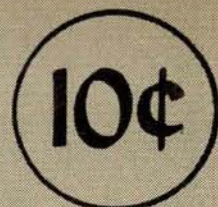


El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER



in English

VOLUME III, #21

DELANO, CALIFORNIA

March 1-15, 1970



Million Dollar- Water Steal

See Pages 3-4

EDITORIAL: WHEN A BROTHER PASSES ON....

As a family, we strikers have been blessed by God with surprisingly few tragedies since the strike began in 1965. But then comes a shattering week like this last one, when one of the true heroes of the strike passes away. Work comes to a halt as we stop to honor a brother who has contributed so much to our cause.

In January, 1966, we lost Roger Terronez. We mourned the loss of striker Paulo Agbayani later that year, and of Tomasa Zapata Mireles in 1968. This week we mourn the loss of Jorge Robles, one of the original strikers; of Augustin Vasquez, father of Manuel and Miguel Vasquez and a whole family of loyal and dedicated union members; and Luis Villaruz, one of those brave men who first stood up to the growers on September 8 of 1965 and said, "Enough!"

When someone leaves the strike to solve personal problems, we feel badly, but we understand, and we hope that they will return, that they will always be part of the struggle. But death, in its final and empathic way, reminds us that this struggle is a struggle of individuals, that our successes depend on the contributions of hundreds, of thousands of individuals.

EL MALCRIADO, like most papers and historians, is guilty of over-emphasizing those who "make news," the big shots, the leaders. Yet it is people like Paulo Agbayani and Thomasa Mireles and Jorge Robles, struggling and sacrificing month after month, willing to give up everything, even their lives, that will win this strike for us. It is strikers like Robles, volunteering to picket in Chicago's icy weather, accepting the unending chores of the strike kitchen, working on guard duty to protect our buildings from further vandalism, month after month, year after year, without complaining, that set an example for all farm workers and the whole world.

Death is so inevitable, and yet it always takes us by surprise. And suddenly the loss of an individual staggers us. We each feel we have lost a brother. We join the family's grief because we feel a part of that family. We pause and reflect.

Soon we will resume our work, blending and merging our individual lives into the force of our huelga, becoming again, "strikers," who happen to be named Maria and Dolores and Miguel and Jose. But we will not forget our friends and brothers, their sacrifices, their contributions, the fact that they gave everything they had for La Causa. They are truly heroes. It is individuals like them who give us faith in mankind.

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Small Farmers Charge Million Dollar Water Steal

SAN FRANCISCO, February 10-- Two San Joaquin Valley farm workers filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court today claiming that huge corporate grape growers are openly violating federal law and cheating U.S. taxpayers out of millions of dollars annually to pay for irrigating their ranches.

The farm workers, Mauro Roman and Bruno Cavazos, who also own small plots of agricultural land in southern Tulare County, demand an injunction to halt the sale of federally-subsidized water to more than the legal limit of 160 acres each for Delano grape growers M. Caratan, Inc. and Marko Zaninovich, Inc. The firms currently receive water for more than 1,000 acres.

There are several unfortunate results of this illegal use of water according to the plaintiffs' attorney, Charles Farnsworth. First, smaller farmers, like Roman and Cavazos, cannot get the water they need. It is all used up by the huge, corporate growers. Second, the taxpayer is forced to pay a large part of these

growers' water bills. Farnsworth has estimated that M. Caratan, Inc. receives a subsidy from the taxpayers of \$22,000 per year to illegally irrigate over 160 acres of land.

To understand how Farnsworth arrived at that figure, it is necessary to understand the history of the "160 acre limit;" it is also necessary to know some basic facts about M. Caratan, Inc.'s use of irrigation water.

THE 160 ACRE LIMIT...

"The 160 acre limit" has a long history and has been the subject of much controversy, especially in the last 10 years. The limit is an integral part of the federal laws which created the vast irrigation systems of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Friant-Kern Canal, from which Caratan and Zaninovich receive

their water.

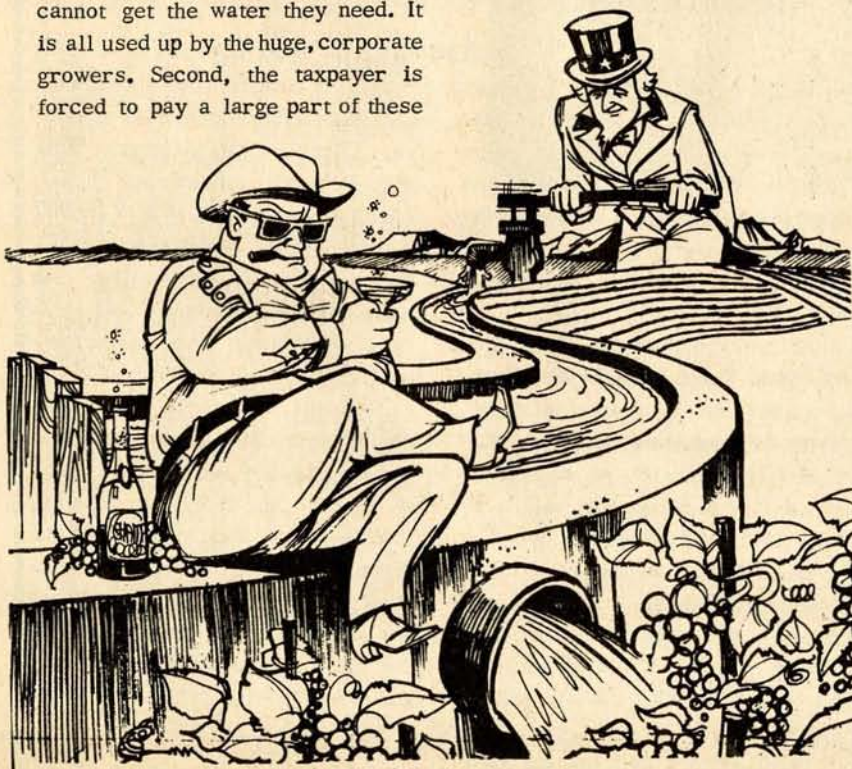
The Friant-Kern Canal is part of a very large irrigation project, called the Central Valley Project, which was created by the Federal River and Harbor Act of August 26, 1937. That act imposed upon the Secretary of the Interior the legal duty to operate the Project in accordance with the provisions of the Reclamation Act of 1902, including the following: "No right to the use of water for land in private ownership shall be sold for a tract exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to any one landowner."

