

# El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER

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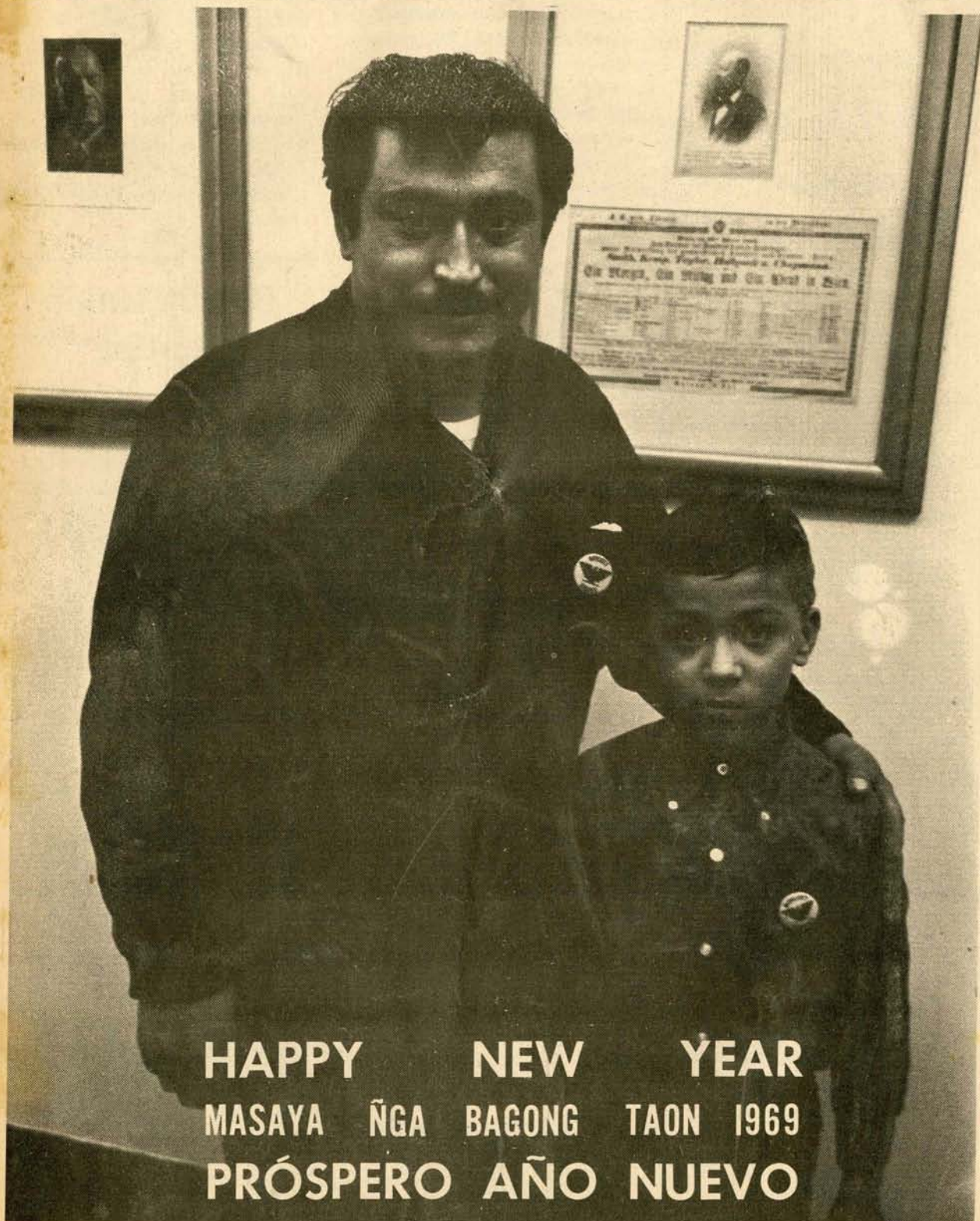
in English

Volume 11, Number 21



Delano, California

January 1, 1969



HAPPY NEW YEAR  
MASAYA ÑGA BAGONG TAON 1969  
PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO



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*OUR COVER: Marcos Munoz and his son (and the rest of his family) have been on boycott duty for over a year. Marcos leads the boycott in Boston and New England.*

*Photo by Jill Krementz*

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# El Malcriado says

*by the Editor*

The columns of EL MALCRIADO have frequently mentioned the Inter-Agency Committee on Mexican-American Affairs, headed by Vicente T. Ximenes in Washington.

About twice a week, we get "press releases" from Mr. Ximenes telling us how much the Committee is doing for the Mexican-Americans in the United States.

To date none of these releases has mentioned La Huelga.

One thing is sure, however. The name of Vicente T. Ximenes always, but always, appears in the first paragraph.

The latest "hot" news from Ximenes is that former executive director David North has resigned, and will be succeeded by Jose A. Chacon.

"The Mexican-American community will always be grateful for the long hours, hard work and dedication which David North gave for the cause of justice. Much of the progress which has been made by the Mexican American is the direct result of Mr. North's work," said Mr. Ximenes.

Hogwash, says EL MALCRIADO.

The progress which has been made by the Mexican American is the direct result of hard work, organizing, and militancy on the part of Mexicans in the barrios and in the fields, and not by some Washington swivel chair sitter named North.

Now Mr. North will be succeeded

by Jose A. Chacon. Chacon is a graduate of West Point, and has been in the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. He worked for an Atomic Energy Commission contractor in New Mexico. He was also head of the Public Welfare Board in New Mexico and had something to do with Cuban refugees.

Great credentials. Now the Inter-Agency Committee on Mexican-American affairs can have TWO do-nothing conferences a year in El Paso.

