



# El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER

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in English

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Delano, California

January 15, 1969



*Jose Guadalupe Posada*

## ECONOMIC POISONS

A THREAT TO WORKERS  
AND CONSUMERS



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## El Malcriado says

Reynaldo de la Cruz, a former UFWOC organizer and leader of a recent protest demonstration against unemployment in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, sharply criticized the Freedom Newspapers chain in a January 6 press release.

"The so-called Freedom Newspapers of the Valley have not sought to lie up to their slogans of freedom and liberty," de la Cruz said.

Freedom Newspapers are published in several states. The home paper is the Santa Ana Register, located in the heart of Orange County. The Register opposes public education and even public POLICE forces as being socialistic.

In the Rio Grande Valley, the chain controls the Brownsville Herald, the Valley Morning Star, published in Harlingen, and the McAllen Evening Monitor.

All three papers have consistently opposed attempt to organize Texas workers into labor unions. Freedom papers had great praise for the Texas Rangers at a time when others were reporting the brutal use of strong-arm tactics by the Rangers to break a strike of farm workers at La Casita Farms in Rio Grande City.

The Valley Morning Star has been known to claim that there was a shortage of farm workers in the Valley, requiring the importation of thousands of workers from Mexico. Unemployment in the area is notoriously chronic.

When de la Cruz led his demonstration in McAllen, protesting unemployment conditions in the Valley, the Monitor carried the headline "Farm Union Agitator Presents 23 demands" and then accused de la Cruz of using "purple prose."

The editor of EL MALCRIADO once worked for a few months as a reporter-photographer for the Daily Star - Progress, a Freedom paper published in the northern part of Orange County.

I remember being told by the city editor to take a picture of the host clergyman and the visiting preacher at an inter-faith service in the little town of Brea.

The picture was scheduled to run in the center of page one, but when the paper appeared on the street, the photo I had taken was curiously absent.

The editor then proceeded to bawl me out for having submitted the photo I had turned in. "We can't run that picture on page one," she said. "The community would never accept it."

Her meaning was clear. The host clergyman was the local Rabbi (incidentally a MALCRIADO subscriber), and the visiting preacher was a Baptist whose name, I think, was Rev. Caldwell.

He was black.

No, Freedom Newspapers would never publish a picture that the "community would not accept."

Freedom, hell.

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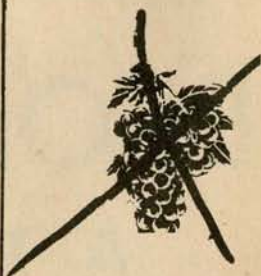
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# Growers Spurn Negotiations on Poisons

DELANO, January 16 — A special meeting of 250 boycott organizers and community leaders from all over California has been scheduled for Saturday, January 25, to consider escalation of the boycott and concern over the use of economic poisons in the vineyards.

The meeting was called after grape growers refused to reply to a recent letter sent out by Cesar Chavez to the Southern Central Farmers Commission, the California Grape and Tree F League, and the Desert Grape League.

Chavez's letter, calling once again for negotiations with the growers to avoid escalation of the boycott during the coming season, said,

"There is one critical issue of such overriding importance that it demands immediate attention, even if other labor relations problems have to wait. I mean the harmful effects of spraying grapes with pesticides, or economic poisons, as they are called. We have recently become more aware of this problem through an increasing number of cases coming into our clinic."

"We will not tolerate the systematic poisoning of our people. Even if we cannot get together on other problems, we will be damned--and we should be--if we will permit human beings to sustain permanent damage to their health from economic poisons."

Chavez said Union representatives would be willing to meet with the growers on the sole issue of pesticides, even if the growers are "not prepared to begin full-scale collective bargaining at present."

Growers, however, did not reply to the letter.

Chavez told EL MALCRIADO there was no intention on the part of the Union to abandon its drive for collective bargaining agreements with California's table grape growers, but that Union officials were unanimous in their belief that the question of economic poisons

used in the vineyards was the most dangerous problem faced by farm workers.

"The increasing number of children reporting to our clinic after having eaten table grapes in the fields where their parents were



Five-year-old picker lies in a pail after suffering severe attack of dysentery.

National Child Labor Committee

working frightens all of us," Chavez said.

"The dangers of chemical pesticides to those who cultivate and consume grapes must be faced."

Chavez said he had hoped talks on the subject of the poisons might lead to further negotiations on other questions of importance but that the refusal of the growers to answer the letter meant the Union had no choice but to prepare for a third season of active boycott organization.

He said he had called the January 25 meeting to consider the escalation of the boycott and the con-

cern of the Union about the dangerous chemicals used on table grapes.

