

# EL MALCRIADO



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**WHITE RIVER FARMS:**

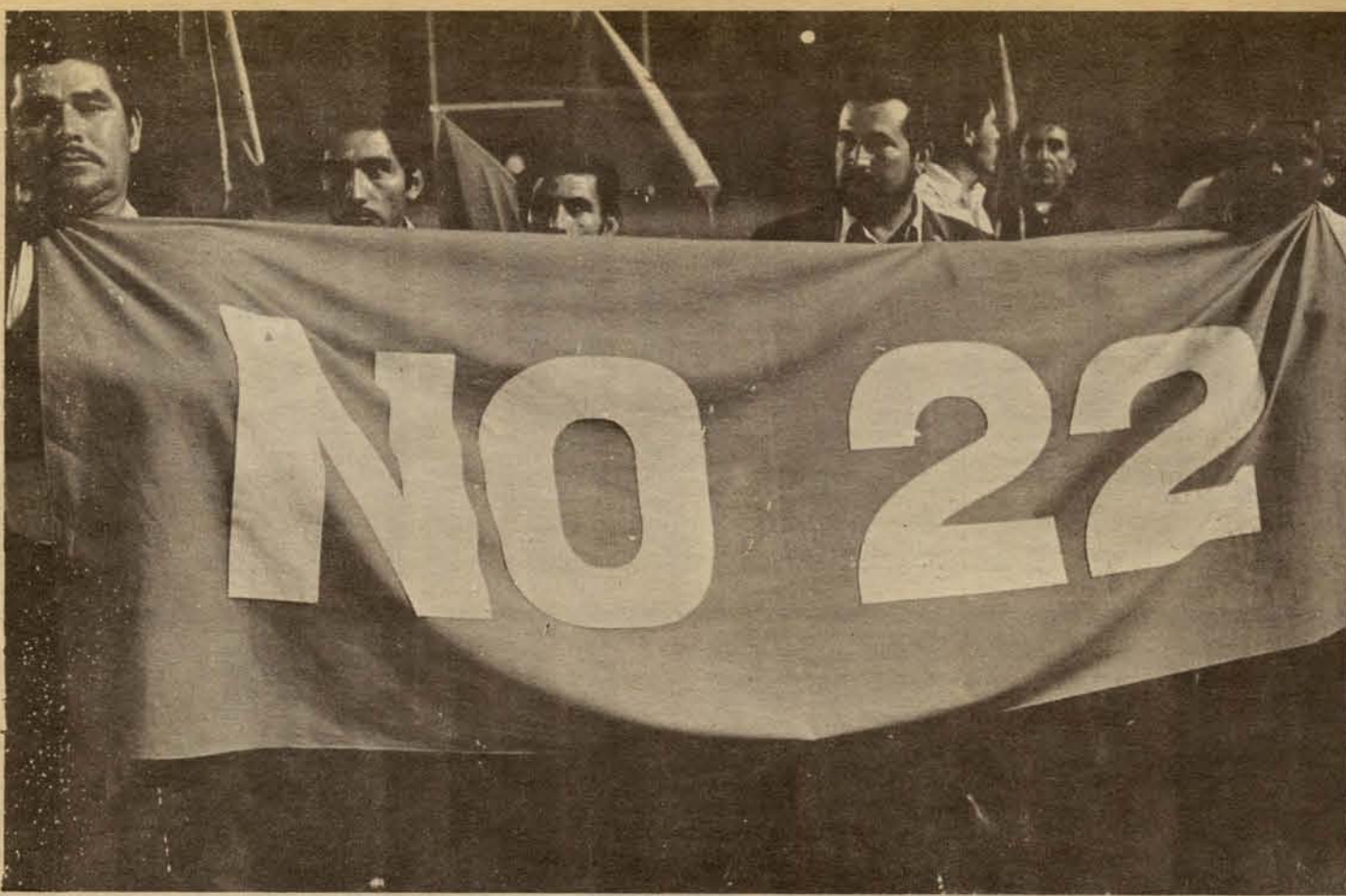
## STRIKERS JAILED



- SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR A REPORT ON THE WHITE RIVER FARMS STRIKE
- MASSIVE RALLIES IN SALINAS AND FRESNO, PAGES 6 AND 7
- REPORTS ON PUERTO RICAN AND FLORIDA FARM WORKERS, AGBAYANI VILLAGE
- CALIFORNIA'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS DENOUNCE PROPOSITION 22, PAGE 3
- ARAB FARM WORKERS REPORT IN ARABIC, PAGE 10



# An Editorial



**P**roposition 22 is the latest and most sophisticated attempt by large agribusiness to destroy the United Farm Workers Union. In the past we have been subjected to threats, violence, vandalism and company unions all of which have failed. Now millions of dollars are being spent on false political advertising in an effort to pass a proposition which was conceived in fraud and qualified by fraud.

Most of the people who signed petitions qualifying Proposition 22 did so because they were told they were "helping Chavez" or "this is backed by Chavez." Many housewives signed petitions "to lower food prices" upon leaving supermarkets. Many did not sign at all but their names were forged upon the petitions. All of the above constitute criminal violations of the elections code.

Why did the proponents of Proposition 22 take such chances? Because they knew that if the truth about Proposition 22 were known it would not have qualified. For the same reason they are now embarking upon a massive campaign of false political advertising. They are telling the people of California that this proposition provides for "secret ballot elections" by farm workers, that it sets up fair rules. They

have gotten the Attorney General to write a summary of the proposition which makes it appear neutral. This summary will appear on the ballot and will no doubt influence some voters who do not know the facts. This has been done because if the people of California know the truth, Proposition 22 will be badly beaten.

In fact the election procedure set up in Proposition 22 is really "Catch 22" in that it disenfranchises 90% of the farm workers. Elections "shall be set at a time when the number of temporary agricultural employees entitled to vote does not exceed the number of permanent agricultural employees entitled to vote." For example, one lettuce grower employs 45 permanent workers and needs 900 migrant farm workers to harvest his crop. The election at his ranch can be held only when 90 or less farm workers are employed. In this example, 810 workers would be denied the right to vote.

The ratio of harvesters to permanent workers is usually about 9 to 1, so at least 90% of the workers are denied the right to vote. There are many other restrictions on those few who are lucky enough to be in the 10% who could vote.

In addition, the proposition provides that

no striker who has been replaced can vote. This deprives him of the right to vote. Elections can be held only at a "farm" which is a technical word defined in the proposition as "any enterprise engaged in agriculture which is operated from a headquarters where the utilization of labor and equipment is directed and which, if consisting of separate tracts of land, is within a 50 mile radius of the headquarters." Therefore, many elections would have to be held at a large grower. Furthermore at each "farm" operated by a particular grower a 60-day order stopping strikes, boycotts, threats of strikes or boycotts could be issued.

In short, the election procedure is a fraud. The right to vote is denied those who need it most. The grower is given complete power over the election procedure because he is given the power to terminate a worker for any reason.

The United Farm Workers Union has won contracts by hard work, using the tools of non-violence, the strike and the boycott. All the poor have is their own sweat. They can withhold it from an unfair employer and use it on the picket line and in the cities boycotting.

But this proposition deprives poor farm

workers of their non-violent tools. All strikes, and threats of strikes, can be enjoined for 60 days at each "farm." The proposition provides that temporary restraining orders without notice can stop strikes and boycotts. The drafters of the proposition have in their arrogance ignored the United States Constitution in drafting these restrictions.

All secondary and most primary boycotting is made a crime punishable by one year in jail and \$5,000 fine. All picketing at retail stores is made criminal.

So, if we ask you to boycott lettuce, we have committed a crime under Proposition 22. You tell your spouse or a friend to boycott lettuce. You have subjected yourself to a possible year in jail. The delegates at the Democratic Convention could have been jailed for their support of the lettuce boycott if Proposition 22 were the law. Of course, the boycotting of any store would also be a crime.

Assume that even with the fraudulent election procedure and without the strike and the boycott we could persuade someone to bargain with us. What is collective bargaining under Proposition 22? It is meaningless. The workers are specifically prevented from bargaining about issues most vital to them. Workers cannot bargain about the growers "right" to contract out any part of the work. This means that a grower could sign a contract one day and hire a labor contractor to do all of his work the next day. The contract would then "cover nobody and the collective bargaining process becomes a mockery.

Farm workers could not bargain about the methods, equipment and facilities used by a grower. If a grower uses a dangerous pesticide on his crops his attorney could sit at the bargaining table and tell the workers that his client's use of poison is a grower "method" and therefore not subject to collective bargaining.

