



# El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER



in English

Volume IV, Number 7

September 15, 1970



## WHY VIETNAM WHEN

## THERE IS A SALINAS?

See page 4



# RUBEN SALAZAR-



## a friend of the farm worker

In May of 1969 a Chicano newspaper man accompanied farm workers and EL MALCRIADO reporters on the long and hot Huelga march between Brawley and El Centro in California's Imperial Valley. His name was Ruben Salazar, and he showed a deep concern for the plight of his Filipino and Chicano farm worker brothers.

Two weeks ago, Ruben Salazar was brutally shot down by a sheriff's deputy as he covered another Chicano event, the Chicano Moratorium in Los Angeles. Salazar, 42, an L.A. Times columnist and director of a Spanish language TV station, was struck in the head by a tear gas cannister fired into a bar to disperse the occupants. Eye witnesses reported that no warning was given to clear the bar. In fact, the occupants were ordered at gunpoint to stay in the bar where they were tear gassed.

It is obvious from all newspaper and TV reports that police and sheriffs deputies overreacted to whatever disturbances occurred near the Chicano Moratorium Rally. Five hundred lawmen converged on the park and steamrolled their way through crowds of innocent bystanders and participants in the anti-Vietnam War rally. A crowd which could have been controlled was whipped into rebellion by the gestapo tactics of the "law enforcement" officers.

A public inquest is now being held to investigate the death of Salazar, and the Chicano Moratorium Committee is planning to march in the September 16th parade.

EL MALCRIADO offers its condolences to the family and friends of Ruben Salazar. It is our hope that much good will come from these tragic events. The Chicano community of L.A. is now more alive and alert than ever before. And the old and the young are forging the bonds of unity which will inevitably change things for the better.

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# Salazar dies, Vasquez and Gonzales arrested

## MORATORIUM POLICE RIOT

The dominant themes of the August 29th march and Chicano Moratorium rally was "Get out of Vietnam", Free Political Prisoners, and La Raza unification.

Widespread violence began as police cleared the Laguna Park rally site with tear gas without giving any warning. Several of the demonstrators, angered at police tactics, began to burn and loot stores on Whittier Boulevard. Over 178 businesses were burned.

Murdered by a sheriff's deputy's tear gas cannister was Ruben Salazar, one of the chief spokesmen for the Chicano community.

Among those arrested and subject to countless indignities were two of the rally's speakers, Manuel Vasquez of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and Rudolfo Corky Gonzales of Denver's Crusade for Justice.

The repressive measures used against the demonstrators has helped to unify the Chicano com-

munity. There is an extremely high death rate of Chicano GIs in Southeast Asia -- 19% in five southwestern states, despite the fact that La Raza population in these states numbers 11.8%.

Chicanos are also confronted with a lack of political power, poor housing, and an extremely high school dropout rate.



*Deputies attack literature tables.*



*4 p.m. -- looking east on Whittier.*



*Tear gas.*



*Monitor attempts to restore order.*



*Victim of gassing.*



The Salinas Valley strike had begun full swing on Monday, August 24th. Very few of the more than 6,000 harvesters on 31 struck ranches showed up for work. On the day before the strike started, Dolores Huerta had relayed the words of Cesar Chavez to the strikers: "A new order of things is replacing the old in agriculture. It can be done peacefully, with the consent of the growers, or it can be preceded by a painful struggle. Everything we have done has been done in good faith. Our good faith has been received by a slap in the face of farm workers." Cesar quoted Henry Thoreau: "Where injustice prevails, no honest man can be rich; where justice prevails, there can never be need of anything." Over four thousand farm workers cheered and pledged their support, no matter how long it would take.

EL MALCRIADO interviewed several of the workers, and was told that Chavez' union was the unanimous choice of the farm workers in the Salinas Valley. "Chavez is one of us," stated Jose Villalobos, a lettuce picker. "We have confidence in him. He will not sell us out. We know very little about the Teamsters. We do know that they don't understand us or know what we want. Besides, Chavez has won in the grape strike. We will stay with him. He is our man."

Another worker, Maria Melendez, stated that she was tired of the bad treatment she had received from contractors and foremen. "Chavez' union will see that we are treated fairly, and with dignity," she said. "This is what I really want to see -- justice, that's all."

On Tuesday afternoon, August 25, the Monterey County Superior Court issued a temporary restraining order on behalf of 22 of the 31 struck farms. The restraining order prohibited picketing as a violation of the state's Jurisdictional Strike Act.

Later on that morning, Jerry

# a look into



# our strike in salinas

Cohen, Venustiano Olguin, and Jacques Levy (see EL MALCRIADO September 1st) were brutally attacked by Hansen Ranch goons.

By August 26th, UFWOC discovered that its strike was extremely effective. Even the State and Federal Marketing Service, whose statistics are always conservative, estimated that less than half the lettuce quota in the valley was flowing to market. Strawberry growers admitted that 1,788 crates of strawberries were shipped on August 25, as opposed to 13,045 on the day preceding the strike.

Grower inspired violence flared up again on August 26th, when a ranch foreman, John Panziers, assaulted five people by driving a bulldozer into vehicles parked near the struck fields of Oshita Farms.