## Credit Union Meeting

The annual meeting of the Farm Worker Credit Union will be held in Delano on Sunday, January 26, according to Helen Chavez, manager of the Credit Union. The meeting will begin at 8:30 AM in the Filipino Hall, 1457 Glenwood Ave. After the meeting, lunch will be served. All members and their guests are invited.

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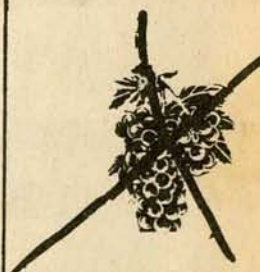
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## FEDERAL REPORTS SHOW

# GRAPE SALES OFF 19% DURING THE HOLIDAY

DELANO, December 26--Grape sales for the holiday season, December 5 through 26, are down 19 percent when compared with a similar period of 1966, latest reports from the U. S. Department of Agriculture reveal.

The comparison was made for the 41 major cities which account for over 60 percent of the grape market, making the impact of the grape boycott quickly apparent.

The government report also indicates that more than five million boxes of grapes remain in cold storage, unsold. Grape sales usually decline to almost nothing during January, but high cold storage inventories will probably force growers to try unloading the leftovers at lower prices.

The Produce News of December 14 described the grape market as follows: "Shipping point trading on table grapes in California is very slow. Shippers are not cleaning up their loadings and some cars are rolling unsold or consigned. There is a trend downward on prices, particularly Emperors. On 26 lb. lugs of Emperors, shippers in the Delano, California district are doing business f.o.b. mostly for \$2.75-\$3.00...a year ago at this time the Emperor market was \$4..."

In other words, growers are sending loaded freight cars to the East without guarantees of sale, hoping that by the time the grapes reach Eastern markets, buyers will be found. The usual practice is for

grapes to be shipped after they are sold.

Under the heading "Fresh Fruit and Vegetable National Shipping Point Trends," the Department of Agriculture's Market News for December 17 reported "Trading was fair for best lots, but overall was below expectations in volume for the was very slow, partly due to boycott action in some markets and partly to ample supplies available in most terminal markets."

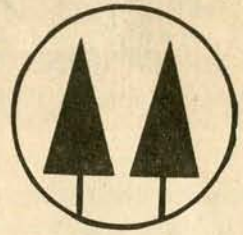
Commenting on the effects of the boycott so far, UFWOC Vice President Dolores Huerta told EL MALCRIADO last week, "We've learned a lot about how to run a boycott this year, and you can be sure that it will be much bigger and better organized next season."

"Besides," she said, "we can continue fighting as long as it takes, because we have nothing to lose."

"The growers refuse to negotiate with the Union, leaving us no alternative but to continue the boycott. If they would agree to negotiate, we could set about building a healthy grape industry together."

"You know," she added, "we take no joy in hurting them just for the sake of damaging their businesses out of vengeance or bitterness. We want the strike and boycott to end almost as much as they do."

"Maybe we can avoid the suffering and misery of the boycott for next year. It will all be over if they agree to negotiate."



The sign that tells  
you people are  
working together  
to fill their needs



You do not have  
to be a member  
to shop-come in  
and see how  
economic  
democracy works



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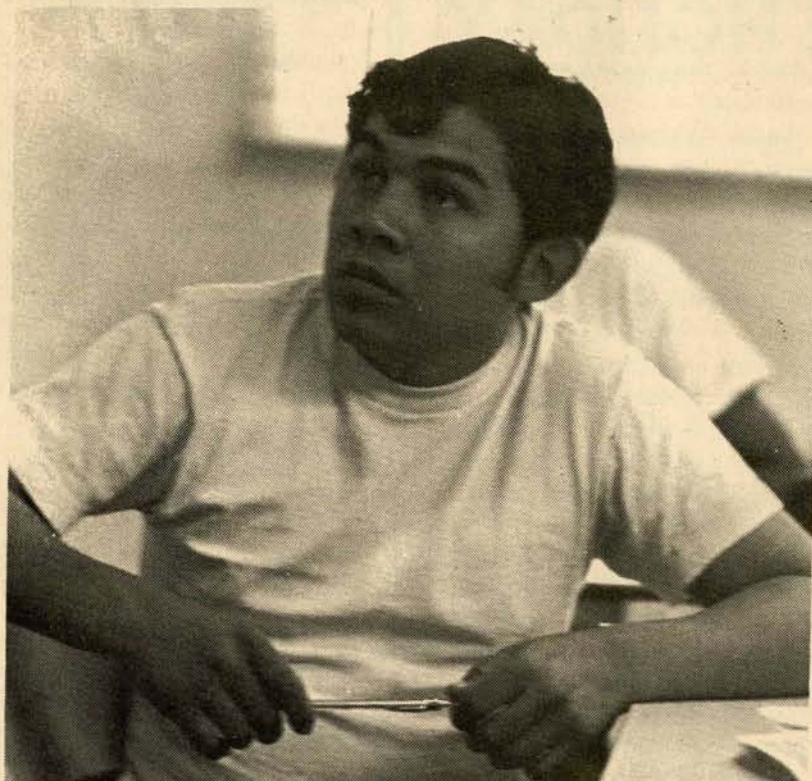
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# GROWERS GO EAST TO SPARK GRAPE SALES



Juan Flores

## TIJERINA ACQUITTED

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO--Reies Lopez Tijerina was acquitted on December 13th by a New Mexico jury of six men and six women of the charges of kidnapping. The charges grew out of an incident in June, 1967, when several people tried to put District Attorney Alfonso Sanchez under "citizen's arrest" in Tierra Amarilla.

