

IN ENGLISH

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El Malcriado

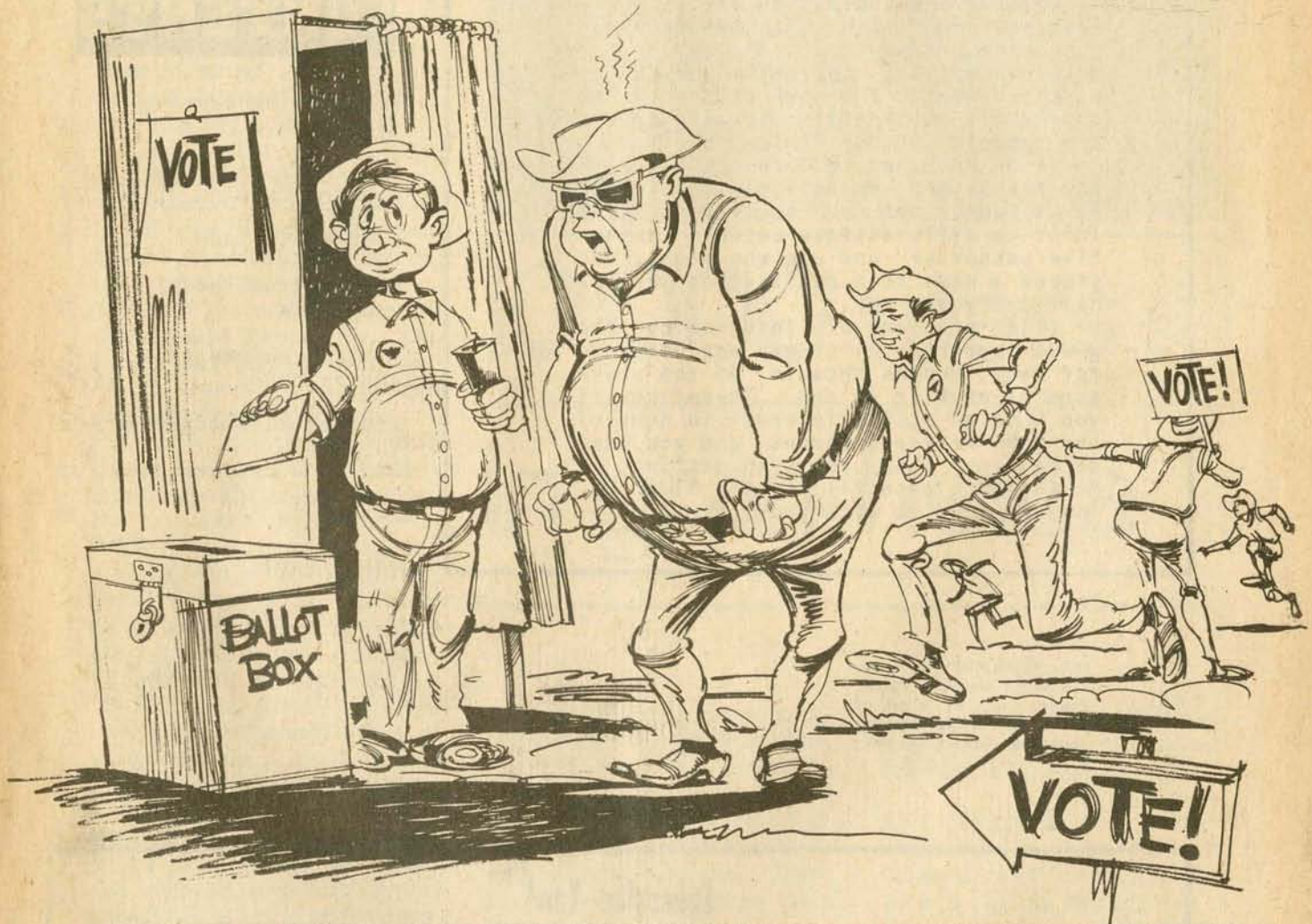
The Voice of the Farm Worker

Volume II, No. 3



Delano, California

Monday, April 1, 1968



Hey, boy, who said you could vote?"

UNITED FARM WORKERS
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 130
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93215

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We hope you've enjoyed receiving these last few sample copies of EL MALCRIADO. Final decisions have not been made concerning our exact distribution. At this moment the only people who are certain to continue receiving the newspaper are UFWOC members and paid subscribers.

We have been using an active newsletter list of more than ten thousand supporters. The cost of such an impossible mailing is really beyond us at this point. The work of processing this size mailing list is also beyond the capacity of our limited staff.

We do not want to lose contact with the people who are actively interested in La Causa but our newsletter list fails to differentiate between an active supporter and one who might have signed a name to a petition on our behalf two years ago.

The problem of integrating the UFWOC supporter list may not be faced for many months because of the pressure of work in Delano...Therefore, if you have an active interest in news of the farm worker movement and you want to be sure that you keep getting EL MALCRIADO please fill in the blank below and send it with your check.

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The greatest gathering of farm workers in the history of Delano celebrated the end of the 25-day fast of Cesar Chavez on Sunday, March 10.

Ten thousand farm workers joined in a procession behind the Virgen of Guadalupe, patron saint of Mexico, and the Thunderbird banners of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy was near the front as the procession wound almost a mile through Delano Memorial Park to a temporary altar.

A multi-church mass with an opening prayer in Hebrew, a Protestant sermon and Catholic ritual preceded the breaking of the bread, semita, the bread of the poor of Mexico. The first to break bread were Chavez and Kennedy. The loaves were then shared by the entire assemblage as priests passed among the throng.

UFWOC vice president Julio Hernandez read Chavez' statement in Spanish and Rev. James Drake read it in English because "My heart is so full and my body too weak to say what I feel." Chavez sat too weak to even keep his head erect as his own words were spoken. "I undertook this fast because my heart was filled with grief and pain for the sufferings of farm workers... It was a fast for non-violence and a call to sacrifice.

"Our struggle is not easy. Those who oppose our cause are rich and powerful and they have many allies in high places. We are poor. Our allies are few. But we have something that the rich do not own. We have our own bodies and spirits and the justice of our cause as our weapons."

Senator Kennedy opened his remarks in a Spanish broken by his Massachusetts accent and set the audience to wild applause.

"I come to honor Cesar Chavez for his compassion, his honesty, his truth and his dedication," he said.



10,000 mass in gran fiesta

After praising the union members for "tremendous gains" in the last two years he said: "These victories are yours. You won them with your courage and with the leadership of Cesar Chavez. There is no one who can take them from you."

Paul Schrade, West Coast head of the United Auto Workers rose to the platform to deliver a \$50,000 check for construction of offices on the 40-acre site owned by UFWOC. He then gave an additional \$4900 check given by the members of the UAW training program. The money is to be used specifically for training of UFWOC personnel and committeemen.

The crowd dispersed to enjoy a "comida cooperativa" a sort

of potluck of massive contributions from committees and families all over the state.

They returned to the speakers' stand for introductions of the organizers of the event and to hear a ringing declaration by Reies Tijerina, fiery leader of the land grant movement in New Mexico. "The press and propaganda makers of this country are trying to destroy the unity of our people. Of course I endorse the work of Cesar Chavez. Brother Chavez and all the brothers of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee are gallant human beings fighting to establish the dream and reality of America for those who have been the most disadvantaged, the farm workers."

Trial Set to April 22

Cesar Chavez sat in the courtroom, weakened and pained by 13 days of his religious fast.

Along the corridors, around the lobby walls, and lining the walkways outside, more than 1,000 Mexican, Negro, Filipino, and Anglo farm workers stood silently or quietly singing.

The date was February 27. Chavez and the Union were on trial.

The charge: 12 alleged violations of an anti-strike injunction issued last August by Kern County Superior Court Judge J. Kelly Steele.

The characters in the drama had first appeared the day before. But the presiding judge of the Kern County Superior Court claimed no courtroom was available for hearing the case. Witnesses were ordered to report the following day.

Meanwhile, Kern County judicial officials were hurriedly arranging for retired Los Angeles judge Morton Barker to come to Bakersfield to hear the case.

No local judge would take it on, many observers said.

On the second day, the Los Angeles judge an-

nounced that he would not subject the fasting Chavez to the ordeal of a lengthy trial at that time.

He asked how much time UFWOC wanted for an extension and then granted 45 days, suggesting April 15 as a possible new date. Giumarra's attorney, William A. Quinlan, told the judge he couldn't make it on the 15th, so the hearing was re-set for April 22 in Superior Court at Bakersfield.

After the hearing, more than a thousand people returned to Delano for a meeting at the Forty Acres. Representatives of all the Union ranches came to camp for several days in tents beside the building where Chavez was keeping his fast.

Farm workers, Union staff people and representatives from the country's most important labor organizations expressed their solidarity and resolved to return for another orderly demonstration on April 22.

William Kircher of the AFL-CIO and Walter Reuther of United Auto Workers addressed the crowd, and Almaden ranch committee chairman Francisco Soria

sang "Las Mananitas" in honor of Cesar's name day.

And while the Union waited for the second act of its frame-up ordeal, Giumarra's foremen continued to cruise the picketlines with their rifles mounted in their pick-up trucks, trying the patience of farm workers who have been on strike for more than 30 months.



by Juanita Herrera
as told to *El Malcriado*

Mrs. Herrera, striking farm worker and mother of four, recently returned from New York. She tells of strike activities in New York and of the shocking arrests of several farm workers last month:

There are about 50 of us, mostly from Delano and Richgrove and around here, that are on the boycott in New York. Six people just left with Marcos Muñoz for Boston, and some are going to Chicago.