UFWOC General Counsel Jerome Cohen recently was denied access to public records on the use of the poisons by the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner.

UFWOC researchers have also been denied access to public State records on the use of pesticides in Fresno, Tulare and Riverside counties.

Research on the use of the poisons has shown that many of the chemicals used for insect and disease control in the vineyards were similar to those developed by Nazi Germany for extermination of humans.

"There is talk at both federal and state levels of farm labor legislation. If we cannot agree on wages, hours and working conditions--at the very minimum even talk about the most important issue of all, which is the protection of human life from the dangers of economic poisons--then how can we ever agree on legislation? What alternatives do you have? You won't be able to break our Union or stop our boycott. So if you won't negotiate with us, the only route open to you will be repressive legislation which the American people will not accept," the letter concluded.

## Court Hearing on Poisons

DELANO, December 31--Court hearings on the dangers of pesticides will be held in Bakersfield on January 29 by Judge Walter Osborn of the Superior Court as part of a suit filed by UFWOC attorneys in which the Union demands its right to see the public records kept by the Kern County Agricultural Commission on pesticides.

UFWOC Attorney Jerome Cohen tried unsuccessfully to see these

*Continued on page 5*



# COURT TO HEAR FACTS ON POISONS

*Continued from page 3*

records on pesticides on August 20, 1968, as part of a study the Union was conducting on the toxic effects these chemicals have on farm workers. At that time he was denied the right to examine these files when Judge J. Kelly Steele issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting Cohen's examination of the public records.

After the injunction was issued, UFWOC attorneys filed suit against the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner, Sheldon Morly, and the Kern County Superior Court.

Doctors, scientists and farm workers will render their testimony at the hearings, and the farm workers will testify as to injuries that they have received from the poisonous pesticides.

Steven Wall will represent the crop dusters at the hearings. Ralph Gordon, county council for the Agriculture Commission will represent

the Commission. UFWOC attorneys and farm workers will argue for the workers and victims of poisoning and injuries..

David Averbuck, UFWOC attorney, said that the "basic argument of the Dust Sprayers is in effect

that their economic well-being is more important than the dangers caused by pesticides to farm workers and grape-pickers." He added that the Agriculture Commission sided with the crop dusters in arguing the same thing.

## MINNESOTANS SUPPORT BOYCOTT

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA-- With the endorsement of the democratic Farm Labor Party (DFL) and the senate of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, the boycott of California Table grapes in Minneapolis and other cities in Minnesota continues to receive strong support from the community.

At a recent boycott committee press conference in Minneapolis, chairman Warren Spannaus of the Minnesota DFL said, "The Minnesota DFL is in full sympathy with the

efforts of Cesar Chavez and the Mexican-American and Filipino farm workers in California to organize themselves for bargaining purposes. I hope all DFLers and all Minnesotans will join in actively supporting their efforts, including the boycott of California grapes."

Father William Cantwell of St. Lawrence parish, Minneapolis, said that the senate of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis supported the boycott. "Now we are asking people to put their bodies on the line," he said.

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# NEGOTIATIONS AT DI GIORGIO

LAMONT, January 10--UFWOC's contract with the Di Giorgio Fruit Company is due to come up for re-negotiations, according to Lamont Representative Mack Lyons, and the Union has notified the company that improvements in wages and fringe benefits will be requested when negotiations open in April.

In the meantime, Lyons said, the question of whom to negotiate with is still up in the air.

If Di Giorgio still owns the land, the Union will ask for changes in the contract to keep Di Giorgio wages and benefits comparative with those received by workers under Union contract at Schenley, Almaden, and Gallo Vineyards.

Lyons noted that Di Giorgio has announced its intentions to sell all the land covered by the contract, but that the sale may not be completed for some time.

"Under the present contract, we must notify the company 90 days

in advance, if we want to begin negotiations on any changes to be made in the contract," Lyons said.

"If they still own the ranch at that time, or are operating the ranch for a new owner, we will want to negotiate certain changes in the contract. If the sale has been completed, we hope to negotiate a new contract with the new owners," Lyons stated.

In spite of the uncertainty caused by Di Giorgio's intention to sell, more than 250 pruners continue working under Union contract there. The work force is expected to reach 300 by the end of January, Lyons said.

The asparagus harvest will begin around March 1, and a sizeable work force will be needed for that harvest and for thinning plums, which is done in April. Lyons remains hopeful that the major buyer of the land, reported to be S. A. Camp Farms of Shafter, will recognize

the contract and that the transfer of the property will be smooth and without any harmful effects on the workers or the harvests.

