Alan Grant, President of the California Farm Bureau, suggests that growers and workers sit down together and end the strike, but later changes his mind when Chavez accepts his conditions. Christmas in Delano is brightened by thousands of donated gifts for the children of the strikers, and by three hundred donated turkeys for Christmas dinner. Strikers set up an around-the-clock picket of trains carrying grapes out of Delano, until the City Council outlaws the warming fires necessary in the sub-zero weather. The NFWA launches a nationwide boycott of Schenley Liquors and Delano grapes.

January, 1966: Pruning of the vines by inexperienced strikebreakers damages the vines. Churchmen and a Republican candidate for governor plead with growers to sit down and negotiate to end the strike. The Schenley Boycott spreads

What Is The NFWA?

The National Farm Workers Association is a group of over 2,000 families of farm workers who have joined together to help themselves and help each other. They are working to improve their own lives and provide for their children, and to improve the communities in which they live. They realize that by working together they can get a hundred times more done than if they worked alone.

What Does The Association Do For Its Members?

The Association provides many services for its members. It helps them fill out forms for Social Security, insurance benefits, and such things. It helps members get drivers' licenses, or go to court, or go to the hospital, or the welfare department, when they need help and have trouble with the English language or with the officials. The Association also has a special \$1000 insurance program for members. A cooperative garage is now in operation where members can fix their cars or get them fixed inexpensively. A coop store will be opened when the strike is over, to replace the strike store. A free medical clinic is now in operation, with a full time trained nurse. There is a "credit union" where farm workers can save money, or borrow money at very low interest rates for things like buying a car, a home, or furniture. These are just examples of the many types of services that the Association now provides or plans to provide for its members. The dues pay for all the services, a free subscription to *El Malcriado*, and also let members in on the social activities of the Association.

What Is The Association Doing To Help Farm Workers?

The Association is pledged to fight for the rights of farm workers everywhere, and to get for them all the benefits which they justly deserve. This month, Cesar Chavez, Director of the Association, talked to senators from Washington, D. C., who had come to ask him what they could do to help farm workers. He demanded the same laws for farm workers that protect city workers and give them decent wages. He demanded laws to control greedy and cruel contractors and growers. In addition to getting laws passed, the Association is a watch dog, to make sure that laws are enforced. It has taken many contractors to court and exposed their cheating and stealing from the workers, and through law suits has been able to return to the workers hundreds of dollars which were illegally deducted from their wages. It also defends workers when they are unfairly treated by the police or by government officials, or by anyone who tries to take advantage of them.

Someday in the near future, the Association will be so strong that it will be able to replace contractors, and sign a written contract, with a guaranteed wage, directly with the growers for all workers. The Association will work for the day when every farm worker has a decent wage, like the \$1.80-\$3.40 an hour which farm workers in Hawaii receive. It will work for the day when farm workers no longer have to go on welfare, for the day when growers treat farm workers as equals and partners in the harvesting of the crops.



Why Is The FWA On Strike?

The Association would like to prevent strikes, and always tries to get growers to sit down with workers to reach a fair settlement. Everyone must suffer and make sacrifices in a strike. Innocent people must suffer. But when growers are stupid or stubborn and refuse even to talk to workers, strikes are forced upon us, and are necessary. That's what happened in the grapes. There comes a time when farm workers simply refuse to be kicked around any longer, when they refuse to be slaves for one more minute, when they stand up and fight for their rights. This kind of strike is not only just, but our honor and our future demand it, to teach the growers that we simply will not go on living the "old way" as their obedient slaves. It is the only way that some people can be taught.

But Where Does One Man Fit In,

And how Does He Join?

You should join the Association, both because of all the benefits it offers you and because you should think of the future, of your children. Farm workers have been poor ever since the growers took over this valley, But one worker alone, or a dozen, cannot make the growers change. Every farm worker should join the Association, so that by working together, we can bring the day of justice for farm workers that much nearer. Write today, c/o Cesar Chavez, P.O. Box 894, Delano, California. Tell him that you want a better life, and that you want to help farm workers in our fight for justice. Ask for the name of the Farm Workers Association representative in your area.



SEVEN MONTHS OF STRUGGLE Continued from Page 19

to dozens of cities. Dolores Huerta flies to El Paso to "stop the scabs". She estimates that over 2,000 scabs have come from the El Paso area alone, because of intense radio and newspaper propaganda by the growers. None know of the strike until they get to Delano. Most join the strike by moving on to work outside the strike zone after paying off exorbitant "transportation debts" to growers.

February, 1966: Television star Steve Allen, leader of the Schenley Boycott in Los Angeles, visits Delano, and praises Cesar Chavez. The powerful California Democratic Council endorses the strike, donates money and food. NFWA members set up Schenley boycott centers in over 30 states.

March, 1966: Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey leads a Federal investigation of Delano growers, visits Delano on the sixteenth of March. Cesar Chavez announces the Plan of Delano, and begins the 300-mile pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento.

