

UFW

AFL-CIO

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Donation

# LETTUCE WORKERS REJECT TEAMSTERS IN LANDSLIDE VOTE

## UFW Assails Agricultural Employment Board

Phoenix, Arizona--Lettuce workers at the Cook Produce Company farm rejected a Teamster unionizing effort by a landslide 42-3 vote in this state's first government supervised ballot election in the agricultural industry, held last November 27.

The election was conducted after the Teamsters petitioned the State Agricultural Employment Relations Board claiming that 30 per cent of the workers wanted IBT representation.

Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, on the other hand, has issued claims that it has union authorization cards from at least 80 per cent of the workers.

Phoenix UFW Director Jose Luna said that the Chavistas circulated leaflets at the fields prior to the election citing Teamster inability to provide benefits for its workers.

Said Luna, "All we did was tell the workers about the lettuce worker in Salinas who died and whose widow could not collect benefits from the Teamsters to cover burial expenses. We showed the workers pictures of the funeral and it was enough to turn off most workers and make them realize that the Teamsters are not really for the workers."

### TEAMSTERS NO !

The Teamsters have also petitioned the state board for similar elections at Ever-Krisp Vegetables Inc., Tolleson and Tanita Farms and Bodine Produce, but Luna says that he doubts the Teamsters will actually follow through. The Phoenix UFW Director also says that he feels the Teamsters may stay away from elections since they cannot afford the embarrassment of losing three or four elections in a row.

Robert Dickelman, board counsel, said the three upcoming elections involve a similar choice between the Teamsters and no union unless the UFW petitions and qualifies for a spot on the ballot.

The UFW has not petitioned the board for a spot on the ballot and inside sources indicate that Chavez' union has no intention of trying to get on the ballot.

UFW attorney Steve Burton said that the union was challenging the constitutionality of the board on the grounds that seasonal and migrant workers as well as workers on strike are disbarred from voting, by law. Burton said that the UFW suit against the board was scheduled to be heard by a three-judge federal court in the near future.

The Teamsters have never won an election against the UFW whenever there was an impartial third party to supervise them and the most recent balloting indicates that they cannot win even when there isn't an opponent.



(EL MALCRIADO photo)

Yuma striker waves UFW flag in defiance of growers' attempts to squash union organizing in lemon groves. The victory of the farm workers may be imminent though as Yuma growers have let it be made known they might be willing to allow union recognition elections among the citrus workers. (See related stories on page 2.)



# Growers In Quandry Over Losses



(EL MALCRIADO photo)

PROUDLY SHE WAVES—A union sister waves her strike flag in the hot, dusty wind of Yuma County, Arizona, to let onlookers know the United Farmworkers, AFL-CIO stands for justice as well as patriotism, the apparent message from the Yuma Citizens Committee For Agriculture (background). It was just another moment of union fervor in the lemon strike that stretched from the long hot days of August to the final weeks of 1974, the year that Yuma Harvesting Association President Harvel Urmsby said the growers decided the UFW would be around "for a long, long time."

Yuma, Arizona — In the air-conditioned offices of the Yuma Harvesting Association the time clocks are ticking toward high noon, the moment of truth when they will have to go face the striking United Farm Workers under the hot Arizona sun.

A three month old strike in the dusty fields set the stage for a do-or-die decision in December. This is the month when the YHA supplies 90 per cent of the nation's fresh lemons, the most profitable product of the local citrus industry.

At least two-thirds of the August-March harvest remains, with the November-December production possibly determining whether the growers can realize their potential boom year, or suffer an economic bust.

The California-Arizona growers estimated a potential bumper crop worth up to \$40 million, 28 per cent better than last season's all-time record.

But their plans have gone astray, first when over 2,000 workers walked off the job in late August after they found out that the growers would lower the wage per bin from \$14 to \$18, and who also seek UFW representation.

To add to this, this summer was unexpectedly hot and moist and this has speeded up the growth of the lemons. Without pickers the weight of the fast growing lemons has caused a 30 per cent loss to some growers from limb breakage.

Despite these losses the growers have held out, preferring to seek strike-breakers first from across the border in Mexico and later from as far away as Oregon and Washington. In order to save their bumper crop the growers needed 3,000 pickers, but as late as No. 15 they were claiming only 2,080 to be in the fields.

This figure, however, is disputed by UFW strike captains who say there can't be more than 800 workers in the orchards to date.

The first three months of the harvest, with the work stoppage and the speeded growth of the lemons, produced these indications of a multi-million dollar disaster looming for the grower:

—The growers reported only 21 per cent of the harvest going for fresh lemons — again, the most profitable item — compared to the usual 32 per cent.

—A 30 per cent damage figure from limb breaking, wind-scarring and sun-burning could mean a loss of up to \$12 million for the total harvest.

—Actual picking from August to October 22 produced shipments of 1,808 carlots worth \$3.8 million in profit, compared to advance expectation of 3,693 carlots worth \$7.7 million in profits. That means \$3.9 million in potential profits were lost in the first 14 per cent of the harvest.

—Marketing and advertising costs, which are the bulk of production expenses, jumped upward

to \$400 per acre, while at the same time the price growers got for a 38-pound carton fell to an average \$6.67 from last year's \$7.49.

Obviously, labor trouble was the last thing the growers needed in this situation yet they refused to deal with the UFW and its strikers, which now total 3,000.

The result of all this has been that the growers are "strip picking" some of the smaller groves. This means that they are not concerning themselves with trying to pick table lemons anymore but instead are attempting to get their fruit off the trees as soon as possible. In other words they are trying to save their trees from further damage and are sacrificing their fresh fruit profits in doing so.

When "strip picking" is ordered, wages usually are lowered, but Art Warner of Yuma Citrus Company reported the growers aren't considering lowering wages until at least after January when lemons are sold only to processors.

YHA Manager Charlie Chumley said pickers now are getting \$18 a bin which he said contributed to an increase in the labor force. That \$18 wage was the goal sought by the workers who walked out and started the strike by the UFW, which now has 3,000 strikers waiting to recoup the growers losses at the most critical moment — high noon — in Yuma's harvest season.

## Chavez Meets With Esteban Torres of the UAW



Esteban Torres and UFW President Cesar Chavez discuss plans for the farm worker fight against the grower-Teamster alliance. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

Keene, Calif.—The United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO headquarters was honored last month with a visit by Esteban Torres, United Auto Workers member and old time supporter and friend of the farm worker struggle.

Brother Torres came to La Paz before leaving for Washington D.C. where he will be Assistant Director of International Affairs for the UAW.

In his new position, Brother Torres will work closely with European, Asian, African and Latin American unions to develop union programs and establish ties with union counterparts as a countervailing force to the large multi-national corporations that are spread around the world today.

Brother Torres describes his new duties as being an effort at trade union solidarity. "All brothers and sisters must join in a common fight against the large corporations that today manipulate not only governments but the giant economies."

By fighting the large multi-national corporations, Brother Torres says, workers throughout the world can upgrade their working conditions, living standards and wages.

Brother Torres says that he will work on an international level to fight oppression and the "tyranny that the multi-national corporations are often associated with in certain governments."

A longtime supporter of the farm worker struggle, in 1966 he joined Cesar Chavez in the historic UFW march to Sacramento.

Brother Torres also was instrumental at one time in organizing the Venezuelan union to support the UFW grape boycott. The Venezuelan dock workers agreed to refuse to unload scab grapes.

### SUPPORTS STRUGGLE

When asked if his support for the UFW would continue in his new position, Brother Torres explained that the UAW today, as in the past, was very much involved in assisting the UFW with international contacts and in informing other unions to support the UFW boycotts.

He says "I'm sure I will follow the dictates and policy of our union to support the farm worker struggle where ever it is at."

He adds that the UAW has been a strong supporter of the farm workers and that he assumes President Leonard Woodcock of the UAW and the International Executive Board will carry on their support on the international level.

## YUMA GROWERS AGREE TO UNION ELECTIONS

San Luis, Arizona—UFW strike leader Manuel Chavez announced last Sunday that lemon growers in the Yuma area have agreed to hold union representational elections.

The lemon growers have been the target of a bitter 14-month dispute in which striking workers are demanding higher wages and recognition

of the UFW as their bargaining agent.

Chavez, younger brother of UFW President Cesar Chavez, said the growers agreed to hold elections after Congressmen Edward Roybal (D.-L.A.) and George Brown (D.-L.A.) talked to grower attorney Steve Shaddle and several lemon grove owners.

According to the information, Shaddle and the growers have agreed to elections only if governor-elect Sal Castro supervises them.

Maurilio Urias, a UFW strike organizer, said that the recent developments were "magnificent" and added that he hoped the elections would easily be won by his union.



# CHAVEZ CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION INTO SHERIFF VIOLENCE

United Farm Workers of America President Cesar Chavez today called for a congressional investigation of attacks on farm workers by deputy sheriffs and "goons" employed by Sunkist to "call off their hired guns" on the strike scene.

Chavez said striking farm workers in the San Luis-Yuma area are facing "a deliberate campaign of lawlessness by law enforcement officers and hired gunslingsers employed by Sunkist".

## Bad Bud's Boys

Chavez said Yuma County Attorney Mike Smith vowed that instead of ordering further arrests, he would instruct Yuma County sheriff Bud Yancy to "use clubs and mace against the (UFW) people".

"They (the sheriff's deputies) don't want to arrest our people", Chavez said. "They have no grounds for arresting them. They want to beat them up".

Smith was quoted in local newspapers stating he was "working on ways to break the strike". Smith referred to women members of the UFW as "nothing more than camp followers".

Chavez cited efforts by Sheriff Yancy to carry out Smith's goal of curbing the strike:

Tuesday morning (November 19) fifty strikers were peacefully picketing a World War II-vintage labor camp outside Somerton, Ariz. After tear gassing the pickets, Yancy's deputies attempted to

force strikers across a busy public road. As a UFW organizer was about to leave by car, Yancy told him, "We will smash all your windows".

That afternoon Yancy's men approached 160 strikers who were picketing an orchard on 16th Street outside Yuma. As the farm workers--in 35 or 40 cars--were preparing to drive to another orchard, the deputies blockaded the preventing any cars from leaving. The officers then went car to car brandishing shotguns and indiscriminately arresting strikers. Many cars were first maced before deputies pulled the occupants from their vehicles. Out of the eighteen arrested, eight were maced. Four women in one car were arrested, including a sixteen-year old girl. One of the women was choked by deputies as they arrested her.

## Gunslingsers

Chavez said the county attorney's action was prompted by the success of the UFW strike. "The growers now need 2,500 to 3,000 workers to harvest lemons. Only a few are working".

Chavez said the lemon growers have hired "imported gunslingsers" who harass and intimidate the farm worker pickets.

"We are calling on Sunkist to remove their hired hands from the strike scene before people are killed or hurt," Chavez said. "We have asked several congressmen to instigate immediate investigation into the breakdown of law in Yuma County".



ON THE ROAD TO A UNION OF THEIR CHOICE—With his Black Eagle flag in bold relief against the early morning light, an intent campesino stands with his brothers on the picket line at a struck lemon orchard near Yuma, Arizona. They gaze across a ditch at what little picking activity there is at this point in the three-month old strike, with up to 3,000 strikers holding strong in favor of the union of their choice, United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO. (EL MALCRIADO Photo)

## UFW Gives Disillusioned Lemon Pickers A Ride Back Home

San Luis, Arizona—Sixty disillusioned lemon pickers from Texas hitched a ride on a UFW bus back home after finding that their recruiting contractors lied to them about working conditions in the lemon orchards.

A hundred farm workers arrived early in September and came to the UFW union hall after working a few days in the orchards. They complained about their pay and their living conditions.

The workers told the union officials they were recruited in southern Texas with promises of good pay and good living conditions, but were never told there was a strike going on.

They explained that their labor contractors told them they would make \$18 for picking a bin of

lemons and that they would have good living accommodations.

When they arrived, however, they found they would earn only \$14 a bin and while living in a condemned labor camp, which used to be a concentration camp during the war. Many of them said the camp was so overcrowded that they had to sleep out in the open.

They also said that if they had been told about the strike they would never have come in the first place. Many of them expressed support for the strike and said that the only reason they came was because they had been duped.

One farm worker, who prefers to remain unknown, said, "We were lied to. They gave us all

kinds of promises but it was only to get us here to break the strike. But now we know the truth and we want to get out of here."

Sixty of them expressed their desire to return home but they explained they didn't have money for bus fare. The union immediately offered one of its buses to return the workers to their homes.

The bus traveled all the way from El Paso, Texas to Brownsville, Texas dropping off the workers in their home towns or places where they had been recruited.

About 10 of them remained in San Luis and joined the strike. They are presently receiving strike benefits and pulling duty on the picket line or the UFW tents along the border.

## New Farm Workers' Aid Set

### L.A. Trade Unionists to Sponsor Christmas Caravan to Delano

Los Angeles, Calif.—A Christmas caravan to Delano sponsored by the County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, is planned for Saturday, December 21.

Representatives from various L.A. trade unions will deliver food, toys and cash contributions to the United Farm Workers in the spirit of solidarity and Christmas.

Two buses are scheduled to depart the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley areas at 10 a.m. From there, they will go to Delano and deliver the Christmas items, including perishable as well as non-perishable foods.

Following the delivery, the "Angelino" unionists will attend a rally at the UFW's Forty Acres where the National Executive Board is expected to greet the donors.

Cooperating in the effort will be the United Auto Workers. The Federation is urging participation of all AFL-CIO unions, councils and delegates in assisting to make this the "biggest and best" caravan to Delano.

Last year, the Federation sponsored two Christmas caravans with 150 vehicles loaded up with gifts and donations.