Twenty-seven UFWOC pickets were also arrested for allegedly blocking traffic near the entrances to ranches.

As the strike continued, the position of the growers was that it intended to hold the Teamsters to the contracts which had been previously signed. (80 in the Salinas Valley, the rest in the Santa Maria area.) The Teamsters justified their good squad tactics by claiming that UFWOC broke its agreement with them by going on strike. UFWOC reacted by saying that both the growers and the Teamsters had buried their heads in the ground by ignoring the demands of the workers who clearly wanted representation by Chavez' union.

One of the most optimistic breakthroughs of the strike occurred when Local 78A of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers Union refused to cross the picket lines of UFWOC. The union controls the vacuum coolers for fresh produce.

As lettuce and vegetable growers scoured the state for scab labor, two long time foes of farm labor, Senator George Murphy and Rep. Burt L. Talcott (both Republicans) called for repressive legislation to end the strike. Talcott's



bill is named after the ill-fated Consumer Agricultural Food Protection Bill, drafted earlier by Murphy. The bill, like both its sponsors, is certain to be a loser.

Meanwhile, the short supply of lettuce caused the price to skyrocket from three dollars a crate to six dollars.

## Inter-Harvest

Amid protests by other growers that the settlement was inflationary, Inter-Harvest, Inc., one of the largest lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley signed with UFWOC on August 30th. The Salinas Californian reported that Inter-Harvest caved in after a worldwide threat of a boycott on all products of the United Fruit Company (of which Inter-Harvest is a subsidiary) including Chiquita bananas. (See contract benefits in this issue).

## Union Support

Financial support from unions came to UFWOC and the Salinas Valley in the second week of the lettuce and vegetable strike. Twelve thousand dollars came from the carpenters' union, and ten thousand from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Chavez told reporters that a lot of money had come from Catholic sources, "but not in the Salinas Valley, that's for sure." Money is quickly spent on the strikers' kitchen, which feeds more than 1,000 a day, telephones, gasoline, utilities, rents, legal fees, and other expenses.

## "Citizens Concerned for Local Justice"

On September 1st, citizen pickets mounted a campaign against the Inter-Harvest Company, for signing with UFWOC. The citizen vigilantes joined their Teamster playmates and began a campaign of



*above: SCAB LETTUCE PICKERS IN SALINAS VALLEY WORK UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF GUARD WITH SHOTGUN. below: "VACATION IN FRIENDLY SALINAS VALLEY" GUARD WITH SHOULDER HOLSTER AND GERMAN SHEPHERD "PROTECTS" CROPS FROM ALLEDGED VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF FARM WORKERS. HANSEN RANCH.*



violence and intimidation against farm workers which is still rocking the Salinas Valley. Citizen pickets succeeded in shutting down the Inter-Harvest operation for a few days, but the company has resumed its operation. But the struck vegetable and strawberry growers reported heavy losses due to the strike. Nevertheless, they refused to begin talks with UFWOC.

Meanwhile, at the annual convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO president George Meany pledged to continue his support of UFWOC. The state federation began to raise ten million dollars to help Chavez and the union in the next ten years.

As the strike progressed, incidents of grower and vigilante vio-

*continued*



...from previous page

lence increased. On September 5th, two UFWOC pickets were beaten with baseball bats on a lettuce farm. The District Attorney failed to take any action. Neither did the D.A. take any action when Bill Kircher of the AFL-CIO was threatened and intimidated at his motel room by twenty Teamster goons. In another incident, two Teamster goons pointed a shotgun at EL MALCRIADO photographer, Cris Sanchez. One of them said: "Take any more pictures and I'll blow your guts out."

In a telegram to State Attorney General Thomas Lynch, Cesar Chavez reported that "the vigilante atmosphere hangs heavy over the Salinas Valley." He called upon

strikebreaker and condemned both the actions of UFWOC and that of the bishops' committee for mediating the strike. On the following day he was strongly rebuked by the Most Reverend Harry Clinch, Bishop of Monterey. Clinch called the actions of the young priest "regretable", and stated that the bishops' committee had the full support of the Diocese of Monterey in its task of bringing the contending parties together.

## Vigilante Charges Denied

Harvey Priddy, a spokesman for the Concerned Citizens, denied that vigilante tactics were being used.

vigilanteism had taken over the valley, when it announced that the citizens committee had kept all night pickets at the entrance to Inter-Harvest, and armed guards were seen patrolling fields and packing sheds. Besides this, several threatening phone calls were made to UFWOC headquarters, including a bomb scare. Fresh recruits of Teamster goons were coming into the valley from all over California, according to latest reports.

## Latest Developments: Optimistic

Although thirty-one pickets were



ANNOUNCING THAT HE WOULD FACE POSSIBLE ARREST, CESAR DECIDES THAT HE AND A GROUP OF WOMEN STRIKERS WILL PICKET THE BRUCE CHURCH RANCH IN SPITE OF AN ANTI-PICKET INJUNCTION. CHAVEZ SAYS THAT "IF WE GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO PICKET LINES, WE GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO BE A UNION."