For three weeks there was no snow, but now there is snow and slush. It was 18 degrees when we left. We used to picket every day at the Produce Market, where they sell the fruit and vegetables to the markets. But we haven't done much picketing since the arrest. My husband and myself were arrested, and 22 1/2 in all (we say 1/2 because there was a 6 year old boy. We were in jail all day, and we didn't have anything to eat all day but one slice of bologna and two slices of bread apiece.

Now I think I know New York, because we were

in jail there! We were in jail from 7 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. It was in the Bronx. We hope that the arrest and being in jail will bring some benefits for us.

They said we were disturbing the peace. We were surprised when they arrested us. We only said "Don't buy scab grapes" and we were singing sometimes. A lot of people came to the jail and protested the arrest. Three buses of Seafarers and Longshoremen came and picketed to support us. The guy that put the complaint dropped the charge.

Now we contact unions, small groups, churches. We talk to them, ask for help and support. We tell them how the strike began and how we want a union. We have great support there, unions, churches, students, Puerto Ricans, Negroes. Everyone knows about our strike.

Boycott Builds

NEW YORK, March 14--The Huelga has come to New York. Over 50 strikers left Delano in January and traveled by bus to New York, to start a full time boycott of Giumarra grapes and other grapes grown by growers who won't sign contracts with the Union.

Now full time boycott activities have started in Chicago, under Eliseo Medina, and in Boston, under Marcos Muñoz. Dolores Huerta and Fred Ross lead the boycott in New York.

"We will stay here right through the next season, if necessary," Fred Ross told *El Malcriado* last week.

The basic tactic is to inform and organize every sympathetic group in the East to support the farm workers' struggle, Ross said. The main pressure has been directed against Victor Joseph and Son, vegetable and fruit brokers, who sell Giumarra grapes to many of the big Esatern chain stores.

The boycott also includes all non-union grapes, since Giumarra uses many other growers' labels in an effort to defeat the boycott.

Members of all major unions, students, clergy and religious groups, civil rights groups, Negro and Puerto Rican

groups, and concerned citizens have formed a massive coalition to close the New York area to scab grapes. If necessary, the entire Hunts Point Produce Market, the huge fresh fruit and vegetable market serving the New York-New Jersey area, will be picketed.

As one sympathetic labor leader from New York put it, "Since Giumarra is deaf to the pleas of the strikers, maybe he will listen to us. Giumarra better either bargain with and recognize the Union, or send no more grapes to New York. We would hate to tie up this beautiful market next spring."



Greencard Abuse Could Close Border

Will the border be closed to Mexican aliens who work in the fields of the Southwest?

"That is not our objective at all," UFWOC official Robert Bustos said recently. "We only want to cut off a supply of cheap farm labor which is used to undermine our wages and working conditions. Some

of our officers and some of our best members hold green cards, but when a man really lives in Mexico and comes here to take our jobs that's another story. The dollar has some strength in Mexico, but the same dollar spent here can hardly fill the belly and cover the head of the U. S. farm

worker. We welcome any man, alien or not, if he is willing to stand up for dignity, better conditions and a decent wage," Bustos said.

"Since the growers insist on using the greencard against his own interests and the interests of resident farm workers there is real danger that the border can be closed," he noted. Recent government hearings on the green card problem have produced several strongly worded statements:

Jack Conway, executive director of the Industrial Union Dept., AFL-CIO:

"Unless effective steps are taken immediately to bring the green card problem under control so that the rights and equities of all workers will be adequately protected, we will be forced into escalating campaigns of opposition to the use of green cards."

The AFL-CIO Executive Council:

"The AFL-CIO has supported a liberal immigration policy but...has insisted that there is no room for a policy which would permit immigrants, yet not citizens, who hold resident visas, to act as strikebreakers."

Michael Peevey, Research Director of the Calif. Labor Federation:

"No foreign farm workers should be imported into the U.S. this year or in subsequent years. We believe that public law 414 should be amended to bar foreign farm worker importation entirely."

"The intent of all U.S. immigration law has always been to uphold American labor standards," Bustos said. The green card strikebreakers violate that intent. If the law is not applied to limit the strikebreakers then people will act to put new and sharper teeth into the law. The green card strikebreaker and the grower may be digging their own economic grave.



GREEN CARD commuters cross the border daily at Roma, Texas to board buses which take them to the fields. Federal law prohibits the use of green carders as strikebreakers. Ballis Photo

The Power & the Pitttance

The greencard commuter is a refugee from the poverty of Mexico. Although he lives in Mexico, he comes to this country either daily or seasonally with the hope of returning home with some savings. He is taken advantage of by the growers, sweatshop employers, by merchants, and by businessmen of all sorts. He returns with a pittance of the labor value he leaves behind, while reducing resident workers to a poverty alien to the society of abundance.

The "commuter" system clearly violates the law, but will government enforce the law? The growers of California and the Southwest say they need the greencard to do the stoopwork, but they refuse to pay the wages and grant the conditions which would allow usto work in dignity. The poor of Mexico pay \$273 million a year into U.S. industry due to an unfavorable trade balance. While industry is picking the Mexican pocket for the millions, the Immigration Service allows some change to trickle back to the poorest of the poor through the greencard system. Everybody can then be satisfied...everybody but the U.S. farm worker, who must compete against the desperately poor of Mexico, who are used as a lever to cut his wages to the lowest possible point.

The grower laughs and gets fat. The industrialist gets fat and laughs--expecting us to fight with our Mexican brothers.

But we know who the real enemy is!

Greencard Scabs and the Law

"After only five days of investigation our people have found that at least 25% of the Giumarra work force in the fields are 'green carders,' " according to Lupe Murguía Nava, a former Giumarra worker and now a leader in the strike.

"We have many names and locations and we will turn our evidence over to the Border Patrol and demand action. Our men will be on hand to see what the government does. If they fail to make arrests, or if the illegals 'mysteriously' get a warning before the Border Patrol comes we will know about it and make the fraud a

public."

Green carders are resident aliens who hold Immigration Service form I-151. Federal regulations prohibit using a green card to enter the United States with the intention of working on ranches where a certified labor dispute exists.

"We already have evidence of several cases where company agents have told 'green carders' to perjure themselves in talking to the immigration authorities. When we prove this it will not go too well either for the company or the perjurers.

"There is still no way to tell just what the penalty for the green cards may be, whether jail, a fine, or simply loss of the immigration visa, but perjury is a criminal offense which will be costly in both time and money."

Eleven "green carders" were arrested at Cipriano Padillo's labor camp recently.

When the Border Patrol gave them orders to leave, they remained because a company agent told them that the Border Patrol was just strikers dressed up as officers. The arrest came on the second visit. Since that time Giumarra has bailed out the men, and a hearing has been scheduled for March 18.

Through reliable sources, El Malcriado has learned that a number of growers are working hand in glove with Giumarra to challenge the immigration law which forbids green carders to act as strikebreakers. They have hired a Los Angeles attorney named Bonaparte to do the job for them.

The March 18 decision can be crucial in determining whether or not a free flow of strikebreakers will be permitted to cross the international border. On March 18, Mr. Bonaparte may meet his Waterloo.

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The doctor for the Union is in the clinic Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. He also has clinic hours on Thursday evening from 7:00 until 9:00, and on Saturday morning from 10:00 until 12:30.

You can reach him for emergency care at all times by calling 725-1281.

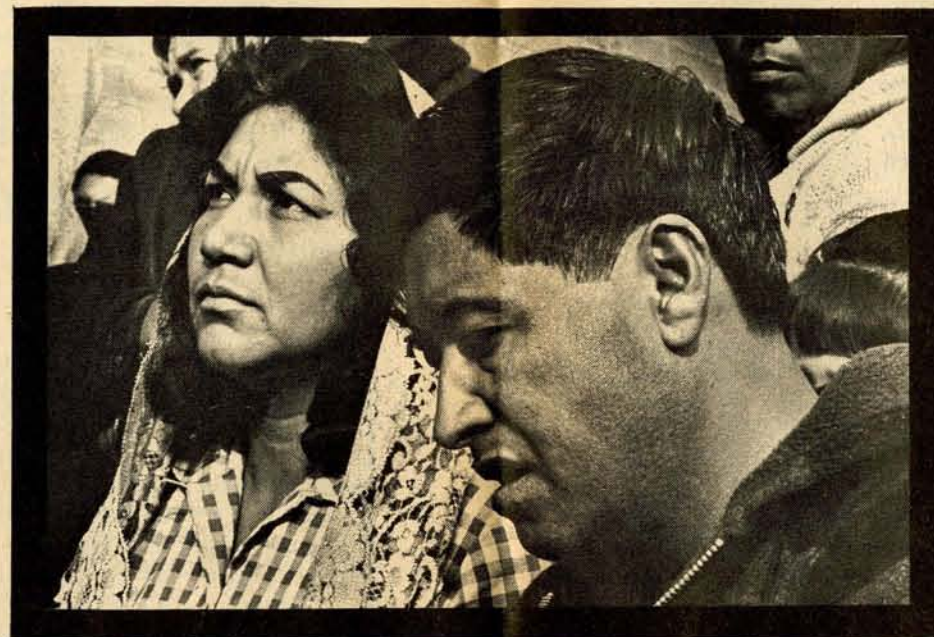
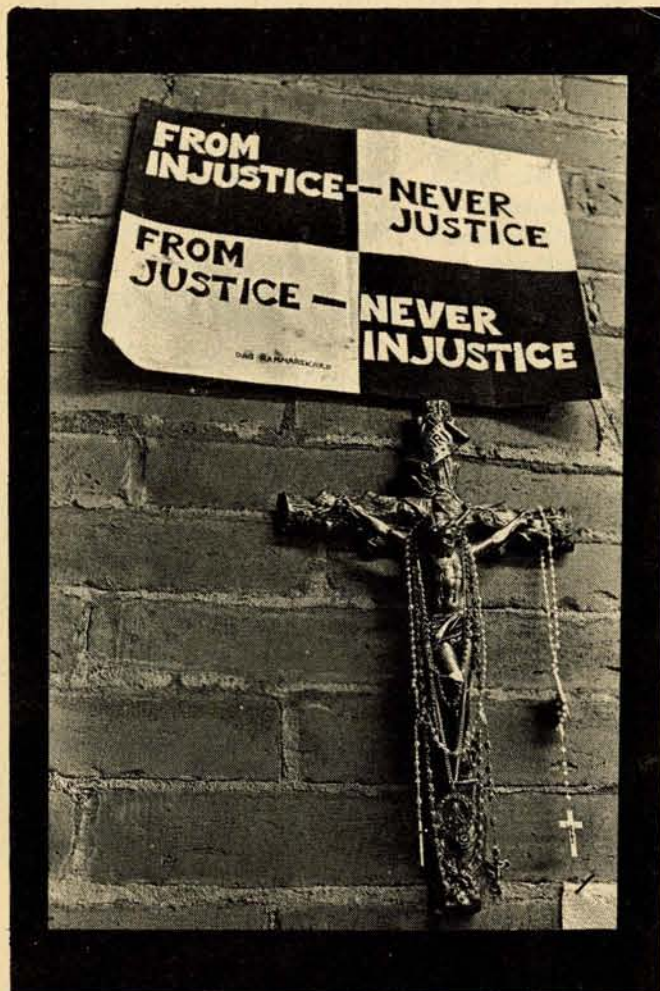


