

# EL MALCRIADO

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VIVA  
LA  
CAUSA

BOYCOTT

LETTUCE!



## Free Secret Ballot Elections

The history of United Farm Workers is a history of free elections. It is public record that in September of 1965, César Chávez and the grape workers asked the Delano Grape Growers for an election and were refused.

An August 30, 1966 United Farm Workers won the first secret ballot election in farmworker history despite the fact that the grower was openly campaigning for another union. Results: United Farm Workers - 530, Teamster-Di Giorgio - 331, No Union - 12.

In September of 1966 United Farm Workers asked Perelli-Minetti for an election and was refused. In June and July of 1967 United Farm Workers asked Giumarra Vineyards for an election and was refused. On August 3, 1967, 90% of Giumarra's workers went on Strike to prove they wanted to be represented by United Farm Workers.

In the spring of 1968 United Farm Workers asked all California and Arizona grape growers for an election; all but one refused. On August 24, 1970, 7,000 lettuce workers went on Strike in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys to prove they wanted to be represented by United Farm Workers.

From 1965 to 1971 there were over 50 valid elections in California, Arizona and Washington agriculture. In every case but one the election was won by our Union. The one exception is being appealed because the labor contractor illegally intimidated his Filipino workers saying, "If Chávez wins you will all be fired and replaced by Mexicans".

These elections were supervised by neutral arbitrators chosen by all parties to the election; the American Arbitration Association, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the Roman Catholic Bishop's Committee. The rules and procedures for every election were agreed

upon in advance by all parties. Governor Reagan was even invited to take a stand for free elections; he refused.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS HISTORY AND THESE FACTS WE ACCUSE THOSE WHO ASSERT THAT THE UNITED FARMWORKERS OPPOSES FREE ELECTIONS OF THE LOWEST FORM OF HYPOCRISY, MALICE AND BAD WILL.

Repressive, anti-farmworker legislation introduced by the Farm Bureau speaks of "free elections" as if it were something new and then goes on to include other provisions that are entirely unacceptable to our Union and farmworkers everywhere. Such legislation might begin by saying, "We are in favor of motherhood and want to offer motherhood to the farmworker for the first time. But along with granting motherhood to farmworkers we insist on slavery for his children". Such legislation might be called "motherhood" legislation. Malicious men could say that farmworkers who opposed such legislation are opposed to motherhood. Honest men would instantly see that farmworkers are not opposed to motherhood but they are opposed to slavery for their children.

It is the same here. Farm Bureau legislation speaks of "free elections." This is nothing new, it is something we have always had and will continue to have. After speaking of free elections, however, Farm Bureau legislation goes on to eliminate migratory farmworkers from the very elections they claim to foster and gives growers the power to decide what farmworkers will get to vote in those elections. After using its "free elections" cover the Farm Bu-

reau goes on to propose the outlawing of Strikes and Boycotts.

In the same legislation the Farm Bureau would turn the election process over to groups hostile to farmworkers, for example, Governor Reagan and his political appointees. United Farm Workers does not believe that the fox should guard the chickens.

The tools of our Union are democratic tools. We vote with ballots in secret elections. Our friends support our Boycotts by voting with their pocket-books at the supermarkets. When all else fails we vote with our bodies on Strikes. Our only power is people power. Conscious and sensitive people all over the world are with us.

The tactics used against us by the Farm Bureau, by gluttonous growers and by corrupt politicians are not new. These are the tactics that gave us Viet-Nam. These are the tactics of those who claimed our boys were dying for "free elections" in Indo-China. What they meant by free elections were elections on their conditions, with their candidates, with their supervision, with their count and with their conclusion. To understand what our enemies are talking about is to understand why thousands of the finest youth of the United States and millions of people of Asia are no longer alive.

The lesson for us farmworkers is obvious. We cannot trust the constant foul-play of the Farm Bureau, the growers and the sordid politicians who back them. We do not want an agricultural Viet-Nam. The vast majority of the people of the United States understand us. That is our power.

They know that where the people rule there is democracy. The people rule in the United Farm Workers. There is no Union without the workers. There is no Union apart from the workers.

Every Union meeting is democratic because it is participatory. Every Ranch Committee meeting is a grass roots gathering that would do justice to the early Town Meetings of New England. Every Field Office and Hiring Hall is a House of Representatives for Union Members.

The mistake of the growers, their organizations and their politicians is to presume that somehow they will continue to manipulate farmworkers. But we will no longer be slaves. We will no longer stand by meekly as our Union, our only hope for a better life, is destroyed. Farm Bureau, growers and corrupt politicians take note:

1. WE DO NOT LOOK TO YOU FOR DIRECTION.
2. WE DO NOT LOOK TO YOU FOR SUPERVISION.
3. WE DO NOT LOOK TO YOU FOR SALVATION.
4. YOU WILL NOT DICTATE CONDITIONS FOR OUR ELECTIONS.
5. YOU WILL NOT MAKE RULES FOR OUR ELECTIONS.
6. YOU WILL NOT SELECT CANDIDATES FOR OUR ELECTIONS.
7. YOU WILL NOT DECIDE WHO VOTES IN OUR ELECTIONS.

Our Union will continue to give example to the poor and to working people everywhere. Our dedication and sacrifice is that we might show other exploited and down-trodden people how to conduct a democratic society. We speak of a society that is free from corruption and self-interested interference. OUR FREE ELECTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE FREE. VIVA LA CAUSA!

## STRIKE ANNIVERSARY IN SANTA MARIA

We are asking you to please publish the following announcement in EL MALCRIADO: We will celebrate the second anniversary of our Strike of 1970 on July 30. The celebration will take place at Preiker Park in Santa Maria. The fiesta will start at 10:00 a.m. with a farmworker mass, and presentation of guests. There will be theater groups and food for all.

There are many reasons why we should celebrate the anniversary of our Strike. We must show the local growers that despite all of our hardships and suffering we continue to believe in our farmworker movement. And no matter what they do to us they cannot hold back the spirit of La Causa. We must demonstrate that no chains can enslave men and women dedicated to struggle for their liberation.

Paulino Pacheco, Director  
Santa Maria Union Office  
Santa Maria, California

## Why No Subscriptions?

In the last issue of EL MALCRIADO, I noticed that your staff will not be accepting regular subscriptions to EL MALCRIADO....

It is my belief that the most effective tool that the United Farm Workers has had is EL MALCRIADO. A means of communication is always the most effective means. I urge that you continue your regular subscriptions and that you go up on the prices if necessary so that those who want to receive EL MALCRIADO do not have to chase for it all over the barrios.

Very truly yours,  
John C. Alaniz  
San Antonio, Texas

(Editor's Note: Thanks for your letter. The Union has studied this matter for some time. We have learned much from other papers. We hope to be distributing 1,000,000 paper in the future. We say this at a time when 90% of the small papers in the country are not making a go of it because of the impossibility of dealing with individual subscriptions. The purchase of one bundle every two weeks will make you an organizer for La Causa.)

## MAGNIFICENT!

The newspaper is really great, particularly the first (of the new series) issue because of its photos and the third issue because of its simplicity, clarity, and host of information. It is a great organizing tool in first of all, being so informative and secondly, in our necessity to deliver in person the newspaper.

We'll keep you informed of San Francisco news and I will particularly let you know what happens in the Mission District.

Viva la Causa!  
Flo Kelly  
San Francisco, California

## LETTERS



## Slavery In Arizona

Even though we live in the 20th century, we still find slavery in a country that claims to be one of freedom, justice and democracy. This is why I ask you to please publish the following incident that happened to us.

When the Melon Strike started in the Yuma Valley in Arizona, those of us who work in Parker Valley and who are members of the Fresh Pict Ranch Committee, were helping to organize the melon workers throughout the region. We had already spent one evening organizing at the TRI-PRODUCT labor camp and we decided to return the next day. As we approached the camp the next day, brothers Godínez, Becerril, Becerra, other members of the Committee and myself were surrounded by the Indian Reservation police who asked what "business" we had there. When they said this, the farmworkers at the camp immediately went into their barracks. But the workers had already told us that they were being held LIKE PRISONERS! To go to town, they have to ask permission! Then they have to say where they are going, etc. They were promised \$4.00 a foot for picking melons, but were being paid \$3.00. They wanted to join the Strike, but they were guarded by three guards.

We told the police they had no right to stop us. But they threatened to arrest us saying we were on private property. Alfredo Figueroa (Director of the Blythe Union Office) also talked to them, but received the same response. We had to leave the camp.

At the Indian Reservation there are six scab companies that have bought off the tribal council and turned it against the Union. These are: BRUCE CHURCH CO.; SAHARA QUAIL MEZA CO.; GARIN CO.; TRI-PRODUCE CO.; HIGH AND MIGHTY CO.; and GEORGE ARAKELIAN CO. TRI-PRODUCE CO. has 8,000 acres in melons in Mendota-Firebaugh and starts its harvest in mid-July.

And I must repeat, this happened in the country that claims to be struggling for the "liberty" of the South Vietnamese and whose president gives speeches in Russia on world peace and freedom for all!

We hope the Lettuce Boycott will have the same success as did the Grape Boycott and that we will win the campaign against the governor of Arizona. Thank you for your attention.

Victory always,  
Cipriano Becerra, President  
Fresh Pict Ranch Committee  
Poston, Arizona

## PROUD TO HELP

Although I am but a sophomore in high school and have not experienced the gross injustice dealt upon the farmworkers by the "establishment", I can see and feel the growing strength of the workers to break free from their strife. When I am an old man ..., I will feel proud to look back and be able to look back and say, I helped, although very little ....

When looking through EL MALCRIADO and seeing how bad conditions really are, and you know you yourself helped four little boys to obtain an education and an old lady who has never worn a new dress, to help put the new dress, that fits, in her hand you have a great feeling that comes from deep within. This feeling is pride and success of Christianity. This feeling makes you feel proud to be a unknown savior of mankind.

César Chávez, you are a great savior of mankind and may God let you be immortal so that your crusade may last forever. Viva César, que hombre!

Sincerely,  
Alan Thomasson  
Dallas, Texas

## ARTIFICIAL TOMATOES

The pride Davis professors take in their invention of simulated tomatoes (L.A. Times, Business section, May 4, 1972) displays a shallowness of intelligence rarely admitted these days. Probably they should be forgiven, however, for they are the products of the California University system which has prostituted itself to the interests of corporate agribusiness, a process that has numbed the conscience of so many.

By conspiring to produce juiceless, oblong tomatoes to meet the rigors of monstrous machines which rip them from the vine, these absent-minded professors have forgotten one thing: justice for migrant farmworkers. None of their scientific acumen has been applied to solve problems already created by mechanical harvesters.

As in the case of the University-developed mechanical cotton picker, which left the people of San Joaquin Valley towns such as Corcoran and Firebaugh with chronic unemployment, the tomato harvesters are designed to wreck havoc on the lives of thousands of farmworkers.

It is a dreadful formula California's Agribusiness Empire has designed for us: wooden tomatoes, plastic catsup, higher welfare costs and farmworker misery.

Sincerely,  
James L. Drake  
Union Organizer  
Phoenix, Arizona

## EL MALCRIADO

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# LA CAUSA WINS MAJOR COURT VICTORY IN TEXAS

HOUSTON, Texas -- After five years of litigation, La Causa won a major court victory when a federal district court panel of three judges ruled on June 26 that the constitutional rights of Francisco Medrano, Kathy Baker, David Lopez, Gilberto Padilla, Magdaleno Dimas, Benjamin Rodriguez and other Union members were violated by law enforcement officials during the historic Starr County farmworker Strike of 1966-7.

The ruling also declared five repressive Texas statutes as "unconstitutional and therefore, null and void." The statutes were used by the Texas Rangers and other officials of Starr County to continually harass Union organizers and members.