Lynch to conduct an investigation in Salinas "before something worse happens."

On September 7th, the "Citizens Concerned for Local Justice", a vigilante organization of Teamsters and growers, held a rally at Hartnell College. The speakers denounced UFWOC and Chavez, and Inter-Harvest, and distributed bumper stickers calling for a boycott of Chiquita Bananas. Another bumper sticker stated: REDS, LETTUCE ALONE! Father Thomas Cross of Salinas picked lettuce as a

"This boy (Chavez) knows all the commie tactics. He knows how to arouse people against us. You can tell he's darn well trained. What he says is a concoction of lies... Salinas has a darned good police department. We are just a bunch of people trying to see that no one gets killed. We want to keep little Cesar from tying up the whole valley and the whole nation. It's time Americans acted like Americans," he said.

But even the Salinas Californian confirmed Chavez' suspicions that

arrested on September 8th, sheriff's deputies declined to arrest Cesar Chavez who led fifteen women pickets at the fields of the Bruce Church ranch, one mile south of Gonzales. Sheriff W. A. Davenport said: "I won't play into the hands of anybody who wants to use my department." But Chavez had stated earlier, commenting on the anti-picketing injunction: "We welcome arrests. We will not resist. We will conduct ourselves peacefully. We feel that if we give up the right to picket lines, we give



*left: MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF READS AN ANTI-PICKETING INJUNCTION TO A UFWOC PICKET LINE NEAR THE HENSON RANCH. THE PICKET CAPTAIN REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE INJUNCTION UNTIL THE UNION LAWYERS ARRIVED. right: A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY THEN PULLS THE PICKET CAPTAIN ACROSS HENSON'S PROPERTY BOUNDARY LINE, IN ORDER TO ISSUE HIM A CITATION FOR "TRESPASSING".*



up the right to be a union."

In the past week, FreshPac, Inc., a subsidiary of the Purex Corporation which has 42,000 acres of land in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Mexico, agreed to recognize UFWOC. D'Arrigo Brothers, another large independent grower followed suit. Salinas Strawberries has also agreed to recognize UFWOC, as well as the Delfino ranch, one of the large artichoke growers in the area. Several growers are slated to begin negotiations the week of September 13th. If the present trend continues, many more growers will undoubtedly sign with the union.

Pic-n-Pac, one of the largest strawberry growers, is still hold-

ing out. Picket lines have been thrown up at the headquarters of the S. S. Pierce Company in Boston, of which Pic-n-Pac is a subsidiary. Meanwhile, workers at the Pic-n-Pac ranch in the Salinas Valley complain about harsh treatment and exploitation on the job. Workers told EL MALCRIADO that labor contractor Manuel Jiminez has always treated the workers like dogs. Jiminez, who has the nickname "perro chato" since he looks like a bulldog, brought out chains and rifles to scare the workers who live in La Posada Camp. Pedro de Santiago, a Pic-n-Pac worker, said that the buses Jiminez uses for his workers are no good. "They have no

brakes. Buses like these were used when the Braceros were killed a few years ago at Chualar," he said.

Olga Galvan, another Pic-n-Pac worker, complained that Jiminez was constantly humiliating the workers. She also said that Pic-n-Pac often sprays its fields with deadly pesticides when the people are still working. "Many of the workers have received severe burns and rashes from the insecticides," she said.

As the strike goes into its fourth week, the situation in Salinas is still tense. But the economic pressure of a successful strike has caused the largest growers in the area to give in. And things look brighter every day.