The fast...

It was a personal fast of penance, and hope. It symbolized a recommitment and rededication to the principles of non-violence and brotherhood on which the Union was founded. For 25 days, Cesar Chavez, director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee fasted and prayed. He lived and slept at the Union's 40 acres of land near Delano, where the national headquarters of the Union are being built. Farm workers from all over California came to be with him, to pledge their loyalty to the Cause, to pray with him at the daily masses.

Midway through the fast, Chavez was ordered to appear in Kern County Courthouse to answer charges by Giumarra Corporation that he and the Union had violated a court injunction restricting the strike. But the judge postponed the trial because Chavez was so weak from fasting. In a show of solidarity, over 1,000 farm workers went with Cesar to the Bakersfield court to stand trial with him. It was their Union, as well as their leader, that was on trial.

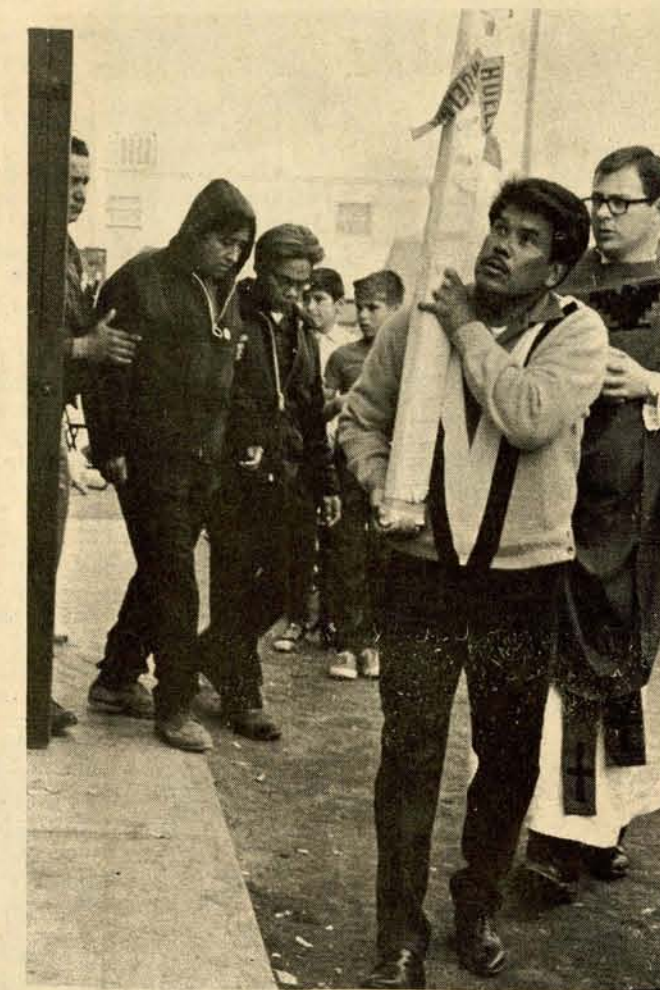
Chavez's fast ended on March 10. He had lost 40 pounds and become so weak that he could barely walk. But the fast strengthened the Union and united the workers around the basic principle of non-violence in continuing this struggle until justice is achieved.



Helen and Cesar Chavez pray during the last week of the fast.

Left: Workers from all over California came to Delano to be with Chavez during his fast...from Parlier and Porterville, from Hollister and Hanford, from Livingston and Lamont. Many slept in tents or in their cars. Women served meals and coffee to the encamped workers.

Right: Chavez and Union members attended daily masses during the fast. The new co-op garage and gas station are in the background of the temporary altar.



Philip Veracruz and Julio Hernandez help Cesar Chavez to walk to the mass. Lupe Murguia Nava, carrying the cross, and Fr. Mark Day lead the procession.

Why we struggle

By *Gustavo Gutierrez*
Tempe, Arizona

I heard the alarm clock ring and turned over in bed wishing I could lie in bed longer, but it's 3:00 AM, and if I don't get to 3rd and Madison before 4:00 AM, I might not be able to get to work with one of the contractors.

So I get up and struggle with my clothes and shoes, get the coffee perking and, Boy! that first cup of coffee sure feels good!

My mind wanders to the other people in the city who are still sleeping, like the government office workers, who don't go to work until 8:00 AM, but I can't let my mind wander too much in that direction. I have to go out and earn enough for the rent.

I add up what I've made since Saturday and it is only \$25 after expenses, lunch money for the kids, groceries, and I'm still short \$35 for the rent money and here it is already Wednesday.

Well, might as well start walking; it's a mile to 3rd and Madison and it should take about 20 minutes to get there. I'm not as young as I used to be.

The buses and trucks are lined up and down Madison and 3rd Ave. The drivers are shouting, "We pay every afternoon, come and pick oranges, lemons, 12¢ a bag." "Come and pick cantaloupes." "Cutting lettuce you can work in trios or in cuadrillas; everybody works together."

The drivers shout like barkers at a circus, all bidding for the laborers who come looking for work.

Some of the buses had been there since 2:30 AM, some of the buses were left parked overnight, and some were loaded since 3:30 but were still there. It is senseless to go out to the fields at that hour because it would still be dark when they got there and they couldn't start working til it was light enough to see.

Some of the other buses had left early but that was to eliminate any chance of some man getting off the buses if somebody came along with a better deal.

Some of the buses were going as far as Harquahala Valley, some 75 miles away. Others were going to Aquila, which is 80 miles away---160 miles round-trip. This would be 5 hours just to go and come, without travel pay.

I remember when I was young and was not afraid to do any kind of farm work from loading lettuce to thinning sugar beets, but now I did not want to look bad in the eyes of my fellow workers, or take the chance of being too slow, so I avoided working where I had to work in teams. I chose work where it was to each his own.

I thought, "I'll go with Pancho (one of Joe Rodriguez's foremen -- he had cantaloupes), I know I can hack it there and they pay every day." So I got on the truck at 5:30 AM and then we went to the contractor's house, where we sat and waited for an hour for the contractor to come back from Glendale, where he had gone to pick up the payroll from Joe Rodriguez's office.

After he got back we took off for the fields which took about an hour. When we got there, we had to wait half an hour because we started to work at 8:00. That's a long wait but what can you do when you don't have a car and anyway, it's too expensive to drive a car 45 miles on \$1.25 an hour.

When we got to the fields I knew that we were going to eat dust because it just rolled like when you have a storm. The drinking water turned into muddy chocolate because of all the dirt that had got into the water tank.

Gus Gutierrez in an Arizona farm worker now organizing for the Union in Central Arizona. UFWOC's Arizona headquarters are at 9162 West Polk, Tolleson. Gutierrez led the Guadalupe Organization during the 1950's. This organization was patterned on the C.S.O. in California, and brought many benefits to the poor people living in Guadalupe, the huge Mexican-American barrio outside Phoenix. Gutierrez is an old friend and ally of Cesar Chavez and the other leaders of UFWOC.

When we started working I knew that there was no stopping until quitting time. That meant no stopping to eat, no rest periods, and so it went all day until quitting time. Up and down climbing into the trucks, unloading the bags full of cantaloupes, and you had to be agile to climb the board that runs from the ground to the truck.