A related contract, between Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation and Earl Fruit Company and the United Peanut Shelling Workers Local #3037, will also be due for renewal in April.

Local #3037 represents the workers in two of Di Giorgio's packing sheds. Sue Newton, Tommy Dollums, and Bruce Dollums will represent the workers in the negotiations, aided by Irwin de Shettler, farm labor coordinator of the AFL-CIO. De Shettler said Di Giorgio has not indicated any plans to sell the packing sheds. The contract covering the shed workers affects about 20 peanut shed employees and, at the height of the fruit harvest, up to 250 workers in the fruit shed.



Women sorting potatoes in the Di Giorgio Packing Shed near Lamont.



Viva la Causa  
Y  
El Progreso

*Courtesy of  
a  
Mexican-  
American  
Attorney*

Fresno California





# NEWS FROM THE VALLEY

## Elsa Students Victorious!

ELSA, TEXAS--31 Mexican American students expelled from Elsa-Edcouch High School (Rio Grande Valley, Texas) were readmitted to school after Judge Reynaldo Garza of the Federal District Court in Brownsville determined recently that the expulsion of the students was unconstitutional.

In mid November last year some 150 Mexican-American students prepared a list of demands to present to the school board. The students walked out of school after their demands were not considered by school officials. At that time, 99 of the participating students were suspended and 31 were expelled.

The ruling by Judge Garza declared that the school board regulations prohibiting demonstrations on campus is unconstitutional, ordered the board to re-admit the expelled students, and ruled that the expulsion must be removed from the students' records, and that actual and nominal damages be paid by the board.

The majority of the students participating in the walkout were Mexican-Americans. They had charged the school administration with discrimination and had received support in their efforts from State Sen. Joe Bernal of San Antonio and the Catholic Church in the Rio Grande Valley, which moved to accept many of the expelled students into Catholic schools.

Attorneys from the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALD) filed a suit against the school board immediately after the expulsion, seeking reinstatement of the expelled students and the payment of damages.

Gerald Lopez, staff attorney for the MALD commented "all we wanted  
*Continued on page 14*

## TEXANS PROTEST POVERTY

McALLEN, TEXAS--More than 50 farm workers from Rio Grande City staged a demonstration in front of the McAllen office of the Texas Employment Commission recently, to protest the chronic unemployment which farm workers who live in the Lower Rio Grande Valley suffer.

Reynaldo de la Cruz, a farm worker leader from Rio Grande City, read a list of 23 demands which he hopes would solve the situation if acted upon by the Employment Commission. De la Cruz said that "1969 offers no future (for the farm workers) but the repeated seasonal employment, migration and pathetically poor wages."

Richard Stolle, manager of the McAllen office of the Texas Employment Commission, admitted after the demonstration that the unemployment rate in the Valley is greater than anywhere else in Texas. He added that his office would release a statement after they received the demands from the demonstrators.

In the meantime, rallies were held or planned in other towns in Texas. In Brownsville, some 50 farm workers attended a rally at which "grape boycott" literature was distributed.

Salomin S. Marroquin, acquisition officer of the Federal Urban Renewal Agency in Mission, commented recently on the farm workers economical condition in the Valley.

"They make enough money during their summer's work up north to come back to the Valley and live comfortably," he said, "without working for the remaining seven or eight months of the year--much as the winter tourists who come down here every winter from Minnesota and Iowa.

Farm workers seemed to think otherwise. One UFWOC member



*Reynaldo de la Cruz* pointed out that, according to the 1960 census, almost a third of the 3,339 families living in Starr County, near the southern tip of the state, had annual incomes of less than \$1,000. About 70 percent earned less than the \$3,000 "poverty point" for a family of four, and the average per capita income in 1960 was \$534 for county residents.

Male Texans of Mexican descent have completed an average of 6.7 years of school. In California, the average is 10.8 years of schooling.

Five years ago, wages in Texas hovered around 40 cents an hour. Today they are usually around \$1 an hour.



## Delano Employees Seek Raise

DELANO, December 13--The employees of the city of Delano, represented by the Kern County Employees Association, have filed requests for salary hikes and improved fringe benefits, it was reported this week.

Fred Ward, an official of the Association, said the city employees have requested a wage increase of 2-1/2 percent, plus improved sick leave benefits, longer vacations and a review of Delano's pension plan.

Ward said a few city employees who are required to stand by in their homes for possibly emergency duty presently receive no pay at all, though they cannot leave their homes or entertain friends. He said the Association is asking for \$5 per shift payment for workers on stand-by duty.