The Reclamation Act of 1902 was passed during the upsurge of the anti-monopoly politics of the early 1900's. Pushed through Congress by Teddy Roosevelt, the act aimed to help small farmers by allocating federal money to build irrigation systems in the dry areas of the west. Free or subsidized water made available by these systems would go to farmers with not more than 160 acres of land (or 320 acres for a farm owned by a man and wife). A corporation could use subsidized water on only 160 acres.

A LIMIT ON SUBSIDIES, NOT ON LAND OWNERSHIP...

The law does not limit the amount of land a farmer may own; it merely states that after he goes over the 160 acre limit (or 320 acre limit for family farms), he must buy his water elsewhere. It was never intended that the public should build and pay for water systems for the rich and powerful. Nevertheless, \$1.2 billion in public funds of the United States has been spent on the Central Valley Project since 1937; and still, small

Continued on next page.



Water Subsidy...

Continued from page 3.

farmers like Ramon and Cavazos, cannot get the small amount of water they need on their small plots, because the big and powerful growers get it all.

Ramon and Cavazos and many others like them receive water from the Pixley Irrigation District, which receives only the water that remains after the demands of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District are satisfied. During the years 1966-1969, the plaintiffs have been unable to obtain from the Pixley Irrigation District the water they need.

"I can't make a living on my farm, because I can't get enough of this cheap irrigation water," UFWOC member Roman said. "The irrigation district tells me there isn't enough water, but I know it's because the big growers are getting it all. The result is that I have to work as a migrant laborer for these growers during much of the year. And until we win the grape strike, that's not much of a living."

THE \$22,000 SUBSIDY

Irrigation water sells for about \$2.50 per acre-foot, while available underground well water costs \$12-\$15 per acre-foot to pump. Even with cheap water, can a farmer make a living on less than 160 acres? The plaintiffs think so, and cite a 1961 California Assembly study which found that a farmer could net \$10,000 a year with 112 acres of table grapes.

Just how much illegal water does M. Caratan, Inc. receive, and what does it mean to the taxpayer? In 1968 M. Caratan, Inc. received 2,288 acre-feet of water from the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District. If that water had been applied to only 160 acres, each acre would have received 14 feet of water per acre. The average amount of water per acre applied by California farmers to grape lands in the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District is 3.3 feet.

M. Caratan, Inc. owns 1,558 acres of land. If the corporation had applied 3.3 acre-feet of water to only 160 acres of that land, it would have



used 528 acre-feet of water. But the corporation used 2,288 acre-feet of water in 1968. The difference between the amount the corporation was legally entitled to use and the amount it did in fact use was 1,760 acre feet.

Now, what does all this mean to the taxpayer? It means that his money subsidizes the rich, while the poor continue to suffer. Irrigation water costs the grower \$2.50 per acre-foot. Well water costs \$15.00 per acre-foot. M. Caratan, Inc. now pays only \$4,400 for the illegal 1,760 acre-feet of water. If he had to use well water, he would pay \$26,000 for that 1,760 acre-feet of water. In other words, he is re-

ceiving a subsidy from the taxpayers of \$22,000 per year to illegally irrigate over 160 acres of land. Meanwhile, smaller farms do not get enough water.

"Millions of dollars have been wasted in this subsidy to the rich, corporate growers," said Farnsworth, "while the little farmers have been driven off their land into migratory farm labor. The government hasn't done anything about this, so the small farmers must enforce the law themselves."

And they will. The small farmers, like the farm workers, have joined in a common cause against exploitative corporate agribusiness.

"Rigged Electric Rates Subsidize Growers"

INDIO, January 30 --Residents of the Coachella and Imperial Valleys filed a suit in federal court today charging that the Imperial Irrigation District is overcharging electricity users by \$14 million a year in the Riverside - Imperial County area.

The suit, filed by Dr. Ben Yellen of Brawley and Raul Loya of Indio accuses the irrigation district, which is controlled by the big ranchers of the area, of selling the electricity at inflated prices in order to further subsidize the cost of irrigation water used by the ranchers in the area. Coachella and Imperial Valley growers have never abided by the 160-acre limit on water subsidies (see accompanying story).

Yellen points out that the elec-

tricity is bought from government hydroelectric projects such as Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam. The low-cost government power, Yellen says, is being sold to 110,000 residents of the Imperial and Riverside Counties at prices higher than rates charged by Southern California Edison Company, a private authority.

The suit demands that the Department of the Interior intervenes and regulates electricity rates charged by the irrigation district.

Yellen has long crusaded for the rights of small farmers and farm workers, and has long protested the "subsidies on top of subsidies on top of subsidies" enjoyed by multi-millionaire corporation ranches.

HUNGER IN KINGS COUNTY

HANFORD, February 17 --Kings County farm workers staged a week of protests in this San Joaquin Valley county seat to draw attention to the hunger and poverty in Kings County and the refusal of county officials to deal with the problems.