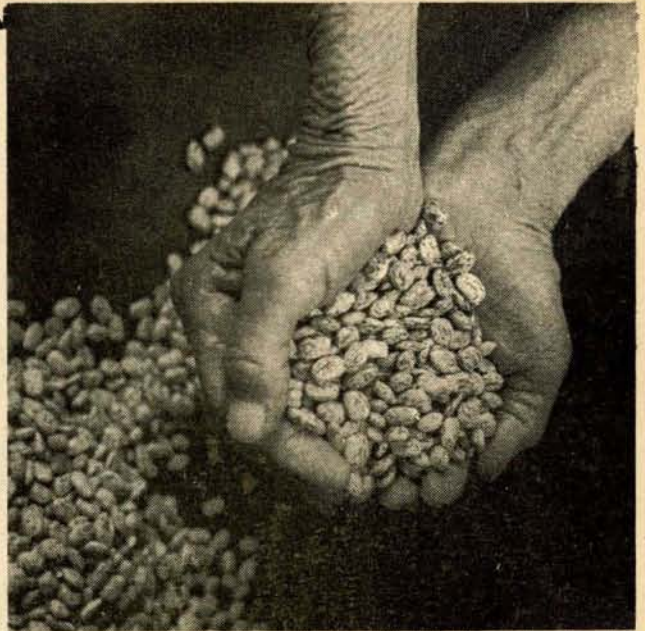
While we were working, one of the foremen asked for our names but not our social security numbers. Still, when we got paid, they took out money for the social security. Nobody told us how many hours we had worked or how much we were supposed to have earned, or how much social security they took out. Nothing was said about anything; the contractor acted like he was doing us a favor.

We stopped working at about 4 PM, but we didn't get back into Phoenix until 6:30 PM -- the contractor had stopped to talk to the rancher, put gas in the truck -- and all this on our time.

I felt like hitting something to relieve my frustration, but I knew that wouldn't help.

Somewhere in the bus I heard that in Delano, California there were farm workers who had organized a union. In fact, the man was saying they even had some contracts with some of the big companies where the workers were the ones who decided how the contracts should be written and how they should get paid. This is what they had to do in Arizona, they had to get together and organize.

Maybe, I thought, I could write to Delano and get some information and then maybe Phoenix and the surrounding area could truly be the Valley of the Sun instead of the Valley of Shame.



UAW head speaks in Delano

DELANO, Feb. 27--Walter Reuther, leader of the powerful United Auto Workers arrived in Delano to meet with fasting Cesar Chavez and to address farm workers gathered in tents and lean-tos, mobilized in support of the Union during the crisis.

After visiting with the weakened Chavez, Reuther mounted the platform to the applause of more than 2,000 farm workers.

"I come here today as the representative of more than 1.5 million auto workers, bringing with me their greetings, hopes and support. It was not too long ago when wearing a union button in a Detroit auto plant would result in firings, blacklist and beatings.

Since that time we have grown to the strength which commands the respect of the most powerful industry in the world. We can now sit down at a bargaining table and arrive not only at a decent hourly wage, but guarantee a yearly income for every member.

"It is a privilege to be here in Delano today. I will be able to tell my children and my grandchildren that I was here when the farm workers made their first strides along the road which will eventually lead to the organized solidarity that will bring a fair share of the American abundance.

"Under the leadership of Cesar Chavez you are on that road, and you will win."

Before leaving the speakers' platform, Reuther handed a \$7,500 check to Manuel Chavez.

LBJ calls for more

Grower Power

WASHINGTON, D. C. --President Johnson has called for collective bargaining rights for farmers. In a special message to Congress, Johnson urged hearings on "Farmer Bargaining." If farmers bargained collectively with canneries and distributors, they could get higher prices for their produce.

"The fact remains that the farmer does not have the bargaining power he needs," the President said.

Johnson made no mention of collective bargaining rights for farm workers in any of his messages to Congress, and has never publicly endorsed laws to give farm workers equal rights with other workers in America.

Long Strike Prospect

HONOLULU, HAWAII--Farm workers in Hawaii launched a massive and 100% effective strike against the Big Five pineapple companies on February 8, 1968.

The workers, members of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, were the first farm workers in the U.S. to be covered by Union contracts.

But while the 8,000 full time workers have got substantial wage increases, many of the 13,000 seasonal employees have not been covered by the contracts.

In January, the pineapple workers voted 3,801 to 202 in favor of authorizing a strike if the company refused to meet their basic demands for a new contract to include 13,000 seasonal employees. A wage increase, improved pension plan and other improvements in working conditions were demanded.

The companies offered only a small wage increase, which would set a minimum wage at \$2.21 by 1971. The cost of living is very high in Hawaii, making \$2.21 inadequate. Meanwhile, the growers have been making high profits, and can afford to pay more. The offer was rejected.

The workers, who include many Filipino and Japanese-Americans, are prepared for a long strike, if necessary, to win a fair settlement.

People's Cafe

624 Garces
Delano



YOUR HOSTS, SONNY & ANNE TORRES



COLD BEER
SANDWICHES
POOL
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Scab driver

Charles Beighle is a Giumarra supervisor. He spends his days patrolling the UFWOC picket lines and driving the scabs in the fields to work faster. Chances are that the man is not too successful in his workaday life. His company seems to be at least a month behind last year's pruning and tying schedule.

The man drives a Giumarra pickup with a gun mounted in the rear. We wonder though, just what it is that drives Beighle. The men and women of the picket line think he is driven by desperation. They know him better than most and they believe he responds to imaginary demons.

Beighle is the man whose signature brought Cesar Chavez, Epifanio Camacho and the rest of the Union into court to answer charges of violence and harrassment. Union attorneys have separate sworn statements concerning violence, threats of violence and lewd and suggestive behavior on the part of the Giumarra

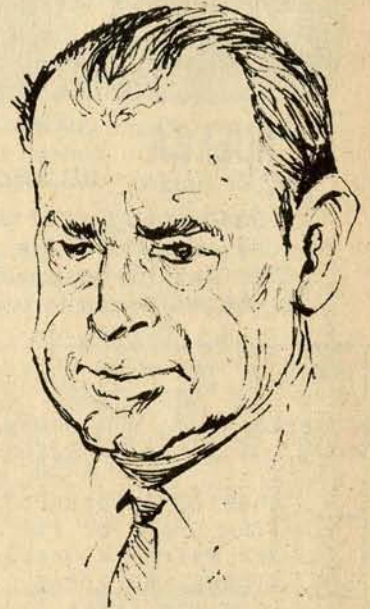
agent.

The supervisor has often stopped to talk to the pickets, but rarely has he had anything to say that was printable. His four-letter vocabulary is extensive, but when he is passing the line in his pickup and hasn't the time to talk, his habit is to simply raise the middle finger of his right hand.

Pickets have noticed a Jekyll and Hyde quality in Beighle's personality. In one moment he might be quiet and soft spoken with his friends in the Sheriff's department, and the next moment he can be throwing rocks at the pickets.

A sworn statement states that one morning he broke away from his usually cold and unfriendly attitude to approach a twelve year old girl on the picket line with the following words: "Couldn't you do better in bed than on a picket line? Why don't we meet somewhere tonight and find out?"

We are sure that his bark is worse than his bite.



Chuck Beighle

Legal aide?

On February 27, when UFWOC was hailed into court to answer trumped-up charges filed by Giumarra, the Judge decided to postpone the hearings until Chavez recovered from his long fast.

Johnny-Come-Lately Giumarra was displeased. Here's a report from a reporter who was in the courtroom. . .

After the trial was reset, Johnny Giumarra, a recent law school graduate acting as Quinlan's helper, rushed in late, immaculately dressed in a dark blue suit.

When informed of the judge's decision to postpone the hearing, Giumarrito said to Quinlan (in a stage-whisper loud enough to be heard in the visitors' gallery), "You mean a guy can get out from under a criminal charge by going on a hunger strike?!"

Quinlan attempted to calm his youthful assistant. "It's all right," he said, "it's all right!" Oblivious to Chavez's serious condition, young Giumarra pouted through the rest of the brief proceedings.



"Junior" Giumarra



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BASTA!

"ENOUGH! THE TALE OF OUR STRUGGLE" 72 half-tone plates with introduction by Cesar Chavez. Photos of the battle for dignity in the fields of California. By George Ballis with text in Spanish and English from the Plan of Delano

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USE HUELGA
COOP *47947!

Bay Area supporters of the
Farm Workers who shop at the
Co-ops can help the Union by
using the Huelga Co-op #47947.

The boycott hurts

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 26--
In its February meeting
the Associated Farmers of
California demanded new
laws to halt the boycott
against scab grapes.

They aim to strip the
farm worker of his right
to inform the public.

Speaking out of the
other side of the Grow-
ers' mouth, Giumarra and
the other struck Delano
ranchers often try to
give the impression that
the "boycott is a joke--
it doesn't hurt us at
all!"

Our research staff has
known all along exactly
how badly the growers are
stung by the boycott, but
this is the first time
they have given the ef--

fort formal and open rec-
ognition by petitioning
Congress and the state
legislature.

In a pre-fast interview
with Cesar Chavez, the
UFWOC director said:

"Legal harrasment, gun-
toting supervisors, frame
ups and direct violence
can be met by an increase
in the boycott pressure.

"The researchers are
now looking into the en-
tire Giumarra operation.

"We are especially in-
terested in their pota-
toes and wine, but we
could have an equally
strong impact on other
fruits, cotton, and even
the oil wells which dot
their fields."

Giumarra Gets Off Easy Again!

If there was ever any doubt that the law is for the growers, with penalties reserved for the poor, that doubt was ended on March 11. The courts, the District Attorney and the growers gave a clear demonstration of complete immunity from the law.

Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and six of its supervisory agents breezed through the courts in seven different actions involving 64 criminal counts. The verdict: 41 counts dismissed, 23 guilty. The penalty on the 23 amounted to fines of \$1495, and the sentence was then suspended.

The charges were brought by the Kern County district attorney's office as long ago as August 15, 1967. When they came to trial, D.A. Kit Nelson appeared as the "prosecutor," and John Giumarra, Jr. appeared for the defense.