All present farm worker contracts contain a pesticide clause, a hiring hall clause and a subcontracting clause. These clauses would be outlawed. The hiring hall would give away to the evils of the labor contractor system which the workers have fought so hard to eliminate since the Union was formed. Furthermore, successor clauses, preventing growers from selling their operations solely to get out of a contract, would be outlawed.

In short, Proposition 22 takes dead aim at those aspects of our contracts which we have struggled almost a decade to attain.

Proposition 22 is the most repressive piece of labor legislation drafted in this century. It is a classic example of the fraudulent abuse of the initiative system. Help us tell the truth to the voters. Vote no on Proposition 22.

(The following letter concerns Mr. Kubo, president of the Nisei League, which is helping the growers in their effort to break the strike at White River Farms. It was originally submitted to the Fresno Bee. --Ed.)

To the editor:

...Mr. Kubo should know the history of his people when they were sent to concentration camps. The reason I mention this is because I saw it happen. It was done not because the Japanese were dangerous, when in fact they were harmless, but because large landowners wanted the land and the businesses of the Japanese. That was the reason, and these companies made a killing during the war years. These are the people that Mr. Kubo is trying to protect, those who sent them to the concentration camps, and they will do it again, and don't you forget it.

Where was Mr. Kubo when Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, seeing the injustices perpetrated on the aged aliens, regardless of race and that included many aged Japanese, and to whom California owed so much, to be denied an aged pension because they were not American citizens, requiring them to learn the Constitution, when the majority did not even know how to read. Where was Mr. Kubo, tinkering about money, instead of humanity....

The farm workers will never submit to Proposition No. 22, which Mr. Kubo favors, because we will never submit to Hitlerism or Tojoism. Too many farm workers gave their lives fighting Hitlerism in World War Two. If we submit to Proposition No. 22 we know that the next step is Concentration Camps and the Gas Chambers for farm workers. This is History, and my advice to Mr. Kubo is if he is such a patriotic American to use his talent and energy to remove that Mad Bomber from the White House before he blows the whole world to smithereens, instead of violating Federal Laws, scabberding illegal aliens for the benefit of large land conglomerates.

Respectfully,

E. L. Cuellar  
A Retired Farm Worker



Dear Friends:

In your issue of EL MALCRIADO, Vol. V, No. 8, dated September 1, 1972...you say that every boycotter makes the grower lose \$15,000 a year.

I realize that the real fact is \$15.00 per boycotter per year, but a lot of people must be very confused. Not only that but a lot of people will use this as an example of how difficult it is to believe anything EL MALCRIADO says. I also realize how difficult it is to edit material carefully enough to catch errors of this type.

This is said just to call the mistake to your attention if you hadn't already heard about it and to urge that a bit more trouble be taken to prevent mis-information in the future.

We're behind EL MALCRIADO, UFW, farmworkers, the lettuce boycott, etc., etc., etc., all the way and will continue to help La Causa in every possible way. But I did want to call this matter to your attention.

Si, se puede,

A. Garnett Day, Jr.  
Director, Church and Community  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Mr. Day:

Thank you for writing, and apologies to you and the rest of our readers for the mistake. It was a typographical error, and we will try not to let it happen again.

--EL MALCRIADO

To the editor:

César Chávez' call for a nation-wide lettuce boycott is being met by legislation prohibiting use of this tactic, the only effective strategy for the migrant farm worker.

Heavily exploited, 95 per cent are unprotected by union contracts; average annual income for a family of four is \$2,700 while 800,000 children under sixteen work in the field; only 20 per cent reach high school; average life expectancy of the farm laborer is 49 years.

In 1950, President Nixon sat on a Congressional committee investigating the first major strike of the California grape workers. The committee report vehemently denounced the National Farm Workers Union, and for almost twenty years thereafter served as a powerful legal aid for agribusiness to stifle unionization.

During his presidential campaign he conspicuously consumed grapes and repeatedly denounced the grape boycott. Department of Defense purchases of grapes rose 800 percent during the strike, and recently purchases of iceberg lettuce by the armed forces have increased 300 per cent.

Moreover, lurking behind the threat of restrictive legislation is the specter of mechanization. A pneumatic pruning machine developed in California with Federal funds was used by agribusiness to replace workers during the grape strike. For the migrant farm worker, the ultimate nightmare would be a mechanical lettuce harvester.

But already on the drawing boards is such a machine. Six hundred such machines would be capable of harvesting the world's iceberg lettuce crop. Thus, the handwriting may be on the wall for a segment of our society--heavily constituted by minority groups (Chicanos, Filipinos, Blacks, Japanese and Chinese)--whose history in America has been marked by the ugly fact of exploitation.

Secretary of Agriculture Butz stated at the American Farm Bureau convention last December: "Let's take the Caesar out of the salad." I offer an amendment: "Let's take the lettuce out of the salad, and no Butz about it."

George Margolis, M.D.  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
(reprinted from the New York Times)

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the reply of my letter concerning my benefit of the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan. Since I'm 21 and independent and no longer filed under my father, who is the head of the household, 549-78-0366 is my social security number. Thank you for processing my claim.

Gratefully yours,

James C. Ugay  
Porterville, California

My Dear Brothers:

I am writing these few lines in order to say hi, hoping that you may be in fine health, as for me, I am fine, thanks be to God.

This is to inform you that your brother, (me) was in the hospital for 13 days and for 13 days I was doing my job, boycotting lettuce and Coors beer. And even though I was sick, sick, sick.

They would serve the lettuce several ways, like a salad, a dish, and even though I was hungry, I wouldn't eat it. I didn't care if I would starve to death.

I hope that it will serve as an example and that this may be the way of others that think of their own rights.

Best regards to everyone.

¡Que viva la Huelga!

¡Viva el Boycott!

¡Viva la Causa!

¡Que Viva The Great "César Chávez"!

Yours truly,

José Díaz  
Gilroy, California

I would like to express my appreciation and many thanks to the Robert F. Kennedy Farm Workers Medical Plan for the check of \$500.00 I received which will help to pay his funeral expenses.

Thank you,

Mrs. Ruby L. Applewhite  
Soledad, California



# BISHOPS BLAST PROP. 22



CORONA, California--A group of 150 farm workers and supporters converged on the home of Joy Gard Jameson, Jr., here with a petition asking him to withdraw Proposition 22 from the Nov. 7 ballot. Jameson is the official sponsor of the measure.

Jameson is also a director of the Council of California Growers, and chairman of the grower-organized Fair Labor Practices Committee, which has reported spending \$240,000 to place the measure on the ballot.

John Zarate, a spokesman for the group, said the effort to approach Jameson was an attempt by farm workers and their sympathizers in Jameson's home town to persuade him to voluntarily take the proposition off the ballot. Jameson refused to appear or talk to the group.

All fourteen of California's Roman Catholic Bishops have joined together to attack Proposition 22, charging that the initiative violates the "bedrock social doctrine of our church." It marks one of the few times the 14 bishops have joined in an attack on a hotly contested political issue.

"Proposition 22 would unjustly limit the rights of farm workers," the bishops said. The initiative "deviates so widely from a just and equitable approach to settling agricultural labor problems that, if adopted, it will undoubtedly create far more serious tension and difficulties than it attempts to solve," they continued.

Although they rarely speak out as a group on political issues, the bishops noted that Proposition 22 "threatens the rights of our fellow citizens and we are bound in conscience to respond to these attempts to deny basic rights."

The church leaders listed three major objections to the initiative:

--The "vast majority of farm workers" would be prevented from voting in union representation elections since the proposed law would permit elections only when the number of temporary farm workers does not exceed the number of permanent farm workers eligible to vote. "Since most farm workers are considered 'temporary,' few would ever be eligible to exercise the right to vote, and furthermore, a farm worker could vote only once during any 12-month period, even if he works on several ranches during those 12 months," the bishops noted.

--The measure would free growers who sign union contracts to "sub-contract his entire farm labor requirements to non-union workers, thus displacing all of his union employees."

--"The basic right of workers to strike is so conditioned by the act as to render this right meaningless.... Together with the ability of employers to delay elections, this provision which gives employers the power to secure a 60-day injunction against



even a threatened strike enables the grower to insulate himself against any legitimate strikes during the periods when a strike would benefit the workers."

The bishops ended by saying that "Proposition 22 would unjustly limit the rights of farm workers and it would not bring peace and harmony to the California agricultural scene."

## Proposition 22

## FRAUD ADMITTED

LOS ANGELES, California -- Robert Walters, head of American Advertising here, one of the firms hired by agribusiness interests to qualify Proposition 22 for the November 7 ballot, acknowledged recently that he used a technique described by Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown, Jr., as "fraudulent" in securing signatures for the initiative.

