

The official voice of the United Farmworkers

English

# EL MALCRIADO



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**NEVER FEAR,  
F.B. IS HERE!**



A. Zermeno



The deepest matters in life are the hardest to explain. For centuries Holy men have fasted as they challenged the established powers demanding justice for their people.

The prophet is not simply a religious leader. He is political spokesman as well. He speaks out in front of all members of society about the faults of society.

The fast of the prophet is to put his life on the line. He takes that which is most human, his right to eat, and forgoes that right. The willingness to give up eating is the same as the willingness to give up one's right to live.

Many people have asked about César's fast. "Doesn't he know that he must be strong for battle?" "What about his health?" "What good does it do to stop eating?" and on and on. All sorts of rationalizations come into the picture. Hopefully, here is some help for those who do not yet understand.

A fast is not an exclusively rational act. It is an act of Faith and as such may not always fit into what appears to be a practical analysis of the problem at hand. An act of Faith is an extension of reason. Some, however, may choose to call a given act of Faith impractical or even imprudent but that judgement is their opinion alone.

César could have been out getting signatures. He could have been speaking. He could have been writing. But he realizes he cannot do it all alone and in times of such severe crisis for La Causa, he opens his heart to spiritual forces. He felt the call to fast. He brought people together from all over the United States to crack one of the dearest nuts of them all, Arizona...arid, dried up and repressive. Within that dead structure he found living people. He was organizing.

The people of Arizona gave us a warm reception. As is often the case, the people are fine; the leadership sick. A fast is

## Editorial

# FASTING FOR JUSTICE

a time to think and reflect.

During a fast we express what we believe. The fast says we believe humanity can govern the earth. The fast expressing our Faith says people do not have to be alienated from their work, from their leaders nor from the land.

Anyone who considered the fast as unreasonable might let us know how he could have organized so many people so effectively with such limited resources. What appears to be impractical suddenly looks practical.

The fast says we believe our power is greater than our numbers. We believe our impact is greater than our size. We believe people are ready for human instruments of change and the job of developing some of those instruments has been given to us. We believe that now, in the latter part of the 20th century, we as poor and lower-income people have identified tools that will bless the 21st century with peace. We have seen these tools work. We have used them. We believe that the Boycott can replace napalm. We believe that Strikes can replace guns. We believe people will accept the enormous power of organized, Non-violent change.

We do not claim to have developed these tools in a vacuum. We did not invent the fast. It has been used for centuries by the peacemakers of history. We did not invent the Boycott. The whole world saw the power of Mahatma Gandhi as he told his people to Boycott British goods, to

Boycott British Courts, to Boycott British political life and British education. His organizing, fasting and Boycotting liberated India from British rule.

The use of these tools rather than the discovery of them is our contribution to a militaristic and corrupt society. We want Senators to fast. Anti-war Senators might fast until the war is stopped. They might put their lives on the line like César did. We think they would get action.

The "powerless" consumers of society can learn how to Boycott and how to Strike. They can fast from any item that is tied to injustice, such as lettuce. They can Boycott that from which they are fasting. Why buy that which you are not eating? You are fasting from lettuce, you are Boycotting it at the same time. A Boycott is a fast. You may Boycott (fast from) one thing or many things. While César fasted from everything he asked the American people to fast from lettuce.

Fasting is power. A people that can fast can control its own destiny. Learning how to Boycott (fast from) certain goods which represent injustice and exploitation teaches people new ways of voting.

The involuntary fasting of our children is a tragedy. As long as we are denied the right to organize for better wages and working conditions, we cannot feed our children adequately. This involuntary fasting causes brain damage from vitamin deficiencies. This kind of fasting, the fasting of children against their will, is im-

moral and inhuman. We can fast voluntarily because we don't want one child to ever have to fast involuntarily again.

Fasting is meaningful activity that does not produce a visible result. In this sense, fasting should not be called work. Work is meaningful activity that is productive. A fast is like playing or praying, it is like celebrating. For this reason many people in a society of work neurosis cannot understand the fast. They will never understand a fast until they understand how to play, how to pray, and how to celebrate.

Celebration does not build the house. We celebrate because of what we are about to do or what we have done. But celebration is meaningful. We have celebrated a fast. It was play but it was not fun. It is not fun to complete the conquest of Mt. Everest or to finish a 50 mile marathon but at the same time it is play. The point is it might have been done an easier way. Why not climb the mountain with a helicopter? Why not win the race with a motorcycle? Were all things done pragmatically there would be no play, no prayer and no celebration.

César's fast has brought us together with a renewed sense of Solidarity. We have been inspired to continue our struggle in Arizona. The people of Arizona are opening their hearts to us and are signing the petition to recall Governor Jack Williams. They are backing us as we struggle in Yuma Valley.

As people are touched by La Causa, they suddenly begin to change and to feel the freedom of doing and saying what they believe. And all over the country we are asking our fellow farmworkers and our supporters to join our ORGANIZED FAST FROM LETTUCE AND TO CONTINUE THAT FAST UNTIL THE REPRESSIVE ANTI-FARMWORKER LAW IS REPEALED IN ARIZONA AND THE GROWERS SIGN UNION CONTRACTS WITH OUR UNION. VIVA LA CAUSA!

## Review Farm Bureau's Tax-Exempt Status

The action of the Governor of Arizona reflects a brazen indifference to the legitimate rights and needs of farmworkers to organize and bargain collectively. It sets a dangerous precedent for other states which could result in a body blow to farmworkers' rights. Once again the American Farm Bureau Federation has shown its true constituency is the agri-giants, and not the nation's family farmers, who support farm workers' rights to organize. In view of the Farm Bureau's activities in this episode, it is clear that the Farm Bureau's tax-exempt status should be reviewed. I join with César Chávez in protesting this most unfair legislation.

Senator George McGovern  
(D.-South Dakota)

## New York City Backs Lettuce Boycott

Dear Mr. Chávez:

Once again you are in the middle of a long struggle for equality and justice for the farmworker--and for all working men. I am today joining you by issuing an order requiring that New York City purchase no iceberg lettuce for its hospitals and institutions. It is our hope that this move will further assist the UFW in organizing farmworkers in the United States. You have my wholehearted and continued support in your courageous efforts. And my best personal wishes for your return to good health.

John V. Lindsay, Mayor  
New York City  
(New York City normally purchases more than 600,000 lbs. of lettuce annually at a total cost of more than \$100,000--Ed.)

## UAW Condemns Anti-Farmworker Law

The UAW stands with you in your fight against the immoral, unjust Arizona law regulating the organization of farmworkers. It is clear that this law was written by employers to prevent farmworkers from exercising their rights to effectively organize, bargain collectively and Strike when they have no other way to obtain a fair and equitable contract and win dignity. Such a law is intolerable in a free society. We stand in Solidarity with the farmworkers and with you in your fight to repeal this unjust, one-sided law restricting farmworkers in their right to organize, bargain and Strike so they and their families can pull themselves out of poverty, oppression and forced subservience.

Leonard Woodcock, President  
International Union,  
United Auto Workers



## History on Our Side

As always you know that you have my support in the struggle to further the rights of the nation's farmworkers through Non-violent means. For those who believe that by passing a law outlawing legitimate Union activities, I would urge them to re-read the history of the first half of this century. Laws were passed to deny the right to strike--and laws were passed to deny the right to bargain collectively. But in the end, men organized; men went out on strike, men bargained collectively. And the laws were changed. They were changed because determined men joined together to demand an end to economic oppression.

In 1965, the farmworkers of California committed themselves to the Huelga--to the struggle for a decent wage and to the struggle for an end to discrimination--and to the struggle for the dignity of all men. In California, much has been won. Many from outside the Chicano and farmworker community identified with your cause and pledged their support. I am proud that my brother was one of the first. And I am proud to count myself among your supporters. I remember, too, in 1968 when Senator Robert Kennedy went to be with you at the end of another fast. The end to that fast marked the beginning of the victory and the first agreements with your Union. I hope and pray that the end to this fast will also mark the beginning of the victory there in Arizona--a victory that will assure the farmworkers of Arizona the right to bargain collectively--the right to Strike--and the right to organize...for those are rights that this nation must protect. It is too late in history to try once again to condemn the farmworkers to second-class citizenship. That effort is doomed to failure--and yours is fated for success.

Viva La Causa,

Ted Kennedy

## PLEDGE NOT TO EAT LETTUCE

We stand with you in your fight against the unjust Arizona farm labor legislation and fully support your efforts to end repression against farmworkers. We pray for your continued health during this time of sacrifice and hope that Arizona lawmakers will finally be awakened to the misery under which farmworkers must suffer. We pledge not to eat iceberg lettuce until lettuce workers are granted their rights to their union. May God be with you in your sacrifice and struggle. Viva La Causa!

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton D. D.,  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit  
Rev. William H. Daniels, United Church of Christ, Detroit  
Rev. Perry A. Thomas, Grosse Pointe Farms  
Rev. David T. Mair, Detroit  
Dr. Richard C. Devor, Central United Methodist Church, Detroit  
Father Paul Fettig, Vicar, East Side Vicariate, St. Anthony's, Detroit  
Garland J. Jagers, Black Secretariate Archdiocese of Detroit  
Father Ron Martus, All Saints Church, Detroit  
Father Raymond Boulanger, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Harper Woods  
Father Victor Clore, St. Francis De Sales Church, Detroit  
Rev. Kenneth B. Woodside, Trinity Unity Methodist Church, Highland Park  
Rev. John Nicholls Booth, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Detroit  
Father Robert Power, Ste. Anne's Church, Detroit  
Father Larry Carney, Ste. Anne's Church, Detroit  
Social Concerns Committee, United Church of Christ, Detroit  
Blanche Barber, Detroit, Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Father Thomas B. Smith, St. Dominic's Church, Detroit  
Sister Kathleen Gillis, Shrine Grade School, Royal Oak

Dear César:

I have been following closely your efforts in Arizona, and like you, fear the dark cloud of repressive state legislation that is rolling across the land. Your act of personal sacrifice is far more than a protest--it is an affirmation of the dignity of all men. I have never understood more clearly the truth of your words that "the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally Non-violent struggle for justice." I respect and admire the depth of your commitment to your fellow man. We need you in the struggle now and in the days and years ahead. So I urge you, Cesar, to consider your health and to limit your fast to a time span that insures that you and your leadership will be with us in the time that lies before us. I love you and all that you represent.

Sincerely,  
Alan Cranston  
U.S. Senator (D.-California)

Sister Rose Steitz, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Detroit  
Rabbi Leon Fram, Reformed Jewish, Detroit  
Rev. James Brimah, Superintendent, United Methodist Church, Detroit, East District  
Rev. Robert Marshall, Birmingham Unitarian Church, Bloomfield Hills  
Sister Ann Elizabeth Porter, Bishop Borge's High, Detroit  
Father Richard J. Cassidy, St. Hugo's Church, Bloomfield Hills

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# HUELGA IN ARIZONA!

• Melon Workers on Strike

• Growers Use High School Students as Strikebreakers



San Luis, Arizona is almost all barrio. The United Farm Workers Field Office is right in the middle, surrounded by sand and trailers, a few hundred yards from the main road to Yuma.

That road is surrounded by melon fields, and the melons are ripe. Coming down from Phoenix late at night you can't see anything, but you know when you're there by the smell. They're ready for picking.

Down that road the other direction from the field office, just a few hundred yards, is Mexico. Sonora and San Luis. Every day, hours before the first light, hundreds of farmworkers pour over in contractors' busses, old cars, on foot. Green carders, cheap labor, the growers' last necessary link to the big profits.

Early on the morning of May 31 those workers were met at the border by Union organizers. They had heard rumors for days about a Strike, and the organizers were letting them know that today was the day.

Union Organizer Manuel Chavez had figured the time was right. He had been in San Luis for just two weeks, straight from Florida where he was instrumental in winning the Union contracts with Coca-Cola Company and H. P. Hood, Inc. "You never know how a Strike's gonna go", he said, "you just never know 'til you're out there. But I promise you, there'll be action!"

The organizers came back from the border at the first light; everyone else joined them in about a dozen cars and trucks, Huelga flags flapping out the windows, down the Yuma road to the fields. The sun was just up when we hit the first fields.

"Huelga! Compañeros! Huelga! (Strike, Brothers, Strike!)", the cries went up immediately. About fifty men lined the road with their flags and voices. There were about sixteen crews and their supervisors in the fields. There was a little hesitancy at first, but soon they started coming out. Manuel jumped from place to place, shaking hands and pounding backs, talking non-stop as workers left the fields. Within a half an hour, everyone--everyone--had left those fields--except the supervisors, of course. Men stood around, talking, breaking open melons and eating, nervously laughing in their own courage. Manuel was ecstatic. "I didn't expect this", he said. "Not everyone. I mean, that doesn't happen very often you know. Most, but not everyone. This is great. They'll lose \$15,000 in these fields alone today. These melons are ready--if they don't get them today, they don't get them period."

By this time the state patrol was there. They kept us out of the next fields, which was accessible only by a private road. They were later in the day to allow growers to block public roads to prevent organizers

from getting to workers--block them with their own cars and trucks.

Manuel took the men who had just left the fields back to the Union office, where he gave them a quick talk about what was happening and what the Union's plans were. Then he dispatched them to other fields to urge other workers to strike. In one hour these men had gone from workers to strikers to strike organizers. By the end of the day several hundred had left the fields.

Within a couple of days the figure topped a thousand. According to Jerry Cohen, General Counsel to the Union, between 1,400 and 1,800 workers joined the Strike by June 6. Jerry said there were about 70 melon fields in the Yuma-Dome Valley area totaling 8,000 acres and that pickets found melon crews in only about ten fields the day before. The growers were really hurting. The Farm Bureau called a press conference in Phoenix to say, in their usual contradiction, that the strike wasn't having any effect but ought to be stopped (See page 13). The growers went to their local judge to try to do just that.