The two star performers left little to improvisation.

Most of the charges were based on the lack of sanitary facilities in the fields, the hiring of children, and working minors beyond the limits of the law. The crimes were given to the D.A. for prosecution by the labor department.

It may never be exp-

lained just why the cases were continued for most of the year, or why it took the D.A. himself to go before the judge to personally make the motions for dismissal.

The public is left to wonder over the fact that although Giumarra had no defense and plead guilty to twenty-three crimes, he never had to pay a penny.

Any Giumarra picket would pay more of a fine for a broken tail light than was paid for all 64 criminal charges. The needle in the haystack would be easier to find than justice for the farm worker in the courts of Kern County.

Kern County justice is a game between the growers and their officials.

NLRA for Farm Workers Needs Help

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A bill to extend National Labor Relations Act coverage to farm workers has finally passed the House Education and Labor Committee, chairman Phil Burton (D-Cal.) announced recently.

The Republican members had boycotted the committee meetings for several weeks making a vote impossible. Significantly the bill was voted out in the first meeting following the announcement of the fast of Cesar Chavez.

The bill, H.R. 4769, now goes to the floor of Congress where it could easily be trampled.

Passage demands full attention and support of all friends of the farm worker, Union officials state. They ask that you write your congressman while you are thinking about the problem.

Under H.R. 4769 NLRA coverage would go to all farms with more than 12 workers and more than \$10,000 annual labor cost. This applies to

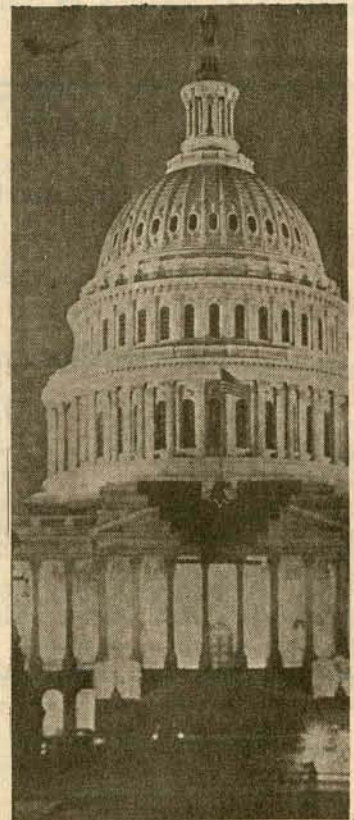
10 percent of the nation's farms and 50 percent of the farm workers

At present UFWOC is subjected to some of the restrictions of the NLRA but none of the protections. Coverage would mean the right to organize and join labor unions and the right to collective bargaining once a majority of the workers sign for the union. It will eliminate the necessity for long and bitter strikes to gain simple recognition as a bargaining agent.

Petitions urging final passage of the measure are being circulated by the Citizens for Farm Labor, a California based organization sympathetic to the Cause.

Anne Draper, secretary for the group, noted that persons holding the petitions ought to bring them to Delano on Easter Sunday, when many visitors are expected.

They can be mailed to P.O. Box 1173, Berkeley, she noted.



COOP *47947!

Bay Area supporters of the Farm Workers who shop at the Co-ops can help the Union by using the Huelga Co-op #47947.

Books & Records of the Strike



"BASTA!" ("Enough"), The Tale of Our Struggle. English and Spanish text. Photos by George Ballis.

"Basta!" is a unique book, a photographic essay on the battle for dignity in the fields of California. The text is from the historic Plan of Delano, the proclamation of the farm workers which was read at the rallies as farm workers marched from Delano to Sacramento in 1966. There is an introduction by Cesar Chavez. The photographer, George Ballis, has spent his life in the San Joaquin Valley. He is a sensitive artist, in the tradition of Dorothea Lange, who truly captures the spirit of the Movement. \$2.00

"HUELGA!" The First 100 Days of the Great Delano Grape Strike, by Eugene Nelson.

"HUELGA!" by Eugene Nelson remains the finest account yet published on the early days of the Delano Grape Strike. Nelson was a picket line Captain (and later led the Union drive to organize the melon fields of Texas) and writes with intimate knowledge of the origins and beginnings of the strike. Nelson also includes a brief biography and interviews with Cesar Chavez and other Union leaders, and a history of the National Farm Workers Association, the predecessor of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

160 pages, with illustrations by George Ballis. In English only. \$1.50.

BLACK AND RED WALL POSTER, 17" x 23", of Emiliano Zapata, with the banner headline, "VIVA LA REVOLUCION". Zapata was the hero of the Mexican Revolution, who led the peasants of Central Mexico in their struggles for land and liberty.

\$1.50, plus 25¢ handling. 5 copies for \$5.00

VIVA LA REVOLUCION



"EL ESQUIROL" ("THE STRIKEBREAKER")
"HUELGA EN GENERAL" ("THE GENERAL STRIKE"). 45 rpm record.

Two of the finest songs to come out of the Delano Grape Strike, sung by the Teatro Campesino, the Farm Worker Theater, Augustin Lira, Luis Valdez, David Alaniz, and Danny Valdez.

\$1.00, plus 10¢ handling.

- HUELGA! by Nelson \$1.50
- BASTA! photos \$2.50
- Zapata Posters \$1.50
- EL ESQUIROL--HUELGA EN GENERAL ("The Scab", "The General Strike", by the TEATRO CAMPESINO)

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Make Checks payable to the United Farm Workers, Box 130, Delano, Ca

Kennedy Chooses Chavez

DELANO, March 19--Cesar Chavez added his name to the slate of delegates pledged to Robert F. Kennedy for the upcoming national convention of the Democratic party after an emergency meeting of UFWOC leaders voted unanimously to approve the action.

On Tuesday, March 19, a 5 p.m. phone call from Kennedy requesting Chavez as a delegate set the emergency in motion. The deadline for filing was immediate, and either response, to accept, or reject the Kennedy offer would place the union on the spot.

Chavez called union officers, department heads and ranch committeemen together to hammer out the issue. The decision was a personal one, but Chavez stated "If I accept, the press and the public will see it as an endorsement by the union."

"If I don't they will see it as an act against Kennedy. We cannot decide an endorsement or non endorsement. Every union member must be able to vote on that."

"I want you to think about it, discuss it and decide it. Your decision will be my instructions, but I will expect every single one of us to stick with the majority decision come what may."

"We will be in a fight together and that fight will demand work."

It took three hours for the 85 people to decide that César Chávez should be National Convention Delegate for Kennedy, and that the union should start an immediate massive voter registration campaign. The unanimous vote marked the first time in history that a presidential candidate asked a farm worker to serve in such a capacity. For three hours Washington waited for the farm workers' decision in Delano.

The request came soon after Kennedy visited Delano on March 10.



CHAVEZ



KENNEDY



Wirtz Bows

FRESNO, March 23 -- The song and dance of Senator George Murphy set the stage for a performance by Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz.

Murphy accused Wirtz of making California "an experimental laboratory for complete farm organization, irrespective of the desires of OUR FARM WORKERS" (sic).

The issue was whether or not the labor department would allow green card Mexican na-

tionals to be used as strike breakers in agriculture.

The meeting was held in the office of Congressman B. F. (friend of the farm worker) Sisk.

Representatives of grower groups and their congressmen were present to pressure Wirtz into letting down all bars against importing scabs from Mexico.

Wirtz performed for 45 minutes. There is no record of any concrete commitments made by the labor secretary,

but Sisk, an anti-UFWOC congressman, called the meeting "very satisfactory and very constructive". The Agricultural Labor Bureau spokesman (a rancher outfit), termed the meeting "very productive".

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Our understanding is that President Johnson's secretary of labor is supposed to see to it that the rights of labor are protected, but judging from all the applause he received, Wirtz must have bowed to the growers quite a bit.

Monkeyshines in the Fields

by Fred Hirsch



"Short of hands, Pal?
I've got four. . ."

They're monkeying with the farm worker labor force again. The bracero program wasn't bad enough and the green card commuter program is not enough of a depressant to wages and conditions. Don Smith, animal psychologist, is trying to train monkeys and apes to do harvesting.

He claims that the applications of his training for agriculture "are virtually unlimited." Smith plans to start experiments soon in strawberry picking.

Wouldn't the monkeys eat up all the profits? Smith replies, "Of course they would if you let them." The answer is to train the monkeys properly, using rewards instead of punishment.

"This works in reverse too. If you feed strawberries to monkeys, all they can eat, for four or five days before sending them into the berry patches, they won't eat another strawberry as long as they live."

Funny they should think of offering rewards to monkeys. All the growers ever think of giving to the farmworker is punishment. There are even reports of Giumarra workers who have been fired after they were caught eating a grape.

Some growers who go "ape" over such a program might be in for a surprise. It is not unlikely that some baboon will notice that the harvesting is hard work, and once they have their grip on the industry they will surely find that there is less effort or intelligence needed to sit in a rancher's swivel chair. Some unexpected replacements might be in order.