Tijerina, who acted as his own attorney, said that during the incident some followers of La Alianza, the movement he directs, had gone to the Court House in Tierra Amarilla looking for Sanchez, who had been harrassing and arresting La Alianza's people with the help of the state police.

Tijerina said that he was not present until someone told him that the Court House was being surrounded by police and that there was a possibility of violence.

Trying to avoid any outbreaks, he

showed up and saw someone going inside the Court House with a rifle. Tijerina said he grabbed the rifle, yelling "Stop, Stop, you are giving them the excuse to kill us all."

Some observers at the trial felt Judge Paul Larrazolo's instructions to the jurors had a great deal to do with the acquittal. "The court instructs the jury that anyone, including a state police officer, who intentionally interferes with a lawful attempt to make a citizens arrest does so at his own peril, since the arresting citizens are entitled under the law to use whatever force is reasonably necessary to effect said citizen's arrest..."

Tijerina presented 29 witnesses on his behalf. More were ready to testify, but the judge refused to listen to other small farmers of the mountains of Tierra Amarilla who had come to testify in sup-

BUFFALO, December 8--Juan and Maree Flores, UFWOC representatives in Buffalo, report that growers and their representatives have been touring the East in an attempt to bolster their flagging reputations.

The Floreses recently met Delano grower Jack Pandol in a debate in this upstate New York city. Across the border in Canada, grower John Giumarra met UFWOC attorney Jerome Cohen in a debate that was broadcasted on TV throughout the country.

Jorge Zaragoza, boycott chairman for Cincinnati and Southern Ohio, debated with growers Martin Zaninovich and Jack Pandol.

Superscab Jose Mendoza has returned to California after an extensive anti-Union tour of the East and Midwest.

The growers' travels indicate spreading realization that the grape boycott has cut deeply into their sales throughout the country. In desperate moves to unload their grapes, the growers have launched expensive advertising campaigns, have slashed prices, and have pushed grapes into new markets, especially the South, to avoid the expanding boycott.

The UFWOC boycott is growing more effective, not less so, as the winter deepens.

Perhaps that explains why growers had dumped 1,228,569 tons of table grapes into the crushers of California's wineries this season, giving up all hope of selling the grapes on the table grape market.

port of Tijerina. The prosecutor presented 18 witnesses, many of whom contradicted themselves and each other, it was reported.

After the trial, Tijerina happily said that the Alianza was going to continue fighting for the rights of the Mexican-Americans to the lands of New Mexico. They allege that many Mexican-Americans were dispossessed of their land after the Mexican War of 1846-1848.



## JUDGE HIDES THE DANGERS OF PESTICIDES

DELANO, December 31--Hearings on a request by crop dusting firms in the Kern County area to deny access to public records on the use of pesticides to UFWOC attorneys will be held in Bakersfield on Wednesday, January 29, according to UFWOC General Counsel Jerome Cohen.

Cohen said after he attempted to view the records, on file in the office of Agricultural Commissioner Sheldon Morley, on August 20, Superior Court Judge J. Kelly Steele issued a restraining order prohibiting the Commissioner to show him the records.

The Union's legal department is conducting a study of the possible dangers to farm workers of the numerous toxic substances used in agricultural pest control.

Union attorneys have said they have considerable evidence that the farm chemicals can be a serious health hazard to farm workers, and that the public records will show exactly which chemicals are used in the fields.

Assistant General Counsel David Averbuck, who will represent Cohen at the January 29 hearings, said he expected Steven Wall will represent the crop dusters and Kern

County Counsel Ralph Gordon will represent the Agricultural Commission.

Testimony from physicians, scientists and farm workers will be presented at the hearings, Averbuck said.

There is no guarantee, however, that if the court order barring access to the records is lifted on January 29 that the Union will then be able to examine the records.

Morley's office might still deny access to the records on administrative grounds, Cohen explained, even though there is no longer a

## The Threat of Chemical Poisons

The menace of fertilizers and other farm chemicals pose a serious threat to the health of the public in general and farm workers especially, recently released information shows.

While officials of the United Farm Workers have continued to fight the battle for adequate protection of workers who come in contact with dangerous chemicals, scientists have been studying the effect of heavy fertilization on the water supply.

A newly-elected director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has warned that farmers and growers in the United States are dumping 7 million tons of nitrogen compounds from chemical fertilizers into the soil each year, and that this heavy use of chemical fertilizers is polluting soil and water and posing an increasing danger to the health of inhabitants of farm areas.

The scientist, Dr. Barry Commoner, a noted botanist, ecologist, and director of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at Washington University in St. Louis, warned in a speech to fellow scientists at a convention in Dallas that "the heavily farmed areas of California probably represent the most severe public health hazard from

nitrate originating in fertilizers."

Commoner noted that nitrates have already polluted the San Joaquin River and most streams, creeks, and sloughs in the Central Valley, and contribute to the pollution of San Francisco Bay. Some agricultural communities, specifically Delano, California, have publically warned that tap water is contaminated by a dangerously high level of nitrates and may be unsafe for babies to drink. Chemical fertilizers, and not sewage, have been proven to be the source of the contamination.

Nitrate compounds themselves are not directly dangerous, Commoner noted, but they are easily converted into nitrites "which can be dangerously poisonous to humans."

Nitrate-polluted water has caused infant outbreaks of an anemia-like disease called mehemoglobinemia, which can lead to breathing difficulties, retard mental growth, and even cause death, Commoner said.

Research has turned up dozens of cases where nitrite poisoning has already caused disease in infants fed baby food vegetables that have been exposed to bacteria after their containers were opened. The bacteria quickly convert harmless nitrates to nitrites.