On June 2 they got a restraining order, which restricted pickets to fourteen per field, fifty feet apart; any other picketers had to be fifteen yards outside the field. On June 9 this provision was thrown out and picketing was limited to fourteen per field, period. No more than three people were allowed at one entrance.

The growers brought in 500 to 600 local high school students to try to break the Strike. The Union responded in the strongest terms:

"The Executive Board of the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, condemns the use of strikebreakers in Yuma, year after year. It is a blatant act of racist oppression to use white students annually to frustrate and prevent agricultural workers from achieving their legal and legitimate goal of self-representation by the Union of their choice. The exploitation of children to deny workers the protection and advantages of a Union Contract enjoyed by most other American workers is shameful and intolerable and would not even be considered in any other American industry."

The Yuma Vegetable Shippers Association went on to use the radios to broadcast appeals for strikebreakers all over the Yuma Valley.

Nonetheless, Manuel called the Strike successful, saying that the fields were three-fourths empty of workers with students and a few other strikebreakers the only ones working.

Manuel called the restraining order "harsh and a violation of our constitutional rights." On June 9 a hearing was held and

the Union was asked to show cause why the order shouldn't be continued. Two hundred farmworkers--all that the court room could hold--attended, while others waited outside.

The growers told the court that the Strike wasn't really a Strike--that there was no protest over wages or working conditions, that the men had left the fields for the sole purpose of showing sympathy for Cesar's fast. They therefore demanded that it be halted.

David Camacho, Union organizer in San Luis, responded by testifying that workers had come to him complaining about piece-rates and working conditions, and that these grievances were the real basis for the Strike.

The growers' attorneys, out of either ignorance or arrogance, asked David to name one--just one--worker who had come to him. David turned to the audience and pointed out one man, then another, each of whom agreed that they had complained to him. Soon others raised their hands, saying they were dissatisfied. Then the whole audience was on its feet, angrily asserting that the Strike was indeed legitimate and should in no way be restrained.

A grower named Pasquinelli, owner of the fields that were hit first on the morning of May 31, testified as to the Strike's effectiveness. He said he lost over half of his workers in the first few days, and that on one day when he had 1,300 acres to be picked he had workers to cover only 200.

Manuel and our farmworker brothers in the Yuma-Dome Valley have thrown the growers' repressive anti-farmworker law, just recently passed, back into their faces. The feature of the law that the growers and the Farm Bureau keep extolling is the provision for secret ballot elections for the selection of a Union. Manuel has declared publicly, "I challenge any grower in the Yuma Valley to let us prove to him that we represent all his farmworkers--either by a secret ballot election or a card check election. I have already proven it by a Strike."

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

Striking farmworkers have gone back to work in the melon fields of the Yuma Valley. The Strike forced growers to double their wages, from \$20-25 to \$40-60 a day. However, no Union Contracts have been won, and Manuel promises that the struggle will continue in the Yuma Valley, and wherever else melons are harvested, until workers are under Contract. Viva La Causa!





# CESAR CHAVEZ ENDS 24-DAY FAST

- 6,000 attend Mass - SI SE PUEDE!



Union chaplain Father Joe Melton, along with representatives from religious communities all over Arizona, celebrated the Mass in memory of Robert F. Kennedy at which César ended his 24-day fast.

PHOENIX, Arizona--Union Director César Chávez ended his fast of love on its 24th day during a memorial Mass in honor of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy. Six thousand farmworkers and supporters crowded into the convention hall of the Del Webb Towne House June 4 to join César for the Mass.

César was brought by ambulance to the convention hall from Memorial Hospital where he had been sent by doctors after he began to suffer severe stomach pains resulting from his prolonged fast. Despite not having eaten for 24 days, he was able to walk slowly into the hall to attend Mass. A roar of enthusiastic shouts of "SI SE PUEDE!" rose from farmworkers and supporters as César went to take his seat.

Union Chaplain Joe Melton presided over the Mass, concelebrating with several other priests and religious leaders. During the Mass he declared, "We don't need a sermon of words, for we have the sermon in actions. We have César's fast, the Strike of the farmworkers in Yuma, the sacrifices that are being made by all who are passing petitions in this state to open some light and some freedom for God's people, and the sacrifices of all of those working on the Lettuce Boycott here and throughout the country."

"So I only ask", Joe said, "that for a moment we reflect in silence on the word of God as we have heard in the Scriptures and as we experience it all around us and within us in this great struggle by farmworkers and their friends to achieve the justice God wants for his children and to which all men have a right."

He said "each one of us should ask ourselves, 'how willing am I to be more human, more willing to stand up for justice, no matter what the price.'"

César's statement in which he terminated his 24-day fast was then read in Spanish by Gustavo Gutierrez, Director of Organizing for the Union in Arizona, and in English by Chris Hartmire, Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry. César was too weakened by his fast to read it himself.

In the statement César thanked farmworkers and our supporters throughout the country for their support during his fast and their continuing support for La Causa in Arizona and on the Lettuce Boycott. He said, "The fast was meant as a call to sacrifice for justice and as a reminder of how much suffering there is among farmworkers."

César declared; "We can choose to use our lives for others, to bring about a

better and more just world for our children.... If you give yourself totally to the Non-violent struggle for peace and justice, you also find that people will give you their hearts and you will never go hungry and never be alone.

"God give us the strength and patience to do it without bitterness so that we can win both our friends and opponents to the cause of justice," he concluded. (Full text of César's statement on Page 5).

César's statement received a prolonged standing ovation accompanied by the slogan that has become so well-known throughout the state of Arizona: "SI SE PUEDE! SI SE PUEDE!" ("IT CAN BE DONE!")

César then broke his fast with a piece of sacrificial bread from the 100 loaves that were blessed and distributed to the 6000 farmworkers and supporters by the large number of religious leaders and clergymen present.

A feeling of relief and joy spread throughout the crowd after César terminated his fast. Doctors' reports had indicated his health was deteriorating badly, causing nationwide concern.

Jerome Lackner, who has been César's doctor for more than six years, told reporters at a press conference before the Mass that "June 4 was the 24th day of the fourth fast of César Chávez. His medi-

cal condition has progressively deteriorated. As stated before, this fast was superimposed on a condition of poor health, especially of malnutrition. His weakness has progressed and his back pains have worsened."

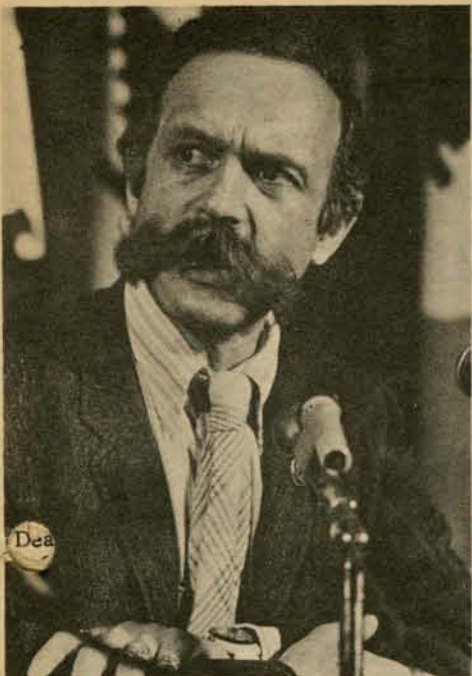
Jerome went on to explain that César was deficient in almost all vitamin levels and that his muscles were greatly weakened.

He said, "During the past two weeks Dr. Augusto Ortiz, who has attended him daily, and I have urged him to terminate this fast on medical grounds. Because of the adverse changes in his heart muscles the doctors' concern which was heavy be-



César takes bread for the first time in 24 days. He was accompanied to the Mass by Joan Baez (center), who sang at its close.





Jerome Lackner: "...César's cardiogram brings tears to my eyes..."

has been hospitalized he has had communion brought to him daily, but he has not been able to go to Mass. And because of his insistence to attend the Mass, which is a memorial for persons he held dear and cherished, we will allow him to be transported by ambulance to stay for Mass only and immediately thereafter, return to the hospital by ambulance."

"When his fast is completed, God willing it will be soon, we will keep him hospitalized, start him on vitamin injections, and gradually progress his diet from liquids to soft and then to solid foods. He will remain hospitalized until we are confident he has regained sufficient strength to be transported to convalescent surroundings. Following his discharge from the hospital he will need two to three weeks of absolute rest and freedom from pressure."

When asked about the dangers of permanent damage to César's health as a result of his fast for social justice, Jerome Lackner said: "The dangers of permanent damage are always present, how much there is remains to be seen. All I can say is that each fast has taken a toll of his general health, this fast has taken a greater toll than in the past."

After the Mass, Union Vice-President Gilberto Padilla introduced Joseph Kennedy, 19, son of our fallen brother, Senator Robert Kennedy. Joseph, who was given a resounding welcome, said "I am honored to stand here with César Chávez, where my father stood four years ago."

"I hope the end of this fast is the beginning of a victory here in Arizona," he said. "My father believed in dreams and

fore has become even more intense. And in the last few days our urgings that the fast be terminated have naturally been escalated. Especially as a result of discussions with him last night and this morning, Dr. Ortiz and I are very hopeful,



Augusto Ortiz, the doctor who attended César daily during his fast, read a statement of support from Arizona Mexican-Americans at the Mass.

please God, that he will end his fast soon."

Jerome was asked how much longer he thought César could continue his fast. he replied: "To be honest with you, I can tell you as a close personal person to him, who has taken care of him for six and a half years, to look at his cardiograms today and yesterday as compared to the ones he had before starting his fast brings tears to my eyes."

"Today," Jerome continued, "César is very desirous of attending Mass. Since he

I believe men must have those dreams to live.

"And so I say to any of you who has doubts about victory in Arizona," he declared, "SI SE PUEDE!" He raised his fist and the people rose to cheer and give him a standing ovation.

Chris Hartmire, Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, then spoke to the large gathering to thank all of the religious leaders who had come to share in the memorial service. He also introduced



Yaqui Indians honored César by presenting as an offering their famous dance to the Virgin of Guadalupe, ordinarily performed only once a year.

Paul Schrade, a long-time supporter of our Union and one of the persons wounded when Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated four years ago. During his brief remarks, Chris mentioned that Angela Davis, a Black fighter for justice accused of murder by the U. S. government, had been acquitted. A burst of joyous cheers came from the people.

Union Board members Andy Imutan and Julio Hernandez also spoke saying that "Arizona will never be the same again" and that "we must change this system that makes the rich richer and the poor poorer."



Father Joe addresses the more than 6,000 people who attended the Mass in memory of Robert F. Kennedy.



Joseph Kennedy III (center) represented the Kennedy family at the Mass and took part in the long march which preceded the Mass. Farmworkers from all over Arizona marched in solidarity with César and in memory of Joe's father, Robert F. Kennedy.

Union Director of Organizing and Research James Drake announced that the campaign to recall Governor Jack Williams had obtained more than 27,000 of the 103,000 necessary signatures so far. Governor Jack Williams signed an anti-farmworker bill into law May 11 and refused to talk to either farmworkers or to Union Director César Chávez before doing so. The law was authored by the Arizona State Farm Bureau Federation and is aimed at destroying our Union in that state.

The day's activities were ended with some songs by Joan Baez, who came to Phoenix to support Cesar's fast and the Lettuce Boycott. (See story on page 9.) Joan was introduced by Union Vice-President Philip Vera Cruz who said "Hot weather is not the only thing we have in common with the people of Arizona. We both have bad governors too." He stressed the importance to continue La Causa's struggle in Arizona and throughout the country.



# COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF ARIZONA ANTI-FARMWORKER LAW

As was reported in the last issue of EL MALCRIADO, on May 11 the Arizona State Legislature passed H.B. 2134, a repressive anti-farmworker bill. The bill was signed into law by Arizona Governor Jack Williams less than an hour after it was passed. The Boycott department of our Union has put together a comprehensive analysis of H.B. 2134.

According to the analysis, H.B. 2134 is a blatant example of the Farm Bureau's efforts to pervert the legislative process to deprive farmworkers of their right to organize a Union and to bargain collectively. It is an unconstitutional deprivation of farmworkers' First Amendment freedom of speech and freedom of association. The law's processes are a racist attempt to deny farmworkers due process and equal protection of the laws. Its provisions are flagrantly punitive. Not only are they directed against a single union, the United Farm Workers -- but they discriminate against field laborers who already suffer the lowest wages and poorest working conditions of all workers.

In effect the bill virtually stops migrant and seasonal farmworkers from voting; establishes an undemocratic voting process as the only means of getting recognition; makes impossible the development of any meaningful bargaining position; makes negotiating a meaningful Contract both impossible and illegal; and then provides an opportunity for a grower to get out of a Contract should one ever be negotiated. Furthermore, farmworkers and their supporters are subjected to criminal prosecution for activity that is perfectly legal for all other workers in the state of Arizona.

The bill prevents an effective Boycott in Arizona:

- secondary Boycotts are completely banned.

- primary Boycotts are severely restricted.

- It is a criminal act for a farmworker or a supporter to even "encourage" supermarket personnel to discontinue an agricultural product.

- you cannot ask consumers to Boycott "non-Union lettuce" but rather must identify each of the many labels that are being Boycotted.

- any mistatement of fact in Boycotting is a violation of the law.

- no Boycott activity is permitted if the grower has recognized another union (Teamster Sweetheart contracts) or if some of the workers on his ranch have had an election during the preceeding twelve months.

- Union members as well as their supporters are subject to criminal penalties should they go outside those Boycott limits.

The bill's undemocratic election procedure is designed to deny seasonal and migrant farmworkers the right to vote:

- unless a seasonal worker has worked at the ranch some time in the preceeding calendar year he is ineligible to vote in an election.

- the grower supplies the board with the list of eligible voters.

- the Union is denied access to the workers, both in the fields and in the camps or camp housing, prior to the election.