Reagan Angers Workers

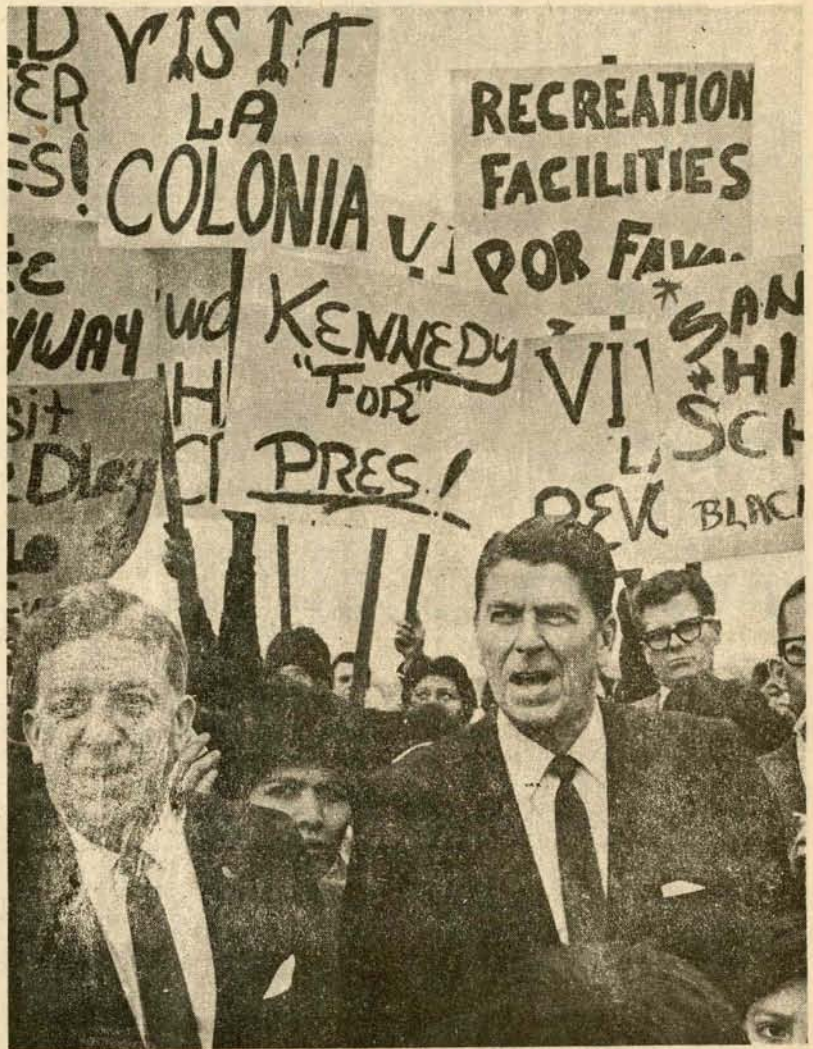
Governor Ronald Reagan visited Parlier two weeks ago to inspect the government's latest "anti-poverty" project in Fresno County.

The Governor visited the Parlier Migrant Farm Labor Camp, a collection of 125 tiny "wooden-boxes", box-type houses on Academy Avenue, for which farm workers are supposed to be grateful.

"Instant slums" is how one worker described the shacks, crowded together in an almost treeless, grassless area. Workers must have a letter of recommendation from their grower bosses before they are allowed to live in such luxury.

Reagan was met by a crowd of about 200 people, most of them Fresno County farm workers. They urged Reagan to visit La Colonia de Parlier, or other real farm worker communities. But Reagan said he was too busy.

Many farm workers carried signs, such as "Kennedy for President", "Chavez for Governor", and "Reagan, go back to Hollywood."



Easter in Delano

Celebrating the second anniversary of the historic march to Sacramento, a sunrise service at the Forty Acres, followed by a pot-luck picnic at Lake Woolomes are planned for Easter Sunday in Delano.

Members, friends of the Union and guests are invited to bring "a little more than enough" food for their families to contribute to the picnic and swimming gear, and to share this day with us.

Poor Ronnie. Every time he goes to visit the poor people, he gets into trouble.

Here he is shown in Parlier with Fresno County Housing Authority director Fergus Cambern (left).

MOTO'S MARKET

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SELMA

"where
the
huelguistas
shop."



Our local funny papers

Our local newspaper in Delano is the Record. It frequently carries a column called "As I See It" by one George B. Keyzers. We don't happen to know Mr. Keyzers, but if that's how he sees it, we suggest he find someone to cure his myopia.

An example:

"I'm going to get me some followers--all farmers--and we're going to get us a banner. It'll be a big banner with an empty pocket sewn on it.

"And we'll start marching.

"Palm Springs would be a nice place. It's not too far, and it's nice and warm sitting in the sun there. Swimming pools, too."

Well, George, you're right, you know. It would be nicer to march to Palm Springs than to Sacramento. And if we could find someone to do our work for us, we'd probably join you. That is, if sweaty workers are allowed to go to such places.

In the Record for March 26, George had this to say: "I think that if I'm going to carry anything at all it would be a hoe.

"Thought maybe we'd chop a little cotton along the way.

"Make a few bucks.

"Reuther's \$50,000 will be nice to have, but heck Walter, we're willing to help. You don't have to do it ALL."

Reading how George sees it, we get the feeling that he figures the Farm Workers Union is some kind of fraud, but if he had any courage, he'd say what he thinks...if he does think...

We admit that he's had only three years to examine us, and looking around Delano, at our spacious air-conditioned offices, our fleet of late-model cars, our high salaries, and our sumptuous cuisine, he probably figures we are getting rich from La Causa.

You see, George's thinking is so outmoded, he probably figures a '48 Chevy is the latest car on the market.

But let's turn to the Bakersfield Californian, a "big-town sheet" by Kern County standards. Now the Californian recently ran a letter to the editor under the banner "Labels Chavez and His Union 'The Biggest Fake'".

Who labels Chavez a fake? No telling. He doesn't have the intestinal fortitude to sign his name.

Now the letter writer does sign himself "A FARM LABORER."

Some excerpts from his letter:

"A laborer is a laborer, just like a dog is a dog, and you can't change them into something they're not." (Underlining ours.)

The letter (March 19, page 18) also included this little statement:

"The union isn't made up of farm workers. It's made up of hippies, street walkers, bums and college students."

Pretty unsavory combination, if you ask me. Especially the last category. A university education certainly is a shameless thing.

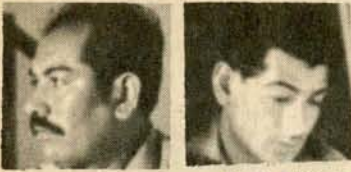
Donald Harrell Fritts is the executive editor of the Californian. I'm the managing editor of the MALCRIADO, and I make it a practice of reading everything in the paper before we print it. Perhaps Mr. Fritts does the same. Berenice Chipman Fritts is the president of the Californian. I wonder if it isn't she who chose this quotation, which appears on the same page:

"Thoughts for Today":..."Who does not slander with his tongue, and does no evil to his friend, nor take up a reproach against his neighbor?--Psalms 15:3."

Seems like nobody any more.

George and Donald: if you have some specific charges, make them. Innuendo is a coward's game.

--David M. Fishlow



LOREDO

ESPINOZA

Rent Strike Wins

After two years and ten months the Woodville-Linnell rent strike is won. The farm worker families stuck by their guns, showing their strength and patience until the end of the 34-month battle with the Tulare County Housing Authority (TCHA).

According to Ernesto Loredo, spokesman for the rent strike for the last two years, "They had us beaten several times, but because the people were tough we were able to force the hand of the Authority."

"We have shown them that farm workers are not weak just because we are poor. When we stick together for a single goal, we have a power equal to any. The TCHA has the backing of the growers, the county government, the backing of the state and federal governments, but just a small organized group of huelguista farm workers were able to demand our rights and win."

El Malcriado asked Pablo Espinoza, second in command on the rent strike, how they won. "We showed them a uni-

fied front and demonstrated to them that we had the active support of all kinds of people all over the country," he said.

"We really had very little physical strength. What they feared was the moral strength of the whole movement of organized farm workers."

The rent strike started in May of 1965 with a demonstration in front of the TCHA in Visalia. In July the strikers had a six-mile march from the Linnell Camp to the office of the Board of Supervisors which was joined by people from all over the state including some clergymen.

In the beginning there were about 200 rent strikers who refused to pay a rent increase from \$18 to \$25 a month. They set up a bank account and collected rents at the old rate. None of this rent money was paid to the Authority until after the final settlement this March.

The rent strike brought the attention of the Federal government, which drew up plans for a \$1.2 million replacement housing project, which, with

the settlement of the strike, is now ready to roll.

The final agreement between the strikers and the Housing Authority determined that

1. No striker will be discriminated against in the new housing.

2. The old housing will stand until the families can move into the new project.

3. None of the back rent increase will be paid by those who were on strike.

4. The new rent will be \$20 per month, lowering the rent for even the tenants who were not on strike.

5. There will be no evictions even though the Authority has the legal right to evict the strikers.

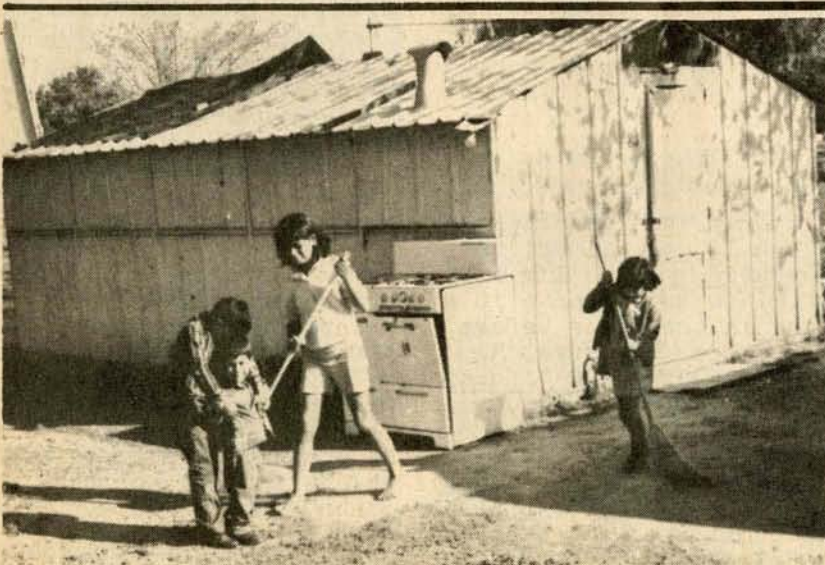
The two camps were built in 1938 as free farm worker housing by the federal government. They were planned as temporary housing, costing \$100 apiece to build. After ten years the camps were leased to a growers' association for \$1 a year. The growers charged up to \$5 a week per unit.