The Federation and cooperating unions also are urging the actual physical participation of L.A. trade unionists to demonstrate the strong support for the farm worker struggle.

Advance food contributions can be made at the Electrical Workers Local 11 hiring hall L.A. For further information, contact Barbara Nardella at the Federation building, (213) 381-5611

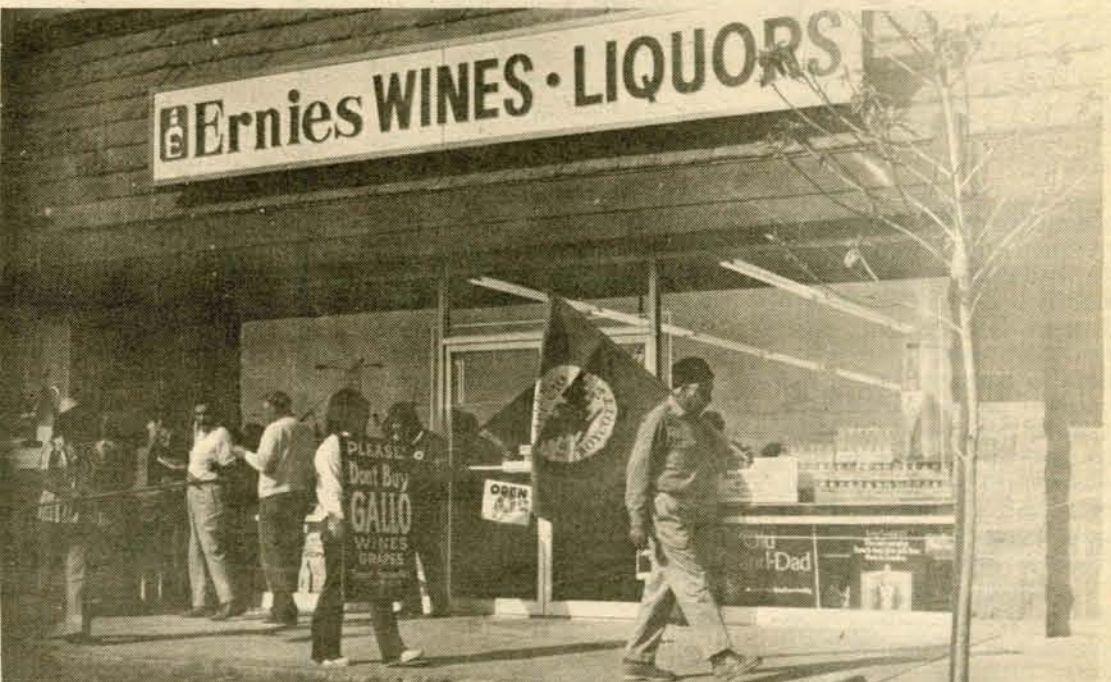
## Ex-Teamster Sentenced In Bribery Case

San Jose, Calif.—A federal judge has sentenced ex-Teamster Theodore Gonsalves to prison and set a Dec. 16 hearing on possible retrial of Salinas grower James Martin for conspiracy to disrupt the United Farm Workers' 1970 organizing drive.

Gonsalves, the Teamsters' former Modesto Local 748 leader who faced up to five years and \$5,000 in fines for demanding and receiving \$10,000 bribe, was sentenced to a one year in prison by Federal Judge Robert F. Peckham on Nov. 25.

Martin and another Salinas grower, Thomas Hitchcock, were acquitted Nov. 1 of charges they paid the bribe after telling a federal jury Gonsalves threatened them with death if they didn't.

But the jury declared a mistrial on a charge that Martin conspired to pay the bribe, the count on which he may be retried. An ex-Teamster prosecution witness testified Martin agreed to pay and actually turned over \$10,000 for Gonsalves.



SUCCESS IN REEDLEY—UFW strikers in the Fresno area have persuaded liquor stores in Reedley, Parlier and Sanger to discontinue Gallo wine. Local growers have attempted to discourage boycott picket lines by driving their cars close to the strikers. In one case, David Santeno, a grower, attempted to drive through a picket line, but the police intervened and arrested him. Shown above are picketers at Ernie's Wines / Liquors in Reedley.





FLAG-WAVING PICKET CAPTAIN—Angel Garza of Lamont UFW leads a team of union picketers outside Thriftmart Supermarket in Bakersfield, California.

## CAMPESINOS HEAR PICKETS RIGHTS CALLED "MOB RULE"

Bakersfield, Calif.—More than 50 campesinos heard their picket rights denounced as "mob rule" by the Northern California Grocers Association in a Nov. 22 court hearing.

Superior Court Judge Walter Osborn Jr. was asked to limit the number of UFW picketers at each store, the latest move by the grocers in their statewide attempt to stop the union's boycott of lettuce, grapes and Gallo wines.

"You're going to have to be quiet, we're holding court here," an Anglo court bailiff warned the campesinos as they walked into the courtroom, as if they didn't know where they were.

The judge said he was "painfully conscious" of the issue as he opened the hearing on whether to give the grocers a preliminary injunction against the UFW picketers. He granted a temporary restraining order last September after the campesinos put spirited picket lines in front of two or three stores carrying scab products the previous month. The grocers asked for the

limit on picketers to apply to 90 stores in Kern County.

Judge Osborn postponed making a ruling on the injunction after hearing arguments from UFW attorney Debroah Vollmer and grocers attorney Randolph Roder.

Judge Osborn overruled Vollmer's demurrer, which was a challenge to the judge's right to issue such a mass injunction on constitutional grounds. He set Jan. 24, 1975 as the date for her answer to that ruling. On the injunction request itself, he noted there have not been many such cases before so he will have to study the legal arguments, as well as the new declarations from witnesses on both sides that claim physical threats were made by the other side.

At one point, the judge commented "This court doesn't go for store owners making threats against pickets." Vollmer told the campesinos later, "We may have won."

Vollmer and Roder argued over the question of physical threats. Roder told Judge Osborn, "We want to prevent mob rule from

taking over. Four pickets at each door turns into nothing less than mob rule. There's no reason why one picket at each door can't get their point across. There's no reason to allow pickets to engage in coercion and intimidation of customers, and that's what's been happening in Kern County. There has been yelling and screaming like you're going to be dead if you go in that store."

Vollmer said Roder's accusations were based on declaration, not evidence in the courtroom. "Are the picketers' constitutional rights to be decided on the basis of declarations alone? They're filled with conclusionary statements, just a lot of hearsay. There is no way to cross-examine a declaration. There has been no showing of a specific statement by a picketer. There has not been even one example of a physical threat of violence," she said.

Attacking the grocers' claim they seek only reasonable restraints, she added "I say it strait jackets the First Amendment."

### Effort to Defeat Boycott

## GROWERS MOVE TO STOP UFW PICKETERS

Sacramento, Calif.—The Teamsters Union says it will blacklist stores that honor the UFW boycott, according to grocery owners who are attacking the Chavistas' picketing rights in courtrooms throughout the state.

The Northern California Grocers Association supports court actions won against UFW picketers in Davis, Bakersfield, Redwood City and elsewhere. It plans another lawsuit against Sacramento picketers, according to Frank Marcello, the association's anti-UFW legal adviser. Marcello has been fighting UFW boycotts in court for the past 10 years.

Interviewed Nov. 26 in the grocers' headquarters in Sacramento, Marcello says he is expecting a Teamster boycott "to be launched against stores that agree to remove the lettuce, grapes and Gallo wines under boycott under the UFW."

He says he talked by phone to David Castro, secretary-treasurer of the Teamster Farm Worker Local 1973, about the possible IBT boycott. "He said the Teamsters are not going to stand for boycotts against Teamster-harvested products."

Marcello displayed a copy of a letter from Castro that was sent to Sam Levin, head of the California Retail Liquor Dealers Association, an ally of the grocers' group. In the letter, Castro said "stores that comply with shrill demands of the UFW to remove Teamster-harvested products from their shelves will be considered Unfair to Farm Workers and their union, and the Teamsters will be compelled to urge members not to patronize unfair stores."

That amounts to a secondary boycott which is illegal under federal laws that apply to Teamsters, according to Marcello.

The grocers' association is distributing leaflets and purchasing full-page newspaper ads that include the Castro warning. The grocers' message is that they're

"caught in the middle" between two unions, an argument campesinos have heard somewhere before. The grocers say they have decided to "stop the boycotts now."

Marcello says he expects Teamster boycotts in the future years "after some of the growers wake up and find the Teamsters are not so pure; the growers will conclude those contracts are not quite as binding as they said before."

Marcello concedes the grocers' association has the power to get UFW-boycotted products off the shelves of member stores but fears such action would invite retaliation from the Teamsters.

As an alternative the grocers decided to act against the UFW picketing "because it's getting too damn massive," according to Marcello.

As an example, he cites the UFW picket lines Nov. 22-23 at Van's Market and Food City in Sacramento which brought out 150 boycotters. "If there is any more like that, we'll take action," he says in describing plans for a Sacramento County lawsuit.

"Any county they move in to, we'll be there in the courtroom," is how Marcello puts the grocers' statewide strategy, which was changed to a county-by-county plan after the UFW appealed a court injunction issued in Salinas. The retailers sought to apply that injunction on a statewide basis in one fell swoop.

Marcello traces the grocers' anti-picket strategy back to Davis, where a temporary restraining order was won in 1973 which limited the UFW to two pickets for each entrance and exit. The same formula was applied in Redwood City, Salinas and Bakersfield.

Marcello notes the Davis TRO came a couple days before the Morton Department Store in Davis burned down. He says the grocers see a link between that fire and Delano-area packing shed fires.

"There has to be a connection," says Marcello as he displays a packet of color photographs of Davis picketers, the burned-out store, and more recent picket lines in Bakersfield at Thriftmart Supermarket.

Thriftmart, where the grocers' leaflet is distributed, is a member of the Southern California Grocers Association. That group acts in concert against the UFW with the Bay Area Grocers Association and the 600-member Northern California group.

Marcello is consultant to all those retailer groups because he

has specialized in fighting the UFW boycotts. He says he has a complete library on "the movement" as well as a wall-full of law books on labor. He first came on the scene "to fighting boycotts against American products". While the U.S. government long has used boycotts against foreign products, Cesar Chavez was the first person to make the consum-

in the U. S. according to Marcello.

Although that's an open question, Marcello says the grocers'

attorneys are now accusing UFW pickets for the first time of "mob rule". He concedes the grocers use this argument before a judge when seeking limits on picketing but use the economic argument of "endless boycotts" when appealing to the consumer.

In court, he says, the grocers insist they're only concerned about "mass picketing" not the right to picket itself. In the leaflets Marcello ordered distributed in the stores, the grocers say their goal is to stop all boycotts NOW.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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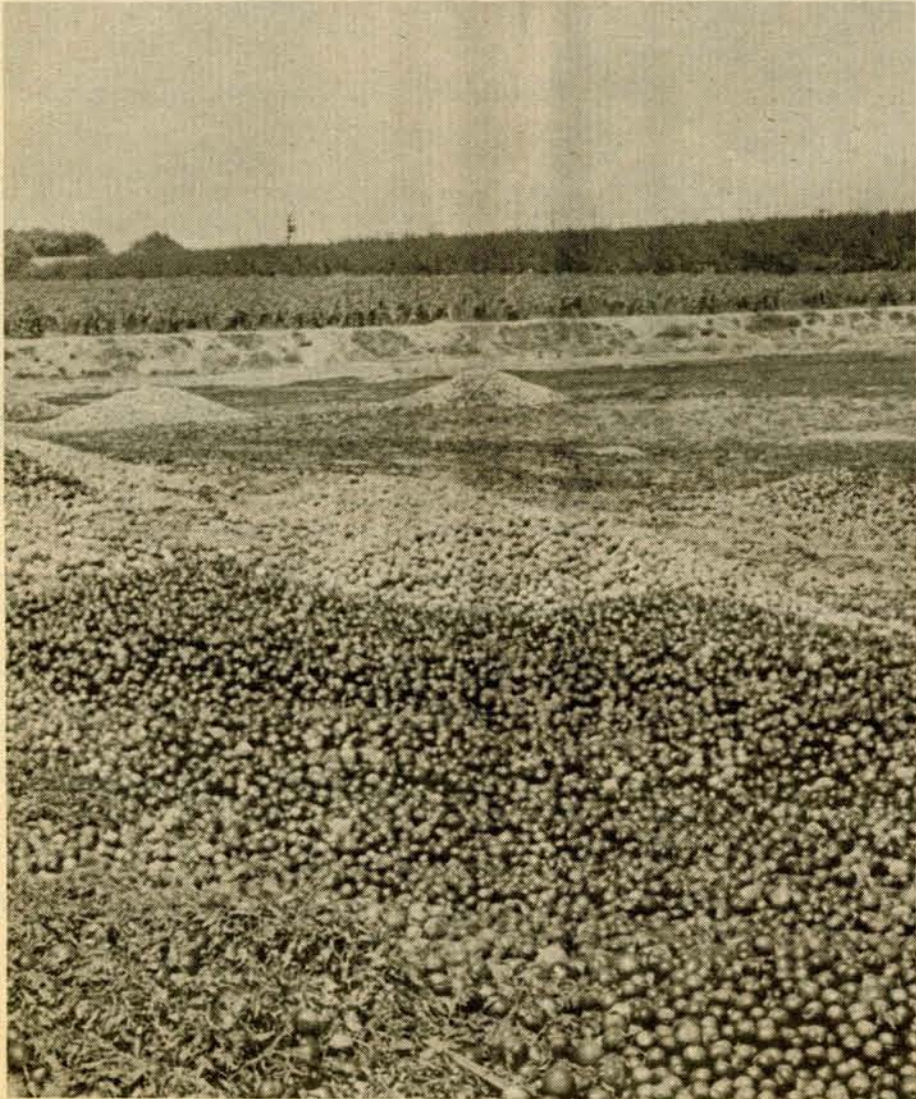
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**SUPPORT THE FARM WORKERS**



# Over-Production Forces Growers Into Market Advisory Boards



(Federico Flotte/Jose Alvarez photo)

**FRUIT PRODUCTS DUMPED**—Five-hundred tons of peaches, nectarines and apricots were dumped by the growers, Marguleas Tenneco Company, at Del Rey, near Fresno, California under provisions of the state's marketing act.