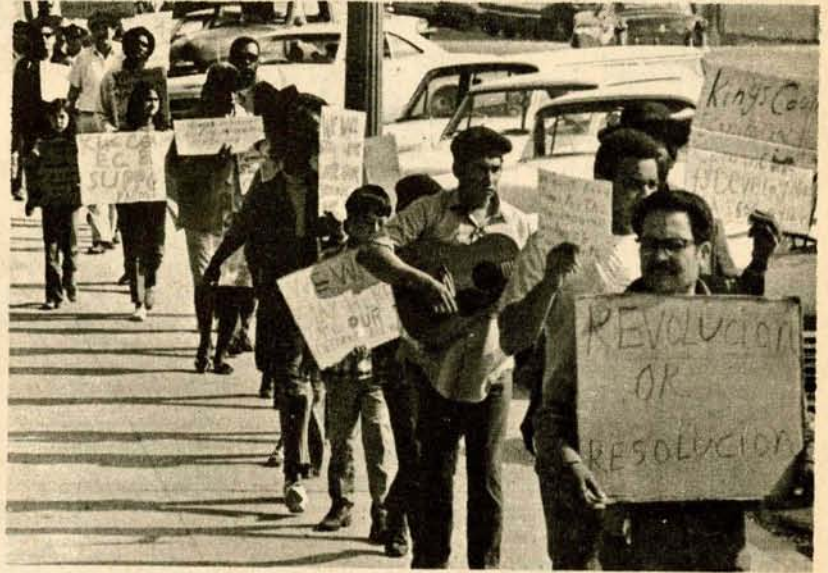
Kings County is the poorest county in the state, and this winter, due to the heavy rains of 1969, much of the county's crop land is under water and there is no employment (or unemployment insurance) for farm workers.

Leading the protests is UFWOC member Jose Burnias of Corcoran, who is also president of the Kings County Economic Development and Community Association. The demonstrations have featured appearances before the County Board of Supervisors, marches, and sleep-ins on the court house lawn. The sleep-ins, attracting 40 to 60 people a night in the 40 degree weather, went on for several days.

Immediate object of the group is to convince the county to make available to farm workers and other poor people more and better quality surplus food or institute a food stamp program. "The surplus food program in Kings County is tokenism, just a few crumbs they throw to the poor, to meet the government regulations," said one demonstrator. "That food is no good," another complained. "Some of it has worms. There is no meat or milk or other good food." Furthermore, protestors complain, people on welfare are denied surplus foods.

The county claims it cannot afford to increase the food program (for which the Federal Government provides surplus agricultural products) and cannot afford a better welfare program or a food stamp program.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: The poverty and hunger of towns like Corcoran hit the casual visitor like scenes from another country. Yet three growers with headquarters in Corcoran receive over \$500,000 each a year in subsidies for not

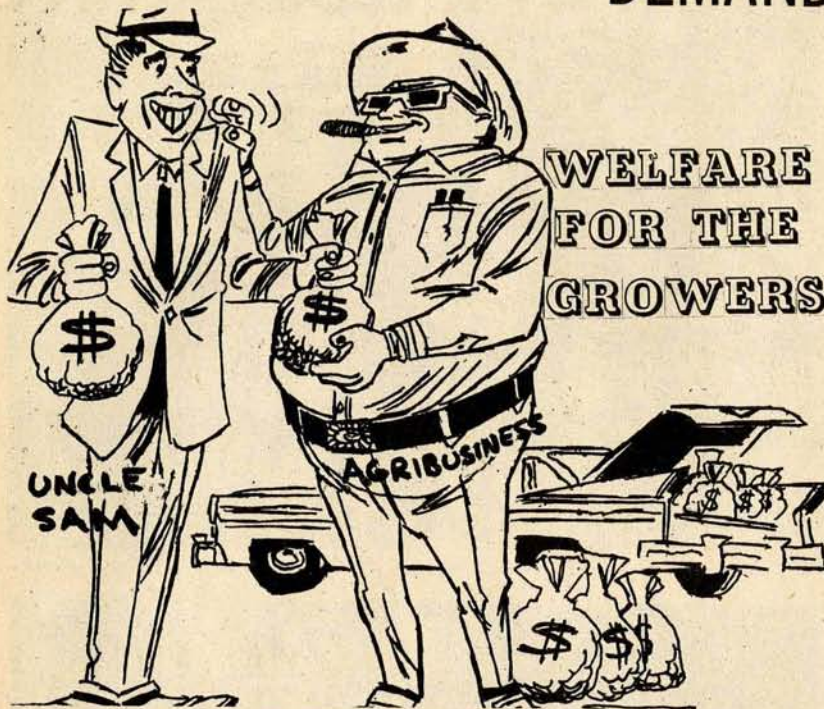


Marchers and campers in Hanford.

growing cotton. J. G. Boswell gets \$3 or \$4 million a year, South Lake Farms generally tops \$1 million, and Salyer Land Co usually receives \$700,000 or more. Salyer and Boswell have their own private airports and private fleets of airplanes on the opposite ends of the town. Kings County, the poorest county in California with the lowest average wages of any county in the state, has nine other big agribusiness ranches which collect over \$100,000 a year in cotton subsidies.

The County spent a grand total of \$19,878 on general relief for the poor in 1967, up to \$24,000 in 1968. Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1968 was \$2,711,388. Aid to the Disabled was \$667,800. J. G. Boswell alone generally collects more in subsidies for not growing cotton than the entire welfare budget for the poor of Kings County. And then the growers have the gall to protest about welfare costs.

GROWERS POISON SOIL -- DEMAND NEW SUBSIDY



GRAPES OF WAR

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 15 -- Department of Defense officials have released figures showing that they purchased over \$880,000 worth of grapes in the first half of fiscal year 1970 (July through December, 1969). Purchases topped 5.3 million pounds, a slight decline from the first half of the 1969 fiscal year. The Pentagon was still paying higher prices for their grape purchases than growers were getting on the open U. S. market, further substantiating charges by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee that growers were using Defense Department purchases to unload unsaleable grapes while shoring up the sagging market price.