The conclusion of Dr. Commoner's

research is that the nitrates are a chemical menace, choking our rivers, killing our fish, polluting our drinking water, and in some counties, already endangering the health of our children.

To counter this menace, Commoner suggested the use of "pelletized" fertilizers that would release their nitrogen far more slowly than present chemicals do; confining fertilizer operations to periods when rain is unlikely to carry dangerous chemicals in to the water supply, and the development of new technologies to spread organic sewage effluents back on the soil as useful, safe, natural fertilizers.

The United Farm Workers has been especially concerned with the problems of chemical fertilizers, since most farm workers live in areas where the danger from nitrate poisoning is extremely high. The Union has also been concerned with the health and safety of workers applying these chemical fertilizers, and working in close proximity to such chemicals.

State and county officials have sought to prevent the Union from gaining access to information and files on the subject. Union Attorney Jerome Cohen's requests

*Continued on page 14*



## A CHRISTMAS PARADE FOR DIGNITY AND JUSTICE

(Pictures on pages 8-9)

LAMONT, December 16--More than 400 Di Giorgio workers marched down Main Street in Lamont last Saturday, December 14, during the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Christmas Parade to show the community their solidarity and desire to remain working under a Union contract despite the sale of Di Giorgio's vineyards.

Mack Lyons, UFWOC representative in Lamont (some 45 miles south of Delano) said he had obtained permission to enter a contingent of 100 farm workers in the Christmas parade. However, at the cry of "Join us" numerous farm workers who were standing on the sidewalks with "Viva la Huelga!" and "Viva la Union" signs entered the line of

march.

The Union banner--the black eagle on red and white--was carried at the front of the group by several young girls. Several Boy Scouts and students joined in with the farm workers after having already marched in their own groups.

Afterwards, at the Lamont park a few blocks away, during a rally, Mack Lyons thanked all the participants.

Some people who had come to Delano on the Christmas caravan were also in Lamont. Among those recognized were several ministers from the Migrant Ministry and several churches and a number of Catholic priests. The Mexican American Youth Organization from Union City and the Brown Berets from Richmond were also there.

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and EL MALCRIADO join in expressing their sympathy to organizers Lupe and Kathy Murguia on the loss of their twin infants last month. The twins were born prematurely and died soon after birth.



*A Plea for a Non Violent New Year...*

## GROWERS PRAISE CONTRACTS

DELANO, December 17--Representatives of Di Giorgio, Schenley, Paul Masson and Almaden recently came out in praise of the UFWOC after the South Central Farmers' Committee charged that the Union had brought chaos into the grape industry.

The South Central Farmers' Committee had claimed that Di Giorgio had to sell his land at less than the appraised value because of unionization, but Di Giorgio President Max O'Neill said that the Union contract was not a factor in the Company's sale of land. The land is being sold for about the same price estimated by government appraisers, O'Neill added.

Another charge made by the SCFC was that 58 strikes and slowdowns at Schenley "had made an atrocity of the Union contract."

Schenley's attorney Sidney Korshack denied this and said that "wages were so low before, we felt the workers were certainly entitled to the additional money and fringe benefits."

Representatives of both companies agreed that relations with the Union had been "remarkably good."

A spokesman for Paul Masson said that they had solved all their major problems with the Union, and that "the small problems remaining are certainly not bothering them." He added that some difficulties were to be expected in any new contract.

George Morrison, Manager of Personnel at Almaden Vineyards,

*Continued on page 14*

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## The Chemical Menace

*Continued from page 5.*  
to study public records on the use of such chemicals were denied last summer and the Union is still denied access to the records.

Meanwhile, babies in Delano drink bottled water if their parents can afford it, and the others run a dangerous risk.



## The Farm Bureau Still Loves Those Subsidies

KANSAS CITY, December 13--The American Farm Bureau Federation ended its convention in Kansas City with a resounding no vote to a proposal to put a ceiling of \$20,000 a year on government cash payments to any single grower.

The Farm Bureau Federation has for years piously called for "free enterprise" in agriculture and demanded that the government end regulations and subsidies in farming. But when a group of small farmers who were not on the subsidy gravy train proposed that the Farm Bureau support a limit on cash subsidies to any single farmer, the big growers who control the Farm Bureau resoundingly voted them down.

Farm Bureau President Charles Shuman also called on all farmers to work together to break the grape boycott and bust the Union. "Buy and eat grapes and have some on your table for Christmas," Shuman urged delegates to the convention. And the Farm Bureau has been joined by two other rightist groups to break the boycott, according to the California AFL-CIO News. The John Birch Society and the National Right-to-Work Committee are calling on their members to buy and eat grapes as part of their patriotic duty.

Viva la Causa  
Y  
El Progreso  
*Courtesy of*  
*a*  
*Mexican-*  
*American*  
*Attorney*  
Fresno California

## CAMACHO CHALLENGES COURT

DELANO, December 31--UFWOC picket captain Epifanio Camacho will be tried on charges of malicious mischief in Delano - McFarland Justice Court on January 17, according to UFWOC attorney Jerome Cohen. The charges were made on February 5, when Camacho, Cesar Chavez, and other Union members were accused of violating the provisions of an anti-strike injunction issued in August of 1967 by Bakersfield Superior Court Judge J. Kelley Steele.

David Averbuck, UFWOC Assistant Counsel, said that the trial itself will be a challenge of the constitutionality of the Justice Courts. As the complaint was originated in the Delano-McFarland Judicial District, Camacho will be tried by a Justice Court and not by a Municipal Court, as would have been the case if the complaint had been originated in the Bakersfield area.