The defendants in the case included five Texas Rangers, the sheriff, two deputy sheriffs and a special deputy sheriff of Starr County. One of the defendants apart from being a law enforcement official, also worked for one of the growers in Starr County.

In an official document, the Court cites a long series of incidents during the Starr County Strike in which the defendants failed to enforce the law impartially, but instead entered the struggle on the side of the growers.

The incidents included unnecessary arrests of pickets, beatings of Union members and organizers, breaking up peaceful Union meetings and other forms of intimidation. The attacks by the Texas Rangers and Starr County sheriff's officers took place on the picketlines, inside courtrooms, and at the homes of Strikers.

One of the most brutal attacks on farmworkers cited by the Court involved Magdaleno Dimas and Benjamin Rodriguez who were arrested by Texas Rangers "in what appears to this Court to be a violent and brutal fashion." Magdaleno was hospitalized suffering a brain concussion, multiple bruises and back injuries. Benjamin suffered from serious bruises and a broken finger.

The Court declared: "Looking at the circumstances as a whole, it is the conclusion of this Court that the unjustified conduct of the defendants had the effect of putting those in sympathy with the Strike in fear of expressing their protected First Amendment rights with regard to free speech and lawful assembly."

"The conclusion is inescapable that these officials had concluded that the maintenance of law and order was inextricably bound to preventing the success of the Strike. Whether or not they acted with premeditated intent, the net result was that law enforcement officials took sides in what was essentially a labor-management controversy," concluded the Court.

This great court victory opens the door to a new era of farmworker organizing in the state of Texas and is a tribute to the courage, persistence and dedication to La Causa of our farmworker sisters and brothers in that state. ;Viva la Huelga!



Union Director César Chávez (left) speaks with Union staff at La Paz after returning from Arizona where he fasted for 24 days. His health, seriously damaged during his fast of love, is now improving day by day. César said that only our spirit of sacrifice and struggle will bring hope of a better life to the poor of the world. A few days later, he returned to Arizona on an organizing pilgrimage to bring the message of La Causa to all farmworkers and other poor people and to bolster the recall campaign against Governor Jack Williams.

## RECALL CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

### 1,000 Signatures a Day

PHOENIX, Arizona -- More than 50,000 Arizona voters have signed the petition to recall anti-farmworker Governor Jack Williams. According to Jim Drake, our Union's Director of Organizing, about 1,000 Arizona voters are signing the recall petition every day. Also, between 300 and 400 new voters are being registered each day.

Jim predicted that 75,000 to 100,000 new voters will have registered by the registration cut-off date of September 12. More than 25,000 people have registered since Union Director César Chávez began his recent fast. He explained the success of the registration and recall drive saying: "People are responding to our campaign in Arizona because César reached their hearts with his fast and gave one month of his life there. They are fed up with 20 years autocratic Republican domination."

"The Farm Bureau, the Republicans and the growers have gone power mad," said Jim. "They don't know how to negotiate, they just rule autocratically. And the passage of the anti-farmworker law was all that was needed for the desire for justice among working people in Arizona to burst into flame."

Jim said the only major problem we face in Arizona is that of getting deputy regis-

trars. For example, in Maricopa County, which has more than 100,000 unregistered citizens, County Recorder Paul Marston has refused to deputize enough registrars to serve the people in the county, even though he has the power to do so.

Marston gave a voter registration class to 200 persons who wanted to be deputized voter registrars. At the end of the class he announced that he could "deputize only 11 persons." After some pressure from the Union and the community, 57 were finally deputized. But Marston refused to deputize the rest.

Speaking in Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma during the last part of June, Union Director César Chávez charged that "Marston has set the stage for a national scandal similar to those ten years ago in Mississippi and Alabama."

La Causa has asked the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the case. Also, Marston is being sued by the Maricopa County Democratic Committee with a lawsuit stating: "There are at least 100,000 unregistered citizens in Maricopa County. It is physically impossible for the present number of voter registrars to register this number of people. Maricopa County Recorder has the power to deputize as many voter registrars as are needed, which he refuses to do."

The County Democratic Committee accused Marston of discriminating against Blacks and Chicanos by refusing to deputize sufficient numbers of voter registrars. Most of the 100,000 unregistered citizens in the County are Blacks and Chicanos. Also, 90 percent of the persons Marston refused to deputize were Spanish-speaking.

Out of 1,250,000 eligible voters in the State, only 50,000 are registered. Among Republicans there is a 90% registration rate, while the Democrats reflect a rate of only 35 to 40%. So it is obviously in the interests of the Republicans to keep poor people from registering to vote. County Recorder Marston is a Republican.

Jim Drake urged that we all send letters protesting the injustices committed by Paul Marston and demanding that he deputize enough registrars. Send your letters to the following address: Maricopa County Recorder, Phoenix, Arizona.

Despite attempts by enemies of La Causa to stop us in Arizona, the registration drive and recall campaign are gaining momentum. Jim Drake said support is coming from all kinds of people. Even many Republicans are signing the recall petition because they are ashamed of what Governor Jack Williams and the rest of their party are trying to do to farmworkers.

Jim reported that 45 people have volunteered to work full-time on the campaign in Maricopa County, in which Phoenix is located. Most of these volunteers come from the Phoenix barrio. The campaign is also active in Tucson, where there was recently a rally to get it started. In retaliation, the Republican-controlled press in Phoenix has launched an intensive campaign aimed at discrediting our efforts.

On May 11, Governor Jack Williams, ignoring demonstrations and attempted visits by Arizona farmworkers, did the bidding of the Arizona Farm Bureau, the Republicans and the growers by signing into law one of the most repressive pieces of anti-farmworker legislation in the history of the United States. Union Director César Chávez responded with a 24 day Fast of Love in an attempt to put an end to the anti-farmworker fears that made such legislation possible.

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P.O. BOX 62  
KEENE, CA. 93531  
(805) 822-5571



### EL MALCRIADO Circulation Reaches 25,000

LA PAZ, California -- Pearl McGivney, Director of Distribution for EL MALCRIADO, announced July 10 that EL MALCRIADO's circulation has reached 25,000. Pearl said 25,000 copies of the June 23 edition have been sold; 12,000 copies of the Spanish edition and 13,000 copies of the English edition.

Pearl declared: "The reason the circulation of our Union newspaper is increasing so fast is that our sisters and brothers throughout the country, both farmworkers and supporters, are establishing Committees of Information to distribute EL MALCRIADO person to person."

After hearing about the increasing circulation of EL MALCRIADO, the editorial staff of the newspaper pledged to double its efforts to make sure EL MALCRIADO comes out every two weeks.

Pearl asked that all Committees of Information please "send in your orders for the next edition of EL MALCRIADO as soon as you get this edition" in order to get the paper out more quickly. She urged all who want to help La Causa to sell EL MALCRIADO everywhere: to farmworkers, to our supporters, other unions, church groups, and other organizations."



## FLORIDA: Contracts Approved

SARASOTA, Florida--The Union Contracts won in Florida last March with Coca-Cola/Minute Maid and H. P. Hood companies have been fully approved by the Federal Pay Board, Dr. Marshall Barry, Assistant Professor of Economics at New College here reported to EL MALCRIADO June 21.

Marshall wrote a lengthy document supporting approval of the Contracts which was submitted to the Pay Board in March. Under President Nixon's "Phase Two Economic Program", all Union Contracts which exceed the conservative federal guidelines for pay increases are subject to review.

Marshall argued in his paper that farmworkers are so grossly underpaid, and that farm labor costs represent such a small percentage of food retail costs, that the pay increases should be approved.

He pointed out that real farm labor income over the past ten years had not increased at all, and in many cases had decreased. Thus, in an economy concerned about inflation, farm labor could not be called an inflationary force.

Farmworkers under the Union Contracts will not only receive the 13.9% increase in wages and benefits the Union won in March, but will receive them retroactively through January 3.

Ironically, Union farmworkers have been laboring under unfair conditions ever since the Union was successful in Florida. In an effort to stop the Union, citrus growers throughout Florida raised the piece-rate wages from 37¢ a box to 40¢ a box, and many inaugurated worker health and life insurance plans for the first time to counter the attractiveness of the Union's Robert F. Kennedy Farm Workers Medical Plan.

These wage increases were and are illegal, since the growers did not submit them to the Pay Board for approval. Because we followed the law and did submit our Contracts, the farmworkers who Unionized in March are the only ones who have continued to work at 37¢ a box for the past three months.

Because the Union's efforts raised wages and benefits among the 36,000 non-Union citrus workers as well as those 2,000 under Contract, our effort has had an effect far greater than the two Union Contracts we have won would indicate. Marshall estimates, on the basis of the wage increases and the total number of boxes of citrus picked this year, that increases in wages and benefits for all of Florida's citrus workers will reach over \$10,000,000 for the year.

This should make the message clear to our Florida farmworker sisters and brothers not yet under Union Contracts: ORGANIZE.

## LAMONT: Union Contract Enforced

LAMONT, California -- The Ranch Committee representing the Union members who work for John K. Kovacevich acted quickly when Juan F. Guana and his son, Emilio, were denied work by a company foreman June 30 after they were dispatched to their jobs by the Lamont Union Office. The company foreman, Marcelo Tamps, violated the Union Contract when he would not let them work because he "did not know them", even though both have seniority.

Juan and Emilio reported their grievance to Roberto Garcia, Director of the Lamont Office, and Frank Estrada, a Ranch Committeeman. Roberto and Frank immediately went to see Kovacevich, who admitted Tamps was wrong in not letting Juan and Emilio work. He agreed to pay them 4 hour show-up pay as stipulated in the Union Contract.

The Union Contract, which was signed by Kovacevich in 1970, states that "a worker paid on an hourly or piecework basis who is required to report for work and does report and is furnished no work or less than four hours of work for reasons other than Acts of God shall be paid at least four hours for that day at the worker's hourly rate of pay or the worker's average hourly piece-rate earnings."

Roberto Garcia told EL MALCRIADO that farmworkers working under Union Contracts should follow the example Juan and Emilio Guana. He said, "Farmworkers should learn that whenever they are mistreated by foremen or supervisors they should report the injustice to their Union Steward or Crew Committee who will in turn report the grievance to the Ranch Committee so it can file a grievance against the company."

"Many workers are mistreated, but rather than demanding what is just, they go elsewhere to work. That's wrong. Workers should never quit when mistreated. We should always fight for our rights," said Robert, "That's the only way to defend our Union Contracts."

## ARVIN: Farm Bureau Reneges on Debate

ARVIN, California -- A scheduled debate June 29 between Union representatives and Farm Bureau Representative Paul Franklin of the Kern County Farm Bureau was cancelled when Franklin failed to appear.

Two summer school American Government classes at Arvin High School had made the necessary arrangements for the debate. Accompanied by a reporter from EL MALCRIADO, Union representatives Roberto Garcia, Director of the Lamont Union Office, and Fred Sayer, a Union volunteer, showed up for the debate. But then they learned Franklin called that same morning and cancelled his appearance with the excuse that he is "changing jobs."

## WASHINGTON, D.C. Farm Bureau Businesses Warned

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Two Farm Bureau businesses, Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association in Indianapolis, Indiana and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation of Columbus, Ohio, are listed among 400 parent companies named by the Price Commission as having failed to properly file the required quarterly profit margin reports.

Price Commission Chairman C. Jackson Grayson, Jr. reported that telegrams were sent to 400 parent companies with revenues in excess of \$100 million. The telegrams warned the companies that their profit margin reports or a certificate confirming they had not increased prices must be submitted to the Commission within five working days of receipt of the notification to avoid possible price reduction orders and civil penalties.