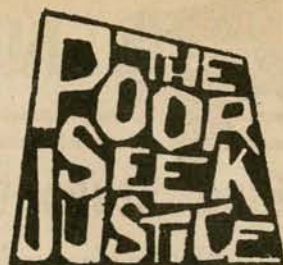
Ward said the city granted a pay increase of 2-1/2 percent on July 1, but that the cost of living index has risen 4.8 percent during the previous year. He said a pay increase retroactive to January 1 would bring employees' earnings up to their real value during mid-1967 in terms of the cost of living.

Delano's pension plan provides "meager" benefits in comparison with those provided by most California cities, Ward said. About 76 percent of the cities in California contract with the State for retirement programs, which results in much better benefits. Delano is among the 24 percent which handle their pension plans independently of the State.

City Manager Gerald Minford declined to comment on the Association's demands, but said the matter would go before the City Council on Monday night, January 20. He said he would not make any recommendations to the Council on the substance of the demands, but that he would advise councilmen on procedures.

Ward said the County Employees Association was an "unaffiliated" labor union. Police Captain Al Es-

pinoza, who is also reportedly a partner in a farm labor contracting firm and a produce trucking company, heads the Delano City employees section of the County Association.



*PROSPERITY? Prosperity, something the workers never had, is something the growers may lose. It's time to negotiate to end the strike and boycott, and guarantee through contracts that workers and growers alike share the prosperity of the grape industry.*

**a reminder from the  
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# BOYCOTT VICTORIES IN --- GEORGIA!

UFWOC representative Luis Melendrez working in coordination with the Atlanta Committee to Support the Farm workers, The Concerned Clergy and Afl-CIO Region six has succeeded in getting the five major chains in Atlanta to stop selling California grapes. These chains, Colonial, Big Apple, A&P, Kroger, and Winn-Dixie, account for 78 % of that city's grape sales. Two of the chains have removed grapes in a four-state area.

This represents a major breakthrough for the grape boycott in the South where the growers have been dumping their grapes in order to avoid the successful UFWOC boycott in northern cities. Active boycott committees are operating in Miami,

New Orleans, Nashville, Louisville and other major southern cities.

The victory is due mainly to pressure brought by individual consumers and by numerous organizations of local stature and prestige who supported the boycott and entered into direct negotiations with top management of the stores. The concerned Clergy is a group of 43 white and black, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant Clergymen dedicated to fighting racism and exploitation.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. and Father Mullroy are the leaders of this group

Rev. King said he undertook the grape boycott as a personal calling because of the mutual admiration that existed between his son

and Cesar Chavez, the non-violent leader of the UFW.

Some of the organizations which comprise the Atlanta Committee to support the Farm Workers are: the Southern Regional Council, Kennedy Action Group, Southside Atlanta Health Dept., the faculty of Emory University. The Atlanta committee is coordinated by Mrs. Becky Becker, an Atlanta housewife.

In Atlanta and throughout the South people have responded to the call for help on the boycott. Many Southerners know the plight of the migrant worker first hand. To them, active support for the boycott is one way of bringing closer the day when there will be social justice for all farm workers.

## Puerto Ricans Fight "Blood Tax"

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, January 3--More than 100 Puerto Ricans who were scheduled to go on trial beginning November 12 for refusing induction into the United States Army, have had their trials indefinitely postponed.

Jose del Carmen Garcia Miranda, the first of the draft resisters to be tried, was acquitted on November 18 in San Juan.

After the acquittal was announced, Federal attorneys filed an appeal with the First Circuit Court in Boston, and the trials of the remaining men who refused induction were postponed pending the outcome of the appeal, according to a report from Thomas Dorney of the Puerto Rican Peace Center.

Citizens of Puerto Rico cannot vote for President, nor do they have representation in the Congress of the United States, but they are subject to the draft.

Dorney said Garcia Miranda was acquitted on a technicality, after defense attorney Michael Standard introduced evidence to show that

Garcia had been issued his induction order out of turn.

Colonel Luis Torres Massa, head of the Selective Service System, in Puerto Rico, later denied that Garcia's local board had violated the rules of procedure, and that "incorrect" information had been presented at the trial, Dorney reported.

argue impressively that the application of the draft law to Puerto Rico is illegal on five distinct counts," Dorney's announcement said.

Some have called the drafting of Puerto Ricans a "blood tax," referring to the fact that the doctrine of no taxation without representation



"Many Puerto Rican induction-refusers are C.O.s primarily for political reasons. They want independence for Puerto Rico, and they

protects them from paying income taxes to the United States government, but Puerto Ricans still are liable for military service for a country which does not allow them to vote.