"The Pentagon claims that the only reason for the fantastic rise in grape purchases in 1968 and 1969 was increasing 'troop acceptability,'" stated Celia Saluado of the UFWOC grape boycott department. "Grape shipments to Viet Nam, for example, jumped from 468,000 pounds in 1967 to 2,167,000 in 1969. It looks like this year they will still be shipping 200 per cent more grapes to Viet Nam than

they did in the year before the boycott. And this is in spite of 'troop withdrawals' and public outrage over the government's strike-breaking purchases."

"We appeal to people with friends or family in the service to write to them and ask them to protest this cynical political use of taxpayers money to break our strike. We also ask our members and supporters to continue to protest to their Congressmen and Senators to force a complete halt in these immoral scab purchases," stated Miss Saluado.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Huge government purchases of grapes at higher than the market price are another form of subsidy for the growers, only slightly more subtle than price supports, import quotas, water subsidies, and direct cash subsidies. The tax payer always foots the bill. Of course it is these same growers that complain the most about "big government" and "Government interference" and proudly pledge to save America's free enterprise system from power (?) hungry farmworkers.

BAKERSFIELD, January 12 -- Congressman John V. Tunney of California warned today that intensive irrigation of farm land in California's San Joaquin Valley without adequate drainage was threatening to pollute and destroy the land through a build up of salt and nitrates in the soil. "Unless all the people of California become aware of this danger now and begin to protect our environment, within a matter of a few years, 70,000 to 90,000 acres of now productive farm land will go out of production," said Tunney.

Tunney, speaking before a press conference here, said the Federal Government must "take the lead in providing efficient drainage for Valley irrigation waters, with the cooperation of the State, just as it has taken the lead in providing irrigation water since the mid-1930's."

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We have here another example of the growers receiving a huge government subsidy in the form of almost free irrigation water, recklessly abusing it because of their greed for profits, and as a result, polluting and destroying the environment around them. Now they appeal to the taxpayers to bail them out, to foot the bill, to pay the cost for their crimes against nature.

Farm workers are, of course, very concerned about the implications of this salt and nitrate build-up on irrigated lands and are in favor of governmental steps to meet the crisis. But it is high time that the growers begin paying the cost, through a special tax, by the acre, on irrigated farm lands, an increase in the rates of the almost free irrigation water provided in unlimited quantities to growers, and in strict observance of laws dealing with pollution of the soil, water and air. It is they who are destroying the land, and they have reaped fantastic profits in the process. It is they who will reap further benefits and profits when the land is saved and reclaimed from their own wasteful practices. Why should they not share most or all of the cost among themselves?

COTTON SUBSIDY: SLUSH FUND FOR STRIKEBREAKING

EL MALCRIADO/7

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15 -- In 1969, for the first time in nearly 40 years since the farm subsidy program was begun, the U. S. House of Representatives voted to cut back the subsidy program and voted to put a limit of \$20,000 in cash payment per year to any individual grower. But the U. S. Senate came to the rescue of the richest of the rich in agribusiness, and voted to delete the subsidy limitation from the final version of the farm bill. Even a number of "liberal" senators, including Sen. Alan Cranston of California, voted against any limitation on subsidies, arguing that the subsidy program helps preserve the family farm.

In fact, the subsidy program is further enriching corporate farming and helping corporate farms to force small family farmers off the land. "At a time when the administration is shedding so many crocodile tears over the plight of the hungry in America it is a farce to see them at the same time paying millions to corporate type farm operations not to produce crops," said Republican Senator John Williams of Delaware, in calling for support of a limitation on subsidies. Williams has for several years called for a \$10,000 limit on subsidies. "It should be emphasized that these payments are not for food produced or for services rendered, but rather they are payments not to cultivate the land," he told Congress.

Williams noted that in 1967, five operations collected over \$1 million for not growing crops, 15 were paid between \$500,000 and \$1 million, 388 received between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and 1290 received between \$50,000 and \$100,000. A total of 6579 agribusinesses collecting over \$25,000 each, collected a grand total of \$333,127,693 in taxpayers money as their welfare checks for the year.

The biggest subsidy of all goes to J. G. Boswell Co., a check for \$4,091,818 in 1967 and averaging