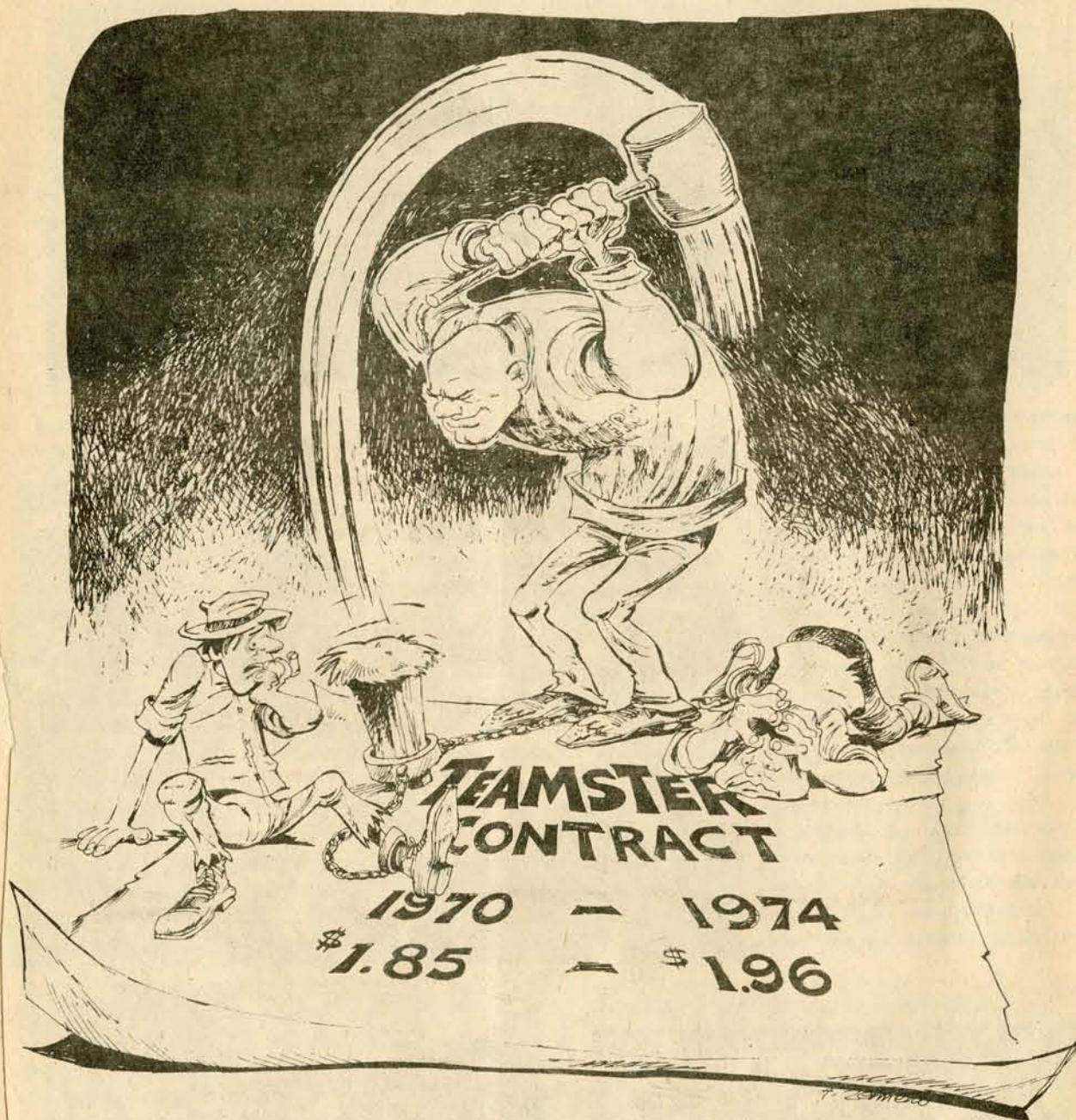


*left: A BUSLOAD OF BUD ANTLE SCABS FACES 150 UFWOC STRIKERS. THE SCABS ARE FROM CASA BLANCA LABOR CAMP NEAR SALINAS WHICH IS RUN BY FORMER DIGIORGIO SCAB ROBERT RODRIGUEZ. THE PICKET LINE STOPPED THE BUS AND HELD IT OUTSIDE THE FIELDS FOR OVER THREE HOURS.*

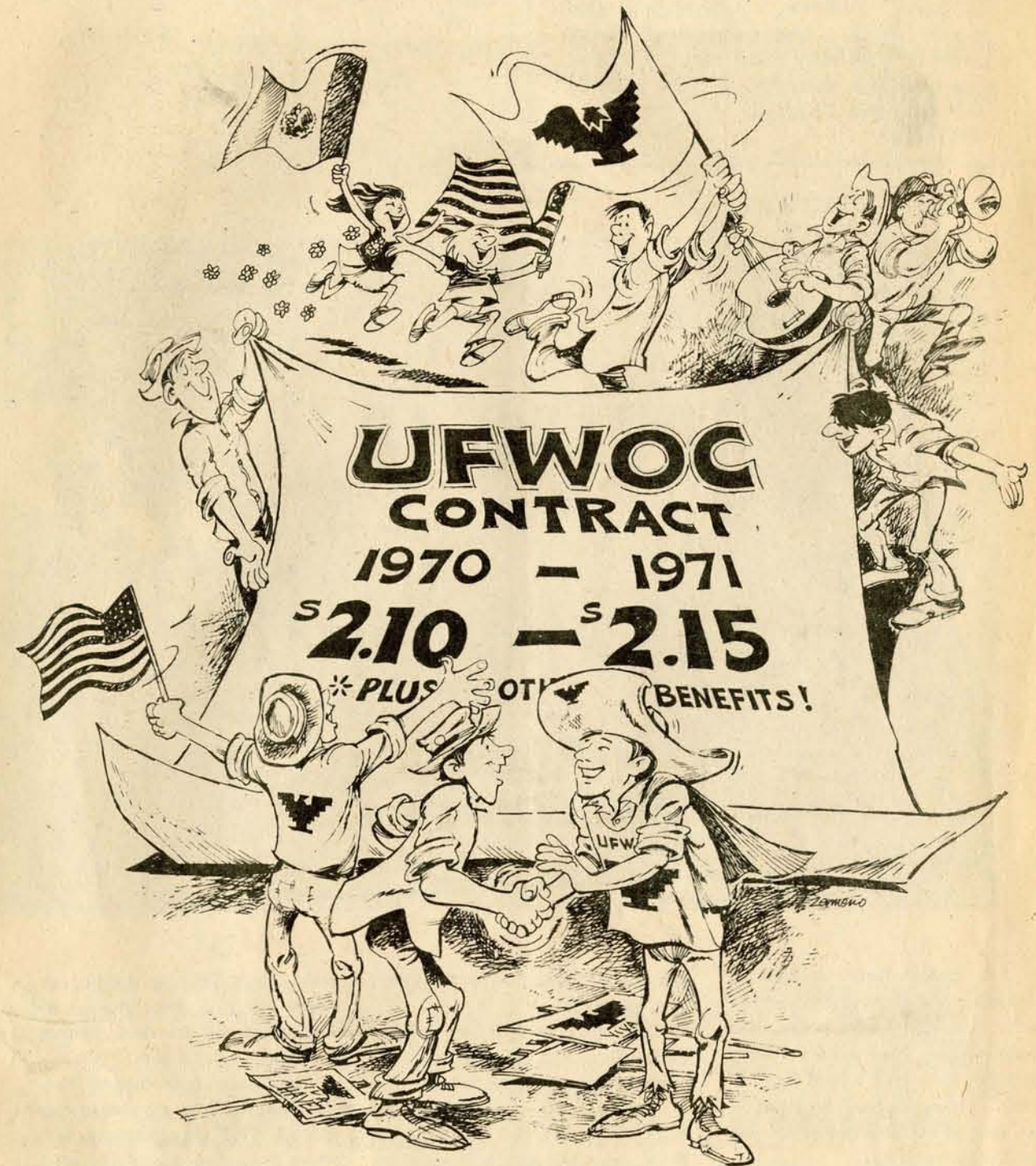
*right: WHEN ANTLE CONCEDED THAT NO LETTUCE WOULD BE PICKED THAT DAY, THE BUS WAS ESCORTED BACK TO THE MIGRANT CAMP BY THE GROWER'S RENT-A-FUZZ. AT CASA BLANCA, ABOUT 200 WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE; 35 ARE SCABBING.*