# HOSPITAL SEGREGATION CHALLENGED

VISALIA, January 7 -- Tax-supported hospitals which formerly refused to admit Medi-Cal patients will no longer be allowed to do so, as the result of a January 7 decision of Tulare County Superior Court Judge Leonard Ginsberg.

Farm worker and UFWOC member Eluterio P. Loreda, 59, of Poplar, had filed suit against the Sierra View Hospital District after he was refused admission to the District Hospital in Porterville because the cost of his care was to be paid by the Medi-Cal program.

The hospital had previously announced it would refuse to admit some Medi-Cal patients, and would refuse to perform any but emergency surgery for Medi-Cal patients under 65. The reason: to allow admission to those in need of Medi-Cal because they were poor would create "a flood of patients."

Judge Ginsberg's ruling declared that tax-supported hospitals may not discriminate against any segment of the public in their admission policies.

According to Loreda's physician, Dr. David Brooks of the Salud Clinic in Woodville, the decision may be important in "desegregating" many local hospitals which now discriminate against the poor.

"In the past," Dr. Brooks said, "physicians in many local hospital districts were unable to continue caring for their patients once they were hospitalized.

"While a physician might care for a welfare patient in his office, if a local hospital refused to admit him because of poverty, the doctor had no choice but to send the patient to a county hospital and a different physician," he explained.

Attorney Gary Bellow, who represented Loreda, was hopeful that the case would have far-reaching effects throughout California. "It is public policy," Bellow said, "to admit rich and poor children alike to schools in their own school districts, but it is still common practice to send

poor patients outside their own local hospital districts to distant, overcrowded county hospitals.

"The Loreda decision states clearly that the sick have a right to be treated in their own community hospitals, regardless of whether the patient, the government, or a private insurance carrier will pay the bill," Bellow said.

"It is an important step in the effort to provide equal health care to all citizens."

For years hospitals claimed that they could not admit indigent patients because there was no one to pay for the care.

When Medi-Cal, a Federal-State program, provided medical services for the poor, many local hospitals claimed admitting patients under the program would over-crowd their facilities.

Some observers wondered "Overcrowd the facilities for whom?"

"Obviously for those who could afford to pay from their own funds," was the answer.

The Loreda decision may mean that the well-off can no longer be "protected" from over-crowding by the poor. In the San Joaquin Valley, the "poor" are generally farm workers.



*Mrs. Dolores Huerta, the leader of the grape boycott in New York.*

## New York Boycott Plans Total Victory

NEW YORK, January 10--Only one major supermarket chain continues to sell grapes in New York City, according to Dolores Huerta, ufwoc vice President and director of the boycott in New York since late 1967. "All the chains are clean, except for Gristedes Markets," Mrs. Huerta reported. "At least 22 major chains, involving hundreds of stores, have stopped selling grapes because of the lack of demand or because of pressure from their customers."

Mrs. Huerta said that there is still work to do in Yonkers, Westchester and in New Jersey. Small independent stores and fruit stands are also handling grapes, she noted, but the main work of the boycott committee in New York for the next three months will be to build an inter-locking community-based boycott structure in every neighborhood of the huge city, in preparation for the 1969 harvest.

"We are beginning to build neighborhood coalitions in each of the five boroughs, in every major neighborhood," Mrs. Huerta explained. "During January we have been concentrating on building student groups, especially in the high schools and universities. Students here are very militant and socially conscious. We hope that by May, when the first grapes are shipped from Arizona and Coachella, that we will have student 'watchdog' committees checking every store, market, fruit stand and delicatessen in the city."

"In February and March we will be concentrating on political clubs and church groups. We will organize by neighborhoods and will build coalitions of church groups, liberals, students, and labor in every neighborhood. The wonderful work that labor did in supporting our boycott this year will thus be backed up by local boycott committees when the growers try to unload their 1969 harvest. We are talking about a city where more than 8,000,000

*Continued on page 12*



## Growers Ignore Sanitation Laws

DELANO, January 15--Disregard for health and safety laws, sanitation and public decency on the part of California grape growers is described in a study submitted to EL MALCRIADO by UFWOC Attorney Jerome Cohen.

The study, made by a team of investigators, was concerned primarily with Health and Safety Codes Sections 5454.20 and 3700, industrial Commission Order 14-68, and Labor Code Section 2441 which require toilets to be provided within walking distance for workers in the fields, and requires hand washing facilities, drinking water, and sanitary cups and other minimum facilities which any decent and humane employer would provide.