Even though both courts handle misdemeanors, the disadvantages of being judged in a justice court are obvious, Averbuck said. The parties involved are not provided with a Court Reporter, and the court officials do not have to be lawyers, Averbuck noted.

Since they are not generally lawyers, judges in these courts usually do not understand or have a good sense of what "proper justice" means.

Justice courts are in reality a violation of the 14th amendment of the constitution, more specifically, of the Equal Protection Clause, Averbuck said.

"Recent studies have shown that Justice Court Judges give ridiculously high sentences. For example, in the El Centro Justice Court a boy was sent to jail for four months because he said a dirty word. It is time for the rural counties to have judges who understand proper justice," he commented.

"These issues are so important that attorneys as far away as New



Epifanio Camacho

York City have offered their services."

Camacho will be judged by Judge McNally of the Delano-McFarland District. "If Camacho goes to trial without equal protection of the laws, a full and detailed report will be sent to the U.S. Justice Department and to the Commission on Civil Rights," Averbuck added.

## UFWOC Wins in Oregon Trial

SALEM OREGON, December 27--Marion County District Court Judge Thomas W. Hansen declared a mistrial in the case of Nick Jones, UFWOC organizer in Oregon, when Jones appeared in court December 26 to face a charge of vagrancy and disorderly conduct.

The charges arose out of an incident on November 27 when Jones and 27 Oregonians were arrested outside an Albertson's Market while picketing the sale of scab grapes.

Of the 28, 18 were children and were released from Juvenile Center shortly after the arrests, with no charges filed.

The ten adults are accused of blocking cars entering and leaving the market, a charge Jones and the other picketers deny.

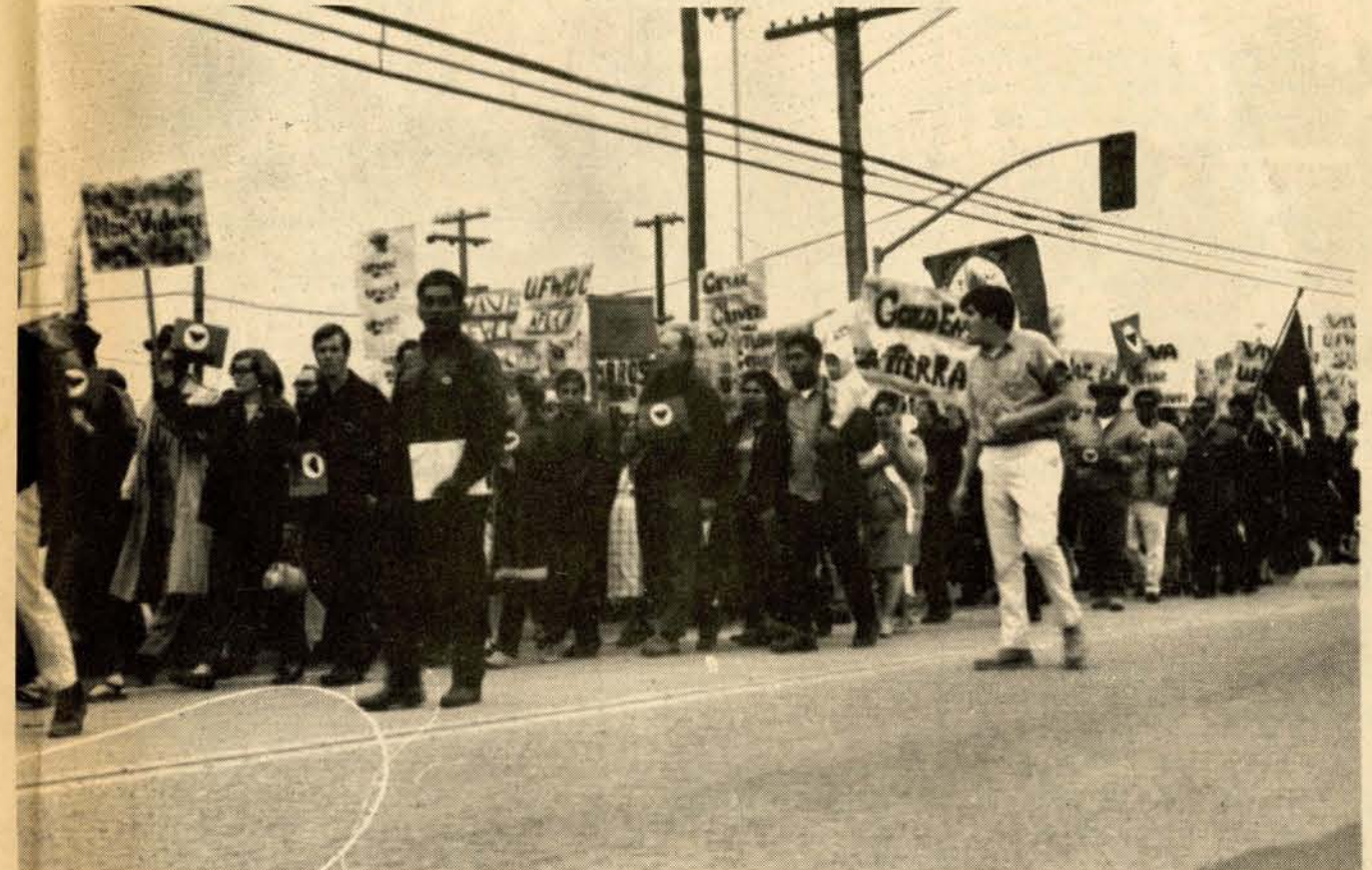
The jury was unable to reach a verdict after Jones's trial.