# UNION CONTRACTS: UFWOC vs. TEAMSTERS



**UFWOC SI! TEAMSTERS NO!**



THIS WAS THE CRY AS FARM WORKERS IN THE SALINAS VALLEY WELCOMED THEIR NEW CONTRACT WITH INTER-HARVEST.

THE TWO YEAR UFWOC CONTRACT OFFERS WORKERS A MINIMUM WAGE OF \$2.10 AN HOUR IN 1970 AND \$2.15 IN 1971. THE FOUR YEAR TEAMSTER CONTRACT OFFERED ONLY \$1.85, TO BE INCREASED TO \$1.96 AT THE END OF THE FOURTH YEAR. IN ADDITION TO BANNING DANGEROUS PESTICIDES SUCH AS DDT, THE UFWOC CONTRACT FORBIDS PROFIT-EEING OF FOOD AND RENT AT LABOR CAMPS, REPLACES CONTRACTORS WITH A HIRING HALL, AND OFFERS A WEEK'S PAID VACATION. THE WORKER'S ENTIRE FAMILY IS COVERED UNDER THE HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN.



*Treasure Valley appears almost beautiful as you drive out of the flat lands of Eastern Oregon. Instead of sage brush and dry grass there are green, tended rows of lettuce, onions, potatoes and sugar beets. The beauty of these fertile fields does not prepare you for the misery of the people who harvest them...*

# huelga in Treasure Valley

BY  
PRISCILLA CARRASCO

For years farm workers in Treasure Valley have endured insults, crowded labor camps, and unfair wages. They and their young children have been forced into labor -- labor that has no equal in its lack of accident protection and lack of job security.

One might well ask why farm workers support this misery. The only answer is incredible endurance and patience. Treasure Valley growers for years have relied on

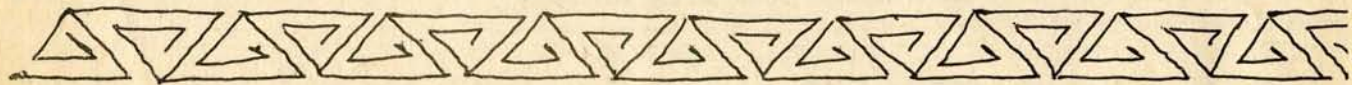
this endurance and patience. They have abused it.

Last month, August 7th, grower Elmer Tiegs was not satisfied. His workers were not going fast enough -- cutting onion seed balls. In anger Tiegs grabbed the knife of an 18 year old girl, and began to cut the seed balls himself. Then he handed the knife to the frightened girl. "Now you," he yelled. The nervous girl cut and missed the basket. She dropped one seed

ball. Tiegs furiously grabbed her, pulled off the sack holder and dragged her off the field, shouting insults to all in his path.

The people stood stunned. Tiegs returned, looked at the workers and shouted, "O K, you Mexicans, don't stand there like a bunch of cows. You're the ones who are hungry, not me."

Fidel Baldazo, the crew leader, had seen enough. He went to Tiegs and said, "If you have any-





## A FAMILY TOPPING ONIONS IN TREASURE VALLEY



thing to say to the people--talk to me." Baldazo's crew then left the field.