## IDAHO: Farm worker Victory Over Governor

SUN VALLEY, Idaho--In a direct slap at their own Governor, Democrat Cecil D. Andrus, the Idaho State Democratic Convention in June called for the repeal of the recently-passed Idaho anti-farmworker legislation. As reported in the last issue of EL MALCRIADO, Andrus supported the legislation and signed it into law, despite picketing and vigils by Idaho farmworkers.

Dan Sudran, Union organizer in Idaho and participant in the State Democratic Convention, reported to EL MALCRIADO that "both the Human Rights and Agriculture committees included in their platforms the repeal of the 1972 Idaho Farm Labor Law, and their platforms were accepted by the general platform assembly."

"The Commerce and Labor committee farm labor plank, which was also accepted by the general platform assembly, reads as follows: 'Be it resolved that the Commerce and Labor Committee go on record in favor of repeal of Senate Bill 1604 because we consider the bill to be undemocratic and repressive, and we understand the position of the United Farm Workers in refusing to negotiate so long as that law is the law of the State of Idaho.'"

Dan also reported: "I proposed planks to (1) remove the exemption for agriculture in the state's workmen's compensation law; (2) make knowingly hiring of illegals unlawful; and (3) give the State Department of Health authority to promulgate rules and regulations on migrant labor housing. They all passed and were adopted."

Moreover, the Convention voted to ban lettuce from its banquet menu in support of the Union's Lettuce Boycott. A minority motion that would have allowed individual decisions on eating lettuce at the banquet was resoundingly defeated in a voice vote. Mark Lane of Mountain Home, Idaho, a delegate and anti-war activist,

## FLORIDA: Six Men Indicted For Enslaving Farmworkers

TAMPA, Florida-- Six men have been arrested by the FBI and charged with holding farmworkers as slaves near here, according to the St. Petersburg Times.

A report in the Times stated "J. F. Santolana, Jr., special agent in charge of the Tampa FBI office announced the arrests for violation of the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude."

A special federal grand jury returned a six-count indictment charging the group with preventing workers from leaving the employment and control of a migrant labor camp. The indictment said that the six had forced workers to return to the camp and had beaten several workers who tried to leave.

The six charged are: Walter Taylor, 31; his brother, A. J. Taylor, 26; Edward Earl Hinton, 26; David Rucker, 25; Frank James (no age); and Ernest Morgan, 23. All are from Forest City, Arkansas.

Workers were held at an abandoned schoolhouse used as housing, identified as the old Sun City School in Ruskin, Florida. Walter Taylor, Jr. was identified as the operator of the camp.

said that "this tells people how we act and not how we speak."

Dan Sudran said that over 250 Boycott pledge cards were signed. Among those signing pledges were: Idaho's U.S. Senator Frank Church, Robert MacFarlane, President of the State AFL-CIO, and William E. Davis, President of the Idaho State University in Pocatello. Dan said he tried to get Governor Andrus to sign a pledge card, but that he balked, saying that he was concerned that it might include Idaho lettuce. He said that he would let Dan know.

## LOS ANGELES: Ceramics for La Causa

As we struggle to build our Union, we do not struggle alone. Millions of people throughout this country and the rest of the world support La Causa. Dora Keyser, like many of our supporters, had gone through a lifetime of struggling for social justice.

Dora, whose family came from Poland, began to work doing needlework when she was 15 years old. At that time, she received \$1.00 a week for her labor. Even after becoming more experienced at her job, her wages were still only \$15 a week with no job security, nor medical benefits or other services. She became an organizer and joined her fellow clothing workers on the picketlines. Dora saw how much better people live after they won Union Contracts, and she has been a strong defender of the working people's right to organize Unions.

During the 1930s, Dora, her husband and children helped start a cooperative farm with 500 other families. The farm, which was owned collectively by the families succeeded even though it was not subsidized by the federal government. Dora was also

a pioneer in the founding of free schools dedicated to the ideals of justice and freedom. She says: "All of my children were raised in free schools."

Today at the age of 60 years, Dora Keyser, a resident of Echo Park in Los Angeles, continues to put her time and energy into the struggle for justice. She says: "The reason I support you is you, the people who feed us, are treated unjustly. You also have a right to a life of freedom and decent living conditions."

Her house is her neighborhood's center of information for La Causa. People are continually going to her house to find out the latest news about our Movement. To keep people informed, Dora distributes EL MALCRIADO regularly. But her major project is to make ceramics by hand, sell them and send the money she makes to our Union.

She designs cups, ashtrays, bowls, pendants and other items with slogans such as "Huelga.", "Nosotros Venceremos" and "Viva La Causa" painted on them. She purchases the materials for the items her-

self, her financial contribution to La Causa.

Last year Dora made more than \$1,000 for La Causa by selling her ceramics to her relatives and the people she knows throughout the country. Dora explains she first became involved with our Union during the Grape Strike. Dora says, "It was at this time that I met Leroy Chatfield. (Leroy Chatfield is currently Director of Financial Affairs and of the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan.) I had already made some ceramic items on the theme of La Causa and he encouraged me to continue."

Dora Keyser is interested in reaching more people with the ceramics she makes. She also hopes that other people will pick up the idea of using their artistic talents to raise funds for La Causa. Persons interested in purchasing Dora's ceramics are urged to write to the following address for price information:

La Causa Ceramics  
Taller Gráfico  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, California 93531



OUR SISTER IN LA CAUSA, DORA KEYSER



# 150 Farmworkers Picket Butz

BAKERSFIELD, California--Earl Butz, United States Secretary of Agriculture, came to Bakersfield to speak to the California Cotton Growers (CALCOT) Friday night, June 16, and was met by a Union picketline some 150 farmworkers and supporters strong.

Butz apparently avoided a direct confrontation with the picketers by going in the back door.

The picketline stretched for about half a city block on either side of the entrance to the Albert Goode Auditorium at the Kern County Fair Grounds.

Andy Imutan, a Vice-president of the Union and Director of the Union's Delano office, said that the picketers were trying to show Butz that "as Secretary of Agriculture his responsibility is not only to large growers and agribusiness, but also to farmworkers." Hub Seeger, of the Union's Central Boycott office at La Paz and active in organizing the demonstration, added that the Union was "protesting Butz's direct alliance with agribusiness and the Farm Bureau, which he had before assuming his office and has maintained since then."

Participants in the picketline included farmworkers and supporters from Delano, Lamont and La Paz, rubber workers and citizens' groups from Bakersfield, and the Community Service Organization from Bakersfield.

The contrast between the picketers and those attending the dinner was striking.

Men in carefully-tailored suits and sports clothes, often just "modish" enough, and women in evening dresses or "Sunday best" had to walk between two lines of poor people in their everyday working clothes carrying their hand-made signs. Many diners seemed embarrassed, while some controlled obvious anger.

Butz must surely be cursed with one of the most unfortunate names for a man in public life, and the demonstrators took



full advantage of it. Among the signs were those urging "Nip 'em in the Butz" and "Off Your Butz--Support Farmworkers." One conservation-minded demonstrator's sign reminded onlookers that "Smokey Says: Put Out Butz."

Among the picketers was a Norwegian labor journalist, Helge Christophersen, whose sign lent support to the Union and proclaimed that "Butz is an International Incident!"

## Oregon Farmworkers Protest Strawberry Harvester

AURORA, Oregon--The Oregon Strawberry Commission and Oregon State University billed its program June 8 as "a look at OSU's latest model strawberry harvester and an explanation of how it mows off the plants and separates the fruit from the foliage", and "a chance to test your taste buds on strawberries that have been mechanically harvested and processed by OSU food technologists".

Eighty farmworkers who attended saw it differently, in more ways than one.

The public had been invited to the North Willamette Experiment Station here by the Commission and OSU. But when farmworkers showed up, they were told to get a parade permit if they were going to have a demonstration or a picket line.

They asked if they needed a permit just to wander around like everyone else, carrying their signs. The man in charge said he didn't know, he's not a lawyer. So they got in.

They found this "latest model strawberry harvester" in the fields, hard at work. According to Graciela Cisneros, director of Union organizing in Oregon, "the mechanical harvester had only picked up stems, leaves, and green berries, leaving the ripe berries crushed on the ground. It was more like a lawn mower--it cut down the plant to the ground."

"Farmworkers started making fun of the machines and researchers", said Graciela, "shouting 'manos (hands) yes--machines no'".

To illustrate their point, Graciela says that "holding a handful of ripe berries, one lady showed the ranchers what type of berries should be picked."

In addition to the harvester, the Commission was featuring "a look at the most advanced strawberry selections in the USDA-Oregon breeding program--ones having potential as mechanically harvested varieties." The farmworkers wanted to know "why didn't they invent better plants for the workers instead of for machines," says Graciela.

She says that the researchers, in their usual paternalistic manner, claimed that they "understood" our problems, and we are doing ourselves "more harm than good" by this demonstration. When asked why they were taking away our jobs, they replied so that we could have a better life. They claimed that this program wasn't their fault--it is only their job. But when asked would they like a machine to take away their jobs, they gave no answer."



"...it left the ripe berries crushed on the ground.... it was more like a lawn mower--it cut the plant down to the ground."

Photos:  
Graciela Cisneros

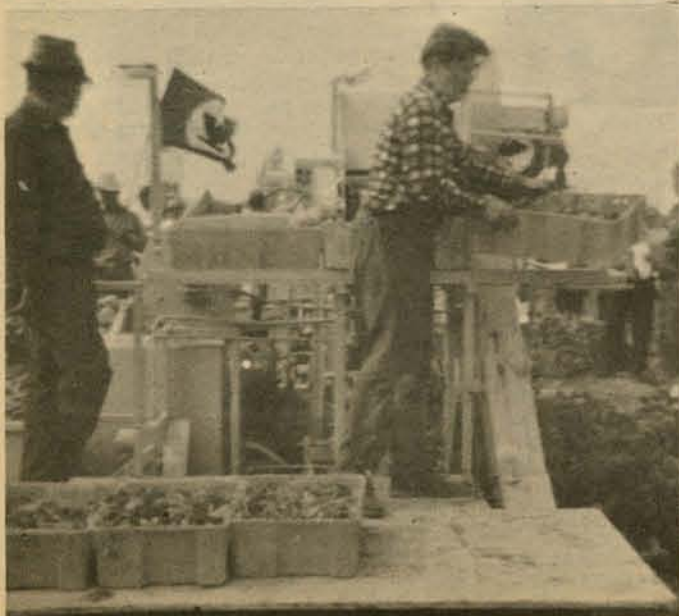


Photo: Chris Sanchez

## Agricultural Research Called Subsidy to Agribusiness

WASHINGTON, D.C. A public interest and consumer protection group called the Agribusiness Accountability Project has charged in a 308 page study that the agricultural departments of America's land-grant colleges have become wed to the interests of corporate agribusiness.

The study charged that most of the public money used for agricultural research goes toward increasing the profits of big growers and thus constitutes a hidden public subsidy of agribusiness. Its title, "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times", refers to one such case where public money was used to develop a tomato hard enough to withstand mechanized harvesting. The tomato turned out to be tasteless.

The study pointed out that while these large research expenditures--perhaps as much as \$1 billion a year--work to the advantage and profit of large corporations involved in agriculture, almost no money is devoted to the problems of the small farmers, rural communities, consumers, and farmworkers.

As a result of these technological developments, the study claims that about a million people a year are being shoved off the land and into the cities as "the waste products of an agricultural revolution designed within the land-grant complex. Today's urban crisis is a consequence of failure in rural America. The land-grant complex cannot shoulder all the blame for that failure, but no single institution--private or public--has played a more crucial role."