THE HOT LINE



Bard McAlister of Visalia, who for over a decade has been trying to help solve the problems of farm workers, is leaving the Valley to go to Africa. El Malcriado salutes Mr. McAlister and the American Friends Service Committee for their many years of fine work and service to the cause.

* * *

Workers on Hawaii's sugar cane plantations signed a new, three-year contract with the growers last week. Hawaiian farm workers have a good union (the ILWU) to protect them. There was no strike. Workers and growers sat around a table and worked out a fair agreement. Workers, who used to get \$1.80 an hour guaranteed, will now get \$1.90. That's the lowest pay. Many field workers will get \$2.85 an hour guaranteed. Next year the wages will go up another 11¢ an hour. Workers have a retirement pension, nine paid holidays per year, three week vacations after ten years employment, and extra pay for every hour above 44 hours a week. And in Hawaii, there are no labor contractors to steal from the workers' paychecks.

* * *

The Fresno Area Council of Churches, representing almost every major denomination of Protestants in Fresno, came out last week with a direct and honest statement which may at last awaken the growers to their duties as Christians and American citizens. This was the first comprehensive statement by an organization representing valley congregations. It praised the Migrant Ministry and the grape strikers for their non-violence. It said a new attempt should be made to try to bring the Word of God to the growers. And it said that all Christians should be concerned with the poverty and injustice that plague farm workers.

* * *

The Association is sorry to announce that, because of its obligations to the strike, the staff will not be able to help members with their income taxes this year. Members are asked to do their own returns this year.

* * *

Grape strikers took a three-day vacation last week, and spent it up in the Sierra foothills near Springville, above Porterville. There were hiking, volleyball, dances and movies in the evening, a big barbecue on Saturday. The movies included "Salt of the Earth," about Mexican-American miners in New Mexico who won a strike, and a movie on the Corcoran-Pixley cotton strike of 1933. It was good to get out of Delano, the strikers said. It was a weekend of rest before the week of Senate hearings, the pilgrimage, and the ongoing picketing.

* * *

After visiting Linnell Camp in Tulare County, Senator George Murphy expressed public shock and indignation and asked that there be a rent moratorium until the camp is fixed. He agreed with the rent strikers that the camp isn't even worth the old rent of \$18, let alone \$22.

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DON'T BUY SCHENLEY'S!

Since September 8, 1965, 4500 Mexican American, Filipino and Negro farm workers have been on strike against 35 Delano, California grape growers. The workers are represented by the National Farm Workers Association (independent) and the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO). The strike is handled through a joint strike committee of the unions.



Schenley's, the biggest corporation in the area (with almost 5,000 acres), with 1965 profits of \$17,000,000, sometimes pays its workers as low as 30¢ an hour. Hundreds of its workers have gone on strike.

Schenley has refused the offers of the California Conciliation Service, ministers, and civic groups to promote discussion between the strikers and the growers.

Because farm workers have no assistance from the government to help bring about mediation of their strike they are dependent upon the general public to pressure growers to sit down at the table and discuss wages and conditions.

So we ask for your help through a boycott of Schenley products and through your letters to Vice President James E. Woolsey, Schenley Industries, 45 Second Street, San Francisco, California.

DO NOT BUY:

Any Schenley product, including

WHISKEY, BOURBON, AND SCOTCH

ROMA AND CRESTA BLANCA WINE

CUTTY SARK I.W.HARPER

ANCIENT AGE J.W. DANT

DEWAR'S "WHITE LABEL"

Also:

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Long John

O. F. C. Canadian

MacNaughton Canadian

Schenley Reserve

Melrose Rare

Red Satin

Golden Wedding

Three Feathers

George Dickel

Old Stag

Old Charter

Echo Spring

BEWARE--most table grapes now on the market, and almost all Emperors, are Scab Grapes. Look for these labels:

→ LBL, Sweet Cluster, Heritage, Arra, Miss Bute, Supersweet, Lindy, etter Test, Quality, Sno-Boy, Jovista, Flamingo, MC Extra, Scotsman, Roxie, Treasure, Steady, Camelot, Zora, Alila, Bonophil, Tudor, Tuxedo Park, Royal Delano, Royal K, Radovich, Sall-n-Ann, Trocha, Gee Jay, Verko, Jindy, Rodes, Cashmere, 3 Brothers, PBI, Marlin, Springtime, Highlands, Vinland, MC, Blue River, PIA, Silver Knight, Silver King, Columbine, Antone's Quality, Prosperity, Honey ee, Caric, Hi Style, Louis IV, Better Test, A and A, Steele, Blue Flag, Jovista, Kenney, Jr., Del-Vin, Mr. KK, Diamond S, All American, Thomas, New Yorker, Banquet, Rennie Boy, Moses, Vines Best, Delano King, El Toro, Delano Gold, Sun Best, Sunview, Sierra Moon, Mother's, Mary-Jo, Early Mart, VBZ.