Keene, Calif.—The state's growers are plowing under thousands of tons of produce, while American consumers continue to feel the crunch of rising food prices and the world faces severe food shortages.

This senseless destruction lies in that California—the nation's largest agricultural producer—is producing surplus crops which can not be sold at premium prices.

It is ironic that over-production forces growers to destroy their crops, yet this destruction is sanctioned by law under the California Marketing Act of 1937.

This legislation allows growers to form "marketing order advisory boards" which can regulate food production with the force of state law. The boards determine how much of a product will reach the consumer and how much it will cost.

Membership in the boards is limited to persons having economic interest in a commodity, who with monopolist practices, control the rising and stabilizing of food prices.

If, for example, a board determines that 800,000 tons of peaches will satisfy the demands of the nation's consumers, then it will order growers to destroy all surplus peaches and thus assure that prices won't be pulled down by over supply.

## Disregard Real Needs

In 1970-71, for example, cling-peach growers were told by their advisory board to destroy 21,000 acres of peach orchards and 200,000 tons of peaches. By doing this the growers were able to keep production down to a level that brought them the highest price.

Beside peach growers there are 1,300 barlett pear growers; 4,000 lemon growers; 9,000 walnut growers; and 6,800 almond growers who all destroy a certain percentage of their crops when told to do so by their advisory boards.

In all, there are 35 different advisory boards in California which effect the production, sale, research on and promotion of commodities from alfalfa to wine grapes.

The boards are supposed to determine the quantity of a crop which will go to

the public by assessing the national demand of a product. But, they usually disregard the real needs of the nation and concentrate on how to keep prices as high as possible by limiting their crops.

Any person who violates a marketing board order is liable to be prosecuted by the state. The boards are also exempted from state and federal anti-trust and unfair trade practice laws.

When the act first passed it was intended to give the then predominant small family farmer some form of control over changing commodity prices. Since then, however, agribusiness in California has changed from small family farms to large corporate farming monsters.

## Food Destroyed

Non-family farms make up 13 per cent of all farms and account for 71 per cent of all agricultural sales in the Pacific Region. In the whole state non-family farms grow 79 per cent of agricultural goods.

Since these large corporate farms comprise most of the membership in the advisory boards, which control the quantity and quality of a crop, they are usually able to squeeze out small farms by declaring their crops "inferior."

The Federal Trade Commission has noticed the change of farm ownership in California and the monopolistic practices of the advisory boards and in August of this year, filed a complaint against the state's marketing order program.

State Department of Food and Agriculture attorneys, however, are planning to contest the FTC action, claiming that the control of marketing orders is a state function not subject to federal supervision.

In the meantime, American consumers continue to pay outrageously high food prices and the world continues to starve, and much-needed food is still being senselessly destroyed.

This destruction will continue and food prices will remain high as long as large corporate farms have the power to make huge profits with the aid of the California Marketing Act.

## University Monsignor Endorses Pro-Farm Worker Legislation

South Orange, New Jersey—Terming the plight of the farm worker in New Jersey "one of the most depressing and distressing in the country", Msgr. Thomas G. Fahy, President of Seton Hall University, has issued a statement urging support of the migrant worker movement in New Jersey and the immediate passage of legislation affecting migrants' living and working conditions in this state.

### University Tradition

"This is an institutional position adopted on the part of the entire University community," Msgr. Fahy emphasized, and "it coincides with the University's longtime humanistic tradition as exemplified by a recent University Senate resolution favoring such support."

The declaration by the president of the 10,000 student university comes on the heels of a recent all-day symposium on the Migrant Worker in New Jersey held on the South Orange campus.

The conference explored steps that New Jersey supporters of the farm worker movement might take to improve the economic, legal and social status of the 20,000 farm workers in the state.

### People Unaware

Msgr. Fahy said that in sponsoring the conference and in endorsing remedial legislation, "it is appropriate for Seton Hall, an educational institution, to lend its name and facilities to a pro-

gram that answers a cry for education. All too many people are unaware of abuses perpetrated upon the migrant worker in this supposedly enlightened age.

"We are happy to express solidarity with the aims of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, as well as other individuals and organizations who are trying to better conditions of farm workers in this state and throughout of country."

The most immediate goal and pressing need in this state, according to Msgr. Fahy, is the passage of a bill (A 1039) slated for floor action soon, that places legal responsibility for workers' welfare on the individual farm owner instead of crew leaders. Proponents of the measure claim it is being held back from the floor by pressure groups.

### First Step

"We fully support this bill and urge bringing it to a vote promptly," stated Msgr. Fahy. "This would be the first step toward gaining basic humane treatment for a group of people long neglected in our society, and our efforts toward this end will continue until farm workers in New Jersey have the same protection, rights, and decent living conditions that other workers enjoy."

The University, he emphasized, is not interested merely in rhetoric but is concerned in joining with a coalition among all people interested in justice. Seton Hall joins such groups as the

New Jersey Council of Churches, Consumers League of New Jersey and the Coalition for the Rights of Farmworkers in urging rapid action and passage of the bill sponsored by Assemblyman Byron Baer, Democrat of Bergen County.

### Timely Event

Msgr. Fahy cited such efforts as the recent Seton Hall symposium as a means of getting different groups interested in the same problems to work together for solutions. More than 200 persons connected with government agencies, labor unions and organizations, and Catholic social action groups attended.

"Nothing like this symposium has been tried before in the State," said Rep. Baer. "It will be a valuable tool for the migrant worker movement in New Jersey." Dolores Huerta, vice president of the United Farm Workers, who was one of the main speakers at the symposium, called it an "extremely timely event," noting that the training provided by such meetings will help put movement workers in a position to organize New Jersey migrants so they will have control of their own lives as all human beings should.

The Most Rev. Peter G. Gerety, Archbishop of Newark and Chairman of the Seton Hall University Board of Trustees, vowed his support of the migrant workers cause on a national and state level during a breakfast meeting at the University with officers and supporters of the United Farm Workers.

## John Birchers Applaud Conservative Legislators

Sen. William Scott (R.-Va.) is ranked No. 1 in a recent John Birch Society rating, tying with another freshman, Sen. Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.) a former radio-TV personality, for the honor.

Right behind, in third place was Sen. Barry Goldwater.

The Birchers gave both Scott and Helms a 90 percent cumulative "right" score on the issues, but there was no indication which votes were selected for the tabulation.

Unlike most ratings systems, it is possible to bat less than "0" in the Birch evaluations. Sens. William Hathaway (D.-Me.) and Thomas McIntyre (D.-N.H.), tied for last place in the rankings, had minus one scores.

Cong. Stevens Symms (R.-Idaho), the Birch Society's newest favorite, is ranked No. 1 in a Congressional listing where the Top Ten all have clear ties to the organized American right.

Symms was the featured speaker at the Birch Council's regional banquet in Chicago last June.

Second ranked Earl Landgrebe has appeared on Birch Council member Dean Manion's Radio-TV Forum several times and last year had an article in the JBS' weekly, Review of the News.

Right behind are Cong. John Rousselot, former public rela-

tions director of the society; Philip Crane, who disputes newspaper articles listing him as a former Birch Society member but who is on the editorial staff (and presumably payroll) of the American Security Council; Marylander Robert Bauman, former National Chairman of Young Americans for Freedom and the coordinator of many efforts by the rightwing clique in Congress; John Ashbrook of Ohio, past president of the American Con-

servative Union and the rightwing clique's candidate against Nixon in the 1972 GOP primaries; Robert Huber, former head of the Conservative Party of Michigan; John Conlan, a lecturer and writer for Howard Kershner's Christian Freedom's Foundation; Iowa's H.R. Gross, who is retiring after a quarter century in the House where, as the reigning curmudgeon, he was much honored by the Right; John Rarick, member of the (White) Citizens Council, a speaker at major events for the John Birch Society and Billy James Hargis' Christian Crusade, and an associate of Liberty Lobby's Willis Carto in the 1968 Youth for Wallace Committee.

Of course, it shouldn't be necessary to point out that the group at the top of the JBS ratings holds firm at the bottom of COPE ratings.



## BOYCOTT SWEEPS CANADA

Toronto, Canada — Dominion Stores management closed their doors against UFW boycotters carrying 35,000 petition signatures that asked for the removal of grapes and lettuce from Toronto's largest chain store.

Two of the 12-member labor and church delegation presenting the petitions finally gained access to Dominion headquarters by a rear entrance. However, Allan Jackson, Dominion executive vice-president, refused to either meet with Father Bob Madden of St. Michael's College and Sam Dobbin of the Ontario Federation of Labor or with the rest of the delegation waiting outside.

Jackson further declared that 35,000 Dominion customer signatures meant nothing to him and would in no way affect Dominion executives.

### "HYPOCRITICAL"

Marshall Ganz, director of the Canadian boycott and member of the UFW National Executive Board, recently charged that Dominion's position is "hypocritical."

"Dominion has said it would stop selling non-UFW grapes if its competitors do so. This is hypocrisy. On the one hand they recognize the farm workers' struggle is legitimate, and on the other they take the attitude that nothing is more important than money," Ganz continued.

Over 650 boycott supporters rallied in the Dominion Stores parking lot November 2 to demand again that non-UFW California grapes be removed.

Richard Chavez, New York Boycott director, Gilbert Padilla, Washington D. C. boycott director and Stephan Roberson, director of the Montreal boycott, were featured speakers. (Both Chavez and Padilla are also members of the UFW National Executive Board.)

According to Father Brad Massman, director of the Office of Social Action of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, UFW advocates collected the petition signatures in just six weeks, on weekends. In addition, only customers at 35 Dominion Stores were approached.

as of September 30, grape sales throughout Canada were down 20 per cent, while in Toronto alone, grape sales dropped 38 per cent.

Boycott activity in the province of Ontario is continually escalating. For example:

\* In Burlington, the UFW committee held its first Dominion picket line with 30 supporters on November 16 and a boycott endorsement by the City Council appears likely;

\* Gilbert Padilla visited Guelph in late October where he attended a "poverty lunch" with clergy, a supper hosted by the Guelph Labor Council, and a rally at the local university. The students presented a \$1,250 donation to UFW.

\* Representatives of labor, churches and the University of Waterloo formed a boycott support committee in November and picketed Zehrer Stores headquarters, bringing the boycott to the Kitchener area.

\* Boycott organizers in Hamilton increased their activity and plan a major demonstration at Dominion Stores on December 14. The Hamilton Labor Council sponsored a booth for the UFW at the Hamilton Social Action Fair and distributed hundred of boycott buttons.

\* Ottawa boycotters kicked-off a picketing campaign on November 30. The three major churches, two universities and the labor movement in Ottawa are actively supporting the boycott.

### COUNTRYWIDE

UFW support is also mounting throughout the country:

\* The labor movement cleaned grapes out of over 20 stores in Sydney while the Cape Breton Co-operative Society advertised they support the UFW and are not selling grapes and lettuce.

\* For the past year, the British Columbia Federation of Labour has rated grapes as "hot cargo," meaning that no members will unload the boycotted produce. Super-Valu, the only major British Columbia

(Continued on page 15)



VICTOR PESTOFF OF SWEDEN'S UFW BOYCOTT (center) hears Union President Cesar Chavez make a point to an unidentified supporter during a visit to Stockholm last fall. (JACQUES LEVY Photo)

## Swedish Boycotters Denounce U.S. Embassy Propaganda

Stockholm, Sweden — The U.S. embassy here received heavy criticism from local supporters of the UFW lettuce and grape boycott, which is now gaining the sympathy of many Europeans.

Victor Pestoff, director of this country's boycott, recently charged, in a letter to several U.S. senators, that the American embassy "has consistently taken the side of the Teamsters and growers."

Pestoff cited several examples in substantiation of his charges:

"First, we find the embassy's involvement in the commercial promotion of the boycotted products particularly offensive. The Foreign Agricultural Service pays advertising costs for American grapes and lettuce in Europe. . . In light of the certified labor disputes in California, we would expect the Agricultural Attache to cease such promotion campaigns.

"Instead, we learned recently that the Attache in Stockholm actually goes a step further and pays retail chain stores' sales campaigns for boycotted grapes and lettuce. The difference between sales prices and ordinary prices is subsidized by the American Embassy.

"We do not ask that the embassy promote Farm Workers lettuce and not the boycotted product, but rather that it cease promotion of all grapes and lettuce for the duration of the conflict.

"Secondly, when the embassy is asked for information on the boycott, it consistently gives out half-truths in support of the grower-Teamsters position. We do not accuse the embassy's spokesmen of actually lying, but rather of supplying only half of the information.

"For instance, the conflict is always portrayed as merely one between two unions. That, of course, is the growers' line. Note that on many points the letter (from the Agricultural Attache to chain stores) directly contradicts the 1969 Senate report on Migratory Labor."

In addition to publicizing the U.S. embassy's position on grapes and lettuce, the boycott committee also encourages consumers and stores to boycott the disputed products.