The technique involves the use of "dodger" cards that cover up the Attorney General's official summary of the initiative which is required to be printed at the top of each initiative petition.

Brown reported to the public that the "dodger" cards were extremely misleading and usually contained outright lies. The cards claimed that the initiative "helps prevent inflated food prices caused by (farm labor) disputes." He also reported that "some circulators allegedly told voters that the initiative was supported by César Chávez' Farm Workers Union and that the initiative would help the farm workers," both claims completely false.

# AGBAYANI VILLAGE PLANS REVEALED

CONSTRUCTION STARTS SOON

DELANO, California--A simple ceremony was celebrated October 1 at the Schenley camp near here, where a group of retired Filipino farm workers live, to mark the beginning of the construction of the farm workers' retirement center, Agbayani Village.

Present at the reunion were a core of sisters and brothers who are well-identified with the project, dedicated to make the dream of Agbayani Village come true. Each person who arrived was warmly welcomed and all sat down to enjoy the

delicious Filipino and Mexican dishes that were served.

After lunch, everyone gathered under a large tree to share their feelings about Agbayani Village. Philip Vera Cruz, Union Vice-President and Chairman of the Agbayani Village Committee, spoke about the project as "proof of the creative capacity of oppressed peoples and what they can do when they unite to build something."

Afterwards, the sisters and brothers from "Trabajadores Adelante", a civic-action program headquartered in Gilroy, declared their commitment to cooperate in the building of the retirement center. Chino Vasquez, Director of "Trabajadores Adelante", Tony Cervantes, Linda Gonzales, Tomás Alejo and Modesto Negrette told of their enthusiasm for the project and their hope that many more will follow in the future.

The highlight of the afternoon came when Tony Frausto, a retired builder, and Philip Vera Cruz presented the plans for the village to the group. Tony explained that, as a retired man, he had no need of working anymore, but that for him it would be an honor to volunteer his time to the building of the retirement center. "I'm doing this because I believe in what the Union is doing and I'm determined that the village will be built with the cooperation of all," he said.

Present at the gathering were the members of the Agbayani Village Committee: Sebastian Sahagón, Mariano Santiago, Faustino Pulman, Candido Feliciano, Willie Barrientos, Celedonio La Cuesta, Julian Balido, and Sixto Dulay. Also present were Andy Imutan, Union Vice-President and Director of the Delano office, his wife, Luming, and Union volunteers Ramona Holguín and Daniel Hernandez, who work with the Agbayani Village.

have used them their whole lives to make themselves rich. And now that they are old and retired, they are kicked out by the growers because it is not profitable to keep them in the labor camps. The Agbayani Village is a Union project and will be used by farm workers of all races."



These Filipino brothers are among the earliest to join the Union and, though retired, they continue to fight for the Union, most recently on the picket lines at White River Farms. They are looking forward to the opening of Agbayani Village.

"This is a community project. If this works out with single people now, this general principle of community life will be applied to families. The Union is building a community and Agbayani Village is not being built for commercial purposes. It is not being built to make money. We are going to show that poor people can really think for themselves and build things for themselves. This is the only way we can do it."

--Philip Vera Cruz

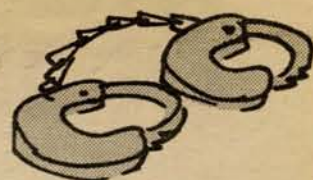
"Collective living is the spirit of community life. We have the beautiful idea of family life. It is the most beautiful thing I've seen in my life. That's the spirit we want to preserve."

"It's just incidental that the Filipinos are the oldest and don't have families and are homeless. The growers

Philip Vera Cruz



## 135 STRIKERS JAILED



One hundred and thirty-five Union members were arrested at the White River Farms ranch in Delano and Poplar, September 25 following a non-violent demonstration in support of the striking Union workers.

Among those arrested were Union officials Al Rojas, Pablo Espinosa, Pancho Bouteillo, Ed Krueger, workers from Valley Vineyards, Roberts Farms, Mid-State, and the struck White River Farms; Dolores Huerta, Union vice president, and Richard Chavez, director of field offices.

Eighty-five of the brothers and sisters were arrested in Tulare county at the Poplar Ranch of White River Farms, and 50 were arrested at the Delano ranch.

Workers were arrested after celebrating a mass inside the White River Farms property line. Forty Arabic brothers who participated also recited a Muslim prayer in the non-violent demonstration of solidarity for the striking workers and a protest against the restrictive injunction laid against the Union by Kern and Tulare counties.

Around 300 pickets had gathered at the ranches for the demonstration. One of those arrested, Abelando Garcia, reported that some were arrested as they knelt in the fields. At the time of the arrests, no one was informed of their rights or the reason for their arrest. The bail was first set at \$1,500.00 each, and later reduced to \$500.00.

Danny Sanchez, one of the arrested picketers reached in the Kern County jail on September 27, described the conditions there as extremely crowded. The arrests increased the number of Kern County prisoners to 710, nearly double the jail's capacity of 372.

However, sheriff captain and "jail commander" H. L. Matlock insisted the number of prisoners had "little effect on the jail's procedures." Danny reported that there were 17 inmates in his cell, and five had to sleep on the cement floor. Only one blanket was issued for each prisoner.

Four of those arrested were under legal age and hence subjected to the whims of the juvenile court system. One of these picketers, Guadalupe Rios, reported that his probation officer Johnson, was attempting



to forbid him to return to the picket line as a condition of his probation.

All 135 of the prisoners were released on Friday on their own recognizance. Everyone on Friday on their own recognizance. Everyone seemed to be in high spirits, and Monday, October 2 was declared a Day of Solidarity for the striking workers. No work will be done by campesinos on that day in support of the White River Farms picket line.



### Illegal Strikebreakers Caught

Even the border patrol seems to be joining the Union on the picket line as they set up road barricades September 25 to block the scab workers from entering White River Farms ranch. Agents checked private automobiles and company buses and discovered 68 illegals about to cross the picket line.

However, the Immigration Service's cooperation has only been partial. The Union has protested the patrol's refusal to enter the vineyards to check reports that there are some 225 illegal Mexican nationals working there as strikebreakers.

The positive actions of the border patrol seems to have caught the strikebreaking contractors by surprise. As an exasperated explanation, Harry Kubo, president of the Nisei Farmers' League which has been supplying workers at the struck ranch,

sighed, "You can't tell the good from the bad--they're all Mexican Americans."

The Nisei League, composed of small Japanese growers and labor contractors, is determined to fight the Union with their intensive scabbing efforts, including recruitment on the other side of the border. The Japanese group has apparently forgotten that a lot of grower land in the Delano and Poplar areas used to belong to them before they were held prisoner during World War II. So now they are turning out in full force, with their families and friends, to pick the scab grapes of White River Farms-Butte Oil Company.

They have also been transporting workers from the Fresno area to the scab vineyards under threat of losing their jobs. No laws or scruples seem to stand in their way in their attempt to break the Union strike.



Pickers continue to try to keep illegal scabs out of the fields at White River Farms.



Dave Cormire (center) has been organizing people from La Paz to try to stop scabs from breaking the strike at White River Farms. Car- and bus-loads of organizers from La Paz have been going to pick-up points early each morning to try to end the strikebreaking.



We have just received word that the strikers being held at the Tulare County jail are being fed nothing but lettuce. According to Union organizer Joe Rubio, one of those arrested while picketing at White River Farms in Poplar, the farm worker prisoners have gone on a hunger strike and are tossing the lettuce out of their cells.

BOYCOTT LETTUCE.

## JOE MELENDEZ STRIKEBREAKER



Joe Melendez of Bakersfield, talking to one of his friends from the cab of his big truck, has been recruiting scabs from as far away as Los Angeles to help the growers in their attempt to break the strike at White River Farms. Melendez has been selling his brothers to the growers for years, originally as a labor camp supervisor for Di Giorgio and most recently as an independent contractor. He has a little barrio of his own right behind his own house where he keeps his poor, scared scabs (left) until they're needed. When 30 picketers from La Paz showed up at his house, he promptly called the police.

## The Great Nixon Wheat Scandal



Because of the mass arrests of strikers and the unfair court injunction restricting picketing at White River Farms, 100 farm workers and supporters picketed at the Kern County Court House in Bakersfield on September 25. Among them were those who had been picketing at the house of strikebreaking contractor Joe Melendez, but who were ordered to leave by the police because of the court injunction. Picketing continued until nightfall.