The strike began, at first with forty workers. They picketed Tiegs' farm; other workers joined them. Soon 500 workers were on strike. Said one worker, "We all decided to show them that we cannot be treated so bad."

The workers met and elected Oscar Guerrero to be their spokesman. Guerrero called Nick Jones

of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in Portland. The workers wanted a union and they needed help. Boycott organizers all over the Northwest began collecting food and money for the families on strike.

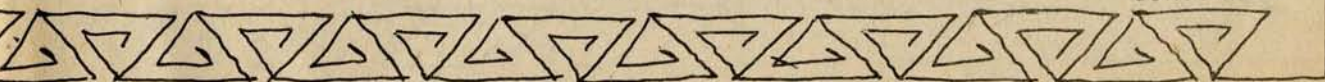
The Idaho Department of Labor stepped in after three weeks of striking and announced that if both farm workers and growers agreed, there would be an election. The election would decide who would

be the bargaining agent for the workers: the UFWOC Union, or the labor contractors. The workers then called off the strike as a sign of good faith that the growers would consider a democratic election.

The workers who support the Union are asking for:

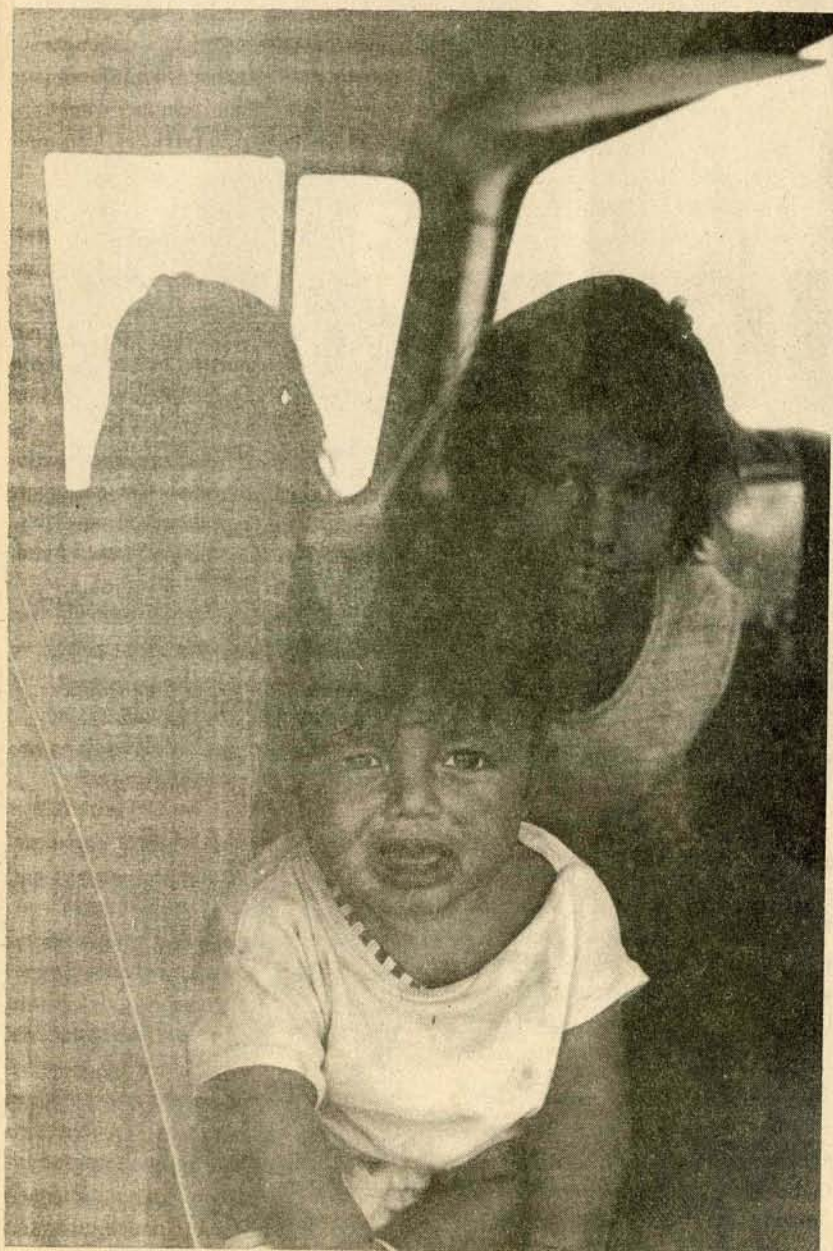
1. HONEST REPRESENTATION with a ranch committee chosen from among the workers.

*continued*





CHILDREN OF FARM LABORERS  
WAIT IN A HOT CAR  
FOR THEIR PARENTS  
TO FINISH THE WORK.  
THE OLDER CHILDREN  
AND BOTH PARENTS  
MUST WORK--  
THE SEASON IS SHORT  
AND  
THE WAGES. POOR.



...from previous page

2. JOB SECURITY which includes a medical plan after 50 hours of work, seniority, paid vacations, sick leave, sanitary facilities in the fields, etc.