In aiding the interests of agribusiness almost exclusively, land-grant colleges

have strayed far afield from their original purpose. The Hatch Act of 1887 set forth the major provisions for land-grant research, and provided for "researches basic to the problems of agriculture in the broadest aspects, and such investigations as have as their purpose the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life and the maximum contribution by agriculture to the welfare of the consumer." The report charged that the land-grant system "has abandoned that historic mission" and is in fact doing much the opposite. Some of the major charges in the report are:

The land-grant institutions' research has focused on projects that primarily aid agribusiness and the biggest producers, such as a two-story factory at Cornell University in New York that tests manufacturing methods for processors, and the development (at other universities) of big and costly planting and harvesting machinery.

A "cozy" relationship exists between land-grant researchers and big companies in which university studies of methods and products are made available for cash contributions from companies. Also, corporate benefits to land-grant personnel, such as consultant fees, raised serious questions of conflict of interest.

The institutions abuse consumers and farmworkers by breeding and cultivating crops primarily for high yields and easier harvest by big machines, with little regard for safety, quality, or food value. It cited the "hard" tomato developed by the University of Florida for mechanical picking as an example.

The study was made by a team of 12 researchers headed by James Hightower who is director of the project and author of the report. At a news conference on the study called by the research team, Henry Fortmann, northeast regional coordinator for the universities' experiment stations, rose to deplore the study, which he said derided serious and dedicated researchers. He said, however, that he had not read the report.

The University of California is among those cited in the report for irresponsible use of public funds.



# THE FARM BUREAU AND ITS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

- \$285,000 a year in tax-exempt income
- Takes advantage of tax loopholes
- Violates federal tax laws

As the International Lettuce Boycott gains momentum, the American Farm Bureau Federation continues its attempt to destroy our Union with its anti-farmworker legislative program. Union Director César Chávez has just been recovering from a 24-day fast he undertook after the Farm Bureau was able to push through the Arizona State Legislature one of the most repressive anti-farmworker and anti-Union laws in the history of the United States.

It is the responsibility of every person who is interested in participating in our Non-violent struggle for social justice to know that the Farm Bureau, a long-time supporter of the growers and other big businesses, continues to ignore the small farmer and leads the opposition against our Union. This is the third of a series of articles on the Farm Bureau in which EL MALCRIADO exposes the true nature of this powerful, wealthy, tax-exempt business empire disguised as a farm organization.

In Part I of the series, we examined the history of the Farm Bureau, its concentrated efforts to promote and expand its numerous business enterprises, its Right Wing affiliations and other political involvements and its anti-Union, anti-farmworker activities.

Part II dealt with the Farm Bureau's anti-farmworker legislative program, starting with its attacks on our Union during the Grape Boycott to its present attempts to destroy La Causa in Arizona and other states. In addition, we learned that the Farm Bureau has consistently opposed all legislation which would benefit farmworkers such as unemployment insurance coverage and pesticide control.

In this article, EL MALCRIADO takes a critical look at the Farm Bureau's tax-exempt status and how it uses its money for anti-farmworker lobbying purposes in violation of federal tax laws.

Information for this series of articles is based upon *Dollar Harvest* by Samuel R. Berger and the various resource materials collected and developed by the different departments in the Union.

While the average taxpayer pays out more and more in personal income and sales taxes, the county and state Farm Bureau chapters of the American Farm Bureau Federation still enjoy their tax-exempt status even as the profits from their numerous businesses increase!

Since 1909, the Farm Bureau has been tax-exempt under a provision of the Internal Revenue Code which generally grants exemption to "labor, agricultural, and horticultural organizations" without any further explanation of the meaning of these terms.

The Treasury tax-exemption provisions pertaining to agricultural organizations only require the organization to:

"(1) have no net earnings exclusively for the benefit of any member, and (2) have as their objects the betterment of the conditions of those engaged in such pursuits, the improvement of the grade of their products, and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their respective occupations."

Unlike the detailed exemption specifications for business and civic organizations, labor unions, religious, charitable, educational and fraternal associations, the exemption requirements do not explicitly prohibit the organization ITSELF from being profit-making and the organization is defined in terms of its PURPOSES rather than its membership. Although other tax-exempt organizations are prohibited from being organized for profit, agricultural associations are only prohibited from having their earnings going to members. Such conflicting regulations within the Internal Revenue Service, applicable to certain exempt organizations and no others, need to be changed to apply to all tax-exempt organizations equally. Such "loopholes" permit the Farm Bureau to expand membership to thousands of non-farmers and reap the profits from its extensive and interconnected commercial enterprises. Thus the Farm Bureau's tax-free income is available for its numerous organizational, political, and especially for its legislative activities.

Despite the Farm Bureau's change over the years from an agricultural to business organization, it retains its tax-exemption which amounts to being subsidized by the federal government.

According to Berger, "In 1950, provisions were added to the Internal Revenue Code to tax some of the 'unrelated business income' of tax-exempt organizations. Unrelated business income tax is paid by most tax-exempt organizations on certain kinds of income they receive from business activities."

Unfortunately all of the Farm Bureau's business income is not covered under the unrelated business income. Other benefits of tax-exempt organizations include the provision that the first thousand dollars in income received each year is tax-free regardless of its source. For the Farm Bureau, this amounts to \$285,000 each year in tax-exempt income, \$1,000 from each state and county organization.

Another tax-free source of income, regardless of its source, is the income derived from dividends. The Farm Bureau's commercial interests include numerous insurance companies and cooperatives handling thousands of dollars in stocks and dividends. An example is the Cal-Farm Life Insurance Company which has distributed over \$500,000 in dividends to its stockholders since 1951. The California Farm Bureau is, of course, one of its largest stockholders. The twelve Farm Bureau life insurance companies throughout the nation, with total assets over \$1 billion, are stock companies which have paid generous dividends over the years to their stockholders.

Much of the rent received by the Farm Bureau's affiliated companies is not covered under the unrelated business income



Photo: Tejada-Flores

tax either, and rent from their older buildings is not covered at all.

What do all these tax advantages for the giant profit-making American Farm Bureau Federation mean to taxpayers and other businesses? It means: the less taxes the Farm Bureau pays, the more taxes the average taxpayer must pay. Since the federal Treasury is losing the potential taxes from the tax-exempt "non-profit" Farm Bureau, the little guy is taxed more on his property, income and sales taxes.

The Farm Bureau businesses, though they must pay taxes themselves, benefit from these tax breaks since the Farm Bureau provides such services as promotion and office space more cheaply than they could provide for themselves or through contracting with another tax-paying business. This



Photo: Tejada-Flores

savings can be passed on to the customers in the form of lower prices or retained as higher profits, thus giving these businesses a competitive advantage over non-Farm Bureau competition.

Another tax loophole under the unrelated business income tax, is the insurance company rebate or "sponsorship fee" from the Farm Bureau's affiliated companies, sometimes amounting to a quarter or a third of the state organization's revenue, which is not subject to taxation. As Berger explains the Internal Revenue Service ruling between the Farm Bureau organizations and their insurance companies, "it specifically covered only the service contract arrangement, where the insurance company gives the organization an overall fee for certain specific services that the organization provides for the company. In some states, however, the payments to the Farm Bureau organization are not specifically geared to the services rendered but are based on a percentage of the total premiums paid by members of the organization who buy insurance."

Prior to 1967, all revenue received from advertisements in its many publications was tax-free. But in that year, the Treasury Department declared that exempt organizations must pay taxes on much of the income they received from advertising in their publications, because "there has been evidence of some tax-exempt groups openly soliciting advertising on the basis that the rate for their magazines is less than competing commercial magazine rates."

On the state and local tax scene, the Farm Bureau enjoys total, or in some areas, partial tax exemption from real property tax. This is a great savings to the Farm Bureau with its hundreds of county and

all of which are treated favorably by our tax system. The oil depletion allowance permits oil producers to deduct 22 percent from their gross income, regardless of the costs incurred in their operations. Again in their 1972 Policy booklet, the Farm Bureau states: "We oppose further reductions in depletion allowances for industries involved in the extraction of exhaustible resources."

The Farm Bureau has been able to acquire the status of "agricultural cooperative" for many of its businesses on the pretext of members working cooperatively together for mutual benefit, but knowing full well the many tax advantages available to such coops.

Agricultural coops are only required to pay 20 percent of savings (profits) to members in the form of cash, while the remainder can be issued in stocks. This permits the coop to retain 80 percent of its profits tax-free. Such an example of this tremendous savings is the Farm Bureau's Indiana Coop with its net income of nearly \$4 million in 1968. As a "cooperative" it could deduct nearly \$3.5 million as patronage refunds and dividends to preferred stockholders, leaving only \$400,000 of taxable income of which only \$10,000 was paid in federal income taxes. A corporation without the status of "cooperative" would have paid as much as 48 percent on the \$4 million, or nearly \$2 million in income taxes!

Naturally in its current policy statement, the Farm Bureau strongly recommends "with respect to the tax status of the Cooperative Farm Credit institutions, there should be an exemption for income used to build legally required reserves to the required amount or returned to the members of the institutions." And in the same booklet, it favors a tax policy which would "equitably distribute the tax burden" and "deplore the trend in federal tax policy to relieve an increasing number of persons from the responsibility to pay income taxes." Yet it refuses to pay its fair share of taxes!

The Farm Bureau is being subsidized by the federal government through its enormous tax advantages. Yet it is the first to vehemently protest against any government "interference" or such aid as welfare. Concerning the food stamp program which has aided needy people through some difficult times, in its policy booklet, it recommends "that the families of workers on strike be ineligible to receive food stamps."

As has been reported in the last several issues of EL MALCRIADO, the Farm Bureau is currently engaged in a vicious legislative campaign introducing anti-farmworker legislation at the state level throughout the country. In using much of its massive profits to support its lobbying efforts against La Causa, the Farm Bureau gives the lie to its own "respect for the law" policy in which it states: "Responsible citizens should protect the concept that ours is a government of laws, not of men. We must emphasize adherence to laws and respect for properly constituted authorities." As Union General Counsel Jerry Cohen informs us, "Federal tax law prohibits tax-exempt organizations from spending their money for lobbying purposes."

Very few, if any, business enterprises, the size and with the profit-earning capacities of the American Farm Bureau Federation, reaps the tax-exempt benefits the Farm Bureau has with its \$4 billion dollar business enterprise. Not only does the Farm Bureau avoid paying its fair share of local, state and federal taxes and thus increase the tax burden for the average American taxpayer, but also, the Farm Bureau is using the money it gains by tax avoidance to attack us, the poorest of the poor in this country.



## President Picketed

Grant also urged the Farm Bureau members to support the Farm Bureau and grower initiative which will be on the November ballot. "The state Farm Bureau has been trying for seven years to get the American Farm Bureau Federation interested in the fact that we have a 'farm labor problem' here. We are beginning to get that understanding." He said it would take a lot of money to get the anti-farmworker measure passed. He admitted it would be very difficult to get it past the voters. (More on this initiative on this Page).

Detailing the reactionary and anti-Union clauses of the Initiative, Union General Counsel Jerry Cohen charged it would prohibit picketing of stores for selling scab produce, and would severely restrict the matters to be negotiated with growers. And even though the initiative provides for elections by workers to select their bargaining agents, Jerry charged that its definition of an "agricultural employee" would rob most migrant farmworkers of the right to vote. The measure requires that to be a qual-

Tuesday morning, D'Arrigo found its production had fallen off 85% in response to Bridges' abusive attitude. On Wednesday, D'Arrigo hired four labor contractors in an attempt to get other workers to

On Friday, in response to a request from Union leadership, the workers went back to work in good faith at D'Arrigo and were producing to their former high levels. Friday night the company announced that Dan Bridges would no longer be used as a supervisor. ¡Viva La Causa!