"The growers claim that California farm workers are protected by more laws than farm workers in any other state," Cohen observed. "This is a lie since Hawaii is the only state that has not legislated gross discrimination against farm workers. But what few laws California has passed to protect the field workers are never enforced and compliance is based on the whim of the growers. Very few of the local growers pay any attention to the laws."

The study found numerous violations of the law on the part of Midstate Horticultural Company, Jack Pandol Ranch, Vincent B. Zanino-

vich Ranch, Anton Caratan Ranch, Milan Caratan Ranch, Bianco Farms, Mossesian Ranch, Sabovich Ranch, Dulzich Ranch, Lammanuzzi & Pantaleo Ranch, Lucas and Sons Ranch, Jack Radovich Ranch and others.

The study concludes, "This limited check of grape vineyards in Kern and Tulare Counties clearly reveals on going, continuing, deliberate, massive violations of the legal protections which the State of California has provided for farm workers and consumers."

Following are some of the cases cited:

On December 27, 1968, Midstate Horticultural Company, a large corporation grape grower near Delano was forcing crews to work in fields where there were no toilets or water facilities. On January 6, three crews including women were pruning in other fields owned by Midstate where there were no toilets or handwashing facilities available for two of these crews. For the third crew, there were only four walls of plywood over a small hole in the ground, and there was no toilet paper (only newspaper); the door would not close. There were several women in each of these crews. Again, on January 3, there were three

In August of 1966 El Malcriado published an article and cartoon relating to labor relations involving the lettuce grower, Bud Antle, in Salinas and in the Imperial Valley of California. At the time of those publications of the National Farm Workers Organizing Committee, afl-CIO, had a dispute with the Union which represented Bud Antle, Inc.'s farm workers. However, the National Farm Workers Association did not have, and never has had, any labor dispute or strike against Bud Antle. El Malcriado and its publishers sincerely regret any unfavorable or derogatory implications against Bud Antle, Inc., or its President Lester V. Bud Antle, which may have resulted from the publications. El Malcriado has no knowledge that Bud Antle's farm workers are treated unfairly or dishonestly."

*Continued on page 12*

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## Poison Conscious

Everybody seems to be worried about poisons these days. This sign at a Kern County Dump near Delano warns growers not to dump poisons without permission.



## CONFUSION IN SACRAMENTO

## REAGAN HEDGES ON ANTI-STRIKE LAW

SACRAMENTO, January 10--California Governor Ronald Reagan and his top farm advisors contradicted each other repeatedly during the first week of January on the question of farm labor legislation, leaving behind confusion and uncertainty as to what their real plans were. And as the State Legislature got deeper into the session, it seemed doubtful that any farm labor legislation would even come to a vote, let alone reach the Governor's desk for signature.

The Governor and his grower friends want to do something to counter the increasingly effective boycott of California grapes, launched by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, but the Governor and his friends seemed unsure whether to try to fight the boycott and the Union with new, anti-Union legislation, or whether to continue with the traditional means of busting unions, with cops, court injunctions, economic pressure on the local workers, and importation of scabs from Mexico.

Reagan stated in his annual State of the State message, "It is my intention to seek and support legislation in the area of farm labor-management relations." He further stated, "Agriculture...is still our state's Number 1 industry... It is to be expected that we should lead the way in agricultural labor relations policies. If we don't, we may soon be forced to march to yet another federal drum beat."

According to reports from Sacramento, Reagan seemed to be contemplating some kind of legislation to outlaw strikes during the harvest. Such a law would have the same effect for farm workers as a bill prohibiting auto workers' strikes during working hours. Some growers are calling for legislation simply to outlaw any boycott of agricultural products, without any exceptions.

Reagan and some "liberal" agri-

cultural experts contemplated, as a sop to the workers, an elaborate collective bargaining clause providing for rigged representational elections. Because of the nature of a migratory and seasonal labor force, time limits and eligibility requirements, which a law could easily rig against farm workers, are the key to guaranteeing fair elections.



Some growers seem to favor a law allowing elections which would also include long delays between the petitioning for an election and the actual vote, during which time the grower could fire union sympathizers and hire anti-union workers or hire easily intimidated green carders from Mexico. Growers have also suggested that any new legislation include "cooling off" periods, during which the grower could complete his harvest and send his workers back to Texas or Mexico. Any of these delaying tactics could enable the grower to postpone indefinitely bargaining with the Union, even after the Union won an election.

By January 10, Reagan seemed to have dropped plans for pushing such legislation, and his advisor Earl Coke assured the grower-dominated State Board of Agriculture that Reagan had no present intention of presenting or endorsing any farm labor legislation. Coke said, in direct contradiction to Reagan's T. V. speech, that the Governor would prefer legislation at the national level. Reagan will definitely not present any farm-labor bills this session, Coke said.