- the board has discretion to separate units of temporary and permanent employees so that one election may not cover all the employees on the ranch.

- the procedures established by the bill would take eight (8) weeks or more before an election could be held. In most crops it would be impossible for anyone but the permanent, mostly white, workers to vote. This section particularly discriminates against Chicanos and seasonal workers.

- even if the workers did elect a union to represent them, once the season was over the bill provides that the grower can move to decertify the union. The decertification procedure is much easier than the procedures established for certification.

- this stacked election process is the only method of union recognition allowed by the bill. Card check elections and ratification elections are not recognized.

Farmworkers' right to Strike is denied:

- should farmworkers Strike, the grower need only petition the court with an affidavit that he may suffer \$5,000 crop

- Racist attack on Farmworkers by Farm Bureau
- Sets up undemocratic voting process
- Aimed at destroying our Union



The Farm Bureau has steadfastly opposed child-labor laws for agriculture, and the onion fields outside Phoenix were full of children during César's fast for justice. United Farm Workers' Contracts control child labor, but this anti-Union law the Farm Bureau has pushed through in Arizona will make Contracts difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

damage in order to obtain an automatic 10 day injunction. No notice to the Union nor hearing is required.

- after the 10 day period the court can extend the injunction further, perhaps indefinitely.

- if the grower invokes this injunction, then the bill calls for binding arbitration of the dispute. This deprives farmworkers of their right to collective bargaining in such circumstances.



People from all walks of life in Arizona are signing our petition to recall Gov. Jack Williams for his part in the passage of this repressive farm-labor law.

- the bill also requires another lengthy election to determine whether or not the workers can even Strike.

The bill promotes the abuses of the labor-contractor system:

- under this bill labor contractors are given the same legal status as employers that growers have.

- the provisions call for conducting elections among contractor's crews and negotiating contracts with contractors. This is impossible when in reality they are nothing more than agents of growers.

- language in the bill makes it very questionable whether the present hiring hall arrangement, designed to cure the abuses of the labor contractor system, could continue in Arizona. This is also true for the seniority system designed to protect workers' rights.

- "hiring" is defined as a "management right" under the bill so the Union could not even negotiate regarding the procedures and criteria regarding it.

Meaningful collective bargaining agreements are impossible under this bill:

- even should the Union win a representation election, the workers could never negotiate anything more than a meaningless contract. Robbed of the threat of the Strike and Boycott the grower could bargain indefinitely until the workers became completely frustrated or agreed to accept whatever he wished to offer.

essential areas of controversy are excluded from the bargaining process by this bill:

- time, assignment, and places of work.
- size and make-up of crews.
- hiring, suspension and discharge of employees.
- standards and quality of works.
- method, equipment, facilities, and machinery used in growing and harvesting crops.

Both the board and its processes are designed to impede justice for workers:

- the Governor of Arizona will appoint the seven (7) - man labor relations board as well as its general counsel, who is the only attorney permitted to advise the board.

- this is the man who called "John Birch Day" in Arizona in 1971, refused to meet with farmworkers before signing the bill and referred to farmworker pickets as non-existent people.

- the procedures set out for the board to determine unfair labor practices are lengthy, expensive and deliberately obstructionist.

- the process would take from six (6) months to a year and is designed to bottleneck and frustrate workers in their attempts to obtain resolution of their grievances. On the other hand, growers whenever they are aggrieved can go quickly to the superior court for immediate relief.

- workers would have to retain an attorney to represent them before this board and pay from \$200-\$300 for transcripts if they wished to appeal.

The Arizona bill subjects farmworkers and their supporters to criminal sanctions for acts lawful for other workers and citizens:

- any violation of the act by any person is subject to not only civil liability but also criminal prosecution with penalties of a \$5,000 fine, one year in jail or both.

- unfair employee labor practices are subject to the above criminal penalties also.

- therefore, a farmworker or any person acting on behalf of the Farm Workers Union could be arrested for encouraging their neighborhood grocer or even their neighbor not to buy lettuce, or "any other generic agricultural product."

- that the bill is directed primarily against the United Farm Workers is made perfectly clear by both the language of the bill and comments on the House floor. Though one of the justifications for the bill is to prevent Strikes with perishable crops, stitchers, packers and haulers who deal with the same crops are excluded from coverage under the law. Only field laborers are included.

- when asked during floor debate why this was so, one of the bill's proponents replied, "Because they belong to other unions. We all know that this bill is directed only against the Farm Workers Movement."

## ARIZONA LAW DOES IT AGAIN....

As many people know by now, the United Farm Workers is engaged in a massive campaign to recall Arizona Governor Jack Williams. Such a recall requires the signatures of 103,000 registered voters.

Since many people in the poor communities of Arizona are not registered, recall campaign has, of necessity, become a voter registration drive also.

Here is how the State of Arizona strikes again: the law says that registrars shall be assigned to communities in proportion to the number of people who voted in the last election.

In other words, those communities where a lot of people are registered and voting will be assigned a lot of registrars--even though they don't need them. But poor Black and Chicano communities, where relatively few people are registered and voting will get relatively few registrars even though the need is greatest there.



## Cesar Chavez:

The following is the statement issued by César at the end of his 24-day fast June 4.

I want to thank you for coming today. Some of you have been to the Santa Rita Center many times. Some have made beautiful offerings at the Mass. I have received letters and telegrams and Lettuce Boycott pledges from all over the world. All of these expressions of your love and your support for the farmworkers' struggle have strengthened my spirits and I am grateful. I want especially to honor the farmworkers who have risked so much to go on Strike for their rights. Your sacrifices will not be in vain!

I am weak in my body but I feel very strong in my spirit. I am happy to end the Fast because it is not an easy thing. But it is also not easy for my family and for many of you who have worried and worked and sacrificed. The Fast was meant as a call to sacrifice for justice and as a reminder of how much suffering there is among farmworkers. In fact, what is a few days without food in comparison to the daily pain of our brothers and sisters who do backbreaking work in the fields under inhuman conditions and without hope of ever breaking their cycle of poverty and misery. What a terrible irony it is that the very people who harvest the food we eat do not have enough food for their own children.

It is possible to become discouraged about the injustice we see everywhere. But God did not promise us that the world would be humane and just. He gives us the gift of life and allows us to choose the way we will use our limited time on this earth. It is an awesome opportunity. We should be thankful for the life we have been given, thankful for the opportunity to do something about the suffering of our fellowman. We can choose to use our lives for others to bring about a better and more just world for our children. People who make that choice will know hardship and sacrifice. But if you give yourself totally to the Non-violent struggle for peace and justice, you also find that people will give you their hearts and you will never go hungry and never be alone. And in giving of yourself you will discover a whole new life full of meaning and love.

Nan Freeman and Sal Santos have given their lives for our Movement this past year. They were very young. It hurt us to lose them and it still hurts us. But the great-

"We should be thankful for the opportunity to do something about the suffering of our fellowman."



Felipa Ramirez of the Union Field Office in Tolleson, Arizona helps to inform farmworkers about the nightly Mass that was celebrated during César's fast.

est tragedy is not to live and die, as we all must. The greatest tragedy is for a person to live and die without knowing the satisfaction of giving life for others. The greatest tragedy is to be born but not to live for fear of losing a little security or because we are afraid of loving and giving ourselves to other people.

Our opponents in the agricultural industry are very powerful and farmworkers are still weak in money and influence. But we have another kind of power that comes

from the justice of our Cause. So long as we are willing to sacrifice for that Cause, so long as we persist in Non-violence and work to spread the message of our struggle, then millions of people around the world will respond from their hearts, will support our efforts ... and in the end we will overcome. It can be done. We know it can be done. God give us the strength and patience to do it without bitterness so that we can win both our friends and opponents to the cause of justice.

## AFSME Donates \$46,310 to La Causa

PHOENIX, Arizona--William Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, presented our Union with \$46,310 donated by federation members to support the Boycott and the Strike effort in Arizona. William made the presentation during a speech before the 6,000 farmworkers and supporters that attended the memorial Mass at the Del Webb Towne House June 4.

William Lucy was introduced to the people by Tony Orendain, Union Treasurer and director of the Union's organizing efforts in Texas. The \$46,310 were collected during AFSME's recent convention

in Houston, Texas after a call for support by Union organizer Eliseo Medina, who is now organizing in Florida.

During his presentation, William stressed the similarities between our Union and AFSME in that they are still "struggling for justice against those that have the power within our system."

He said, "Our own organization has also marched in city after city in an effort to achieve justice and dignity for the people we represent. We have struggled from Memphis, Tennessee, New York City to Baltimore and Miami. And we, like you, continue to struggle to achieve decency and dignity in this society."

William Lucy was interrupted with cheering and applause as he spoke to the hearts of all present. "The right of a worker to sit as an equal at the bargaining table with his employer, is a basic right," he declared. "Martin Luther King said a few years ago that if we have nothing to die for, we have nothing to live for."

"I believe the right to bargain collectively is a right worth dying for and struggling for," he said. "And that is what you and I are fighting for--to bring this basic right to people who have been without power for so long."

He announced that at its recent national convention in Houston, Texas, AFSME passed a resolution not only supporting La Causa, but also to give its total organizational support to the International Lettuce Boycott.

He said, "Starting tomorrow, the word will go out to our 550,000 members: BOYCOTT LETTUCE". A wave of enthusiastic applause swept through the people.

"Also," William Lucy continued, "through our political and legislative bodies we will try to do everything possible to help you repeat that repressive law denying you the right to move forward in the state of Arizona."

And he concluded by saying: "Any real moral commitment to a cause involves a financial commitment. And our members have opened up their hearts to La Causa and today we are presenting you with a donation of \$46,310. Our organization, along with many other fine organizations, have too long sat on the sidelines as those with power oppress those without it. So I say to you, VIVA LA CAUSA."

In accepting the donation for the Union, Tony Orendain said: "As farmworkers, we still don't have the right to put a price on the sweat of our brow, a right which should be sacred because it is the only one God has given us. So all we can do to thank Brother William and his union is to say, 'may God bless you', and to present him with one of our Huelga flags, which represents all we have struggled for during the past seven years."

The donation by our sisters and brothers in AFSME will help to pay for some of the heavy expenses we must bear as we continue with our Lettuce Boycott and our Strike in Arizona.



William Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer of AFSME, announces his Union's generous financial contribution to our struggle. Tony Orendain (left) introduced William to the 6,000 farmworkers and supporters gathered at the mass. Tony is director of Union organizing in Texas.



# RELIGIOUS LEADERS BACK FAST AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT

PHOENIX, Arizona -- A group of 40 Protestant and Roman Catholic religious leaders issued a public statement May 25 asking for the repeal of Arizona's anti-farmworker law and urging all "concerned men and women" to support our Union's International Lettuce Boycott.

The statement was issued after the religious leaders met with Union Director Cesar Chavez during his fast for social justice. The leaders came to visit Cesar from all parts of the country at the invitation of the National Farm Worker Ministry of the National Council of Churches. The group attended religious services with Cesar Chavez, farmworkers, and our supporters.

Leaders of the National Farm Worker Ministry met with William J. Kuhfuss, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, on May 23 and charged him with the responsibility for repressive legislation in Arizona and other states.

The National Farm Worker Ministry invited Kuhfuss to attend its next Board meeting and challenged him to a public debate on the issue of Christian responsibility in the arena of the farmworkers' struggle for justice. Kuhfuss is a prominent layman in the United Church of Christ.

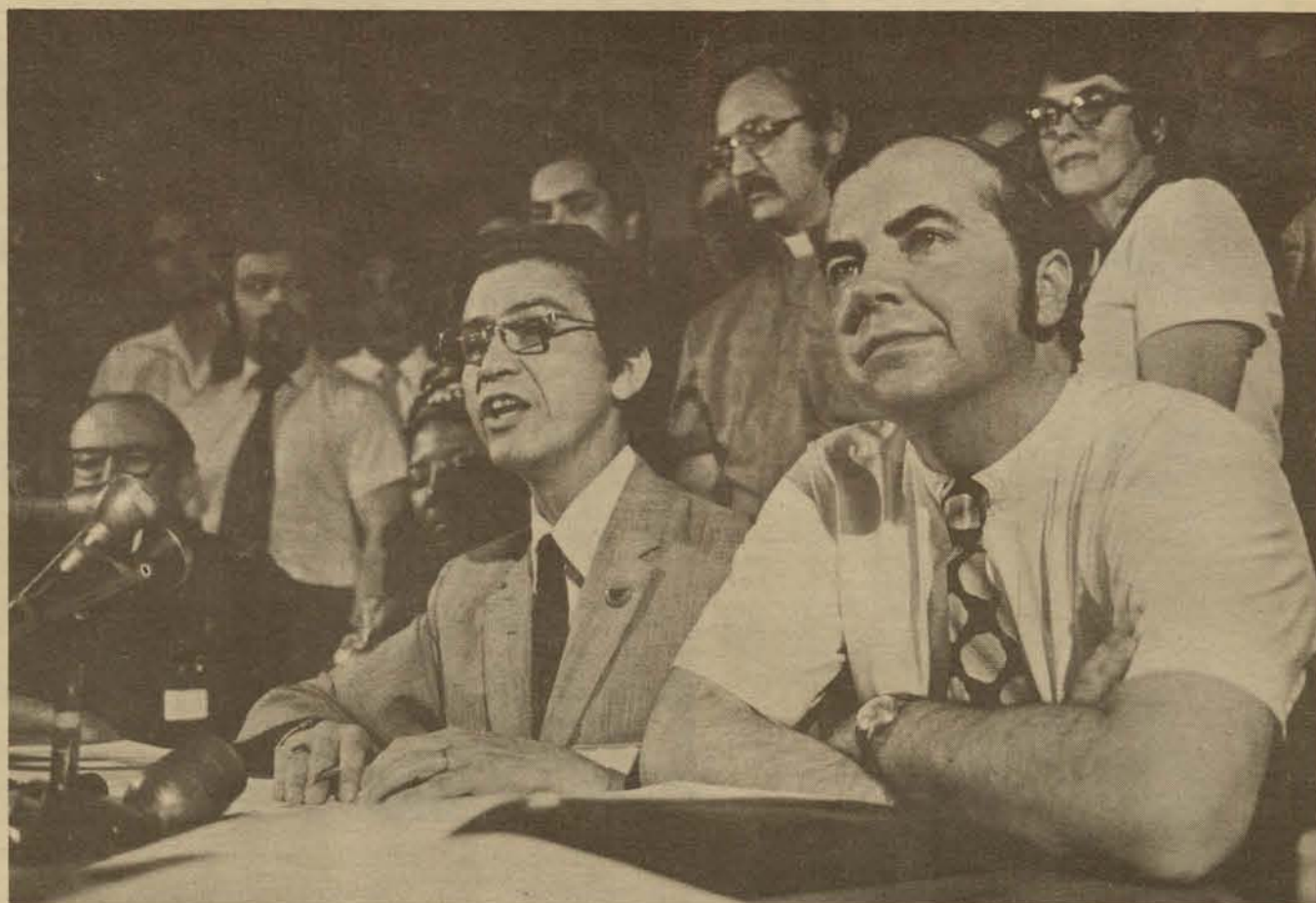
The following is the text of the statement issued by the religious leaders:

We have come to Phoenix to be with Cesar Chavez during his fast for justice. We come in the spirit of humility because Cesar's sacrifice challenges our own limited response to the pain of the world.