TWO YOUNG BOYCOTTERS join picket line of 650 people at Dominion Stores in Toronto, Canada November 2. Richard Chavez, UFW National Executive Board member and director of the New York boycott, spoke earlier to the crowd as the Canadians called on Dominion to remove non-UFW grapes and lettuce from its stock.

(Ellen Tolmie photo)



# FRONT LINE



"Strikes and the boycott are the Union's front line of defense."

— Cesar Chavez, June, 1974

## D. A. Disputes UFW Arrests In Colorado

Wheat Ridge, Colorado—District Attorney Nolan Brown disputed the recent arrests of three people who picketed Applejack Liquor store in an effort to remove Gallo wine from the shelves.

Applejack management, in an agreement with local police, insisted that all picketing be limited to 15 feet north of the nearest doors, in this town just outside Denver.

Pickets who were confident they were within their legal rights

continued to march on each side of the doors, while at the same time allowing customers to enter the premises.

The police moved in, apparently at the request of Applejack, and arrested Ronald Wilzoch and David Dumars, and presented a summons to appear to Sister Cecily Jones. (Two other boycotters were already in jail at the time, under arrest for earlier boycott activities.)

District Attorney Brown said several Supreme Court and state court decisions have struck down arbitrary picketing limitations.

However, police chief Ed Pinson disagreed and stated he will see that the picketers are prosecuted in the municipal court.

## Gallo Hit Hard In St. Louis

St. Louis, Missouri—The records of the Missouri Liquor Control Department indicate Gallo wine sales are down by more than 30 per cent while other wines are showing sales increases in the St. Louis area.

For example, Heublein under a UFW contract, enjoyed a sales increase of about 250 per cent in 1974 over the year before.

According to Richard Cook, boycott director, "There is no question that the boycott will put enough pressure on Gallo and the grape growers until they will agree to elections among their workers. It is only a question of time."

"We expect," added Cook, "that Gallo and the grape growers will try to intensify their advertising this Christmas. But we will intensify our efforts also."

"The key to our success so far has been the wonderful support we are receiving from the labor movement and from the churches."

Boycott organizers are facing an increased amount of police harassment as people are arrested nearly every time a picket line is set up. Apparently, some forces are concerned that the already successful St. Louis boycott will spread.

## UFW Strikers Hit Stores in Bakersfield

Bakersfield, Calif.—Strikers from nearby Lamont currently are picketing Thriftmart Stores to advocate the consumer boycott of non-UFW grapes, lettuce and Gallo wines.

Local grocery store owners claim the Teamsters union has threatened them with a secondary boycott if they remove the scab products. Therefore, the owners have vowed to stop the UFW boycott.

An advertisement was recently placed in a Kern County newspaper which attacked the boycott and announced the store owners

agreement not to honor the boycott.

In addition, this ad is displayed in the windows of Thriftmart and is distributed in leaflet form to customers.

However, Circle K Stores, which carry liquor and small grocery items, recently agreed to remove Gallo wine from its stock in an apparent break with Kern County store policy.

The Lamont strikers have picketed in Bakersfield nearly every day for four months to take the UFW message from the fields to the towns.

## Police Arrest Activist Priest in New Jersey

Jersey City, New Jersey—Police Released two UFW supporters, including a Roman Catholic priest, after a contingent of union organizers and advocates picketed the Hudson County jail.

The Reverend John P. Egan and Wayne Russman of East orange were arrested the previous day for disorderly conduct at a Two Guys store while distributing leaflets calling for the boycott of California grapes and lettuce.

Russman and Father Egan, the assistant pastor of St. Boniface's Church, were held on \$500 bail. However, both refused to pay the bail "on principle". Soon after the picketing at the jail began, City Judge Charles N. Kors released the two on their own recognizance.

The hearing for the boycotters was delayed until Dec. 4 since neither the defendants and the attorneys nor the arresting officers appeared. (The officers called in sick.)

Picketing activities are continuing at Two Guys and there have been no subsequent incidents or arrests.

The New Jersey boycott recently succeeded in winning agreements with two liquor store chains, representing 40 establishments. None of the stores will continue to carry Gallo wine.

## Miami News Supports UFW Boycott

Miami, Florida—The UFW boycott here received additional support when the Miami News, a major Eastern publication, endorsed the boycott of grapes and lettuce.

The News ran two sympathetic editorials about the UFW efforts and organizers here feel the publicity was a big boost to their campaign.

In addition, local radio stations will run 100 Public Service announcements during the Christmas season which ask listeners to support the boycott.

Kansas City, Missouri—UFW boycott supporters will help stage a "Depression bread-and-soup line" that will feature visits from Sen. George McGovern and Rep. Bella Abzug during the Democratic mini convention this week.

The UFW committee reported it joined a community coalition for the convention demonstration to kick off a holiday season boycott drive here.

Liquor stores were set as boycott targets for December following several months of picketing at area grocery stores.

The committee persuaded radio stations to broadcast public service announcements on behalf of the farm workers. Among 20 stations, KMBR-FM, KMBZ and KCMO-AM-FM are airing the announcements regularly without charge.

The UFW supporters joined the community coalition organized by the War Resisters League to conduct workshops, leafleting, vigils, film showings and Indochina "tiger cage" demonstrations outside the site of the 2,500-delegate Democratic convention which begins Dec. 5 and ends Dec. 8.



BOYCOTTERS DEMONSTRATE in front of grape and produce display in Big Y Supermarket, Springfield, Massachusetts. Shown above are Valerie Booth, Amie Booth and the Rev. Frank Dorman. They were arrested later along with Thomas Booth, K. S. Duffy and Steve Rivers, Connecticut boycott director. (EL MALCRIADO photo)

## Infant Arrested for Boycott Activities in Mass.

Boston, Massachusetts -- In spite of an inhibiting snow blizzard, 380 persons demonstrated at the Chelsea Market here to discourage fruit stand and grocery store operators from purchasing non-UFW California grapes.

The demonstration, on November 26 at 6 am, kicked off a major effort by the UFW and its supporters to stop the sales of grapes in this area.

Organizers chose the Chelsea Market (New England Produce Center) for the demonstration since most independent store owners buy their produce there.

Chain stores usually buy their grapes and other produce directly from California and other states.

In addition, the New England boycott has reached agreement with most of the area's chain stores and now is concentrating on the independents.

One large supermarket, however, refuses to honor the boycott. In Springfield, Mass., police arrested six picketers as they demonstrated in front of the grape display at Big Y Supermarket on November 16.

Those arrested were Amie Booth, 15 months old, Thomas Booth, Valerie Booth, the Rev. Frank Dorman, K.S. Duffy, and Stephen Rivers, Connecticut boycott director.

## In Los Angeles, Bay Area, Houston

### UFW Visits Thousands of Homes

San Francisco, Calif.—UFW boycott organizers are sending hundreds of supporters to neighborhoods in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and Houston to take the "Don't Buy Grapes, Lettuce or Gallo Wines" message from door to door.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, for example, close to a thousand people knocked on the doors and visited over 120,000 residences in just three weeks.

According to several organizers, the response is very favorable and they feel that because of the personal contact involved, many new people will honor the UFW boycott.

For over a month now in Houston, UFW organizers have visited the people of Montrose, an area within the central city that is a hub of liberal thought and action.

This area is saturated with leaflets and posters, while at the same time, supporters maintain picket lines at various stores.

Wine Gardens, the biggest supermarket chain in Houston, for example, recently was picketed by over 75 persons. In addition, a major Houston university agreed to drop grapes and lettuce from its facilities.

For further information on how to help the campaign, contact the United Farm Workers office in your area.

## UFW Joins K.C. Community Coalition





# LONG LIVE THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE UFW AND UAW



(EL MALCRIADO photo)



(EL MALCRIADO photo)



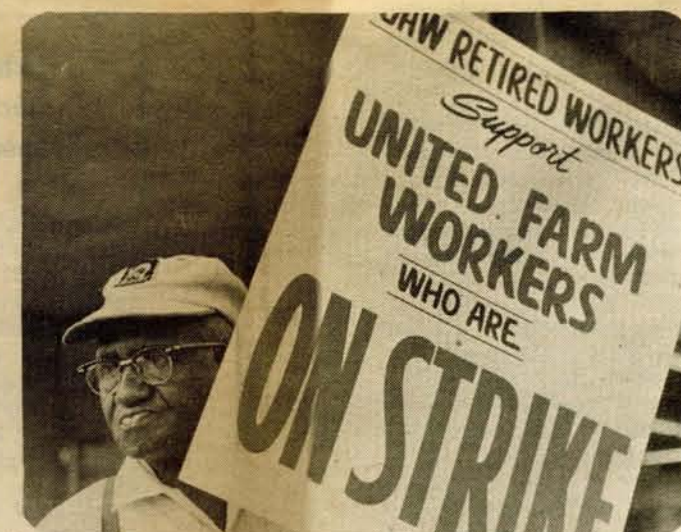
(EL MALCRIADO photo)

Walter P. Reuther, UAW President, on picket line in Delano with striking farm workers, December, 1965. Reuther was a strong supporter of the farm workers' struggle for collective bargaining rights.



(UAW Solidarity photo)

Delano Freedom Bell leaves Detroit's Kennedy Square, June, 1970. Leonard Woodcock, UAW President, and Cesar Chavez sit with bell on van donated to UFW by Ford Local 600 (right); Roy L. Reuther Building dedication in Delano, September, 1969—the UFW's first union hall. Placing commemorative plaque are Alan Reuther, son of Roy Reuther, and the late Walter Reuther, UAW President (above); Odessa Komer, UAW International Vice President, and Emil Mazey, UAW Secretary-Treasurer, at Solidarity Picket Line in Detroit on August 3, 1974 (left).



(UAW Solidarity photo)



(EL MALCRIADO photo)



(UAW Solidarity photo)

UAW Retired Worker joins picket line in support of UFW boycott of grapes and lettuce. The retired workers see the farm workers' struggle as similar to their own in the early days of unionizing (above); Canadian flag flies in the California grape fields, June, 1969. In the picture, left, Don Gordon, UAW Local 252 President and Larry Sanders, right, a representative of the Canadian Council of Churches (right).



(Gene Daniels/Black Star photo)

## FROM THE FIRST DAYS . . .

Detroit, Michigan — Throughout the course of the United Farm Workers' struggle for union recognition, the United Auto Workers union has proved itself a strong long-term ally. When the first strike was barely three months old, in December, 1965, Walter P. Reuther, UAW President went to Delano, Calif. to pledge his union's support for the fledgling UFW.

Reuther took with him the support of UFW members from across the United States and Canada. In addition, he joined the UFW at meetings, in the strike kitchen, during masses and on the picket lines, quickly winning the love and admiration of the farm workers.

At that time, Reuther pledged a contribution of \$5,000 a month "until the strike is won." When many people had not yet heard of the farm worker fight, the UAW already was marching in Delano.

### "WE'VE GOT TO HELP"

Reuther explained his union's commitment when he declared: "The American labor movement can't live with its conscience unless we do everything possible for this country's migrant farm workers . . . the most exploited people in all America . . . that's why we've got to help."

Brother Reuther saw the partial fruits of his union's support for farm workers when Coachella grape growers signed contracts with the UFW in the spring of 1970. However, before the UFW's great victory in Delano, he lost his life in a plane crash. Farm workers joined UAW brothers and sisters, along with the people of the world, in mourning the tragic death of Walter and Mae Reuther.

Due to the support and efforts of Brother Reuther and the UAW, on September 14, 1969, the UFW dedicated its first union hall at Forty Acres in Delano, 1,500

UAW members, including 600 Ford local union leaders, joined the celebration.

The UFW dedicated the building in the name of Roy L. Reuther, who died in 1968, and served the UAW as Director of the Citizenship and Legislative Department. Roy Reuther was the first national labor leader to join the struggle in Delano only days after the strike began.

The UAW contributed \$50,000 and California building tradesmen donated thousands of work hours to erect the structure.

Cesar Chavez, UFW President, expressed the sentiments of all UFW members when he said, at the dedication, "We want this building to live in the spirit of Roy Reuther. We want it to be a beehive of activity of organizing, of the dedication of man to help his brother, of eliminating poverty and hunger and oppression. It was to that cause that Roy Reuther dedicated himself day and night and we want this building to represent the best that is in the farm workers as well as the dedication of Roy Reuther to help others."

Not only U.S. UAW members have been aiding the farm workers, Canadian members arrived in Coachella and Delano in June, 1969 to demonstrate to the growers that word of the farm workers' struggle had gone beyond the boundaries of this country. Led by Dennis McDermott, UAW Vice President and Canadian Regional Director, 32 Canadians—trade unionists, clergymen and other citizens—lived for four days with UFW strikers.

When they returned to Canada, they spread the story of the strikes and organized even more support for the grape

(Continued on p. 15)

solidaridad solidarity campesinos autoworkers

solidaridad solidarity campesinos autoworkers



# EDITORIAL

## The Growers and "The Grapes of Oppression"

Many newspaper columnists and pundits have written obituaries about the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, apparently thinking that the spirit for justice and liberation unleashed in the 1960's has suddenly been extinguished by the signing of the grower-Teamster "sweetheart contracts."

Nothing, however, could be further from the truth and the same impetus that inspired the Civil Rights movement and the anti-war movement now motivates Cesar Chavez' campesino movement in its showdown against the grape barons of California.

And that impetus is an idea, . . . an idea of dignity, an end to racial discrimination, decent working and living conditions and the right to self-determination.

Ideas of liberation, just as scientific truths, cannot be extinguished overnight nor can they be stopped by geographic boundaries, by court mandates or jail cells.

As Victor Hugo once said, "Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come," and quite similarly, the United Farm Workers union has not abandoned its fight for justice simply because the grape barons and mafioso Teamsters union have signed "sweetheart contracts."