The arrests have continued, as the growers use every tool at their disposal to fight the Union. There have also been reports of machines being used at White River Farms in an attempt to replace the striking workers. Despite all this, striking workers are certain of victory.



George McGovern, Democratic presidential candidate, has been talking to small farmers about how the Nixon administration stole millions of dollars from them with the big wheat deal with the Soviet Union.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Nixon administration is coming under increasing fire for a massive wheat deal to Russia that brought huge profits to grain businessmen but left farmers holding an empty bag.

George McGovern, Democratic Presidential candidate, broke the story several weeks ago, charging that Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz leaked sensitive information to wheat brokers but kept it from farmers and the general public, thus allowing the businessmen to buy wheat at low prices from American farmers and sell it at huge profits to the Soviet Union.

The wheat sale came about because of a huge failure of the Soviet crop. Several months ago the Soviet government requested sales of wheat to bolster their sagging harvest. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz had a report written which recommended the sale, but kept the report secret from the American public and the nation's farmers.

As a result, grain businessmen were able to buy wheat from farmers at \$1.19 to \$1.39 a bushel. Now that the news of the Russian deal is out, wheat is selling at \$2.20 a bushel or more -- a huge increase.

CBS News reported about the wheat deal and their investigation of the profiteering behind it on a recent broadcast, exposing the following items:

--U.S. wheat sales to Russia normally fall well below 100 million bushels. In August a national grain publication announced that sales might approach a booming 100 million bushels, raising prices for farmers. But already in July, grain exporters had sent over 200 million bushels to Russia and the total for the year will be well over 400 million. The sales were a well-kept secret between the Nixon Administration and the grain businessmen.

--In direct conflict with several provisions of federal laws prohibiting conflict of interest, Clarence Palmby, an official high in the Department of Agriculture, was instrumental in concluding the Russian wheat deal after he had decided to leave the Department to work for a private grain exporter, Continental Grain Company. Continental, it turns out, will supply the largest block of wheat to the Russians.

While campaigning in Minnesota, Vice President Spiro Agnew revealed that the FBI has been ordered to investigate the wheat deal. But many observers question whether the Justice Department and the FBI--headed by Nixon appointees--can really be expected to do an impartial and just job. Similar doubts surround the FBI investigation of the Watergate hugging affair.

So the small farmer, the farm worker, and the tax-paying consumer come up on the short end of the Nixon agricultural policy while agribusinessmen make big profits. Reuben Johnson of the National Farmers Union claims that farmers lost about \$120 million because they sold their crops before the deal was announced, and it has been estimated that tax-payers will have to foot a \$150 million bill in government subsidies and increased grain-food prices, all accruing to the agricultural big businessman.

As Earl Butz put it: "Some money has been made in the deal, some trading companies have made it. But it's the name of the game."



# Thousands Protest Prop 22 at Rallies in Salinas and Fresno

Over 3,000 people came to the Salinas High School stadium September 23 to celebrate the newly-won contract with Inter-Harvest and to denounce Proposition 22. In addition to hearing from César Chávez, director of the Union, the large crowd also was addressed by workers and ranch committeemen from all over the Salinas area.

César hailed the new three year contract with Inter-Harvest, won after a two-week strike, as important not only for the workers of that company but for all farm workers, whether under contract or not.

"We know that every time a contract is won, growers not under contract are forced to raise wages and improve working conditions in an effort to keep the Union out. And we are happy with that, for our struggle is for farm workers everywhere, not just those presently in the Union," he said.

César blasted Proposition 22, saying, "It's a shame that the people who work to give food to the people of the United States don't have enough money to feed themselves."

"If the law passes," he continued, "we will continue having boycotts and strikes, come what may, and if they don't like it, let them put us in jail, because we're not afraid. Meanwhile we'll continue to organize, because we're under the laws of humanity."



"We must register to vote. We must fight Proposition 22. Look, sisters and brothers, at no time has our movement been in such danger as it is now with the threat of Proposition 22. Proposition 22 is an evil law. It is an attempt to destroy our Union at all costs."



FRESNO, California--Over 2,000 farm workers gathered for a "Rally of Solidarity with César Chávez at the Selland Arena here Sunday, September 24.

The four hour rally was marked by a fiesta spirit as many groups contributed their efforts and skills to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Union's founding convention in West Fresno, September, 1962, and to voice their opposition to Proposition 22.

One such group was the MESTIZOS, a mariachi band led by Lupe de la Cruz and made up almost entirely of musicians coming from farm worker backgrounds. As members of the Musicians Union, the group is limited to three free concerts a year, and Lupe declared that every one will be a benefit for farm workers.

Other groups contributing to the two hours of music and dance were Valentín Gonzales, El Trio Barranqueros, El Trio los Faras, El Mariachi Santa Cruz, and Fresno State Students in La Raza Studies.

A mammoth 15 by 20 feet Union flag donated by the Vie-del Ranch Committee hung above the speakers' platform.

César spoke for the concluding hour of the rally, with the audience applauding, cheering, and stomping their feet in response.

In his speech César emphasized that the continuing attempts to destroy the Union can only make the Movement stronger. He singled out for special attack the Nisei League, an organization of small Japanese growers and labor contractors who are presently concentrating all their efforts on crossing the Union picket line at White River Farms.

"The small farmer is nothing but a glorified farm worker with a lot of debts and a mortgage," he said. "Are those in the Nisei League trying to be white so hard that they are willing to destroy their brown brothers? If they want to take us on in a fight, we'll take them on," César declared.

César also emphasized that the Union is one of the few movements in the country that embraces many ethnic groups. "Among our members we have Chicanos, Cubans, Black people, Filipinos, Indians, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, White people and Arabs," he said.

Among the other speakers at the rally were José Silva from Gallo in Livingston, who spoke in Portuguese; John Burton of San Francisco, a leader in McGovern's presidential campaign in California; Al Villa, Fresno City Councilman; Armando Rodríguez, candidate for the 5th Supervisorial District seat in Fresno; and Alex Brown, Democratic nominee in the 32nd Assembly District.



Jessica Govea of the Union's Boycott Staff introduces Canadian Steel Workers (left to right) Sandy McAllion, Jean Marc Karl, Dick Martin and Don Taylor to the crowd in Salinas. Don Taylor, Assistant National Director for the United Steel Workers of Canada, told the gathering that "there are many, many thousands of us in Canada who support you," and all the workers pledged their efforts to help the lettuce boycott.



"I want to call on you, as my sisters and brothers. We need people in the Movement. People who will volunteer themselves completely. You know what it is to come into the Movement. We volunteer ourselves so that our Union will grow, so that all of our farm worker sisters and brothers will have the benefits of the Union."

--Rosa Lopez



"It is true, sisters and brothers, that in all struggles, in all movements that have ever existed, there have been the cowards, the strikebreakers, but they have their reward in the disrespect and dishonor they have earned from everyone. And everything has its just reward, so I can say something that will make your anger a little less. There were no scabs during the Inter-Harvest strike. Not because the company did not want them or not because the other companies did not offer. There were no scabs because all of our sisters and brothers in the Movement were with us. They refused to break our strike. We are grateful to all farm workers for your moral support that made it possible for us to defeat such a large corporate empire."

--José Morales, Inter-Harvest



# Rallies in Salinas and Fresno



FRESNO, California--Over 2,000 farm workers gathered for a "Rally of Solidarity with César Chávez at the Selland Arena here Sunday, September 24.

The four hour rally was marked by a fiesta spirit as many groups contributed their efforts and skills to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Union's founding convention in West Fresno, September, 1962, and to voice their opposition to Proposition 22.

One such group was the MESTIZOS, a mariachi band led by Lupe de la Cruz and made up almost entirely of musicians coming from farm worker backgrounds. As members of the Musicians Union, the group is limited to three free concerts a year, and Lupe declared that every one will be a benefit for farm workers.

Other groups contributing to the two hours of music and dance were Valentin Gonzales, El Trio Barranquenos, El Trio los Faras, El Mariachi Santa Cruz, and Fresno State Students in La Raza Studies.

A mammoth 15 by 20 feet Union flag donated by the Vie-del Ranch Committee hung above the speakers' platform.

Cesar spoke for the concluding hour of the rally, with the audience applauding, cheering, and stomping their feet in response.

In his speech César emphasized that the continuing attempts to destroy the Union can only make the Movement stronger. He singled out for special attack the Nisei League, an organization of small Japanese growers and labor contractors who are presently concentrating all their efforts on crossing the Union picket line at White River Farms.