What we have witnessed here is the power of love in the lives of the poorest workers in America. We have seen the love that Cesar Chavez has for his people and we have seen the love that farmworkers have for Cesar and for their Union. We are more than ever convinced that no amount of political and economic power can stop the Non-violent efforts of the United Farm Workers. We intend to support those efforts.

We ask our brothers and sisters in the churches and synagogues of Arizona to consider carefully the content of the recently enacted farm labor bill. Viewed from our vantage point, it is grossly unjust and should be repealed. We are worried that it will become a model for other states. We are convinced that a body-blow to the farmworkers in Arizona is an attack on the aspirations of all farmworkers in our nation.

We do not seek strife or polarization in the religious community. But our common Biblical faith demands that we express our concern for the injustice in agriculture, both the threat of large corporations against the small growers and especially the suffering and deprivation of the workers and their families. After years of hard experience we conclude that farmworkers must apply economic pressure on their employers if they are ever to attain justice. The Boycott is their most important Non-violent method. It is a simple way for each person to help farmworkers. We urge all concerned men and women to refrain from eating or buying head (Iceberg) lettuce unless it is clearly marked with the United Farm Workers black eagle label.



Dr. Leo Nieto (center) of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church read the religious leaders' statement to the press at Santa Rita Hall, Phoenix. He and Chris Hartmire (right), Director of the National Farmworker Ministry, answered the press' questions afterwards. Dr. Nieto was in the eight day of his own fast in support of Cesar at the time.

We have witnessed the strength of Cesar Chavez' spirit, but we are worried about his physical health. We ask all people of good will to pray for him during his fast and for his continuing quest for justice for all farmworkers.

Dr. Luther E. Tyson, Board of Social Concerns, United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C.  
 Rev. William W. Scholes, National Council of Churches, USA, Denver, Colorado  
 Rev. John Romaro, PADRES National Secretary, Los Angeles, California  
 Rev. Richard Cook, National Farm Worker Ministry, Keene, California  
 Francis Colborn, Los Angeles Priests' Committee to Aid Farm Workers, California  
 Rev. August H. Vandebush, National Council of Churches, USA, Miami, Florida  
 Sister Dorothy Vigil, OP, National Conference of Las Hermanas, Houston, Texas  
 Ruth Gilbert, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church, New York  
 Constance Myer, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church, New York  
 Pat Hoffman, National Farm Worker Ministry, Los Angeles, California  
 Melissa Keller, AFSC, Pasadena, California  
 Rev. John Stevens, Episcopal Church, New

York  
 Paul Sedillo, Division for the Spanish Speaking, U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C.  
 Lynn Raude, United Presbyterian Church, Whittier, California  
 Salvador Alvarez, Division for the Spanish Speaking, U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C.  
 Rev. Phil H. Young, Board of National Missions, United Presbyterian Church, New York  
 Rev. Joseph Melton, Delano, California  
 Dr. John Sinclair, Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations, New York  
 Rev. Leo Nieto, National Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas  
 Rev. Eugene J. Boyle, National Federation of Priests' Councils, Chicago, Illinois  
 Rev. Richard White, CM, Phoenix, Arizona  
 Phyllis A. Gifford, Intercontinental Mission, Church Women United Grand Rapids, Michigan  
 Sue Minor, National Farm Worker Ministry, Los Angeles, California  
 Rev. Wesley Hodgkiss, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, New York  
 Rev. William J. O'Donnell, Parish Priest, Oakland, California  
 Nomi Smith, Church Women United, Tucson, Arizona

Rev. Ben Fraticerli, Christian Church of Northern California and Nevada  
 Rev. Jerry Schaffer, Hunger Coalition of Ohio, Cincinnati  
 Rev. Dennis Short, Associate Pastor, Christian Church of Southern California and Nevada  
 Rev. Eugene Lichty, Church of the Brethren, Phoenix, Arizona  
 Rev. Mike Walsh, Phoenix Central Christian Church, Phoenix, Arizona  
 David Hernandez, National Farm Worker Ministry, Dayton, Ohio  
 Edwin A. Sander, Pacific Yearly Meeting of Friends, Pasadena, California  
 Rev. Kenneth Dahlstrom, Lutheran Church in America  
 Rev. John M. Galligher, Episcopal Diocese of California, San Francisco, California  
 Rev. Wayne Hartmire, National Farm Worker Ministry, Los Angeles, California  
 Rev. Jack Vrellner, Lutheran Church in America  
 Rev. Raymond G. Manker, First Unitarian Church, Berkeley, California  
 Rev. Howard G. Maddson, Unitarian Universalist Church, Berkeley, California  
 Pierce Hammond, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Rev. Paul Stauffer, United Methodist Board of Missions, New York

## BOYCOTT LETTUCE PLEDGE CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM!

Marshall declared, "The Union's request that consumers not eat or buy lettuce is small in comparison with the sacrifice Cesar made during his fast."

He said the Lettuce Boycott is already gaining momentum. Strong support came from OREGON, where over 200 people, including labor leaders, students, political office holders and candidates, and religious leaders of all denominations signed a statement in support of Cesar's fast and the Lettuce Boycott.

Their statement said in part that, "We are fasting today, Saturday, May 27, to join with Cesar in his sacrifice. Our fast is a small sacrifice compared to those that farmworkers have made to form a Union."

"We further pledge not to eat head lettuce until the Strike of the lettuce and vegetable workers of California and Arizona has been won."

"We call upon all who believe in justice to join us in giving up lettuce so that the men and women who pick it may receive just returns for their honorable and necessary labor."

State Representatives and labor union presidents were among those who signed. Former U.S. Senator Wayne Morse also telegraphed his support to Cesar.

Frank Licht, Governor of RHODE ISLAND, telegraphed Cesar saying, "We in Rhode Island support efforts of farmworkers to obtain justice. Our state purchases are limited to Union farm products."

In ATLANTA, Georgia, the Atlanta Labor Council endorsed the Boycott.

Boycotters in BALTIMORE, Maryland, have pledged that for each head of lettuce sold in Arizona, where an anti-farmworker law prohibiting secondary Boycotts will go into effect, they will stop 50 heads in their city.

In BOSTON, Massachusetts, 300 people participated in a vigil in which local religious leaders blessed water as a symbol of Solidarity with Cesar's water-only fast. Boston has been a leader in the pledge-card campaign.

In DENVER, Colorado, 80 people participated in a weekend fast which was broken at a mass the following Monday at the city's Farm Bureau headquarters, where the participants pledged to continue abstinence from lettuce. Participants included four State Representatives, a State Senator and an Auxiliary Bishop. Additionally, the University of Denver has pledged to buy and serve only Union lettuce.

Twenty-two Michigan State Legislators have pledged not to eat lettuce in DETROIT, Michigan. Also Leonard Woodcock, President of the United Auto Workers, has telegraphed Cesar declaring his support of the Union's efforts.

At a press conference in SAN FRANCISCO, California, pledges were forthcoming from U.S. Congressmen Philip Burton, Ron Dellums, Don Edwards and Ken Mead, State Assemblymen Will Brown, John Burton and Leo McCarthy, and State Senator Nick Petris.

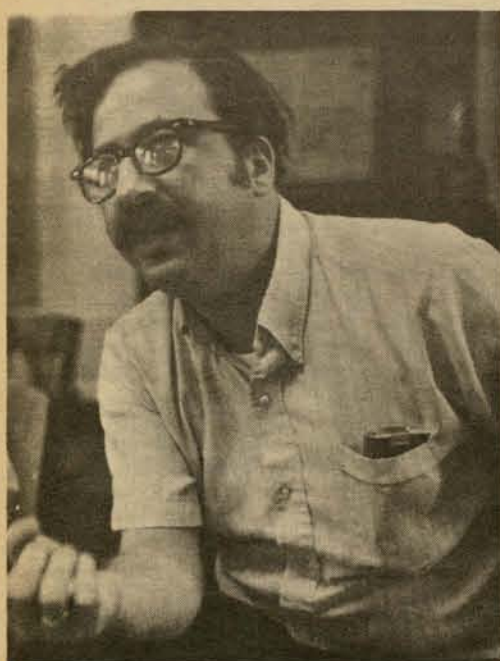
At a dinner in TRENTON, New Jersey for columnist Jack Anderson recently, participants dumped their lettuce into garbage containers.

U.S. Congressman William Green has endorsed the Boycott in PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, along with that city's AFL-CIO and CIO Labor Councils. The Bishop of PITTSBURG has held a mass for Cesar and for the Boycott.

In SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Bishop Flores endorsed the Boycott and sent a letter to all other American bishops asking their support.

The ST. LOUIS, Missouri, Labor Council has endorsed the Boycott, and the Carpenters District Council there is having bumper stickers printed in red, white and blue declaring, "Hard Hats for the Lettuce Boycott."

Washington State University announced in SEATTLE that only Union lettuce will be bought and served there.



Marshall Ganz, director of the United Farm Workers Boycott activities

PHOENIX, Arizona -- Speaking before a massive crowd of 6,000 farmworkers and supporters after the Mass celebrating the end of Cesar Chavez' fast, Marshall Ganz, director of the Union's Boycott activities announced that the goal of the Union's present Boycott effort is to get pledges from 1,000,000 people not to eat lettuce until Union Contracts are signed with the lettuce growers.



# Coretta King and Joan Baez Visit Cesar

**SUPPORT CESAR'S FAST  
PROMISE TO BOYCOTT LETTUCE**

PHOENIX, Arizona -- Coretta Scott King, widow of slain Black leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Joan Baez, folk singer and fighter for peace, came here during Cesar's fast to show their Solidarity with him and to support our Lettuce Boycott and our struggle against Arizona's repressive farm labor relations law.

Coretta King saw Cesar personally at the Santa Rita Center towards the end of the third week of his fast. She held a press conference afterwards in which she said that "the struggles of Black people and the farmworkers are a common struggle." She said that struggle is "a struggle for economic justice--the right to live is really what it is--the right to organize, the right to Boycott, the right to Strike in order to get living wages."

She called Cesar "one of the truly Non-violent leaders, in the tradition of my late husband."

Coretta said the Black community is "very sympathetic to the struggle here." She added, "I would urge Black people to join in this struggle, because it is for their own benefit, as well as the farmworkers."

Asked by a reporter if she supported the Lettuce Boycott, she answered "Absolutely!" to which a brother in the audience replied--"Right on!"

Coretta King is President of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, and said the Center of Economic Action division of the organization was especially interested in helping in the farmworker struggle. She was accompanied by Tom Porter, Program Director of the Center.

After the press conference she spoke to an overflow crowd of farmworkers and our supporters who had come to see her and attend the Mass which had been held nightly at the Santa Rita Center during Cesar's fast.

She again praised Cesar and the struggle of the Union, and urged militant Non-violence in the face of the kind of oppressive legislation recently passed here in Arizona.

On Saturday, June 3, Joan Baez also paid a personal visit to Cesar at Memorial Hospital where he had been taken several days earlier after he suffered severe stomach cramps caused by his fast.

During a press conference at the Santa Rita Center after the visit, Joan said she had come to Phoenix hoping to persuade Cesar to end his fast. She was asked, "Why do you support Cesar Chavez?" She replied: "Cesar Chavez is a beautiful soul who has worked more than 12 years to help farmworkers find a better life. He has chosen Non-violence as a tool for social justice even though it is not too popular to do so these days."

Joan explained that Cesar was in good spirits because of what his fast had accomplished so far. She said, "And I am here to do anything Cesar asks me to do to help La Causa." Joan also promised she would help Boycott Lettuce.

When asked about her latest peace activities, Joan explained she was organizing a women and children's march to take place in Washington in the near future. The purpose of the march is to protest the renewed bombing of the Vietnamese people by the U.S. Government. She said the peace demonstrations and marches which have happened since the late sixties have kept this country from becoming a dictatorship. Joan declared, "We must continue the struggle to create a society and a government in which the values of truth, decency, love and sharing are finally cherished as the most important. We must struggle for a system of life that is truly based on the sacredness of human life."



Coretta Scott King (above) greets well-wishers before her press conference. Joan Baez comforted Cesar at the hospital in the 23rd day of his fast (below).