The farm workers' fight for union recognition and for democratic rights is one of those ideas whose time has come and the growers are discovering that they cannot destroy what is historically inevitable.

The UFW is now employing a consumer boycott of California table grapes, iceberg head lettuce and Gallo wines in order to regain the contracts lost to the grower-Teamster alliance — and the supposedly defunct UFW is now successfully rallying the American public behind its cause.

Last month, for example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), released figures showing more than 7.9 million boxes of unsold grapes in cold storage in contrast to 4.1 million for the same period a year ago.

The grape barons may have clever pundits on their side but it is apparent from the USDA cold storage figures that they have failed miserably to sell their controversial product. They have, in fact, antagonized the good conscience of the American public by their use of Teamster goons and sheriff "brown shirts" against the country's most downtrodden workers.

The growers, in essence, have tried to sell, what AFL-CIO President George Meany has called, "the grapes of oppression." And that is almost an impossible task. . . for the growers have tried to sell scab products to the same people that not too long ago condemned an unjust military intervention in Vietnam, in spite of the propaganda smokescreen of two presidents and of the powerful Pentagon — and to the same people that ignored a barrage of lies and forced President Nixon to retire in obscurity for his corruption and gestapo-like tactics in the Watergate scandal.

And now the growers have the sordid mentality to think that the same justice-loving American people would actually buy the "grapes of oppression."

The growers, consequently, are in trouble.

They have underestimated the winds of truth and thought they could crush the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, without stirring the conscience of the American people.

The grape barons cannot sell their crop and the fruit that they are selling is going for less than the cost of production. Grapes, for example, are now selling for 6¢ a pound in Toronto, Canada, which is the third largest grapes market in North America, and are selling for 19¢ a pound in New York city, the largest fruit market on the continent.

The growers will unwittingly try to rationalize their way out of an imminent economic disaster, but inevitably they must face the reality that Cesar Chavez and the UFW are determined to tear down one of the last strongholds of exploitation and cheap labor in this country.



## Cattlemen vs. the Public

# What's Behind the Slaughter?

Keene, Calif. — Hundreds of cattle, hogs and sheep were slaughtered in the Mid-western states this fall by farmers to protest high feed costs and government agricultural policies.

The National Association of Cattlemen on Oct. 15 killed 500 new-born calves in Wisconsin and buried the animals in trenches.

A spokesman for the association said the action was taken to protest meat imports and the existing price of cattle, claiming that what the slaughterhouses pay is less than the costs to feed them.

Two weeks later in Minnesota, farmers destroyed more than 300 head of cattle, hogs and sheep in what they said was a protest to persuade President Ford to change agricultural policies by firing Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz.

"We don't like to do this but it will keep happening until farmers receive production costs and reasonable living costs from their animals," said Harold Gollner, a spokesman for the group.

More recently, cattlemen continued their protests by killing animals but gave away the meat to needy families. Their generosity toward the needy came as a result of the fervor of indignation that spread throughout the country after the farmers wastefully buried the carcasses.

In all these instances the farmers explained their wasteful and senseless actions as protests against meat imports and the low prices earned for their animals compared to feed prices.

Cattlemen claim that meat imports — which account for 7.2 per cent of U.S. consumption up from 3.5 per cent in 1960 — are drastically reducing the price of meat in the U.S. They say that these imports, which are comprised of the cheaper cuts

of meat — ground meat, sausage, and processed meat products — are cutting into one of their most lucrative markets.

They fail to notice, however, that despite this rise in imports the American consumer has seen no reduction in the price of meats, even the cheaper cuts.

“. . . the cattlemen feel that one answer to their problems is to restrict imports . . . Their controlling the prices would mean that meat costs for the consumer would go in only one direction—up.”

Instead, the cattlemen feel that one answer to their problems is to restrict imports and in this way they would have more control over the price of their meat. Their controlling the prices would mean that meat costs for the consumer would go in only one direction — up.

Meanwhile the prices of all feeds — i.e. wheat, corn, soybean, etc. — rose astronomically in 1972 and early 1973. Prices of corn and wheat more than doubled, while soybean prices more than tripled.

The cattlemen explain that because decisions about raising cattle and hogs are made on two and three-year timetables, both farm and commercial feedlot owners are committed to raise

their herds to maturity for slaughter and now find that they can't afford it.

The government explanation for the high cost of feed is that there is a shortage due to "calamities of nature", but many of shortages of feed grains were reinforced by the systematic government policy of encouraging agriculture exports.

Corn and wheat exports nearly doubled and soybean exports were so large, for a time, that the government had to impose a freeze just to leave some of the soybean crop behind for domestic

These government policies were not accidents at all. The government and agribusiness have been gearing up for the world market for years. The rise in grain exports and the consequent pressure on domestic feed prices resulted from consistent government and business policy.

Taking all this on face value, it may seem that the meat producers of the country are caught in squeeze imposed on them by the government and the grain producers. But looking at the level meat prices are at today, many observers are convinced that someone in the meat industry is making money.

Small cattle raisers suspect middlemen of raising their profit margins unjustifiably and at the same time some economic observers point to the fact that it is only the small farmers and not the large cattle raisers who are protesting current meat prices.

Of course, the loser in this game invariably will be the consumer who in the end will have to bear up to higher and higher meat prices. This is only natural since the small cattlemen are not asking that the middlemen or the large cattle raiser cut their profits but instead are demanding that the consumer pay more and more.

## EL MALCRIADO



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# The Braceros: Imported Slaves or International Barter?

Editor's Note: The following article, authored by Bill Chandler, Texas UFW Director, originally appeared in the Texas Observer and is a response to a previous article on the question of the possible renewal of the "Bracero Program."

By Bill Chandler, UFW Director  
Houston Texas

Some issues back, an article by Ronnie Dugger entitled "Our Peculiar Migration", appeared in the Observations section of your magazine (See Obs., July 26). The article dealt with the problem of the massive importation of illegal workers for use as farmworkers across the Southwest. Mr. Dugger made a number of what we regard as drastic mistakes, and events now make it imperative that we comment.

The most astounding mistake that he made, both from a moral and an historical point of view, was his unqualified endorsement of the old bracero system as a program "designed to let some Mexicans improve their lot by coming to work on U. S. farms legally at regulated wages and with other benefits that also protected American workers from dirt cheap and victimized competition..."

The BRACERO program, or Public Law 78, was not designed for any such humanitarian purposes. Public Law 78, which was in effect from 1944-64, was passed and defended first, foremost and solely for the purpose of providing the giant corporate growers of the Southwest with a prime source of cheap labor in the form of hundreds of thousands of Mexican nationals. Long after the supposed "labor shortage" in agriculture caused by World War II was over, the number of braceros imported by the growers grew annually.

As Peter Mattiessen, author of *Sal Si Puedes*, writes, "The lobbyists for the growers argued successfully that Americans would not do the hard stoop labor required in harvesting cotton, sugar beets, and other crops; hence the need for the extension of the bracero program. Everyone conveniently forgot that the white fruit tramps of the Thirties had done plenty of stoop labor and that domestic workers of all colors would be available to the farms if working conditions were improved. But the Mexicans, whose poverty was desperate, worked long days for pay as low as 60 cents an hour and were used to undermine all efforts of domestic workers to hold out for better treatment; by 1959, an estimated four hundred thousand foreign workers were obtaining work in an America where millions were unemployed".

## Joint Executive Order

From my own experience, I can remember instance after instance of being told, "We're not hiring," only to find that the same ranch I had gone to was petitioning the Labor Department for braceros because of a "labor shortage". Where Mr. Dugger is your memory of this oppression? And where is your memory of the struggle waged in the Fifties and Sixties by the church, labor, and liberals to stop the bracero program? Perhaps you need to be reminded that the most enthusiastic defender of the program during the 1964 Senate battle to kill it was Republican Presidential nominee Barry Goldwater. (The Goldwater family owns an Arizona ranch where the farmworkers are currently on strike.) This was not so long ago. It was not before your time.

Unionization of farmworkers is impossible while such a program exists. A better life for farmworkers is impossible without unionization and the right to self-determination.

**"Farm workers will organize themselves, fight the theft of their jobs, stop the importation of a foreign slave labor force"**

These points need to be made, because now from Washington and from Mexico City comes the word that Presidents Ford and Echeverría are planning to reinstate the bracero program by joint executive order. Rumors are that the orders will be issued after a meeting of the two Presidents in Brownville, Tex., in mid-November. For the giant corporate growers like Tenneco, Dow Chemical, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and others, this will signal a glorious return of the good old days of a totally controlled work force in the fields. For President Echeverría, the emigration of hundreds of thousands of young, hungry males will provide a welcome safety valve in a society where demands for social change are becoming stronger and stronger.

The same coalition that fought the old Public Law 78, the church, labor, and liberals, must be reunited, stronger this time, to prevent this "executive action." We would like to count on the help of the Observer and its readers in this struggle. A good first step would be if Dugger would have some public second thoughts about the humane nature of the bracero system. Another good step would be if the Observer and Dugger would reexamine the Rodino Bill, which was uncritically endorsed in the article.

## Giant Loopholes For Bosses

There are some things to be said in favor of the Rodino Bill. The main one, praised by both Dugger and the Texas Good Neighbor Commission, is that it establishes the legal precedent of making the employer of illegal workers liable in court instead of the employee, which is presently the case. The Rodino Bill has two major failings, however, and these failings make it invalid as a piece of social legislation. One failing is that it is racist and discriminatory. The other is that it is impractical and unenforceable.

The bill is racist because it leaves intact the existing structure of immigration quotas, which discriminate against the immigrants from the Western Hemisphere (Latin Americans) in favor of immigrants from the Eastern Hemisphere (Europeans). Under the Rodino Bill, persons from the Western Hemisphere residing in the U.S. without necessary documents would be required to return to their country of origin for one and a half to two years before being eligible to enter legally. They then would be subject to the limited quotas and required to swear they have not had "unauthorized employment" while in the U.S.

These restrictions will not cut off illegal immigration and will only serve to make it harder for those who wish to immigrate legally. What must be done instead is the relaxation of the strict immigration quotas. The immigration of entire families must be encouraged, instead of the current illegal smuggling of largely young, single males with no stake in the community to which

they are coming, and no reason to struggle for its improvement.

The Rodino Bill is impractical in several respects. The penalties it provides to punish guilty employers are mere wrist-slaps; an insignificant fine of \$500 for the second offense within two years of the first, and, later on, the possibility of prosecution of the employer for a misdemeanor, if the attorney general sees fit to push it. No punishments or restrictions are outlined for employers who hire illegals as strike-breakers. And worst, the bill provides the employer with a giant loophole to save him from any prosecution at all.

The bill states that the employer has fulfilled his duty under law once he has obtained a signed statement from the worker in question attesting to his lawful presence in the U.S. The burden of proof is shifted from the employer to the alien with the stroke of a pen. Once the alien worker is persuaded, coerced or tricked into signing such a statement, the employer is home free. This provision alone makes the bill a joke.

## Hope For The Children

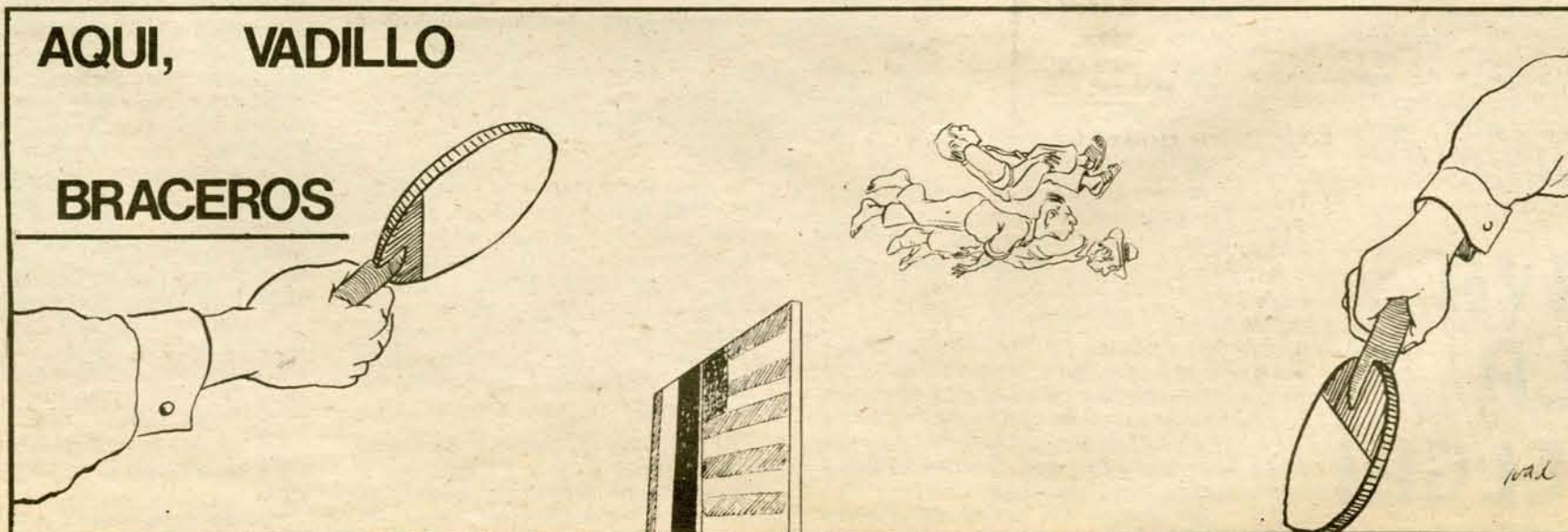
The UFW currently has a very, very serious problem with the massive importation of strikebreakers into the fields of California and Arizona. We would like to see passed an immigration law which provided for real penalties for the hiring of illegals as strike-breakers, including jail sentences for the employers and contractors guilty. Until then, existing laws which prohibit the use of foreign workers, legal or illegal, as a strike-breaking force should be rigorously enforced.