Here at the Almadén Ranch, La Causa advances always. Recently the company wanted crew leaders to use their own cars to take ice water to the fields as part of their work and without any compensation. The Ranch Committee decided

The company called another meeting with the Committee and offered to give each crew leader a tankful of gasoline per week. The Committee refused the offer and demanded that each crew leader get two hours of pay in addition to the gasoline. The company refused the demand at first, but finally agreed to pay one hour's wages plus a full tank of gasoline to each crew leader that uses his car to take ice water to the fields. [VIVA LA CAUSA!]

(Report by the Information Committee at Almadén in Hollister, California.)

It would be impossible to continue build-

ing our Union with the restrictions contained in the Farm Bureau and grower Initiative. We will struggle for the total defeat of this vicious attempt to stop La Causa!

TALLER GRAFICO • p.o. box 62 • keene, ca. 93531 •



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY SUPPORTS LETTUCE BOYCOTT

KEENE, California -- The Democratic Party's support of our Union's International Lettuce Boycott was hailed June 27 by Union Director César Chávez.

## La Causa Attends Democratic Convention

Dolores Huerta, Vice-President of our Union, and Richard Chavez, Director of Union Offices, left July 7 to attend the National Democratic Convention in Miami, Florida. Both are members of Senator George McGovern's delegation from California.

Dolores, one of the three co-chairmen of the delegation, said the main purpose of their presence at the convention is to see that Senator McGovern gets the Democratic nomination for President. "We also hope

"This is the first time a national party has taken a position so responsive to the needs of farmworkers," César said. "It demonstrates Senator George McGovern's impetus and influence on party policy-making and proves that the people truly control the party."

The Platform Committee of the Democratic Party in Washington June 26 approved two planks which back our efforts to build our own Union. Among other things, the planks urge people to "refrain from buying or eating" non-Union lettuce and specifically endorses our use of the Boycott by farmworkers as an effective non-violent tool to gain recognition for their Union and negotiate Union Contracts.

Both planks to the platform were introduced by Art Torres, a California delegate from Los Angeles and a long-time friend of our Union. Since neither were challenged they will automatically become parts of the Democratic platform.

Our Union also praised the support of the Lettuce Boycott by the Democratic Rules Committee which adopted the Boycott as a rule of the Convention.

Marshall Ganz, Union Boycott Director, said he assumed the adoption of the rule meant that iceberg lettuce will not be served at Democratic Party functions or at Miami hotels where Democratic delegates will be staying.

to instill the Lettuce Boycott as a living pledge in the hearts and minds of all the delegates at the convention."

She said Taller Gráfico has been granted space at the convention and will sell bumper stickers, buttons and EL MALCRIADOs. Taller Gráfico sales will be co-ordinated by Patti Heindrich, Florida Director for the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan, under the direction of Eliseo Medina, Florida Director of Organizing for our Union.

## PROMISE TO BOYCOTT LETTUCE

... I want to reassure you again of my personal support for your efforts to organize farmworkers in a strong Union. Also, that the resources and influence of the Church in Society Department of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are committed to the goals you seek in La Causa . . .

Barton Hunter, Executive Secretary  
Department of Church in Society, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

On behalf of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, I pledge our continued support, efforts and prayers for you and our fellow agricultural workers.

We will be prepared to assist you in any way possible through our organization.

Walter H. Hubbard, Chairman  
National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice

The National Tenants Organization offers its full support and endorsement to the Lettuce Boycott. It is only through poor people joining together in struggle that exploitation can be ended.

Let us know what more we can do.

Jesse Gray, Direct or  
National Tenants Organization

Your moving letter speaks with such power on behalf of human dignity and respect for basic rights of poor people that it ought to melt a heart of stone. Somehow you must win this struggle, and I hope and pray and believe you will.

Somehow we must reverse a value system that puts lettuce ahead of laborers. 'Let the lettuce rot, not the laborers who harvest it,' is the message I am sending to the Governor and the Farm Bureau.

Joseph W. Merchant, Chairman, Department of Ministries to Communities of Special Need, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries

We are pleased to advise you that we are circularizing our Local Unions relative to the plight of the lettuce workers and are urging them to support your effort by not buying any iceberg lettuce until a settlement is made with the Farm Workers Organization.

United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, Gerald R. Coleman, Executive Secretary

Your valiant stand has not gone unnoticed. You can be assured of our thoughts and prayers during your fast, in the struggle against the foes of the farmworkers.

Dr. Paul Stauffer told me had seen you over the weekend. He reported how you suffer physically for your ideals. I'm sure that you do this out of a deep feeling for justice and righteousness. And I sympathize with your prayer. It is my prayer, however, that you do not impair your health so much that you will be unable to be the effective influence for good that you have been during these past years. Our prayers for you are to this end! "Fight the good fight," César . . . I'll be in contact with the misdirected governor of Arizona as well as the President of AFBF . . .

Cecil Pottieger, Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church

This letter is to let you know that you have my support and prayers. You also have the support of many Hispanics within the United Methodist Church. Most of all, you have the support of the conviction that the struggle for justice will ultimately be victorious. May your efforts be blessed.

Isabel Gomez, Associate Executive Secretary, The Commission on Religion and Race, The United Methodist Church

Along with countless others of your well-wishers and supporters, I hope most earnestly for your speedy recovery, and for your return to active leadership in the Union's long, hard effort to achieve justice and dignity for our Nation's farmworkers.

It is a sad fact that for farmworkers the opportunity to bargain collectively--which other workers enjoy as a matter of right--can seemingly be achieved only through such means as public Boycotts of the products of those who refuse to deal with the farmworkers' representatives. I have therefore endorsed and supported your Boycott activities in the past, and want you to know that I will support the iceberg lettuce Boycott during this crucial period in which the Union's struggle for economic justice has become imperiled by repressive State legislation which threatens to destroy what little opportunity farmworkers have had to join together for the betterment of their working conditions. . . .

Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr., Chairman  
Sen. Comm. on Labor and Public Welfare.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM SACRAMENTO

Assemblyman Bob Wood (R.-Monterey) withdrew his anti-farmworker bill, A.B. 9, after it became obvious it would not have enough votes to get out of the Assembly Labor Relations Committee. The bill was backed by the Farm Bureau.

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Marc Grossman, Union Legislative Representative reports that another anti-farmworker bill, A.B. 1214, was introduced by Assemblyman Walter Powers (D.-Sacramento). The bill is still being held under submission, which means it could come out at the last minute before the end of the present session of the California State Legislature. Marc said our supporters are presently writing letters demanding that he stop betraying us.

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Two pesticide control bills have been introduced into the State Legislature: Senate Bill 21-Senator Nicholas C. Petris, (D.-Alameda County) and Assembly Bill 246-Assemblyman Bob Wood (R.-Monterey). The S.B. 21 is supported by our Union while A.B. 246 is supported by the growers, the Farm Bureau and other anti-farmworker groups.

The A.B. 246 would place the job of protecting farmworkers from pesticides in the hands of the Department of Agriculture and California's County Agricultural Commissioners.

Union Vice-President Dolores Huerta condemned A.B. 246 saying: "Vesting the enforcement and regulatory responsibilities for pesticide control with the State Director of Agriculture and the county agricultural commissioners is to ensure that there will be no meaningful enforcement or regulation. These grower-dominated agencies have a long history of bias in favor of agribusiness interests and an equally long record of insensitivity to the needs and aspirations of farmworkers."

In his testimony before the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, Union Legislative Representative Marc Grossman cited how county agricultural commissioners tried to stop Union General Counsel Jerry Cohen's investigation on farmworker pesticide injuries several years ago by refusing to release public record information on pesticide use and application information. He also pointed how officials at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office responded to the recent Parathion poisoning of 13 farmworkers by saying the attacks of dizziness and vomiting they all suffered could have been "psychosomatic."

He told the committee: "I don't know of an equivalent situation--at least in any honest and democratic administration--where

The migrant farmworker is one of the oppressed minorities in the United States. He is compelled to live in sub-standard housing with inadequate plumbing. He is forced to work long hours for little pay. He is denied the benefits which most other American workers now take for granted, such as guaranteed minimum wage, unemployment insurance, health and medical insurance, social security coverage, and collective bargaining rights.

Through the efforts of César Chávez and the United Farm Workers, many gains have been made to attain a level of dignity and security in consonance with that enjoyed by other workers.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis identify with the cause of the migrant worker. We call upon our members to support their efforts of refraining from eating non-union iceberg lettuce and by initiating supporting programs within their congregations and communities.

Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Annual Convention, 1972

The dedication and motivation of these workers and their leaders must be wholeheartedly supported by all working people and concerned citizens who care about decency and justice on our nation's farms.

RESOLVES, that the 28th Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC:

1. Restates its support of César Chávez and the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO; and

2. Pledges to Boycott all head lettuce not bearing the Aztec Eagle of the United Farm Workers for the duration of the Lettuce Boycott, and urges its affiliates to support and participate in the Lettuce Boycott. Viva La Huelga.

Amalgamated Clothing Workers  
28th Biennial Convention, 1972

the agency that formulates and enforces the law is composed of the very people against whom the law is to be enforced."

Marc declared: "... this bill is part of the move by the Farm Bureau Federation and other right-wing reactionary elements in agribusiness to perpetuate farmworker poverty and powerlessness."

He said Union members want constructive pesticide protection. He explained that all Contracts our Union signs with growers contain strong health and safety clauses outlawing deadly chlorinated hydrocarbons such as DDT and restricting the use of organo phosphates by the strict enforcement of existing state regulations and approval by worker-elected Health and Safety Committees.

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Senator David Roberti (D.-Los Angeles) has introduced S.B. 1298 which would require the election of county agricultural commissioners. Senator Roberti favors commissioner elections "to assure farmworkers are given as much attention as the growers." He said, "Commissioners are policy makers and such positions should be elective. Not only do they issue pesticide permits, but they dictate where such pesticides shall be used. People who set such policies must be elected."

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Last year California's Republican Governor Ronald Reagan, vetoed A.B. 1355 which would have extended unemployment insurance to farmworkers. This year Assemblyman Jack R. Fenton (D.-Monterey) re-introduced the bill as A.B. 205. The measure has been passed by the Assembly 42-24 and is now being considered by the Senate.

The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the May 4th (1972) meeting of the California State Board of Agriculture which were approved at the Board's June 1 meeting: "He (Robert F. Hanley of the California Agricultural Conference) also commented on the farm labor unemployment insurance bill that there is little doubt of its passage since a number of agricultural area legislators are co-authors of the bill. It is hoped to obtain as many negative votes as possible so as to strengthen the Governor's hand" (for another veto?).

The President of the California State Board of Agriculture which sets policy for the Department of Agriculture is Allan Grant, who also happens to be President of the California State Farm Bureau Federation. The Farm Bureau opposes unemployment insurance for farmworkers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ in Conference sponsored program (e.g., camps and meetings) will refrain from purchasing Western iceberg lettuce unless it bears the United Farm Workers black eagle label.

10th Annual Meeting (1972)  
Southern California & Southwest Conference  
United Church of Christ  
Claremont, California

BE IT RESOLVED, That this Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference:

1) Affirm its support for the Non-violent efforts of the United Farm Workers as they work to bring justice to the migrant and seasonal farmworkers of America.

2) Express its support and concern for the full recovery of César Chávez following his fast undertaken on behalf of all farmworkers.

3) Ask its constituency to examine carefully the moral issues involved in the farmworkers' struggle and as a matter of individual conscience to refrain from purchasing head or iceberg lettuce (unless clearly marked with the United Farm Workers' black eagle label) until such time as farmworkers and lettuce growers have met as equals and negotiated fair collective bargaining agreements.

4) Recognize both the rights of growers to a fair return on their investments, and the rights of laborers to a fair return for their labors.