## 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,

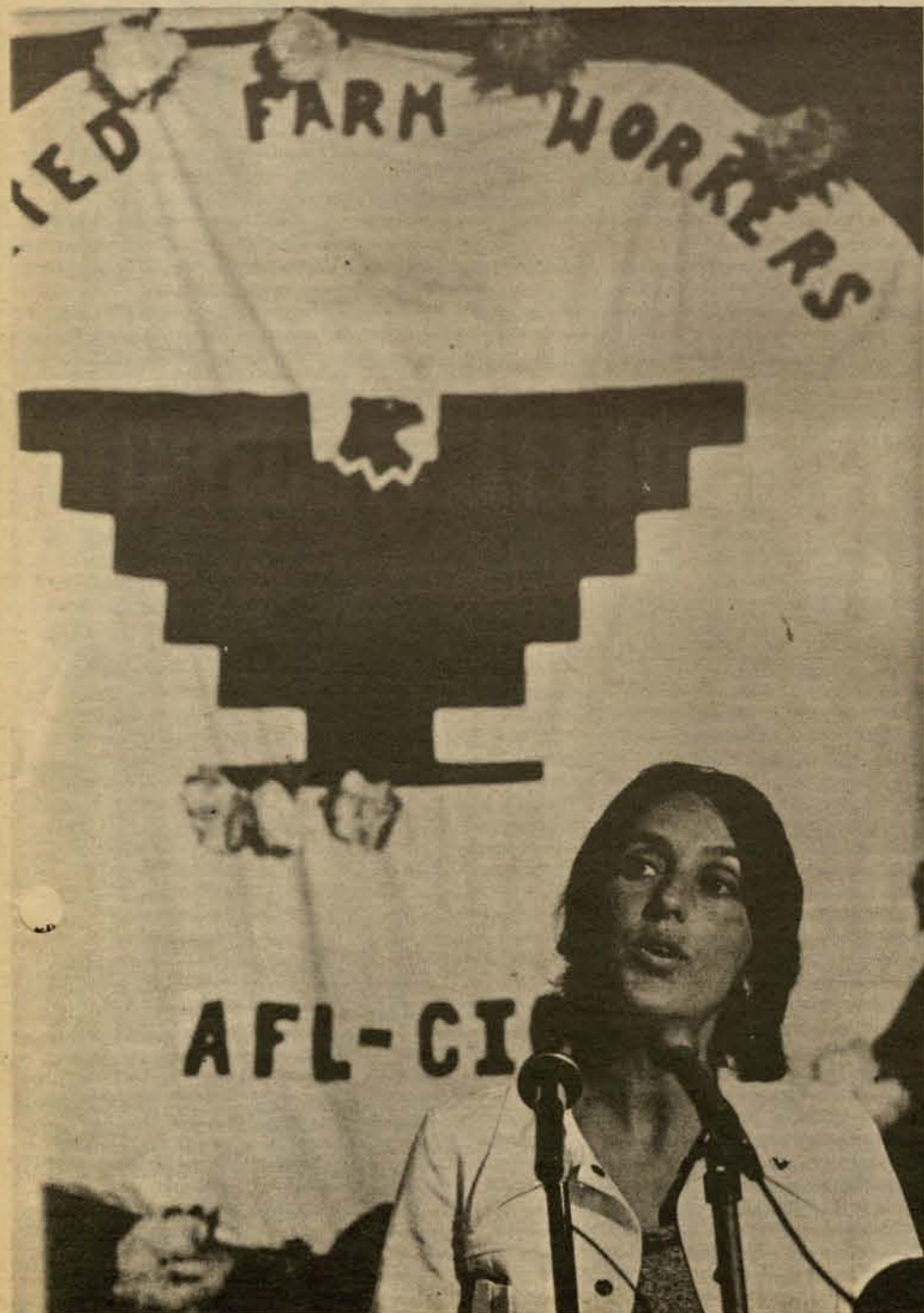
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to:

Cesar Chavez, Director  
United Farm Workers  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, California 93531



Joan answers reporters' questions at Santa Rita Hall, site of Cesar's fast in Phoenix.



# WORKERS ACT AGAINST ARMED AGENTS

- Non-violent sit-down strike
- In memory of Rómulo Avalos

DINUBA, California--A few months ago Rómulo Domínguez Avalos, friend and brother Union member, was assassinated in the Livingston, California area while working on the Cal-Mission Ranch. He was shot to death at close range by Edward Nelson, an immigration officer.

Following the assassination, Union director César Chávez said: "Rómulo Avalos was very young, of a good family, he was an honorable man, a good worker actively engaged in our struggle. His unjustifiable death was at the hands of an armed, despotic and arrogant immigration officer who had not been provoked by this young, humble and unarmed worker."

On February 15, 1972, the Union Ranch Committees notified all of the growers of the Union sit-down policy they had just adopted as a necessary measure of self-protection against the violence perpetrated by law enforcement officials. At Union meetings throughout the state the membership unanimously voted to stop work immediately and to stage a sit-down whenever any armed official--sheriff, immigration officer, or policeman--came into a field under Union Contract.

This new Union ruling has been put into practice twice within the last month--and a half by workers at the Giannini Farms, a company located near Dinuba, California.

EL MALCRIADO visited Dinuba and talked to the members of the Ranch Committee who represent the workers at Giannini: Eliseo C. Mendiola, President; Antonio Vásquez, Vice-President; Homero Serna, Treasurer; Ramón Bivero, Secretary; and Guadalupe Castro, Sergeant at Arms.

They explained that the "Migra" (Immigration Department) had been there twice since the new ruling and that twice they had protested their presence by staging a sit-down. The first time, about mid-April, a crew of 19 men was working separately from the other crews when twelve immigration officers arrived and immediately demanded to see the workers' papers. The workers immediately sat down and all work stopped. We were told by the Ranch Committee that these officials arrived in their characteristically arrogant style--blocking all entrances to the fields with their cars--that they were well armed. Fortunately,



Farmworkers carry their dead brother, Rómulo Domínguez Avalos, to his final resting place Feb. 15, four days after he was shot down without reason by an agent of the Immigration Dept. More than 1,000 farmworkers from all over California came to his funeral. It is needless killings such as this that the Union is trying to prevent with its sit-down policy when armed guards enter Union fields.

however, there was no violence on this occasion.

The second encounter with the Migra was during the first week of May. According to the Ranch Committee, about sixty men were working together: "...as soon as we saw them we shouted for everyone to sit-down. Some of the people were working at a distance and didn't hear the sit-down order right away. But soon the Migra was all around us--all the workers sat down. There were many agents--they came in six cars."

EL MALCRIADO: "They arrive en mass, don't they?"

Ranch Committee: "Yes--they surrounded the whole field. Like an army. Yes, they come from everywhere."

When EL MALCRIADO asked why the workers are so supportive of the Union's sit-down policy, the workers stated: "Most of the Union members are very critical of the immigration people because they treat us like animals. They fall upon us--yelling at us--and even though we answer with all due respect, they continually ask unnecessary, often insulting questions." The workers continued: "...and that's why the people resent them so much. And as long as they continue going to Unionized ranches, the workers will sit-down. It's a form of protest in memory of Avalos, whom they assassinated. The immigration officers have killed many people, but they always say that the person tried to jump them. They also insult the people and then

claim they were insulted. And when we complain to the authorities, they never listen to us."

We were also told by the workers that there are still many ranches that are not Unionized, where illegal alien workers are employed. They explained: "Recently there have been many families looking for work on the ranches in this area, but the growers won't hire them; instead they hire illegal labor because they work for lower wages. For us this is a dual problem--the illegal laborer and the Migra. The non-registered illegal workers don't have the right to struggle for justice. If they protest at all about pay or work or conditions, the Migra will ship them back to Mexico. But as long as they don't say anything and allow themselves to be used as scabs, the Migra doesn't bother them."

One example of this, according to one worker: "...when we were on strike we went to the Immigration Office in Fresno to tell them that some growers were illegally using non-registered aliens as scabs. But when the Migra went to the field and saw our picket lines, they just stood around saying they weren't authorized to go into the field. They didn't do anything about enforcing the law against illegal labor on a struck ranch until our strike got lots of publicity--then they were forced to act. But only then."

The workers concluded this interview by stating that the only solution to all of these problems is to continue the struggle

until all of the ranches are Unionized. A well-organized worker can not only defend himself against unscrupulous armed immigration officers whose enforcement of the law is dictated by their own whims, but also, the worker will have the means to obtain dignity and justice. ¡Que viva el Comité de Rancho de Giannini Farms!

BLYTHE

## Farmworker Killer Free on Bail

BLYTHE, California--Richard Krupp, former Blythe policeman accused of murdering farmworker Mario Berreras here last month, has been released on \$5,000 bail and a fund for his defense has been started with the support of Blythe Mayor Richard Farrage.

As reported in EL MALCRIADO last edition, Krupp shot Mario through the head after a minor automobile accident in which Mario was involved. The Blythe Police Department refused to bring charges against Krupp, but he was eventually arrested and charged with murder by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department after three days of demonstrations headed by Al Figueroa of the Union Office in Blythe.

Krupp's release on \$5,000 bail was arranged by Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Gary Scherotter. Such bail is considered unusually low for such a case.

On Thursday, June 8 Krupp was officially indicted for murder by a grand jury. The degree of murder was left open for the trial jury to decide. The grand jury took no action on the bail granted by Scherotter, so Krupp remains free.

Krupp's defense committee includes Richard Farrage, Mayor of Blythe; Anthony Reale, a counselor at the local junior high school who has opposed the local Freedom School supported by the Blythe Union Office; Bennie Alexander, a past City Councilman; a former Highway Patrol officer named McFarland; and Harold Reiland, a real estate broker.

At a pre-trial hearing on June 14, Krupp's lawyers argued for a change of venue (moving the trial to a different site) on the grounds that a "segment of the society of Blythe and Riverside County are demanding his (Krupp's) prosecution." The reference was apparently to the Chicano community and the demonstrations organized by Al Figueroa demanding that Krupp be arrested and tried following his killing of Mario.

These demands hardly seemed unjustified, since many eyewitnesses saw Krupp shoot Mario through the head as the latter offered no resistance whatsoever.

Judge Slaughter denied the request of Krupp's attorneys for a change of venue, and set the trial for July 24 in Indio.

## EL PUEBLO CON McGOVERN

Dolores Huerta, Vice President of United Farm Workers, directed the successful fight to reach the Spanish-speaking people (D.- South Dakota) in the California Presidential Primary, June 6. Sixty-seven (67) percent of the Chicano vote in the State of California voted for McGovern.

In a grass roots door to door campaign, Dolores and Union volunteers explained that McGovern came from an agricultural state but that he was not afraid to support the United Farm Workers and our Boycott of Lettuce.

Senator McGovern was present in Phoenix during Cesar's fast. He also came to visit the national headquarters of the Union at La Paz several months before receiving the Union's endorsement. The Senator won the hearts of Union members as he explained his objectives and desires. After Union members voted on their choice for President, McGovern received an official endorsement.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the campaign was the presence of farmworkers in the cities of California. They came from the major rural areas of the state and campaigned in the cities. Delegations arrived from Santa Maria, Oxnard, Salinas, and Coachella. The NBC TV was on hand in Los Angeles to cover the unprecedented action of rural workers going door to door through the city campaigning for McGovern.

The entire central Valley of California was involved in this campaign. From East Los Angeles to San Francisco the people opened their hearts to the farmworkers who came to campaign from rural areas. "The presence of the farmworkers was a breath of fresh air for us", said one housewife expressing the feelings of many.

During the McGovern Campaign a Unity Mass was held at Good Shepherd Church in Beverly Hills. National Field Office Director Richard Chávez was the speaker at this mass in memory of Robert F. Kennedy. Richard stated, in summary:

We are here to honor Robert F. Kennedy, and four years after his death we still feel the sadness of his passing. But it is also a joyful day because four years later we are here to follow his example. He was a man close to farmworkers. He came to us at a time when we badly needed his support, back in 1965. He came to us at a support, back in 1965. He came in all sincerity and he understood our needs and anxieties even though he came from a different background. He was open to people. Throughout the land today there are probably many masses being said for RFK, but the greatest tribute we can make is to go out and do the kind of work we are doing by getting out the vote for a man who will follow in the footsteps of Robert F. Kennedy, GEORGE MCGOVERN.

SANTA MARIA

## Ten Farmworkers Poisoned

SANTA MARIA, California -- Paulino Pacheco, Director of the Union in Santa Maria, reported that during the last week ten farmworkers have been poisoned by pesticides used in the strawberries.

He said the ten workers work for one of the largest strawberry companies in the Santa Maria Valley. At the same ranch, two workers have died in the fields within the last two months.

Alberto Luna died in early May. He fell dead in the fields. Doctors reports say he "died of a heart attack." Workers believe he died of pesticide poisoning.

Another worker died near the end of June. Doctors say he died of a brain tumor, but witnesses say the worker not only complained of head pains two hours before he died, but was also vomiting a lot.

The grower says the workers are just nervous because of deaths that have occurred so far. And the examining doctors say the ten workers are suffering from allergies, bad nerves or colds.

Paulino Pacheco said a petition is being circulated by the workers demanding an investigation of the deaths and of the pesticides being used, and that each worker receive a full medical examination. Forty workers have signed the petition so far.



# Parathion Poisons 13 Farmworkers

- POISON DRIFTS IN FROM NON-UNION FIELD
- AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS OFFICE SAYS ILLNESS "PSYCHOSOMATIC"
- WORKERS TO SUE NEGLIGENT GROWER

REEDLEY, California -- Thirteen farmworkers, all Union members, were hospitalized May 17 after they were poisoned by Parathion, one of the most dangerous pesticides used in agriculture. They were thinning nectarines on the Dargatz Ranch, which is managed by Ballantine Produce Company, when they started to get sick.