"The small farmer is nothing but a glorified farm worker with a lot of debts and a mortgage," he said. "Are those in the Nisei League trying to be white so hard that they are willing to destroy their brown brothers? If they want to take us on in a fight, we'll take them on," César declared.

César also emphasized that the Union is one of the few movements in the country that embraces many ethnic groups. "Among our members we have Chicanos, Cubans, Black people, Filipinos, Indians, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, White people and Arabs," he said.

Among the other speakers at the rally were José Silva from Gallo in Livingston, who spoke in Portuguese; John Burton of San Francisco, a leader in McGovern's presidential campaign in California; Al Villa, Fresno City Councilman; Armando Rodriguez, candidate for the 5th Supervisorial District seat in Fresno; and Alex Brown, Democratic nominee in the 32nd Assembly District.





# Killer Krupp Goes Free

INDIO, California--Richard Krupp, former Blythe, California policeman and killer of farm worker Mario Reyes Barreras, was freed here after a four-week murder trial despite the testimony of four eye witnesses. The jury deliberated only three hours.

According to Alfredo Figueroa, director of the Union's Blythe Field Office and instrumental in bringing Krupp to trial, the turning point in the trial came when someone either bribed or threatened a young Chicano witness to deny his former testimony and attempt to discredit the testimony of other prosecution witnesses. Figueroa declined to give the name of the witness at this time.

Alfredo said that the witness in question told him he changed his story because he was "afraid." In any case, the witness told the court that he had discussed testimony with other witnesses on the way to the police station.

Alfredo said the defense used this to discredit the testimony of four eyewitnesses, all of whom had testified that Krupp shot Mario Barreras without provocation.

Krupp and his defense lawyers had tried to defend him by saying that his gun had accidentally discharged as he struck Mario on the head during a struggle. But, not only did all the eyewitnesses say that Mario offered no resistance at all, a pathologist also testified that the bullet that killed Mario had made a clean hole,

and that there were no signs of Mario's head having been struck in a struggle. Alfredo reported.

However, the jury apparently did not feel that such testimony discredited Krupp's defense.

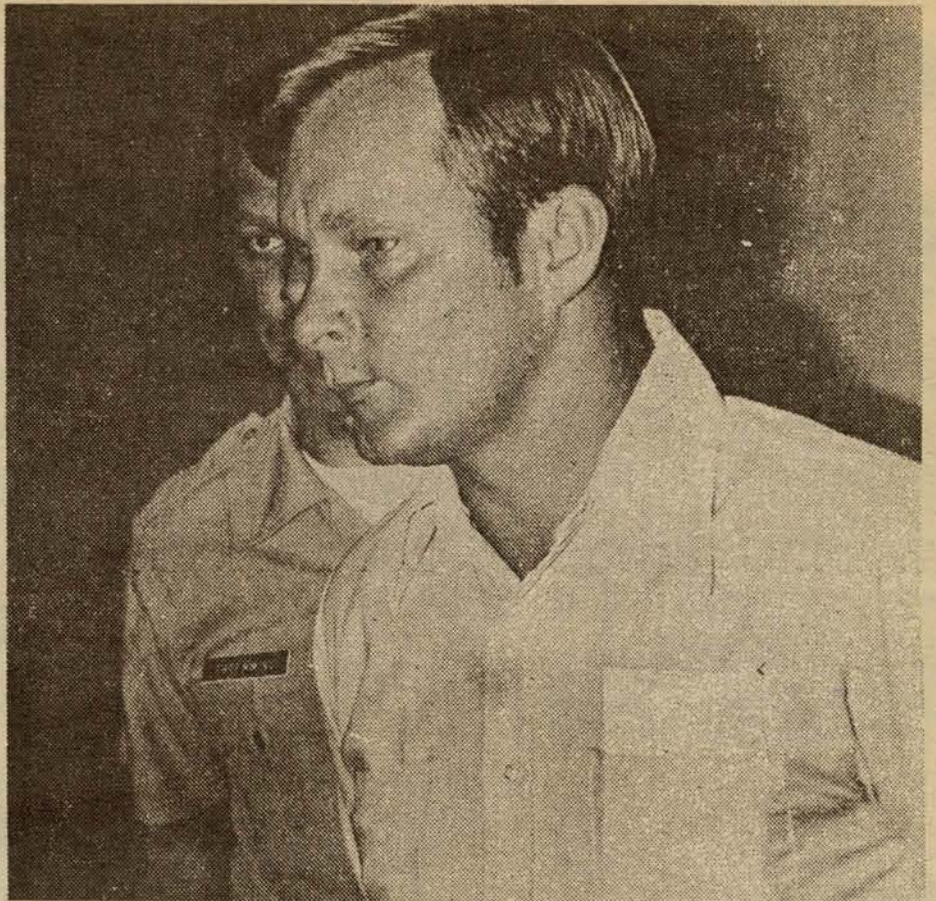
The Chicano community of Blythe is indignant over the decision, according to Figueroa. "How can they come in with a decision in three hours on a trial that took four weeks and saw dozens of witnesses?" he asked. He said there were strong feelings in the Chicano community that the jury was "racist" in bringing its decision, pointing out that, of the eight men and four women jurors, all were Anglo except for one Black. Not a single Chicano was allowed to sit in judgement of Richard Krupp.

Alfredo Figueroa is not giving up. The decision is so contrary to the evidence given that he is considering seeking a federal investigation of the trial.

"How can Chicano people be expected to believe in the law when this kind of thing happens?" he asks.

But it appears unlikely that things will change radically in Blythe in the near future. A local paper has quoted the police chief as saying that "I'd expect all of my officers to do generally the same thing under the same circumstances."

Mario Barreras lies dead. Richard Krupp walks free.



Richard Krupp

## Rights Commission Investigates "Assassinations"

SANTA FE, New Mexico--Police killings of three Chicanos and a black during the past year, ruled justifiable homicide by local and state authorities, merit a complete federal investigation, the New Mexico Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission has found.

The Advisory Committee took testimony from a district attorney and private citizens terming the deaths "assassinations" during a three-day public hearing June 8-10.

The hearing had been called, according to Committee Chairman Sterling Black of Albuquerque, because the Commission "has received disturbing reports of illegal and brutal use of police authority" in New Mexico.

The federal investigation would be asked in the deaths of the following victims: Roy Gallegos of Santa Fe, a young burglary suspect shot in the head by a

"warning shot." The Committee said Gallegos was shot while handcuffed and surrounded by state and local police at Santa Fe.

Chicano activists Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, both 29-years old and of Albuquerque, slain at a construction site by state and local police. The pair was cut down a day before they were to testify on a church-sponsored television program regarding prison conditions and police brutality. Officers said the two men, wounded 15 times between them, were trying to steal dynamite.

James Bradford, 24, Albuquerque, a black auto theft suspect shot by an Albuquerque policeman who said the man threatened him with a hair comb.

Albuquerque Police Chief Donald Byrd and his counterpart in Santa Fe, Felix Lujan, accepted an invitation to testify at the hearing, but several other public of-

ficials declined.

Byrd said it was "almost impossible to get rid of an incompetent individual on the Albuquerque police force" because of a "merit" system that "protects incompetent officers." Asked if Albuquerque police acted in a "humane manner" at all times, Byrd said, "I'm afraid we do not."

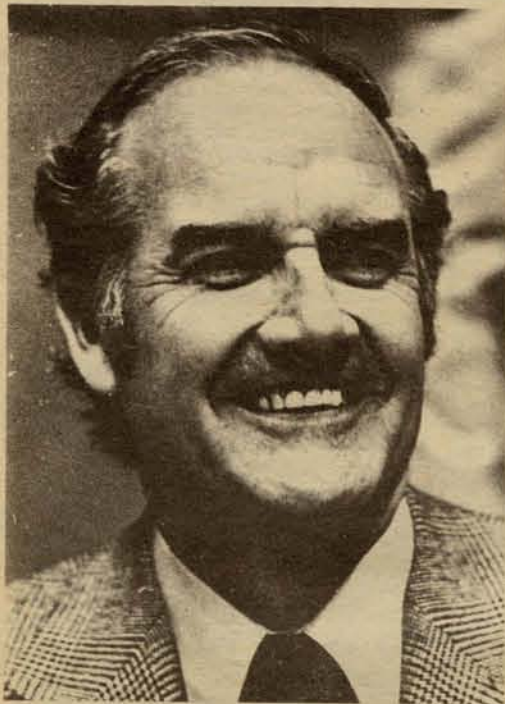
Paul Alexander, an assistant counsel to the Civil Rights Commission in Washington, perceived early in the hearing a "deep sense of frustration on the part of New Mexico citizens trying to follow up a grievance against the police."