The defendant said he hoped charges would be dismissed, since the inability of the jury to reach a decision showed the flimsy nature of the "evidence" produced by the District Attorney.



# THE PARADE IN LAMONT

(See story, Page 6)



Photos by Geronimo Chocolate





## Hiring Hall NOTICE

DELANO, January 1--Both Schenley Industries and Perelli-Minetti will be hiring workers over the next two weeks, for the pruning operations, according to Manuel Sanchez, director of the Union Hiring Hall in Delano. Both ranches are under Union contract and all interested in working at these ranches should register immediately at the Hiring Hall at 102 Albany St. in Delano. Sanchez noted that wages at Schenley are \$2.25 for pruning by machine and \$2.10 for pruning by hand. Wages at Perelli-Minetti are based on piece-rates.

Di Giorgio Ranch in Arvin-Lamont is also hiring a few workers, according to the Union's Lamont office. Though Di Giorgio is in the process of selling its land, the Union has demanded that until the sale is complete, all work done on the land must be under the Union contract. There is still some hope that the major buyer of the land, S. A. Camp, will honor the contract and thus avoid precipitating a major labor struggle in the fields this winter.

## Prison Group Commits Itself to La Causa

SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA--Inmates at the California Conservation Center in Susanville, California have organized a Latin American Cultural Group and have begun publication of a small newspaper, "El Aguila."

A statement of aims and objectives in the first issue of the paper said that the purpose of the group is to set up a program for the study of Mexican and American histories, heritages, and languages.

The guiding concept of the program, El Aguila stated, is that Mexican-American inmates can change their way of thinking as a group. Mexican-Americans who are in prison will be asked to go out and get involved, not in crime, but in Mexican-American activities.

An interesting paragraph in another article of the paper read: "We know that as ex-felons we will not have the right to vote nor will we be able to hold any public office, but as concerned Mexican-Americans we are determined to come out of prison and get politically involved at all levels."

## SLAVERY IN TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, December 13--Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University and a member of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights said recently that farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas lived in a situation close to "peonage."

Father Hesburgh made the statement after listening to testimony indicating that Mexican-Americans in South Texas earn about \$1,500 per year and were unable to better themselves because of the opposition of rich growers and government officials.

"This sounds to me like peonage," he said. "This is as close as you can come to slavery."

The Texas Rio Grande Valley is one of the worst economic situations in the nation, he added.

Press reports said Texas attorney Arnulfo Guerra compared the border situation in the Valley with what would occur if Canadian workers were permitted to work in U. S. automobile factories at half the going wages.

That "wouldn't be permitted," Guerra said, "but it is allowed along the Mexican border."

# NON-VIOLENCE AND THE DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO, December 30--Pat Bryan, a young organizer for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee received a sentence of six months to four years in the federal penitentiary today for refusal to register for the draft.

Bryan had a hearing during a two hour trial on November 14, in which UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez testified in his behalf, saying, "I believe he is sincere and conscientious."

Bryan had stated in May of 1967, when refusing to register for the draft, "my conscience guides me

to not cooperate with any compulsory system which advocates killing as a method of settling disputes."

Bryan was an organizer for the Union in Delano and then on the boycott in Los Angeles and later St. Louis.

Another young organizer, Mark Silverman, has also refused to cooperate with the draft, and refused induction in November. "I am trying to help farm workers in this country. I will not go to kill farm workers in Viet Nam," he told EL MALCRIADO.

Silverman worked with the Union in Bakersfield and now works with the boycott committee in New York.

One young leader in the Union, Frank Diaz of Bakersfield, a former Glumarra worker who headed the boycott in Philadelphia until last month, was recently granted conscientious objector status. Several other organizers for the Union, firm in their conviction of non-violence, have applied for C O status.

EL MALCRIADO salutes these young men who are defending their belief in non-violence.



**BOOK REVIEW****PROFITING FROM POVERTY WITH HIRE EDUCATION**

*The Dirt on California: Agribusiness and the University*, by Ann and Hal Draper, ISC Press, 32 pages, 35 cents.

A newly published study by Hal and Ann Draper of Berkeley describes a fantastic pattern of pro-grower, anti-labor activity on the part of the University of California and its Division of Agriculture and Agricultural Extension Services.

The University has consistently worked toward limiting the organization of farm labor unions, preventing farm workers from organizing, holding down farm wages, preventing the passage of any legislation aimed at improving working conditions and providing propaganda for various causes supported by the growers to keep farm workers in near serfdom.

These anti-labor policies cover a 50-year span, according to the Drapers, and are as blatant today as they were in the 20s and 30s. The policies have been consistently against the worker, under both the Republican and Democratic administrations, the authors assert.

At the same time, the report reveals, the University has provided growers with billions of dollars' worth of subsidies, direct and indirect.

While the Division of Agriculture is one of the most lavishly financed and politically powerful departments in the University system, there is no service, no department, no institute or foundation in the entire University system which is concerned with serving farm workers or deals even peripherally with the problems faced by California's half million farm workers and their families, according to the report.

In addition to describing what the Wall Street Journal once termed "a tax-paid clinic for a major industry" the Drapers outline the firmly entrenched political power of the growers in the State Univer-

sity system.

While other departments lost as much as 25 percent of their budgets in Reagan's "austerity" program, Agriculture lost only 4 percent. The University of California spearheads the growers' "crash program" to mechanize agriculture, the Drapers report, and the program went into high gear after the bracero program was terminated in 1965.

Unlimited slave labor at starvation wages was no longer available, and growers demanded that the taxpayers provide them with machines to harvest crops... anything to avoid paying higher wages in order to recruit domestic workers. "No machine ever joined a Union," the Drapers note.