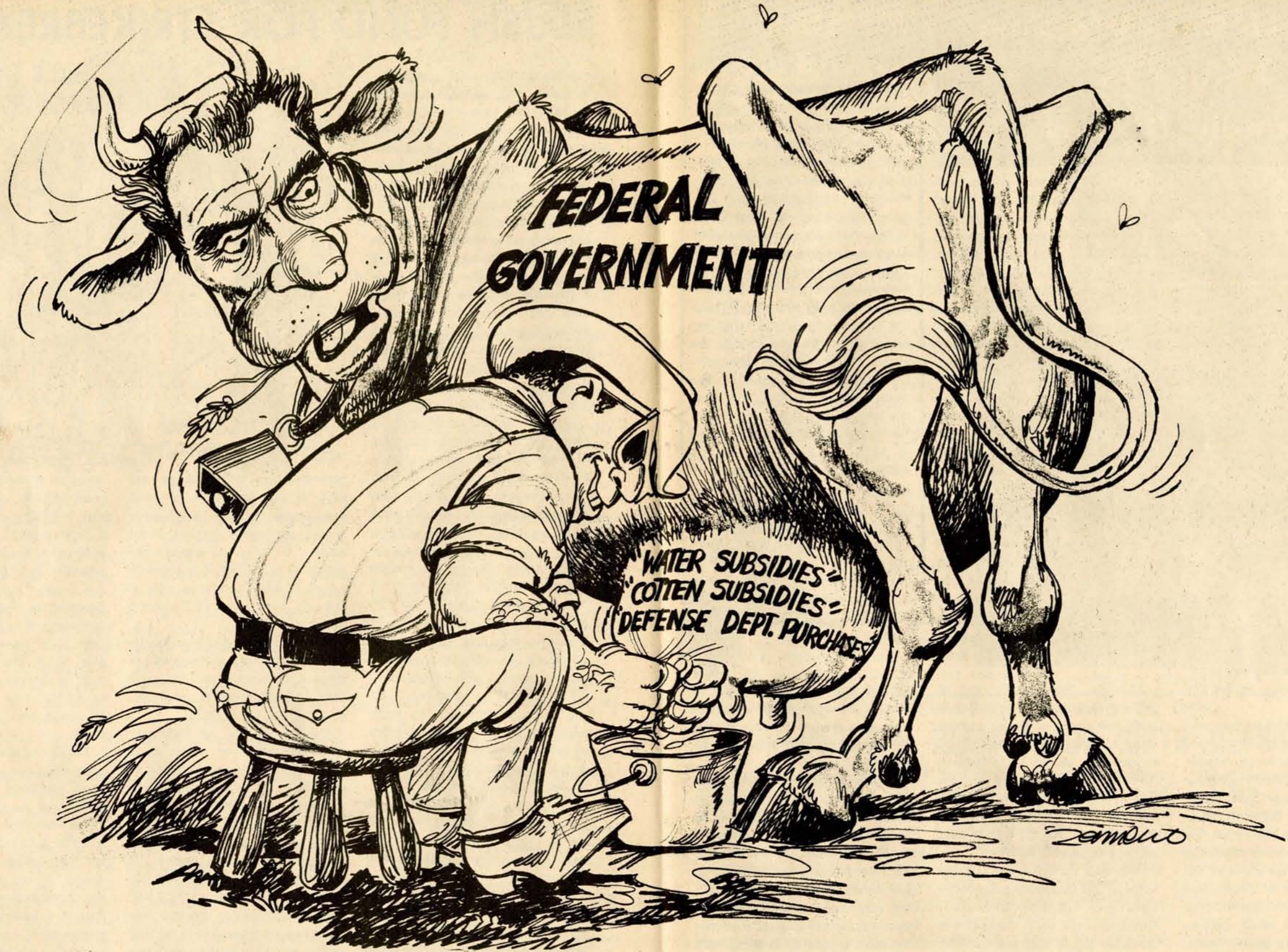
between \$2 and \$5 million per year over the last few years. Boswell also happens to be the largest grape grower in Arizona and one of the leaders of the grape growers refusing to sit down and negotiate contracts with the Union. He is also on the Board of Directors of Safeway Stores.

Other Arizona grape growers getting hefty subsidies include McCarthy and Hildebrand (who collected \$288,215 in 1967) and Matori Bros., (who got \$128,479 in 1967).

Topping the list of California grape growers was Kern County Land Co., with a subsidy of \$838,130; and S. A. Camp Farms, with \$517,285. Giumarra Vineyards collected \$278,721; W. B. Camp and Sons got \$238,816; Mazzie Farms got \$186,259; M & I Farms got \$134,195; Bidart Bros. got \$131,147; and Kern Valley Farms got \$123,809. Haddad and Barling Farms, featured in a recent article in the New Yorker and Peter Matthiessen's new book, SAL SI PUEDES as "a grower with a small holding," received \$42,871. Jack Pandol, Delano's most outspoken anti-union grape grower, got \$38,097 (in 1968); while John Kovacevich, one of the more

moderate growers, collected a moderate \$40,395. Sandrini Brothers, with \$40,725 in subsidies, also had a little cushion to help ease the pressure of the grape boycott. Sabovich Brothers, prominent in the illegal "Agricultural Workers Freedom to Work Association", a company union, got \$19,822 in 1968. Since then Sabovich has acquired over \$1 million worth of the former Di Giorgio property, and may be getting some of the \$63,000 that formerly went to Di Giorgio.

The list of subsidies goes on and on. When one thinks of the anti-union war chest that Whitaker and Baxter and the Farm Bureau have amassed from the growers, and realizes that many of these same growers are collecting thousands of dollars of tax payers' money for not growing crops, it becomes very difficult to understand how any Congressman or Senator can continue to support this give-away program. But on the other hand, those big bags of federal subsidy money must look good to politicians hungry for campaign contributions. So the pay-offs go on and on...



"Farming Can be Pretty Easy--

As Long As You Know How to Milk the Cow"

English Dock Workers Refuse to Handle Grapes

LONDON, ENGLAND, February 10 -- English dock workers, long shoremen, and truck drivers have repeatedly refused to handle scab California grapes in England during the last month, and the result is an almost totally effective grape boycott in the British Isles, according to Donna Haber, grape boycott coordinator for England.

The grape boycott has had the enthusiastic backing of the Executive Board of the Transport and General Workers Union, and rank and file workers, acting on their own, have honored their pledges and resolutions with an unofficial refusal to handle grapes.

Workers had warned produce buyers during the fall that grapes were a "no-no". Then, on January 23, workers in the Covent Garden market refused to handle scab grapes. On January 28, dockers refused to unload grapes from the liner S. S. Volangar, which was carrying 298,000 pounds of Emperor grapes destined for London, and another 10,000 pounds headed for Liverpool.

On February 2, dock workers and consumers pressured ship owners who had unloaded a large consignment of grapes on the Royal Group docks to reload them back on to the ships. Truck drivers refused to pick up grapes sitting on the Tibbury Docks. Porters refused to handle grapes in the Borough and Brentford Markets of London and in the Birmingham market. The boycott also got a boost from an article in the London Sunday Times.

"We are very encouraged with the cooperation the grape boycott is getting in England," said Rev. James Drake, who stopped off in England after attending a World Council of Churches meeting in Switzerland

last week. "We are getting good publicity in London and other cities. Things are beginning to move."