Black Coalition leader John Goldsmith and leaders of other groups detailed incidents of selective stop and search police methods, police beatings, improper arrests, and other forms of alleged harassment of their organizations and Chicano and Black groups.

Mrs. Gallegos said she was able to obtain "only very little information" about the death of her son. She said she asked Dist. Atty. James C. Thompson of Santa Fe why he did not subpoena two eyewitnesses to the shooting to appear before the grand jury. The woman said the district attorney told her all witnesses had to volunteer. Thompson was among public officials declining to appear at the hearing to testify.

Also refusing to testify was Dist. Atty. Alexander Sceresse of Bernadillo County, who had ruled "justifiable homicide" in the deaths of Canales and Cordova. Dist. Atty. Donald Martinez of San Miguel County labeled the deaths of the Chicanos "assassinations" and said police would have been prosecuted if the killings had happened "in my district."

(Reprinted from AGENDA.)



## McGovern...YES

- McGovern is against compulsory arbitration.
- McGovern opposes wage controls which violate collective bargaining contracts.
- McGovern is for a higher minimum wage. In 1972 it was McGovern's vote that pushed across the \$2.20 minimum wage bill in the Senate.
- McGovern is for higher unemployment compensation. In 1966 he cast the crucial vote that won the measure for labor.
- McGovern is for Medicare and greater social security benefits.
- McGovern led the successful legislative battles for more jobs through public works and public service employment programs.
- McGovern sponsored food stamps and school lunch programs.
- McGovern is an outspoken supporter of civil rights legislation.
- McGovern is against "right to work" laws.
- McGovern is opposed to the export of American jobs to foreign countries.
- McGovern is a strong voice for peace.
- McGovern believes all workers, including those who are employed by the government, should have the right to strike. He also believes the restrictions imposed on government workers by the Hatch Act are unfair and should be removed.

THE RECORD SHOWS...McGOVERN 93.4% RIGHT FOR LABOR

## Nixon...NO

- In 1946 Richard Nixon was elected to the House of Representatives on a platform that called for "smashing the labor bosses."
- In 1947, Richard Nixon was one of the principal authors of the infamous Taft-Hartley Act and, the following year, the anti-labor Wood Act.
- Since Nixon has been President, he has slapped a freeze on wages but allowed prices and profits to rise virtually unchecked. It now costs more than \$1,300 a year to buy the food that cost \$1,100 when Nixon was elected.
- As President, Nixon opposed the passage of an effective job safety bill and a higher minimum wage.
- As President, Nixon vetoed government jobs for the unemployed and day care centers for working mothers.
- Nixon has invoked Taft-Hartley injunctions against labor and has proposed compulsory arbitration legislation to cripple labor.
- Although Nixon declared that he had "a secret plan to end the war" in 1968, the war in Viet Nam was raised to new heights.





## "Guadalupe Ten" Sentenced

SANTA MARIA, California--Injustice, Santa Maria Valley style, wrote another shameful chapter in the "Guadalupe Ten" case September 20 when seven of the ten were sentenced in Superior Court in Santa Maria.

All seven were given two years probation, six were given suspended sentences of 90 days, one was given a six months suspended sentence, and three were fined.

As part of the terms of probation, Manuel Echavarria was given 45 days in the county jail, Jesus Ortiz was given 10 days and fined \$125, Sammy Gonzales was given 5 days and fined \$75, and Fermin Sepulveda was fined \$125. All seven were told to act in a "lawful and orderly manner" at public meetings which they may attend in the future.

Other defendants receiving two years probation and 90 day suspended sentences are Augustina Guterrez, Carman Magaña and Margarito Cabello.

Two other defendants, Juana Estorga and Mary Baca, were found not guilty. Charges against the tenth person, Angel Fierro, were dismissed when United Farm Workers attorney Bill Carder showed the court that Fierro had not attended the Parent-Teacher Club meeting.

The jury trial, held in mid-August, developed from charges of disturbing the peace and disrupting a public meeting last March 16 in Guadalupe, a small town nine miles west of Santa Maria.

All seven were convicted on the single charge of disrupting a public meeting.

The Parent-Teacher Club of the Guadalupe Schools had invited Mel O'Campo, long-time foe of the United Farm Workers Union and Chicanos, a self-styled member of the right wing John Birch Society and a resident of Santa Maria, to speak about "The Truth Behind the Chicano Movement."

According to testimony in court there were 350 persons at the meeting. No one was arrested at the meeting, even though there were four sheriff's deputies in the room at all times and many police standing by "in case of trouble." The ten were cited to court three weeks later by notices in the mail.

A tape of the meeting, supplied by Rev. Anthony Cambra, Catholic priest in Guadalupe

who refused to say masses for the farm workers in the Guadalupe park during the strike of 1970, was played during a court session. It showed there was a great deal of noise from the audience when O'Campo tried to speak.

The meeting ended after thirty-five minutes even though no one was called out of order by the chairman Fausto Ragusci, president of the PTC.

Echavarria, most severely sentenced and the subject of a two-hour session on the stand during the trial, was said by witnesses to have directed the actions of other defendants "with his eyes", according to testimony of a sheriff's deputy. In conflicting testimony from other witnesses, Echavarria was supposed to have directed other witnesses with hand and arm signals.

During Echavarria's sentencing, Judge Richard Kirkpatrick told all the defendants they must respect the opinions of other persons and allow them the freedom to express their ideas.

Kirkpatrick gave examples of various extreme opinions that must be allowed expression including "those who wear the swastika," referring to Nazis.

"The cold light of reason is the best place to let people examine and reject bad ideas," Kirkpatrick said.

In a reply to the bench, Echavarria expressed hope that "this government would bring true justice to the barrios, ghettos and reservations of this country."

Another defendant, Carman Magaña, mother of seven children, one of whom, a five week old infant, spent each day of the trial with his mother in court, addressed the court through an interpreter.

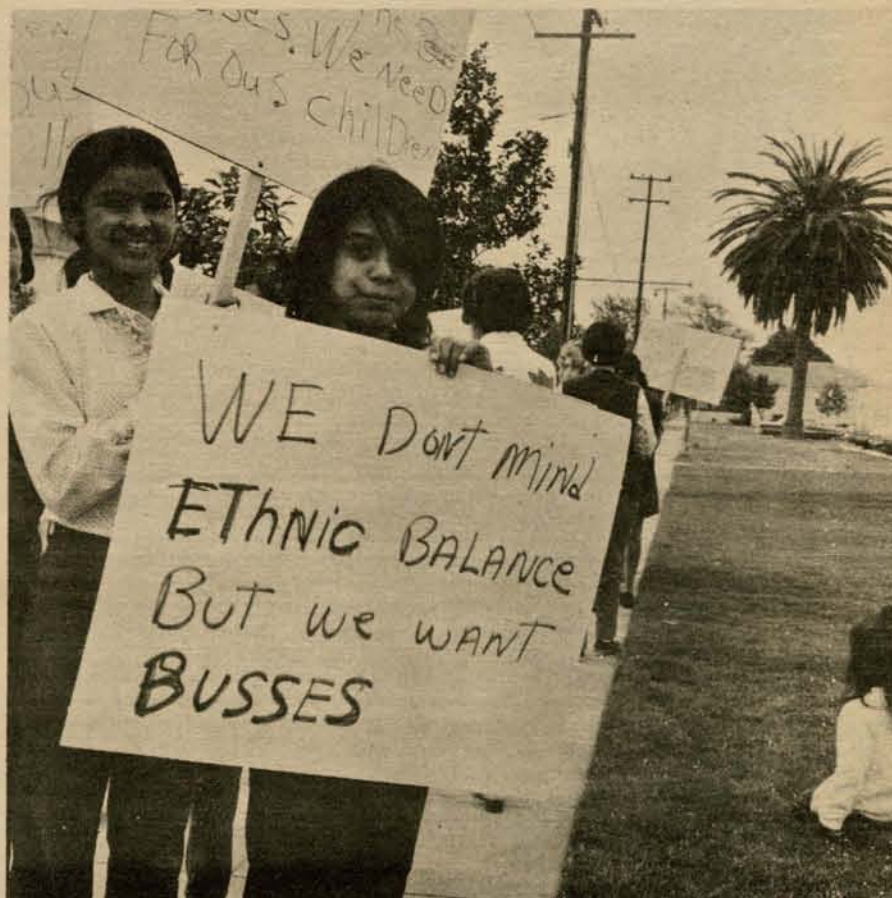
Mrs. Magaña, in an emotion-laden statement, said she wanted "to thank Fausto Ragusci for inviting me to the (Parent-Teacher Club) meeting," which resulted in the arrests and trial.