5) Accept as a Christian responsibility our need as consumers to pay prices for farm products that will provide for just recompense of both growers and workers.

6) Request the Conference Board of Church & Society, and each District on Ministry to gather, assemble and disseminate facts relative to the farm labor problem and suggest programs whereby local churches of the Conference can enter into constructive action in bringing love and justice to bear in correcting the injustices, working with all available agencies of reconciliation. Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference, 1972  
United Methodist Church  
Redlands, California



# EL MALCRIADO DISTRIBUTOR JAILED FOR NOT EATING LETTUCE

GILROY, California -- José Ponce, a Union organizer who has been organizing the distribution of EL MALCRIADO in the Salinas Valley during the past several weeks, was arrested and jailed in Gilroy Saturday, June 24 for refusing to eat lettuce.

He and Florencio Barrios of the Fresh Pict Ranch Committee arrived in Gilroy about 5:00 p.m. to watch the city-sponsored "Bonanza Parade" scheduled for 7:00. They were interested in seeing the float entered by the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Gilroy, which was to use as its theme the "SI SE PUEDE" slogan made famous by the Union's organizing efforts in Arizona.

Since they had two hours before parade time they decided to get something to eat, and picked Garcia's Cafe at random. They

But when Mrs. Garcia returned with Florencio's plate, there was no lettuce on it just as he had ordered. José said that when she left to get his plate, he again reminded her that he wanted no lettuce.

However, when Mrs. Garcia returned again with José's plate, it had ample servings of lettuce on it. José said he asked again to be served his meal without lettuce, but Mrs. Garcia just walked off.

Mrs. Garcia claimed that Florencio ordered his meal without lettuce, but that José said nothing about wanting no lettuce. She said it was only after she brought him his meal that he said he didn't want lettuce, but Florencio backed up José's story and said he also ordered his meal without lettuce.

José sat there and refused to eat the meal. Finally he says he told Mrs. Garcia, "Please take the lettuce off my plate. Otherwise I'm not going to touch it--or pay for it--until I'm served what I ordered," he says she answered, "Lettuce won't poison you" and, "If you don't pay for the meal I'm going to call the police." José refused to touch the food; Mrs. Garcia disappeared into a back room and in a few minutes the police arrived.

Mrs. Garcia explained her version to the police, saying that José was refusing to pay for the meal he had ordered. José said that he wasn't refusing to pay--he would pay when he was served what he ordered, and that was a meal without lettuce. He pointed out that he hadn't eaten anything, and was simply waiting for what he had ordered.

Mrs. Garcia said at this point she removed the lettuce from José's meal; José said she merely removed a little and pushed the rest around on the plate. In any case, José said the police got belligerent, and told him to pay immediately or be arrested. José said, again, that he would pay when he got what he ordered.

So they handcuffed his hands behind his back. José said he asked what he was being arrested for, and was finally told "for defrauding an innkeeper." He pointed out Florencio as a witness to his story, and said that Mrs. Garcia was the one defrauding him since she wouldn't serve him what he ordered. But the police ignored Florencio and put José in the patrol car.

José explained he was put into his cell about 5:30, without having been advised of his constitutional rights as the police are required to do. When his eyes adjusted to the dim light, he found he was standing on a floor covered with water--the toilet had overflowed, there was no toilet paper and the sink was stopped up. When the Sergeant came back with another prisoner, José asked to be put into another cell; the Sergeant said he was too busy now,



EL MALCRIADO distributor Jose Ponce: "Don't eat lettuce."

that he'd be back later. He never came back. Later a trainee came back to give him dinner--a hamburger smothered in lettuce, which José refused to eat. He, too said he'd be back to change cells for José; he too didn't return.

The next morning--Sunday--José was booked and charged, and the charge against him came as something of a surprise. While he was being fingerprinted, the officer told him he was charged with "resisting arrest" and "interference with the duty of an officer." José said he at no time was belligerent or refused to cooperate with the police. Moreover, the arresting officers told him four times--in the cafe, in the patrol car on the way to the station, while getting out of the car and inside the station--that he was being arrested for "defrauding an innkeeper."

Similar problems arose with bail. Saturday night José's bail was set at \$65, which in itself was surprising, being exactly the amount of money José had with him from sales of EL MALCRIADO. Florencio Barrios, who had followed José to the station, returned to Salinas and got the money from Richard Chavez, director of the Salinas Field Office, after José refused to pay. By the time he got back late Saturday night, he was told that bail had been increased to \$315 because the charges had been changed to resisting arrest. The whole resisting arrest charge seems to be something of an afterthought.

On Sunday "Chino" Vasquez, director of "Trabajadores Adelante" (vocational training program for farmworkers) in Gilroy, raised the \$315 bail money on Sunday and José was released. When he returned to the station on Monday to get a copy of the charges, the woman clerk told him that they were "not typed up yet" and that he couldn't get a copy. She also said something about him being charged with "disorderly conduct". Two days after the alleged crime, the police were still unable to agree on a charge and to have it formalized.

Bill Carder, Union lawyer in Salinas, is handling the case along with a lawyer in Gilroy, Pete Weiner. "Chino" Vasquez has formed a committee of five local Chicanos,

headed by Benito Gomez and José Diaz, both farmworkers, to speak to Mrs. Garcia and urge her to make a public apology to José, buy and serve only Union lettuce in her cafe, and drop the charges. He said that the cafe has a reputation for "treating the Chicano people rough" and that it should be changed. He said that last Friday, 30 to 40 people had come to



"Chino" Vasquez: "May have to picket Garcia's Cafe"

town prepared to picket Mrs. Garcia's Cafe, but that he asked them to wait until the committee had a chance to speak to her.

So José Ponce faces possible fines and jail sentence for refusing to eat lettuce. He has no regrets for the trouble his commitment to La Causa has brought him. When asked how he feels about what has just happened to him, he simply says: "Don't eat lettuce!"



Garcia's Cafe in Gilroy, California

sat at the counter and, according to José, "we both ordered meals and each said, 'Please, no lettuce' when we ordered. I had on "Boycott Lettuce" and "Support Farmworkers" buttons, and the waitress grumbled something about them when we asked for no lettuce." The waitress was Mrs. Garcia, part owner of the Cafe along with her husband.

José said her reaction to the buttons indicated some hostility towards them, and he said to Florencio, "I'll bet she's going to put lettuce on our food."

## Help La Causa

### TAKE THE LETTUCE BOYCOTT PLEDGE

Dear Cesar:

I support your Non-violent efforts to bring justice to America's migrant farmworkers. I stand with you in your fast for the "Spirit of Justice."

I pledge not to eat or buy lettuce until growers agree to negotiate Contracts with the United Farm Workers.

I pledge to tell my friends about the Lettuce Boycott.

I pledge to raise the issue of the Lettuce Boycott wherever I see lettuce (e.g., conventions, fund-raising dinners, airplanes, restaurants, church dinners, dinner parties, etc.).

VIVA LA CAUSA,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

César Chávez, Director  
United Farm Workers  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, California 93531

## Supporters March In Mission District

Photo: Jim Cassell



SAN FRANCISCO, California -- Over 150 farmworker supporters marched recently through the Mission District in San Francisco to show Solidarity for César and his fast in Arizona last month. Carrying flags and signs, the supporters walked 15 blocks from Dolores Park to St. Pe-

ter's Church where mass was celebrated by Father's Jim Hagan, Bill O'Donnell and Moriarty. Some people broke their own fasts during this communion. Father O'Donnell spoke about his trip to Arizona during the 14th and 15th days of César's fast.



# NATIONAL LABOR NEWS

## STRIKE AGAINST FARAH IN TEXAS

EL PASO, TEXAS -- Nearly 3,000 workers, most of them Mexican-Americans, have struck the Farah Manufacturing Company here and in other cities. Farah is one of the world's largest makers of men's slacks and sportswear.

The strike began when the firm discharged a number of active members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and hundreds of their fellow-workers walked out in support. Employees at other Farah plants in Victoria, Texas, and Las Cruces and Albuquerque, New Mexico joined the strike.

The workers are asking Union members and their families not to buy Farah slacks and sportswear. AFL-CIO President George Meany has declared the federation's support of the workers, and says "I urge your complete support of this Boycott."

Hundreds of workers have been arrested for their activities in El Paso since the strike began. Union officials there charge that some of the strikers were taken from their homes in the middle of the night by police.

## NIXON'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM UNJUST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Nixon Administration's economic stabilization program was termed "a vehicle for economic injustice" in an interim report of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

The majority report of the committee lent support to organized labor's argument that the controls have been inequitable and unfair from the inception. The report concluded that:

-- "Inflation is not being effectively controlled.

-- "The control program is serving as a vehicle for economic injustice" and "serves to lock in existing economic inequities and, in some cases, to exacerbate them.

-- "Many of the working poor remain subject to wage control. They should be exempted.

-- "No executive who earned \$200,000 or more in 1971 should receive further increases in compensation of any sort for the duration of the program." As reported in EL MALCRIADO last issue, many high-paid executives have received enormous increases in salary while workingmen's wages have been held down.

## HOUSE VOTES TO SLASH JOB SAFETY LAW COVERAGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The House voted to exclude almost 20 million workers from the protection of the job safety and health law in an appropriations bill amendment that bars federal inspectors from about 90 percent of the nation's workplaces.

The 213-154 vote followed a campaign by small business firms to escape coverage of the Occupational Safety & Health Act. In effect, the House action would prevent enforcement of the law against employers with 25 or fewer workers--regardless of how hazardous the conditions of work.

Organized labor and other supporters of a strong job safety and health program are looking to the Senate to reject the attempt of a conservative coalition in the House to gut the law.

The weakening amendment was sponsored by Representative Paul Findley (R.-Illinois). Chairman Daniel J. Flood (D.-Pennsylvania) of the Appropriations subcommittee labeled it "an amendment that would give a license to kill."

"We are saying to the employer of under 25 employees: 'You don't have to worry about health hazards. Don't worry about injuries. Don't worry about hazards that may result in fatal accidents.' We are giving carte blanche to him."

Representative Dominick V. Daniels (D.-New Jersey), who led the campaign in the House for enactment of the job safety law, pointed out statistics showing that the majority of accidents occur in small business firms--the very workplaces being excluded from coverage.

## TAXATION FAVORS THE RICH

The Federal tax structure is rigged against the working man and in favor of large corporations and the rich, I.W. Abel, chairman of the AFL-CIO Economic Policy Committee has charged in a statement to the Democratic Party Platform hearings.

"Americans are fed up with the lack of fairness in the federal tax structure," he said. "In fact, the tax structure--federal state and local--needs a thorough overhaul to achieve a fair distribution of the tax burden on the basis of ability to pay. Too much of the tax burden is heaped on the backs of low- and middle-income taxpayers, while big business and wealthy families enjoy large and growing tax bonanzas."

Among Abel's charges were: 112 individuals with incomes over \$200,000 paid no federal income taxes in 1969.

Twenty-five percent of U.S. corporations with net income subject to taxes paid no federal income taxes in 1969.

Big business is paying less and less of the federal tax burden. In 1960, corporations paid 35%, while it is estimated that figure will fall to 26% in 1972. This means that the public's share is increasing.

"In short", Abel said, "the federal tax structure is rigged against wages and salaries--against income from work. It is rigged in favor of unearned income because of the triple standard that government applies to income taxes.

"One standard applies to wages, salaries and other forms of so-called ordinary income. This income is taxed in full.

"A second standard applies to income from stocks, real estate and so-called capital assets sold at a profit." These are taxed at a lower rate than earned income.

"A third standard is applied to certain forms of income which never appear on the tax form--interest on state and local bonds, oil depletion allowances, depreciation write-offs, and bookkeeping farm losses. This type of income escapes taxation completely."