Because of the chaos in European markets last year caused by the grape boycott, UFWOC estimates that growers sold considerably below the 245 million pounds of grapes which they normally sell per year in foreign markets. Orders were expected to be way below normal this year, though some markets, including the chain of Safeway Stores in England, are still ordering grapes. Through cooperation with the international union movements, UFWOC is especially hopeful of curtailing grape sales in England, Scandinavia, the Philippines, and certain other key markets. UFWOC is also studying the growing volume of grapes flooding into Mexico, and plans are underway to launch a boycott in Mexico in the near future.

SOURING GRAPES

DELANO, February 6 --As of January 31, grape growers still had 3,302,950 boxes of grapes in cold storage, according to the "Grape Report #174 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture" released today. This compared to 1,990,460 lugs in cold storage on January 31, 1969, and 542,000 lugs in cold storage on January 31, 1968.

The main variety of unsold grape remains the Emperor, and growers were stuck with 2,380,970 boxes of Emperors this year, compared to 1,845,440 left in cold storage as of January 31, 1969. Growers still had almost 150,000 boxes of Almerias, and over 330,000 boxes of Calmerias this year. Both varieties were pretty much sold out by this time in all recent previous years. With

Grape Grower Notes Boycott Success

FRESNO, February 15 -- California Governor Ronald Reagan and California Farm Bureau Federation President Allan Grant proudly announced recently that the boycott of table grapes was "completely ineffective, a complete failure." Governor Reagan stated, as proof, that he had personally eaten more grapes this year than ever before.

But Sanger grape grower Virgil Rasmussen was quoted in the Fresno Bee this week as saying, "There are table grape growers who are broke now. We have one of the biggest crops on record. The warehouses are full, and you know what happens in a situation like this. We need every market we can get. Prices have gone from \$3.25 to \$2.25 to \$1.75..." Rasmussen put the entire blame for the disastrous situation on the grape boycott.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: If you still have doubts about whether the boycott is going to work, Mr. Grower, we'll make a confession. We're just learning how to fight. You ain't seen nothing yet.



392,830 boxes of Ribiers still on hand, compared to only 115,190 at this time last year, Ribiers rank as the grape second hardest hit by the boycott.

Spokesmen for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee boycott of table grapes point to the large holdings of unsold grapes as the major reason for a strong all-out push on the boycott this winter and spring. But boycott strategists are also doing in-depth studies to figure out how to stop the Thompson Seedless grapes from being sold. "It is the Thompsons which are the biggest variety, their biggest money maker," said boycott director Larry Itliong. "If we can stop the sales of the Thompsons, we know they will sign."

RAIN OF DEATH AND SICKNESS

Sacramento, February 7 -- The State Department of Public Health admitted last week that pesticide poisoning is far more widespread than official records indicate.

"We have reason to believe that the reports of illness we receive do not accurately reflect the true magnitude of the problem," officials said in a report to the legislature.

Officials based this frightening conclusion on results of a door to door survey of 1,120 farm families in Tulare County; most of the families suffered symptoms of nausea, headache, dizziness and muscle weakness.

During the same 20 month period, the official health records showed only 40 recorded cases of pesticide poisoning among all the 18,000 farm workers in the county.

"The disparity clearly points to the hypothesis that there is something peculiar to the working environment in agriculture which is conducive to symptoms such as nausea and vertigo - and this factor may very well be organic phosphate pesticides," the report said.

The report also noted that the organic phosphate chemicals involved, such as parathion, were now being widely introduced as a replacement for DDT, the use of which is being restricted.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Cesar Chavez has charged that thousands of farm workers throughout the U.S. suffer from the "walking death," a state brought on by continual exposure to pesticides. The "walking death" is characterized by symptoms such as nausea, headache, dizziness and muscle weakness. Growers and right-wingers have scoffed at his charges. Yet



GROUND AND AERIAL APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

in the survey described above, most of the 1,120 families interviewed had suffered these symptoms. Public relations stunts like the "banning" of DDT are no substitute for a comprehensive program of regulation for all pesticides.

CALIFORNIA AG. DEPARTMENT APPROVES USE HERBICIDES BLAMED FOR BIRTH DEFECTS

SACRAMENTO, February 15 -- California Department of Agriculture officials admitted today that the herbicide known as 245-T and blamed for causing birth defects in Viet Nam and injuries to women in Arizona, is widely used in California. The herbicide, which is used as a "Defoliant" in Viet Nam, has been singled out by scientists as responsible for thousands of deformed and defective babies in areas of Viet Nam where it is used. Several women testifying before a Congressional Investigative Committee led by Rep. Richard McCar-

thy in Globe, Arizona last week testified that it had damaged reproductive organs and, in one case, caused severe illness.

"We have never had any demonstrated human or animal injury here in California" stated James Kalstrom, acting head of the agricultural chemical branch of the department. "There has only been skin irritation."

Murray Pryor, weed control specialist for the Agriculture Department, said the state had conducted no laboratory tests of its own on 245-T, and follows the recommen-

dation of manufacturers covering uses in which it is potentially dangerous. It is the general practice of the State Department of Agriculture to accept findings and reports of the manufacturing companies of pesticides as to their dangers and effects on animals and humans. There is no program of independent testing.

The weed killer can be bought over the counter in garden supply stores. For use of large quantities of the poison, growers must secure a permit from their friendly county agricultural commissioner.

Workers Win Court Injunction to Enforce Sanitation Laws

BAKERSFIELD, January 8--The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has obtained a permanent injunction against Bianco Fruit Co. dealing with failure to provide toilets and other sanitary facilities for their farm workers.