In short, the evidence presented in carefully documented and annotated prose by the authors, both longtime friends of the United Farm Workers, shows the University has prostituted itself time and again for the growers, issuing false and misleading reports filled with outright lies in its efforts to convince the public of California and the United States that agriculture in this State could not survive without a miserable and poverty-stricken mass of unorganized workers to provide slave labor.

The University's research, studies, reports and statements on agriculture are so contorted that they are little more than a gigantic whitewash for a "super-exploitative industry whose main crop is poverty," the Drapers charge.

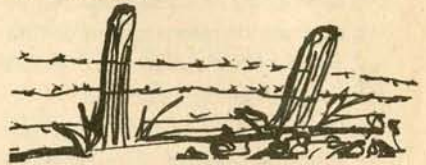
Of the \$25 million spent by the University's State Experiment Station in 1967, the State contributed \$17 million, the Federal Government, \$7 million, and "less than \$1.5 million was from the industry."

The incredible story of the non-competitive licensing of patents held by UC on agricultural machinery is also detailed.

Some of the recipients of UC's

largesse will be surprising to most readers of the report.

Copies of "The Dirt on California" are available from ISC Press, P.O. Box 910, Berkeley, California, 94701 at 35 cents plus 15 cents for postage and handling.



## **NEW LAWS FOR BORDER PASSES**

WASHINGTON, November 28-- The Federal Government has issued new regulations for visitors crossing the border from Mexico into the United States. The new entry permit will be dated and will be good for 15 days for Mexican citizens coming to the U.S. to visit, shop, or do business. It is valid only within 25 miles of the border.

The new regulations replace the "72-hour pass" which could be used within 150 miles of the border. The "72-hour pass" regulations were widely abused by people who used the pass to gain entrance to the U.S. and then got a job and remained in the country illegally. The new regulations are designed to curb this practice.

Union spokesmen were doubtful, however, that the new regulations would be any more adequately enforced than the old ones. And the new regulations avoid the much more serious problem of regulating the "Green Card" program. Since growers, Congressmen, Senators, Department of Justice officials, and Immigration Department officials all seem determined that the existing regulations will not be enforced, the passing of new regulations does not represent any improvement of the situation.



# Letters



EL MALCRIADO  
P.O. Box 130  
Delano, Ca. 93215

## ACTRESS TELLS OF YOUTH IN FIELDS

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers:

I greet you and wish you well.

I am now 55 years old, but remember well working in the apricot orchards in California at the age of four. My sister picked them--my mother cut them, and I pitted them in the drying sheds.

At 18, I participated in the Salinas lettuce strikes. Before then I was active in the San Francisco general strike.

When I went to Los Angeles in the early 30s--and I was in my early 20s--I naturally became involved with the struggle of the agricultural workers from the depressed areas of the country brought into California by the Ass. Farmers and the Bank of America, to form a large labor pool that was easy to manage.

I saw heaps of oranges covered with gasoline and set on fire and men who tried to take ONE orange shot to death.

The first objective was of course to try and alleviate the hunger, take in medical supplies, etc. The second and most important, and of course most dangerous, was to try and organize the field and cannery workers in one union.

I do not wish to sound as if I am bragging--certainly I am not telling you anything you do not already know.

I only mean to let you know that I am with you all the way. Though I can do little in a practical sense for you, because as the result of a severe beating I am a semi-invalid.

Your boycott here has been going rather well, but you have a bitter and eloquent enemy in Father Francis Fenton who is an executive member of the best organized and most powerful branch of the birch-



*Dorothy Comingore, who acted as Susan Alexander in the movie "Citizen Kane".*

ites. And of course you know what he calls you.

But that does not matter. As a result of my work with the "Sleepy Lagoon" case and other activities I am a graduate of HUAC in '52.

With love and gratitude for your splendid work,

*Dorothy Comingore*

Lord's Point, Connecticut

December 13, 1968

Editor's note: Miss Comingore was famous as Susan Alexander in the film "Citizen Kane."

## OUR ONLY CONTACT

Dear Malcriados,

Faithfully we read your writings and look at your pictures. It is our only contact with the outside world. Keep the good work up, we miss all of you.

Viva el boycott... Viva Cesar...

Seasons' Greetings,

*Elena & Al Rojas*

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

December 15, 1968

## RATS EVICTED FOR SCAB GRAPES

Editor:

Enclosed is a clipping from the Dispatcher--the ILWU union newspaper. It concerns the dispute over the so-called "Rat Ship" in the port of Long Beach.

On the day that I received the Dispatcher in the mail, she came into pier 41 in San Francisco to load.

About 95 percent of the cargo she was taking on was destined for Saigon.

The second day that we were loading, there were 25-30 trucks of scab grapes waiting to be unloaded so they could be put aboard this "Rat Ship" and sent to Saigon.

I was surprised to see so many grapes for one ship, so I went and inquired in the office as to how many grapes there actually were.

There were 314 TONS, one of the largest shipments to be made on one ship. All of these were going to Saigon, more than 18,000 cases of Scab grapes.

The name of the ship is President Taylor, American Presidents Lines. The date was December 11. Location, pier 41, San Francisco.

Thank you,

*A Longshoreman*

San Francisco, California

Editor's note--The President Taylor was the scene of controversy in Long Beach harbor in November when longshoremen refused to enter Hatch No. 5 because the hold was infested with rats.

The rats were cleaned out of the ship, but the scab grapes went in to take their place. Not much improvement.



## "TRUE FARM WORKER?"

Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to contest a "Reader's Viewpoint" published in the Bakersfield Californian on December 18, 1968.