Abel concluded, "This dangerous trend must be reversed, without delay. A strengthening of the minimum tax, closing some of the more glaring tax loopholes--such as capital gains and depletion allowances and repeal of the tax bonanzas of last year--would provide an additional \$15 to \$20 billion in needed federal revenues.

"Such essential reforms would put the nation back on the road to tax justice and provide a badly needed increase in the confidence of the American people in the ability of their government to tax fairly and equitably."

## MINIMUM WAGE CUT FOR 45,000 WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Nixon's Cost of Living Council has cut the minimum wage for 45,000 workers in the District of Columbia from \$2.25 an hour to \$1.90 an hour. The reduction applies to hotel, restaurant and other food service workers.

The Cost of Living Council oversees both the Pay Board and the Price Commission, which are charged with regulating wages and prices under Nixon's "Phase Two" economic policy.

The \$2.25 figure had been set by the Wage Board in a unanimous action of the labor, management and government members who sit on the Board. Despite this unanimity, the Council overruled the Board.

This is the first time the Cost of Living Council has intervened to void a legally-set minimum wage; in fact, it is the first time the Council has acted directly on a pay issue.

Joseph A. Beavers of Local 209 of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees, and a member of the Pay Board, termed the cutback "a shabby trick of the Nixon Administration" and "a terrible, terrible thing" to the workers and families affected.

The Greater Washington Central Labor Council, which pressed for the increase in the minimum wage from the old standard of \$1.60 and hour, noted that even a "\$2.25 minimum wage would leave the workers close to welfare standards."

## THE RICH, RICHER THE POOR, POORER

The old saying that "the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer" has been confirmed in a recent study by the Cambridge Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"In 1958, the difference in incomes of the lowest and highest fifths of American families averaged \$13,729. By 1968, the difference was \$18,888," the report states. It showed that:

In 1970, the 10.4 million families in the bottom fifth had an average income of \$3,054, while the 10.4 million families in the top fifth averaged \$23,100 a year.

The top fifth receives close to half of all wages and salaries and 65% of all unearned or property income.

The top fifth of families receives more income each year than the bottom 60%.

## EMPLOYERS STEAL \$300 MILLION FROM WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- While the Nixon Administration pleads for "voluntary compliance" with the federal wage and hour law, chiseling employers will shortchange America's lowest-paid workers some \$300 million in wages due them this year, AFL-CIO Economist Rudolph Oswald declared recently.

Stressing that only a tiny fraction of the unlawful underpayments will ever be recovered, Oswald called for stiff enforcement of the 34-year-old law, vigorous prosecution of violators and penalties that do more than just order employers "to pay the amount they should have paid in the first place."

He said that although wage and hour violations have occurred under "national administrations of both parties," the current Administration "has de-emphasized completely the enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Oswald said about 1.5 million workers would suffer illegal wage underpayments this year, many of them members of minorities or handicapped by language barriers that make it hard for them to be "familiar with the laws and requirements of this country."

He added that with high unemployment and the tight job market, many workers who know they're being underpaid won't complain to the government because "they are fearful that their employer will fire them," even though the law protects them against such reprisals.

He said that violations occur in a wide variety of industries, among both large and small employers in all parts of the country. Agriculture, he said, has a very high rate, and there are comparatively "more violations in the South, where wages tend, as a whole, to be lower."

## SENATE BILL WOULD RAISE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Senate Labor Committee has voted 14-2 approval of a bill which would raise the federal minimum wage in steps to \$2.20 an hour and expand coverage to an eight million workers. Newly-covered groups would include about 150,000 farmworkers.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Labor Committee Chairman Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D.-New Jersey), was strongly backed by the AFL-CIO.

## LABOR DEPT. DECISION CALLED A DEATH SENTENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The lives of thousands of workers are being unnecessarily risked by a Labor Department decision to wait until mid-1967 to impose stricter controls on deadly asbestos dust, the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department has charged.

One of the nation's leading medical authorities on asbestos diseases, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, warned that the Labor Department delay could be a death sentence for many of the workers who will be exposed to asbestos particles on the job over the next four years.

Selikoff stressed that the diseases induced by asbestos dust do not become recognizable until 20 to 30 years after a worker is first exposed to particles.

He cited one case history of a truck driver who is dying of cancer. The disease was traced back to a job the man had for a six-week period 30 years ago in a plant where asbestos was used for the manufacture of brake shoes.

"There are now 500,000 American workers currently or previously employed in regular asbestos work," Selikoff said. "If our experiences of the past several years is a guide, 100,000 will die of lung cancer, 35,000 of abdominal or chest cancer, 35,000 of lung scarring, and many thousands more of other cancers."



"Don't rock the boat!"



# INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO LA CAUSA

## Hana Mere Jackson of New Zealand



LA PAZ, California -- Hana Mere Jackson of Oukland, New Zealand visited the national offices of our Union at La Paz June 25 and met with Union Director César Chávez. Hana, who came to La Paz to learn more about farmworker organizing, belongs to the Maori people, one of the two major indigenous peoples in New Zealand.

Hana Jackson was on the last part of a world-round tour sponsored by the World Council of Churches. She told EL MALCRIADO she heard about César and La Causa when she was in Cyprus for an international women's conference held by Church Women United, an organization of church women concerned about social injustice. The purpose of the conference, attended by women from 29 countries, was to discuss the role of women in peace education.

Hana said she learned about our Union from Dr. Margaret Shannon, President of Church Women United in New York. Later during the conference, a resolution was passed supporting La Causa and our International Lettuce Boycott. A telegram to this effect was sent to the World Press Association.

Hana explained that her country, New Zealand, is located about 1200 miles south of Australia. The population of the country stands at 2.25 million of which 230,000 are Maoris and Polynesians, who are the Native peoples of New Zealand.

She said the Native peoples of New Zealand lost their lands to English settlers in very much the same way that the Native Americans did in the United States. Step by step their lands were taken away by force and by treaties that were never respected.

A treaty was decreed by Queen Victoria of England in 1840 in which the native people of New Zealand were promised some of their lands. But the English settlers undermined the treaty with bribes and more force. Facing starvation, the Native peoples were forced to carry out land wars against the British to defend their land and their families. The British, said Hana Jackson, misnamed the wars the "Maori Wars".

British soldiers moved ruthlessly against the Native peoples, especially the tribes who refused to sign the Treaty of 1840. They

were accused of squatting and their land was taken away from them. They were then forced to grant the white settlers 99-year "leases" at 5 schillings (\$1) an acre.

Hana Jackson explained from then on the Maoris and the Polynesians have been forced to work as farmworkers on their own land. And just as we do here in this country, they have to travel from crop to crop working under inhumane conditions for miserable wages.

Hana told EL MALCRIADO that Maoris, like other Native peoples in New Zealand, suffer under a yoke of discrimination and poverty at the hands of white people there. For example, she said, "The Anglican Church refuses to contribute to Maori missions because of its position that there are in New Zealand 'two races, but one people.'"

She said white people in New Zealand deny that there is a "race problem." "The racism against Maoris and Polynesians in New Zealand is very subtle," said Hana. "Our peoples are kept out of white neighborhoods, they are not permitted to assume decision-making positions and their children are kicked out of schools." She explained that there are a few Maoris and Polynesians who have been given token positions of importance in New Zealand. One is a judge who is twice as hard on his own people than on whites because he wants to be accepted.

But the Native peoples of New Zealand have not taken the injustices passively. Since 1940, they have tried to organize coalitions to demonstrate and protest to change the living conditions for themselves and their families.

In 1952, the Maori Women's Welfare League was formed to voice the Maori people's grievances against the powers that now rule New Zealand. Hana said she is now a member of the League. Also, she explained that the League was now even more aware than ever of the "need to do more than put ointment on sores."

The Native peoples of New Zealand have no real representation nor power in the national government. They are not permitted to vote for the same candidates as the whites, unless they are one-half "European." The National Party of New Zealand has set up a "Maori Council" and its members are used as the "official representatives of the Maoris."

Hana said she felt the time had come for even more serious organizing and the reason she took advantage of the opportunity to travel around the world was to learn how other poor peoples are struggling for social justice. "Information is power," she said.

Hana was very happy to have learned about La Causa because it gave her hope that something can be done to better the lives of her people. She said, "César is the only male leader I have met on my trip so far who is fit to be called a leader."

She was very interested in how we are organizing ourselves Non-violently.

At the present time, there is no farmworkers' union in New Zealand and no set wages. Hana said no farmworker leaders have yet emerged who can effectively organize a union in New Zealand. But she said she would take the message of La Causa, and of our International Lettuce Boycott to New Zealand and perhaps someday soon some New Zealand farmworkers will be able to come to the U.S. to learn from La Causa too.

## Helge Christopherson of Norway

In mid-June La Paz was visited by a fulltime Norwegian volunteer for La Causa, Helge Christophersen. He is a reporter and commentator of one of Norway's biggest newspapers--The Labor Paper, the official paper of The Norwegian Labor Party, which is in power in Norway today. He is also a reporter and researcher on the United States for The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, which has very close ties with Norway's Foreign Ministry. Furthermore, he is engaged by the residential adult schools of Norway (average age of students 18-19 years) as a travelling teacher on La Causa. A forthcoming book on the farmworkers is also one of his tasks.

Helge is a representative of a Norwegian movement in support of the farmworkers of the U.S., a large group of hundreds of sincere members in all parts of Norway. Many influential organizations and government officials are active in the support work. Its sole purpose is to bring about support for the struggles led by the UFW--informing the Norwegians on La Causa, organizing support for the Boycott actions the United Farm Workers initiates, defending and extending the right to Boycott (in Norway as well as in the U.S. and elsewhere), influencing Norwegian-Americans (there are more Norwegians in the U.S. than in Norway), fighting the irresponsible and heavy use of pesticides, raising money for the Union, educating people to fight for economic, political, social and cultural justice and freedom with the weapon of militant Non-violence, and giving them an understanding of what Helge calls "UFW's successful implementation of the elements of what a real labor union should be."

EL MALCRIADO: How would you describe the labor situation in Norway?

Helge: I'm safe in saying that it is better than in your country, in some respects much better, even though we do have problems. The most neglected in Norway today is the handicapped, who have not so far received noteworthy help by the trade unions. But massive Non-violent resistance during the Nazi occupation of our country 1940-45 united our people in a remarkable way and provided the atmosphere for the solution of many of the conflicts within our nation. An all-party government was elected in which all political parties participated. Almost no one protested against the appointment of the leader of the Labor Party as Prime Minister. After a short all-party rule, the Labor Party ruled for 20 years and during that time cured the most serious ills of the labor situation of our country. Such oppression as that of the farmworkers of the U.S. would be unthinkable in Norway.

EL MALCRIADO: Is it difficult to Boycott U.S. scab food in Norway?

Helge: At least it is not very easy. It is especially difficult for the unions, because of our trade policy, our anti-Boycott law and various restrictions. But at least when the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Brussels encourages it, the unions in our country are quick to respond. They are strongly in favor of La Causa. We have also dedicated support from a lot of other powerful groups of Norwegians, and can't see how anyone will be able to stop our advance.

Norwegians are not only concerned with the right of organization and a decent standard of living for the farmworkers, but also with the heavy use of dangerous pesticides in American agriculture. Strong action will soon be taken against import of food produce with such defects. This is a basic question of the safety and quality of the goods, as well as of the protection of the environment and--not to forget!--the health of farmworkers.

We will also do our best to influence the Norwegian-Americans, and we believe it is of the utmost importance that the shameful and ominous proposition against secondary Boycotts that the growers are trying to place on the California November ballot is defeated. The Boycott is a necessary right of the people in any true democracy, it is an essential part of the very right of free speech, organization and peaceful assembly. Our people are now definitely on the move to secure their own right to Boycott, and whatever the obstacles and sacrifices, many Norwegians will give all their strength to secure the victory of La Causa.