In 1950 the Feds turned the operation over to the TCHA who started building up profits on the rents. They have continued profiteering until the rent strike.

It is impossible to say how long they would have exploited farm workers if the people had not organized. For 15 years they continued to gouge rents for the single room tin shacks without windows, inside water or toilets.

The TCHA kept piling up profits even though the units were condemned by the health department with more than 51 violations of the local codes.

"We may have never won without the legal help of Gary Bellow, attorney for the California Rural Legal Assistance Program," Loredo noted.



Woodville labor camp.

Non-violence and your vote

*A*s organized farm workers we are non-violent.

We have said this by the thousands in our support of the union at the Bakersfield courthouse last month.

We have shown it ten thousand strong at the fiesta ending Cesar Chavez' fast.

We express the power of non-violence in the benefits of our contracts. In Delano we continue the daily picketline despite the arms and provocations of Giumarra.

We live in a world of violence. In the cities, police violence against the people is standard.

The low pay, long hours, lack of sanitation and child labor in the fields does violence to our lives and dignity.

The Texas grower in the White House continues to escalate violence against the farm workers of Vietnam, using our sons to kill and be killed.

We use our strength as a union against the moral and physical violence of the growers. We do so with some success.

If we really believe in non-violence we must use every tool we have to reshape the violence with which we are faced. We have a basic non-violent weapon in the vote.

It can be used to limit or end the violence which is done to us. It can be used to make our lives into happier lives, to make the lives of our children lives better than our own.

Cesar Chavez has said, "They have the power and they have the money, but they are the few and we are the many." This is true, but they also know the power of the ballot and they use it.

When the rich and the growers use the ballot they use it to shape the world the way they want it to be. They use it to put men in power who will keep our kids in the fields and out of the schools, who will keep us struggling just to keep a roof over our heads and beans on the table.

*W*e can use the vote to change our lives. We can use the vote more powerfully than the rich because there are more of us. Up till now farm workers and other poor people like us have never registered to vote.

Because we have not used the vote the men in power have been able to laugh us off and we have had only a weak voice.

Even if the candidates of the farm workers fail to win, our votes will put even the worst official on notice that he'd better watch out the second time around. We will have a voice which is listened to and respected.

If we are to win with non-violence we must use the vote. We must register to vote, and we must be sure that all our friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives and compadres are registered to vote.

Your vote is one of the strongest weapons of non-violence. You will be defenseless on election day if you do not register.



It's time

Dear Mr. Chavez:

I am a farm hand with a family and live in Santa Ana. We certainly are in need of a farm union down here as we still receive only \$1.40 per hour!

You have been doing a great job up there around Delano for I've been reading about you nearly every day. If we had more men of your tenacity and purposefulness we would all be better off. I heartily commend you on your action through non-violence. I believe sincerely that you are beginning to give the farm hand not only encouragement but a chance for better living. I hope sometime in the future you can find time to come down here and help us in this area--we are in a section 30 miles south of Los Angeles, next to Newport Beach in Orange County.

The farmers in this area seem to think it is still the old Bracero Era and still treat the workers like dogs--without benefits at all--pressuring them unmercifully and doling out as little wage as they can.

It's a pitiful situation here and I am sure it is time for unions and the U. S. government to take a hand in this deplorable situation and make things bearable and equitable.

I'm sure you agree with me.

Sincerely, an admirer,

WILLIAM C. LISCHER
Santa Ana, Calif.
March 16, 1968

Man's Pride

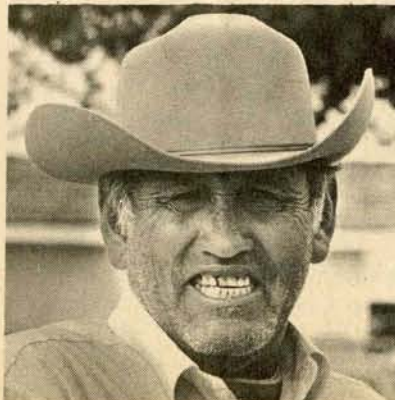
by F. Ricardo Gomez



Long days of loneliness, and plight
Stinking brown sweat filtering through a mass of
uncut hair:
Entering sheepishly into the corners of my red,
sun-swollen eyes

Enduring the burning, itching sensations so as not
to break my rhythm nor my stride
Unable to break the hypnotic spell
Developed to black-out the boiling sun, and forget
the years of stooping—
Like a loyal hound, instinctively my rough,
calloused hands,
search for #1's amidst a field of ripened pumpkins.
I hear grower s convincing each other as I near the
tractor
These people want no other kind of work
They were born to wander, to live and die happily
wrestling fruits from stems and vines—
Reacting invisibly to the outsiders in camp—
Wondering why and what they offered in exchange
to photograph our lives—
Others talk of escaping our chains of coolie wages—
Through a strike—
Listening at first, because I know I wear trousers
that once belonged to one of them—
I see my son in winter clothes in July—
I try to understand their talk of opportunities
Although none had ever come—
Except to some— Crew leaders—
My fear is soon replaced by rage;
As I see others like myself long denied the right to
live
Like other human beings—
So often are trapped by accepting
superficial contracts
And grower advice—
I join in a Huelga—

I am still stooping and sweating in the sun
But now I have pride
I am now paid as a man
Gone are the days of the timid, trained hound
My child will not understand





Al Kistler and Ed Haines, Asst. Directors of Organization of the AFL-CIO, lead workshop in Delano.

AFL-CIO Organizers Focus on UFWOC

The entire organizational staff of the AFL-CIO in the western states zeroed in on Delano recently for a three-day workshop conference on organizing. The conclave began the day following the massive fiesta in Delano Memorial Park.

Larry Itliong, assistant director of UFWOC, introduced Ed Haynes and Alan Kistler to lead the workshop. Kistler and Haynes are assistants to Bill Kircher, Director of organizing nationally for the AFL-CIO.

The first day's session was a rapid fire give and take on "How to build a strong union with what you have." Included in the discussions were the entire organizing staff and all the officers of UFWOC.

Every participant was given a chance to voice his ideas on what elements were necessary for putting together a successful union. A list was compiled and each item was explored in depth by the entire group.

During the discussion absolutely nothing was taken for granted. Every idea presented was torn apart and then carefully pieced back toge-

ther. Many feelings were hurt and in the course of the process, healed again.

Kistler and Haynes have both been in organizing activity for about thirty years. They pitted their combined know how against the more than 400 combined years of farm work experience in the room. The result was an amazing learning experience for each participant, including the teachers.

On the last day of the workshop all the out of town organizers were shown around the Delano strike area.

That night in a general membership meeting Larry Itliong introduced the AFL-CIO organizers who spoke for a few minutes on their impressions of and their commitment to the Delano strike.

According to Itliong, "These brothers and sisters are the people who are most responsible for the support we have gotten from the unions. Not only have they organized support for us and the boycott, over the years of our strike they have given us over thirty thousand dollars out of their own pockets."

Blood bank serves members

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has established a "Blood Bank" for its members. Anyone who has ever had a serious injury or sickness knows the high cost of blood (\$25 a pint) if needed for transfusions. The Union members contribute blood into the bank. Then, when a member needs some blood, it is available, at no cost.

Last year Lupe Pena, a member, was very sick, and needed many transfusions. Her brothers

in the Union contributed their blood into the blood bank, so there was no charge for the Penas. Union member Miguel Manzano of Delano has been quite sick and is in Springville Hospital. He has needed several transfusions. The Farm Workers Blood Bank has provided the blood.

If you are a Union member in Napa, Hollister, Livingston, Fresno, Tulare or Kern County, in Texas, or anywhere in the U.S., you can use the blood bank. If you,

or a member of your family is sick and needs blood, tell your local doctor or hospital that you are a Union member and that the United Farm Workers Blood Bank will reimburse their hospital for the blood needed or used. Then inform the Roger Terronez Clinic Box 671, Delano, phone 725-1281. The nurse at the clinic will give you any other information that you need. The clinic will arrange to pay your hospital for the blood you used.

continued on page 11

CTM cooperates

TIJUANA, March 13 -- The Confederación de Trabajadores Mexicanos (CTM), the national labor federation of Mexico held a regional meeting here today to take its first step to put a stop to strikebreaking by "green card" migrants in the U. S.

The meeting was arranged by Domingo Garcia Ulloa, International Coordinator for CTM in cooperation with Hector Reyes and Fred Martinez of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. The meeting marked a new kind of international labor cooperation on an issue of vital concern to union members on both sides of the border.

Spearheading the action for a resolution calling for "active and full cooperation with UFWOC to keep Mexican farm workers from scabbing in the U. S.", were Roberto Luevano, General Secretary of the CTM Central Council in Tijuana, and his brother Evangelino Luevano, CTM General Secretary for Baja California.

TV and newspaper union leaders made a special point to insert wording in the resolution which would call for a thorough campaign of education and publicity on the issue to be carried out both inside the unions and in the mass media.