Dugger seems to have decided that a legal system of slavery such as the bracero program is better than the current illegal system of slavery for alien workers. He does not take into account the disastrous consequences of the new bracero program on domestic workers. And he does not seem to be able to comprehend a third alternative; that farm workers will organize themselves, fight the theft of their jobs, stop the importation of a foreign slave labor force, and enlist the help of people of good will in winning their rights to collective bargaining and union representation.

This is what has been going on. While Dugger has decided on a course of intellectual despair, the farm workers' movement has spread from the grape vineyards and lettuce fields of California and Arizona into crops of melons, lemons, tomatoes, mushrooms and strawberries, into Florida, into Michigan, into every major city in the U.S. through the boycott of non-UFW grapes, head lettuce, and Gallo wines. We have not given up, even in the face of unconstitutional injunctions, illegal arrests, intimidation, harassment, beatings, jailings, and shootings on the part of sheriff's deputies and Teamster goons. We are suffering. We have always suffered. But now we are suffering for the purpose of ending our poverty and our misery, with the hope that our children will not be exploited as we have been.

I hope that these thoughts will help bring about a change in attitude on the part of the Observer and a re-examination of Dugger's article by its readers. We believe that the best course of action for the Observer and its readers is not despair about farm workers, but an immediate campaign of pressure on the Congress to prevent the imposition of a new bracero program, and support for the UFW boycott and organizing effort. With your help, we will surely succeed.

Viva la causa!





## Federal Railroad Administration Fails

Washington--The Federal Railroad Administration is guilty of "negligence and lackadaisical enforcement" of federal rail safety laws, the United Transportation Union charged.

UTU President Al H. Chesser said the FRA has not only failed to enforce the 1970 Federal Railroad Safety Act fully, but it has also been making policy that hampers the enforcement of other safety laws and regulations as well. "The net result is an ever-increasing number of deaths and disabling injuries in railroad accidents," Chesser said.

### "Irresponsible"

Accusing the FRA of "an utter, callous and irresponsible disregard for the safety of the nation's railroad workers," Chesser noted the number of train accidents last year jumped 24.7 percent over that of the previous year, "the largest increase in accidents in the history of railroad-accident reporting."

He observed that this sharp rise in the number of rail accidents resulted in an 11.3 percent increase in employee injuries and a rise of 20.5 percent in accidental deaths.

The FRA, a branch of the Transportation Dept., is charged with enforcing the 1970 statute which Chesser described as "a moderately good law rendered meaningless and ineffective" by the agency's failure to do its job.

### Many Examples

Chesser cited several specific examples of FRA policies that he said have contributed to an increase in the number of accidents. These include FRA's proposals to make "dangerous changes" in the power-brake law and its failure to hire an adequate number of rail safety inspectors.

Under the agency's proposed power-brake law changes, Chesser noted, carriers would be allowed to operate trains for 1,000 miles without brake tests, instead of the required 500 miles. Also, he said, the carriers would be permitted to run trains with only 90 percent — instead of the requisite 100 percent — of their brakes being operative.

Chesser also criticized the FRA for its "gross over-emphasis on research, as opposed to practical application." The agency "has gone crazy over research, such as for a 200-mile-per-hour air-cushion train, when it can't even figure out how to safely operate what we've already got." He added that UTU is considering asking Congress to transfer rail-safety jurisdiction to another agency.

# iVIVA LA HUELGA!



**TOMATO HARVESTER CREW VISITED BY STRIKERS**—During the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO tomato strike in Northern California last fall, union members visited tomato harvester crews in the fields. Now the growers are pushing rapid development of electronic eye harvesters to cut labor needs in 1975, a move they said was the answer to the UFW's organizing drive. (EL MALCRIADO Photo)

## Vision of Automated Agriculture

Woodland, Calif.--Tomato growers are now retaliating against a United Farm Worker organizing drive by pushing rapid development of electronic harvesters and centralized sorting machines to cut labor needs in 1975.

The growers are being assisted in their stepped up mechanization drive by government and university researchers, producers associations and private companies such as FMC Corporation in Santa Clara.

C.H. Fields of the American Farm Bureau, a longtime opponent of the UFW, recently told the press in Yolo County:

"As you see more union pressure, you will see a harder push for mechanization and less use of farm labor." The local Farm Bureau told the Yolo County growers it will continue to oppose unionization on farms, particularly by the UFW. A key target of the UFW's organizing drive last fall were the workers of the giant Andco Farms. After the harvest was in, Andco business manager Hank Stone told reporters, "The harder the unions push, the harder we will move to get around them."

Stone told a Nov. 21 banquet of the Chamber of Commerce, with a taste of sour grapes, that "There are a lot of people who are saying they are growing less tomatoes next year or they're going to go out of the tomato business."

Stone told reporters that as a direct outgrowth of union activity in the tomato harvest last fall, growers now are seriously considering a labor-cutting centralized sorting machine for industry-wide use in 1975. He said they are pushing for rapid development of a new electronic eye mechanical harvester.

The experimental selector-harvesters are being tested now in Yolo County. Witnesses report these machines can cut labor requirements by as much as 75 per cent and do the sorting job up to 30 percent faster. They can replace large numbers of harvest sorters who now sit on tomato harvesters as they are pulled along the rows.

### Artificial Ripeners

The electronic selector is being developed both for tomatoes and lettuce. Dr. Roger Garret of the University of California at Davis (UCD) is one of the researchers who worked on this type of machine, which X-rays to select and sort mature produce. One university informant told EL MALCRIADO the school spent \$20 million to develop the tomato harvester, then sold the patent rights to a manufacturer for a mere \$3 million (see Nov. 18, 1974 edition).

Andco's Stone said the centralized sorting facility under consideration could cut labor by 25 to 33 per cent. Despite the heavy investment necessary, he noted, the process is three times faster than that currently employed.

He explained that the new system uses the principle that green tomatoes float in water and ripe tomatoes sink. Tomatoes could be harvested by a machine requiring people and transported to a central sorting area where the water flotation method of sorting would be utilized.

One reason the harvesting of green tomatoes can be feasible is that UCD

researchers developed an artificial ripening process for the growers, according to the Agribusiness Accountability Project (AAP).

The AAP, in its 1972 report entitled "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times", said the University of California developed the application of the chemical Ethrel to canning tomatoes to ripen them uniformly for harvest.

"The advantages to industry are clear: Ethrel shows great promise as an aid to mechanical harvesting; green fruit that previously was discarded now can be ripened" in storage, AAP quoted the researchers as saying.

### Tomatoes Gassed

UCD researchers also are using ethylene gas in speeding up the ripening process, according to AAP. Ethylene is a plant hormone that functions as a ripening agent. The chemical Ethrel stimulates a plant's production of ethylene, that tomatoes gassed by ethylene are of lower quality, with less vitamin A and C and inferior taste, color and firmness.

The report adds, "The allegation is not that ethylene itself has a negative impact on the tomato, but that the artificial ripening process does not mature in the same sense that vine ripened tomatoes mature. Ethylene turns them red, but is not to be mistaken for sunshine and nature's own way."

**"Farm Worker Exploitation  
Is Inefficient, Especially  
With A Mechanical Alternative  
Right At Hand. Why  
Mess With A Union ...?"**

The AAP says university researchers do not confront this question of quality impact, choosing instead to dwell on the benefits that food engineering offers agribusiness.

In fact, the researchers seem to feel they don't have to answer to any interest group, such as farm workers, except agribusiness. UCD agriculture engineer Prof. Michael O'Brien denied to EL MALCRIADO that work was going forward on the electronic selector-harvester, yet students said he was working on it. Later the experimental development was revealed publicly.

O'Brien, instead, choose to accuse the UFW of trying to keep its members in "slavery". He advised the union to reorient farm workers to other occupational areas.

Producer and corporation officials tell the public press that a development such as the tomato and lettuce harvester will help keep prices down. Yet Dr. Garret admitted to EL MALCRIADO that it wouldn't reduce the price the consumer pays.

He said that because harvesting costs are so incidental now, the retail price wouldn't be significantly influenced even if harvesting costs could be eliminated all together. He said the main cost of the produce comes from its handling once it leaves the fields.

The AAP report characterized the UCD-type of research this way:

"In dozens of ways, agribusiness gets into the land grant college complex. It is welcomed there by administrators, academics, scientists and researchers who share the agribusinessman's vision of integrated, automated agriculture..."

"Being so preoccupied with their agribusiness colleagues, the land grant community has not had much time to give attention to the needs of such "outsiders" as the average family farmer, rural communities, the rural poor, farm workers, independent rural businessmen, minorities, the rural elderly, consumers and environmentalists."

### Farm Worker Dignity

"Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times" summed up the kind of mechanization threat boasted by Andco's Stone in Yolo County in the following memorable paragraphs:

"Farm workers have been the earliest victims. It is outrageous that those who have been brutalized so badly by mechanization have been used as the excuse for mechanization. Again and again there are references in (university) research materials to the scarcity, unreliability and cost of the farm labor as the factor requiring mechanization. In fact, mechanization has been the force that eliminated farm jobs..."

"As with the tomato harvester, (university) scientists sometimes boast that they initiated research long before there was a labor shortage and long before farmers saw a need for extensive mechanization..."

"The (university) community was able to see back in the 50's that an exploited laboring class was "unstable" and that the day would finally come when exploitation of those workers would no longer be a tenable position. Farm worker exploitation is inefficient, especially with a mechanical alternative right at hand. Why mess with a union, make payroll deductions and wrestle with a whole range of worker problems when you can turn to machinery?"

"In the 1960's, there arose a farm worker union and serious efforts to legislate an end to the most blatant farm worker exploitation. This assertion of farm worker dignity was met with a rush to mechanize as completely as possible."

By the end of 1974, Andco Farms and the 105 member Norcal Growers were justifying even more mechanization by citing the UFW organizing drive, while at the same time boasting that out of 9,500 workers in their tri-county area the union had won only 24 workers in its campaign.

"Not one tomato was lost to the UFW", said Stone.



# Our goal is a national union of the poor dedicated to world peace et to serving the needs of all men who suffer

C. Chavez

EL MALCRIADO is the official voice of the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO.

EL MALCRIADO:

exposes the exploitation of farm workers by the growers; reports on the many strikes and organizing drives of the UFW; and brings to light the new life of dignity and justice that the UFW is struggling for and winning each day.

☐ English

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☐ \$10 for one year

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(EL MALCRIADO photo)

## Book Review

# VOICES FROM WOUNDED KNEE

Voices From Wounded Knee. The People Are Standing Up. Akwasasne Notes. 263 pp.

The year 1973 was one of historic landmarks in the U.S. The

Watergate scandal was front page news, the U.S. withdrew most of its troops from Viet Nam, the Teamsters union signed sweetheart contracts with California growers, and several hundred

Native Americans reclaimed a small part of South Dakota as their own.

"Voices From Wounded Knee 1973" describes the three month confrontation between Oglala

Sioux and other members of the American Indian Movement and the United States Government. "Voices" features penetrating interviews with the participants and many previously unpublished photographs.

In addition, the editors of the new book provide a narrative concerning the history of Wounded Knee and the reasons for the winter siege.

## 1890 MASSACRE

"In the winter of 1890, U.S. Government forces massacred nearly 300 Indian people, mainly women and children, after they had surrendered all but one of their weapons. The site of the massacre was Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"In the winter of 1973, several hundred Oglala Sioux and their supporters from other tribes returned to Wounded Knee to make a stand. They did so at the request of the Oglala traditional leaders, after all other means of changing conditions on the reservations had been exhausted.

"This stand on Indian land for Indian rights was met by the U.S. government with armored personnel carriers, helicopters, automatic rifles, and other Viet Nam era weapons. But for 71 days, no Federal law enforcement personnel or Bureau of Indian Affairs officials had any authority in Wounded Knee.

"For 71 days, through countless battles and negotiating ses-

sions, and despite the Government's blockade of food, fuel, and medical supplies, a self-governing community was built."