EL MALCRIADO: Have you some special comments on United Farm Workers' Union's work?

Helge: The first condition for a successful labor movement is that it--like La Causa--is built, led and controlled by the workers themselves. We in our support work feel completely under your Union's guidance, and are happy to be just that--to be a support movement. Secondly, the strength of La Causa is due not only to the justice of the Cause--the appalling op-

pression of farmworkers--but also to the way in which you are fighting--your heavy stress on thorough organizing in advance of direct action, your determination to block any attempts to make the Cause a political football and your subsequent cooperation with all genuine support groups, your down-to-earth pragmatism and concentration on certain specified attainable goals, and your unrelenting commitment to Non-violence and brotherhood which is the driving force of your movement.

People all over the world certainly have much to learn from La Causa. It has taught many idealistic Norwegians that it is possible to change many of the ills of this world, which seems beleaguered by problems. What is needed, however, is direct and hard work instead of endless dreaming and philosophy. If, for instance, the poor of the developing countries--with dedicated international support--make strong efforts to implement the teachings of La Causa, I think their despair could be replaced with some real hope. We have a big struggle ahead.



EL MALCRIADO: What is the situation of farmers and farmworkers in Norway?

Helge: We have only about 2,000 farmworkers, but we have many family farmers. I might mention that there is much sympathy for your Cause within our farm community; for example, our former minister of agriculture (even in the conservative regime) and the former president of the Norwegian Association of Farmers are powerful supporters. As regards our own farmworkers, they have for many years been unionized together with the lumber workers.

EL MALCRIADO: What are your views on the present US presidential campaign?

Helge: We are deeply encouraged by the magnificent grass roots campaign for Senator George McGovern. I might mention that e.g. our Labor Party is so less firmly opposed to the Vietnam War as you are and is suspicious towards Humphrey because of his supportive role during the Johnson administration. We are also very much in favor of sweeping social and economic reforms in American society, even more far-reaching than those proposed by McGovern. If McGovern is elected president, Norway's reaction would be great relief and a new hope for all humanity.

EL MALCRIADO: Helge, you have mentioned you were surprised by the many difficulties you encountered in getting to La Paz. Can you tell us more about this?

Helge: The Greyhound depot in Los Angeles told me it was only desert in this area. In Bakersfield Greyhound told me that there was no bus to Keene, and that I had to go down to L.A. again and up via Mojave. Down in L.A. I discovered that there were indeed three buses daily from Bakersfield to Keene. Having finally received a ticket to Keene, I underlined to the bus driver that he must stop at Keene, according to the schedule. At Keene he did not stop, an only after repeated urging he stopped between Keene and Tehachapi. I had to walk back. Some days later the bus refused to make a flag-stop at Keene (according to the schedule) when I wanted to go to Bakersfield. And finally I was approached by a highway patrolman down in Keene. In his police clothes and in his police car he launched an angry and passionate verbal attack on me and my stay at La Paz, criticizing Cesar viciously. (He did not mention any traffic violations, etc., since he had no reasons for such accusations.)

I had no Union buttons on my clothes during this incident, but I had a press card from the US Secret Service, which allows me to stay very close to presidential candidates. After shouting and lecturing me at length I made my voice heard and promised him that the next time our Prime Minister visits the US, he'll visit to La Paz, and I hope U.S. highway patrolmen and police officials in the San Joaquin Valley will have improved by then.

## Help La Causa Grow

### START A COMMITTEE OF INFORMATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

### Buy, sell and read EL MALCRIADO !

We ask that your orders be prepaid so we can pay for the printing.

Please send

me \_\_\_\_\_ bundles of EL MALCRIADO in Spanish

and \_\_\_\_\_ bundles of EL MALCRIADO in English

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: (\$5.00 pre-paid for each bundle of 50 papers)

EL MALCRIADO

P.O. Box 62

Keene, California 93531

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Benefits, Rules and Regulations

## Six More Benefits!

SIX new, additional medical benefits, effective in August, 1972, will be announced in the next issue. Watch this page for the new benefits for Union members participating in the Robert F. Kennedy Farm Workers Medical Plan!

Only complete claims will be accepted by the Robert F. Kennedy Farm Workers Medical Plan. ALL KENNEDY PLAN FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL UNION OFFICE.

Effective January, 1972, the Kennedy Plan does not accept incomplete claims. Incomplete claims will be returned to the insured member with directions on how to file a claim correctly.

### What does the complete maternity claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Birth certificate copy (PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL).
3. All bills and receipts relating to the pregnancy.

### What does the complete hospital claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Itemized hospital bill.

### What does the complete surgery claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Green form itemized and signed by the surgeon.

### What does the complete laboratory or X-ray claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Itemized X-ray and laboratory bill.

### What does the complete claim for doctor's office visit claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Itemized green form signed by doctor or the doctor's own form if signed and itemized.

### What does the complete medicine claim include?

1. Pink form (completed by Union member).
2. Itemized bill from pharmacy (cash register receipts cannot be used).

### What happens if a Union member sends an incomplete claim to the Kennedy Plan?

The claim cannot be processed. It will be returned to the member with an explanation of why it is incomplete.

### Where can a member go for help in filing a complete Kennedy Plan claim?

The nearest Union Office is ready to help file complete claims. Or write to: Kennedy Plan  
La Paz, P.O. Box 47  
Keene, Calif. 93531

### Where does the member send the complete Kennedy Plan claim?

Kennedy Plan  
La Paz, P.O. Box 47  
Keene, Calif. 93531

### Does the member have to use a Pink form for each separate benefit?

No. If a member claims several benefits at the same time, for example, a doctor visit, a lab test and medicine, then only one Pink form is necessary.

### Does the member need a separate Pink form for each member of his family?

Yes. For example, if two children in the same family are sick and both must go to the doctor, then separate Pink forms are needed for each child.

### Must Union members file a Kennedy Plan claim for the Low Category benefits if they live in the Calexico or Delano areas?

No. Members living in the Calexico or Delano areas do not have to file a Kennedy Plan claim for the Low Category benefits because the Union Clinics in those two areas provide pre-paid medical care for them.

### What about the High Category benefits for the members who live in the Calexico and Delano areas?

All members who live in the Calexico or Delano areas must receive their High Category Kennedy Plan benefits by being referred to a hospital or a surgeon through the Union Clinics. No High Category benefits for members living in these two areas can be paid unless authorized by the Union Clinics in Calexico or Delano.

### What about Union members who live in the Calexico and Delano areas?

All members who live in the Calexico or Delano areas must receive their pre-paid Low Category Kennedy Plan benefits through the Union Clinics. They are eligible for:

1. Doctor visits. No limit
2. X-ray. No limit
3. Lab tests. No limit
4. Medicine. No limit
5. 24-hour Emergency care.
6. Special health check-ups.
7. Referral to Specialists as needed.
8. Well-Baby services.

### What kind of benefits are available to Kennedy Plan members?

## DEATH BENEFITS

Waiting Period Rule: Effective August 1, 1972.

Members who join the Union are subject to a waiting period of 6 months or 50 hours worked under Union Contract (whichever comes first) before they are eligible for death benefits.

If a member has worked 50 or more hours under a Union contract during the year preceding the month of death, death benefits are payable.

The category of benefits is determined by the age of the member at the time the member first becomes eligible under the Kennedy Plan.

1. If the member has not yet attained his (her) 51st birthday, the benefits will be \$1,000 if the member dies; \$500 if the dependent spouse or child (age 6 months through 18 years) of the member dies; and \$100 if the member's infant (age 15 days to 6 months) should die, after being dismissed from the hospital in good health.

2. If the member has attained his (her) 51st birthday but has not yet attained his (her) 61st birthday, then death benefits payable are \$500 (member); \$250 (dependent spouse); \$500 (child ages 6 months through 18 years); or \$100 (infant age 15 days to 6 months), after being dismissed from the hospital in good health.

3. If the member has attained his (her) 61st birthday, \$250 will be payable on the death of the member or the dependent spouse only. No coverage for dependent children.

#### Exclusions:

1. A member or his dependents who are fatally ill at the time of entry into the Kennedy Plan are not eligible for the death benefit.
2. Dependents serving in the armed forces or who marry or who are in prison are not eligible for the death benefits.
3. If there are two members of the Union in the same family, double benefits cannot be claimed.

## HIGH CATEGORY MEDICAL, SURGICAL, AND HOSPITAL BENEFITS

1. Doctor Visits:  
\$5 maximum per visit.  
12 visits permitted for each family member in a 3 month period.
2. X-Ray and Lab Tests:  
A maximum of \$100 for each family member per year. An additional \$100 maximum per family member per year for an off-the-job accident.
3. Medicine (Prescriptions Only):  
\$15 permitted for each family member in a 3 month period. The plan does NOT include injections, except immunization inoculations.
4. Maternity:  
\$300 maximum.  
Date of birth determines the "Month of Medical Service".
5. Hospital:  
A maximum of \$400 for each family member per year.
6. Surgery:  
A maximum of \$200 for each family member per year.

## LOW CATEGORY MEDICAL BENEFITS

1. Doctor Visits:  
\$5 maximum per visit.  
12 visits permitted for each family member in a 3 month period.
2. X-Ray and Lab Tests:  
A maximum of \$100 for each family member per year. An additional \$100 maximum per family member per year for an off-the-job accident.
3. Medicine (Prescriptions Only):  
\$15 permitted for each family member in a 3 month period. The plan does NOT include injections, except immunization inoculations.

Look for NEW and INCREASED benefits to be announced in the next issue of EL MALCRIADO!

### Who is eligible for the Kennedy Plan benefits?

Union members are eligible for Kennedy Plan benefits based on the number of hours they have worked under Union contract. Only hours worked under a Union Contract can be counted to make a family eligible for benefits.

### How many working hours under Union Contract are needed for the High Category eligibility?

A member is eligible for the "High Category"

IF:

1. he (she) has a total of 250 hours for the 3 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service;\*

OR

2. he (she) has a total of 500 hours for the 6 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service;

OR

3. he (she) has a total of 750 hours for the 9 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service.

\*The "Month of Medical Service" means the month a member goes to the doctor, enters a hospital, his wife has a baby, etc. It does NOT mean the month in which the member files his (her) claim for benefits.

### How many working hours under Union Contract are needed for the Low Category eligibility?

A member is eligible for the "Low Category"

IF:

1. he (she) has a total of 50 hours for the 3 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service;

OR

2. he (she) has a total of 100 hours for the 6 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service;

OR

3. he (she) has a total of 150 hours for the 9 consecutive months prior to the Month of Medical Service.

### Can the number of hours worked by a member's spouse and dependent children be added to the member's working record?

Yes. The number of hours worked by the spouse and dependent children are added to the member's hours, thus keeping the whole family eligible for benefits.

### Can a member extend his High Category eligibility?

Yes. A member may extend his (her) High Category eligibility up to a maximum of three consecutive months by contributing the required self-payment of \$15 per month to the Kennedy Plan during the month prior to the month in which his (her) eligibility would be reduced to Low Category due to the lack of hours.

### Can a member extend his Low Category eligibility?

Yes. A member may extend his (her) Low Category eligibility up to a maximum of three consecutive months by contributing the required self-payment of \$3 per month to the Kennedy Plan during the month prior to the month in which his (her) eligibility would be terminated due to the lack of hours.



We have named our Medical Plan in memory of Senator Robert F. Kennedy because he gave our Cause his unfailing support and gave his life in the defense of the poor.

For more information write:

**KENNEDY PLAN**  
La Paz P.O. Box 47  
Keene, Ca 93531

Or contact your local Union office