3. DECENT HOURLY WAGE with no piece work, and provisions to protect minor children from working in the fields.

Farm workers are asking for the right of all working men and women -- collective bargaining with their employer.

In two weeks the harvest will be over in Treasure Valley. With or without an election the workers now know they can organize -- that the grower must listen. Wages have risen from 9¢ to 15¢ per basket for onions since the strike.

Farm workers and their families have community support -- in their struggle for equal rights. There is a year for the workers to prepare themselves for the next harvest. A harvest that will bring a Union.

Treasure Valley appears almost beautiful as you drive out of the flat lands of Eastern Oregon. Instead of sage brush and dry grass there are green tended rows of lettuce, onions, potatoes and sugar beets. The beauty of these fertile fields does not prepare you for the misery of the people who harvest them.





During the winter and spring of this year, J. Kenneth Weller contracted between 300 and 500 field workers in Texas and Florida to come to the Crosswell area to pick pickles. The contract promised work from July 25th to September 15th at \$1.30 per hour. Since the state minimum wage for farm workers was raised on July 1st from \$1.30 to \$1.45 per hour, Weller switched from the hourly rate to the piece rate after the workers were one or two days in the fields. He paid them 47 1/2 cents per bucket. The state law requires that he pay this amount for 5 gallon buckets, but the workers claim that they can show that the buckets they had to fill are mostly 6 1/2 gallons. They also point out that Weller refuses to pay them for the large relish pickles, even though the field-man insists that they pick them and put them in the buckets.

# SOUR PICKLES IN MICHIGAN

When Weller violated the contract he had with his workers by switching from hourly to piece rate, 80 workers went to Mr. Weller to demand that he pay them the agreed hourly wage. He refused to discuss it with them.

When they returned the next morning, he told them to either pick by piece rate or to leave.

Almost all of the workers returned to work at the piece rate because they could not afford to leave and look for other work. The next day some 300 workers were told that the pickle harvest was finished! They were told to look for work elsewhere!

The workers were shocked! How could the 6 or 7 week pickle season be finished in 2 1/2 days? Since Weller and his field men did not tell the workers why they were fired, they could only guess. This was the first time in 6 to 8 years that some of the workers had been coming to Michigan to work for Weller that they could recall the workers trying to talk to Weller about his failure to abide by his contract. It seemed to his workers that he wanted slaves, or no workers at all. When they called him on his breach of contract, they were fired without a word of explanation.

Since the majority of the workers had signed authorization cards designating the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, as their sole bargaining agent, the workers made union recognition their first demand when they met with Weller on Tuesday, August 4th at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Weller said that he would have to consult with his legal counsel before agreeing to that, so the worker representatives from each of the labor camps said that they would wait until he did so. In a few minutes he returned saying that his lawyer was in a meeting and could not be reached, so he suggested that they return two days later to discuss the matter. The workers representatives again decided to wait right there until he could be reached. Mr. Weller said it was getting late to reach a lawyer. When we suggested that he call or visit him at home, he told us that he did not have his phone number or address. We insisted that we would wait in his office even if it took him until morning to get in touch with him. (The police later happened to mention that the lawyer is Ken Weller's brother!)

Mr. Weller left and called the police. They told the men that they were trespassing on private property and would be arrested. They responded that they were employees of the Weller Company, and that they were there to discuss a matter of breach of contract and other legitimate matters with their employer. They said that if the police wished to arrest them for that, they were willing to go to jail. They added that they were sure that the jail would be more comfortable than their camp shacks. The police said they had no intention of making the workers lose what they had coming to them.

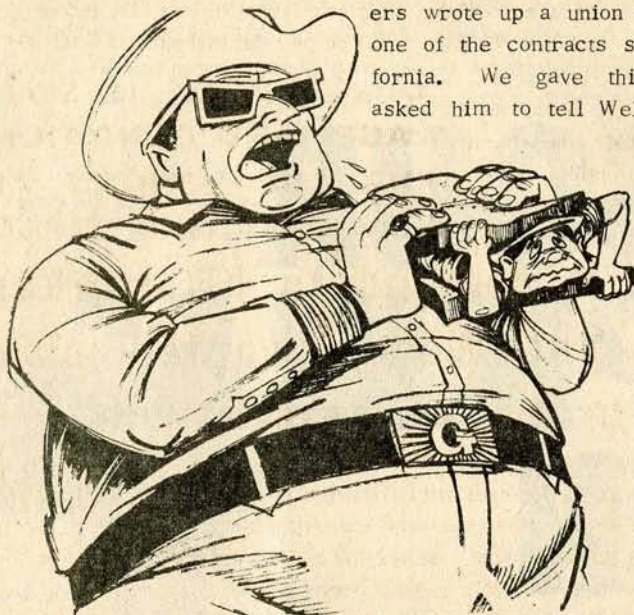
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They just wanted to keep order. The men assured them that our Union has taught us to do everything peacefully. They gave their word that there would be no destruction of property or personal harm done by the workers.