The injunction states in part:

"It is hereby stipulated that the defendant Bianco Fruit Corporation, its officers or agents, be and hereby are restrained and permanently enjoined from doing any of the acts or things hereinafter set forth:

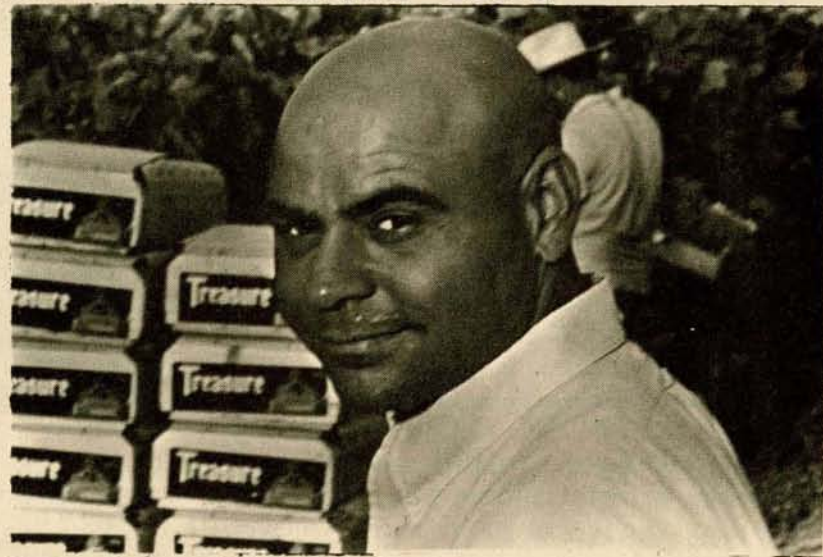
a.) Failing to provide toilet facilities at its growing and harvesting operations which are private and operations which are private and designed so as to keep human excreta from contaminating the crop and to keep flies away from the excreta.

b.) Failing to provide toilet paper or to maintain in a clean and sanitary condition the above-mentioned toilet facilities.

c.) Failure to provide one toilet facility at convenient locations for each forty (40) employees or fraction thereof engaged in a food crop growing or harvesting operation, and for tion, "convenient" means within a five minute walk of the place of work.

d.) Failure to provide one hand washing facility for each forty employees or fraction thereof engaged in a food crop growing or harvesting operation.

e.) Failing to provide handwashing facilities so as to afford an oppor-



Grape Grower "Cookie" Bianco

tunity to wash hands in clean water using soap or other suitable cleansing agents and to dispose of said used wash water without nuisance or contamination of food crops. f.) Failing to provide handwashing facilities for food crop harvesting operations and convenient locations..."

These working conditions are taken for granted by most industrial workers and professional people. Yet farm workers, dealing with food products should have higher standards in this area, and not lower standards. The state has laws in this area which were not enforced by Governor Brown and are totally ignored by that great advocate of law and order, Governor Reagan.

Bianco Fruit happens to be a big grape grower, so the Union zeroed in on him and UFWOC lawyers sought and obtained this injunction, which merely enforced the law. Since Bianco will not sit down and negotiate a contract with the Union, the Union must go to court to get these minimum standards enforced. But must we go to court, in separate actions, against each of the thousands of major growers in California and across America to get these minimum standards enforced? Our patience is growing mighty thin with those who preach "law and order" but then ignore the law when it inconvenienced them.

New Arrivals in Delano

Latest arrival to the Huelgista family is Juan Marcos Flores, born February 14 in Bakersfield, the son of Maree and Juan Flores of Bakersfield. Juan Jr. weighed in at 9 lbs., 5 oz., a healthy 21 inches at birth. The Flores had been organizers in the Di Giorgio strike and later in the Giumarra strike. They served on the boycott in Buffalo, New York, and later on the boycott in Los Angeles.

UFWOC welcomed two young strikers to its ranks late in 1969. Eliasar A. Espinosa was born at noon on

December 5 in Tulare County Hospital. He is the fourth son of Pablo and Ausencia Espinosa, who also have one daughter. Pablo Espinosa is a union organizer.

Maria Guadalupe Murguia, who weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces, was born on December 10, at Tulare County Hospital. Her parents, Lupe and Kathy Murguia, one time boycotters in San Francisco, have four other children, two girls and two boys. Lupe is a union organizer, and Kathy works part time in the credit union.

RICHGROVE PARENTS LAUNCH SCHOOL BOARD RECALL

RICHGROVE, February 15 -- Citizens of Richgrove, California, continued this week with their attack on what they feel are inadequacies of Richgrove public education (see EL MALCRIADO #20, of February 1, 1970), with public picket lines and a move to recall three members of the Richgrove School Board.

The picketing, which drew over 50 people on the mid-day picket line at the Richgrove Elementary School, was not designed to close the school or start a boycott, but merely to show the parents' concern over the absolute refusal of the School Board to listen to the views or opinions of the resident parents.

At the Richgrove School Board meeting of February 9, the Anglo majority on the Board made it plain to Mexican-American citizens of Richgrove that the Board will not alter policies in any meaningful way to try to help Mexican-American children or give in to the demands of the parents.

After the Board meeting, citizens announced that they would seek to recall the three Anglo members of the Board through a special election.

Parents of Richgrove (above and below) picket in Richgrove to bring attention to their demands.



*Time to
Bring
Richgrove
Schools in
to the
20th Century?*



The only Mexican-American on the School Board, and the only member of the Board willing to attend citizens' meetings and listen to the complaints of the people, resigned in early January. More recently, the only Filipino member of the Board also resigned. Though he privately agreed with the goals of the parents, he confessed to EL MALCRIADO after one School Board meeting that his opinions didn't count for anything on the Board, and that it was completely controlled by the Anglo majority.

Richgrove's population (under 900) is about 80% Mexican-American, 12% Filipino-American, and 8% Anglo. About 90 per cent of the population are farm workers.