Alan Grant, President of the Cali-

fornia Farm Bureau Federation and Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, said that the Farm Bureau is still working on legislative proposals relating to farm labor. These will probably be straight union-busting proposals, since Grant has become a major spokesman for the most rabidly anti-Union and reactionary growers in the state.

While Reagan and his grower friends proposed and then denied proposing legislation on the subject, State Senator Walter Stiern, a moderate Democrat representing Kern County, announced that he was ending his own efforts to introduce legislation on collective bargaining for farm workers. Stiern's bill would have set up procedures for union representation elections, which local growers have been u-

*Continued on page 14*

SI LA RAZA NO PARA A NIXON,  
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UNLESS LA RAZA STOPS NIXON  
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# Letters



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

## The boss needs help...

Editor:

Though it has been attacked for its efforts in organizing farm laborers into a collective body, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee is showing signs of success by surviving these attacks and whether opposing forces like it or not, it is here to stay. Its primary objective is higher pay. Through contracts with understanding growers such as Schenley, Di Giorgio, and others, field workers are getting no less than \$1.75 hourly pay, while other growers who continue to denounce the union have been forced to hike their pay because of it.

For example Giumarra is now paying his workers \$1.50 an hour plus supposedly a 2¢ bonus on every vine pruned. Though I heard the minimum wage law is around \$1.65 an hour, after working 9 hours out in the cold, I received a gross pay of \$13.50. They somehow neglected to include the bonus. This pay greatly contradicts the 2 to 3 dollars an hour brag of many so-called experts on the real farm workers' situation. But \$1.50 is a lot better than the prior pay of \$1.40 an hour.

Working out on one of Giumarra's farms an incident occurred which I would like to bring out to the public. After having been instructed crew leaders went around each worker asking for donations, in order that a recently deceased daughter of one of the bosses may receive a proper funeral. For being the nation's highest paid field workers and having so many so-called protective laws such as workman's compensation, disability insurance, wage-collection law, and others, it seems a great shame that a field boss would have

to ask for such financial aid. If anybody's pay out in the fields is equal to or greater than the 2 or 3 dollars an hour brag it's the field bosses'.

What this incident reflects is in fact a poor way of propagandizing on the part of Giumarra Corp. They can now proudly announce that upon hearing of the tragedy that befell one of their beloved bosses, the workers rushed to his aid. What wonderful boss - employee relations must exist. The hard truth is that no one had heard of their boss's misfortune due to the fact that they scarcely leave their company-provided trucks long enough to directly speak to any of the field workers. They give their orders through the crew leaders. Upon hearing of their bosses' misfortune very few, mostly old men who probably no longer have families to support made anything of a donation.

VIVA LA CAUSA  
*Arturo Borrego*

Bakersfield, California  
January 10, 1969

## After 30 years...

Editor:

Enclosed is my check for \$5 to be used in the furtherance of your struggle for Union recognition.

After 30 years in the ranks of organized labor, as rank and file local officer, organizer, and business representative, I am concerned whenever and wherever labor is fighting for recognition and better wages and conditions. Best wishes.

Fraternally yours,  
*Ole L. Bacon*

Minneapolis, Minnesota

## I'm sorry...

Gentlemen:

I inadvertently crossed one of your picket lines at the Gemco store on Riverside Boulevard in Sacramento.

I am embarrassed, sorry, and ashamed, and I have written to Gemco telling them how I felt and protesting their selling grapes while so many of their customers are Mexican-Americans or members of unions.

I spent \$5.60 in the store. Enclosed is my check for this amount. Use it in the fight for the rights of farm workers.

Viva la Huelga,  
Viva la Causa,  
*Alan Pritchard*

Sacramento, California  
January 10, 1969

## Anonymous...

COMMUNIST Agitation and Organizing Comm. UFWOC.

WRONG!

Maybe Viva La Raza. But La Revolution, No.

If not liking things here, go back to where came from, or to any place if better. Don't appreciate how good really do have it here. Know.

Of course, you just looking for excuse cause trouble.

*(Unsigned)*

Brother, most of us were born here.

Some people call the Southwest "occupied Mexico."

Glad you're reading EL MALCRIADO, though. *Ed.*



## "215 adults and children working. . . no toilets or washing facilities"



*This worker is pruning grapes near Delano, California. Many workers wear such face guards in summer and winter, to guard against chemical spraying and dusting which can endanger eyes, mouth, and skin.*

## New York Boycott

*Continued from page 8*

people live, so we will need the help of all these groups to keep New York clean of scab grapes."