Ragusci, his wife Barbara, and Mel O'Campo, who all testified against the defendants, were in the courtroom for the sentencing.

Defense attorney Bill Carder will file an appeal within ten days in a Santa Barbara court.

All sentences are stayed by the court pending the appeal.

## Parents and Students Force School Board to Provide Transportation



SANTA MARIA, California--School opened in Santa Maria this fall with a picket line at the Santa Maria Elementary School administration office protesting the lack of transportation for elementary and junior high school students, some of whom must walk up to two miles to get to school.

United Farm Workers Union members joined with the pickets to complain about the hazardous conditions under which their children had to walk to school.

During the summer the school board adopted an integration plan that met state and federal requirements in a minimal fashion.

The board had previously appointed a citizens' committee to recommend integration plans. The committee had recommended a system of paired schools in which slightly more than 2,000 of the 6,000 students in the district would be bussed.

Even though 1,800 students were then being bused without integration, a group calling themselves "Parents for Neighborhood Schools" voiced strong objections to this "massive busing."

Along with adopting the integration plan during the summer, the board decided there was no money in the budget for more than

minimal busing.

As a result children living up to two miles away from school are forced to walk across state highways to get to school, because many families do not have cars available to take their children to school.

After three days of picketing and community meetings, School Superintendent John Mudge reversed his earlier announcements and made buses available on the next school day.

Mudge asked to Comité Consejero de Educación de Santa Maria to act as an intermediary between the school and the community, to express the community's needs and help the school district resolve its problems.

The Comité was formed by the Chicano community as a result of disturbances last year at the local high school.

The school district has agreed in negotiations with the Comité to accept a similar advisory group for the elementary district.

The district also agreed to hire Chicano teachers to create an ethnically balanced staff. Still under discussion is a timetable for completion of the balanced staff.

## Meet Mel O'Campo:

### Santa Maria Sell-Out



Mel O'Campo with two of his buddies-- State Senator John Harmer (R., Glendale), sponsor of anti-farm worker legislation (right), and Mike Shultz, an Imperial Valley grower (center).

SANTA MARIA, California--"He's a puppet and a sell-out." "He lives in a fancy house where the rich live." That's what farm workers in this area have to say about Melchor O'Campo, self-proclaimed enemy of the United Farm Workers movement. They should know. O'Campo lives here.

"I can say I am very proud to be a member of the John Birch Society," says O'Campo when speaking for himself. "I went to the society, they did not come after me." "Don't call me a Chicano," he asks. "I am an American of Mexican descent."

O'Campo used to make a living as a salesman and radio announcer. Now he pays off the mortgage on his fancy house with fees from speeches to "fat cats" set up by the Birch Society and other right-wing groups, anxious to hear from a "Mexican-American" turncoat who will bad-mouth

Cesar Chavez and the efforts of poor farm workers to build themselves a union.

O'Campo has done the bidding of the right-wingers ever since the strike began here in 1970. In so doing, he has steadily drifted away from the people he professes such concern over. "He has begun to avoid talking to farm workers," say people in Santa Maria, "because he knows we won't hold back from telling him he is a liar who is interested only in money."

O'Campo recently demonstrated his "concern" by prosecuting the "Guadalupe Ten", striking farm workers who had confronted him during an anti-Chicano speech at Guadalupe, a small town near Santa Maria.

"But Mel O'Campo is not the real enemy. When we finally force the growers to sign Union contracts," say the Santa Maria strikers, "Mel O'Campo will have to go back to his former career as a peddling salesman."





# ARAB FARM WORKERS SPEAK

The article in Arabian in this issue of EL MALCRIADO is by Dirhem Yahya, a farm worker at Tenneco's Ducor Ranch and a strong supporter of the Union. Brother Dirhem came to the United States from the Yemen Arab Republic in January and, like most of the 6,000 Arabian farm workers in California has worked in the asparagus harvest and in the grapes.

There were some Arabian workers in California fields in the early 1960's, but the great influx began after 1965, when the government ended the importation of serf-like Mexican "Braceros." The Delano grape strike also encouraged some growers to turn to Arabian workers as supposedly docile and unorganizable replacements for their Mexican and Filipino workers who were pro-union. Almost all of the Arabians here are from North or South Yemen, one of the most isolated areas of Arabia, located on the corner of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, and bordered only by Saudi Arabia.

Yemen itself, the kingdom of the Biblical Queen of Sheba, was so isolated through the centuries that most of it did not fall under European colonization or influence. The Turks of the Ottoman Empire temporarily occupied the country in the 19th Century and England did seize the port city of Aden for a naval base. Aden gained independence several years ago as the Peoples Democratic Republic of South Yemen, after a brief but bitter and violent struggle to force the British out.

The Yemen Arab Republic or North Yemen was founded on September 26, 1962, after a one-day revolution that was almost bloodless. The country had been ruled by despotic Immans (Kings) for centuries and slavery, public beatings, hangings, beheadings and corporal punishment were all common. None but the Imman's family and aristocracy were allowed education, there were no public schools, no universities, four hospitals for the 6,000,000 people. Newspapers were forbidden to the common people and the government printed the only papers available to the aristocracy. Women were (and in many ways still are) virtual slaves, bought as wives by the fathers of their prospective husbands at the age of 12 or 14, and expected to clean, cook and bear children, preferably males.

The Republic ended slavery and some of the more horrible medieval forms of public torture and punishment, allowed newspapers, pushed free education and health care (now available to most city dwellers), built roads, factories, airports and bridges, and made a vigorous effort to modernize the country. Most of the younger Yemenis here can read and write (in Arabic), but



since most are from rural areas of Yemen, few have had any formal education. Almost all have families, though the wives and children are left in Yemen. Their isolation from American society is almost total, much like the Filipinos of the 1930's (and of today). They live almost entirely in labor camps, many of them segregated, and they rarely get into town except to cash their checks. Because few speak or understand any English, they have great difficulty getting driver's licenses, a fact which further increases their isolation. Traveling salesmen and prostitutes visit the camps and rip off hard-earned money, but for the most part the Arabians are extremely thrifty and hard working. And unlike the Filipino men who were trapped in this social isolation before beginning families, the Arabians can look forward to the day when they have saved enough money to get back to their wives and families. Most go back to Yemen every 3 to 5 years.

Since the major grape companies signed contracts in 1970, many Arabians have become union members. Though there were no unions in Yemen until recently, most understand the necessity and advantages of working together and organizing. Because of the language barriers, the social structure of the rural society from which they come, their fundamentalist religion (Islam), and their isolation from other American society, they present a special set of problems and opportunities for the union in organizing. But the 40 or more Arabian workers who went to jail in support of the White River strikers should be proof to all the Union that the Arabians are becoming militant and dedicated Union brothers in the forefront of our struggle for justice for the farm workers of America. HIYA W'ALLAH HIYA!

مسعود سعيد محمد

عبد محمود الصياني

محمد حزام الشوحطي

عبد الله صالح معزب

محمد مش صالح

صالح قاسم

صالح محمد

طاهر فاضل

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رنا يكون النجاح والله الموفق للجميع درهم محمد محسن يحي



# Puerto Rican Farm Workers

Four Puerto Rican organizers, Wilmer Silva, Alberto Gonzalez, William Loperena and Juan Irizarry have been visiting the Union in California for almost two weeks. Wilmer Silva came representing the Ecumenical Ministry for Puerto Rican Migrants, while the other brothers are from CAMP, "Committee of Support for Puerto Rican Migrants."

They are dedicated to the liberation of Puerto Rican farm workers who are forced by economic need to come to the eastern United States, where they are exploited by American growers. They have just finished traveling throughout Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York where they visited the labor camps in which the majority of Puerto Rican farm workers must stay.

can Department of Labor can never resolve the grievances of Puerto Rican farm workers because the department is "an inherent part of the problem." It is the agency that recruits the workers, hears their grievances, yet is part of the colonial government that has to satisfy the wishes of American business interests.

Juan Irizarry gave a typical example of the way in which Puerto Rican farm workers are treated. He said the Glassboro (N.J.) Service Association, an agency of the Farm Bureau in New Jersey and Delaware, serves 800 growers with 2,000 ranches.