After the two resignations, the Board is down to three members, all Anglos, all bitterly opposed to making concessions to their brown brothers. The three are grape grower, Steve Pavich, Mrs. Lorene Melton, secretary to an agri-business firm; and grower H.K. Nielsen, who farms 3,000 to 5,900 acres of wheat, alfalfa, barley, beans and potatoes. All are outspoken opponents of the Union, and all have been accused of patronizing and racist attitudes towards Mexican- and Filipino-Americans.

Meanwhile, the Teacher Corps controversy, which touched off the parents' ire against the Board, continues. The Teacher Corps has been officially expelled from Richgrove by the School Board, in spite of petitions signed by over 200 parents asking them to stay. Several of the young Teacher Corps volunteers resigned from the program so that they could continue their work in Richgrove.

SAVE YOUR BLUE CHIP STAMPS FOR DELANO

KERN LABOR BACKS UFWOC

BAKERSFIELD, February 17 -- The Executive Board of the 20,000 member Kern, Mono and Inyo Counties Central Labor Council passed a strongly worded resolution today urging "the total and complete abolishment of all farm subsidy programs, until such time the growers accept and fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the American collective bargaining process."

The Council, under newly elected president John Ebert, has been increasingly active over the past months in showing and expressing its support for the farm workers' struggle for justice.

Conservative agricultural interests have traditionally tried to keep industry and unions out of California's rural counties, and the labor movement has never been strong in this area. The generally conservative climate has made many unions either conservative or timid and hesitant to help their brown and black brothers in a "controversial" struggle like the grape strike.

"A number of individuals from Bakersfield have helped us a lot," commented UFWOC Vice President Gil Padilla. "Carpenters, plumbers, and electricians were especially helpful in contributing their valuable time and skill in helping us build our new office building. The Retail Clerks helped us with printing and leaflets during our organizing drive in Bakersfield. But we are really pleased to see the Council standing up like this and pledging their support. It takes a lot more courage to do this in a place like Bakersfield than, say, in a strong labor city like Detroit."

If you have any Blue Chip or any other type of stamps lying around the house, we would appreciate it if you could send them as the Defense Fund is using them for a special project. Send them to: UFWOC Defense Fund, P.O. Box 130, Delano, Calif. 93215

Congress Rejects Farm Worker Unemployment Law

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 1-- The House Ways and Means Committee is starting up the new year with the same old attitude that farm workers are second-class citizens. The Committee recently voted to exclude farm workers on even the largest farms from unemployment insurance coverage. The vote was 15 to 10 against farm workers.

President Nixon and some Republicans supported the proposal to cover farm workers with unemployment insurance. Nixon proposed that unemployment insurance be extended to include about 400,000 farm workers on the nation's largest farms. But the growers' power extends across party lines, and they defeated even his modest proposal.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Safeway Store officials told us we should stop the boycott and concentrate on getting legislation through Congress. But we have neither the economic nor the political power of the growers. We have been waiting for 30 years for decent legislation. The Boycott, through economic pressure, is the only non-violent way to get growers to sit down and bargain with us.

Boycott, Baby, Boycott!

Caravan Set for March 28

A Caravan is being planned for March 28th according to Pete Velasco, organizer of the event. The purpose is to familiarize outsiders with the work being done in Delano. A meeting of the caravaners with the various Department heads in the Union will be held at about 2:00 p.m.. Cesar Chavez will also address the group unless something unforeseen comes up. There will be caravans from Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities. For information contact UFWOC in Oakland (655-3256), Los Angeles (264-0316), or San Francisco at 282-3772 or at 282-9818.



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GREETINGS TO
THE UNITED FARM
WORKERS FROM

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AGRIBUSINESS CONGLOMERATE

SAN FRANCISCO, February 3--

Two giants of California agribusiness announced today that they were merging operations. Tenneco, Inc., the huge oil-industrial-agribusiness conglomerate which owns or controls dozens of companies in the United States and abroad, announced that it had agreed "in principle" to acquire Heggblade-Marguleas Co., a San Francisco based agribusiness firm. Tenneco bought out the million-acre Kern County Land Company in 1968 in a multi-million dollar deal. Spokesmen for the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee note that Tenneco's newest purchase makes them one of the largest packers and shippers of grapes in the nation.

"We have been on strike against Kern County Land Company and have been boycotting KCL grapes since 1968," stated UFWOC Vice President Philip Vera Cruz. "And we also struck H & M in 1968 and 1969 in Coachella. With this new merger, this company has tremendous economic power, all the financial strength of one of the richest oil companies in the world. It is truly amazing that they still refuse to pay their workers a decent wage."

H & M has importance in the grape industry far surpassing its substantial vineyard holdings, since H & M packs, stores, and ships grapes for many of the smaller growers still left in the industry. They own a huge packing shed that dominates the Fresno County town of Del Rey. H & M is also involved in the marketing of a wide variety of other fruits and vegetables for growers in California, Arizona, Texas, and Mexico. H & M officials briefly joined in the negotiations with UFWOC in the summer of 1969, but broke off the talks after refusing to sign a pesticide regulation clause. Tenneco, which produces pesticides, has never negotiated with the Union for the thousands of farm workers it employs.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: When a



Tenneco Bosses Gardiner Symonds and N. W. Freeman stand in front of the family farm's headquarters in Texas.

big agribusiness firm like Heggblade-Marguleas is gobbled up by an even bigger giant like Tenneco, we realize that the only hope for the worker to defend his interests and rights in the face of such overwhelming corporate power is to band together with his brothers in a union. Mergers like this are no longer uncommon in agriculture, and it is high time that the urban public recognized the fact that it is this type of corporate farm which totally dominates the agricultural production of America today. The family farm is unfortunately a thing of the past.

Viva la Causa
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