When the police officer returned he asked a representative to go to the phone to speak with Ken Weller and his lawyer. They insisted that they could not meet with us before Thursday at 3:00 p.m. When we asked about our Union recognition the lawyer said, "That is no problem." So a law student who had been assisting the migrant workers wrote up a union recognition statement from one of the contracts signed by our union in California. We gave this to the police officer and asked him to tell Weller that we would all leave



his office as soon as he signed it. When the officer left we discussed the likelihood that he would refuse to sign since he seemed not to take our plea for union recognition seriously. One young organizer for the United Farm Workers asked the priest if we could pray right then. All the workers who were waiting outside were called in and we prayed that God would

touch the heart of Ken Weller with his grace so that he would act justly towards his workers and recognize their right to bargain collectively. The priest reminded us all of Jesus' words: "If two of you on earth agree to anything and you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you". Everyone prayed in his own words out loud. The officer returned with the document signed, then signed it as a witness. We praised and thanked God, and left rejoicing.

Cesar Chavez sent Rev. Jim Drake and Jose Reyes from California to assist with negotiations on Thursday at 3:45 p.m. Ken Weller and his brother the lawyer met with worker representatives and assistants at the municipal building of Crosswell. The only thing Ken Weller had to say was that there is work in Wisconsin and the workers should go there. When we showed him the agreement he signed promising to negotiate with the United Farm Workers, the lawyer said it did not mean anything. So once again Ken Weller had lied to his workers. The lawyer concluded the negotiations not only by turning down the union's bid for \$1.90 per hour and 10¢ per bucket, but by saying he was unwilling to let the men go back to work at the minimum legal wage of \$1.45 an hour while negotiating a retroactive contract. In effect he said he would not negotiate.

The workers met Thursday night and decided to have a march from St. Patrick's Church to the Pickle Company on Friday at 4:00 p.m. There we would await word from Weller. Would he have the courage to tell his workers face to face that he had reneged on his agreement to negotiate? Would his conscience have bothered him through the night so that now he was ready to bargain in good faith? We stood in front of the factory and offices 150 strong to hear from Weller.

He slipped out the back way so he would not have to talk to us. He left us no alternative but to march to his home in Lexington. When we arrived at his plush lake-side estate, the Sheriff's Department informed us that they had sent him away. After picketing in front of his drive for 20 minutes, we sat down on the grass to wait for him. The priest read the Sermon on the Mount to us in English and Spanish. "Blessed are the sorrowful, for they shall be comforted," seemed to have more meaning than ever before.



The workers took a vote and decided to return to the pickle factory and keep a picket line all night. The police told us that they would trust us not to enter the factory, and we assured them that we would see to it that no one would. They had come to understand that our purpose is simply wages and conditions, and that our methods are both just and peaceful.

As we stood guard through the night, one farmer told us that Weller has been cheating the growers by claiming that 1/2 the price due to them for their pickles went to field labor. Now that they are paying their own labor, he has only increased the price on #1 pickles from \$8.00 to \$11.00 a hundred pounds, instead of \$16.00. He said that the farmers regard him as a crook.

I guess he would have to be to do what he has done to both farmers and farm workers. By his own admission, Weller has simply eliminated 65% of this year's crop for the farmers this year, 100% of the migrants' work for this year.

And the Lord has made this the best year for pickles in a long time!

On Saturday, Weller went to the picket line and told the workers he had received their note left with the sheriff's deputies at his home, stating if he continues to refuse to negotiate, his workers will sue him in court for breach of contract. He said he was not refusing to negotiate, he was now trying to get a labor lawyer so that we might negotiate Monday. He asked that the picket line be removed, since we would negotiate. The workers voted to stay on the picket line day and night until negotiations actually began. They know they cannot trust him.

Later that same day (Saturday, August 8th), the farm workers decided to end the picket line at 5:00, in order to return to the camps to do their washing,

and get a night's sleep. That evening, a message was left at the home of J. Kenneth Weller stating that he should call us by phone by 12 o'clock noon, Sunday, to give us a specific time when he would begin negotiations on Monday, or the picket line would be renewed on Monday morning. Mr. Weller called us Sunday morning and informed us that negotiations would take place at 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 10th.

Rev. Jim Drake returned to Croswell to assist with the negotiating team composed of a representative from the migrant camps maintained by Weller. When Mr. Weller came to the "negotiations" session, he did not bring a labor lawyer -- again, his brother assisted him. He also brought a court reporter to "get everything on the record." The Weller brothers informed us that there was need for workers in Ohio and in Berrien County in Michigan, and that the workers should go there to work. He further stated that as of that night, THE WELLER PICKLE COMPANY WAS CLOSED. He blamed the closing of the pickle company on a "strike" and "boycott" which never existed, since, (1) the workers who were trying to negotiate with them had all been fired (some 200 to 300); and (2) we had not been able to find any stores that sell Weller pickles so that we might even talk about a boycott.

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BOTH JUST AND PEACEFUL."**

**"It seemed to his workers  
that Weller wanted slaves  
or no workers at all."**

**"Jail would  
be more  
comfortable  
than their  
camp shacks."**

**"HE TOLD THEM TO EITHER  
PICK BY PIECE RATE OR LEAVE."**





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