Though appreciative of the holiday cheer offered by Jose Mendoza, I can find no merit in the substance of his comments. I furthermore have been unable to verify the existence of the alleged Farm Workers Freedom to Work Association. That is, aside from the General Secretary and one or two associates, I have seen nothing to suggest that the views expressed by that writer are in any way indicative of the views of the "true farm worker" he claims to represent.

Quite the contrary, I have both felt and observed significant discontent among those who harvest the crops in the "pastures of plenty" that cover this fertile valley. This discontent as to wages, working conditions and the absence of a voice in their determination is empirically verifiable by merely engaging in conversation with the workers in the fields. A sad, but interesting fact is made apparent by such a direct encounter (though not as prevalent as in years past). Though dissatisfied with his lot, the farm worker has traditionally lacked faith and/or experience in the democratic processes, and consequently lacked the personal efficacy that is a man's faith in his own ability to change his own situation.

This fact has always left the farmworker singing of the "power in the blood of the lamb," and waiting for a better life in the "long here-after."

How much better that he sing of the power in the unity of man, with a better "here and now" the dream he's after.

Very truly yours,

*Diana J. Chapman*

Bakersfield, California

December 19, 1968



*Alice Tápia (left) and Luming Imutan, two of UFWOC's best looking organizers. The Imutans now lead the boycott in Baltimore, Maryland.*

## HIGH QUALITY

Gentlemen:

I certainly think that, in this age of diminishing quality of services and product, you are to be congratulated on the high quality of your merchandise, and more notably, the vast improvement in your deliveries. Truly amazing.

Enclosed please find check for payment of your recent invoice.

Viva,

*The Hirsch Co.*

San Jose, California

Editor's note--Mrs. Hirsch ordered six of our Mexican Graphic Arts calendars by telephone, and they were delivered to her door, 250 miles from our office, the same day.

We aim to please, but don't guarantee that kind of service all the time.

## THE IMUTANS WRITE

Editor:

Thank you very much for your very nice letter. It has certainly boosted our morale. Please continue to write.

We miss you all a lot. We are trying our very best to push hard on the boycott so we can go home soonest.

Your EL MALCRIADO is our most complete information of what is cooking over there--and we anticipate its arrival every time.

A Merry Christmas to you--and lots of happiness in the New Year.

Regards to all,

*Andy & Luming Imutan*

Baltimore, Maryland

December 17, 1968

## "WE'LL STICK WITH YOU."

Editor:

I would like to announce the support of the Democratic Student Coalition of Nassau County for your activities.

We have been aiding your cause and will continue to do so. Yours is the cause for justice. I just wrote this letter to tell you front-line troops how much we admire your effort and your compassion for "La Causa."

God bless you or let you at least win the victory which will be yours. Good luck and don't worry--we'll stick with you.

Respectfully,

*Joel Kotkin*

North Woodmere, New York



*Robert J. Sanchez  
Owner*

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## FARM WORKERS DENIED SECURITY BENEFITS

Farm workers are among the "least likely to benefit" from Social Security, according to a recent study by Isao Fujimoto, a U.C. Davis sociologist.

Fujimoto studied the effect of Social Security on the lives of migrant workers, and came up with some interesting findings.

Social Security deductions from pay checks are only obligatory after an employee has worked 20 days for the same employer or has earned \$150. Many migratory farm workers do not meet this time-money requirement with a single employer, but unfailingly have some deductions made for "Social Security" by contractors or growers, Fujimoto found.

The workers are entitled to receive a refund of the amount deducted, but most are unaware of the existence of the 20-day/\$150 limitation. The contractor is most

likely to pocket the money himself, since he is not required to submit it to the Social Security administration.

The percentage of a paycheck that is deducted for Social Security also varies according to the mood of the contractors, Fujimoto learned.

While the legal deduction is 4.2 percent of total earnings, which is added to an equal amount paid by the employer, but since many farm workers are paid in cash and are not given written pay vouchers, there is no way to check the amount actually deducted.

In order to receive retirement benefits from the Social Security program, a worker must have been employed a total of 40 three-month "quarters," with his earnings properly reported. Countless farm workers reach retirement age only to find that their earnings were not reported on many ranches where

they worked over the years, and that they are ineligible to receive benefits.

Since he is unlikely to have written records, it is difficult or impossible for the worker to prove his eligibility.

## Pesticides

*Continued from page 5.*

court order stopping him from allowing Cohen to examine the files.

In that case, further legal action will be initiated by the Union, Cohen said.

## Growers Praise

*Continued from page 6.*

said that "actually we have had fairly good relations with the Union since we signed our first contract in August, 1967." Morrison added that they had negotiated with the Union because they knew the UFWOC represented the majority of the workers at their ranch. UFWOC submitted cards from a majority of workers asking that the union be their bargaining agent.

"But even if we had had an election, I'd say about 85 percent would have voted for the union," Morrison estimated.

On noting changes since contracts with UFWOC were signed, Al Haft of Paul Masson Vineyards pointed out that wages written into the contract guaranteed an average of \$3.25 an hour, which is about 50 percent above the wage level paid before the Union came in. The rise has been comparable at other ranches under contract. But as Schenley official Korshak pointed out, "while wages have gone up 50 per cent it is not causing us any real economic problems."

Other major results of signing contracts, according to growers, have been that labor contractors have been eliminated and that a health insurance plan for the workers is being worked out.

a reminder from the  
CREDIT UNION...



ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FARM WORKER CREDIT UNION?

SMART SAVERS, WHO PUT MONEY ASIDE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, NOW HAVE EXTRA MONEY TO SPEND DURING THE WINTER.

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**FARM WORKERS CREDIT UNION**

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