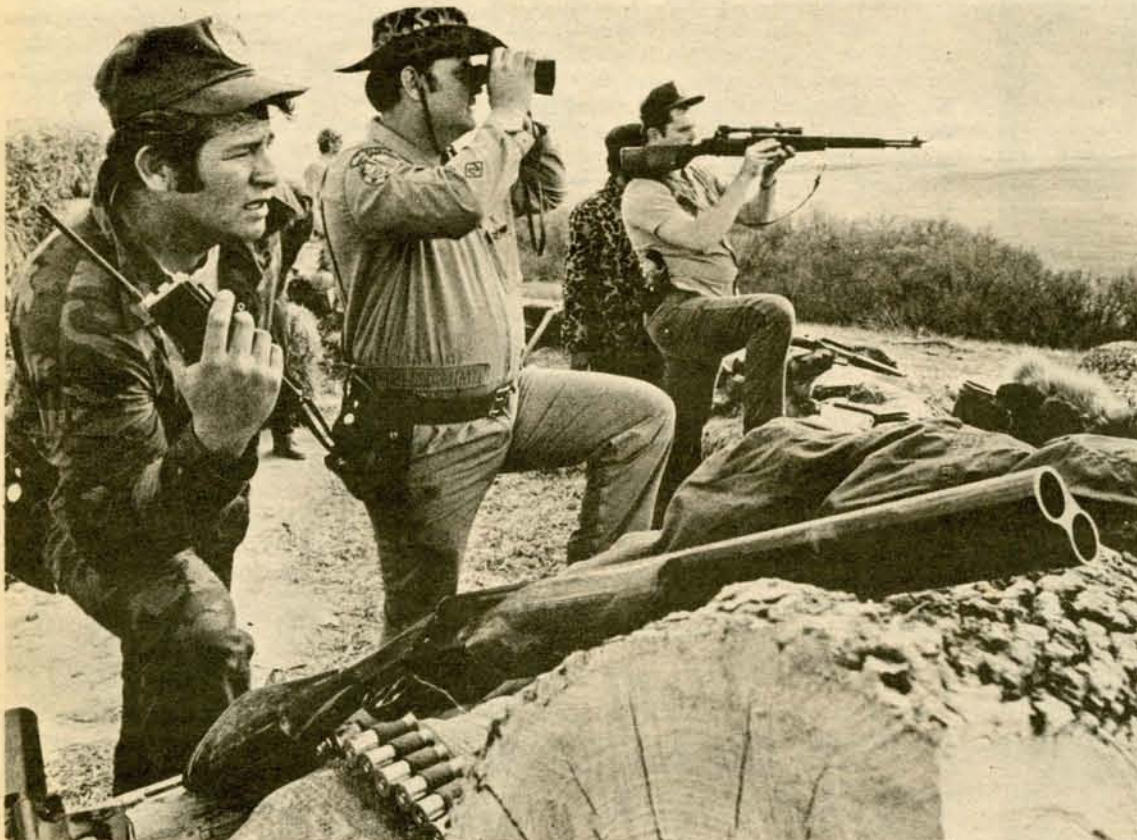
"Voices" contains interviews with both the Indians at Wounded Knee and Federal officers who commanded government operations. Those interviews reflect the feelings of the Sioux with remarkable clarity and provide the reader with an historical understanding of the problems between those who first lived on this land and the occupiers.

## CONDITIONS

In addition to the description of the Wounded Knee confrontation, "Voices" describes the conditions inside the village. For example, the Native Americans built clinics, housing and other necessary services during those 71 days. All community members joined to build the projects while at the same time concentrating on paving the way for negotiations with the U.S. based on the Treaty of 1879 which guarantees self-determination for Native Americans.

"Voices" is recommended both for those with an understanding of the plight of Native Americans and for those with previously little knowledge in this field.

"Voices" can be purchased from Akwasasne Notes, Mohawk Nation at Akwasasne, via Roosevelttown, New York 13683 for \$4.95.

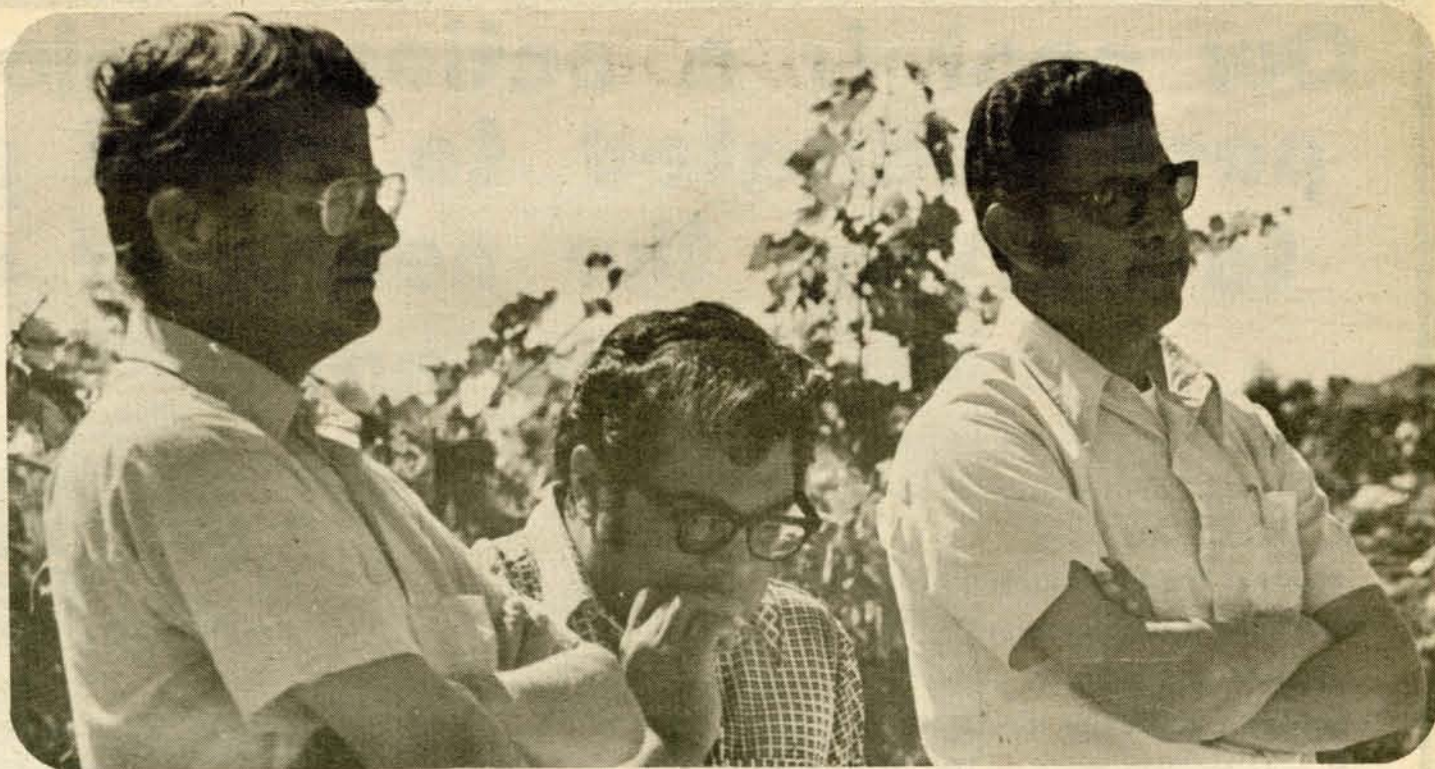


U.S. Marshals' bunker on the eastern perimeter of Wounded Knee.

(Akwasasne Notes photo)



CONO MACIAS ON THE FIRING LINE—Pictured at a Central California strike confrontation with the UFW is now-deposed Teamster supervisor Cono Macias (right) and two colleagues, IBT press spokesman Jim Hansen (left) and organizer Robert Hernandez. Macias says he was fired in a move by a strong-arm faction of the teamster leadership to dilute the power of Teamster Farm Worker Local 1973 and to blunt the effects of the UFW's legal strategy against the Teamster-grower alliance. (EL MALCRIADO Photo)



## Teamster Leadership

(Editor's Note: Castro is currently quoted by retailers as saying individual store owners face a Teamster boycott if they cooperate with the UFW. Macias says this would be illegal.)



Sanger, Calif.--A new strategy to fight the UFW's costly courtroom challenges and boycott picketlines may be underway in the Teamsters Union, according to a deposed Central Valley Teamster chief.

Enforcing the new strategy is a strong-arm faction of the union's international leadership which usurped power in Teamster Farm Worker Local 1973 last month, according to Cornelio Macias of Sanger.

Macias says he was fired as Central Valley area supervisor on October 28 by M.E. Anderson, director of the Western Conference of Teamsters. Macias, interviewed November 22 at his home here, says Local 1973's new boss, Ralph Cotner, enforced the firing.

David Castro, secretary-treasurer of Local 1973 since its inception last year, now is "just a figurehead" according to Macias. The ousted Teamster also says Castro told him Cotner "put a gun to my head" to make him notify Macias of the termination. "They came in like gangbusters" is how Macias describes the Cotner takeover which ousted over 30 Local 1973 officials and organizers, most of them Chicanos.

Macias says the Teamsters International, which is trustee for Local 1973, is "getting pretty nervous about the UFW

lawsuits. There are about 200 suits and each has to be answered. It's costing them a lot of money in attorney fees."

He says the Teamsters may be scattering their farm labor contracts among trade locals around the state to dissipate the UFW legal offensive against the Western Conference itself. The contract dispersal also is aimed at diluting the power of the farm worker membership within the union.

As Macias sees it, each local with a farm labor contract might answer specific UFW suits instead of the union as a whole. Named in a \$5 million UFW lawsuit himself, Macias says "the present leadership doesn't care who goes to jail, they're just concerned about the union's treasury."

Macias, who fought the UFW on his own for years before joining the Teamsters in 1970, says "I think they decided it would be easier to fight the boycott on the local level."

The changes in Teamster strategy apparently began long before the leadership coup hit the headlines Nov. 1. Macias says he was getting into trouble with Cotner last year by opposing the long-time Teamster's violent tactics employed against UFW picketers.

Cotner voted against Macias on policy questions during contract negotiations with growers last winter, then directed an internal investigation against Macias last summer. The probers sought evidence of bribe-taking by Macias.

Macias says the investigation against him supposedly was launched because of a telegram protest sent to Teamster Presi-

dent Frank Fitzsimmons from a group of Delano labor contractors led by Mario Martinez.

But in the contract renegotiations with the Western Growers Association, Cotner voted to hand over to the growers the power to sign workers under Teamster contracts. Macias says he was outvoted 4 to 1 when he opposed changing the union security clause from 10 days to three. Farm workers allegedly were evading union membership by moving from job to job within the 10-day grace period.

Macias says he was fired for upholding the policies of Teamster organizing chief William Grami, who he claims is Cotner's enemy. He says Grami insisted that union business agents sign up workers, not the growers. Cotner persuaded the growers to take over the sign-up job by offering to drop all grievances pending against them.

## Power Struggle

Enforcement of contract provisions requiring growers to make out their farm labor payrolls angered contractors such as Martinez, adding to Cotner's ammunition against Macias. In addition, the growers complained Macias was giving farm workers "too much representation" in his contract enforcement.

Macias claims the farm workers had voting rights in the Teamsters union up to the end of 1973 but won't under the renegotiated contracts enforced by Cotner's men.

"They are taking away the power of the farm workers in the union. Now there will be a six-month requirement for voting rights," he says.

Macias is sure that a big part of the Local 1973 power struggle is over the power a united farm worker local would have at the 1976 Teamster Convention when Fitzsimmons will be up for re-election.

Estimating the average Teamster local's convention delegation at one to three voting members, Macias says the Farm Worker Local already had 70 voting delegates assured by virtue of a peak harvest membership of 55,000. "They might have had even 100 delegates by 1976," says Macias.

Cotner made it clear he would not let any Chicano gain a powerful position in the Teamsters union, according to Macias who says he was fired for "organizing my own political group." He says Cotner is anti-Mexican. "He hates my guts," the ex-Teamster says in recounting his opposition to violent tactics employed by Cotner.

He says a Cotner henchman, Albert Droubie, defied Macias' orders that banned violent retaliation against UFW pickets in Kern County last year. He says he fired Droubie, who later claimed he forged farm worker petitions requesting Teamster contracts. Macias insists the Teamster petitions are legitimate.

Cotner fired "every Mexican social worker" in Local 1973 during the leadership coup last month that ousted Macias and all his employees. He says that is an example of Cotner's racism as well as his opposition to Grami's policies. The local's social services program was Grami's pet project, according to Macias.

The fired Teamsters plan to try to get their jobs back through court action that will claim they are the victims of racial discrimination, defamation and contradic-

tory orders. Macias says a "big time lawyer" will file a class action suit on behalf of his fired employees that contends they shouldn't be fired for following his orders.

Macias says he is a charter member of Local 1973 and is entitled by union laws to a say in policy decisions. His firing was the result of policy decisions that were implemented without his knowledge, according to Macias' lawsuit strategy.

Macias disputes that "economic cutbacks" were the reason for his ouster, as stated to the press Nov. 1 by Anderson in announcing the Farm Worker Local's reorganization.

"I was terminated by Anderson in a letter Oct. 28 to David Castro that said nothing about economic cutbacks," says Macias. "And if they were cutting back, why did they hire 10 men a \$300 each to replace my people, who were making \$225 a week? And why did they fire my secretary and then advertise in the want-ads for new secretaries?"

The Delano office of the Teamsters was picketed three times by Macias supporters since the firings. Macias says the new leadership "sits around in suits and ties, polishing their diamond rings."

"I said they were going to disband the Farm Workers Local, but Anderson said that was ridiculous. Maybe they won't, but I know that farm labor contracts are being assigned to Teamster locals in El Centro, Riverside, Salinas, Santa Maria, Oxnard, San Bernardino and Bakersfield," says Macias.