Parathion is a highly toxic phosphate-based pesticide that attacks the central nervous system by destroying the body enzyme Cholinesterase. In concentrated doses it disrupts the nerve impulses to the body's vital organs. The pesticide is so dangerous its use is prohibited by Union Contracts. Ballantine has signed a Union Contract, but the pesticide drifted in from an adjacent field belonging to James Brandt, a grower who has not yet signed a Union Contract. One of his workers, Ramón Carrillo was spraying the pesticide even though it was a very windy day.

Raúl Cantú, President of the Ranch Committee representing the workers of Ballantine Company, who was one of the persons poisoned, told EL MALCRIADO: "On the morning of May 17, we were thinning nectarines and we had started about 6:30 am. As we were working we saw a man spraying something on the field next to the one in which we were working."

"The man was wearing a mask. He had already sprayed one section of the field. And it was not until he had almost finished another section that he informed us he was spraying. But he did not tell us he was spraying Parathion. He just told us to move somewhere else."

Raúl said the foreman, David Salazar, moved them to the other side of the field about one hundred yards south of where they had been working. But the move was

to no avail because "that was a very windy day."

He explained, and the rest of the workers who were poisoned agreed, that "we worked there until about 8:30 am and we were already complaining to the foreman that the poison was making us sick. Some of the brothers were feeling dizzy and others were vomiting. Some complained about a thick tongue. One of them, Cauhtémoc Salazar was vomiting alot. And then, David, more of the others and then myself."

The thirteen workers poisoned were: Raúl Cantú; David Salazar; Cauhtémoc Salazar; Miguel Angel Cortinas; Juan Angel Chapa; Milifón Rodriguez, Jr.; Cándido Salazar; Jesús Luna, Jr.; Guillermo Cortina; José Guadalupe Hernandez; Mónico Sánchez; Jose María Molina, Jr. and Justo Alfaro.

After hearing about the poisoning, Gilbert Padilla, Vice-President of the Union and Director of the Selma Union Office, went to the field immediately. He took the worker who at that time was the sickest, Cauhtémoc Salazar, to Sierra Kings Hospital in Reedley and told the rest of the workers to clean up as quickly as possible and report to the hospital.

Gilbert insisted that the workers stay in the hospital an extra day just to make sure there would be no fatalities. All have gone back to work except for Justo Alfaro who is still seeing a doctor. Jesús Luna has also had to go to a doctor two more times.

All agree that this accident happened because the person spraying was not being careful, but that it was really the grower's fault because the spraying was not properly supervised.

After talking with the 13 workers, EL MALCRIADO went to interview James

Brandt, the owner of the field where the Parathion was sprayed.

Brandt said it was "very unfortunate" that this had happened. But, he said, Ramón Carrillo, the worker doing the spraying, did not know the workers were there.

Brandt was very unhappy with the Fresno Bee because it reported that William Cunningham of the Tulare County agricultural commissioner said: "The operator of the spray rig should have stopped spraying because of the wind drift. The owner should have stopped the sprayer."

The commissioner's office also reported that the leaf samples it tested revealed heavy concentrations of Parathion drifted into the area where the workers were thinning fruit before they were warned.

According to Cunningham safety regulations require spray rig operators to keep the pesticides within the boundaries of their own operation.

"And we don't like this particular kind of spray rig because the spray is so fine the good Lord only knows were all of it will drift, he said.

Brandt claimed he was very concerned about the workers although he never bothered to talk to the workers that were poisoned.

He said doctors' reports indicate that no one was poisoned by Parathion.

When EL MALCRIADO asked him to explain how it could be denied that the workers were poisoned by Parathion since they became sick at the time the pesticide was being sprayed and the report from the agricultural commissioner's office proved they had been exposed to large concentrations of Parathion, he smiled nervously and said: "I don't know, I guess there are two conflicting reports."

Later, EL MALCRIADO was able to get an interview at the agricultural commissioner's office. When EL MALCRIADO reporters arrived there they found themselves facing a delegation of five persons: Clyde Churchill, assistant to the agricultural commissioner; Erwin Schultz, supervisor for the commissioner's office; Bernis Naylor; Jim Frank, an inspector; and Bill Betts, area supervisor for the California Department of Agriculture.

During the press conference with EL MALCRIADO, the doctors' reports were again cited. Even though the officials did not retract Cunningham's original report that the workers had been exposed to heavy doses of Parathion, they found no difficulty in saying that the workers had not been poisoned by the pesticide.

Bill Betts suggested that the attacks of dizziness and vomiting the workers suffered could have been all "in their minds." Clyde Churchill also said the symptoms could have been "psychosomatic". They also said that the workers who were still

having problems were probably suffering from colds or the flu. All insisted that EL MALCRIADO should accept the doctors' reports because they are "professionals".

But the officials did admit the grower, James Brandt, violated pesticide regulations by letting the Parathion drift from his property and that they had sent the spray rig operator (not to the grower who ordered the use of the Parathion on that day) a "notice of violation."

Clyde Churchill also said his department would take no action on the poisoning because "that is not our responsibility, that's under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health." When he was asked what action the Department of Public Health would take, he replied he did not know but that it had received the doctors' reports.

Apparently none of the state and county officials EL MALCRIADO interviewed that day knew that some new information had entered the case: all thirteen workers witnessed one other person get poisoned that day.

According to the workers, Robert Thompson, who they say is the son-in-law of the owner of Dargatz Ranch, also suffered vomiting and dizziness.

EL MALCRIADO talked with Robert Thompson and he said: "I saw the workers come out of the field gagging. I immediately went to look for an antidote." He said he walked into the field to tell the workers what to do. Eight minutes later, Thompson himself started to vomit. A student at Fresno State, he was still coughing and vomiting when he arrived there that morning and had to go to the medical center for treatment.

"I didn't go through anything like what these men suffered. I was only in that field for a few minutes," he said. When informed that James Brandt and officials at the agricultural commissioner's office were saying that doctors' reports denied the workers were poisoned and that the symptoms they showed were "psychosomatic", he said that was just another example of the racist attitudes of the growers and those that serve them in which they look upon farmworkers "as animals and not as human beings."

Gilbert Padilla and Steve Englehart, one of the Union's lawyers discount the doctors' reports. They say medical tests cannot readily prove anything because not enough is known about the effects of Parathion, especially its permanent effects.

"But we do know its effects are severe and not imaginary, even though the growers may claim that with their doctors' reports," they said.

Steve Englehart said the thirteen workers are going to sue James Brandt for the poisoning. Investigations by La Causa will continue.

## THE UNION'S STRUGGLE IN IDAHO

### FIGHTS IDAHO FARM BUREAU'S REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION

The Treasure Valley of Southwestern Idaho and Eastern Oregon is an agricultural valley where thousands of farmworkers work in the sugar beets, onions, hops, fruit and potatoes. In August of 1970 a spontaneous strike broke out among these workers; the strike quickly gathered steam and became a general strike in the onions and fruit, with hundreds of workers travelling in caravans from field to field. Because there was no organization existing before the strike broke out, it could only be sustained 3 weeks. The strike succeeded in raising the wages in onions, but no Union Contracts were signed.

The farmworkers of the Treasure Valley began organizing under the banner of the United Farm Workers in November of 1971, with Ausencio Garza, a farmworker, and Daniel Sudran, a former VISTA lawyer, as official Union representatives. A major obstacle for Idaho farmworkers is the Idaho farm labor law. In March of 1972, after meeting with a delegation of 30 farmworkers and Union organizers, Governor Andrus vetoed a farm labor bill which had been sponsored by the Idaho Farm Bureau in 1970 because of the farmworker Strike of August of that year. No sooner had the Governor vetoed the 1970 bill, however, than he announced that he was appointing a committee to draft a "compromise" bill. He appointed 2 federal OEO officials to represent the farmworkers. The other 3 members of the committee were a large hop grower, Phil Batt, and his lawyer, and a state legislator who owns the largest seed company in Idaho. Despite picketing and a mass and candlelight vigil attended by 200 farmworkers and their supporters, this bill became law.

The Idaho anti-farmworker law protects the crew boss hiring system, assures continued use of dangerous pesticides and mechanization without regard to its effect on workers, by withdrawing these as subjects of negotiations by the Union. It outlaws the Non-violent consumer Boycott. It puts farmworkers organizational rights into the hands of a politically controlled state farm labor board with dangerous

discretion to determine who is eligible to vote, how elections will be scheduled, and what the bargaining unit for elections will be. This election procedure can in turn be used by anti-Union employers to terminate or prevent peaceful picketing.

Idaho farmworkers do not intend to let this law stand. Local Union representatives are campaigning to have the Democratic party in Idaho sponsor a repealer of this law. It will be urged as part of the party's platform at the June state Democratic convention. A nationwide Boycott of Idaho potatoes is being prepared for the future which will terminate only with the signing of Contracts with the Union and the repeal of the Idaho farm labor law. The Union cannot and will not sign Contracts as long as the farm labor law is on the books.

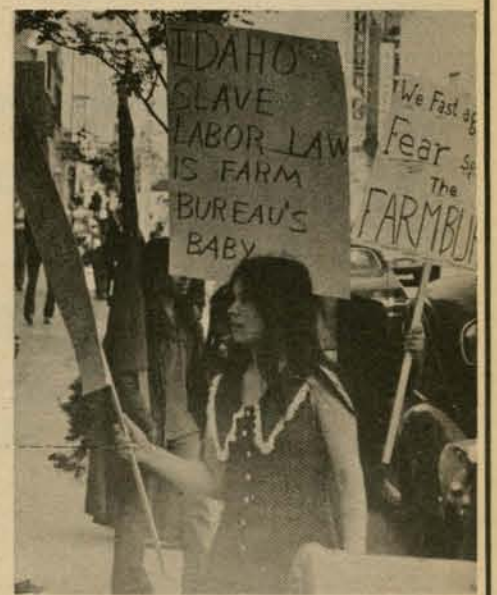
Idaho farmworkers have joined farmworkers throughout the nation in protesting and exposing the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau headquarters in Boise, Idaho are appropriately located in the J. R. Simplot building. Mr. Simplot is Mr. agri-business of Idaho--he is the largest potato processor in the world, and also owns a huge livestock company, and has interest in fertilizers and mining. Repeated calls were made to the Boise police by Simplot and Farm Bureau officials to have the 30 chanting and singing ("Nosotros Vencemos", "Huelga en General", "El Aguila Negra", "De Colores", "Solidaridad Para Siempre") demonstrators removed, but the police showed themselves to have more backbone than the Idaho state legislators. The Farm Bureau offices were also picketed in Caldwell and Moscow, Idaho.

Union organizers here have encountered many "no se puede's" but are gradually converting them into "si se puede's." Why have many farmworkers said "no se puede"? The farmworker in the Treasure

Valley of Idaho and Oregon is a pawn in a game manipulated by crew bosses, labor camp managers, ranch foremen, and farmers. The farmworker has been powerless and must work on their terms. If he doesn't, there is always a plentiful supply of even hungrier workers or illegals who will work for less. If the worker won't work on the crew boss's terms, he is threatened with eviction from the labor camp and blacklisted: all of this taking place in a "free, democratic" country.

House meetings given by Union organizers have given workers an opportunity to learn about the benefits of working under a Union Contract, and to share with other workers and the Union organizers their life's experiences working in the fields. Workers recount over and over again the indignities and dangers experienced because of the lack of toilets and fresh water in the fields. One girl was bitten by a rattlesnake while looking for a place to relieve herself. In the long, hot (often over 100 degrees) fields of the Elmer Tiegs farm near Nampa, Idaho, a worker had to relieve his thirst by drinking out of a ditch rather than defy the farm by leaving the fields to get water. It turned out that the water was full of pesticides and the worker was unable to work for the rest of the summer. On the large hop ranch owned by John Batt near Parma, Idaho, a worker experienced a severe ear infection because pesticides were being applied on a very windy day while he was working.

Dry Lakes Farms and Kondo Farms near Nampa employ illegals at \$1.65 an hour or less for tractor driving and irrigating while farmworkers living in town and in the labor camps go without work. They are called lazy. If you want to get a job in Wilder, Idaho, you'd best be on good terms with Marcos Betancourt (No. 1 crew



Protest against Idaho's anti-farmworker law.

boss) and Frank Mercer (No. 1 camp manager) and José Gonzales or Pedro Cavazos ("El Espada"). Throughout the valley, one crew boss offers to sell his crew for less money than the next crew boss. Farmers sit back laughing as one crew fights another for jobs, and as the people in town become divided against the people in the camps; the end result being cheaper labor for the farmer and powerlessness for the workers.

After listening to and understanding the history of the Union, workers here are beginning to understand that once they unite with their brothers they are a powerful force for justice capable of winning against even the most powerful crew bosses and farmers. They understand that, through the sacrifices of thousands of other brothers and sisters, a beautiful Union has been built with worldwide support which will fight with them in their struggle. SI, SE PUEDE!



# THE FARM BUREAU'S ANTI-FARMWORKER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- Increasing attacks on our Union
- What it means by "secret ballot elections" for farmworkers

This is the second of a series of articles on the American Farm Bureau Federation 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.

In this article EL MALCRIADO examines 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. We also find out what the Farm Bureau really means by "secret ballot elections" for farmworkers. And we show how the Farm Bureau has consistently opposed all legislation that would benefit farmworkers, such as unemployment insurance coverage and pesticide control.

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

The American Farm Bureau Federation, along with all of its state and county chapters, spends most of its time, energy, and tax-exempt money pushing its anti-farmworker legislative program. Farm Bureau members, agribusiness growers, sympathetic legislators, and Farm Bureau Washington lobbyists join in all-out efforts to defeat any legislation which may improve working and living conditions for the nation's three million farmworkers.

They are also vehemently opposed to efforts to Unionize farmworkers. Throughout the last few years, the Farm Bureau has increased its intensive attacks against the United Farm Workers Union.

In addition to its anti-farmworker stand, the Farm Bureau has traditionally been against social, educational and welfare measures designed to help working people.