The Association brings 5,000 to 9,000 workers from Puerto Rico every year and keeps them in central labor camps as a reserve of cheap labor for the growers. "The Association keeps them like a herd



"What we saw," said Alberto Gonzalez, "is no more than a new kind of slavery in the 20th century." They found "horrible working and living conditions." Many of the camps have no heating for the harsh winter months. The beds are filthy, and the blankets are never changed. The sanitary conditions are repulsive, the group told EL MALCRIADO.

The workers have no privacy. They have no lockers in which to put their personal belongings. There are no fire extinguishers. The toilets are not adequately serviced and are located right next to dining halls. The windows are broken and door screens torn. For this they are charged \$30-50 rent per week.

And the workers are not able to change these conditions," the organizers told us, "because they are completely isolated when they come to this country." They are recruited by the Puerto Rican Department of Labor and are contracted directly to grower associations in the United States.

The Puerto Rican Department of Labor supposedly protects the rights of Puerto Rican farm workers, said Wilmer Silva, but it does not enforce the contracts it has with the growers, which stipulate minimal living and working conditions. The grievances the organizers listed were all violations of the contracts the growers

of cattle. The grower comes and picks the animals he wants. If some of them are 'defective,' he can return them and get more," explained Juan.

Juan says that those camps charge the workers \$17.31 a week for food whether they are working or not. And when they finally do work, most of their pay is deducted to pay for the food. They only get one hot meal a day. Many can no longer stand the conditions at the camps and try to leave. So the Association employs guards to keep them from escaping.

Juan Irizarry told us he was once contracted to work for Jolly Green Giant Company, which brings in 800-900 Puerto Rican farm workers to work a six to eight week season harvesting asparagus in Delaware. Most of the time there was no work. The contract with the Puerto Rican



Puerto Rican organizers (left to right) Wilmer Silva, Alberto Gonzalez, William Loperena and Juan Irizarry (seated) during a recent visit to Union headquarters at La Paz, California.

Department of Labor called for a minimum wage of \$1.80 an hour, but he was never told how many hours he had worked. He was never paid for the two hours spent in going to and from the fields. The food that was taken out to the workers at lunch time was often half-rotten.

Juan began to protest the conditions and began to organize his fellow workers in order to force the company to live up to the contract. The company fired him for "the lack of harmony with the company's working operations." Juan said, "They even sent the immigration specialist for New

Jersey, Apolonio Collazo, to pacify me by offering me a job as an assistant. They failed to buy me off."

In their visit to California our brothers Wilmer, Alberto, William and Juan met at length with César, participated on the Union picket lines against White River Farms, and visited with Puerto Rican workers who work in the Delano area. They did much to lay the groundwork for the Union to someday bring better living and working conditions to our Puerto Rican brothers on the eastern coast of the United States.

## Florida:

# UNION SUES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MIAMI, Florida--Every year about this time the big sugar growers and processors down here get ready to harvest their crop of cane. Like growers everywhere, they are eager to find the cheapest possible source of labor to do their work. Traditionally for cane growers this has been alien Jamaicans, imported with the help of the United States government for the sole purpose of harvesting the cane.

Equally traditionally, domestic farm workers--mostly Blacks--go unemployed while their even poorer Jamaican brothers underbid them for the work, since they will soon return home where the American dollar carries a lot more weight.

There are federal laws to prevent that. Growers must apply to the United States government for permission to import Jamaican workers, and the only legal grounds for such permission is that the domestic

labor supply has been exhausted. But, as is often the case in the agricultural industry, the government conveniently looks the other way and invariably gives the growers permission to import Jamaicans while American farm workers go jobless.

On September 8 the United Farm Workers filed suit in a federal court in Miami to stop this illegal collusion between the government and the growers and protect the jobs of domestic farm workers.

The suit charges U. S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, Raymond Farrell, commissioner of immigration and naturalization; James D. Hodgson, secretary of labor; and William Norwood, Department of Labor regional manpower director, with violating labor laws by allowing the importation of foreign workers without going through the proper certification procedures.

Dr. Marshall Barry, Assistant Professor of Economics at New College in Sarasota, told the court that more than 80,000 Florida farm workers went unemployed while the government permitted the Jamaican cutters into the country on the grounds that domestic workers were unavailable.

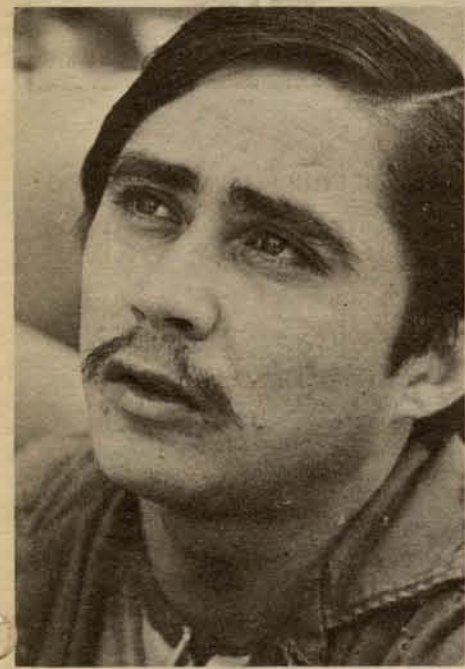
Dr. Barry and Eliseo Medina, director of Union organizing in Florida, are using the government's own statistics to prove their case. Medina pointed out that state figures showed some 116,000 farm workers had entered Florida but that only 78,000 of them were employed during the peak harvest season. These figures do not even account for workers already residing in Florida.

Dr. Barry's testimony was followed by that of William Norwood, regional manpower director for the U. S. Department of Labor and a defendant in the suit, whose responsibility it is to certify the importation of Jamaican workers only when no domestic workers are available.



Dorthy Johnson, assistant to Eliseo Medina, reports that "they have just begun to question him (Norwood), but have already discovered a July 11th letter from his office certifying the importation of this year's Jamaican work force. It wasn't until August that the growers began their flimsy recruitment effort (for domestic workers), so it is beginning to look more and more like whatever efforts are made are merely for appearances sake and are not at all designed to reach the people who could work in the cane."

Joe Kaplan, a lawyer from Miami, is donating his services to the Union in arguing our case before the court. As Dorthy describes it, he "had to fight off about eight lawyers, including a guy sent down by the Department of Labor from Atlanta. But it was beautiful to see Joe stay so cool while all these other lawyers were just getting more and more up tight."




have with the Puerto Rican Department of Labor.


"The inspectors that come to look at the labor camps never talk with the workers," explained Wilmer, "they always go to the grower, the labor contractor or the administrators of the camps. They are given boxes of produce and the reports on the camps come out favorable to the growers."

The organizers told us the Puerto Ri-



# STRIKE AGAINST WHITE RIVER FARMS!

 200 strikers have been arrested in the areas of Delano and Poplar in their month-long strike against White River Farms(Buttes Gas & Oil Company).

 A great number of the illegal aliens brought in to break the strike have been arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol.

\* \* \* \*


In 1966, the United Farm Workers won a Union contract from Schenley, Inc. It was the first collective bargaining agreement for farm workers in the history of the United States. Later, Schenley sold its land to Buttes Gas & Oil Company and the land became White River Farms.

The money-grabbing owners of White River Farms refuse to negotiate a new Union contract.


\* Under the Union Contract, the workers had a minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour, \$2.70 an hour for pruning and \$6.00 an hour piece-rate harvesting. But the company wants to break the Union so it can lower wages.

\* Under the Union contract the workers enjoyed job security. But the company wants to break the Union so it can bring in machines to put the gondola grape pickers out of work.

\* \* \* \*

 Why are other growers, including Japanese growers, helping the company to get labor contractors to bring in scabs to break the strike?

BECAUSE THE GROWERS WANT TO KILL THE UNION SO THEY CAN PAY THE SAME MISERABLE WAGES THEY PAID BEFORE THE GRAPE STRIKE IN 1965. THEY WANT TO KEEP THE UNION FROM BRINGING HIGHER WAGES AND A BETTER LIFE TO ALL FARM WORKERS. THE GROWERS WANT TO DESTROY THE UNION BECAUSE IT WON'T LET THEM BRING IN MACHINES TO PUT FARM WORKERS OUT OF WORK LIKE THEY DID IN THE COTTON, TOMATOES AND OTHER CROPS.

 If anyone tries to recruit you to go and scab at White River Farms(Buttes Gas & Oil Company) or if you know about anyone who is planning to break the strike call one of the following numbers:

Delano: 725-9703, 725-1594

Lamont: 845-3344, 845-3712, 845-1306

Pass this on to other farm worker sisters and brothers. Don't be fooled into breaking the strike! DON'T BE A SCAB! This battle affects the futures of us and our families. Rise to the fight. Together we will win!