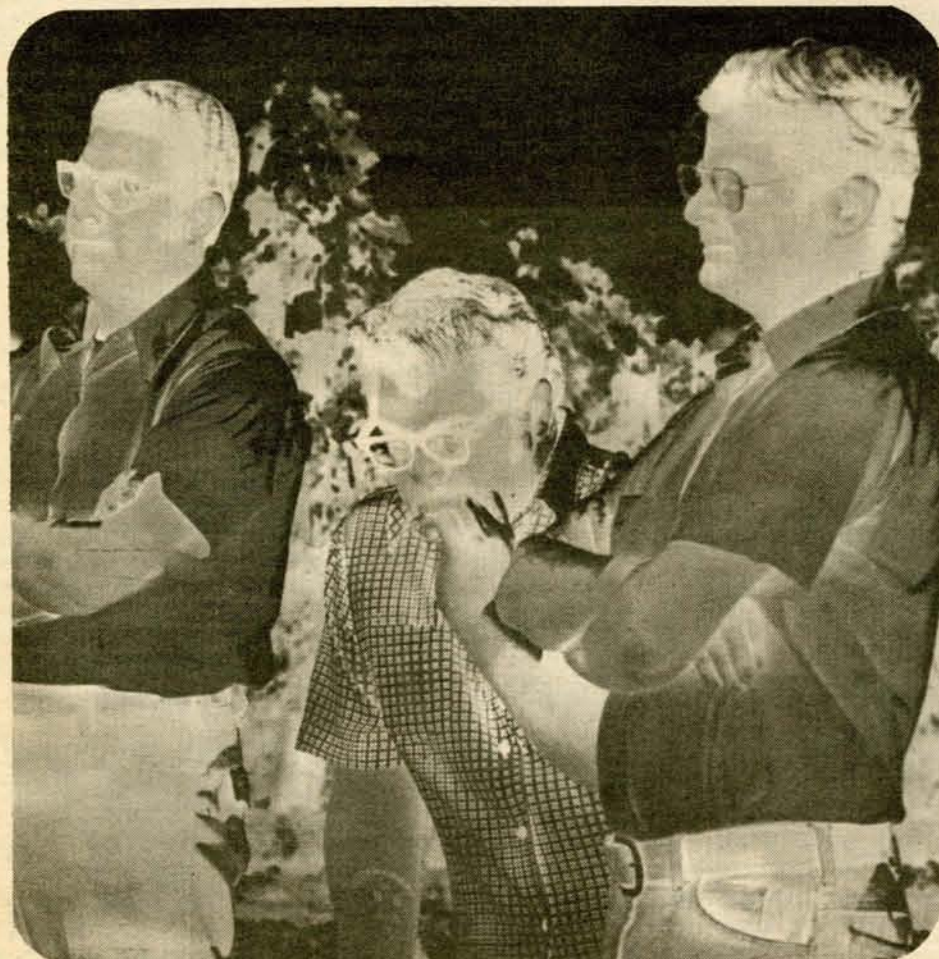
## Take The Bait

Teamster officials now claim Macias was fired for poor servicing of contracts. He disputes this, saying the 69 table grape contracts under his authority were bringing in more dues money to the union than the more numerous Teamster lettuce contracts. He takes credit for enforcing individual worker seniority under his contracts, as well as a policy of accumulation of hours from date of hire for qualification under the union's medical and insurance plans.

"We solved the insurance problem of workers not having enough hours to qualify. We educated the workers about the benefits. They were bringing all kinds of problems to us and we were getting same-day results. We cut the red tape. Now the workers are handed forms which tell them how to fill out forms," says Macias with some sarcasm.

"You know, with the Chavez union the problem was that too many promises were made and not enough kept. Now here we are again: Are we just going to drop the services after getting the workers to take the bait? Are they just stuck until 1977?"

"What's going to happen then? Maybe the workers will just say to hell with the Teamsters. . . The farm workers are not dummies."



(EL MALCRIADO photo)



## UAW SUPPORT . . .

(Continued from page 9)

boycott. When boycott organizers first arrived in Canada, the UAW shared its already crowded office space with the UFW.

In 1973, when the boycott returned to Canada, that country's UAW sponsored a free car raffle at the Canadian National Exhibition to raise money for the boycott and reached over half a million people with the boycott grapes message in less than two weeks.

Days after assuming the UAW presidency, Brother Leonard Woodcock showed his commitment to carry on the union's fine tradition of solidarity with the farm workers. Brother Woodcock joined Cesar Chavez in a downtown Detroit rally which began the journey of the historic "Delano Freedom Bell" from Detroit, the UAW's home town to Delano, the home town of the UFW.

The Freedom Bell, wrapped in chains to symbolize the oppression of the farm workers, traveled from city to city in a van donated by UAW Ford local 600. As the bell left Detroit, Brother Woodcock told those gathered, "We pray the day will sound victory for the strikers and victory for freedom."

Strike support activity in the Detroit area has been organized by UAW Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey and UAW Vice President Odessa Komer. On August 3, 1974, for example, Mazey and Komer led 500 trade unionists, mostly UAW members, in a labor solidarity picket of a large supermarket here.

Mazey is responsible for the UAW support of the boycott coordinated out of

th UAW Solidarity House, the international headquarters located on the east side. Mazey's personal commitment to social justice and his particular affinity for the farm workers' struggle has provided the aggressive leadership behind the UAW's effective support campaign.

On a nationwide level, UAW members contribute \$10,000 weekly through their international treasury. At the UAW convention last summer, members also voted to add an \$80,000 bonus. In addition, across the country, thousands of rank-and-file members make direct personal contributions to the UFW at collections at local union meetings and at plant gates. UAW local union leadership works closely with the UFW staffs in various cities to provide money, supplies, and active support.

In Detroit, for example, the UAW provides housing for farm workers organizing the boycott, as well as providing complete medical care, legal assistance and office supplies. The UAW also directs a massive program of education and action around the boycott. Detroit's four regions committed themselves to covering 44 supermarkets with UAW picket lines every Friday and Saturday.

Retired Auto Workers also prepared 250,000 informational leaflets for distribution to every UAW member in metropolitan Detroit. Due to the work and aid of the UAW, Solidarity House, the UAW Regional Office and local union halls are now a second home for farm workers on the boycott.

Retired Auto Workers, led by the "Grey Berets," have provided constant support

and worked on special projects which are deeply appreciated by the UFW.

The retirees see the farm workers' struggle as reminiscent of the early days of their union and they bring to the cause the same dedication and determination with which they built their union. Their experience and spirit has provided invaluable inspiration and support to the farm workers union.

The UAW is a great labor union born of the dedication and sacrifice of many men and women. These people envisioned not only better wages and working conditions for auto workers, but a better life and a better world for all working people. The combination of the highest ideals and the aggressive, total commitment to achieving these ideals has brought momentous changes in the quality of life for millions of people.

This spirit lives on in the UAW members and represents what is best in the labor movement. It is this powerful spirit which is so apparent in the UAW's unwavering support of the farm workers' struggle to organize.

The UFW has been given life by the physical and financial resources the UAW selflessly provides, but, in addition, the farm workers greatly benefit from the union's example.

As a young member of the labor family, the UFW has learned the meaning of Solidarity from the UAW. The UFW is proud to have the UAW at its side as it struggles to make its dream a reality and is proud to call UAW members brother and sister.

Long Live the UAW!

## Canada Boycott . . .

(Continued from page 6)

chain still selling grapes, was picketed recently by members of the federation. Due to labor's support, among others, grape sales in B.C. are down 50 per cent.

\* Both the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Federation of Labour also will soon refuse to unload or handle grapes or lettuce. In addition, church support has developed widely as George Cardinal Flahiff, Archbishop of Winnipeg endorsed the boycott along with the Winnipeg Priests' senate.

\* In Montreal, in late October, over 500 Quebec boycott supporters joined a mass picket of Dominion Stores and later rallied to hear Dolores Huerta, UFW vice-president, speak. Representatives of the clergy and labor announced support at that time for the grape and lettuce boycott. As a result, there are many new boycott committees throughout the city.

The Toronto Boycott organizers plan to continue their picketing of Dominion. According to John Godfrey of the boycott, "Dominion is providing the rope, and boycott supporters are fashioning the noose to cut off the flow of scab grapes and lettuce into Toronto."

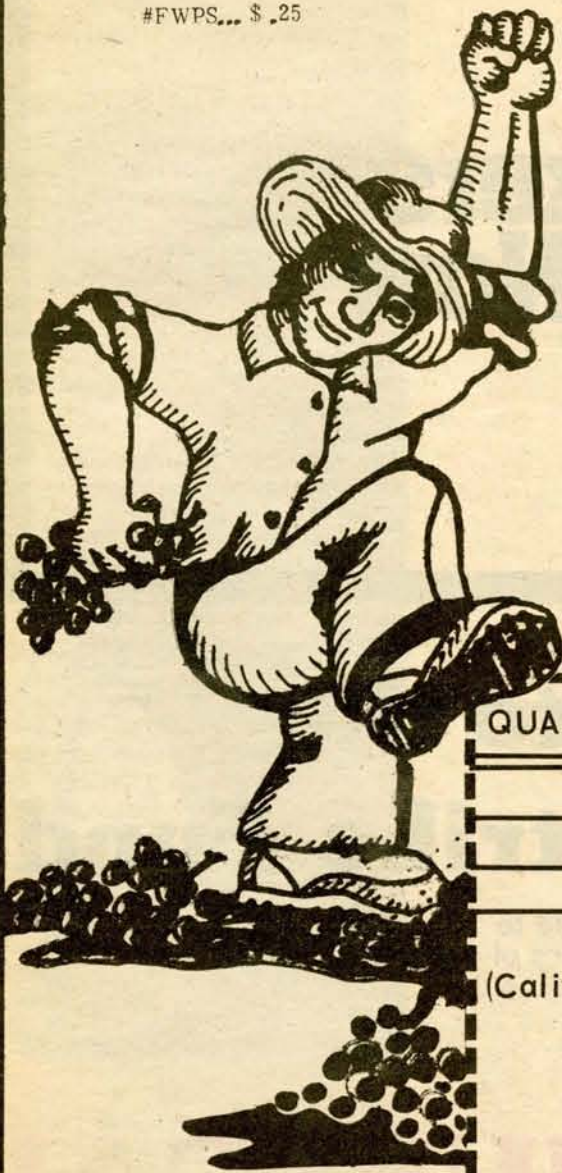
## EL TALLER GRAFICO

### SUPPORT THE UNITED FARMWORKERS

#### STOP THE GRAPES

Bumper Sticker  
day- glo orange on black  
(Not shown)

#FWPS... \$ .25



#### STAND WITH US.



Don't Buy Grapes or Lettuce

#### STAND WITH US

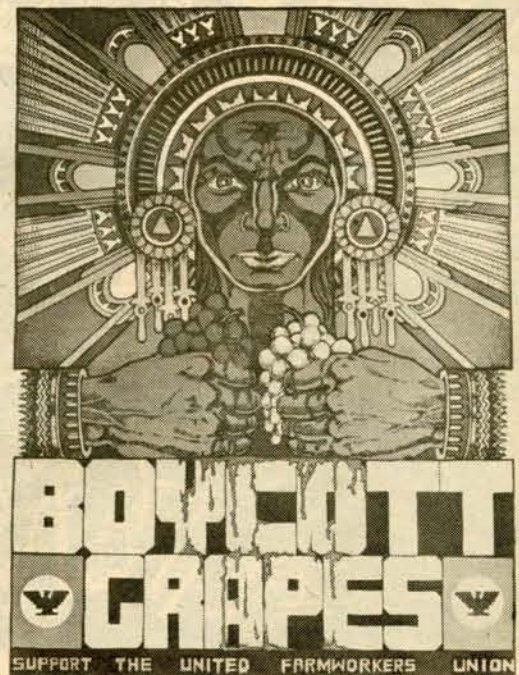
by Andy Zermeno  
Color print portraying  
farm workers in theme  
of hope and determination

#FWP . . . \$1.50

#### BOYCOTT GRAPES

by Xavier Viramontes  
Brilliant multi-colored  
Aztec Indian squeezing  
grapes.

#XV . . . \$2.50



QUANTITY	ITEM #	PRICE PER ITEM	Total
	# XV	2.50	
	# FWP	1.50	
	#FWPS	1.50	
Subtotal -			
(Calif. Residents add 6% Sales Tax)			
Please add 10% for Shipping -			
Contributions -			
Total -			

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

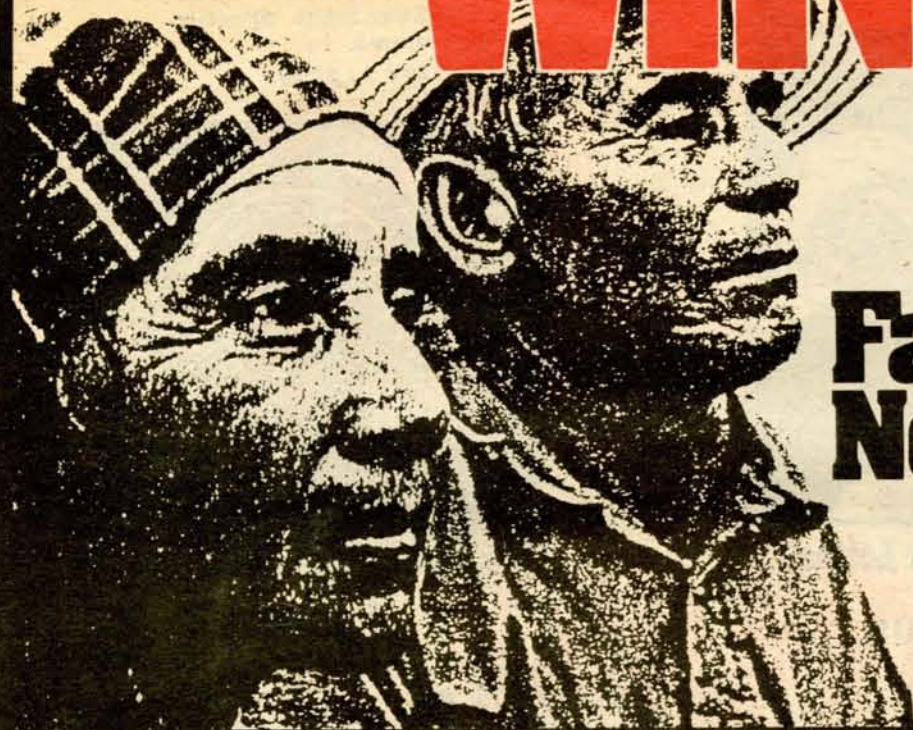
El Taller

K

Please include your check or money order made out to E  
El Malcriado -



# DON'T BUY GRAPES OR GALLO WINE



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