Charles Shuman, former AFBF President for 16 years, who resigned in 1970, is a trustee of the Foundation for Economic Education, Inc. at Irvington-on-Hudson, New York. According to author Berger, this foundation is "an 'education and research' operation which campaigns against nearly all forms of government 'interventionism,' including Medicare, urban renewal, federal aid to education, 'paying people to be non-productive,' compulsory education, government mail service, social security, anti-trust legislation, foreign aid, child labor laws, and progressive income taxes."

Beginning with the United Farm Workers' Grape Boycott, the Farm Bureau launched its unceasing attack against the Union.

In the fall of 1968, the Farm Bureau applied the following tactics against the Grape Boycott:

--threatened to move their national convention from Kansas City when that city's council endorsed the Grape Boycott.

--suggested a counter-Boycott against stores which stopped selling California grapes, despite the organization's policy that the "market place should not be used as a bargaining weapon."

--called upon Attorney General Mitchell to investigate the Boycott as a possible "conspiracy in restraint of trade," and if so, to "prosecute all parties involved."

--formed "Freedom to Market Committees", a crucial part of their anti-Boycott activities, whose members pressured local grocers to continue selling grapes. The organization was disbanded after it was discovered to be illegally financed by some of the growers.

--distributed "buy more grapes" bumper stickers and posters, and anti-Union pamphlets.

--sponsored José Mendoza, "spokesman" for the self-styled California Farm Workers Freedom to Work Movement, who travelled around the country carrying the growers' message that "things are just fine among the workers down in the San Joaquin Valley."

--established a special growers' assistance program, led by California Farm Bureau President Allan Grant, to provide counsel, advice in labor relations, Union negotiations and Contracts.

Now with César's announcement of the renewal of the Lettuce Boycott, similar tactics used by the Farm Bureau during the Grape Strike are expected to be applied to lettuce.

Though the Farm Bureau was not successful in its anti-Grape Boycott activities, it has played a leading role in the passage of state anti-farmworker bills, in addition to the defeat of pro-farmworker legislation.

Two Farm Bureau sponsored anti-farmworker bills recently passed in the states of Arizona (HB 2134) and Idaho (HB 498). Both laws ban secondary Boycotts, the Union's most powerful Non-violent tactic is the Boycott of particular products. Both laws provide for "secret ballot elections";

yet Idaho growers of the Agricultural Labor Board determine election procedures and voter eligibility, thus permitting the Board members to exclude seasonal or resident workers from voting depending on which group will most likely favor the Union. Likewise in Arizona, the growers provide the lists of eligible voters and establish complicated and lengthy secret ballot elections, knowing that when these delaying tactics are completed, most eligible workers will have moved on to the next job.

Since 1948, Arizona has been a "Right to Work" state, which is cleverly defined as the "right not to join a Union." But workers know that without Union representation, an individual worker has little or no bargaining powers in negotiations with his employer.

In a booklet on "Right to Work" laws, Union Director César Chávez and Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, describe state "Right to Work" laws as the "desire of employers to preserve their right to discriminate and to exploit." The nineteen "Right to Work" states pay the lowest wages to workers and have the worst working conditions. The creation of the "open shop" (i.e., workers do not have to join the Union) allows employers to pit non-members against members, thus destroying collective bargaining situations where normally a united group of workers, all Union members, exercise their right to negotiate for better working conditions with their employers.

The Farm Bureau has always worked closely with the National Right to Work Committee in their mutual efforts to promote "Right to Work" laws. Naturally, the Farm Bureau is eager to have "Right to Work" states where powerful employers, especially growers, actively support anti-farmworker bills while effectively intimidating their cheap labor forces. Farm Bureau literature lists one of its accomplishments as having "served as an active in-



Idaho citizens protest the Farm Bureau's repressive policies in Boise May 18. (Photo: Hank Gable)

fluence in support of state Right to Work laws."

Two other "Right to Work" states, Kansas and Florida, attempted recently to pass anti-farmworker laws which would have strengthened "Right to Work" provisions in their respective states.

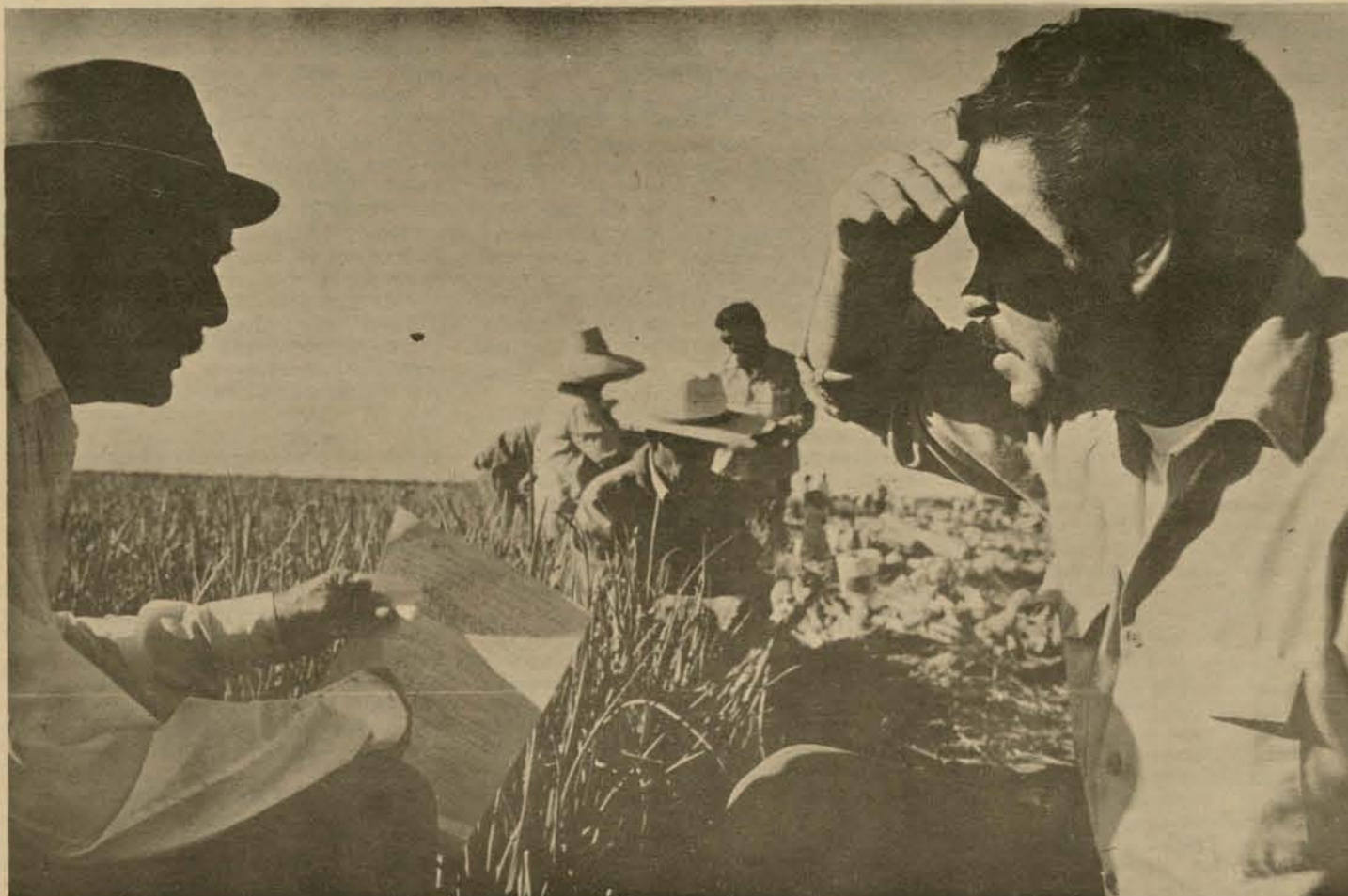
The Florida HB 2008 would have outlawed hiring halls in agriculture and would have established criminal penalties for violations of the law. Also the measure would have enabled elected public officials to prosecute Union officers, namely harassing our United Farm Workers officials and organizers. Fortunately this bill died in a Conference Committee of the Florida

House of Representatives early in April.

The Kansas SB 291 Agricultural Employment Relations Act was passed by the 1972 legislature, but vetoed by Governor Robert Docking on the grounds that "its prohibition against secondary Boycotts and Strikes by agricultural workers is unconstitutional."

Strong support for the law came from the Kansas Farm Bureau, as their spokesman Paul E. Fleener explained that it established "appropriate ground rules for agricultural employees to form or join, or to refuse to join, associations or organizations of agricultural employees."

(Continued on Page 14)



Farm Bureau-sponsored legislation is aimed at keeping Union organizers like Louis Lopez (right) out of the fields and away from workers. Their hope is that workers kept ignorant of the Union and its benefits will be unable to organize.



# Farm Bureau Exposed at Press Conference

PHOENIX, Arizona -- "I understand that César Chávez has been taken to the hospital with stomach cramps. I sincerely hope it wasn't something that he ate."

That is how Cecil H. Miller, Jr., President of the Arizona Farm Bureau, opened a press conference here June 1 during the twenty-first day of César's fast for justice, the day after physical weakness and dehydration had forced César into a hospital.

Miller announced the press conference as the Farm Bureau's attempt to "clarify agriculture's position in regard to this farm labor relations act that was recently passed and signed by the governor." It was in fact a vicious attack on the Union and on César personally, characterized by deliberate misinformation, half-truths and outright lies.

Miller was hard-pressed to hold to his original positions under direct questioning from often hostile reporters, and had to modify and even retract many of his statements.

For example, Miller tried to make the normal collective bargaining procedure sound like a crime against the workers. "The United Farm Workers organization, in their Contracts which they have managed to, one way or another, bring growers into, have gone out and negotiated with the growers. They have forced the growers into signing contracts with them. The grower must then go back to the worker, and have him ratify this Contract. This to us is totally immoral, unethical and un-American."

This hardly seems unusual, much less un-American, so EL MALCRIADO asked Miller: In your opening statement you spoke about how the United Farm Workers had gone to growers and negotiated contracts which were then returned to the workers for ratification. How does that differ from the way in which ordinary labor-management relations are carried on?

Miller: "This I'm not familiar with--I couldn't answer that."

Miller had no qualms about telling outright lies. In his statement he claimed that the bill "doesn't prevent Strikes in any way, shape or form. It provides the machinery by which the worker can Strike." The bill in fact allows growers a ten day restraining order that prevents strikes during harvest time. A reporter asked Miller, "Doesn't that restraining period in effect put a ban on the Strike for that time?" Miller: "For that ten-day period, yes."

Miller praised the bill for prohibiting secondary Boycotts, adding, "It's inconceivable to me where every other segment of the Union Movement is prohibited from the secondary Boycott, why then shouldn't agriculture have the same protection?"

EL MALCRIADO: "You spoke about how other Unions are prohibited from use of the secondary Boycott by the National Labor Relations Act. Why in the past has the



Cecil Miller: "...I hope it wasn't from something he ate..."

American Farm Bureau Federation opposed including agricultural labor under the NLRA?"

Miller: "I can't speak in the past, I can only speak in the present."

EL MALCRIADO: "If you're speaking in the present, then, why doesn't this piece of legislation provide for means of Union recognition other than secret ballot elections. For example, the NLRA provides for Union recognition by card check elections and strikes--why doesn't this bill do the same?"

Miller: "Because the legislators didn't see fit to put that in."

The Farm Bureau press conference was apparently precipitated by the strike of melon workers around Yuma, Ariz., organized by Manuel Chavez. Miller read from a prepared statement in which he claimed that "twenty carloads of out-of-state demonstrators have ranged through the area seeking to intimidate and terrorize farm workers out of the melon fields."

Since EL MALCRIADO had witnessed the Strike first-hand and had seen local workers easily persuade other local workers to strike, we asked him for the source of

his information. He answered, "I base that, among other things, on a statement in this morning's paper." He could not tell us who had made the statement.

He called Union organizers in Yuma "outside agitators and anguishers." He said the Strike "is not a Strike". He said that the Union had used violence and threats of violence. He claimed that he and the Farm Bureau were looking after the true interests of the workers.

It wasn't clear just whom Cecil Miller expected to swallow all this. He had a few Farm Bureau flunkies there--an old fellow who writes for the Farm Bureau magazine and a reporter for a right-wing magazine called "The American Weekly". They obliged him by asking a few leading questions and, in one case, by making a speech against the Union. But even they were embarrassed by the utter bad taste he expressed by personally attacking César and his fast--an attack he backed off from under questioning from a reporter.

Most of the rest of the reporters were well aware of the Farm Bureau's strong bias, and most showed enough acquaintance with the law to see right through Miller's

"interpretations" for what they were. Miller spent much of his time retreating from indefensible positions.

The Farm Bureau is scared. Jack Williams is scared. Both held farmworkers in such utter contempt that they figured they could pass a totally repressive law and that, like the good little peons they expect farmworkers to be, we would just swallow hard and accept it.

They don't understand our strengths. St. Paul says in the Gospels: "My weakness is my strength." So it is with us. We are poor--so we have little to loose, and know how to endure what must be endured. We have a leader who voluntarily risks his life for La Causa, and as his body weakened during his fast, his spirit and ours are strengthened. We have untapped support, both here in Arizona and all across the country; people with sympathy for the poor and oppressed, who marvel at the strength we display in our weakness.

The Strike in Yuma is going well. We already have tens of thousands of signatures on our petitions to recall Jack Williams. Si, Se Puede.

"When we're really honest with ourselves we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of men we are. It is my deepest belief that only by having our lives do we find life. I am convinced that the truest act of courage is to sacrifice ourselves in the non-violent struggle for justice. God help us to be men."



**VIVA LA REVOLUCION**



This poster features a picture of Mexican agrarian reformer, Emiliano Zapata. His famous motto is: "La tierra pertenece a quien la trabaja!"