Mrs. Huerta explained that once again this year they would try to convince store owners not to carry grapes. Delegations of local people will call on store owners in advance of the harvest and ask them not to carry grapes. The student committee will check stores frequently to see if the scab products appear. As soon as grapes

are discovered, the neighborhood boycott committee will go into action, appealing to the store owner to remove the grapes and appealing to shoppers to shun them. Picket lines will be mobilized around stubborn stores to warn potential customers of the danger.

"We plan to cut grape sales in New York to zero," Mrs. Huerta said. "The grape boycott of 1969 will make the boycott of 1968 look like ring-around-the-rosy."



*Continued from page 11*

crews in Midstate's fields, totaling 72 to 80 pruners, and there were no toilets or handwashing facilities available. Only one of the crews had drinking water and there were no individual drinking cups.

On the Jack Pandol Ranch, there were no toilets for crews pruning grapes on December 27, again on December 30, when between 40 and 60 men were in the fields..

In Vincent B. Zaninovich's vineyards where two large crews were working, the fields had no toilets or handwashing facilities on December 27, December 30, and December 31. In another Zaninovich field, a 25 man crew had a 20 minute walk to the nearest toilet facilities. In another Zaninovich field, two crews of approximately 200 men were pruning with no toilets or handwashing facilities on January 2, January 3, and January 6.

In Anton Caratan's fields, there were forty men pruning with no toilets on December 27, and on December 30 there were seventy people pruning with no toilets or handwashing facilities.

At Bianco farms violations on December 30 and 31 were found in numerous fields.

In William Mossesian's vineyards, there were no toilets or handwashing facilities available for more than one hundred workers on December 30 and 31.

At Sabovich ranch, violations were found on December 30 and 31 involving at least 8 crews of workers.

At Dulzich Ranch, 215 adults and children were working with no toilets or handwashing facilities available on January 2 and 3 and 6.





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# GETTING RICH IN MICH.

Of a recent sampling of migrant farm workers employed in Michigan fruit and vegetable cultivation, one half were Mexican-Americans, a U.S. Department of Labor report showed recently.

The report said the remaining half of the workers were about evenly divided between Negroes and southern whites, the report said.

More than half the workers were more than 41 years old, and eight percent of them were 60 or older.

The report said hot water was provided on six percent of the farms visited, and that the typical farm provided one outdoor water tap for two or three family cabins.

A few provided showers and some kind of laundry facilities. Sixty percent had no refrigeration available for migrant families.

"Providing these 'extras' is one of the devices farmers use for securing and keeping their help," the report said.

The statistics showed that more than 38 percent of the Mexican-Americans had begun farmwork by the age of 14, while only 12 percent of the Negroes and about 20 percent of the southern whites had started work so young.

Ninety-five percent of the Mexican-Americans interviewed were born in Texas, and 72 percent of the Negroes and 80 percent of the

whites were born in the southern states.

Negroes showed the highest educational attainment, with 28 percent having completed the tenth grade. Only six percent of the Mexican-Americans had got that far in school.

Ninety percent of the Negroes, 80 percent of the Mexican-Americans, and 50 percent of the whites intended to return home in time for their children to register for school.

## LABOR LAW

*Continued from page 10*

unanimous in rejecting, and it would have outlawed strikes at harvest, which the union finds totally unacceptable.

On January 8, in his statement announcing that he was dropping his proposals, Stiern said, "The overwhelming response to the tentative bill is, in one word, negative."



## A QUICK SWITCH IN BRIEFS

We have on occasion mentioned in the columns of EL MALCRIADO the name of our rival newspaper in Delano, that galloping gem of American journalism, the Record.

A couple of weeks ago, in a brilliant move to bring modern design and reportage to the San Joaquin Valley, the Record started a front page column called "Strike Briefs."

Somebody didn't like the title,

though; some people in Delano still claim there is no strike.

So in subsequent issues, the column was retitled "Farm Labor Briefs."

Sounds like a new kind of underwear for the workingman.

The Record's masthead carries the motto "Only Twice-a-Week Newspaper Serving Northern Kern and Southern Tulare Counties." Probably true...and REAL impressive.

## Students...

*Continued from page 7*

to do was get the kids back in school."

A school regulation promulgated by the trustees on November 4 which had expulsion as a penalty for students involved in any demonstration on the school campus "limited the first amendment rights of the plaintiffs," according to Judge Garza. The Judge called the regulations "unconstitutional on their face and invalid" and ordered them revoked.



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