According to Fred Martinez, UFWOC organizer in San Ysidro, "Many of the 250 delegates present were quite interested in finding ways to place penalties and sanctions on any CTM members who were identified as scabs on U. S. ranches.

"The CTM people want to continue the greencard program because it introduces U. S. dollars into their very depressed economy, and serves as a relief valve for an often overwhelming problem of unemployment.

"As trade unionists, CTM leaders want to curtail any strikebreaking, but they are particularly interested in the

"greencards" because they know that if the present situation continues, U. S. unions will have to apply pressure to close the border to all people who might undermine union standards."

After two and a half hours of heated discussion the CTM meeting ended with a unanimous vote in support of the resolution.

BLOOD BANK

Continued from page 10

It is also important for Union members to contribute blood to the blood bank, so that it will have enough blood for any emergency.

If you are healthy, you should contribute blood at least once or twice a year.

Go in to the Houchin Community Blood Bank, 2601 "G" St., Bakersfield, California, and tell the nurse that you are from the United Farm Workers and that you want to donate to the Union blood bank. Or call the Clinic for information on how you can donate.

Caratan elected

Milan Caratan, of the multi-millionaire Caratan family of Delano and Richgrove, has been elected Chairman of the California Table Grape Commission.

This Commission was supposed to help small grape growers solve some of their problems and get better prices for their grapes.

But the Caratans seem to be the kind of growers who think that the way to solve the "farm problem" is to keep the wages as low as possible and keep the farm workers in poverty.

The small growers will never get organized if they let the big growers and this type of 19th century thinking dominate their Grape Commission.

The small growers need a union, to protect them from the big growers and to help them get fair prices for their produce from the big canning companies, distributors, and buyers.

They ought to organize against those groups which are taking unfair advantage of them and not against the poor farm workers who are even worse off than they are.

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Itliong sues

Larry Itliong, assistant director of the United Farm Workers and a leader of the Filipino community in California, is suing the John Birch Society and its founder, Robert Welch, for \$2,000,000.

In June, 1966, the Birchers and their newspaper accused Itliong of being affiliated with the Communist Party. A John Birch Society booklet, called "The Grapes", is full of such absurd charges.

The trial of the Birchers was moved to L. A. last month and Itliong is hopeful that justice will be achieved.

Meanwhile, Union attorney Jerry Cohen has indicated that he may soon launch a series of new libel suits against various Delano and Bakersfield area women and a Bakersfield radio station for continuously telling lies about the Union, its members, and its leaders.

Whenever poor people try to improve themselves, some begin screaming "Commies!"

The Union has been red-baited for three years. Then the charge became "violence."

Itliong's suit may be instrumental in teaching responsibility to some of the "accusers."

Health & welfare

UFWOC officials are hopeful that details of the Union's "Health and Welfare Fund" program will be worked out before harvests begin in July, according to UFWOC negotiations director Dolores Huerta.

Marshall Ganz, assistant director of negotiations, told EL MALCRIADO recently that one of the principal difficulties in setting up the health insurance program has been the resistance of the growers to the idea of a single program for all Union members.

Under the contracts negotiated by UFWOC during the past two years, employers contribute from five to ten cents per hour per worker for the fund, over and above wages paid.

During the peak work season, approximately \$5.40 a week for each worker is paid into the fund.

Some employers have argued for separate programs, stating they preferred to set up a separate fund for each ranch of the company.

Noting the high expense of administering the many separate programs, Union members and officials have insisted that a single fund be set up.

Eventually to be included in the program will be hospital and sickness insurance, pensions for retired workers, and insurance for workers injured and unable to work.

The advantages of such a program over welfare and other government hand-outs are obvious, Mrs. Huerta pointed out.

"If separate programs are set up at each ranch, much of the money available for worker benefits will be eaten up by administrators' salaries. By providing a single plan, more money will be available to help the workers," she said.

Almaden Ranch workers in Hollister, California, recently wrote to the company urging the employers to cooperate in the speedy completion of details so the fund can begin operation.

UFWOC officials have also pointed out that separate programs for each ranch would mean that the Union would have to pay for insurance. By combining all the programs into a single one, enough workers will be covered for the fund to be operated independently, without the need to pay an insurance company.

Ganz told a Delano membership meeting on Thursday, March 21, that negotiations with the employers would continue during the next couple of weeks.



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They Won It - They Get It

The asparagus harvest is in full swing at the huge DiGiorgio Ranch in Arvin and Lamont, south of Bakersfield, according to UFWOC representative Mack Lyons.

Lyons reports that over 200 workers are employed at the ranch at present, the largest group being asparagus pickers. The workers are getting 68¢, 75¢ or \$1.00 a box, on a piece rate basis, in the asparagus, he said.

There is some discussion over whether the workers want piece rate wages (as the company prefers), or an hourly, or hourly plus bonus rate, so the scale may be changed in the near future, Lyons noted.

But for the hundreds of DiGiorgio workers who would not get work this winter, there was also good news. For perhaps the first time in history, farm workers protected by the Union contract were getting unemployment insurance.

It was not much, only \$32 to \$45 a week, but even that means a lot during the winter.

"The workers are very proud of this," said Lyons. "They realize this is possible only through the victory of their Union. No other

farm workers in California had this, I think."

Farm workers are excluded from the unemployment insurance law. When they are laid off --no money...

In other industries, employers pay a certain amount of money per week per worker to the State Unemployment Insurance fund.

Then, if some of the workers get laid off, they can collect unemployment benefits because they are covered by this insurance. But growers don't have to contribute for their workers, so farm workers are not protected by this insurance program.

When the workers won a contract with DiGiorgio, the Union demanded that DiGiorgio pay his workers unemployment insurance. If a worker earns \$880 during a three-month period, he will be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

Workers who worked for DiGiorgio last summer in the harvests are now receiving these unemployment benefits. This is not welfare. This is a benefit that Union members have won and earned! That's where the \$3.50 UFWOC dues are going.

Ranch Committee Elected

DiGiorgio workers voted five new members to their ranch committee last week. Guadalupe Rangel, Lupe Perez, Tom Long, Bill Ketcher and Manuel Ramirez were newly chosen to work with re-elected members Eduviges Lugo and Gene Russell.

In describing the duties of the ranch committee, Lugo, leader of the Puerto Rican workers said: "If a man has any problem on the job, that's our problem. If something

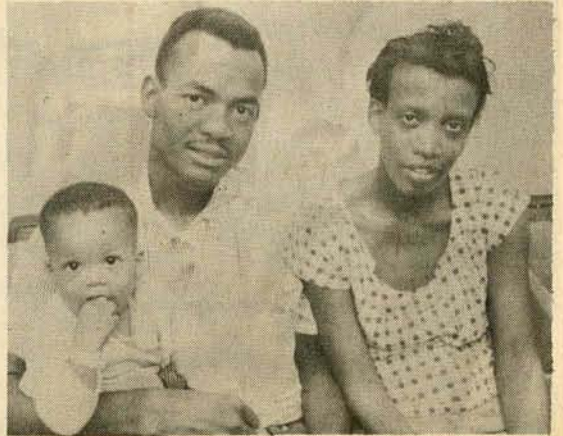
comes up that a man can't solve, he takes it to his steward or to any committeeman. If a man's not satisfied or if it can't be solved by the steward, then the ranch committee takes over."

Maree Fernandez, secretary at the Lamont office, suggests that workers call the Union office any time they need help and can't get in touch with a committeeman. She noted that "The Union is here to solve problems and get better working conditions.

"Nobody ought to complain until they've tried the ranch committee. They can solve almost any problem a worker might have, and there is nothing that we can't all face together."



EDUVIGES LUGO



MACK LYONS AND FAMILY

Public defender

BAKERSFIELD, March 20-- The Board of Supervisors have instructed Kern County Attorney Ralph B. Jordan to write a new law establishing a public defender's office.

According to published reports, the new office is supposed to be open on July 1.

The public defender's office is a "service" provided by many counties to the poor.

The purpose of the office is to provide free legal service and lawyers to poor people who get into trouble with the law and cannot afford to pay an attorney.

In many cases, however, the counties provide so little money to run the public defender's

office that there are not enough lawyers to handle the cases of the many poor people who need help.

What happens is that the person who gets into trouble spends hours and hours waiting to see the representative of the public defender's office, has to fill out long applications, swear that he has nothing worth selling and no where to borrow the money for a lawyer.

After all the humiliation and time lost from work, the person usually gets only the sketchiest help. The overworked lawyer has only a few minutes to spend on each case, and can only provide a minimum of advice.

Recently a member of the United Farm Workers ran afoul of the law in Gilroy, having been arrested on a traffic violation.

His brothers in the field took up a collection to raise the bail money. The man did not have a steady job; his wife was pregnant; there were several small children in the family.

After he was bailed out, he asked if he could see the public defender in Santa Clara County. The lady at the court said to come back in two hours.

After sitting outside on the lawn for two hours, the man came back.

He waited another half an hour, and then they told him that he couldn't see the lawyer --he would have to go to San Jose, 50 miles from his home, the following day.

He went to San Jose, missing the chance to work that day, and after spending six hours in the public defender's office, they told him they would not help him.

If you figure the time lost from work at \$15.00, and the transportation at \$3.00, plus the time of the UFWOC interpreter who accompanied him to San Jose, you can see that the public defender actually cost the man about \$40.00, and gave him no help at all.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We hope that the Kern County public defender's office will not be as bad as the Santa Clara office.

If farm workers made decent wages, they could take care of their own legal problems.

Instead of creating new inadequate hand-outs, public officials should concentrate on raising the wages paid to farm workers.