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**BASTA!** A compelling pictorial history of the great moments of the grape strike, including the famous march from Delano to Sacramento.

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These artistically superb Huelga Stamps portray the farmworker and tell of the benefits of collective bargaining in agriculture.

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**HUELGA!** A 45 rpm record with two famous songs of the historic Delano Grape Strike: "Huelga en General" (General Strike) and "El Esquirol" (The Scab).

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**VIVA LA CAUSA!** A long-playing record documenting our long Non-violent struggle to win Union Contracts in the grape industry: "Sounds of the Strikers"; "El Plan de Delano"; and ten Huelga songs.

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Show your support for La Causa and display one of these bumper strips.

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## FARM BUREAU

(Continued from Page 12)

Fleener adds, "We think that Strikes are not necessary."

The Farm Bureau official also warned "farm labor troubles" similar to those in California with the grape workers would be avoided with the passage of this bill.

Despite strong Farm Bureau and Right to Work Committee support, only a Governor's veto prevented this repressive measure from being law, at least for this year.

As so often is the case, an anti-farm-worker bill vetoed one year is usually re-introduced with slight variations the following year. Such an example is Oregon SB 677, described in the Civil Rights Digest (Winter, 1972) as designed to "effectively prohibit the Farm Workers Union from organizing. It efficiently prohibited Strikes, picketing, and bargaining on many key items. The Oregon Farm Bureau--which drafted much of the bill--described it as "fair to all sides."

But Governor Tom McCall vetoed SB 677 recently, declaring it unconstitutional. He explained that its collective bargaining provisions were not workable, also. Farm Bureau members and growers promise to re-introduce a similar bill in the 1973 Legislature.

Another anti-farmworker bill with the familiar ban on Strikes, picketing, Boycotts, and the provision for "secret ballot elections" was recently killed in the New York Assembly. New York Farm Bureau President Richard McGuire in stating his organization's support for SB 5666, used the scare tactic that the United Farm Worker's Union with their secondary Boycotts "could take over the entire American food industry."

California, the largest agricultural state and the birthplace of our Union, is continually besieged by anti-farmworker bills. Last year three major bills aimed at destroying our Union, generally by banning Strikes, secondary Boycotts, and setting up "secret ballot elections" for farmworkers under the direction of the California Department of Industrial Relations, whose director is appointed by Governor Reagan, an outspoken opponent of our Union, fortunately did not pass. Our Union members and supporters campaigned actively against these anti-farmworker bills through letter-writing campaigns, rallies, and delegations sent to Sacramento.

Delores Huerta, Union vice-president, said one of these bills, SB 40 (Harmer, R.-Glendale) originated with the California "Right to Work Committee." Farm Bureau members, growers and people with interests in California's multi-billion agribusiness strongly supported this bill as well as the other two, AB 639 (Ketchum, R.-Bakersfield) and AB 964 (Cory, D.-Anaheim).

Currently, two bills similar to AB 964 and SB 40 are being considered in the California Legislature. In place of the defeated SB 40, Assemblyman Walter W. Powers (D.-Sacramento) has introduced AB 1214. Assemblyman Robert G. Wood (R.-Salinas) is sponsoring AB 9, the same as Cory's AB 964, except it omits the ban on secondary Boycotts. In conjunction with Wood's bill, the Farm Labor Practices Committee, sponsored by agribusiness in-

terests, started a drive to gather 326,000 signatures to place an initiative containing many of the same features as Wood's bill (provides secret ballot elections controlled by the pro-grower state Agricultural Labor Relations Board, and restricts the Union's right to picket and to discipline members for anti-Union activities) on the November ballot. This is a precautionary measure in case AB 9 does not get out of the Democratic-dominated Labor Relations Committee.

Of course, the California Farm Bureau is actively seeking signatures by fooling people into believing the initiative will help California's farmworkers. We warn everyone to be aware of these petitions which are presently being circulated now: DON'T sign them.

Union vice-president Delores Huerta, testifying for SB 432 (Petrus, D.-Oakland), a strong pesticide safety measure in 1971, stated, "It is interesting to note that the Farm Bureau Federation and their so-called 'Citizens for Agriculture' committee actively opposed unemployment insurance coverage for farmworkers in the state of California, and the participation of the State Department of Public Health in establishment of pesticide regulations. They claim to be concerned about the rights of farmworkers to choose their own representatives, yet their real intent is to stop the Unionization of farmworkers...."

Senate Bill 432 would have protected farmworkers with handwashing facilities, special clothing and equipment, and warning on treated fields and orchards. It died in the Assembly as the result of grower-sparked opposition. These same growers do not care to protect their workers from dangerous pesticides. They are only interested in protecting their crops, thereby insuring a larger amount of money from their sales.

More pesticide legislation (SB 21 and AB 246) is being introduced in the 1972 California Legislature. One reason grower opposition is so strong is because they fear that under the pesticide complaint procedure, workers may try to harass their employers. This unfair allegation is unwarranted since Senator Petrus insists his pesticide measure contains procedural "safeguards" so that both farmworker and grower receive fair treatment under complaint procedures.

Assemblyman Jack Fenton (D-Montebello) is again trying to pass legislation to cover 235,000 California farmworkers with \$32 million in unemployment insurance. A similar bill he sponsored last year was vetoed by the Governor. Despite the fact that farmworkers are about the only workers not covered by unemployment insurance, growers balk against having to pay into a statewide unemployment insurance trust fund which already exists, but currently receives nothing from them. Farm Bureau members warn that farmworkers will only work for a few days and then claim unemployment. They ignore the fact that farmworkers are conscientious workers seeking steady employment as much as possible. Petrus' legislation limits the unemployment insurance benefits to 26 weeks.

On the national scene, former Senator George Murphy (R-California) introduced



Ausencio Garza holds the Union flag in front of the capitol building in Boise during an evening candlelight vigil protesting Idaho's repressive anti-farmworker law.

SB 2203 in 1969, a farm labor bill designed to establish a separate Farm Labor Relations Board. The Farm Bureau actively supported this bill which included a "sweeping prohibition on Strikes that might result in the loss of a crop and excludes from its coverage seasonal workers who spend less than 100 work days in agriculture (which excludes about 2 million of the 3 million farm wage workers.)" This bill did not pass but, nevertheless, it posed a real threat to the nation's farmworkers.

As our Union gains in membership, strength and power, so does the opposition to us. Any beneficial legislation for farmworkers is strongly opposed by the Farm Bureau and the rich agribusiness interests it represents.

Led by its friend, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, with his battle cry

that our Boycotts are "un-American, vicious and must be stopped," the Farm Bureau leads in the battle to deny farmworkers their basic rights and to take away the strength we need to bargain effectively with our employers.

The Farm Bureau continues to use its hypocritical slogan about wanting "free secret ballot elections for farmworkers." But the Farm Bureau-sponsored anti farmworker law recently passed and signed into law in Arizona shows clearly what it means by "secret ballot" elections: anti-democratic procedures aimed at depriving the majority of farmworkers the right to be represented by the Union of their choice (see p. 6). And it is indeed ironic that the Farm Bureau is pushing phoney "secret ballot election" proposals on farmworkers, while it does not permit its own members free secret ballot elections.



Farm Bureau legislation always attempts to destroy the Union's most effective Non-violent weapon, the consumer Boycott.



Dear Mr. Chávez,  
I want to assure you of my full support in your current struggle and fast for justice. The legislation you are protesting is nothing less than an assault on the rights of Arizona's farmworkers, to simple human dignity and a decent life. I am with you and so is every American who believes in social justice. Your selfless act is a deep source of inspiration and a call to action for us all.

Coretta Scott King

Dear César,  
Our hearts and strength are with you. Together we will get to the hearts of all people who work against the rights of farmworkers, in Arizona, California and throughout our country. ¡Que Viva Nuestra Causa!

Art Torres

I have heard of the situation you are protesting. Please know that my thoughts are with you and your companions in this cause. I support you and pledge that your effort shall not be in vain. The time shall come when our people shall enjoy the rights America has promised them. You are not alone. My prayers are with you.

Senator Joseph M. Montoya  
(D-New Mexico)

We extend full support and Solidarity to you and the UFW in the lettuce boycott. We work together for speedy and full victory.

Angela Davis

Dear César Chávez,

I support your Non-violent effort to bring justice to migrant framworkers.

I pledge not to eat Iceberg Lettuce. I pledge to tell all my friends about the Lettuce Boycott.

I pledge to raise the issue about the Lettuce Boycott whenever I see Iceberg Lettuce. (conventions, fund-raisers, church dinners, airplanes, restaurants, college cafeterias, hospitals, hotels, schools, supermarkets, etc.)

Captain Edgar Mitchell

(Ed. -- Captain Edgar Mitchell (Mitch) walked on the moon during the Apollo 14 flight, from January 31 to February 9, 1971.)



You have my wholehearted support in your effort to achieve a decent break and fair share for the farmworkers in Arizona. Best wishes for a successful vigil.

Walter F. Mondale  
United States Senate (D.-Minnesota)

Dear César

I have fought with you for seven years now. I will continue to fight and suffer with you until farmworkers' dignity is won everywhere--especially in "Right to Work" states. My staff mutually shares my feelings.

Pete Velasco  
Stockton, California

We stand in solidarity with your efforts to seek justice for farmworkers in Arizona. Our brothers and sisters in the labor movement pledge not to eat iceburg lettuce until lettuce workers are granted their rights to a Union contract. We hope that your health and spirit will be sustained during your fast and that this sacrifice will strengthen the resolve of farmworkers. Viva La Causa

John Schreier, Director, AFL-CIO Region II  
William Marshall, President, Michigan State AFL-CIO

May our Merciful Heavenly Father be with you in your struggle for justice.

Rabbi Moshe Cahana

We support your campaign to organize farmworkers of Arizona. We pledge full support of our membership toward Lettuce Boycott. Best Wishes for success.

Joseph Pagan, Secretary; Robert Kyler, President, District 1, United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America

The Talisman workers here in Florida give our support and Solidarity to the great sacrifice you are making so that we can have justice. We promise not to eat lettuce until victory is won. VIVA LA CAUSA. Long live César Chávez.

Talisman Committee

Dear César

You are the greatest of all men who suffers for us farmworkers. We are with you in your fast--God bless you  
Viva La Causa

FSA Ranch Committee, Selma

I fully support Lettuce Boycott by the United Farm Workers Union. Having been denied basic labor rights, farmworkers have had to resort to a national Non-violent Boycott to gain justice and fair wages in this country. I join with you in denouncing recent attempts by the American Farm Bureau Federation and others to destroy Movement through anti-Boycott state laws.

Edward R. Roybal  
Member of Congress (D.-California)

We in Rhode Island support efforts of farmworkers to obtain justice. Our state purchases are limited to Union lettuce.

Frank Licht  
Governor of Rhode Island

Dear César and friends:

Very much wish I could be with you to support actively the legitimate rights and goals of the farmworkers in Arizona and across the nation. From Washington, D.C., I pledge not only to work on a federal level for decent livable standards for farmworkers, but also to refuse to buy or eat non-Union Iceberg lettuce. When the rights of one man, be he a grape picker, lettuce picker or otherwise, are denied, as they clearly have been in the state of Arizona, the rights of all are in danger. We must fight together, from Washington, Phoenix and other communities throughout the country, against the injustices so evident in this present system where labor camps are little more than chicken coops, where back-breaking hours are spent in the fields without sanitation, and where even very young children are forced to sacrifice their health. I commend your efforts and your dedication, and I will work with you and for you in every way I can.

Ogden Reid (D. - New York)  
Member of Congress

Once again you fast for justice and once again I join with you in this our common struggle to secure economic justice for farmworkers. Viva La Causa.

Congressman Phillip Burton  
(D-California)

## WANTED

An individual with experience in Child Care centers to organize and develop a program for the children of La Paz (national headquarters of the United Farm Workers). Please refer all contacts to:

Linda Legerrette  
National Farm Workers Service Center  
P.O. Box 48  
Keene, California 93531

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST SUPPORTS BOYCOTT

WHEREAS: The State of Arizona has adopted a Farm Labor Law which will make the organizing of farmworkers ineffective in that state, and

WHEREAS: César Chávez has been in Phoenix, Arizona, fasting on water only for 24 days at great hazard to his health in order to convince people of the Non-violent methods and humane objectives of the United Farm Workers, and

WHEREAS: Farmworkers are excluded from the safeguards and protections provided by legislation for workers in other industries, and therefore suffer exceptional hardships, economic exploitation and physical damage from poisonous insecticides and other occupational conditions, and

WHEREAS: Significant improvement has been achieved in those areas where farmworkers have been able to organize for self-determination through the United Farm Workers, and

WHEREAS: Such organization has been made possible by economic pressures brought to bear upon producers by consumers throughout the nation who are sympathetic to the farmworkers' Cause, and

WHEREAS: Similar measures may bring about the repeal of harsh and restrictive

laws such as the one in Arizona, where an important agricultural export is head (Iceberg) lettuce,

THEREFORE: the General Board of the National Council of Churches (NCC)

(1) Offers prayers, and urges its constituent churches and their members to do the same, for the amelioration of the plight of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers in this nation, and particularly in Arizona;

(2) Expresses its appreciation, and urges its constituent churches and their members to do the same, for the heroic Christian leadership given by César Chávez, and other leaders of the United Farm Workers in their tireless and self-sacrificing labors to deliver their people from economic bondage;

(3) Directs the units of the NCC and their employees to refrain from purchasing head (Iceberg) lettuce from Arizona or California (unless it bears the UFW black eagle label) for any function or purpose of the NCC.

(4) Encourages individuals and groups to work against the passage in other states of restrictive laws such as that in Arizona.

(Resolution passed by the General Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ on June 10, 1972 in New York City)

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Saturday, July 1, 1972

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Sunday, July 2, 1972

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